

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 342

To assist local educational agencies by providing grants for proven measures for increasing the quality of education, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 15, 2001

Mrs. CARNAHAN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To assist local educational agencies by providing grants for proven measures for increasing the quality of education, and for other purposes.

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 “Quality Classrooms
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

7 The purpose of this Act is to support local edu-
8 cational agencies by awarding grants for—

9 (1) the implementation of specific measures, as
10 selected by local educational agencies from a local

1 accountability menu, that have been proven to in-
2 crease the quality of education; and

3 (2) the conduct of other activities that local
4 educational agencies demonstrate will provide en-
5 hanced individual instruction for the students served
6 by the agencies.

7 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

8 In this Act:

9 (1) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The term
10 “local educational agency” has the same meaning
11 given that term under section 14101 of the Elemen-
12 tary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
13 U.S.C. 8801).

14 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
15 the Secretary of Education.

16 **SEC. 4. GRANT PROGRAMS.**

17 (a) LOCAL ACCOUNTABILITY MENU GRANTS.—

18 (1) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary
19 shall award grants to local educational agencies to
20 be used for the activities described in paragraph (3).

21 (2) APPLICATION.—

22 (A) IN GENERAL.—A local educational
23 agency desiring a grant under this subsection
24 shall submit an application to the Secretary at
25 such time, in such manner, and containing such

1 information as the Secretary may reasonably
2 require.

3 (B) CONTENTS.—Each application sub-
4 mitted under subparagraph (A) shall include—

5 (i) a description of the local edu-
6 cational agency’s plan of activities for
7 which grant funds under this subsection
8 are sought;

9 (ii) a detailed budget of anticipated
10 grant fund expenditures;

11 (iii) a detailed description of the
12 methodology that the local educational
13 agency will use to evaluate the effective-
14 ness of grants received by such agency
15 under this subsection; and

16 (iv) such assurances as the Secretary
17 determines to be essential to ensure com-
18 pliance with the requirements of this Act.

19 (3) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—Grant funds
20 awarded under this subsection may be used for one
21 or more of the following measures, collectively estab-
22 lished as the local accountability menu:

23 (A) Reduction of student-teacher ratios
24 through the hiring of new classroom teachers.

1 (B) School construction assistance for the
2 purpose of relieving overcrowded classrooms
3 and reducing the use of portable classrooms.

4 (C) Hiring of additional experienced teach-
5 ers who specialize in teaching core subjects such
6 as reading, math, and science, and who will
7 provide increased individualized instruction to
8 students served by the local educational agency.

9 (D) Alternative programs for the education
10 and discipline of chronically violent and disrup-
11 tive students.

12 (E) Assistance to facilitate the local edu-
13 cational agency's establishment of a year-round
14 school schedule that will allow the agency to in-
15 crease pay for veteran teachers and reduce the
16 agency's need to hire additional teachers or
17 construct new facilities.

18 (4) ADMINISTRATIVE CAP.—A local educational
19 agency that receives a grant under this subsection
20 shall not use more than 3 percent of the funds re-
21 ceived for administrative expenses.

22 (b) INNOVATION GRANTS.—

23 (1) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary
24 shall reserve 10 percent of the amount made avail-
25 able to carry out this Act in each fiscal year to

1 award grants, on a competitive basis, to local edu-
2 cational agencies for the local educational agencies
3 to carry out the activities described in paragraph
4 (3).

5 (2) APPLICATION.—

6 (A) IN GENERAL.—A local educational
7 agency desiring a grant under this subsection
8 shall submit an application to the Secretary at
9 such time, in such manner, and containing such
10 information as the Secretary may reasonably
11 require.

12 (B) CONTENTS.—Each application sub-
13 mitted under subparagraph (A) shall include—

14 (i) a description of the local edu-
15 cational agency's plan of activities for
16 which grant funds under this subsection
17 are sought;

18 (ii) a detailed budget of anticipated
19 grant fund expenditures;

20 (iii) a detailed description of the
21 methodology that the local educational
22 agency will use to evaluate the effective-
23 ness of grants received by such agency
24 under this subsection; and

1 (iv) such assurances as the Secretary
2 determines to be essential to ensure com-
3 pliance with the requirements of this Act.

4 (3) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—Each local edu-
5 cational agency receiving a grant under this sub-
6 section shall use the amounts received under the
7 grant for one or more activities that the local edu-
8 cational agency sufficiently demonstrates, as deter-
9 mined by the Secretary, will provide enhanced indi-
10 vidual instruction for students served by the agency,
11 but that are not part of the local accountability
12 menu described in subsection (a)(3).

13 (4) LIMITATION.—No funds awarded under this
14 subsection shall be used for tuition payments for
15 students at private schools or for public school
16 choice programs.

17 (5) ADMINISTRATIVE CAP.—A local educational
18 agency that receives a grant under this subsection
19 shall not use more than 3 percent of the funds re-
20 ceived for administrative expenses.

21 **SEC. 5. ALLOCATION.**

22 (a) ADMINISTRATIVE CAP.—The Secretary shall ex-
23 pend not more than 0.25 percent of the funds made avail-
24 able to carry out this Act on administrative costs.

1 (b) FUNDING TO INDIAN TRIBES.—From the amount
2 made available to carry out this Act for any fiscal year,
3 the Secretary shall reserve 0.75 percent to awards grants
4 to Indian tribes to carry out the purposes of this Act.

5 (c) FORMULA.—From the amount made available to
6 carry out this Act for any fiscal year, and remaining after
7 the reservations under subsections (a) and (b) and under
8 section 4(b)(1), the Secretary shall distribute such remain-
9 ing amounts among the local education agencies as fol-
10 lows:

11 (1) 80 percent of such amount shall be allo-
12 cated among such eligible, local educational agencies
13 in proportion to the number of children, aged 5 to
14 17, who reside in the school district served by such
15 local educational agency from families with incomes
16 below the poverty line (as defined by the Office of
17 Management and Budget and revised annually in ac-
18 cordance with section 673(2) of the Community
19 Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9902(2)) appli-
20 cable to a family of the size involved for the most
21 recent fiscal year for which satisfactory data are
22 available as compared to the number of such chil-
23 dren who reside in the school districts served by all
24 eligible, local educational agencies for the fiscal year
25 involved.

1 (2) 20 percent of such amount shall be allo-
2 cated among such eligible local educational agencies
3 in proportion to the relative enrollments of children,
4 aged 5 to 17, in public and private nonprofit elemen-
5 tary and secondary schools within the boundaries of
6 such agencies.

7 (d) **LIMITATION ON CARRYOVER.**—Not more than 20
8 percent of the funds allocated to a local educational agency
9 for any fiscal year under this Act may remain available
10 for obligation by such agency for 1 additional fiscal year.

11 **SEC. 6. SANCTIONS.**

12 If the Secretary determines that the local educational
13 agency has used funds in violation of the provisions of this
14 Act or the regulations promulgated by the Secretary pur-
15 suant to section 8, the Secretary may impose an appro-
16 priate sanction that may include reimbursement or ineligi-
17 bility for additional funds for a period of years, depending
18 upon the severity of the misuse of funds.

19 **SEC. 7. REPORT AND DOCUMENTATION.**

20 (a) **REPORT TO THE SECRETARY.**—At such time as
21 the Secretary deems appropriate, and not less than once
22 each year thereafter, each recipient of a grant under this
23 Act shall submit to the Secretary a report that includes,
24 for the year to which the report relates—

1 (1) a description of how the funds made avail-
2 able under this Act were expended in correlation
3 with the plan and budget submitted under sections
4 4(a)(2) and 4(b)(2), as applicable; and

5 (2) an evaluation of the effectiveness of the
6 grant received under this Act, as required by sec-
7 tions 4(a)(2)(B) and 4(b)(2)(B), as applicable.

8 (b) DOCUMENTS AND INFORMATION.—Each recipient
9 of a grant under this Act shall provide the Secretary with
10 all documents and information that the Secretary reason-
11 ably determines to be necessary to conduct an evaluation
12 of the effectiveness of programs funded under this Act.

13 **SEC. 8. REGULATORY AUTHORITY.**

14 The Secretary shall issue such regulations and guide-
15 lines as may be necessary to carry out this Act.

16 **SEC. 9. NOTICE.**

17 Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment
18 of this Act, the Secretary shall provide specific notification
19 concerning the availability of grants authorized by this Act
20 to each local educational agency.

21 **SEC. 10. ANTIDISCRIMINATION.**

22 Nothing in this Act shall be construed to modify or
23 affect any Federal or State law prohibiting discrimination
24 on the basis of race, religion, color, ethnicity, national ori-
25 gin, gender, age, or disability, or to modify or affect any

1 right to enforcement of this Act that may exist under
2 other Federal laws, except as expressly provided by this
3 Act.

4 **SEC. 11. MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT.**

5 Funds made available under this Act shall be used
6 to supplement, not supplant, any other Federal, State, or
7 local funds that would otherwise be available to carry out
8 the activities assisted under this Act.

9 **SEC. 12. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

10 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
11 this Act, \$50,000,000,000 for the 10-fiscal year period be-
12 ginning on October 1, 2002.

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