

# STATE OF NEW YORK

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5107

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

February 12, 2025

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Introduced by M. of A. SOLAGES -- read once and referred to the Committee on Education

AN ACT to address the elementary literacy gap by empowering student and parental engagement with an evidence-based home reading program

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

- 1 Section 1. If equally matched by participating local education agen-  
2 cies, there is allocated from the state's Coronavirus relief funds an  
3 amount not to exceed \$500,000 for fiscal year 2026 for grants to local  
4 education agencies for an eligible home reading program. Funds allocated  
5 under this section are grant funds and must be distributed by the  
6 department of education with a focus on economically disadvantaged  
7 households. A program is eligible for these grant funds if it is  
8 provided by a nonprofit organization and meets all of the following  
9 criteria:
- 10 (a) The program's objective is to deliver an evidence-based self-se-  
11 lected reading program consisting of independent reading level books  
12 that are individually mailed to the residences of kindergarten through  
13 fifth grade students on a weekly basis.
- 14 (b) The program incorporates at least weekly phone calls, texts or  
15 application notifications in multiple languages to a parent or guardian  
16 to drive parental and family engagement throughout the duration of the  
17 program.
- 18 (c) The program provides at least six and not more than nine student  
19 selected new books that students get to keep.
- 20 (d) The program builds on pedagogical and literacy principles to scaf-  
21 fold fluency to improve reading comprehension with student exercises.
- 22 (e) The program includes a customizable portal to generate individual-  
23 ized data reports for analysis of student progress.

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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- 1 (f) The nonprofit organization collects, disaggregates, and distrib-  
2 utes detailed data on all metrics of the program, such as parental  
3 engagement, books read and allowable demographic data.
- 4 (g) The nonprofit organization provides summary data to the legisla-  
5 ture and to the department of education for all students served by the  
6 program.
- 7 (h) The nonprofit organization agrees to secure the required district  
8 level matching funds and maintain auditable verification of their  
9 receipt.
- 10 (i) The combined total cost of the program, including district match-  
11 ing funds does not exceed \$50 per student per semester.
- 12 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.