

106TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3009

To authorize the Secretary of Education to make grants to State and local educational agencies to support programs that promote a variety of educational opportunities, options, and choices in public schools.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 4, 1999

Mr. ROEMER (for himself, Mr. CLEMENT, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. HILL of Indiana, Mr. LAMPSON, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, and Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

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## A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Education to make grants to State and local educational agencies to support programs that promote a variety of educational opportunities, options, and choices in public schools.

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 “Public School Choice  
5 Act of 1999”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

7       (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that—

1           (1) a wide variety of educational opportunities,  
2 options, and choices in the public school system is  
3 needed to help all children achieve to high stand-  
4 ards;

5           (2) high-quality public school choice programs  
6 that are genuinely open and accessible to all stu-  
7 dents (including poor, minority, limited English pro-  
8 ficient, and disabled students) broaden educational  
9 opportunities and promote excellence in education;

10          (3) current research shows that—

11               (A) students learn in different ways, bene-  
12 fitting from different teaching methods and in-  
13 structional settings; and

14               (B) family involvement in a child’s edu-  
15 cation is a key factor supporting student  
16 achievement;

17          (4) public school systems have begun to develop  
18 a variety of innovative programs that offer expanded  
19 choices to parents and students; and

20          (5) the Federal Government should support and  
21 expand efforts to give students and parents the  
22 high-quality public school choices they seek, to help  
23 eliminate barriers to effective public school choice,  
24 and to disseminate the lessons learned from high-

1 quality choice programs so that all public schools  
2 can benefit from these efforts.

3 (b) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this Act to iden-  
4 tify and support innovative approaches to high-quality  
5 public school choice by providing financial assistance for  
6 the demonstration, development, implementation, and  
7 evaluation of, and dissemination of information about,  
8 public school choice projects that stimulate educational in-  
9 novation for all public schools and contribute to standards-  
10 based school reform efforts.

11 **SEC. 3. GRANTS.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—From funds appropriated under  
13 section 6(a) and not reserved under section 6(b), the Sec-  
14 retary is authorized to make grants to State and local edu-  
15 cational agencies to support programs that promote inno-  
16 vative approaches to high-quality public school choice.

17 (b) DURATION.—Grants under this Act shall not ex-  
18 ceed three years.

19 **SEC. 4. USES OF FUNDS.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL—

21 (1) PUBLIC SCHOOL CHOICE.—Funds under  
22 this Act may be used to demonstrate, develop, imple-  
23 ment, evaluate, and disseminate information on in-  
24 novative approaches to promote public school choice,  
25 including the design and development of new public

1 school choice options, the development of new strate-  
2 gies for overcoming barriers to effective public school  
3 choice, and the design and development of public  
4 school choice systems that promote high standards  
5 for all students and the continuous improvement of  
6 all public schools.

7 (2) INNOVATIVE APPROACHES.—Such ap-  
8 proaches at the school, local educational agency, and  
9 State levels may include—

10 (A) inter-district approaches to public  
11 school choice, including approaches that in-  
12 crease equal access to high-quality educational  
13 programs and diversity in schools;

14 (B) public elementary and secondary pro-  
15 grams that involve partnerships with institu-  
16 tions of higher education and that are located  
17 on the campuses of those institutions;

18 (C) programs that allow students in public  
19 secondary schools to enroll in postsecondary  
20 courses and to receive both secondary and post-  
21 secondary academic credit;

22 (D) worksite satellite schools, in which  
23 State or local educational agencies form part-  
24 nerships with public or private employers, to

1 create public schools at parents' places of em-  
2 ployment; and

3 (E) approaches to school desegregation  
4 that provide students and parents choice  
5 through strategies other than magnet schools.

6 (b) LIMITATIONS.—Funds under this Act—

7 (1) shall supplement, and not supplant, non-  
8 Federal funds expended for existing programs;

9 (2) may not be used for transportation; and

10 (3) may not be used to fund projects that are  
11 specifically authorized under part A of title V, or  
12 part C of title X, of the Elementary and Secondary  
13 Education Act of 1965.

14 **SEC. 5. GRANT APPLICATION; PRIORITIES.**

15 (a) APPLICATION REQUIRED.—A State or local edu-  
16 cational agency desiring to receive a grant under this Act  
17 shall submit an application to the Secretary.

18 (b) APPLICATION CONTENTS.—Each application  
19 shall include—

20 (1) a description of the program for which  
21 funds are sought and the goals for such program;

22 (2) a description of how the program funded  
23 under this Act will be coordinated with, and will  
24 complement and enhance, programs under other re-  
25 lated Federal and non-Federal projects;

1           (3) if the program includes partners, the name  
2 of each partner and a description of the partner's  
3 responsibilities;

4           (4) a description of the policies and procedures  
5 the applicant will use to ensure—

6                 (A) its accountability for results, including  
7 its goals and performance indicators; and

8                 (B) that the program is open and acces-  
9 sible to, and will promote high academic stand-  
10 ards for, all students; and

11           (5) such other information as the Secretary  
12 may require.

13         (c) PRIORITIES.—

14           (1) HIGH-POVERTY AGENCIES.—The Secretary  
15 shall give a priority to applications for projects that  
16 would serve high-poverty local educational agencies.

17           (2) PARTNERSHIPS.—The Secretary may give a  
18 priority to applications demonstrating that the appli-  
19 cant will carry out its project in partnership with  
20 one or more public and private agencies, organiza-  
21 tions, and institutions, including institutions of high-  
22 er education and public and private employers.

23 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

24         (a) IN GENERAL.—For the purpose of carrying out  
25 this Act, there are authorized to be appropriated

1 \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2000 and such sums as may  
2 be necessary for each of the 4 succeeding fiscal years.

3 (b) RESERVATION FOR EVALUATION, TECHNICAL AS-  
4 SISTANCE, AND DISSEMINATION.—From the amount ap-  
5 propriated under subsection (a) for any fiscal year, the  
6 Secretary may reserve not more than 5 percent to carry  
7 out evaluations under subsection (c), to provide technical  
8 assistance, and to disseminate information.

9 (c) EVALUATIONS.—The Secretary may use funds re-  
10 served under subsection (b) to carry out one or more eval-  
11 uations of programs assisted under this Act, which shall,  
12 at a minimum, address—

13 (1) how, and the extent to which, the programs  
14 supported with funds under this Act promote edu-  
15 cational equity and excellence; and

16 (2) the extent to which public schools of choice  
17 supported with funds under this Act are—

18 (A) held accountable to the public;

19 (B) effective in improving public education;

20 and

21 (C) open and accessible to all students.

22 **SEC. 7. DEFINITIONS.**

23 For purposes of this Act:

1           (1) HIGH-POVERTY LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGEN-  
2           CY.—The term “high-poverty local educational agen-  
3           cy” means a local educational agency in which—

4                   (A) the percentage of children, ages 5 to  
5                   17, from families with incomes below the pov-  
6                   erty line (as defined by the Office of Manage-  
7                   ment and Budget and revised annually in ac-  
8                   cordance with section 673(2) of the Community  
9                   Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9902(2)))  
10                  applicable to a family of the size involved for  
11                  the most recent fiscal year for which satisfac-  
12                  tory data are available is 20 percent or greater;  
13                  or

14                   (B) the number of such children exceeds  
15                  10,000.

16           (2) OTHER TERMS.—Other terms used in this  
17           Act shall have the meaning given such terms in sec-  
18           tion 14101 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-  
19           cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 8801).

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