

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3441

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to authorize competitive grants to train school principals in instructional leadership skills and to promote the incorporation of standards of instructional leadership into State-level principal certification or licensure.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 3, 2007

Mr. SARBANES introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to authorize competitive grants to train school principals in instructional leadership skills and to promote the incorporation of standards of instructional leadership into State-level principal certification or licensure.

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 “Instructional Leader-
5 ship Act of 2007”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

1 (1) In addition to handling traditional manage-
2 ment duties, the school principal is now expected to
3 be an instructional leader—to possess the content
4 knowledge and instructional skills to guide teaching
5 and learning in the school.

6 (2) There is a clear expectation within the
7 amendments made by the No Child Left Behind Act
8 of 2001 that principals become instructional leaders.
9 Section 2113(e) of the Elementary and Secondary
10 Education Act of 1965, as amended by the No Child
11 Left Behind Act of 2001, calls for principals to have
12 “the instructional leadership skills to help teachers
13 teach and students learn” and “to help students
14 meet challenging State student academic achieve-
15 ment standards”.

16 (3) Despite this recognition of the importance
17 of instructional leadership, adequate attention and
18 resources have not been committed to training and
19 supporting school principals in the standards of in-
20 structional leadership.

21 (4) Licensure of school principals typically does
22 not give adequate emphasis to instructional leader-
23 ship skills in the certification process.

24 (5) The term “highly qualified principal” added
25 by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 should be

1 defined and developed to include a strong emphasis
2 on instructional leadership.

3 **SEC. 3. GRANTS FOR INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title I of the Elementary and
5 Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et
6 seq.) is amended by redesignating part I as part J and
7 by inserting after part H the following new part:

8 **“PART I—INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP**

“Sec. 1851. Competitive grants.

9 **“SEC. 1851. COMPETITIVE GRANTS.**

10 “(a) GRANTS TO DEVELOP INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS
11 AND SITES.—The Secretary shall make competitive grants
12 to eligible entities to develop innovative programs and sites
13 (such as leadership development schools) to train school
14 principals in instructional leadership skills, including skills
15 relating to—

16 “(1) effective instructional practices;

17 “(2) how to facilitate the development of a
18 school vision;

19 “(3) aligning all aspects of a school culture to
20 student and adult learning;

21 “(4) monitoring the alignment of curriculum,
22 instruction, and assessment;

1 “(5) improving instructional practices through
2 the purposeful observation and evaluation of teach-
3 ers;

4 “(6) ensuring the regular integration of appro-
5 priate assessments into daily classroom instruction;

6 “(7) using technology and multiple sources of
7 data to improve classroom instruction;

8 “(8) providing staff with focused, sustained, re-
9 search-based professional development; and

10 “(9) engaging all community stakeholders in a
11 shared responsibility for student and school success.

12 “(b) GRANTS FOR PILOT PROGRAMS.—In addition to
13 the grants under subsection (a), the Secretary shall make
14 competitive grants to State educational agencies or to
15 partnerships or consortia which include State educational
16 agencies to develop and implement pilot programs de-
17 signed to evaluate and promote the incorporation of stand-
18 ards of instructional leadership into State principal certifi-
19 cation or licensure.

20 “(c) DURATION.—A grant under this section shall be
21 awarded for a period of 2 years, and may be continued
22 for a period of 2 additional years.

23 “(d) APPLICATION.—An eligible entity desiring a
24 grant under this section shall submit an application to the

1 Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing
2 such information, as the Secretary may require.

3 “(e) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—For purposes of this sec-
4 tion, the term ‘eligible entity’ means—

5 “(1) a State educational agency,

6 “(2) a local educational agency,

7 “(3) a nonprofit organization (such as a State
8 principal association),

9 “(4) a institution of higher education, and

10 “(5) a partnership or consortium which includes
11 at least 1 of the foregoing.

12 “(f) REPORTING.—The recipient of any grant award-
13 ed under this section shall report to the Secretary the re-
14 sults of its activities funded by such grant. Such report
15 shall be submitted at such time, in such manner, and con-
16 taining such information, as the Secretary may require.

17 “(g) REVISED CONCEPT OF HIGHLY QUALIFIED
18 PRINCIPAL.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Based on the reports under
20 subsection (f), the Secretary shall establish a defini-
21 tion of ‘highly qualified principal’ that emphasizes
22 standards of instructional leadership.

23 “(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In developing such a
24 definition, the Secretary shall give consideration to
25 the need for principals to—

1 “(A) demonstrate awareness of the knowl-
2 edge skills and attitudes needed to effectively
3 lead teaching and learning in schools;

4 “(B) engage in continuous professional de-
5 velopment, utilizing a combination of academic
6 study, developmental simulation exercises, self-
7 reflection, mentorship and internship; and

8 “(C) demonstrate the capacity to lead in
9 establishing and maintaining a professional
10 learning community that effectively uses data to
11 improve and personalize instruction for all stu-
12 dents to result in improved student achieve-
13 ment.

14 “(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To
15 carry out this section, there are authorized to be appro-
16 priated \$100,000,000 for fiscal year 2008 and such sums
17 as may be necessary for each of the 5 succeeding fiscal
18 years.”.

19 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
20 for the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965
21 is amended by redesignating the item relating to part I
22 of title I as relating to part J and by inserting before such
23 item the following new item:

 “PART I—INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP”.

○