

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 553

To help establish and enhance early childhood family education programs,
and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 15, 2001

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

A BILL

To help establish and enhance early childhood family
education programs, 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 “Early Childhood Fam-
5 ily Education Pilot Project Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

7 The purpose of this Act is—

8 (1) to strengthen families by helping all parents
9 provide the best possible environment for the healthy

1 growth and development of their young children who
2 are between the ages of 0 and 5 years; and

3 (2) to support parents in their role as their
4 child's first and most important teacher by enabling
5 the parents' participation in the early learning proc-
6 ess through integrating early childhood education,
7 parent education, and joint parent-child interaction
8 activities in a comprehensive program.

9 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—The terms used in this Act have
11 the meanings given the terms in section 14101 of the Ele-
12 mentary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
13 8801).

14 (b) LOCAL AGENCY.—In this Act, the term “local
15 agency” means—

16 (1) a local educational agency;

17 (2) a school that administers early childhood
18 education programs;

19 (3) an agency administering a Head Start,
20 Early Head Start, or Even Start program; and

21 (4) an agency administering any other Federal,
22 State, or local government child care or early child-
23 hood education program within a local school dis-
24 trict.

1 **SEC. 4. PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.**

2 The Secretary is authorized to award grants from
3 amounts made available under section 11 to States having
4 applications approved under section 5 to enable such
5 States to award subgrants in accordance with the require-
6 ments of section 6.

7 **SEC. 5. APPLICATIONS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Each State desiring a grant under
9 this Act shall submit an application to the Secretary at
10 such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such in-
11 formation as the Secretary may reasonably require.

12 (b) CONTENTS.—Each application submitted under
13 subsection (a) shall include the following:

14 (1) A description of how the State, through a
15 local agency, will achieve the following goals:

16 (A) Helping parents support their chil-
17 dren’s optimal physical, intellectual, social, and
18 emotional development during the first 5 years
19 of life.

20 (B) Increasing parent involvement in chil-
21 dren’s learning, development, and education.

22 (C) Enhancing effective communication
23 and healthy parent-child-family relationships.

24 (D) Encouraging the development and ef-
25 fective use of community resources for families.

1 (E) Preventing child abuse, family vio-
2 lence, and other negative family outcomes.

3 (F) Making educational materials available
4 for home use.

5 (G) Coordinating activities under this Act
6 with parent involvement and education under
7 part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Edu-
8 cation Act (20 U.S.C. 1431 et seq.).

9 (2) A description of how the State will target
10 funds to the highest need areas with need being de-
11 termined from the levels of access to high quality
12 early childhood education opportunities and numbers
13 of children living in poverty relative to the popu-
14 lation of the area.

15 (3) An assurance that within the criteria de-
16 scribed in paragraph (2) the State will award sub-
17 grants equitably among the geographic regions of
18 the State.

19 (c) PEER REVIEW.—The Secretary shall use a peer
20 review process in reviewing applications submitted under
21 subsection (a) for the purpose of selecting States to receive
22 grants under this Act. Applications shall be peer reviewed
23 by a panel of experts in early childhood and family edu-
24 cation.

1 **SEC. 6. STATE USE OF FUNDS.**

2 (a) SUBGRANTS.—A State that receives a grant
3 under this Act for a fiscal year shall use the grants funds
4 to award subgrants to local agencies to enable such local
5 agencies to establish or enhance early childhood family
6 education programs involving children between 0 and 5
7 years of age and their parents.

8 (b) ADMINISTRATION.—A State may use not more
9 than 5 percent of the amount received under this Act for
10 any fiscal year to pay for administrative costs.

11 (c) WAIVER OF AGE REQUIREMENT.—If a State ad-
12 ministers a program that provides early childhood family
13 education in all school districts or areas in the State that
14 desire to participate in the program under this Act, and
15 families in those school districts or areas are provided uni-
16 versal access to early childhood family education pro-
17 grams, then the State may use funds provided under this
18 Act to award subgrants to local agencies for activities au-
19 thorized under this Act that serve children who are not
20 older than 8.

21 **SEC. 7. LOCAL USE OF FUNDS.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Each local agency receiving a
23 subgrant under this Act shall use subgrant funds to de-
24 velop and carry out a program to establish or enhance
25 early childhood family education programs.

1 (b) CONSULTATION.—Each local agency receiving a
2 subgrant under this Act shall develop the program de-
3 scribed in subsection (a) in consultation with, and shall
4 provide for ongoing advice from, other Federal, State or
5 local government sponsored early childhood education pro-
6 grams in the local area, including child care, Head Start,
7 Early Head Start, and Even Start programs.

8 (c) REQUIREMENTS.—Each program carried out by
9 a local agency under this section shall comply with the
10 following requirements:

11 (1) UNIVERSAL ACCESS.—The program shall be
12 open to every family who lives within the boundaries
13 of the school district served by the local agency, in-
14 cluding every such family with a young child having
15 special developmental or health needs.

16 (2) SETTING.—The program shall be center-
17 based or school-based and shall provide instruction
18 to parents and children together or in concurrent
19 settings.

20 (3) ACTIVITIES.—The program shall include—

21 (A) early childhood education activities to
22 enhance children’s intellectual, social, emo-
23 tional, and physical development;

24 (B) parent education activities to enhance
25 the skills of parents to provide for and under-

1 stand their children's learning processes and in-
2 tellectual, social, emotional, and physical devel-
3 opment;

4 (C) activities that include parent-child
5 interaction;

6 (D) activities designed to detect children's
7 physical, intellectual, emotional, or behavioral
8 problems that may cause learning problems;

9 (E) coordination with and referral to re-
10 lated community resources;

11 (F) coordination with local elementary
12 schools, including activities such as joint profes-
13 sional development and training in early child-
14 hood development, appropriate practices, and
15 kindergarten and first grade standards and cur-
16 ricula to help teachers, early childhood edu-
17 cators, and parents prepare children for school;

18 (G) training for teachers, early childhood
19 educators, and parents in identifying and pre-
20 venting child abuse and neglect; and

21 (H) other programs or activities to im-
22 prove the health, development, and school readi-
23 ness of children.

24 (4) STAFF.—Each teacher in the program shall
25 meet the applicable State requirements for State-

1 funded pre-kindergarten programs or parent edu-
2 cation programs, as applicable.

3 (d) RESTRICTIONS.—Local agencies receiving
4 subgrant funds under this section may not use such funds
5 for—

6 (1) parental involvement activities, such as
7 newsletter related activities, parent-teacher con-
8 ferences, or other parent outreach activities, except
9 for the use of such parental involvement activities to
10 support the activities described in subsection (c); or

11 (2) routine child care or early childhood edu-
12 cation services, as contrasted to supplemental activi-
13 ties that serve parents and children together or in
14 concurrent settings.

15 (e) ADVISORY COUNCIL.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—Each local agency receiving
17 a subgrant under this Act, in consultation with the
18 local educational agency or local governing board, as
19 appropriate, serving the local agency shall appoint
20 an advisory council from individuals residing in the
21 school district in which the program funded by the
22 subgrant is to be provided.

23 (2) MEMBERS.—A majority of the members of
24 the advisory council shall be parents who are partici-
25 pating in the program.

1 (3) DUTIES.—The advisory council shall assist
2 the local educational agency or local governing
3 board, as appropriate, in developing, planning, and
4 monitoring the program assisted under this section.

5 (4) REPORT.—In carrying out the advisory
6 council’s duties, the council shall report to the local
7 educational agency or local governing board, as ap-
8 propriate, serving the local agency administering the
9 program assisted under this section.

10 **SEC. 8. EVALUATION.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—Each State receiving a grant
12 under this Act shall prepare and submit to the Secretary
13 an annual evaluation of the effectiveness of the programs
14 carried out within such State using grant funds received
15 under this Act.

16 (b) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary shall
17 submit the results of the evaluations prepared under sub-
18 section (a) to Congress.

19 **SEC. 9. SUPPLEMENT AND NOT SUPPLANT.**

20 Grant and subgrant funds provided under this Act
21 shall supplement, and not supplant, other Federal, State,
22 and local funds that are available for early childhood fam-
23 ily education programs. States receiving grant funds and
24 local agencies receiving subgrant funds under this Act may
25 provide additional funds, other than those received under

1 this Act, to enhance the early childhood family education
2 programs that are supported by such grant or subgrant
3 funds.

4 **SEC. 10. VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION.**

5 Family participation in any program funded under
6 this Act shall be voluntary and shall not preclude partici-
7 pation in other Federal, State, or local programs.

8 **SEC. 11. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

9 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
10 this Act, 200,000,000 for fiscal year 2002 and for each
11 of the 4 succeeding fiscal years.

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