

106TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1223

To provide grants to 10 high-need local educational agencies or eligible consortium to establish or expand National Teachers Academies to serve as national models for teacher training, development, and recruitment and to facilitate high-quality curriculum development.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 23, 1999

Mr. BLAGOJEVICH introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

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## A BILL

To provide grants to 10 high-need local educational agencies or eligible consortium to establish or expand National Teachers Academies to serve as national models for teacher training, development, and recruitment and to facilitate high-quality curriculum development.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Teachers for the 21st  
5 Century Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1           (1) The dawn of the 21st century will place in-  
2           creased demands upon our Nation's students that  
3           can only be met with the proper instruction from  
4           qualified, experienced, and well-trained teachers. The  
5           teachers of the 21st century must not only be well-  
6           versed in increasingly complex subject matters and  
7           technologies, but also highly trained in the best tech-  
8           niques to impart these skills to their students.

9           (2) Teacher development resources are severely  
10          lacking in the majority of school districts across the  
11          Nation, leaving many teachers ill-prepared to meet  
12          the growing, modern challenges of educating chil-  
13          dren in the age of a global workforce. Spending less  
14          than 3 percent of their resources on teacher develop-  
15          ment, many American schools have fallen far behind  
16          the curve of most corporations and schools in other  
17          industrialized nations.

18          (3) Over the next 10 years, the Nation will face  
19          a tremendous demand for 2,000,000 additional  
20          teachers resulting from increased student enroll-  
21          ments and teacher attrition, which will place many  
22          school districts in the precarious position of choosing  
23          between quantity and quality. Already, the National  
24          Commission on Teaching and America's Future has  
25          reported that 50,000 unqualified teachers have been

1 hired annually on emergency or substandard licenses  
2 to meet this growing demand.

3 (4) Teacher shortages will unevenly impact  
4 high-need urban and rural communities that have  
5 the most difficulty attracting and retaining qualified  
6 teachers. The National Center for Education Statis-  
7 tics reports that 39 percent of teachers in these  
8 communities have neither a college major or minor  
9 in their primary field of coursework.

10 **SEC. 3. PURPOSES.**

11 The purposes of this Act are to establish or expand  
12 10 National Teachers Academies, one in each of the 10  
13 regions established by the Department of Education and  
14 serving at least 1 high-need local education agency. The  
15 Academies will establish models for local educational agen-  
16 cies to improve teaching and learning by meeting the 21st  
17 century challenges of recruiting and retaining qualified  
18 teachers, and giving teachers the tools they need to pre-  
19 pare their students for competition in a global workforce  
20 by—

21 (1) assembling a team of “master” teachers to  
22 mentor and train student teachers on how to provide  
23 quality instruction;

24 (2) increasing the pool of “master” teachers by  
25 partnering with education institutions that offer a

1 range of professional development opportunities in-  
2 cluding seminars, institutes, or mini-research  
3 sabbaticals focused on the knowledge and skills re-  
4 quired in the 21st century;

5 (3) providing 1 or more demonstration sites for  
6 research-based “best practices” in increasing stu-  
7 dent achievement, classroom management and in-  
8 struction, teacher mentoring, training, and profes-  
9 sional staff development;

10 (4) increasing collaboration between elementary,  
11 secondary, and university faculty to improve the in-  
12 tensity and quality of clinical experiences for pro-  
13 spective teachers;

14 (5) working with the regional national edu-  
15 cational labs to provide information obtained  
16 throughout the research and development process to  
17 the Secretary for dissemination to school districts  
18 across the Nation;

19 (6) entering into a partnership between local  
20 educational agencies, State educational agencies, in-  
21 stitutions of higher education, education founda-  
22 tions, professional development and recruitment cen-  
23 ters, parent groups, corporations, and community  
24 organizations;

1           (7) providing an opportunity for mid-career  
2 professionals to obtain alternative teaching certifi-  
3 cation;

4           (8) offering ongoing professional development  
5 opportunities and support and providing opportuni-  
6 ties for teachers to engage in research on specific  
7 issues of teaching and learning, and developing test  
8 curriculum, instruction, and assessment; and

9           (9) providing students from disadvantaged com-  
10 munities with challenging curriculum, quality in-  
11 struction, and an overall outstanding elementary and  
12 secondary education experience.

13 **SEC. 4. PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION.**

14       (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized to  
15 provide grants to not more than 10 high-need local edu-  
16 cational agencies or eligible consortium, one in each of the  
17 10 regions established by the Department of Education,  
18 to establish or expand National Teachers Academies.

19       (b) NATIONAL TEACHERS ACADEMY.—Each Na-  
20 tional Teachers Academy shall promote teacher training,  
21 professional development and recruitment, and curriculum  
22 development.

1 **SEC. 5. GRANT AWARDS AND RENEWALS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a grant  
3 award under this Act, a high-need local educational agency  
4 or eligible consortium shall—

5 (1) submit an application to the Secretary at  
6 such time, in such manner, and containing such in-  
7 formation as the Secretary may reasonably require;

8 (2) describe how the agency—

9 (A) will recruit and hire a team of “mas-  
10 ter” teachers to mentor and train student  
11 teachers regarding the provision of quality in-  
12 struction in high-need urban and rural areas;

13 (B) will increase the pool of “master”  
14 teachers by partnering with education institu-  
15 tions that offer a range of professional develop-  
16 ment opportunities including seminars, insti-  
17 tutes, or mini-research sabbaticals focused on  
18 the knowledge and skills required in the 21st  
19 century;

20 (C) serve as a demonstration site for “best  
21 practices” in classroom management and in-  
22 struction, teacher mentoring, training, and pro-  
23 fessional staff development;

24 (D) increase collaboration between elemen-  
25 tary, secondary, and university faculty to im-

1           prove the intensity and quality of clinical expe-  
2           riences for prospective teachers;

3           (E) make available knowledge obtained  
4           throughout the research and development proc-  
5           ess to school districts across the Nation;

6           (F) establish a consortium between local  
7           educational agencies, State educational agen-  
8           cies, institutions of higher education, education  
9           foundations, professional development and re-  
10          cruitment centers, parent groups, corporations,  
11          or community organizations;

12          (G) provide an opportunity for mid-career  
13          professionals to obtain alternative teaching cer-  
14          tification; and

15          (H) offer ongoing professional development  
16          opportunities and support and provide opportu-  
17          nities for teachers to engage in action research  
18          on specific issues of teaching and learning, and  
19          develop test curriculum, instruction, and assess-  
20          ment; and

21          (2) provide an assurance that, either directly or  
22          through private contributions, the agency will pro-  
23          vide non-Federal matching funds equal to not less  
24          than 25 percent of the amount of the award for the

1 first 2 years, 35 percent for the 3d and 4th years,  
2 and 50 percent for the 5th year.

3 (b) RENEWAL.—The Secretary may award each  
4 grant for a period not to exceed 5 years. These awards  
5 may be renewed annually on a noncompetitive basis if the  
6 Secretary determines that—

7 (1) the goals set forth in the application for the  
8 initial grant request have been achieved;

9 (2) there is promise of continuing progress;

10 (3) the non-Federal share of project costs have  
11 been met; and

12 (4) a plan has been developed for continuing  
13 the Academy after Federal funding is no longer  
14 available.

15 **SEC. 6. USE OF FUNDS.**

16 (a) PERMITTED USES.—A high-need local edu-  
17 cational agency or eligible consortium that receives a grant  
18 award under this Act shall use funds to establish or ex-  
19 pand a National Teachers Academy in new or existing  
20 school facilities and to meet the operating costs of estab-  
21 lishing such Academy, which may include—

22 (1) reasonable startup and initial operating  
23 costs;

24 (2) training costs related to staff development;

1           (3) the costs to purchase books, materials and  
2 other equipment, including new technology;

3           (4) payment of personnel directly related to the  
4 operation of the Academy;

5           (5) recruitment costs including scholarship in-  
6 centives;

7           (6) participation in the activities of the consor-  
8 tium; and

9           (7) any costs related to the construction, re-  
10 modeling, or renovation of the facilities to house  
11 each National Teachers Academy.

12       (b) LIMITATIONS.—The Secretary may limit the  
13 amounts of funds that may be used for remodeling and  
14 construction costs as such costs relate to the creation or  
15 expansion of each National Teachers Academy.

16 **SEC. 7. DEFINITIONS.**

17       For the purposes of this Act:

18           (1) The term “high-need local educational agen-  
19 cy” means a local educational agency that serves an  
20 elementary or secondary school located in an area in  
21 which there is—

22               (A) a high percentage of individuals from  
23 families with incomes below the poverty line as  
24 defined by the Office of Management and  
25 Budget, and revised annually in accordance

1 with section 673(2) of the Community Services  
2 Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9902(2)) applica-  
3 ble to a family of the size involved;

4 (B) a high percentage of secondary school  
5 teachers who have neither a college major or  
6 minor in their primary field of coursework; or

7 (C) a high teacher turnover rate.

8 (2) The term “National Teachers Academy”  
9 means a teacher training and professional develop-  
10 ment program conducted in at least one elementary  
11 or secondary school that provides prospective and  
12 novice teachers an opportunity to work under the  
13 mentorship of master teachers in a laboratory-style  
14 setting, and provides professional development op-  
15 portunities for veteran teachers and curriculum de-  
16 velopment services.

17 (3) The term “local educational agency” has  
18 the same meaning given such term in section 14101  
19 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of  
20 1965 (20 U.S.C. 8801).

21 (4) The term “master teacher” means a teacher  
22 of exceptional expertise and accomplishment who  
23 meets high standards as defined by State law, the  
24 National Board for Professional Teaching Stand-

1 ards, or the local educational agency in its applica-  
2 tion for a grant under this Act.

3 (5) The term “eligible consortium” means a  
4 consortium of one or more high-need local edu-  
5 cational agencies and one or more institutions of  
6 higher education.

7 **SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

8 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out  
9 this Act \$75,000,000 for fiscal years 2000 and 2001, and  
10 \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2002, 2003, and  
11 2004.

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