

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3365

To provide grants to local educational agencies to establish or expand pre-kindergarten programs for children who are not yet enrolled in kindergarten.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 15, 1999

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

A BILL

To provide grants to local educational agencies to establish or expand prekindergarten programs for children who are not yet enrolled in kindergarten.

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. PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAM.**

4 Title X of the Elementary and Secondary Education
5 Act of 1965 is amended by adding at the end the fol-
6 lowing:

7 **“PART L—PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS**

8 **“SEC. 10995A. FINDINGS.**

9 “Congress finds the following:

1 “(1) Countless studies have shown what every
2 parent already knows: High-quality preschool edu-
3 cation programs work. They prepare children to
4 learn when they go to school, and the programs in-
5 crease the success of students throughout their lives.

6 “(2) Children who get a high-quality prekinderg-
7 garten education are more likely to increase their
8 overall IQ, improve their results on achievement
9 tests, and increase their chances of graduating from
10 high school and pursuing some form of higher edu-
11 cation. These same children are less likely to repeat
12 a grade level and have less need for special edu-
13 cation instruction than those with no preschool back-
14 ground, thus saving local educational agencies funds
15 that might otherwise be necessary to provide special
16 education instruction.

17 “(3) Prekindergarten education makes an enor-
18 mous difference in the lives of children from lower-
19 income families. The following specific results were
20 found for children eligible for Head Start services or
21 child care assistance, children who belong to a single
22 parent, 2-child families earning less than \$22,000
23 per year, or families of 4 earning less than \$31,000
24 per year—

1 “(A) 29 percent of the children who at-
2 tended prekindergarten program were employed
3 in jobs paying over \$2,000 by age 27, as op-
4 posed to 7 percent of those from the same in-
5 come group who did not receive prekindergarten
6 education.

7 “(B) Only 57 percent of the children who
8 attended a prekindergarten program grew up to
9 become single mothers, as opposed to 83 per-
10 cent of the same income group who did not at-
11 tend a prekindergarten program.

12 “(C) 36 percent of the children who at-
13 tended a prekindergarten program grew up to
14 own their own homes, as opposed to only 13
15 percent of the same income group who did not
16 attend such a program.

17 “(D) Less than 13 percent of the boys in
18 the group who attended a prekindergarten pro-
19 gram grew up to be arrested 5 or more times,
20 as opposed to 49 percent of the boys from the
21 same income group who did not attend a pre-
22 kindergarten program.

23 **“SEC. 10995B. PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.**

24 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized to
25 provide grants to local educational agencies with an ap-

1 proved application under section 10995C to allow such
2 agencies to establish or expand prekindergarten early
3 learning programs to be operated by the local education
4 agency.

5 “(b) PRIORITY.—The Secretary shall give priority for
6 grants under this part to local educational agencies with
7 the highest population of children, ages 3 to 5, not en-
8 rolled in a prekindergarten or kindergarten program.

9 **“SEC. 10995C. APPLICATIONS.**

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—A local educational agency that
11 desires to receive a grant under this part shall submit an
12 application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner,
13 and containing such information as the Secretary may rea-
14 sonably require.

15 “(b) CONTENT.—An application referred to in sub-
16 section (a), at a minimum, shall—

17 “(1) demonstrate a need for the establishment
18 or expansion of a prekindergarten program;

19 “(2) provide an assurance that each individual
20 hired to work with children in the prekindergarten
21 program is a teacher or child development specialist
22 certified by the State;

23 “(3) provide an assurance that the ratio of
24 teacher or child development specialist to children
25 shall not exceed 10–1;

1 “(4) provide an assurance that the local edu-
2 cational agency will provide, either directly or
3 through private contributions, non-Federal matching
4 funds equal to not less than 50 percent of the
5 amount of the grant award, these contributions shall
6 include in kind contributions and parental co-pay-
7 ments;

8 “(5) provide an assurance that the local edu-
9 cational agency will develop a sliding fee schedule to
10 ensure that the parents of a child who attends a pre-
11 kindergarten program established under this part
12 share in the cost of providing the prekindergarten
13 program, but the amount of such contribution shall
14 not exceed \$50 each week that a child attends such
15 program;

16 “(6) provide a description of how funds will be
17 used to coordinate with and build on, but not dupli-
18 cate or supplant, early childhood programs that exist
19 in the community;

20 “(7) describe how the agency will use a collabo-
21 rative process with organizations and members of
22 the community that have an interest and experience
23 in early childhood development and education to es-
24 tablish prekindergarten programs;

1 “(8) describe how the agency will coordinate
2 with and expand, but not duplicate or supplant,
3 early childhood programs that exist in the commu-
4 nity;

5 “(9) review scientifically based research on
6 early childhood education services that focus on lan-
7 guage, literacy, and reading development;

8 “(10) describe how the program will meet the
9 diverse needs of children, ages 3 through 5, in the
10 community who are not enrolled in kindergarten, in-
11 cluding children who have special needs;

12 “(11) describe how to employ methods that en-
13 sure a smooth transition for participating students
14 from early childhood education to kindergarten and
15 early elementary education;

16 “(12) describe the results the programs are in-
17 tended to achieve, and what tools to use to measure
18 the progress in attaining those results;

19 “(13) describe a plan to operate the program
20 without using funds made available under this part;
21 and

22 “(14) provide an assurance that none of the
23 funds received under this part may be used for the
24 construction or renovation of existing or new facili-

1 ties (except for minor remodeling needed to accom-
2 plish the purposes of this part);

3 **“SEC. 10995D. USES OF FUNDS.**

4 “(a) IN GENERAL.—A local educational agency that
5 receives a grant award under this part may use funds re-
6 ceived to establish or expand prekindergarten programs
7 for children, ages 3 through 5, who are not enrolled in
8 kindergarten.

9 “(b) PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS.—Each pre-
10 kindergarten program that is established pursuant to this
11 part shall—

12 “(1) focus on the developmental needs of par-
13 ticipating children, including their social, cognitive,
14 and language-development needs, and use research-
15 based approaches that build on competencies that
16 lead to school success, particularly in language and
17 literacy development and in reading; and

18 “(2) ensure that participating children, at a
19 minimum—

20 “(A) understand and use language to com-
21 municate for various purposes;

22 “(B) understand and use increasingly com-
23 plex and varied vocabulary;

24 “(C) develop and demonstrate an apprecia-
25 tion of books;

1 “(D) develop phonemic, print, and
2 numeracy awareness; and

3 “(E) in the case of children with limited
4 English proficiency, progress toward acquisition
5 of the English language.

6 **“SEC. 10995E. REPORTING.**

7 “(a) LOCAL REPORTS.—Each local educational agen-
8 cy that receives a grant award under this part shall submit
9 to the Secretary annually a report that reviews the effec-
10 tiveness of the prekindergarten program established with
11 funds provided under this part.

12 “(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary shall
13 submit to Congress annually a report that evaluates the
14 prekindergarten programs established under this part.

15 **“SEC. 10995F. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

16 “‘There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
17 this part \$210,000,000 for fiscal year 2001, \$210,000,000
18 for fiscal year 2002, \$1,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2003,
19 \$1,500,000,000 for fiscal year 2004, and \$2,100,000,000
20 for fiscal year 2005.’”.

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