



DOAA
Georgia Department
of Audits & Accounts

Greg S. Griffin
State Auditor

January 24, 2025

Honorable Sandra Scott
State Representative
611-D Coverdell Legislative Office Building
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note
House Bill (LC 61 0028)

Dear Representative Scott:

This bill would amend the Quality Basic Education Act by enabling the State Board of Education to provide additional grants to local units of administration to support students living in poverty, as defined by the bill. The grant would equal 25% of the base QBE (Quality Basic Education) funding weight multiplied by the number of students living in poverty. The State Board of Education would establish school system eligibility for the grant. The bill has no effective date.

Data from the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) indicates that the bill would have resulted in additional QBE earnings of approximately \$731 million in FY2025 (see **Table 1**). The amount is based on the FY24 number of students identified through the Title 1 Census. The FY 2025 base QBE weight is used. The amount assumes that every school system is eligible for the grant.

Table 1: Total Projected Grant Amount for One Year

| | |
|--|----------------------|
| Base QBE Weight | \$3,191.67 |
| 25% of Base QBE Weight | \$797.9175 |
| 2024 Georgia K12 Student Poverty Count | 916,536 |
| Total Grant Amount | \$731,320,114 |

Note: Changes in QBE earnings are borne by the state and local school systems, with the ratio dependent on Local Five Mill Share calculations made each year. Currently, the state share is 80% but could increase in future years based on changes in local property tax digests.

Additionally, the cap on the Promise Scholarship program at Georgia Student Finance Commission is set at 1% of QBE earnings and would increase as a result of this bill.

Respectfully,

Greg S. Griffin
State Auditor

Richard Dunn, Director
Office of Planning and Budget

GSG/RD/ew

House Bill 27

By: Representatives Scott of the 76th, Schofield of the 63rd, and Davis of the 87th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 5 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia
2 Annotated, relating to program weights and funding requirements under the "Quality Basic
3 Education Act," so as to provide for grants by the State Board of Education to local units of
4 administration to support students living in poverty; to provide for definitions; to require the
5 State Board of Education to develop rules and regulations; to provide for the calculation of
6 grant amounts; to provide that a minimum required portion of grant funds must be used by
7 local units of administration for direct program expenditures for the benefit of the students
8 living in poverty; to provide a short title; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting
9 laws; and for other purposes.

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

11 **SECTION 1.**

12 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Investing in Every Student Act."

13 **SECTION 2.**

14 Part 5 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
15 relating to program weights and funding requirements under the "Quality Basic Education

16 Act," is amended by revising Code Section 20-2-189, relating to migrant student grants for
 17 schools, as follows:

18 "20-2-189.

19 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

20 (1) 'Foster care student' means a student enrolled in a public school in this state who is
 21 placed in a foster family home, child care institution, or another substitute care setting
 22 approved by the Department of Human Services.

23 (2) 'Homeless student' means a student enrolled in a public school in this state who meets
 24 the definition of the term 'homeless children and youths' under the federal
 25 McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, codified at 42 U.S.C. Section 11301, et seq.,
 26 in force and effect on January 1, 2025.

27 (3) 'Migrant student' means ~~'migrant student' means a child who is~~ a student enrolled in
 28 a public school in this state ~~and~~ who has, within 12 months prior to first becoming a
 29 student in such school, moved across state, or school district system, or school attendance
 30 zone lines with a migrant parent or guardian to enable the child, the child's parent or
 31 guardian, or a member of the child's immediate family to obtain temporary or seasonal
 32 employment in an agricultural or fishing activity.

33 (4) 'Student living in poverty' means a student enrolled in a public school in this state
 34 who meets one or more of the following criteria:

35 (A) Lives in a family unit directly certified to be receiving Supplemental Nutrition
 36 Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits;

37 (B) Lives in a family unit directly certified to be receiving Temporary Assistance for
 38 Needy Families (TANF) benefits;

39 (C) Is a homeless student;

40 (D) Is a foster care student; or

41 (E) Is a migrant student.

42 (b) The State Board of Education shall provide grants to qualified local units of
43 administration for the purpose of supplementing services and instruction to ~~currently~~
44 ~~enrolled migrant students~~ living in poverty, subject to appropriation by the General
45 Assembly. Such grants shall be provided beyond those funds to which local units of
46 administration otherwise are entitled by the provisions of this article and other statutes.
47 The State ~~Department~~ Board of Education ~~by regulation~~ shall establish rules and
48 regulations relating to the manner in which a local unit of administration must demonstrate
49 that any of its schools ~~meets the eligibility requirements of this subsection~~ it is eligible to
50 receive a grant under this Code section.

51 (c) ~~Grants under this Code section shall be subject to appropriation by the General~~
52 ~~Assembly.~~ The Department of Education shall calculate the grant amount for a each local
53 unit of administration to be used ~~for a school thereof~~ under this Code section ~~shall be~~
54 ~~determined~~ by multiplying the total ~~appropriation for such grants by a fraction, the~~
55 ~~numerator of which is the average number of eligible migrant students enrolling in that~~
56 ~~school after the final FTE count as required in subsection (a) of Code Section 20-2-160 but~~
57 ~~prior to the end of the same academic year and the denominator of which is the average~~
58 ~~total number of eligible migrant students enrolling after the final FTE count as required in~~
59 ~~subsection (a) of Code Section 20-2-160 but prior to the end of the same academic year in~~
60 ~~all local units in the entire state~~ number of students living in poverty enrolled in such local
61 unit of administration as of the date of the initial enrollment count each year as set forth in
62 Code Section 20-2-160 by an amount equal to 25 percent of the base amount calculated as
63 set forth in Code Section 20-2-161. At least 90 percent of the grant funds received by a
64 local unit under this Code section shall be used for direct program expenditures ~~at the~~
65 ~~school~~ for the benefit of the students living in poverty for which the grant is computed
66 under this ~~subsection~~ Code section. Any portion of that 90 percent not so expended shall
67 be returned to the State ~~Department~~ Board of Education."

68

SECTION 3.

69 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.



DOAA

Georgia Department
of Audits & Accounts

Greg S. Griffin
State Auditor

January 4, 2024

Honorable Sandra Scott
State Representative
611-D Coverdell Legislative Office Building
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note
House Bill 3 (LC 49 1046)

Dear Representative Scott:

This bill would amend the Quality Basic Education Act by enabling the State Board of Education to provide additional grants to local units of administration to support students living in poverty, as defined by the bill. The grant would equal 25% of the base QBE (Quality Basic Education) multiplied by the number of students living in poverty. The State Board of Education would establish school system eligibility for the grant. The bill has no effective date.

Data from the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) indicates that the bill would have cost approximately \$391 million in FY 2024 (see **Table 1**). The amount is based on FY 2023 student data showing that 517,255 of the 1.7 million public school students would qualify. The FY 2024 base QBE weight is used. The amount assumes that every school system is eligible for the grant.

Table 1: Total Projected Grant Amount for One Year

| | |
|--|----------------------|
| Base QBE Weight | \$3,022.45 |
| 25% of Base QBE Weight | \$755.61 |
| 2023 Georgia K12 Student Poverty Count | 517,255 |
| Total Grant Amount | \$390,844,344 |

Respectfully,

Greg S. Griffin
State Auditor

Richard Dunn, Director
Office of Planning and
Budget

GSG/RD/ew

House Bill 10

By: Representatives Scott of the 76th, Beverly of the 143rd, Burnough of the 77th, Schofield of the 60th, McLeod of the 105th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To amend Part 5 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia
2 Annotated, relating to program weights and funding requirements under the "Quality Basic
3 Education Act," so as to provide for grants by the State Board of Education to local units of
4 administration to support students living in poverty; to provide for definitions; to require the
5 State Board of Education to develop rules and regulations; to provide for the calculation of
6 grant amounts; to provide that a minimum required portion of grant funds must be used by
7 local units of administration for direct program expenditures for the benefit of the students
8 living in poverty; to provide for a short title; to provide for related matters; to repeal
9 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

11 **SECTION 1.**

12 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Support for Students Living in Poverty
13 Act."

14

SECTION 2.

15 Part 5 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
16 relating to program weights and funding requirements under the "Quality Basic Education
17 Act," is amended by revising Code Section 20-2-189, relating to migrant student grants for
18 schools, as follows:

19 "20-2-189.

20 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

21 (1) 'Foster care student' means a student enrolled in a public school who is placed in a
22 foster family home, child care institution, or another substitute care setting approved by
23 the Department of Human Services.

24 (2) 'Homeless student' means a student enrolled in a public school who meets the
25 definition of the term 'homeless children and youths' under the McKinney-Vento
26 Homeless Assistance Act, codified at 42 U.S.C. Section 11301, et seq., in force and effect
27 on January 1, 2021.

28 (3) 'Migrant student' means ~~'migrant student' means a child who is~~ a student enrolled in
29 a public school ~~and~~ who has, within 12 months prior to first becoming a student in such
30 school, moved across state or school district lines with a migrant parent or guardian to
31 enable the child, the child's parent or guardian, or a member of the child's immediate
32 family to obtain temporary or seasonal employment ~~in an agricultural or fishing activity.~~

33 (4) 'Student living in poverty' means a student enrolled in a public school who meets one
34 or more of the following criteria:

35 (A) Lives in a family unit directly certified to be receiving SNAP (Food Stamp)
36 benefits;

37 (B) Lives in a family unit directly certified to be receiving TANF benefits;

38 (C) Is a homeless student;

39 (D) Is a foster care student; or

40 (E) Is a migrant student.

41 (b) The State Board of Education shall provide grants to qualified local units of
42 administration for the purpose of supplementing services and instruction to ~~currently~~
43 ~~enrolled migrant~~ students living in poverty, subject to appropriation by the General
44 Assembly. Such grants shall be provided beyond those funds to which local units of
45 administration otherwise are entitled by the provisions of this article and other statutes.
46 The State ~~Department~~ Board of Education ~~by regulation~~ shall establish rules and
47 regulations relating to the manner in which a local unit of administration must demonstrate
48 that ~~any of its schools meets the eligibility requirements of this subsection~~ it is eligible to
49 receive a grant under this Code section.

50 (c) ~~Grants under this Code section shall be subject to appropriation by the General~~
51 ~~Assembly.~~ The Department of Education shall calculate the grant amount for a each local
52 unit of administration to be used ~~for a school thereof under this Code section shall be~~
53 ~~determined~~ by multiplying the total ~~appropriation for such grants by a fraction, the~~
54 ~~numerator of which is the average number of eligible migrant students enrolling in that~~
55 ~~school after the final FTE count as required in subsection (a) of Code Section 20-2-160 but~~
56 ~~prior to the end of the same academic year and the denominator of which is the average~~
57 ~~total number of eligible migrant students enrolling after the final FTE count as required in~~
58 ~~subsection (a) of Code Section 20-2-160 but prior to the end of the same academic year in~~
59 ~~all local units in the entire state~~ number of students living in poverty enrolled in such local
60 unit of administration as of the date of the initial enrollment count each year as set forth in
61 Code Section 20-2-160 by an amount equal to 25 percent of the base amount calculated as
62 set forth in Code Section 20-2-161. At least 90 percent of the grant funds received by a
63 local unit under this Code section shall be used for direct program expenditures ~~at the~~
64 ~~school~~ for the benefit of the students living in poverty for which the grant is computed
65 under this ~~subsection~~ Code section. Any portion of that 90 percent not so expended shall
66 be returned to the State ~~Department~~ Board of Education."

67

SECTION 3.

68 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.