

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6856

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 and the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to award grants to prepare individuals for the 21st century workplace and to increase America's global competitiveness, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 10, 2008

Mr. YARMUTH (for himself and Mr. LAHOOD) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 and the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to award grants to prepare individuals for the 21st century workplace and to increase America's global competitiveness, 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 "Ready to Compete
5 Act".

1 **TITLE I—READY TO LEARN:**
2 **EARLY CHILDHOOD AND**
3 **SCHOOL READINESS**

4 **SEC. 101. READY TO LEARN GRANTS.**

5 Subpart 3 of part D of title II of the Elementary
6 and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6775)
7 is amended by striking section 2431 and inserting the fol-
8 lowing:

9 **“SEC. 2431. SHORT TITLE.**

10 “This subpart may be cited as ‘Ready-to-Learn Act’.

11 **“SEC. 2432. READY-TO-LEARN EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION**
12 **PROGRAMMING AND RELATED SERVICES.**

13 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized to
14 award a grant to a public broadcasting entity to enable
15 the public broadcasting entity—

16 “(1) to provide a coordinated Ready-to-Learn
17 television service described in subsection (c); and

18 “(2) to award subgrants or enter into contracts
19 or cooperative agreements with an eligible entity to
20 enable the eligible entity to operate a high-quality
21 Ready-to-Learn program that is a part of the coordi-
22 nated Ready-to-Learn television service.

23 “(b) READY-TO-LEARN PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—
24 Each eligible entity receiving a subgrant or entering into

1 a contract or cooperative agreement under this subpart
2 shall operate a Ready-to-Learn program that—

3 “(1) develops, produces, and distributes edu-
4 cational television programming and related services
5 for preschool and elementary school children (espe-
6 cially preschool and elementary school children
7 served under part A of title I), and the parents, edu-
8 cators, and caregivers of such children in order to
9 help improve early childhood development and stu-
10 dent achievement in the areas of—

11 “(A) reading;

12 “(B) mathematics;

13 “(C) science;

14 “(D) health and wellness;

15 “(E) social and emotional development; or

16 “(F) other academic or developmentally
17 appropriate areas;

18 “(2) facilitates the development of—

19 “(A) educational television programming
20 and related services, directly or through con-
21 tracts, with producers of educational television
22 programming and related services for preschool
23 and elementary school children;

24 “(B) support materials and services that
25 accompany such educational television program-

1 ming and related services, including outreach
2 services, in order to promote the effective use of
3 such educational television programming and
4 related services; and

5 “(C) related support resources for parents
6 and caregivers that are designed for nationwide
7 distribution over public television stations’ dig-
8 ital broadcasting channels and other high-tech
9 delivery platforms; and

10 “(3) contracts with an entity that owns and op-
11 erates a television public broadcast station, as de-
12 fined in section 397(6) of the Communications Act
13 of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 397(6))—

14 “(A) that demonstrates that the station is
15 a member of a strong, local, community-based
16 partnership, in order to deliver effective services
17 which meet the educational needs of the chil-
18 dren in the community served by the broadcast
19 area; and

20 “(B) so that educational television pro-
21 gramming and related services developed under
22 this subpart are disseminated and distributed to
23 the widest possible audience appropriately
24 served by the most appropriate distribution
25 technologies; or

1 “(4) develops and disseminates educational or
2 training material, directly related to the television
3 programs assisted under this subpart, that—

4 “(A) is designed—

5 “(i) to promote school readiness for
6 all children, especially children served
7 under part A of title I, including English
8 language learners; and

9 “(ii) to promote the effective use of
10 related services and related support re-
11 sources developed under paragraphs (2)
12 and (3), respectively, among parents,
13 teachers, Head Start programs, Even Start
14 programs, Early Reading First programs,
15 Reading First programs, Reading is Fun-
16 damental program providers, providers of
17 family literacy services, child care pro-
18 viders, early childhood development per-
19 sonnel, elementary school teachers, public
20 libraries, museums, State educational
21 agencies, businesses, institutions of higher
22 education, and after school program per-
23 sonnel; and

1 “(B) may include interactive programs or
2 programs adaptable to distance learning tech-
3 nologies.

4 “(c) COORDINATED READY-TO-LEARN TELEVISION
5 SERVICE.—In awarding subgrants and entering into con-
6 tracts and cooperative agreements under this subpart, a
7 public broadcasting entity shall provide a coordinated
8 Ready-to-Learn television service that—

9 “(1) shall include—

10 “(A) educational television programming,
11 determined by the public broadcasting entity to
12 be of sound content and artistic excellence, de-
13 livered on-air and on-line, aligned to—

14 “(i) State kindergarten through grade
15 12 academic standards and State early
16 learning standards, as appropriate; and

17 “(ii) related services;

18 “(B) effective, ongoing community out-
19 reach programs and ongoing partnerships with
20 local organizations to help ensure that the pro-
21 gramming—

22 “(i) addresses specific community and
23 school needs;

24 “(ii) reaches children served under
25 part A of title I; and

1 “(iii) engages multiple constituencies
2 of children, parents, caregivers, and edu-
3 cators;

4 “(C) academic and developmental tele-
5 vision programming described in subsection
6 (b)(1) in—

7 “(i) the topics described in subpara-
8 graphs (A) and (E) of subsection (b)(1);
9 and

10 “(ii) not less than 1 other topic de-
11 scribed in subparagraphs (B), (C), (D),
12 and (F) of subsection (b)(1); and

13 “(D) a rigorous evaluation of the impact of
14 the television programming and related services
15 described in subsection (b)(1) on—

16 “(i) school readiness skills of children
17 in various socioeconomic areas, including
18 rural and urban areas;

19 “(ii) teacher quality and effectiveness;
20 and

21 “(iii) community engagement and
22 awareness; and

23 “(2) may include—

24 “(A) a comprehensive preschool curriculum
25 based upon the Ready-to-Learn programs; and

1 “(B) ongoing professional development
2 based upon the Ready-to-Learn programs de-
3 signed to help parents, teachers, librarians, or
4 caregivers.

5 “(d) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, MATERIALS, TRAIN-
6 ING, AND CURRICULA.—A public broadcasting entity re-
7 ceiving a grant under this subpart shall provide eligible
8 entities that receive a subgrant or enter into a contract
9 or cooperative agreement under this subpart with tech-
10 nical assistance, supporting materials, training, and cur-
11 ricula to ensure effective implementation of subsection (c).

12 “(e) RESERVATION OF FUNDING.—A public broad-
13 casting entity shall use not less than 30 percent of the
14 funds the public broadcasting entity receives under this
15 subpart to award subgrants to or enter into contracts or
16 cooperative agreements with eligible entities that are pub-
17 lic broadcast stations, as defined in section 397(6) of the
18 Communications Act of 1934, to carry out subsection
19 (c)(1)(B) and section 2435(c).

20 “(f) AVAILABILITY OF PROGRAMMING AND RELATED
21 SERVICES.—In awarding a grant under this subpart, the
22 Secretary shall ensure that a public broadcasting entity
23 receiving a grant under this subpart makes educational
24 television programming and related services widely avail-
25 able, with support materials available, as appropriate, to

1 young children, parents, teachers, Head Start programs,
2 Even Start programs, Early Reading First programs,
3 Reading First programs, Reading is Fundamental pro-
4 grams, providers of family literacy services, child care pro-
5 viders, early childhood development personnel, elementary
6 school teachers, public libraries, and after school programs
7 in order to increase the effective use of educational tele-
8 vision programming and related services.

9 **“SEC. 2433. COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES.**

10 “In carrying out this subpart, a public broadcasting
11 entity receiving a grant under this subpart shall—

12 “(1) consult with the Secretary and the Sec-
13 retary of Health and Human Services—

14 “(A) to maximize the use of high-quality
15 educational television programming and related
16 services by preschool and elementary school
17 children, and to make such programming widely
18 available to federally-funded programs serving
19 such children; and

20 “(B) to coordinate activities assisted under
21 this subpart with Federal programs that have a
22 major training component for early childhood
23 development, including programs under the
24 Head Start Act, Even Start, and Early Reading
25 First, and State training activities funded

1 under the Child Care and Development Block
2 Grant Act of 1990, regarding the availability
3 and use of the related services developed under
4 section 2432(b)(2)(A) to enhance parent and
5 childcare provider skills in early childhood de-
6 velopment and education; and

7 “(2) ensure that all materials acquired or pro-
8 duced by any eligible entity are determined to be of
9 sufficient age-appropriate aesthetic appeal and edu-
10 cational effectiveness to warrant national distribu-
11 tion and support in order to maximize the impact of
12 televised materials and the use of digital content.

13 **“SEC. 2434. APPLICATION.**

14 “To be eligible to receive a grant under this subpart,
15 a public broadcasting entity shall submit to the Secretary
16 an application at such time, in such manner, and con-
17 taining such information as the Secretary may reasonably
18 require.

19 **“SEC. 2435. REPORTS AND EVALUATIONS.**

20 “(a) ANNUAL REPORT TO THE SECRETARY.—A pub-
21 lic broadcasting entity receiving a grant under this sub-
22 part shall prepare and submit to the Secretary an annual
23 report that contains such information as the Secretary
24 may require. At a minimum, the report shall describe the
25 activities undertaken with funds received under the grant

1 awarded to the public broadcasting entity under this sub-
2 part, including each of the following:

3 “(1) PROGRAMMING AND RELATED SERVICES;
4 TARGET POPULATION.—The educational television
5 programming and related services developed, directly
6 or indirectly, by the public broadcasting entity, and
7 the target population served by the programming
8 and services.

9 “(2) SUPPORT OR TRAINING MATERIALS.—The
10 support or training materials developed to accom-
11 pany the educational television programming and re-
12 lated services, and the method by which the mate-
13 rials were distributed to consumers and users of the
14 educational television programming and related serv-
15 ices.

16 “(3) MEANS OF DISTRIBUTION.—The means by
17 which educational television programming and re-
18 lated services developed under this subpart were dis-
19 tributed, including the distance learning technologies
20 that were used to make the educational television
21 programming and related services available, and the
22 geographic distribution achieved through such tech-
23 nologies.

24 “(4) INITIATIVES.—The initiatives undertaken
25 by the public broadcasting entity to develop public-

1 private partnerships to secure non-Federal support
2 for the development, distribution, and broadcast of
3 educational television programming and related serv-
4 ices.

5 “(5) IMPACT.—The impact of the educational
6 television programming and related services on
7 teaching and learning, including the impact on im-
8 proving school readiness skills, early reading skills,
9 early mathematics skills, early science skills, and
10 skills in other developmentally appropriate content
11 areas.

12 “(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary shall
13 prepare and submit to the relevant committees of Con-
14 gress a biannual report that includes the following:

15 “(1) ACTIVITY SUMMARY.—A summary of the
16 activities assisted under section 2432.

17 “(2) EDUCATION AND TRAINING MATERIALS.—
18 A description of the education and training mate-
19 rials described in section 2432(b)(2)(B) that are
20 made available under this subpart, the manner in
21 which outreach was conducted to inform parents and
22 child care providers of the availability of such mate-
23 rials, and the manner in which such materials were
24 distributed in accordance with section 2432.

1 “(c) EVALUATION OF OUTREACH ACTIVITIES.—A
2 public broadcasting entity receiving a grant under this
3 subpart shall require each eligible entity that receives a
4 subgrant or enters into a contract or cooperative agree-
5 ment under this subpart to provide evaluation data that
6 include descriptions of the impact of outreach activities
7 carried out under this subpart, including—

8 “(1) the manner in which outreach was con-
9 ducted to inform parents and child care providers of
10 the availability of the educational television pro-
11 gramming and related services produced under this
12 subpart, including specific strategies used to reach a
13 wide audience;

14 “(2) the extent to which the outreach programs
15 included multiple outreach efforts with the same or-
16 ganizations or groups and resulted in lasting rela-
17 tionships with those organizations or groups and the
18 members of those organizations or groups; and

19 “(3) the effectiveness of the outreach programs
20 and services conducted and the number of children,
21 families, and child care providers that had access to
22 and utilized the educational television programming
23 and related services provided under this subpart to
24 improve school readiness skills.

1 “(d) EVALUATION OF IMPACT ON SCHOOL READI-
2 NESS.—The Secretary shall evaluate the impact of the
3 outreach content and services provided under this subpart
4 on improving school readiness skills nationwide, particu-
5 larly with respect to children in the most disadvantaged
6 communities.

7 **“SEC. 2436. ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.**

8 “An eligible entity that receives a subgrant or enters
9 into a contract or cooperative agreement under this sub-
10 part may use not more than 5 percent of the amount re-
11 ceived under the subgrant, contract, or cooperative agree-
12 ment, respectively, for the normal and customary expenses
13 of administering the grant, contract, or cooperative agree-
14 ment, respectively.

15 **“SEC. 2437. CONTINUATION OF AWARDS.**

16 “Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an eligi-
17 ble entity that received a subgrant or enters into a con-
18 tract or cooperative agreement under this subpart (as this
19 subpart existed on the day before the date of enactment
20 of the Ready-to-Learn Act) shall continue to receive funds
21 in accordance with the terms of the subgrant, contract,
22 or cooperative agreement, respectively, until the date on
23 which the subgrant, contract, or cooperative agreement,
24 respectively, terminates under such terms.

1 **“SEC. 2438. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 “There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
3 this subpart \$40,000,000 for fiscal year 2009 and such
4 sums as may be necessary for each of the 5 succeeding
5 fiscal years.

6 **“SEC. 2439. DEFINITIONS.**

7 “In this subpart—

8 “(1) the term ‘eligible entity’ means—

9 “(A) a national nonprofit membership or-
10 ganization that acquires and distributes pro-
11 gramming to noncommercial educational tele-
12 vision broadcasters through the national public
13 television interconnection system that the orga-
14 nization manages and operates;

15 “(B) a local or statewide public television
16 station or system; or

17 “(C) a nonprofit producer of high-quality
18 children’s educational television and other
19 media programming; and

20 “(2) the term ‘public broadcasting entity’
21 means—

22 “(A) the Corporation for Public Broad-
23 casting;

24 “(B) any licensee or permittee of a public
25 broadcasting station; or

1 “(C) any nonprofit institution engaged pri-
2 marily in the production, acquisition, distribu-
3 tion, or dissemination of educational and cul-
4 tural television or radio programs.”.

5 **TITLE II—READY TO TEACH:**
6 **HIGHLY QUALIFIED AND EF-**
7 **FECTIVE TEACHERS**

8 **SEC. 201. READY TO TEACH GRANTS.**

9 Section 5481 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
10 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7257) is amended—

11 (1) in subsection (a)—

12 (A) by striking “a nonprofit telecommuni-
13 cations entity, or partnership of such entities”
14 and inserting “an eligible entity described in
15 subsection (b)”;

16 (B) by striking “telecommunications-
17 based”; and

18 (C) by striking “achieve” and inserting
19 “meet”; and

20 (2) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the
21 following:

22 “(b) **ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.**—To be eligible to receive
23 a grant under this section, an entity shall be a public
24 broadcasting entity.”.

1 **SEC. 202. APPLICATION REQUIRED.**

2 Section 5482 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
3 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7257a) is amended to read
4 as follows:

5 **“SEC. 5482. APPLICATION REQUIRED.**

6 “(a) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a grant
7 under section 5481, an eligible entity shall submit an ap-
8 plication to the Secretary. Each such application shall—

9 “(1) demonstrate that the applicant will use the
10 public broadcasting infrastructure, and other high-
11 tech delivery platforms to deliver educational content
12 and services in an integrated service and to provide
13 professional development on the use of materials and
14 learning technologies for achieving challenging State
15 academic content and student academic achievement
16 standards;

17 “(2) contain an assurance that—

18 “(A) such integrated service will be con-
19 ducted in cooperation with appropriate State
20 educational agencies, local educational agencies,
21 and State or local affiliates of the eligible enti-
22 ties, if any;

23 “(B) in partnership with local television
24 public broadcast stations, a significant portion
25 of the benefits of such integrated service will be
26 available to local educational agencies that have

1 high percentages of children counted under sec-
2 tion 1124(e), particularly those schools that
3 have failed to make adequate yearly progress
4 for 2 or more consecutive years under section
5 1111(c); and

6 “(3) contain such additional information as the
7 Secretary may reasonably require.

8 “(b) SITES.—In approving applications under sub-
9 section (a), the Secretary shall ensure that the program
10 authorized under section 5481 is conducted at elementary
11 schools and secondary schools served by the local edu-
12 cational agencies described in subsection (a)(2)(B) of this
13 section throughout the United States.”.

14 **SEC. 203. REPORTS AND EVALUATION.**

15 Section 5483 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
16 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7257b) is amended—

17 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

18 (A) by striking “An entity”; and

19 (B) inserting “(a) IN GENERAL—An enti-
20 ty”;

21 (2) in paragraph (1)—

22 (A) by striking “core curriculum areas”
23 and inserting “curriculum core academic sub-
24 jects”;

1 (B) by striking “core curriculum area” and
2 inserting “curriculum core academic subject”;
3 and

4 (C) by striking “and” after the semicolon;
5 (3) by redesignating paragraph (2) as para-
6 graph (3);

7 (4) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-
8 lowing:

9 “(2) the impact of the program on the academic
10 achievement of all children served, particularly chil-
11 dren in schools identified for school improvement
12 under 1116;”.

13 (5) in paragraph (3) (as redesignated by para-
14 graph (3)), by striking the period at the end and in-
15 serting “; and”; and

16 (6) by adding at the end the following:

17 “(4) the percentage of elementary school and
18 secondary school teachers who had access to and uti-
19 lized the program funded under this part, including
20 the percentage of teachers in schools that have failed
21 to make adequate yearly progress for 2 or more con-
22 secutive years under section 1111(c).

23 “(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
24 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section

1 \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2009 and such sums as may
 2 be necessary for each of the 5 succeeding fiscal years.”.

3 **TITLE III—READY TO ACHIEVE:**
 4 **MATH, SCIENCE, TECH-**
 5 **NOLOGY, AND INNOVATION**

6 **SEC. 301. DIGITAL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING GRANTS.**

7 Section 5484 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
 8 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7257c) is amended to read
 9 as follows:

10 **“SEC. 5484. DIGITAL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING**
 11 **GRANTS.**

12 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized to
 13 award grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible entities
 14 (described in subsection (b)) for the purpose of developing,
 15 disseminating, and providing training through high-qual-
 16 ity, innovative educational digital content and services to
 17 improve math, science, and technology education in ele-
 18 mentary schools and secondary schools.

19 “(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—To be eligible to receive
 20 a grant under this section, an entity shall—

21 “(1) be—

22 “(A) a television public broadcast station
 23 as defined in section 397(6) of the Communica-
 24 tions Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 397(6));

1 “(B) a partnership of entities described in
2 subparagraph (A); or

3 “(C) a partnership among entities de-
4 scribed in subparagraph (A) and a national
5 nonprofit membership organization that ac-
6 quires and distributes programming to non-
7 commercial educational television broadcasters
8 through the national public television inter-
9 connection system that it manages and operates
10 that demonstrates a capacity for the develop-
11 ment and distribution of high-quality, innova-
12 tive educational digital content and services in
13 core curriculum content areas;

14 “(2) partner with—

15 “(A) a State educational agency or a local
16 educational agency (or a consortium of such
17 agencies) that receives funds under part A of
18 title I; and

19 “(B) a high-quality academic research and
20 evaluation entity to ensure that the content de-
21 veloped pursuant to this section effectively ad-
22 dresses the needs of teachers and students and
23 delivers a positive impact on student academic
24 achievement in core curriculum areas.

1 “(c) APPLICATION.—An eligible entity that desires to
2 receive a grant under this section shall submit an applica-
3 tion to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and
4 accompanied by such information as the Secretary may
5 reasonably require.

6 “(d) REQUIRED USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity
7 that receives a grant under this section shall—

8 “(1) develop and use innovative, high-quality
9 tools, products, and educational digital content and
10 services for classroom learning in core curriculum
11 content areas, particularly math, science, and tech-
12 nology, that—

13 “(A) include built-in teacher utilization
14 and support components to ensure that teachers
15 can easily understand and use the content of
16 the programming either for group instruction of
17 individual student use; and

18 “(B) are created for, or adaptable to, chal-
19 lenging State academic content standards and
20 student academic achievement standards;

21 “(2) provide professional development for teach-
22 ers in the use of the content developed in paragraph
23 (1);

24 “(3) conduct an evaluation as described in sub-
25 section (g); and

1 “(4) provide age-appropriate programs, train-
2 ing, materials, and access to technology that—

3 “(A) build the critical and higher-order
4 thinking skills of students in elementary schools
5 and secondary schools; and

6 “(B) are capable of distribution through
7 digital broadcasting and school digital networks.

8 “(e) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—An eligible entity
9 that receives a grant under this section shall contribute
10 to the activities assisted under such grant non-Federal
11 matching funds in an amount equal to not less than 100
12 percent of the amount of the grant. Such matching funds
13 may include funds provided for the transition to digital
14 broadcasting, as well as in-kind contributions.

15 “(f) DURATION.—A grant under this section shall be
16 awarded for a period of 5 years in order to provide a suffi-
17 cient period of time for the creation of a substantial body
18 of significant content.

19 “(g) REPORTS AND EVALUATION.—An eligible entity
20 that receives a grant under this section shall prepare and
21 submit to the Secretary an annual report that contains
22 such information as the Secretary may require. At a min-
23 imum, such report shall describe the program activities
24 undertaken with funds received under the grant, includ-
25 ing—

1 tions, States, local educational agencies, and the public at
2 low or no cost.

3 “(b) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary shall
4 award grants under this section to eligible entities to de-
5 velop and to operate a national on-demand digital edu-
6 cation media service.

7 “(c) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—To be eligible to receive
8 a grant under this section, an entity shall—

9 “(1) be a television public broadcasting entity,
10 as defined in section 397(11) of the Communications
11 Act of 1934, or a consortium of such entities, that
12 is able to demonstrate a capacity for the develop-
13 ment, operation, management, and marketing of a
14 new national on-line, on-demand digital education
15 media service; and

16 “(2) have the capacity to establish and to co-
17 ordinate an advisory committee to advise on the de-
18 velopment and implementation of the national media
19 service to ensure that such service meets the needs
20 of communities, schools, educators, and eligible enti-
21 ties, which members shall include not less than 1 of
22 each of the following:

23 “(A) A representative of television public
24 broadcast stations that are not grantees under
25 this subpart.

1 “(B) A representative of a State edu-
2 cational agency and a local educational agency.

3 “(C) A representative of the Corporation
4 for Public Broadcasting.

5 “(D) A representative of the national orga-
6 nization representing the licensees and permit-
7 tees of noncommercial broadcast television sta-
8 tions.

9 “(E) A representative of a national non-
10 profit membership organization that acquires
11 and distributes programming to noncommercial
12 educational television broadcasters through the
13 national public television interconnection system
14 that it manages and operates.

15 “(F) A teacher, principal, and adminis-
16 trator.

17 “(G) A parent.

18 “(H) An early education provider, such as
19 a Head Start program.

20 “(I) A community based organization ad-
21 dressing family literacy.

22 “(J) An expert in evaluation and research
23 in best practices in education, early education,
24 and family literacy.

1 “(K) An expert in the use of media and
2 technology.

3 “(L) A for-profit content provider.

4 “(d) APPLICATIONS.—An eligible entity that desires
5 to receive a grant under this section shall submit an appli-
6 cation to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and
7 containing such assurances and information as the Sec-
8 retary may reasonably require. Each application shall de-
9 scribe—

10 “(1) the plan for how such entity will develop
11 and operate the service in accordance with this sec-
12 tion;

13 “(2) the advisory committee that the entity will
14 use and the plan for ensuring active participation by
15 the committee to ensure that the media service will
16 be high-quality and serve the needs of schools, par-
17 ents, and communities;

18 “(3) how the entity will ensure that the pro-
19 grams and materials available on the service will be
20 high-quality, easily accessible to educators and par-
21 ents, and available at low or no cost;

22 “(4) how the service funded under this section
23 will provide products, materials, and services that
24 will help all children, including children with disabil-
25 ities and English-language learners—

1 “(A) meet challenging State academic con-
2 tent standards and student academic achieve-
3 ment standards,

4 “(B) come to school ready to learn, and

5 “(C) achieve in mathematics, science, and
6 technology;

7 “(5) how the service funded under this section
8 will provide products, materials, and services that
9 will help all adults, including English language
10 learners, meet their literacy and work force needs;

11 “(6) how the service funded under this section
12 will provide products, materials, and services that
13 will help engage parents and communities in improv-
14 ing education for all children;

15 “(7) how the entity will continuously evaluate
16 and improve the service to continuously meet the
17 needs of the public and educators;

18 “(8) how the entity will develop and deliver the
19 service so that the service will integrate into, or be
20 interoperable with, existing local and State edu-
21 cational Internet-based portals already in use by
22 schools and State educational agencies;

23 “(9) how other leading nonprofit or for-profit
24 content providers will be engaged in the effort and

1 how such providers’ content resources may be
2 accessed through or referenced within the service;

3 “(10) how the entity will leverage the distribu-
4 tion infrastructure of public broadcasting’s distribu-
5 tion infrastructure, including on-air digital broadcast
6 channels and local community outreach mechanisms,
7 to raise awareness about the availability of the serv-
8 ice and support the successful adoption and imple-
9 mentation of the service; and

10 “(11) the fair and balanced process that the en-
11 tity will use to establish the advisory committee de-
12 scribed in subsection (c)(2), how it will coordinate
13 such committee, and how the entity will ensure that
14 it takes into account the advice of such committee
15 in planning and implementing all effective service.

16 “(e) REQUIRED USES OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity
17 that receives a grant under this section shall use the grant
18 funds for—

19 “(1) the development and operation of a na-
20 tional on-line, on-demand digital education media
21 service;

22 “(2) professional development and training of
23 teachers and staff to use the service;

24 “(3) the evaluation, as described in subsection
25 (g);

1 “(4) outreach and marketing activities, particu-
2 larly to schools in need of improvement pursuant to
3 section 1116, and disadvantaged schools and com-
4 munities;

5 “(5) quality control of the service and its con-
6 tents;

7 “(6) coordination and engagement with the ad-
8 visory committee;

9 “(7) digitization of appropriate analog content;
10 and

11 “(8) other activities as needed to meet the pur-
12 pose of this section.

13 “(f) DURATION.—A grant under this section shall be
14 awarded for a period of 10 years.

15 “(g) REPORTS AND EVALUATION.—An eligible entity
16 that receives a grant under this section shall prepare and
17 submit to the Secretary an annual report that contains
18 such information as the Secretary may require. At a min-
19 imum, such report shall describe the program activities
20 undertaken with funds received under the grant, includ-
21 ing—

22 “(1) the quality, breadth, and depth of the con-
23 tent provided by the service;

24 “(2) the use of the program by educators, par-
25 ents, and communities, particularly in the most dis-

1 advantaged communities and by schools that have
2 failed to make adequate yearly progress for 2 or
3 more consecutive years under section 1111(c);

4 “(3) the effectiveness of the service and the
5 availability of effective, low or no-cost resources;

6 “(4) the effectiveness of the outreach and mar-
7 keting activities in reaching a wide audience, par-
8 ticularly in the most disadvantaged communities and
9 in schools in need of improvement pursuant to sec-
10 tion 1116; and

11 “(5) the impact and effectiveness of the advi-
12 sory committee on the service.

13 “(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
14 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
15 \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2009 and such sums as may
16 be necessary for each of the 5 succeeding fiscal years.”.

17 **TITLE IV—READY TO EARN**
18 **GRANTS**

19 **SEC. 401. READY TO EARN GRANTS.**

20 Chapter 4 of subtitle A of title II of the Workforce
21 Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 9251 et seq.) is
22 amended by adding at the end the following:

1 **“SEC. 244. TELEVISION BROADCAST WORKFORCE TRAINING**
2 **GRANT PROGRAM.**

3 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized to
4 award grants, on a competitive basis, to an entity that
5 owns and operates a television public broadcast station,
6 as defined in section 397(6) of the Communications Act
7 of 1934, or a partnership of such entities, for the purpose
8 of developing, disseminating, and providing on-line and
9 on-air education and training services for adults, including
10 adult education, adult literacy, GED preparation, work-
11 force training, and related outreach services that are pri-
12 orities for the community.

13 “(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—To be eligible to receive
14 a grant under this section, an entity shall—

15 “(1) own or operate a local television public
16 broadcast station, as defined in section 397(6) of the
17 Communications Act of 1934, that is able to dem-
18 onstrate a capacity for the development and dis-
19 tribution of high-quality educational digital content
20 and services in the areas of adult education, adult
21 literacy, GED preparation, workforce training, and
22 related outreach services; and

23 “(2) partner with an eligible agency as defined
24 in section 203(4) or a State Board as described in
25 section 111 or institutions of higher education in

1 order to implement a high-quality program in ac-
2 cordance with this section.

3 “(c) APPLICATION.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a
5 grant under this section, an entity that owns and
6 operates a television public broadcast station, as de-
7 fined in section 397(6) of the Communications Act
8 of 1934, or partnership of such entities, shall submit
9 an application to the Secretary. Each application
10 shall—

11 “(A) describe the innovative, high-quality
12 training, tools, products, and educational digital
13 content and services that will be developed and
14 used to improve the quality and delivery of
15 adult education, adult literacy, GED prepara-
16 tion, work force training, and related outreach
17 services;

18 “(B) describe the partnership and the roles
19 of the partners in implementing a high-quality
20 program in accordance with this section;

21 “(C) describe how the eligible entity or en-
22 tities will address the needs of adults who are
23 non-English speakers;

24 “(D) describe the results of the needs as-
25 sessment of the community and how the com-

1 prehensive program described in this section
2 will meet the needs of that community and in-
3 clude partnerships with community-based orga-
4 nizations that serve adults in need of such serv-
5 ices;

6 “(E) describe the research-based practices
7 and advanced technologies that the program
8 funded under this section will use to carry out
9 the purposes of this section;

10 “(F) describe the rigorous evaluation the
11 eligible entity or entities will use to support
12 continuous improvement of the program and
13 services; and

14 “(G) contain such additional assurances as
15 the Secretary may reasonably require.

16 “(d) REQUIRED USES OF FUNDS.—Grant funds pro-
17 vided under this section shall be used for—

18 “(1) the development, training and use of inno-
19 vative, high-quality tools, products, and educational
20 digital content and services for—

21 “(A) professional development,

22 “(B) community and family outreach, and

23 “(C) adult education, adult literacy, GED
24 preparation, work force training, and related
25 outreach services;

1 “(2) professional development and training of
2 staff;

3 “(3) evaluation as described in subsection (g);

4 “(4) outreach activities to engage adult learners
5 and community organizations;

6 “(5) English language education and services
7 for non-English speakers; and

8 “(6) other activities as needed to meet the pur-
9 poses of this section.

10 “(e) DURATION.—A grant under this section shall be
11 awarded for a period of 5 years.

12 “(f) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—An entity that re-
13 ceives a grant under this section may not use more than
14 5 percent of the amount received under the grant for ad-
15 ministrative costs.

16 “(g) REPORTS AND EVALUATION.—An entity receiv-
17 ing a grant under this section shall prepare and submit
18 to the Secretary an annual report that contains such infor-
19 mation as the Secretary may require. At a minimum, such
20 report shall describe the program activities undertaken
21 with funds received under the grant, including—

22 “(1) the success in engaging families and com-
23 munities;

24 “(2) the success of professional development
25 and training for staff;

1 “(3) the effectiveness of the comprehensive,
2 high-quality program to provide adult education,
3 adult literacy, GED preparation, workforce training,
4 and related outreach services;

5 “(4) the effectiveness of the specific, innovative,
6 high-quality training, tools, products, and edu-
7 cational digital content and services developed and
8 used to improve the quality and delivery of adult
9 education, adult literacy, GED preparation, work
10 force training, and related outreach services; and

11 “(5) the impact of the program on adult lit-
12 eracy and English language skills, workforce skills,
13 job placements, and GED passage rates.

14 “(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
15 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
16 \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2009 and such sums as may
17 be necessary for each of the 5 succeeding fiscal years.

18 “(i) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

19 “(1) the term ‘GED’ means General Edu-
20 cational Development as recognized by the American
21 Council on Education; and

22 “(2) the term ‘institution of higher education’
23 has the meaning given such term in section 101 of
24 the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
25 1001).”.

1 **SEC. 402. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**

2 The Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C.
3 9241 et seq.) is amended—

4 (1) in section 111(b)(1)(C)(vii), by inserting “,
5 and public broadcasting entities” after “juvenile jus-
6 tice programs”;

7 (2) in section 117(b)(2)(B), by inserting “in-
8 cluding public broadcasting entities” after “enti-
9 ties”;

10 (3) in section 122(a)(2)(C), by inserting “, in-
11 cluding a public broadcasting entity” after “training
12 services”;

13 (4) in section 129(c)(2)(A), by inserting “, in-
14 cluding educational digital content and services”
15 after “instruction”;

16 (5) in section 203(5)(H), by inserting “includ-
17 ing a public broadcasting entity” after “institution”;
18 and

19 (6) in section 231(e)(6), by inserting “and edu-
20 cational digital content and services” after “com-
21 puters”.

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