



Support Senate Budget Amendment Item 136 #2s (Bell)
House Budget Amendment Item 136 #57h (Davis)
Funding for Audiobook Solution

The learning loss experienced by Virginia's K12 students is both self-evident and troubling. As one data point, the recent National Assessment of Educational Progress report showed Virginia dropping from 7th place in 2017 to 34th place in 2022 for 4th grade reading scores. Virginia students have faced challenges across-the-board due to virtual learning and the pandemic's many disruptions. But students with dyslexia and visual impairment and other reading challenges need even more support to ensure they are reading on grade level. This budget request is for a relatively modest amount (\$2.8 million in the Senate, \$1.4 million in the House) that will provide disproportionate benefits to our children who need it the most.

The Learning Ally Audiobook Solution is a multi-sensory reading support that features an extensive library of high-quality, human-read audiobooks, student-centric features, and a suite of teacher resources to monitor and support student success. It delivers equitable access to a student's curriculum in a format struggling readers can easily absorb.

With this funding, Learning Ally will be able to make the Audiobook Solution available to hundreds of K-12 schools across the Commonwealth, with online access allowing for maximum student utilization both at home and in the classroom.