

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1483

To create a new incentive fund that will encourage States to adopt the
21st Century Skills Framework.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 24, 2007

Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself and Ms. SNOWE) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To create a new incentive fund that will encourage States
to adopt the 21st Century Skills Framework.

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 “21st Century Skills
5 Incentive Fund Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

8 (1) Students must be prepared in the core sub-
9 jects of English, reading, mathematics, science, for-

1 eign languages, civics, government, economics, art,
2 history, and geography.

3 (2) In order for our Nation’s students to be
4 prepared to succeed in our communities and work-
5 places, students need 21st century content, beyond
6 the traditional core subjects, that includes global
7 awareness, financial, economic, business and entre-
8 preneurial literacy, civic literacy, and health and
9 wellness awareness.

10 (3) Students need to go beyond just learning
11 today’s academic context to develop critical thinking
12 and problem solving skills, communication skills, cre-
13 ativity and innovation skills, collaboration skills, con-
14 textual learning skills, and information and media
15 literacy skills.

16 (4) Information and communications technology
17 literacy is the ability to use technology to develop
18 21st century content knowledge and skills, in the
19 content of learning core subjects, and students must
20 be able to use technology to learn content and skills
21 so that the students know how to learn, think criti-
22 cally, solve problems, use information, communicate,
23 innovate, and collaborate.

24 (5) Educators need to incorporate life skills into
25 pedagogy, including leadership, ethics, account-

1 ability, adaptability, personal productivity, personal
 2 responsibility, people skills, self-direction, and social
 3 responsibility.

4 (6) There needs to be 21st century assessments
 5 of education that measure the following priorities:

6 (A) Core subjects, and 21st century
 7 themes.

8 (B) Life and career skills.

9 (C) Thinking and innovation skills.

10 (D) Information media and technology
 11 skills.

12 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

13 In this Act:

14 (1) **ELIGIBLE STATE.**—The term “eligible
 15 State” means a State that—

16 (A) develops a comprehensive plan for im-
 17 plementing a statewide 21st Century Skills ini-
 18 tiative;

19 (B) demonstrates a commitment to ad-
 20 vancing 21st Century Skills within—

21 (i) standards and assessments;

22 (ii) curriculum;

23 (iii) professional development; and

24 (iv) the learning environment;

1 (C) achieves broad support for a statewide
2 21st Century Skills initiative from among the
3 State’s education leaders (including classroom
4 practitioners), business leaders, and civic lead-
5 ers; and

6 (D) is approved as a 21st Century Partner
7 State by the nonprofit, nonpartisan Partnership
8 for 21st Century Skills.

9 (2) FUND.—The term “Fund” means the 21st
10 Century Skills Incentive Fund established under sec-
11 tion 6(a).

12 **SEC. 4. GRANTS AUTHORIZED.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized to
14 award grants, from amounts available in the Fund, to eli-
15 gible States having applications approved under section 5
16 to enable the eligible States to pay the Federal share of
17 the cost of establishing a statewide 21st Century Skills
18 initiative.

19 (b) AWARD RULE.—The Secretary shall award
20 grants under this Act on a first-come, first-served basis,
21 so that the grants are awarded—

22 (1) to eligible States in the order the Secretary
23 receives approvable applications; and

24 (2) in an amount determined on the basis of
25 the amount of the non-Federal share identified, and

1 supported by the information contained, in an ap-
2 provable application.

3 (c) FEDERAL SHARE; NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—

4 (1) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share shall
5 be 50 percent.

6 (2) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—The non-Federal
7 share shall be provided from State sources or from
8 foundation sources.

9 (d) DURATION.—The Secretary shall award each
10 grant under this Act for not less than 1 and not more
11 than 3 years.

12 (e) MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT.—The Secretary shall
13 reduce the grant payable to an eligible State under this
14 Act for a fiscal year by the amount, if any, by which the
15 eligible State's expenditures for the activities assisted
16 under the grant for the preceding fiscal year are less than
17 such expenditures for the second fiscal year preceding the
18 fiscal year for which the determination is made.

19 (f) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—Grant funds pro-
20 vided under this Act shall be used to supplement and not
21 supplant other State funds expended for activities assisted
22 under this Act.

23 **SEC. 5. APPLICATION.**

24 Each eligible State that desires a grant under this
25 Act shall submit an application to the Secretary that—

1 (1) describes the 21st Century Skills initiative
2 for which assistance is sought;

3 (2) includes evidence that the eligible State has
4 met each of the eligibility criteria described in sub-
5 paragraphs (A) through (D) of section 3(1);

6 (3) includes a description of how the eligible
7 State will provide the non-Federal share of the grant
8 funds; and

9 (4) includes a description of how the eligible
10 State will continue to provide the non-Federal share
11 throughout the duration of the grant and the suc-
12 cessful statewide implementation of the 21st Cen-
13 tury Skills initiative.

14 **SEC. 6. 21ST CENTURY SKILLS INCENTIVE FUND.**

15 (a) **FUND ESTABLISHED.**—The Secretary shall estab-
16 lish a 21st Century Skills Incentive Fund.

17 (b) **DEPOSITS.**—The Secretary shall deposit into the
18 Fund all amounts appropriated under section 8.

19 (c) **EXPENDITURES.**—The Secretary shall use
20 amounts in the Fund to award grants to eligible States
21 in accordance with this Act.

22 **SEC. 7. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.**

23 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall administer all
24 aspects of the program assisted under this Act, including
25 determining State eligibility, making grant awards, deter-

1 mining award amounts and duration, and conducting pro-
2 gram evaluations.

3 (b) EVALUATION.—Each eligible State receiving a
4 grant under this Act—

5 (1) shall conduct an evaluation of the 21st Cen-
6 tury Skills initiative assisted under this Act;

7 (2) shall use the non-Federal share described in
8 section 5(3) to pay the costs of the evaluation; and

9 (3) shall submit a copy of the evaluation to the
10 Secretary.

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

12 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
13 this Act (other than section 7(b))—

14 (1) \$100,000,000 for fiscal year 2007;

15 (2) \$100,000,000 for fiscal year 2008; and

16 (3) such sums as may be necessary for each of
17 the fiscal years 2009, 2010, and 2011.

18 **SEC. 9. SEPARATE PERCENTAGE LIMITATION FOR COR-**
19 **PORATE CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO**
20 **21ST CENTURY SKILLS INITIATIVES OF ELIGI-**
21 **BLE STATES.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 170(b) of the Internal
23 Revenue Code of 1986 (related to percentage limitations)
24 is amended by adding at the end the following new para-
25 graph:

1 “(3) SPECIAL RULE FOR CORPORATE CON-
2 TRIBUTIONS TO 21ST CENTURY SKILLS INITIATIVES
3 OF ELIGIBLE STATES.—

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a cor-
5 poration which makes a 21st Century Skills ini-
6 tiative contribution, the limitation under para-
7 graph (2) shall apply separately with respect to
8 all such contributions and all other charitable
9 contributions.

10 “(B) 21ST CENTURY SKILLS INITIATIVE
11 CONTRIBUTION.—For purposes of this para-
12 graph, the term ‘21st Century Skills initiative
13 contribution’ means a charitable contribution in
14 cash to an eligible State (as defined in section
15 3(1) of the 21st Century Skills Incentive Fund
16 Act) which has a grant application approved
17 under section 5 of such Act.”.

18 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
19 this section shall apply to contributions made after the
20 date of the enactment of this Act.

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