

113<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 4366

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## AN ACT

To strengthen the Federal education research system to make research and evaluations more timely and relevant to State and local needs in order to increase student achievement.

1        *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2        *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

**2** This Act may be cited as the “Strengthening Edu-  
**3** cation through Research Act”.

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# 1 **TITLE I—EDUCATION SCIENCES**

## 2 **REFORM**

### 3 **SEC. 101. REFERENCES.**

4 Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in  
 5 this title an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms  
 6 of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provi-  
 7 sion, the reference shall be considered to be made to a  
 8 section or other provision of the Education Sciences Re-  
 9 form Act of 2002 (20 U.S.C. 9501 et seq.).

1 **SEC. 102. DEFINITIONS.**

2 Section 102 (20 U.S.C. 9501) is amended—

3 (1) in paragraph (5), by striking “Affairs” and  
4 inserting “Education”;

5 (2) in paragraph (10)—

6 (A) by inserting “or other information, in  
7 a timely manner and” after “evaluations,”; and

8 (B) by inserting “school leaders,” after  
9 “teachers,”;

10 (3) in paragraph (12), by inserting “, school  
11 leaders,” after “teachers”;

12 (4) by striking paragraph (13);

13 (5) by redesignating paragraphs (14) and (15)  
14 as paragraphs (13) and (14), respectively;

15 (6) by inserting after paragraph (14), as so re-  
16 designated, the following:

17 “(15) **MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTION.**—The  
18 term ‘minority-serving institution’ means an institu-  
19 tion of higher education described in section 371(a)  
20 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
21 1067q(a)).”;

22 (7) by amending paragraph (18) to read as fol-  
23 lows:

24 “(18) **PRINCIPLES OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH.**—  
25 The term ‘principles of scientific research’ means  
26 principles of research that—

1           “(A) apply rigorous, systematic, and objec-  
2           tive methodology to obtain reliable and valid  
3           knowledge relevant to education activities and  
4           programs;

5           “(B) present findings and make claims  
6           that are appropriate to, and supported by, the  
7           methods that have been employed; and

8           “(C) include, appropriate to the research  
9           being conducted—

10                   “(i) use of systematic, empirical meth-  
11                   ods that draw on observation or experi-  
12                   ment;

13                   “(ii) use of data analyses that are  
14                   adequate to support the general findings;

15                   “(iii) reliance on measurements or ob-  
16                   servational methods that provide reliable  
17                   and generalizable findings;

18                   “(iv) strong claims of causal relation-  
19                   ships, only with research designs that  
20                   eliminate plausible competing explanations  
21                   for observed results, such as, but not lim-  
22                   ited to, random-assignment experiments;

23                   “(v) presentation of studies and meth-  
24                   ods in sufficient detail and clarity to allow  
25                   for replication or, at a minimum, to offer

1 the opportunity to build systematically on  
2 the findings of the research;

3 “(vi) acceptance by a peer-reviewed  
4 journal or critique by a panel of inde-  
5 pendent experts through a comparably rig-  
6 orous, objective, and scientific review; and

7 “(vii) consistency of findings across  
8 multiple studies or sites to support the  
9 generality of results and conclusions.”;

10 (8) in paragraph (20), by striking “scientifically  
11 based research standards” and inserting “the prin-  
12 ciples of scientific research”; and

13 (9) by adding at the end the following:

14 “(24) SCHOOL LEADER.—The term ‘school  
15 leader’ means a principal, assistant principal, or  
16 other individual who is—

17 “(A) an employee or officer of—

18 “(i) an elementary school or sec-  
19 ondary school;

20 “(ii) a local educational agency serv-  
21 ing an elementary school or secondary  
22 school; or

23 “(iii) another entity operating the ele-  
24 mentary school or secondary school; and

1           “(B) responsible for the daily instructional  
2           leadership and managerial operations of the ele-  
3           mentary school or secondary school.”.

4           **PART A—THE INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION**  
5                           **SCIENCES**

6   **SEC. 111. ESTABLISHMENT.**

7           Section 111 (20 U.S.C. 9511) is amended—

8           (1) in subsection (b)(2)—

9           (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph

10          (A)—

11                   (i) by striking “and wide dissemina-  
12                   tion activities” and inserting “and, con-  
13                   sistent with section 114(j), wide dissemina-  
14                   tion and utilization activities”; and

15                   (ii) by striking “(including in tech-  
16                   nology areas)”; and

17           (B) in subparagraph (B), by inserting  
18           “disability,” after “gender,”.

19   **SEC. 112. FUNCTIONS.**

20           Section 112 (20 U.S.C. 9512) is amended—

21           (1) in paragraph (1)—

22                   (A) by inserting “(including evaluations of  
23                   impact and implementation)” after “education  
24                   evaluation”; and

1 (B) by inserting before the semicolon the  
2 following “and utilization”; and

3 (2) in paragraph (2)—

4 (A) by inserting “, consistent with section  
5 114(j),” after “disseminate”; and

6 (B) by adding before the semicolon the fol-  
7 lowing: “and scientifically valid education eval-  
8 uations carried out under this title”.

9 **SEC. 113. DELEGATION.**

10 Section 113 (20 U.S.C. 9513) is amended—

11 (1) in subsection (a)—

12 (A) by striking paragraph (1);

13 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (2)  
14 through (5) as paragraphs (1) through (4), re-  
15 spectively; and

16 (C) in paragraph (2), as so redesignated,  
17 by striking “of the National Assessment of  
18 Educational Progress Authorization Act”;

19 (2) in subsection (b), by striking “Secretary  
20 may assign the Institute responsibility for admin-  
21 istering” and inserting “Director may accept re-  
22 quests from the Secretary for the Institute to admin-  
23 ister”; and

24 (3) by adding at the end the following:

1       “(c) CONTRACT ACQUISITION.—With respect to any  
2 contract entered into under this title, the Director shall  
3 be consulted—

4               “(1) during the procurement process; and

5               “(2) in the management of such contract’s per-  
6 formance, which shall be consistent with the require-  
7 ments of the performance management system de-  
8 scribed in section 185.”.

9 **SEC. 114. OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR.**

10       Section 114 (20 U.S.C. 9514) is amended—

11               (1) in subsection (a), by striking “Except as  
12 provided in subsection (b)(2), the” and inserting  
13 “The”;

14               (2) in subsection (b)—

15                       (A) in paragraph (1), by inserting before  
16 the period the following: “, except that if a suc-  
17 cessor to the Director has not been appointed  
18 as of the date of expiration of the Director’s  
19 term, the Director may serve for an additional  
20 1-year period, beginning on the day after the  
21 date of expiration of the Director’s term, or  
22 until a successor has been appointed under sub-  
23 section (a), whichever occurs first”;

24                       (B) by amending paragraph (2) to read as  
25 follows:

1           “(2) REAPPOINTMENT.—A Director may be re-  
2           appointed under subsection (a) for one additional  
3           term.”; and

4                   (C) in paragraph (3)—

5                           (i) in the heading, by striking “SUB-  
6                           SEQUENT DIRECTORS” and inserting  
7                           “RECOMMENDATIONS”; and

8                           (ii) by striking “, other than a Direc-  
9                           tor appointed under paragraph (2)”;

10                   (3) in subsection (f)—

11                           (A) in paragraph (3), by inserting before  
12                           the period the following: “, and, as appropriate,  
13                           with such research and activities carried out by  
14                           public and private entities, to avoid duplicative  
15                           or overlapping efforts”;

16                           (B) in paragraph (4), by inserting “, and  
17                           the use of evidence” after “statistics activities”;

18                           (C) in paragraph (5)—

19                                   (i) by inserting “and maintain” after  
20                                   “establish”; and

21                                   (ii) by inserting “and subsection (h)”  
22                                   after “section 116(b)(3)”;

23                           (D) in paragraph (7), by inserting “dis-  
24                           ability,” after “gender,”;

1 (E) in paragraph (8), by striking “histori-  
2 cally Black colleges or universities” and insert-  
3 ing “minority-serving institutions”;

4 (F) by amending paragraph (9) to read as  
5 follows:

6 “(9) To coordinate with the Secretary to ensure  
7 that the results of the Institute’s work are coordi-  
8 nated with, and utilized by, the Department’s tech-  
9 nical assistance providers and dissemination net-  
10 works.”;

11 (G) by striking paragraphs (10) and (11);

12 (H) by redesignating paragraph (12) as  
13 paragraph (10);

14 (4) by redesignating subsection (h) as sub-  
15 section (i);

16 (5) by inserting after subsection (g), the fol-  
17 lowing:

18 “(h) PEER-REVIEW SYSTEM.—The Director shall es-  
19 tablish and maintain a peer-review system involving high-  
20 ly-qualified individuals, including practitioners, as appro-  
21 priate, with an in-depth knowledge of the subject to be  
22 investigated, for—

23 “(1) reviewing and evaluating each application  
24 for a grant or cooperative agreement under this title  
25 that exceeds \$100,000; and

1           “(2) evaluating and assessing all reports and  
2 other products that exceed \$100,000 to be published  
3 and publicly released by the Institute.”;

4           (6) in subsection (i), as so redesignated—

5                 (A) by striking “the products and”; and

6                 (B) by striking “certify that evidence-  
7 based claims about those products and” and in-  
8 serting “determine whether evidence-based  
9 claims in those”; and

10          (7) by adding at the end the following:

11          “(j) RELEVANCE, DISSEMINATION, AND UTILIZA-  
12 TION.—To ensure all activities authorized under this title  
13 are rigorous, relevant, and useful for researchers, policy-  
14 makers, practitioners, and the public, the Director shall—

15                 “(1) ensure such activities address significant  
16 challenges faced by practitioners, and increase  
17 knowledge in the field of education;

18                 “(2) ensure that the information, products, and  
19 publications of the Institute are—

20                         “(A) prepared and widely disseminated—

21                                 “(i) in a timely fashion; and

22                                 “(ii) in forms that are understand-  
23 able, easily accessible, and usable, or  
24 adaptable for use in, the improvement of  
25 educational practice; and

1           “(B) widely disseminated through elec-  
2           tronic transfer, and other means, such as post-  
3           ing to the Institute’s website or other relevant  
4           place;

5           “(3) promote the utilization of the information,  
6           products, and publications of the Institute, including  
7           through the use of dissemination networks and tech-  
8           nical assistance providers, within the Institute and  
9           the Department; and

10           “(4) monitor and manage the performance of  
11           all activities authorized under this title in accord-  
12           ance with section 185.”.

13 **SEC. 115. PRIORITIES.**

14           Section 115 (20 U.S.C. 9515) is amended—

15           (1) in subsection (a)—

16           (A) in the matter preceding paragraph

17           (1)—

18           (i) by striking “(taking into consider-  
19           ation long-term research and development  
20           on core issues conducted through the na-  
21           tional research and development centers)”  
22           and inserting “at least once every 6  
23           years”; and

24           (ii) by striking “such as” and insert-  
25           ing “including”;

1 (B) in paragraph (1)—

2 (i) by inserting “ensuring that all chil-  
3 dren have the ability to obtain a high-qual-  
4 ity education, particularly” before “clos-  
5 ing”;

6 (ii) by striking “especially achieve-  
7 ment gaps between”;

8 (iii) by striking “nonminority chil-  
9 dren” and inserting “nonminority children,  
10 disabled and nondisabled children,”;

11 (iv) by striking “and between dis-  
12 advantaged” and inserting “and disadvan-  
13 taged”;

14 (v) by striking “and” at the end;

15 (C) by striking paragraph (2); and

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

17 “(2) improving the quality of early childhood  
18 education;

19 “(3) improving education in elementary and  
20 secondary schools, particularly among low-per-  
21 forming students and schools; and

22 “(4) improving access to, opportunities for, and  
23 completion of postsecondary education.”; and

24 (2) in subsection (d), by striking “by means of  
25 the Internet” and inserting “by electronic means

1 such as posting in an easily accessible manner on  
2 the Institute’s website”.

3 **SEC. 116. NATIONAL BOARD FOR EDUCATION SCIENCES.**

4 Section 116 (20 U.S.C. 9516) is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (b)—

6 (A) in paragraph (2), by striking “to guide  
7 the work of the Institute” and inserting “, and  
8 to advise, and provide input to, the Director on  
9 the activities of the Institute on an ongoing  
10 basis”;

11 (B) in paragraph (3), by inserting “under  
12 section 114(h)” after “procedures”;

13 (C) in paragraph (8), by inserting “dis-  
14 ability,” after “gender,”

15 (D) in paragraph (9)—

16 (i) by striking “To solicit” and insert-  
17 ing “To ensure all activities of the Insti-  
18 tute are relevant to education policy and  
19 practice by soliciting, on an ongoing  
20 basis,”; and

21 (ii) by striking “consistent with” and  
22 inserting “consistent with section 114(j)  
23 and”;

24 (E) in paragraph (11)—

1 (i) by inserting “the Institute’s” after  
2 “enhance”; and

3 (ii) by striking “among other Federal  
4 and State research agencies” and inserting  
5 “with public and private entities to im-  
6 prove the work of the Institute”; and

7 (F) by adding at the end the following:

8 “(13) To conduct the evaluations required  
9 under subsection (d).”;

10 (2) in subsection (c)—

11 (A) in paragraph (2)—

12 (i) by inserting “Board,” before “Na-  
13 tional Academy”;

14 (ii) by striking “and the National  
15 Science Advisor” and inserting “the Na-  
16 tional Science Advisor, and other entities  
17 and organizations that have knowledge of  
18 individuals who are highly-qualified to ap-  
19 praise education research, statistics, eval-  
20 uations, or development”;

21 (B) in paragraph (4)—

22 (i) in subparagraph (A)—

23 (I) in clause (i), by striking “,  
24 which may include those researchers

1 recommended by the National Acad-  
2 emy of Sciences”;

3 (II) by redesignating clause (ii)  
4 as clause (iii);

5 (III) by inserting after clause (i),  
6 the following:

7 “(ii) Not fewer than 2 practitioners  
8 who are knowledgeable about the education  
9 needs of the United States, who may in-  
10 clude school based professional educators,  
11 teachers, school leaders, local educational  
12 agency superintendents, and members of  
13 local boards of education or Bureau-funded  
14 school boards.”; and

15 (IV) in clause (iii), as so redesign-  
16 ated—

17 (aa) by striking “school-  
18 based professional educators,”;

19 (bb) by striking “local edu-  
20 cational agency superintend-  
21 ents,”;

22 (cc) by striking “prin-  
23 cipals,”;

24 (dd) by striking “or local”;  
25 and

1 (ee) by striking “or Bureau-  
2 funded school boards”; and

3 (ii) in subparagraph (B)—

4 (I) in the matter preceding clause  
5 (i), by inserting “beginning on the  
6 date of appointment of the member,”  
7 after “4 years,”;

8 (II) by striking clause (i);

9 (III) by redesignating clause (ii)  
10 as clause (i);

11 (IV) in clause (i), as so redesign-  
12 nated, by striking the period and in-  
13 serting “; and”; and

14 (V) by adding at the end the fol-  
15 lowing:

16 “(ii) in a case in which a successor to  
17 a member has not been appointed as of the  
18 date of expiration of the member’s term,  
19 the member may serve for an additional 1-  
20 year period, beginning on the day after the  
21 date of expiration of the member’s term, or  
22 until a successor has been appointed under  
23 paragraph (1), whichever occurs first.”;

24 (iii) by striking subparagraph (C);  
25 and

1 (iv) by redesignating subparagraph  
2 (D) as subparagraph (C);  
3 (C) in paragraph (8)—

4 (i) by redesignating subparagraphs  
5 (A) through (E) as subparagraphs (B)  
6 through (F), respectively;

7 (ii) by inserting before subparagraph  
8 (B), as so redesignated, the following:

9 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In the exercise of its  
10 duties under section 116(b) and in accordance  
11 with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5  
12 U.S.C. App.), the Board shall be independent of  
13 the Director and the other offices and officers  
14 of the Institute.”;

15 (iii) in subparagraph (B), as so redesi-  
16 gnated, by inserting before the period at  
17 the end the following: “for a term of not  
18 more than 6 years, and who may be re-  
19 appointed by the Board for 1 additional  
20 term of not more than 6 years”; and

21 (iv) by adding at the end the fol-  
22 lowing:

23 “(G) SUBCOMMITTEES.—The Board may  
24 establish standing or temporary subcommittees

1 to make recommendations to the Board for carrying out activities authorized under this title.”;

2  
3 (3) by striking subsection (d);

4 (4) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (d);

5  
6 (5) in subsection (d), as so redesignated—

7 (A) in the subsection heading, by striking  
8 “ANNUAL” and inserting “EVALUATION”;

9 (B) by striking “The Board” and inserting  
10 the following:

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board”;

12 (C) by striking “not later than July 1 of  
13 each year, a” and inserting “and make widely  
14 available to the public (including by electronic  
15 means such as posting in an easily accessible  
16 manner on the Institute’s website), a triennial”;  
17 and

18 (D) by adding at the end the following:

19 “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—An evaluation report  
20 described in paragraph (1) shall include—

21 “(A) subject to paragraph (3), an evaluation  
22 of the activities authorized for each of the  
23 National Education Centers, which—

24 “(i) uses the performance management system described in section 185; and  
25

1                   “(ii) is conducted by an independent  
2                   entity;

3                   “(B) a review of the Institute to ensure its  
4                   work, consistent with the requirements of sec-  
5                   tion 114(j), is timely, rigorous, and relevant;

6                   “(C) any recommendations regarding ac-  
7                   tions that may be taken to enhance the ability  
8                   of the Institute and the National Education  
9                   Centers to carry out their priorities and mis-  
10                  sions; and

11                  “(D) a summary of the major research  
12                  findings of the Institute and the activities car-  
13                  ried out under section 113(b) during the 3 pre-  
14                  ceding fiscal years.

15                  “(3) NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION EVAL-  
16                  UATION AND REGIONAL ASSISTANCE.—With respect  
17                  to the National Center for Education Evaluation  
18                  and Regional Assistance, an evaluation report de-  
19                  scribed in paragraph (1) shall contain—

20                  “(A) an evaluation described in paragraph  
21                  (2)(A) of the activities authorized for such Cen-  
22                  ter, except for the regional educational labora-  
23                  tories established under section 174; and

24                  “(B) a summative or interim evaluation,  
25                  whichever is most recent, for each such labora-

1 tory conducted under section 174(i) on or after  
 2 the date of enactment of the Strengthening  
 3 Education through Research Act or, in a case  
 4 in which such an evaluation is not available for  
 5 a laboratory, the most recent evaluation for the  
 6 laboratory conducted prior to the date of enact-  
 7 ment of the Strengthening Education through  
 8 Research Act.”; and  
 9 (6) by striking subsection (f).

10 **SEC. 117. COMMISSIONERS OF THE NATIONAL EDUCATION**  
 11 **CENTERS.**

12 Section 117 (20 U.S.C. 9517) is amended—

13 (1) in subsection (a)—

14 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “Except  
 15 as provided in subsection (b), each” and insert-  
 16 ing “Each”;

17 (B) in paragraph (2)—

18 (i) by striking “Except as provided in  
 19 subsection (b), each” and inserting  
 20 “Each”; and

21 (ii) by inserting “, statistics,” after  
 22 “research”;

23 (C) in paragraph (3), by striking “Except  
 24 as provided in subsection (b), each” and insert-  
 25 ing “Each”;

1 (2) by striking subsection (b);

2 (3) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as  
3 subsections (b) and (c), respectively; and

4 (4) in subsection (c), as so redesignated, by  
5 striking “, except the Commissioner for Education  
6 Statistics,”.

7 **SEC. 118. TRANSPARENCY.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 119 (20 U.S.C. 9519) is  
9 amended to read as follows:

10 **“SEC. 119. TRANSPARENCY.**

11 “Not later than 120 days after awarding a grant,  
12 contract, or cooperative agreement under this title in ex-  
13 cess of \$100,000, the Director shall make publicly avail-  
14 able (including through electronic means such as posting  
15 in an easily accessible manner on the Institute’s website)  
16 a description of the grant, contract, or cooperative agree-  
17 ment, including, at a minimum, the amount, duration, re-  
18 cipient, and the purpose of the grant, contract, or coopera-  
19 tive agreement.”.

20 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of con-  
21 tents in section 1 of the Act of November 5, 2002 (Public  
22 Law 107–279; 116 Stat. 1940) is amended by striking  
23 the item relating to section 119 and inserting the fol-  
24 lowing:

“Sec. 119. Transparency.”.

1 **SEC. 119. COMPETITIVE AWARDS.**

2 Section 120 (20 U.S.C. 9520) is amended by striking  
3 “when practicable” and inserting “consistent with section  
4 114(h)”.

5 **PART B—NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION**

6 **RESEARCH**

7 **SEC. 131. ESTABLISHMENT.**

8 Section 131(b) (20 U.S.C. 9531(b)) is amended—

9 (1) by amending paragraph (1) to read as fol-  
10 lows:

11 “(1) to sponsor sustained research that will  
12 lead to the accumulation of knowledge and under-  
13 standing of education, consistent with the priorities  
14 described in section 115;”;

15 (2) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph  
16 (3);

17 (3) in paragraph (4), by striking the period and  
18 inserting “; and”; and

19 (4) by adding at the end the following:

20 “(5) consistent with section 114(j), to widely  
21 disseminate and promote utilization of the work of  
22 the Research Center.”.

23 **SEC. 132. DUTIES.**

24 Section 133 (20 U.S.C. 9533) is amended—

25 (1) in subsection (a)—

1 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “peer-re-  
2 view standards and”;

3 (B) by striking paragraph (2);

4 (C) by redesignating paragraph (3) as  
5 paragraph (2);

6 (D) by striking paragraph (4);

7 (E) by redesignating paragraphs (5)  
8 through (9) as paragraphs (3) through (7), re-  
9 spectively;

10 (F) in paragraph (3), as so redesignated,  
11 by inserting “in the implementation of pro-  
12 grams carried out by the Department and other  
13 agencies” before “within the Federal Govern-  
14 ment”;

15 (G) in paragraph (5), as so redesignated,  
16 by striking “disseminate, through the National  
17 Center for Education Evaluation and Regional  
18 Assistance,” and inserting “widely disseminate,  
19 consistent with section 114(j),”;

20 (H) in paragraph (6), as so redesignated—

21 (i) by striking “Director” and insert-  
22 ing “Board”; and

23 (ii) by striking “of a biennial report,  
24 as described in section 119” and inserting

1 “and dissemination of each evaluation re-  
2 port under section 116(d)”;

3 (I) in paragraph (7), as so redesignated,  
4 by inserting “and which may include research  
5 on social and emotional learning,” after “gap,”;

6 (J) by inserting after paragraph (7), as so  
7 redesignated, the following:

8 “(8) to the extent time and resources allow,  
9 when findings from previous research under this  
10 part provoke relevant follow up questions, carry out  
11 research initiatives on such follow up questions;”;

12 (K) by redesignating paragraphs (10) and  
13 (11) as paragraphs (9) and (10), respectively;

14 (L) by amending paragraph (9), as so re-  
15 designated, to read as follows:

16 “(9) carry out research initiatives, including  
17 rigorous, peer-reviewed, large-scale, long-term, and  
18 broadly applicable empirical research, regarding the  
19 impact of technology on education, including online  
20 education and hybrid learning;”;

21 (M) in paragraph (10), as so redesignated,  
22 by striking the period and inserting “; and”;  
23 and

24 (N) by adding at the end the following:

1           “(11) to the extent feasible, carry out research  
2           on the quality of implementation of practices and  
3           strategies determined to be effective through sci-  
4           entifically valid research.”;

5           (2) by amending subsection (b) to read as fol-  
6           lows:

7           “(b) PLAN.—The Research Commissioner shall pro-  
8           pose to the Director and, subject to the approval of the  
9           Director, implement a research plan for the activities of  
10          the Research Center that—

11           “(1) is consistent with the priorities and mis-  
12           sion of the Institute and the mission of the Research  
13           Center described in section 131(b), and includes the  
14           activities described in subsection (a);

15           “(2) is carried out and, as appropriate, updated  
16           and modified, including through the use of the re-  
17           sults of the Research Center’s most recent evalua-  
18           tion report under section 116(d);

19           “(3) describes how the Research Center will use  
20           the performance management system described in  
21           section 185 to assess and improve the activities of  
22           the Center;

23           “(4) meets the procedures for peer review es-  
24           tablished and maintained by the Director under sec-

1       tion 114(f)(5) and the standards of research de-  
2       scribed in section 134; and

3               “(5) includes both basic research and applied  
4       research, which shall include research conducted  
5       through field-initiated research and ongoing research  
6       initiatives.”;

7               (3) by redesignating subsection (c) as sub-  
8       section (d);

9               (4) by inserting after subsection (b), as so  
10      amended, the following:

11      “(c) GRANTS, CONTRACTS, AND COOPERATIVE  
12      AGREEMENTS.—

13               “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Research Commis-  
14      sioner may award grants to, or enter into contracts  
15      or cooperative agreements, with eligible applicants to  
16      carry out research under subsection (a).

17               “(2) ELIGIBILITY.—For purposes of this sub-  
18      section, the term ‘eligible applicant’ means an appli-  
19      cant that has the ability and capacity to conduct sci-  
20      entifically valid research.

21               “(3) APPLICATIONS.—

22               “(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible applicant  
23      that wishes to receive a grant, or enter into a  
24      contract or cooperative agreement, under this  
25      section shall submit an application to the Re-

1 search Commissioner at such time, in such  
2 manner, and containing such information as the  
3 Research Commissioner may require.

4 “(B) CONTENT.—An application submitted  
5 under subparagraph (A) shall describe how the  
6 eligible applicant will address and demonstrate  
7 progress on the requirements of the perform-  
8 ance management system described in section  
9 185, with respect to the activities that will be  
10 carried out under the grant, contract, or coop-  
11 erative agreement.”; and

12 (5) in subsection (d), as redesignated by para-  
13 graph (3)—

14 (A) by amending paragraph (1) to read as  
15 follows:

16 “(1) SUPPORT.—In carrying out activities  
17 under subsection (a)(2), the Research Commissioner  
18 shall support national research and development cen-  
19 ters that address topics of importance and relevance  
20 in the field of education across the country and are  
21 consistent with the Institute’s priorities under sec-  
22 tion 115.”;

23 (B) by striking paragraphs (2), (3), and  
24 (5);

1 (C) by redesignating paragraphs (4), (6),  
2 and (7) as paragraph (2), (3), and (4), respec-  
3 tively;

4 (D) by amending paragraph (2), as so re-  
5 designated—

6 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-  
7 graph (A), by striking “5 additional” and  
8 inserting “2 additional”;

9 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking  
10 the period and inserting “; and”; and

11 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-  
12 lowing:

13 “(C) demonstrates progress on the require-  
14 ments of the performance management system  
15 described in section 185.”;

16 (E) in paragraph (3), as so redesignated,  
17 by striking “paragraphs (4) and (5)” and in-  
18 serting “paragraph (2)”; and

19 (F) by amending paragraph (4), as so re-  
20 designated, to read as follows:

21 “(4) DISAGGREGATION.—To the extent feasible  
22 and when relevant to the research being conducted,  
23 research conducted under this subsection shall be  
24 disaggregated and cross-tabulated by age, race, gen-

1 der, disability status, English learner status, and so-  
2 cioeconomic background.”.

3 **SEC. 133. STANDARDS FOR CONDUCT AND EVALUATION OF**  
4 **RESEARCH.**

5 Section 134 (20 U.S.C. 9534) is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (a)—

7 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “based”  
8 and inserting “valid”; and

9 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “and  
10 wide dissemination activities” and inserting  
11 “and, consistent with section 114(j), wide dis-  
12 semination and utilization activities”;

13 (2) by striking subsection (b); and

14 (3) by redesignating subsection (c) as sub-  
15 section (b).

16 **PART C—NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION**  
17 **STATISTICS**

18 **SEC. 151. ESTABLISHMENT.**

19 Section 151(b) (20 U.S.C. 9541(b)) is amended—

20 (1) in paragraph (2), by inserting “and con-  
21 sistent with the privacy protections under section  
22 183” after “manner”; and

23 (2) in paragraph (3)—

24 (A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “dis-  
25 ability,” after “cultural,”; and

1 (B) by amending subparagraph (B) to read  
2 as follows:

3 “(B) consistent with section 114(j), is rel-  
4 evant, timely, and widely disseminated.”.

5 **SEC. 152. DUTIES.**

6 Section 153 (20 U.S.C. 9543) is amended—

7 (1) in subsection (a)—

8 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),  
9 by inserting “, consistent with the privacy pro-  
10 tections under section 183,” after “Center  
11 shall”;

12 (B) in paragraph (1)—

13 (i) by amending subparagraph (D) to  
14 read as follows:

15 “(D) secondary school graduation and  
16 completion rates, including the four-year ad-  
17 justed cohort graduation rate (as defined in sec-  
18 tion 200.19(b)(1)(i)(A) of title 34, Code of Fed-  
19 eral Regulations, as such section was in effect  
20 on November 28, 2008) and the extended-year  
21 adjusted cohort graduation rate (as defined in  
22 section 200.19(b)(1)(v)(A) of title 34, Code of  
23 Federal Regulations, as such section was in ef-  
24 fect on November 28, 2008), and school drop-  
25 out rates, and adult literacy;”;

1 (ii) in subparagraph (E), by striking  
2 “and opportunity for,” and inserting “op-  
3 portunity for, and completion of”;

4 (iii) by amending subparagraph (F) to  
5 read as follows:

6 “(F) teaching, including information on  
7 pre-service preparation, professional develop-  
8 ment, teacher distribution, and teacher and  
9 school leader evaluation;”;

10 (iv) in subparagraph (G), by inserting  
11 “and school leaders” before the semicolon;

12 (v) in subparagraph (H), by inserting  
13 “, climate, and in- and out-of-school sus-  
14 pensions and expulsions” before “, includ-  
15 ing information regarding”;

16 (vi) by amending subparagraph (K) to  
17 read as follows:

18 “(K) the access to, and use of, technology  
19 to improve elementary schools and secondary  
20 schools;”;

21 (vii) in subparagraph (L), by striking  
22 “and opportunity for,” and inserting “op-  
23 portunity for, and quality of”;

1 (viii) in subparagraph (M), by striking  
2 “such programs during school recesses”  
3 and inserting “summer school”; and

4 (ix) in subparagraph (N), by striking  
5 “vocational” and inserting “career”;

6 (C) in paragraph (3), by striking “when  
7 such disaggregated information will facilitate  
8 educational and policy decisionmaking” and in-  
9 serting “so long as any reported information  
10 does not reveal individually identifiable informa-  
11 tion”;

12 (D) in paragraph (4), by inserting before  
13 the semicolon the following: “, and the imple-  
14 mentation (with the assistance of the Depart-  
15 ment and other Federal officials who have stat-  
16 utory authority to provide assistance on appli-  
17 cable privacy laws, regulations, and policies) of  
18 appropriate privacy protections”;

19 (E) in paragraph (5), by striking “promote  
20 linkages across States,”;

21 (F) in paragraph (6)—

22 (i) by striking “Third” and inserting  
23 “Trends in”; and

1 (ii) by inserting “and the Program for  
2 International Student Assessment” after  
3 “Science Study”;

4 (G) in paragraph (7), by inserting before  
5 the semicolon the following: “, ensuring such  
6 collections protect student privacy consistent  
7 with section 183”;

8 (H) by amending paragraph (8) to read as  
9 follows:

10 “(8) assisting the Board in the preparation and  
11 dissemination of each evaluation report under sec-  
12 tion 116(d); and”;

13 (I) by striking paragraph (9);

14 (2) by redesignating subsection (b) as sub-  
15 section (c); and

16 (3) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-  
17 lowing:

18 “(b) PLAN.—The Statistics Commissioner shall pro-  
19 pose to the Director and, subject to the approval of the  
20 Director, implement a plan for activities of the Statistics  
21 Center that—

22 “(1) is consistent with the priorities and mis-  
23 sion of the Institute and the mission of the Statistics  
24 Center described in section 151(b);

1           “(2) is carried out and, as appropriate, updated  
2           and modified, including through the use of the re-  
3           sults of the Statistic Center’s most recent evaluation  
4           report under section 116(d); and

5           “(3) describes how the Statistics Center will use  
6           the performance management system described in  
7           section 185 to assess and improve the activities of  
8           the Center.”.

9   **SEC. 153. PERFORMANCE OF DUTIES.**

10          Section 154 (20 U.S.C. 9544) is amended—

11                 (1) in subsection (a)—

12                         (A) by striking “In carrying” and inserting  
13                         the following:

14                         “(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying”; and

15                         (B) by adding at the end the following:

16                         “(2) ELIGIBILITY.—For purposes of this sec-  
17                         tion, the term ‘eligible applicant’ means an applicant  
18                         that has the ability and capacity to carry out activi-  
19                         ties under this part.

20                         “(3) APPLICATIONS.—

21                                 “(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible applicant  
22                                 that wishes to receive a grant, or enter into a  
23                                 contract or cooperative agreement, under this  
24                                 section shall submit an application to the Sta-  
25                                 tistics Commissioner at such time, in such man-

1           ner, and containing such information as the  
2           Statistics Commissioner may require.

3           “(B) CONTENTS.—An application sub-  
4           mitted under subparagraph (A) shall describe  
5           how the eligible applicant will address and dem-  
6           onstrate progress on the requirements of the  
7           performance management system described in  
8           section 185, with respect to the activities that  
9           will be carried out under the grant, contract, or  
10          cooperative agreement.”;

11          (2) in subsection (b)(2)(A), by striking “voca-  
12          tional and” and inserting “career and technical edu-  
13          cation programs,”; and

14          (3) in subsection (c), by striking “5 years” the  
15          second place it appears and inserting “2 years if the  
16          recipient demonstrates progress on the requirements  
17          of the performance management system described in  
18          section 185, with respect to the activities carried out  
19          under the grant, contract, or cooperative agreement  
20          received under this section”.

21 **SEC. 154. REPORTS.**

22          Section 155 (20 U.S.C. 9545) is amended—

23          (1) in subsection (a), by inserting “(consistent  
24          with section 114(h))” after “review”; and

1           (2) in subsection (b), by striking “2003” and  
2           inserting “2015”.

3 **SEC. 155. DISSEMINATION.**

4           Section 156 (20 U.S.C. 9546) is amended—

5           (1) in subsection (c), by adding at the end the  
6           following: “Such projects shall adhere to student pri-  
7           vacy requirements under section 183.”; and

8           (2) in subsection (e)—

9                   (A) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end  
10                   the following: “Before receiving access to edu-  
11                   cational data under this paragraph, a Federal  
12                   agency shall describe to the Statistics Center  
13                   the specific research intent for use of the data,  
14                   how access to the data may meet such research  
15                   intent, and how the Federal agency will protect  
16                   the confidentiality of the data consistent with  
17                   the requirements of section 183.”;

18                   (B) in paragraph (2)—

19                           (i) by inserting “and consistent with  
20                           section 183” after “may prescribe”; and

21                           (ii) by adding at the end the fol-  
22                           lowing: “Before receiving access to data  
23                           under this paragraph, an interested party  
24                           shall describe to the Statistics Center the  
25                           specific research intent for use of the data,

1           how access to the data may meet such re-  
2           search intent, and how the party will pro-  
3           tect the confidentiality of the data con-  
4           sistent with the requirements of section  
5           183.”; and

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

7           “(3) DENIAL AUTHORITY.—The Statistics Cen-  
8           ter shall have the authority to deny any requests for  
9           access to data under paragraph (1) or (2) for any  
10          scientific deficiencies in the proposed research design  
11          or research intent for use of the data, or if the re-  
12          quest would introduce risk of a privacy violation or  
13          misuse of data.”.

14 **SEC. 156. COOPERATIVE EDUCATION STATISTICS SYSTEMS.**

15          (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 157 (20 U.S.C. 9547) is  
16 amended—

17           (1) in the heading, by striking “**SYSTEMS**” and  
18           inserting “**PARTNERSHIPS**”;

19           (2) by striking “national cooperative education  
20           statistics systems” and inserting “cooperative edu-  
21           cation statistics partnerships”;

22           (3) by striking “producing and maintaining,  
23           with the cooperation” and inserting “reviewing and  
24           improving, with the voluntary participation”;

1 (4) by striking “comparable and uniform” and  
 2 inserting “data quality standards, which may include  
 3 establishing voluntary guidelines to standardize”;

4 (5) by striking “adult education, and libraries,”  
 5 and inserting “and adult education”; and

6 (6) by adding at the end the following: “No stu-  
 7 dent data shall be collected by the partnerships es-  
 8 tablished under this section, nor shall such partner-  
 9 ships establish a national student data system.”.

10 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of con-  
 11 tents in section 1 of the Act of November 5, 2002 (Public  
 12 Law 107–279; 116 Stat. 1940) is amended by striking  
 13 the item relating to section 157 and inserting the fol-  
 14 lowing:

“Sec. 157. Cooperative education statistics partnerships.”.

15 **PART D—NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION**  
 16 **EVALUATION AND REGIONAL ASSISTANCE**  
 17 **SEC. 171. ESTABLISHMENT.**

18 Section 171 (20 U.S.C. 9561) is amended—

19 (1) in subsection (b)—

20 (A) by striking paragraph (1);

21 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (2), (3),  
 22 and (4) as paragraphs (1), (2), and (3), respec-  
 23 tively;

24 (C) in paragraph (1), as so redesignated,  
 25 by striking “of such programs” and all that fol-

1           lows through “science)” and inserting “and to  
2           evaluate the implementation of such programs”;

3           (D) in paragraph (2), as so redesignated,  
4           by striking “and wide dissemination of results  
5           of” and inserting “and, consistent with section  
6           114(j), the wide dissemination and utilization of  
7           results of all”; and

8           (2) by striking subsection (c).

9 **SEC. 172. COMMISSIONER FOR EDUCATION EVALUATION**

10 **AND REGIONAL ASSISTANCE.**

11       Section 172 (20 U.S.C. 9562) is amended—

12           (1) in subsection (a)—

13               (A) by amending paragraph (2) to read as  
14           follows:

15           “(2) widely disseminate, consistent with section  
16           114(j), all information on scientifically valid research  
17           and statistics supported by the Institute and all sci-  
18           entifically valid education evaluations supported by  
19           the Institute, particularly to State educational agen-  
20           cies and local educational agencies, to institutions of  
21           higher education, to the public, the media, voluntary  
22           organizations, professional associations, and other  
23           constituencies, especially with respect to the prior-  
24           ities described in section 115;”;

1 (B) in paragraph (3), by inserting “, con-  
2 sistent with section 114(j)” after “timely, and  
3 efficient manner”;

4 (C) in paragraph (4)—

5 (i) by striking “development and dis-  
6 semination” and inserting “development,  
7 dissemination, and utilization”; and

8 (ii) by striking “the provision of tech-  
9 nical assistance,”;

10 (D) in paragraph (5), by inserting “and”  
11 after the semicolon;

12 (E) in paragraph (6)—

13 (i) by striking “Director” and insert-  
14 ing “Board”;

15 (ii) by striking “preparation of a bien-  
16 nial report” and inserting “preparation  
17 and dissemination of each evaluation re-  
18 port”; and

19 (iii) by striking “119; and” and in-  
20 serting “116(d).”;

21 (F) by striking paragraph (7);

22 (2) in subsection (b)(1)—

23 (A) by inserting “all” before “information  
24 disseminated”; and

1 (B) by striking “, which may include” and  
2 all that follows through “of this Act”);

3 (3) by striking subsection (c) and redesignating  
4 subsection (d) as subsection (e); and

5 (4) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-  
6 lowing:

7 “(c) PLAN.—The Evaluation and Regional Assistance  
8 Commissioner shall propose to the Director and, subject  
9 to the approval of the Director, implement a plan for the  
10 activities of the National Center for Education Evaluation  
11 and Regional Assistance that—

12 “(1) is consistent with the priorities and mis-  
13 sion of the Institute and the mission of the Center  
14 described in section 171(b);

15 “(2) is carried out and, as appropriate, updated  
16 and modified, including through the use of the re-  
17 sults of the Center’s most recent evaluation report  
18 under section 116(d); and

19 “(3) describes how the Center will use the per-  
20 formance management system described in section  
21 185 to assess and improve the activities of the Cen-  
22 ter.

23 “(d) GRANTS, CONTRACTS, AND COOPERATIVE  
24 AGREEMENTS.—

1           “(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the duties  
2 under this part, the Evaluation and Regional Assist-  
3 ance Commissioner may—

4                   “(A) award grants, contracts, or coopera-  
5 tive agreements to eligible applicants to carry  
6 out the activities under this part; and

7                   “(B) provide technical assistance.

8           “(2) ELIGIBILITY.—For purposes of this sec-  
9 tion, the term ‘eligible applicant’ means an applicant  
10 that has the ability and capacity to carry out activi-  
11 ties under this part.

12           “(3) ENTITIES TO CONDUCT EVALUATIONS.—In  
13 awarding grants, contracts, or cooperative agree-  
14 ments under paragraph (1) to carry out activities  
15 under section 173, the Evaluation and Regional As-  
16 sistance Commissioner shall make such awards to el-  
17 igible applicants with the ability and capacity to con-  
18 duct scientifically valid education evaluations.

19           “(4) APPLICATIONS.—

20                   “(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible applicant  
21 that wishes to receive a grant, contract, or co-  
22 operative agreement under paragraph (1) shall  
23 submit an application to the Evaluation and  
24 Regional Assistance Commissioner at such time,

1 in such manner, and containing such informa-  
2 tion as the Commissioner may require.

3 “(B) CONTENTS.—An application sub-  
4 mitted under subparagraph (A) shall describe  
5 how the eligible applicant will address and dem-  
6 onstrate progress on the requirements of the  
7 performance management system described in  
8 section 185, with respect to the activities car-  
9 ried out under such grant, contract, or coopera-  
10 tive agreement.

11 “(5) DURATION.—Notwithstanding any other  
12 provision of law, the grants, contracts, and coopera-  
13 tive agreements under paragraph (1) may be award-  
14 ed, on a competitive basis, for a period of not more  
15 than 5 years, and may be renewed at the discretion  
16 of the Evaluation and Regional Assistance Commis-  
17 sioner for an additional period of not more than 2  
18 years if the recipient demonstrates progress on the  
19 requirements of the performance management sys-  
20 tem described in section 185, with respect to the ac-  
21 tivities carried out under the grant, contract, or co-  
22 operative agreement.”;

23 (5) in subsection (e), as so redesignated—

24 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “There is  
25 established” and all that follows through “Re-

1 regional Assistance” and inserting “The Evalua-  
2 tion and Regional Assistance Commissioner  
3 may establish”;

4 (B) in paragraph (2)(A), by inserting “all”  
5 before “products”; and

6 (C) in paragraph (2)(B)(ii), by striking  
7 “2002” and all that follows through the period  
8 and inserting “2002.”.

9 **SEC. 173. EVALUATIONS.**

10 Section 173 (20 U.S.C. 9563) is amended—

11 (1) in subsection (a)—

12 (A) in paragraph (1)—

13 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-  
14 graph (A), by striking “may” and inserting  
15 “shall”;

16 (ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking  
17 “evaluations” and inserting “high-quality  
18 evaluations, including impact evaluations  
19 that use rigorous methodologies that per-  
20 mit the strongest possible causal infer-  
21 ences,”;

22 (iii) in subparagraph (B), by inserting  
23 before the semicolon at the end the fol-  
24 lowing: “, including programs under part  
25 A of such title (20 U.S.C. 6311 et seq.)”;

1 (iv) by striking subparagraph (C) and  
2 redesignating subparagraph (D) as sub-  
3 paragraph (C);

4 (v) by striking subparagraphs (E) and  
5 (G), and redesignating subparagraph (F)  
6 as subparagraph (D);

7 (vi) in subparagraph (D), as so redesi-  
8 gnated, by striking “and” at the end; and

9 (vii) by inserting after subparagraph  
10 (D), as so redesignated, the following:

11 “(E) provide evaluation findings in an un-  
12 derstandable, easily accessible, and usable for-  
13 mat to support program improvement;

14 “(F) support the evaluation activities de-  
15 scribed in section 401 of the Strengthening  
16 Education through Research Act that are car-  
17 ried about by the Director; and

18 “(G) to the extent feasible—

19 “(i) examine evaluations conducted or  
20 supported by others to determine the qual-  
21 ity and relevance of the evidence of effec-  
22 tiveness generated by those evaluations,  
23 with the approval of the Director;

24 “(ii) review and supplement Federal  
25 education program evaluations, particularly

1 such evaluations by the Department, to de-  
2 termine or enhance the quality and rel-  
3 evance of the evidence generated by those  
4 evaluations;

5 “(iii) conduct implementation evalua-  
6 tions that promote continuous improve-  
7 ment and inform policymaking;

8 “(iv) evaluate the short- and long-  
9 term effects and cost efficiencies across  
10 programs assisted or authorized under  
11 Federal law and administrated by the De-  
12 partment; and

13 “(v) synthesize the results of evalua-  
14 tion studies for and across Federal edu-  
15 cation programs, policies, and practices.”;  
16 and

17 (B) in paragraph (2)—

18 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking  
19 “and” at the end;

20 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking  
21 the period and inserting “under section  
22 114(h); and”; and

23 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-  
24 lowing:

1           “(C) be widely disseminated, consistent  
2           with section 114(j).”; and

3           (2) in subsection (b), by striking “contracts”  
4           and inserting “grants, contracts, or cooperative  
5           agreements”.

6 **SEC. 174. REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL LABORATORIES FOR**  
7           **RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, DISSEMINATION,**  
8           **AND EVALUATION.**

9           (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 174 (20 U.S.C. 9564) is  
10          amended—

11           (1) in the section heading by striking “**TECH-**  
12           **NICAL ASSISTANCE**” and inserting “**EVALUA-**  
13           **TION**”;

14           (2) in subsection (a)—

15           (A) by striking “Director” and inserting  
16           “Evaluation and Regional Assistance Commis-  
17           sioner”;

18           (B) by striking “contracts” and inserting  
19           “grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements”;  
20           and

21           (C) by inserting “not more than” before  
22           “10 regional”;

23           (3) in subsection (c)—

24           (A) by striking “The Director” and insert-  
25           ing the following:

1           “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Evaluation and Re-  
2           gional Assistance Commissioner”;

3           (B) by striking “contracts under this sec-  
4           tion with research organizations, institutions,  
5           agencies, institutions of higher education,” and  
6           inserting “grants, contracts, or cooperative  
7           agreements under this section with public or  
8           private, nonprofit or for-profit research organi-  
9           zations, other organizations, or institutions of  
10          higher education,”;

11          (C) by striking “or individuals,”;

12          (D) by striking “, including regional enti-  
13          ties” and all that follows through “107–110));”  
14          and

15          (E) by adding at the end the following:

16          “(2) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this sec-  
17          tion, the term ‘eligible applicant’ means an entity  
18          described in paragraph (1).”;

19          (4) by striking subsections (d) through (j) and  
20          inserting the following:

21          “(d) APPLICATIONS.—

22                  “(1) SUBMISSION.—

23                          “(A) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible appli-  
24                          cant desiring a contract grant, contract, or co-  
25                          operative agreement under this section shall

1 submit an application at such time, in such  
2 manner, and containing such information as the  
3 Evaluation and Regional Assistance Commis-  
4 sioner may reasonably require.

5 “(B) INPUT.—To ensure that applications  
6 submitted under this paragraph are reflective of  
7 the needs of the regions to be served, each eligi-  
8 ble applicant submitting such an application  
9 shall seek input from State educational agencies  
10 and local educational agencies in the region  
11 that the award will serve, and other individuals  
12 with knowledge of the region’s needs. Such indi-  
13 viduals may include members of the regional  
14 advisory committee for the region under section  
15 206(a).

16 “(2) PLAN.—

17 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Each application sub-  
18 mitted under paragraph (1) shall contain a plan  
19 for the activities of the regional educational lab-  
20 oratory to be established under this section,  
21 which shall be updated, modified, and improved,  
22 as appropriate, on an ongoing basis, including  
23 by using the results of the laboratory’s interim  
24 evaluation under subsection (i)(3).

1           “(B) CONTENTS.—A plan described in  
2           subparagraph (A) shall address—

3                   “(i) the priorities for applied research,  
4                   development, evaluations, and wide dis-  
5                   semination established under section 207;

6                   “(ii) the needs of State educational  
7                   agencies and local educational agencies, on  
8                   an ongoing basis, using available State and  
9                   local data, including the relevant results of  
10                  the region’s assessment under section  
11                  206(e); and

12                  “(iii) if available, demonstrated sup-  
13                  port from State educational agencies and  
14                  local educational agencies in the region,  
15                  such as letters of support or signed memo-  
16                  randa of understanding.

17           “(3) NON-FEDERAL SUPPORT.—In conducting a  
18           competition for grants, contracts, or cooperative  
19           agreements under subsection (a), the Evaluation and  
20           Regional Assistance Commissioner shall give priority  
21           to eligible applicants that will provide a portion of  
22           non-Federal funds to maximize support for activities  
23           of the regional educational laboratories to be estab-  
24           lished under this section.

1       “(e) AWARDING GRANTS, CONTRACTS, OR COOPERA-  
2 TIVE AGREEMENTS.—

3           “(1) ASSURANCES.—In awarding grants, con-  
4 tracts, or cooperative agreements under this section,  
5 the Evaluation and Regional Assistance Commis-  
6 sioner shall—

7           “(A) make such an award for not more  
8 than a 5-year period;

9           “(B) ensure that regional educational lab-  
10 oratories established under this section have  
11 strong and effective governance, organization,  
12 management, and administration, and employ  
13 qualified staff; and

14           “(C) ensure that each such laboratory has  
15 the flexibility to respond in a timely fashion to  
16 the needs of the laboratory’s region, includ-  
17 ing—

18           “(i) through using the results of the  
19 laboratory’s interim evaluation under sub-  
20 section (i)(3) to improve and modify the  
21 activities of the laboratory before the end  
22 of the award period; and

23           “(ii) through sharing preliminary re-  
24 sults of the laboratory’s research, as ap-

1           appropriate, to increase the relevance and  
2           usefulness of the research.

3           “(2) COORDINATION.—To ensure coordination  
4           and prevent unnecessary duplication of activities  
5           among the regions, the Evaluation and Regional As-  
6           sistance Commissioner shall—

7                   “(A) share information about the activities  
8                   of each regional educational laboratory with  
9                   each other regional educational laboratory, the  
10                  Department, the Director, and the National  
11                  Board for Education Sciences;

12                  “(B) ensure, where appropriate, that the  
13                  activities of each regional educational laboratory  
14                  established under this section also serve na-  
15                  tional interests;

16                  “(C) ensure each such regional educational  
17                  laboratory establishes strong partnerships  
18                  among practitioners, policymakers, researchers,  
19                  and others, so that such partnerships are con-  
20                  tinued in the absence of Federal support; and

21                  “(D) enable, where appropriate, for such a  
22                  laboratory to work in a region being served by  
23                  another laboratory or to carry out a project  
24                  that extends beyond the region served by the  
25                  laboratory.

1           “(3) COLLABORATION WITH TECHNICAL ASSIST-  
2           ANCE PROVIDERS.—Each regional educational lab-  
3           oratory established under this section shall, on an  
4           ongoing basis, coordinate its activities, collaborate,  
5           and regularly exchange information with the com-  
6           prehensive centers (established in section 203) in the  
7           region in which the center is located, and with com-  
8           prehensive centers located outside of its region, as  
9           appropriate.

10           “(4) OUTREACH.—

11           “(A) IN GENERAL.—In conducting com-  
12           petitions for grants, contracts, or cooperative  
13           agreements under this section, the Evaluation  
14           and Regional Assistance Commissioner shall—

15           “(i) by making information and tech-  
16           nical assistance relating to the competition  
17           widely available, actively encourage eligible  
18           applicants to compete for such an award;  
19           and

20           “(ii) seek input from the chief execu-  
21           tive officers of States, chief State school  
22           officers, educators, parents, superintend-  
23           ents, and other individuals with knowledge  
24           of the needs of the regions to be served by  
25           the awards, regarding—

1                   “(I) the needs in the regions for  
2                   applied research, evaluation, develop-  
3                   ment, and wide-dissemination activi-  
4                   ties authorized by this title; and

5                   “(II) how such needs may be ad-  
6                   dressed most effectively.

7                   “(B) REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES.—  
8                   The individuals described in subparagraph  
9                   (A)(ii) may include members of the regional ad-  
10                  visory committees established under section  
11                  206(a).

12                 “(5) PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT.—Before  
13                  the Evaluation and Regional Assistance Commis-  
14                  sioner awards a grant, contract, or cooperative  
15                  agreement under this section, the Director shall es-  
16                  tablish measurable performance indicators for as-  
17                  sessing the ongoing progress and performance of the  
18                  regional educational laboratories established with  
19                  such awards that address—

20                 “(A) the requirements of the performance  
21                  management system described in section 185;  
22                  and

23                 “(B) the relevant results of the regional  
24                  assessments under section 206(e).

1           “(6) STANDARDS.—The Evaluation and Re-  
2           gional Assistance Commissioner shall adhere to the  
3           Institute’s system for technical and peer review  
4           under section 114(h) in reviewing the applied re-  
5           search activities and research-based reports of the  
6           regional educational laboratories.

7           “(7) REQUIRED CONSIDERATION.—In deter-  
8           mining whether to award a grant, contract, or coop-  
9           erative agreement under this section to an eligible  
10          applicant that previously established a regional edu-  
11          cational laboratory under this section, the Evalua-  
12          tion and Regional Assistance Commissioner shall  
13          consider the results of such laboratory’s summative  
14          evaluation under subsection (i)(2).

15          “(f) MISSION.—Each regional educational laboratory  
16          established under this section shall—

17               “(1) conduct applied research, development,  
18               and evaluation activities with State educational  
19               agencies, local educational agencies, and, as appro-  
20               priate, schools funded by the Bureau;

21               “(2) widely disseminate such work, consistent  
22               with section 114(j); and

23               “(3) develop the capacity of State educational  
24               agencies, local educational agencies, and, as appro-

1        appropriate, schools funded by the Bureau to carry out  
2        the activities described in paragraphs (1) and (2).

3        “(g) ACTIVITIES.—To carry out the mission de-  
4        scribed in subsection (f), each regional educational labora-  
5        tory established under this section shall carry out the fol-  
6        lowing activities:

7                “(1) Conduct, widely disseminate, and promote  
8        utilization of applied research, development activi-  
9        ties, evaluations, and other scientifically valid re-  
10       search.

11               “(2) Develop and improve the plan for the lab-  
12       oratory under subsection (d)(2) for serving the re-  
13       gion of the laboratory, and as appropriate, national  
14       needs, on an ongoing basis, which shall include seek-  
15       ing input and incorporating feedback from the rep-  
16       resentatives of State educational agencies and local  
17       educational agencies in the region, and other individ-  
18       uals with knowledge of the region’s needs. Such rep-  
19       resentatives and other individuals may include mem-  
20       bers of the regional advisory committee for the re-  
21       gion established under section 206(a).

22               “(3) Ensure research and related products are  
23       relevant and responsive to the needs of the region,  
24       including by using the relevant results of the re-  
25       gion’s assessment under section 206(e).

1 “(h) GOVERNING BOARD.—

2 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each regional educational  
3 laboratory established under this section may estab-  
4 lish a governing board to improve the management  
5 of activities that the laboratory carries out under  
6 this section.

7 “(2) BOARD DUTIES.—A Board established  
8 under paragraph (1) shall coordinate and align its  
9 work with the work of the regional advisory com-  
10 mittee for the region established under section 206.

11 “(i) EVALUATIONS.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Evaluation and Re-  
13 gional Assistance Commissioner shall—

14 “(A) provide for ongoing summative and  
15 interim evaluations described in paragraphs (2)  
16 and (3), respectively, of each of the regional  
17 educational laboratories established under this  
18 section in carrying out the full range of duties  
19 described in this section; and

20 “(B) transmit the results of such evalua-  
21 tions, through appropriate means, to the appro-  
22 priate congressional committees, the Director,  
23 and the public.

24 “(2) SUMMATIVE EVALUATIONS.—The Evalua-  
25 tion and Regional Assistance Commissioner shall en-

1       sure each regional educational laboratory established  
2       under this section is evaluated by an independent  
3       entity at the end of the period of the grant, contract,  
4       or cooperative agreement that established such lab-  
5       oratory, which shall—

6               “(A) be completed in a timely fashion;

7               “(B) assess how well the laboratory is  
8       meeting the measurable performance indicators  
9       established under subsection (e)(5); and

10              “(C) consider the extent to which the lab-  
11       oratory ensures that the activities of such lab-  
12       oratory are relevant and useful to the work of  
13       State and local practitioners and policymakers.

14              “(3) INTERIM EVALUATIONS.—The Evaluation  
15       and Regional Assistance Commissioner shall ensure  
16       each regional educational laboratory established  
17       under this section is evaluated at the midpoint of the  
18       period of the grant, contract, or cooperative agree-  
19       ment that established such laboratory, which shall—

20              “(A) assess how well such laboratory is  
21       meeting the performance indicators described in  
22       subsection (e)(5); and

23              “(B) be used to improve the effectiveness  
24       of such laboratory in carrying out its plan  
25       under subsection (d)(2).

1 “(j) CONTINUATION OF AWARDS; RECOMPETITION.—

2 “(1) CONTINUATION OF AWARDS.—The Evalua-  
3 tion and Regional Assistance Commissioner shall  
4 continue awards made to each eligible applicant for  
5 the support of regional educational laboratories es-  
6 tablished under this section prior to the date of en-  
7 actment of the Strengthening Education through  
8 Research Act, as such awards were in effect on the  
9 day before the date of enactment of the Strengthen-  
10 ing Education through Research Act, for the du-  
11 ration of those awards, in accordance with the terms  
12 and agreements of such awards.

13 “(2) RECOMPETITION.—Not later than the end  
14 of the period of the awards described in paragraph  
15 (1), the Evaluation and Regional Assistance Com-  
16 missioner shall—

17 “(A) hold a competition to make grants,  
18 contracts, or cooperative agreements under this  
19 section to eligible applicants, which may include  
20 eligible applicants that held awards described in  
21 paragraph (1); and

22 “(B) in determining whether to select an  
23 eligible applicant that held an award described  
24 in paragraph (1) for an award under subpara-  
25 graph (A) of this paragraph, consider the re-

1           sults of the summative evaluation under sub-  
2           section (i)(2) of the laboratory established with  
3           the eligible applicant’s award described in para-  
4           graph (1).”;

5           (5) by striking subsection (l);

6           (6) by redesignating subsections (m), (n), and  
7           (o) as subsections (l), (m), and (n), respectively;

8           (7) in subsection (l), as so redesignated, by in-  
9           serting “and local” after “achieve State”;

10          (8) by amending subsection (m), as so redesi-  
11          gnated, to read as follows:

12          “(m) ANNUAL REPORT.—Each regional educational  
13          laboratory established under this section shall submit to  
14          the Evaluation and Regional Assistance Commissioner an  
15          annual report containing such information as the Commis-  
16          sioner may require, but which shall include, at a minimum,  
17          the following:

18                 “(1) A summary of the laboratory’s activities  
19                 and products developed during the previous year.

20                 “(2) A listing of the State educational agencies,  
21                 local educational agencies, and schools the labora-  
22                 tory assisted during the previous year.

23                 “(3) Using the measurable performance indica-  
24                 tors established under subsection (e)(5), a descrip-

1       tion of how well the laboratory is meeting edu-  
2       cational needs of the region served by the laboratory.

3               “(4) Any changes to the laboratory’s plan under  
4       subsection (d)(2) to improve its activities in the re-  
5       maining years of the grant, contract, or cooperative  
6       agreement.”; and

7               (9) by adding at the end the following new sub-  
8       section:

9       “(o)   APPROPRIATIONS   RESERVATION.—Of the  
10   amounts appropriated under section 194(a), the Evalua-  
11   tion and Regional Assistance Commissioner shall reserve  
12   16.13 percent of such funds to carry out this section, of  
13   which the Commissioner shall use not less than 25 percent  
14   to serve rural areas (including schools funded by the Bu-  
15   reau which are located in rural areas).”.

16       (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of con-  
17   tents in section 1 of the Act of November 5, 2002 (Public  
18   Law 107–279; 116 Stat. 1940) is amended by striking  
19   the item relating to section 174 and inserting the fol-  
20   lowing:

      “Sec. 174. Regional educational laboratories for research, development, dissemi-  
          nation, and evaluation.”.

21               **PART E—NATIONAL CENTER FOR SPECIAL**  
22                               **EDUCATION RESEARCH**

23   **SEC. 175. ESTABLISHMENT.**

24       Section 175(b) (20 U.S.C. 9567(b)) is amended—

1           (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “and chil-  
2           dren” and inserting “children, and youth”;

3           (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” at the  
4           end;

5           (3) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at  
6           the end and inserting a semicolon; and

7           (4) by adding at the end the following:

8           “(4) to promote quality and integrity through  
9           the use of accepted practices of scientific inquiry to  
10          obtain knowledge and understanding of the validity  
11          of education theories, practices, or conditions with  
12          respect to special education research and evaluation  
13          described in paragraphs (1) through (3); and

14          “(5) to promote scientifically valid research  
15          findings in special education that may provide the  
16          basis for improving academic instruction and lifelong  
17          learning.”.

18 **SEC. 176. COMMISSIONER FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION RE-**

19 **SEARCH.**

20          Section 176 (20 U.S.C. 9567a) is amended by insert-  
21          ing “and youth” after “children”.

22 **SEC. 177. DUTIES.**

23          Section 177 (20 U.S.C. 9567b) is amended—

24                 (1) in subsection (a)—

1 (A) in paragraph (1)(A), by inserting “and  
2 youth” after “children”;

3 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “scientific-  
4 ically based educational practices” and inserting  
5 “educational practices, including the use of  
6 technology based on scientifically valid re-  
7 search,”;

8 (C) in paragraph (4), by striking “based”  
9 and inserting “valid”;

10 (D) in paragraph (10), by inserting before  
11 the semicolon the following: “, including how  
12 secondary school credentials are related to post-  
13 secondary and employment outcomes”;

14 (E) by redesignating paragraphs (11)  
15 through (15) and paragraphs (16) and (17) as  
16 paragraphs (12) through (16), respectively, and  
17 paragraphs (18) and (19), respectively;

18 (F) by inserting after paragraph (10), the  
19 following:

20 “(11) examine the participation and outcomes  
21 of students with disabilities in secondary and post-  
22 secondary career and technical education pro-  
23 grams;”;

1 (G) in paragraph (14), as so redesignated,  
2 by inserting “and professional development”  
3 after “preparation”;

4 (H) in paragraph (16), as so redesignated,  
5 by striking “help parents” and inserting “exam-  
6 ine the methods by which parents may”;

7 (I) by inserting after paragraph (16), as so  
8 redesignated, the following:

9 “(17) assist the Board in the preparation and  
10 dissemination of each evaluation report under sec-  
11 tion 116(d);”;

12 (J) in paragraph (18), as so redesignated,  
13 by striking “and” at the end;

14 (K) by amending paragraph (19), as so re-  
15 designated, to read as follows:

16 “(19) examine the needs of children with dis-  
17 abilities who are English learners, gifted and tal-  
18 ented, or who have other unique learning needs;  
19 and”;

20 (L) by adding at the end the following:

21 “(20) examine innovations in the field of special  
22 education, such as multi-tiered systems of support.”;

23 (2) in subsection (c)—

24 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph

25 (1)—

1 (i) by inserting “for the activities of  
2 the Special Education Research Center”  
3 after “research plan”; and

4 (ii) by inserting “and, subject to the  
5 approval of the Director, implement such  
6 plan” after “Services”;

7 (B) in paragraph (1), by inserting “de-  
8 scribed in section 175(b)” after “Center”;

9 (C) by amending paragraph (2) to read as  
10 follows:

11 “(2) is carried out, and, as appropriate, up-  
12 dated and modified, including by using the results of  
13 the Special Education Research Center’s most recent  
14 evaluation report under section 116(d);”;

15 (D) by striking paragraph (5);

16 (E) by redesignating paragraphs (3), (4),  
17 and (6) as paragraphs (4), (5), and (7), respec-  
18 tively;

19 (F) by inserting after paragraph (2), as so  
20 amended, the following:

21 “(3) provides for research that addresses sig-  
22 nificant questions of practice where such research is  
23 lacking;”;

24 (G) in paragraph (5), as so redesignated,  
25 by striking “and types of children with” and in-

1           serting “, student subgroups, and types of”;  
2           and

3           (H) by inserting after paragraph (5), as so  
4           redesignated and amended, the following:

5           “(6) describes how the Special Education Re-  
6           search Center will use the performance management  
7           system described in section 185 to assess and im-  
8           prove the activities of the Center; and”;

9           (3) in subsection (d)—

10           (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “Direc-  
11           tor” and inserting “Special Education Research  
12           Commissioner”;

13           (B) by amending paragraph (3) to read as  
14           follows:

15           “(3) APPLICATIONS.—

16           “(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible applicant  
17           that wishes to receive a grant, or enter into a  
18           contract or cooperative agreement, under this  
19           section shall submit an application to the Spe-  
20           cial Education Research Commissioner at such  
21           time, in such manner, and containing such in-  
22           formation as the Special Education Research  
23           Commissioner may require.

24           “(B) CONTENTS.—An application sub-  
25           mitted under subparagraph (A) shall describe

1           how the eligible applicant will address and dem-  
2           onstrate progress on the requirements of the  
3           performance management system described in  
4           section 185, with respect to the activities that  
5           will be carried out under such grant, contract,  
6           or cooperative agreement.”; and

7                   (C) by adding at the end the following:

8           “(4) DURATION.—Notwithstanding any other  
9           provision of law, the grants, contracts, and coopera-  
10          tive agreements under this section may be awarded,  
11          on a competitive basis, for a period of not more than  
12          5 years, and may be renewed at the discretion of the  
13          Special Education Research Commissioner for an  
14          additional period of not more than 2 years if the re-  
15          cipient demonstrates progress on the requirements  
16          of the performance management system described in  
17          section 185, with respect to the activities carried out  
18          under the grant, contract, or cooperative agreement  
19          received under this section.”;

20                  (4) by amending subsection (e) to read as fol-  
21          lows:

22          “(e) DISSEMINATION.—The Special Education Re-  
23          search Center shall synthesize and, consistent with section  
24          114(j), widely disseminate and promote utilization of the  
25          findings and results of special education research con-

1 ducted or supported by the Special Education Research  
2 Center.”; and

3 (5) in subsection (f), by striking “part such  
4 sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years  
5 2005 through 2010.” and inserting “part—

6 “(1) for fiscal year 2015, \$54,000,000;

7 “(2) for fiscal year 2016, \$54,108,000;

8 “(3) for fiscal year 2017, \$55,298,376;

9 “(4) for fiscal year 2018, \$56,625,537;

10 “(5) for fiscal year 2019, \$58,154,426; and

11 “(6) for fiscal year 2020, \$65,645,169.”.

12 **PART F—GENERAL PROVISIONS**

13 **SEC. 182. PROHIBITIONS.**

14 Section 182 (20 U.S.C. 9572) is amended—

15 (1) in subsection (b)—

16 (A) by striking “or control” and inserting  
17 “control, or coerce”; and

18 (B) by inserting “specific academic stand-  
19 ards or assessments,” after “the curriculum,”

20 (3) in subsection (c)—

21 (A) by inserting “coerce,” after “approve,”

22 and

23 (B) by striking “an elementary school or  
24 secondary school” and inserting “early edu-

1 cation, or in an elementary school, secondary  
2 school, or institution of higher education”.

3 **SEC. 183. CONFIDENTIALITY.**

4 Section 183 (20 U.S.C. 9573) is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (b)—

6 (A) by striking “their families, and infor-  
7 mation with respect to individual schools,” and  
8 inserting “and their families”; and

9 (B) by inserting before the period at the  
10 end the following: “, and that any disclosed in-  
11 formation with respect to individual schools not  
12 reveal such individually identifiable informa-  
13 tion”;

14 (2) in subsection (d)(2), by inserting “, includ-  
15 ing voluntary and uncompensated services under sec-  
16 tion 190” after “providing services”; and

17 (3) in subsection (e)(1), in the matter preceding  
18 subparagraph (A), by inserting “and Director” after  
19 “Secretary”.

20 **SEC. 184. AVAILABILITY OF DATA.**

21 Section 184 (20 U.S.C. 9574) is amended by striking  
22 “use of the Internet” and inserting “electronic means,  
23 such as posting to the Institute’s website in an easily ac-  
24 cessible manner”.

1 **SEC. 185. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT.**

2 Section 185 (20 U.S.C. 9575) is amended to read as  
3 follows:

4 **“SEC. 185. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT.**

5 “The Director shall establish a system for managing  
6 the performance of all activities authorized under this title  
7 to promote continuous improvement of the activities and  
8 to ensure the effective use of Federal funds by—

9 “(1) developing and using measurable perform-  
10 ance indicators, including timelines, to evaluate and  
11 improve the effectiveness of the activities;

12 “(2) using the performance indicators described  
13 in paragraph (1) to inform funding decisions, includ-  
14 ing the awarding and continuation of all grants, con-  
15 tracts, and cooperative agreements under this title;

16 “(3) establishing and improving formal feed-  
17 back mechanisms to—

18 “(A) anticipate and meet stakeholder  
19 needs; and

20 “(B) incorporate, on an ongoing basis, the  
21 feedback of such stakeholders into the activities  
22 authorized under this title; and

23 “(4) promoting the wide dissemination and uti-  
24 lization, consistent with section 114(j), of all infor-  
25 mation, products, and publications of the Institute.”.

1 **SEC. 186. AUTHORITY TO PUBLISH.**

2 Section 186(b) (20 U.S.C. 9576) is amended by strik-  
3 ing “any information to be published under this section  
4 before publication” and inserting “publications under this  
5 section before the public release of such publications”.

6 **SEC. 187. REPEALS.**

7 (a) REPEALS.—Sections 187 (20 U.S.C. 9577) and  
8 193 (20 U.S.C. 9583) are repealed.

9 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The table of con-  
10 tents in section 1 of the Act of November 5, 2002 (Public  
11 Law 107–279; 116 Stat. 1940) is amended by striking  
12 the items relating to sections 187 and 193.

13 **SEC. 188. FELLOWSHIPS.**

14 Section 189 (20 U.S.C. 9579) is amended—

15 (1) by inserting “and the mission of each Na-  
16 tional Education Center authorized under this title”  
17 after “related to education”; and

18 (2) by striking “historically Black colleges and  
19 universities” and inserting “minority-serving institu-  
20 tions”.

21 **SEC. 189. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

22 Section 194 (20 U.S.C. 9584) is amended—

23 (1) by amending subsection (a) to read as fol-  
24 lows:

1       “(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be ap-  
2       propriated to administer and carry out this title (except  
3       part E)—

4               “(1) for fiscal year 2015, \$337,343,000;

5               “(2) for fiscal year 2016, \$338,017,686;

6               “(3) for fiscal year 2017, \$345,454,075;

7               “(4) for fiscal year 2018, \$353,744,974;

8               “(5) for fiscal year 2019, \$363,296,087; and

9               “(6) for fiscal year 2020, \$368,745,528.”.

10              (2) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the  
11       following:

12       “(b) RESERVATIONS.—Of the amounts appropriated  
13       under subsection (a) for each fiscal year—

14               “(1) not less than the amount provided to the  
15       National Center for Education Statistics (as such  
16       Center was in existence on the day before the date  
17       of enactment of the Strengthening Education  
18       through Research Act) for fiscal year 2014 shall be  
19       provided to the National Center for Education Sta-  
20       tistics, as authorized under part C; and

21               “(2) not more than the lesser of 2 percent of  
22       such funds or \$2,000,000 shall be made available to  
23       carry out section 116 (relating to the National  
24       Board for Education Sciences).”.

1           **TITLE II—EDUCATIONAL**  
2           **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

3   **SEC. 201. REFERENCES.**

4           Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in  
5 this title an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms  
6 of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provi-  
7 sion, the reference shall be considered to be made to a  
8 section or other provision of the Educational Technical As-  
9 sistance Act of 2002 (20 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.).

10 **SEC. 202. DEFINITIONS.**

11           Section 202 (20 U.S.C. 9601) is amended—

12                   (1) by redesignating paragraph (2) as para-  
13 graph (3); and

14                   (2) by inserting after paragraph (1), the fol-  
15 lowing:

16                   “(2) SCHOOL LEADER.—The term ‘school lead-  
17 er’ has the meaning given the term in section 102.”.

18 **SEC. 203. COMPREHENSIVE CENTERS.**

19           Section 203 (20 U.S.C. 9602)—

20                   (1) by amending subsection (a) to read as fol-  
21 lows:

22                   “(a) AUTHORIZATION.—

23                   “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (3),  
24 the Secretary is authorized to award not more than  
25 17 grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements to

1 eligible applicants to establish comprehensive cen-  
2 ters.

3 “(2) MISSION.—The mission of the comprehen-  
4 sive centers is to provide State educational agencies  
5 and local educational agencies technical assistance,  
6 analysis, and training to build their capacity in im-  
7 plementing the requirements of the Elementary and  
8 Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301  
9 et seq.) and other Federal education laws, and re-  
10 search-based practices.

11 “(3) REGIONS.—In awarding grants, contracts,  
12 or cooperative agreements under paragraph (1), the  
13 Secretary—

14 “(A) shall establish at least one com-  
15 prehensive center for each of the 10 geographic  
16 regions served by the regional educational lab-  
17 oratories established under section 941(h) of  
18 the Educational Research, Development, Dis-  
19 semination, and Improvement Act of 1994 (as  
20 such provision existed on the day before the  
21 date of enactment of this Act); and

22 “(B) may establish additional comprehen-  
23 sive centers—

24 “(i) for one or more of the regions de-  
25 scribed in subparagraph (A); or

1           “(ii) to serve the Nation as a whole by  
2           providing technical assistance on a par-  
3           ticular content area of importance to the  
4           Nation, as determined by the Secretary  
5           with the advice of the regional advisory  
6           committees established under section  
7           206(a).

8           “(4) NATION.—In the case of a comprehensive  
9           center established to serve the Nation as described  
10          in paragraph (3)(B)(ii), the Nation shall be consid-  
11          ered to be a region served by such Center.

12          “(5) AWARD PERIOD.—A grant, contract, or co-  
13          operative agreement under this section may be  
14          awarded, on a competitive basis, for a period of not  
15          more than 5 years.

16          “(6) RESPONSIVENESS.—The Secretary shall  
17          ensure that each comprehensive center established  
18          under this section has the ability to respond in a  
19          timely fashion to the needs of State educational  
20          agencies and local educational agencies, including  
21          through using the results of the center’s interim  
22          evaluation under section 204(c), to improve and  
23          modify the activities of the center before the end of  
24          the award period.”;

25                 (2) in subsection (b)—

1 (A) in paragraph (1)—

2 (i) by inserting “, contracts, or coop-  
3 erative agreements” after “Grants”;

4 (ii) by striking “research organiza-  
5 tions, institutions, agencies, institutions of  
6 higher education,” and inserting “public or  
7 private, nonprofit or for-profit research or-  
8 ganizations, other organizations, or institu-  
9 tions of higher education,”;

10 (iii) by striking “, or individuals,”;

11 (iv) by striking “subsection (f)” and  
12 inserting “subsection (e)”; and

13 (v) by striking “, including regional”  
14 and all that follows through “107–110));”  
15 and

16 (B) by striking paragraphs (2) and (3) and  
17 inserting the following:

18 “(2) OUTREACH.—

19 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In conducting com-  
20 petitions for grants, contracts, or cooperative  
21 agreements under this section, the Secretary  
22 shall—

23 “(i) by making widely available infor-  
24 mation and technical assistance relating to

1 the competition, actively encourage eligible  
2 applicants to compete for such awards; and

3 “(ii) seek input from chief executive  
4 officers of States, chief State school offi-  
5 cers, educators, parents, superintendents,  
6 and other individuals with knowledge of  
7 the needs of the regions to be served by  
8 the awards, regarding—

9 “(I) the needs in the regions for  
10 technical assistance authorized under  
11 this title; and

12 “(II) how such needs may be ad-  
13 dressed most effectively.

14 “(B) REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES.—  
15 The individuals described in subparagraph  
16 (A)(ii) may include members of the regional ad-  
17 visory committees established under section  
18 206(a).

19 “(3) PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT.—Before  
20 awarding a grant, contract, or cooperative agree-  
21 ment under this section, the Secretary shall establish  
22 measurable performance indicators to be used to as-  
23 sess the ongoing progress and performance of the  
24 comprehensive centers to be established under this  
25 title that address—

1           “(A) paragraphs (1) through (3) of the  
2           performance management system described in  
3           section 185; and

4           “(B) the relevant results of the regional  
5           assessments under section 206(e).

6           “(4) REQUIRED CONSIDERATION.—In deter-  
7           mining whether to award a grant, contract, or coop-  
8           erative agreement under this section to an eligible  
9           applicant that previously established a comprehen-  
10          sive center under this section, the Secretary shall  
11          consider the results of such center’s summative eval-  
12          uation under section 204(b).

13          “(5) CONTINUATION OF AWARDS.—

14           “(A) CONTINUATION OF AWARDS.—The  
15           Secretary shall continue awards made to each  
16           eligible applicant for the support of comprehen-  
17           sive centers established under this section prior  
18           to the date of enactment of the Strengthening  
19           Education through Research Act, as such  
20           awards were in effect on the day before the  
21           date of enactment of the Strengthening Edu-  
22           cation through Research Act, for the duration  
23           of those awards, in accordance with the terms  
24           and agreements of such awards.

1           “(B) RECOMPETITION.—Not later than the  
2           end of the period of the awards described in  
3           subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall—

4                   “(i) hold a competition to make  
5                   grants, contracts, or cooperative agree-  
6                   ments under this section to eligible appli-  
7                   cants, which may include eligible appli-  
8                   cants that held awards described in sub-  
9                   paragraph (A); and

10                   “(ii) in determining whether to select  
11                   an eligible applicant that held an award  
12                   described in subparagraph (A) for an  
13                   award under clause (i) of this subpara-  
14                   graph, consider the results of the  
15                   summative evaluation under section 204(b)  
16                   of the center established with the eligible  
17                   applicant’s award described in subpara-  
18                   graph (A).

19           “(6) ELIGIBLE APPLICANT DEFINED.—For pur-  
20           poses of this section, the term ‘eligible applicant’  
21           means an entity described in paragraph (1).”;

22           (3) by amending subsection (c) to read as fol-  
23           lows:

24           “(c) APPLICATIONS.—

25                   “(1) SUBMISSION.—

1           “(A) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible appli-  
2           cant seeking a grant, contract, or cooperative  
3           agreement under this section shall submit an  
4           application at such time, in such manner, and  
5           containing such additional information as the  
6           Secretary may reasonably require.

7           “(B) INPUT.—To ensure that applications  
8           submitted under this paragraph are reflective of  
9           the needs of the regions to be served, each eligi-  
10          ble applicant submitting such an application  
11          shall seek input from State educational agencies  
12          and local educational agencies in the region  
13          that the award will serve, and other individuals  
14          with knowledge of the region’s needs. Such indi-  
15          viduals may include members of the regional  
16          advisory committee for the region under section  
17          206(a).

18          “(2) PLAN.—

19                 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Each application sub-  
20                 mitted under paragraph (1) shall contain a plan  
21                 for the comprehensive center to be established  
22                 under this section, which shall be updated,  
23                 modified, and improved, as appropriate, on an  
24                 ongoing basis, including by using the results of

1 the center’s interim evaluation under section  
2 204(c).

3 “(B) CONTENTS.—A plan described in  
4 subparagraph (A) shall address—

5 “(i) the priorities for technical assist-  
6 ance established under section 207;

7 “(ii) the needs of State educational  
8 agencies and local educational agencies, on  
9 an ongoing basis, using available State and  
10 local data, including the relevant results of  
11 the regional assessments under section  
12 206(e); and

13 “(iii) if available, demonstrated sup-  
14 port from State educational agencies and  
15 local educational agencies, such as letters  
16 of support or signed memoranda of under-  
17 standing.

18 “(3) NON-FEDERAL SUPPORT.—In conducting a  
19 competition for grants, contracts, or cooperative  
20 agreements under subsection (a), the Secretary shall  
21 give priority to eligible applicants that will provide  
22 a portion of non-Federal funds to maximize support  
23 for activities of the comprehensive centers to be es-  
24 tablished under this section.”;

1           (4) in subsection (d), by inserting “the number  
2           of low-performing schools in the region,” after “eco-  
3           nomically disadvantaged students,”;

4           (5) by striking subsection (e) and redesignating  
5           subsections (f), (g), and (h) as subsections (e), (f),  
6           and (g), respectively;

7           (6) in subsection (e), as so redesignated—

8                 (A) in paragraph (1)—

9                     (i) by striking “support dissemination  
10                    and technical assistance activities by” and  
11                    inserting “support State educational agen-  
12                    cies and local educational agencies, includ-  
13                    ing by”;

14                   (ii) in subparagraph (A)(i), by insert-  
15                    ing “and other Federal education laws” be-  
16                    fore the semicolon;

17                   (iii) in subparagraph (A)(ii)—

18                         (I) in the matter preceding sub-  
19                         clause (I), by striking “and assess-  
20                         ment tools” and inserting “, assess-  
21                         ment tools, and other educational  
22                         strategies”;

23                         (II) in subclause (I), by striking  
24                         “mathematics, science,” and inserting  
25                         “mathematics and science, which may

1 include computer science or engineer-  
2 ing.”; and

3 (III) in subclause (III), by insert-  
4 ing “, including innovative tools and  
5 methods” before the semicolon;

6 (iv) by striking subparagraph (A)(iii)  
7 and inserting the following:

8 “(iii) the replication and adaptation of  
9 exemplary practices and innovative meth-  
10 ods that have an evidence base of effective-  
11 ness; and”;

12 (v) in subparagraph (B)—

13 (I) by inserting “, consistent with  
14 section 114(j),” after “dissemi-  
15 nating”; and

16 (II) by striking “(as described”  
17 and all that follows through “is lo-  
18 cated”; and

19 (vi) by amending subparagraph (C) to  
20 read as follows:

21 “(C) ensuring activities carried out under  
22 this section are relevant and responsive to the  
23 needs of the region being served, including by  
24 using the relevant results of the regional assess-  
25 ments under section 206(e).”; and

1 (B) in paragraph (2)—

2 (i) by inserting “, on an ongoing  
3 basis,” after “this section shall”; and

4 (ii) by inserting “or other regional  
5 educational laboratories or comprehensive  
6 centers, as appropriate,” after “center is  
7 located,”; and

8 (7) by amending subsections (f) and (g), as  
9 each so redesignated, to read as follows:

10 “(f) COMPREHENSIVE CENTER ADVISORY BOARD.—

11 A comprehensive center established under this section may  
12 establish an advisory board to support and monitor the  
13 priorities and activities of such center. An advisory board  
14 established under this subsection shall coordinate and  
15 align its work with the work of the regional advisory com-  
16 mittee of the region served by such center established  
17 under section 206.

18 “(g) REPORT TO THE SECRETARY.—Each com-  
19 prehensive center established under this section shall sub-  
20 mit to the Secretary an annual report, at such time, in  
21 such manner, and containing such information as the Sec-  
22 retary may require, which shall include the following:

23 “(1) A summary of the center’s activities and  
24 products developed during the previous year.

1           “(2) A listing of the State educational agencies,  
2           local educational agencies, and schools the center as-  
3           sisted during the previous year.

4           “(3) Using the measurable performance indica-  
5           tors established under subsection (b)(3), a descrip-  
6           tion of how well the center is meeting educational  
7           needs of the region served by the center.

8           “(4) Any changes to the center’s plan under  
9           subsection (c)(2) to improve its activities in the re-  
10          maining years of the grant, contract, or cooperative  
11          agreement.”.

12 **SEC. 204. EVALUATIONS.**

13          Section 204 (20 U.S.C. 9603) is amended to read as  
14          follows:

15 **“SEC. 204. EVALUATIONS.**

16          “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

17               “(1) provide for ongoing summative and interim  
18               evaluations described in subsections (b) and (c), re-  
19               spectively, of each of the comprehensive centers es-  
20               tablished under this title in carrying out the full  
21               range of duties of the center under this title; and

22               “(2) transmit the results of such evaluations,  
23               through appropriate means, to the appropriate con-  
24               gressional committees, the Director of the Institute  
25               of Education Sciences, and the public.

1       “(b) **SUMMATIVE EVALUATION.**—The Secretary shall  
2 ensure each comprehensive center established under this  
3 title is evaluated by an independent entity at the end of  
4 the period of the grant, contract, or cooperative agreement  
5 that established such center, which shall—

6               “(1) be completed in a timely fashion;

7               “(2) assess how well the center is meeting the  
8 measurable performance indicators established under  
9 section 203(b)(3); and

10              “(3) consider the extent to which the center en-  
11 sures that the technical assistance of such center is  
12 relevant and useful to the work of State and local  
13 practitioners and policymakers.

14       “(c) **INTERIM EVALUATION.**—The Secretary shall en-  
15 sure that each comprehensive center established under this  
16 title is evaluated at the midpoint of the period of the  
17 grant, contract, or cooperative agreement that established  
18 such center, which shall—

19              “(1) assess how well such center is meeting the  
20 measurable performance indicators established under  
21 section 203(b)(3); and

22              “(2) be used to improve the effectiveness of  
23 such center in carrying out its plan under section  
24 203(c)(2).”.

1 **SEC. 205. EXISTING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDERS.**

2 (a) REPEAL.—Section 205 (20 U.S.C. 9604) is re-  
3 pealed.

4 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of con-  
5 tents in section 1 of the Act of November 5, 2002 (Public  
6 Law 107–279; 116 Stat. 1940) is amended by striking  
7 the item relating to section 205.

8 **SEC. 206. REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES.**

9 Section 206 (20 U.S.C. 9605) is amended—

10 (1) in subsection (a)—

11 (A) by striking “Beginning in 2004, the”  
12 and inserting “The”; and

13 (B) by striking “of the Education Sciences  
14 Reform Act of 2002”;

15 (2) by striking subsection (c) and redesignating  
16 subsections (b) and (d) as subsections (d) and (e),  
17 respectively;

18 (3) by inserting the following after subsection  
19 (a):

20 “(b) MISSION.—The mission of each regional advi-  
21 sory committee established under subsection (a) shall be  
22 to—

23 “(1) support, strengthen, and, as appropriate,  
24 align the work of the regional educational labora-  
25 tories established under section 174 and the com-  
26 prehensive centers established under this title; and

1           “(2) ensure that the regional educational lab-  
2           oratories and comprehensive centers are meeting the  
3           needs of their regions.

4           “(c) DUTIES.—Each advisory committee established  
5           under subsection (a) shall—

6           “(1) conduct, on at least a biennial basis, a  
7           needs assessments of the region served by the com-  
8           mittee, as described in subsection (e);

9           “(2) to ensure the activities of the regional edu-  
10          cational laboratory and comprehensive centers serv-  
11          ing the region of the committee are responsive to the  
12          needs of such region, provide ongoing input to the  
13          laboratory and centers on planning and carrying out  
14          their activities under section 174 and this title, re-  
15          spectively;

16          “(3) maintain a high standard of quality in the  
17          performance of the activities of the laboratory and  
18          centers, respectively; and

19          “(4) support the continuous improvement of the  
20          laboratory and centers in the region served by the  
21          committee, especially in meeting the measurable per-  
22          formance indicators established under sections  
23          174(e)(4) and 203(b)(3), respectively.”;

24                 (4) by amending subsection (d), as so redesign-  
25                 nated, to read as follows:

1 “(d) MEMBERSHIP.—

2 “(1) COMPOSITION.—The membership of each  
3 regional advisory committee shall—

4 “(A) not exceed 25 members;

5 “(B) include the chief State school officer,  
6 or such officer’s designee, or other State offi-  
7 cial, of States within the region of the com-  
8 mittee who have primary responsibility under  
9 State law for elementary and secondary edu-  
10 cation in the State;

11 “(C) include representatives of local edu-  
12 cational agencies, including rural and urban  
13 local educational agencies, that represent the  
14 geographic diversity of the region; and

15 “(D) include researchers.

16 “(2) ELIGIBILITY.—The membership of each  
17 regional advisory committee may include the fol-  
18 lowing:

19 “(A) Representatives of institutions of  
20 higher education.

21 “(B) Parents.

22 “(C) Practicing educators, including class-  
23 room teachers, school leaders, administrators,  
24 school board members, and other local school  
25 officials.

1           “(D) Representatives of business.

2           “(E) Policymakers.

3           “(F) Representatives from the regional  
4           educational laboratory and comprehensive cen-  
5           ters in the region.

6           “(3) RECOMMENDATIONS.—In choosing individ-  
7           uals for membership on a regional advisory com-  
8           mittee, the Secretary shall consult with, and solicit  
9           recommendations from, the chief executive officers of  
10          States, chief State school officers, local educational  
11          agencies, and other education stakeholders within  
12          the applicable region.

13          “(4) SPECIAL RULE.—The total number of  
14          members on each committee who are selected under  
15          subparagraphs (B) and (C) of paragraph (1), in the  
16          aggregate, shall exceed the total number of members  
17          who are selected under paragraph (2), collectively.”;

18          (5) in subsection (e), as so redesignated—

19                 (A) in paragraph (1)—

20                         (i) by inserting “, at least on a bien-  
21                         nial basis,” after “assess”; and

22                         (ii) by inserting “, strengths, and  
23                         weaknesses” after “educational needs”;

24                 (B) in paragraph (2)—

1 (i) by striking “State school officers,”  
2 and all that follows through “within the re-  
3 gion)” and inserting “State school officers,  
4 local educational agencies, representatives  
5 of public charter schools, educators, par-  
6 ents, and others within the region”;

7 (ii) by striking “of the Education  
8 Sciences Reform Act of 2002 and section  
9 203 of this title” and inserting “and sec-  
10 tion 203”; and

11 (iii) by striking “and” at the end;

12 (C) by redesignating paragraph (3) as  
13 paragraph (4);

14 (D) by inserting after paragraph (2) the  
15 following new paragraph:

16 “(3) use available State and local data, con-  
17 sistent with privacy protections under section 183,  
18 to determine regional educational needs; and”.

19 **SEC. 207. PRIORITIES.**

20 Section 207 (20 U.S.C. 9606) is amended—

21 (1) by inserting “Director and” before “Sec-  
22 retary shall establish”;

23 (2) by striking “of the Education Sciences Re-  
24 form Act of 2002”;

25 (3) by striking “of this title”;

1           (4) by striking “to address, taking onto ac-  
2           count” and inserting “, respectively, using the re-  
3           sults of”; and

4           (5) by striking “relevant regional” and all that  
5           follows through “Secretary deems appropriate” and  
6           inserting “relevant regional and national surveys of  
7           educational needs”.

8 **SEC. 208. GRANT PROGRAM FOR STATEWIDE LONGITU-**  
9 **DINAL DATA SYSTEMS.**

10           Section 208 (20 U.S.C. 9607) is amended—

11           (1) in subsection (a)—

12                   (A) by inserting before the period at the  
13                   end the following: “, the Higher Education Act  
14                   of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.), and the Indi-  
15                   viduals with Disabilities Education Act (20  
16                   U.S.C. 1400 et seq.)”; and

17                   (B) by adding at the end the following:  
18                   “State educational agencies receiving a grant  
19                   under this section may provide subgrants to  
20                   local educational agencies to improve the capac-  
21                   ity of local educational agencies to carry out the  
22                   activities authorized under this section.”;

23           (2) by redesignating subsections (c), (d), and  
24           (e) as subsections (d), (e), and (g), respectively;

1           (3) by inserting after subsection (b), the fol-  
2           lowing:

3           “(c) PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT.—Before award-  
4           ing a grant under this section, the Secretary shall estab-  
5           lish measurable performance indicators—

6                   “(1) to be used to assess the ongoing progress  
7                   and performance of State educational agencies re-  
8                   ceiving a grant under this section; and

9                   “(2) that address paragraphs (1) through (3) of  
10                  the performance management system described in  
11                  section 185.”;

12                  (4) in subsection (d), as so redesignated—

13                          (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “, pro-  
14                          motes linkages across States,”;

15                          (B) in paragraph (2)—

16                                  (i) in the matter preceding subpara-  
17                                  graph (A), by inserting “supports school  
18                                  improvement and” after “data that”;

19                                  (ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking  
20                                  “and other reporting requirements and  
21                                  close achievement gaps; and” and inserting  
22                                  “, other reporting requirements, close  
23                                  achievement gaps, and improve teaching.”;

24                                  (iii) in subparagraph (B), by striking  
25                                  “and close achievement gaps” and by in-

1           serting “, close achievement gaps, and im-  
2           prove teaching”; and

3                   (iv) by inserting after subparagraph  
4           (B) the following:

5                   “(C) to align statewide longitudinal data  
6           systems from early education through postsec-  
7           ondary education (including pre-service prepa-  
8           ration programs), and the workforce, consistent  
9           with privacy protections under section 183;”;  
10           and

11                   (C) by striking paragraph (3) and insert-  
12           ing the following:

13                   “(3) ensures the protection of student privacy,  
14           and includes a review of how State educational agen-  
15           cies, local educational agencies, and others that will  
16           have access to the statewide data systems under this  
17           section will adhere to Federal privacy laws and pro-  
18           tections, consistent with section 183, in the building,  
19           maintenance, and use of such data systems;

20                   “(4) ensures State educational agencies receiv-  
21           ing a grant under this section support professional  
22           development that builds the capacity of teachers and  
23           school leaders to use data effectively; and

24                   “(5) gives priority to State educational agencies  
25           that leverage the use of longitudinal data systems to

1 improve student achievement and growth, including  
2 such State educational agencies that—

3 “(A) meet the voluntary standards and  
4 guidelines described in section 153(a)(5);

5 “(B) define the roles of State educational  
6 agencies, local educational agencies, and others  
7 in providing timely access to data under the  
8 statewide data systems, consistent with privacy  
9 protections in section 183; and

10 “(C) demonstrate the capacity to share  
11 teacher and school leader performance data, in-  
12 cluding student achievement and growth data,  
13 with local educational agencies and teacher and  
14 school leader preparation programs.”;

15 (5) by inserting after subsection (e), as so re-  
16 designated, the following:

17 “(f) RENEWAL OF AWARDS.—The Secretary may  
18 renew a grant awarded to a State educational agency  
19 under this section for a period not to exceed 3 years, if  
20 the State educational agency has demonstrated progress  
21 on the measurable performance indicators established  
22 under subsection (c).”; and

23 (6) by amending subsection (g), as so redesign-  
24 nated, to read as follows:

25 “(g) REPORTS.—

1           “(1) FIRST REPORT.—Not later than 1 year  
2 after the date of enactment of the Strengthening  
3 Education through Research Act, the Secretary shall  
4 prepare and make publicly available a report on the  
5 implementation and effectiveness of the activities  
6 carried out by State educational agencies receiving a  
7 grant under this section, including—

8                   “(A) information on progress in the devel-  
9 opment and use of statewide longitudinal data  
10 systems described in this section;

11                   “(B) information on best practices and  
12 areas for improvement in such development and  
13 use; and

14                   “(C) how the State educational agencies  
15 are adhering to Federal privacy laws and pro-  
16 tections in the building, maintenance, and use  
17 of such data systems.

18           “(2) SUCCEEDING REPORTS.—Every succeeding  
19 3 years after the report is made publicly available  
20 under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall prepare  
21 and make publicly available a report on the imple-  
22 mentation and effectiveness of the activities carried  
23 out by State educational agencies receiving a grant  
24 under this section, including—

1           “(A) information on the requirements of  
2           subparagraphs (A) through (C) of paragraph  
3           (1); and

4           “(B) the progress, in the aggregate, State  
5           educational agencies are making on the measur-  
6           able performance indicators established under  
7           subsection (c).”.

8 **SEC. 209. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

9           Section 209 (20 U.S.C. 9608) is amended to read as  
10 follows:

11 **“SEC. 209. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

12           “There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out  
13 this title—

14           “(1) for fiscal year 2015, \$82,984,000;

15           “(2) for fiscal year 2016, \$83,149,968;

16           “(3) for fiscal year 2017, \$84,979,268;

17           “(4) for fiscal year 2018, \$87,018,769;

18           “(5) for fiscal year 2019, \$89,368,277; and

19           “(6) for fiscal year 2020, \$90,708,801.”.

20 **TITLE III—NATIONAL ASSESS-**  
21 **MENT OF EDUCATIONAL**  
22 **PROGRESS**

23 **SEC. 301. REFERENCES.**

24           Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in  
25 this title an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms

1 of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provi-  
2 sion, the reference shall be considered to be made to a  
3 section or other provision of the National Assessment of  
4 Educational Progress Authorization Act (20 U.S.C. 9621  
5 et seq.).

6 **SEC. 302. NATIONAL ASSESSMENT GOVERNING BOARD.**

7 Section 302 (20 U.S.C. 9621) is amended—

8 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “shall formu-  
9 late policy guidelines” and inserting “shall oversee  
10 and set policies, in a manner consistent with sub-  
11 section (e) and accepted professional standards,”;

12 (2) in subsection (b)(1)(L)—

13 (A) by striking “principals” and inserting  
14 “leaders”; and

15 (B) by striking “principal” both places it  
16 appears and inserting “leader”;

17 (3) in subsection (c), by striking paragraph (4);

18 (4) in subsection (d)—

19 (A) in paragraph (1)—

20 (i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting  
21 “the Assessment Board after consultation  
22 with” before “organizations”; and

23 (ii) in subparagraph (B)—

24 (I) by striking “Each organiza-  
25 tion submitting nominations to the

1 Secretary with” and inserting “With”;  
2 and

3 (II) by inserting “, the Assess-  
4 ment Board” after “particular va-  
5 cancy”; and

6 (B) in paragraph (2)—

7 (i) by striking “that each organization  
8 described in paragraph (1)(A) submit addi-  
9 tional nominations” and inserting “addi-  
10 tional nominations from the Assessment  
11 Board or each organization described in  
12 paragraph (1)(A)”;

13 (ii) by striking “such organization”  
14 and inserting “the Assessment Board”;  
15 and

16 (5) in subsection (e)(1)—

17 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

18 (i) by inserting “in consultation with  
19 the Commissioner for Education Statis-  
20 tics,” before “select”;

21 (ii) by inserting “and grades or ages”  
22 before “to be”; and

23 (iii) by inserting “, and determine the  
24 year in which such assessments will be  
25 conducted” after “assessed”;

1 (B) in subparagraph (D), by inserting  
2 “school leaders,” after “teachers,”;

3 (C) in subparagraph (E), by striking “de-  
4 sign” and inserting “provide input on”;

5 (D) by striking “and” at the end of sub-  
6 paragraph (I);

7 (E) by redesignating subparagraph (J) as  
8 subparagraph (K);

9 (F) by inserting after subparagraph (I),  
10 the following:

11 “(J) provide input to the Director on an-  
12 nual budget requests for the National Assess-  
13 ment of Educational Progress; and”;

14 (G) in subparagraph (K), as so redesign-  
15 ated—

16 (i) by striking “plan and execute the  
17 initial public release of”; and

18 (ii) by inserting “release the initial”  
19 before “National”; and

20 (H) in the matter following subparagraph  
21 (K), as so amended and redesignated, by strik-  
22 ing “subparagraph (J)” and inserting “sub-  
23 paragraph (K)”.

1 **SEC. 303. NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL**  
2 **PROGRESS.**

3 Section 303 (20 U.S.C. 9622) is amended—

4 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “with the ad-  
5 vice of the Assessment Board established under sec-  
6 tion 302” and inserting “in a manner consistent  
7 with accepted professional standards and the policies  
8 set forth by the Assessment Board under section  
9 302(a)”;

10 (2) in subsection (b)(2)—

11 (A) in subparagraph (D), by inserting  
12 “and consistent with section 302(e)(1)(A)”  
13 after “resources allow”;

14 (B) by striking “and” at the end of sub-  
15 paragraph (G);

16 (C) by striking the period and inserting “;  
17 and” at the end of subparagraph (H); and

18 (D) by adding at the end the following new  
19 subparagraph:

20 “(I) determine, after taking into account  
21 section 302(e)(1)(I), the content of initial and  
22 subsequent reports of all assessments author-  
23 ized under this section and ensure that such re-  
24 ports are valid and reliable.”;

25 (3) in subsection (c)(2)—

1 (A) in subparagraph (B), by striking “of  
2 Education” after “Secretary”; and

3 (B) in subparagraph (D)—

4 (i) by striking “Chairman of the  
5 House” before “Committee on Education”;

6 (ii) by inserting “of the House of Rep-  
7 resentatives” after “Workforce”;

8 (iii) by striking “Chairman of the  
9 Senate” before “Committee on Health”;  
10 and

11 (iv) by inserting “of the Senate” after  
12 “Pensions”;

13 (4) in subsection (d)(1), by inserting before the  
14 period, the following: “, except as required under  
15 section 1112(b)(1)(F) of the Elementary and Sec-  
16 ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
17 6312(b)(1)(F))”;

18 (5) in subsection (e)—

19 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “or age”;  
20 and

21 (B) in paragraph (2)—

22 (i) in subparagraph (A)—

23 (I) by striking “shall” and all  
24 that follows through “be” and insert  
25 “shall be”;

1 (II) by redesignating subclauses  
2 (I) and (II) as clauses (i) and (ii), re-  
3 spectively (and by moving the margins  
4 2 ems to the left); and

5 (III) in clause (ii) (as so redesign-  
6 nated), by striking “, or the age of  
7 the students, as the case may be”;  
8 (ii) in subparagraph (B)—

9 (I) by striking “After the deter-  
10 minations described in subparagraph  
11 (A), devising” and inserting “The As-  
12 sessment Board shall, in making the  
13 determination described in subpara-  
14 graph (A), use”; and

15 (II) by inserting after “ap-  
16 proach” the following: “, providing for  
17 the active participation of teachers,  
18 school leaders, curriculum specialists,  
19 local school administrators, parents,  
20 and concerned members of the general  
21 public”; and

22 (iii) in subparagraph (D), by inserting  
23 “Assessment” before “Board”; and

24 (6) in subsection (g)(2)—

- 1 (A) in the heading, by striking “AFFAIRS”  
2 and inserting “EDUCATION”; and  
3 (B) by striking “Affairs” and inserting  
4 “Education”.

5 **SEC. 304. DEFINITIONS.**

6 Section 304 (20 U.S.C. 9623) is amended—

- 7 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “(1)” and in-  
8 serting “(1) DIRECTOR.—”;
- 9 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “(2)” and in-  
10 serting “(2) STATE.—”; and
- 11 (3) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) (as  
12 so amended) as paragraphs (2) and (5), respectively;
- 13 (4) by inserting before paragraph (2) (as so re-  
14 designated) the following new paragraph:
- 15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The terms ‘elementary  
16 school’, ‘local educational agency’, and ‘secondary  
17 school’ have the meanings given those terms in sec-  
18 tion 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-  
19 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).”; and
- 20 (5) by inserting after paragraph (2) (as so re-  
21 designated), the following new paragraphs:
- 22 “(3) SCHOOL LEADER.—The term ‘school lead-  
23 er’ has the meaning given the term in section 102.  
24 “(4) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means  
25 the Secretary of Education.”.

1 **SEC. 305. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 Section 305(a) (20 U.S.C. 9624(a)) is amended to  
3 read as follows:

4 “(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be ap-  
5 propriated—

6 “(1) for fiscal year 2015—

7 “(A) \$8,235,000 to carry out section 302  
8 (relating to the National Assessment Governing  
9 Board); and

10 “(B) \$132,000,000 to carry out section  
11 303 (relating to the National Assessment of  
12 Educational Progress);

13 “(2) for fiscal year 2016—

14 “(A) \$8,251,470 to carry out section 302  
15 (relating to the National Assessment Governing  
16 Board); and

17 “(B) \$132,264,000 to carry out section  
18 303 (relating to the National Assessment of  
19 Educational Progress);

20 “(3) for fiscal year 2017—

21 “(A) \$8,433,002 to carry out section 302  
22 (relating to the National Assessment Governing  
23 Board); and

24 “(B) \$135,173,808 to carry out section  
25 303 (relating to the National Assessment of  
26 Educational Progress);

1 “(4) for fiscal year 2018—

2 “(A) \$8,635,395 to carry out section 302  
3 (relating to the National Assessment Governing  
4 Board); and

5 “(B) \$138,417,979 to carry out section  
6 303 (relating to the National Assessment of  
7 Educational Progress);

8 “(5) for fiscal year 2019—

9 “(A) \$8,868,550 to carry out section 302  
10 (relating to the National Assessment Governing  
11 Board); and

12 “(B) \$142,155,266 to carry out section  
13 303 (relating to the National Assessment of  
14 Educational Progress); and

15 “(6) for fiscal year 2020—

16 “(A) \$9,001,578 to carry out section 302  
17 (relating to the National Assessment Governing  
18 Board); and

19 “(B) \$144,287,595 to carry out section  
20 303 (relating to the National Assessment of  
21 Educational Progress).”.

## 22 **TITLE IV—EVALUATION PLAN**

### 23 **SEC. 401. RESEARCH AND EVALUATION.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Institute of Education  
25 Sciences shall be the primary entity for conducting re-

1 search on and evaluations of Federal education programs  
2 within the Department of Education to ensure the rigor  
3 and independence of such research and evaluation.

4 (b) FLEXIBLE AUTHORITY.—

5 (1) RESERVATION.—Notwithstanding any other  
6 provision of law in the Elementary and Secondary  
7 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. et seq. 6301 et  
8 seq.) related to evaluation, the Secretary of Edu-  
9 cation, in consultation with the Director of the Insti-  
10 tute of Education Sciences—

11 (A) may, for purposes of carrying out the  
12 activities described in paragraph (2)(B)—

13 (i) reserve not more than 0.5 percent  
14 of the total amount of funds appropriated  
15 for each program authorized under the El-  
16 elementary and Secondary Education Act of  
17 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.), other than  
18 part A of title I of such Act (20 U.S.C.  
19 6311 et seq.) and section 1501 of such Act  
20 (20 U.S.C. 6491); and

21 (ii) reserve, in the manner described  
22 in subparagraph (B), an amount equal to  
23 not more than 0.1 percent of the total  
24 amount of funds appropriated for—

1 (I) part A of title I of the Ele-  
2 mentary and Secondary Education  
3 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311 et seq.);  
4 and

5 (II) section 1501 of such Act (20  
6 U.S.C. 6491); and

7 (B) in reserving the amount described in  
8 subparagraph (A)(ii)—

9 (i) shall reserve up to the total  
10 amount of funds appropriated for section  
11 1501 of the Elementary and Secondary  
12 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6491);  
13 and

14 (ii) may, in a case in which the total  
15 amount of funds appropriated for such sec-  
16 tion 1501 (20 U.S.C. 6491) is less than  
17 the amount described in subparagraph  
18 (A)(ii), reserve the amount of funds appro-  
19 priated for part A of title I of the Elemen-  
20 tary and Secondary Education Act of 1965  
21 (20 U.S.C. 6311 et seq.) that is needed for  
22 the sum of the total amount of funds ap-  
23 propriated for such section 1501 (20  
24 U.S.C. 6491) and such amount of funds  
25 appropriated for such part A of title I (20

1 U.S.C. 6311 et seq.) to equal the amount  
2 described in subparagraph (A)(ii).

3 (2) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—If funds are re-  
4 served under paragraph (1)—

5 (A) neither the Secretary of Education nor  
6 the Director of the Institute of Education  
7 Sciences shall—

8 (i) carry out evaluations under section  
9 1501 of the Elementary and Secondary  
10 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6491);  
11 or

12 (ii) reserve funds for evaluation activi-  
13 ties under section 3111(c)(1)(C) of such  
14 Act (20 U.S.C. 6821); and

15 (B) the Secretary of Education, in con-  
16 sultation with the Director of the Institute of  
17 Education Sciences—

18 (i) shall use the funds reserved under  
19 paragraph (1) to carry out high-quality  
20 evaluations (consistent with the require-  
21 ments of section 173(a) of the Education  
22 Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (20 U.S.C.  
23 9563(a)), as amended by this Act, and the  
24 evaluation plan described in subsection (c)  
25 of this section) of programs authorized

1 under the Elementary and Secondary Edu-  
2 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et  
3 seq.); and

4 (ii) may use the funds reserved under  
5 paragraph (1) to—

6 (I) increase the usefulness of the  
7 evaluations conducted under clause (i)  
8 to promote continuous improvement of  
9 programs under the Elementary and  
10 Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20  
11 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.); or

12 (II) assist grantees of such pro-  
13 grams in collecting and analyzing data  
14 and other activities related to con-  
15 ducting high-quality evaluations under  
16 clause (i).

17 (3) DISSEMINATION.—The Secretary of Edu-  
18 cation or the Director of the Institute of Education  
19 Sciences shall disseminate evaluation findings, con-  
20 sistent with section 114(j) of the Education Sciences  
21 Reform Act of 2002 (20 U.S.C. 9514(j)), as amend-  
22 ed by this Act, of evaluations carried out under  
23 paragraph (2)(B)(i).

1           (4) CONSOLIDATION.—The Secretary of Edu-  
2           cation, in consultation with the Director of the Insti-  
3           tute of Education Sciences—

4                   (A) may consolidate the funds reserved  
5           under paragraph (1) for purposes of carrying  
6           out the activities under paragraph (2)(B); and

7                   (B) shall not be required to evaluate under  
8           paragraph (2)(B)(i) each program authorized  
9           under the Elementary and Secondary Education  
10          Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) each year.

11          (c) EVALUATION PLAN.—The Director of the Insti-  
12         tute of Education Sciences, in consultation with the Sec-  
13         retary of Education, shall, on a biennial basis, develop,  
14         submit to Congress, and make publicly available an eval-  
15         uation plan, that—

16                   (1) describes the specific activities that will be  
17           carried out under subsection (b)(2)(B) for the 2-year  
18           period applicable to the plan, and the timelines of  
19           such activities;

20                   (2) contains the results of the activities carried  
21           out under subsection (b)(2)(B) for the most recent  
22           2-year period; and

23                   (3) describes how programs authorized under  
24           the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of

1       1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) will be regularly eval-  
2       uated.

3       (d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-  
4       tion shall be construed to affect section 173(b) of the Edu-  
5       cation Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (20 U.S.C. 9563(b)),  
6       as amended by this Act.

Passed the House of Representatives May 8, 2014.

Attest:

*Clerk.*



113<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

**H. R. 4366**

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**AN ACT**

To strengthen the Federal education research system to make research and evaluations more timely and relevant to State and local needs in order to increase student achievement.