113TH CONGRESS
2d Session

H. R. 4366

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.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-

tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Strengthening Education through Research Act”.

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

Sec. 1. Short title.
Sec. 2. Table of contents.

TITLE I—EDUCATION SCIENCES REFORM

Sec. 101. References.
Sec. 102. Definitions.

PART A—THE INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION SCIENCES

Sec. 111. Establishment.
Sec. 112. Functions.
Sec. 113. Delegation.
Sec. 114. Office of the Director.
Sec. 115. Priorities.
Sec. 117. Commissioners of the National Education Centers.
Sec. 118. Transparency.
Sec. 119. Competitive awards.

PART B—NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION RESEARCH

Sec. 131. Establishment.
Sec. 132. Duties.
Sec. 133. Standards for conduct and evaluation of research.

PART C—NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS

Sec. 151. Establishment.
Sec. 152. Duties.
Sec. 153. Performance of duties.
Sec. 154. Reports.
Sec. 155. Dissemination.
Sec. 156. Cooperative education statistics systems.

PART D—NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION EVALUATION AND REGIONAL ASSISTANCE

Sec. 171. Establishment.
Sec. 172. Commissioner for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance.
Sec. 173. Evaluations.
Sec. 174. Regional educational laboratories for research, development, dissemination, and evaluation.

PART E—NATIONAL CENTER FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION RESEARCH

Sec. 175. Establishment.
Sec. 176. Commissioner for Special Education Research.
Sec. 177. Duties.
PART F—GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 182. Prohibitions.
Sec. 183. Confidentiality.
Sec. 184. Availability of data.
Sec. 185. Performance management.
Sec. 186. Authority to publish.
Sec. 187. Repeals.
Sec. 188. Fellowships.
Sec. 189. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE II—EDUCATIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Sec. 201. References.
Sec. 203. Comprehensive centers.
Sec. 204. Evaluations.
Sec. 205. Existing technical assistance providers.
Sec. 206. Regional advisory committees.
Sec. 207. Priorities.
Sec. 208. Grant program for statewide longitudinal data systems.
Sec. 209. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE III—NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS

Sec. 301. References.
Sec. 302. National assessment governing board.
Sec. 303. National assessment of educational progress.
Sec. 304. Definitions.
Sec. 305. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE IV—EVALUATION PLAN

Sec. 401. Research and evaluation.

1 TITLE I—EDUCATION SCIENCES REFORM

3 SEC. 101. REFERENCES.

Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this title an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (20 U.S.C. 9501 et seq.).
SEC. 102. DEFINITIONS.

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

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

(2) in paragraph (10)—

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

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

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

(4) by striking paragraph (13);

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

(6) by inserting after paragraph (14), as so redesignated, the following:

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

(7) by amending paragraph (18) to read as follows:

“(18) PRINCIPLES OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH.—The term ‘principles of scientific research’ means principles of research that—
“(A) apply rigorous, systematic, and objective methodology to obtain reliable and valid knowledge relevant to education activities and programs;

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

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

“(i) use of systematic, empirical methods that draw on observation or experiment;

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

“(iii) reliance on measurements or observational methods that provide reliable and generalizable findings;

“(iv) strong claims of causal relationships, only with research designs that eliminate plausible competing explanations for observed results, such as, but not limited to, random-assignment experiments;

“(v) presentation of studies and methods in sufficient detail and clarity to allow for replication or, at a minimum, to offer
the opportunity to build systematically on
the findings of the research;

“(vi) acceptance by a peer-reviewed
journal or critique by a panel of inde-
dependent experts through a comparably rig-
gorous, objective, and scientific review; and

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

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

(9) by adding at the end the following:

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

“(A) an employee or officer of—

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

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

“(iii) another entity operating the ele-
mentary school or secondary school; and
“(B) responsible for the daily instructional leadership and managerial operations of the elementary school or secondary school.”

PART A—THE INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION SCIENCES

SEC. 111. ESTABLISHMENT.

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

(1) in subsection (b)(2)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking “and wide dissemination activities” and inserting “and, consistent with section 114(j), wide dissemination and utilization activities”; and

(ii) by striking “(including in technology areas)”;

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

SEC. 112. FUNCTIONS.

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

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by inserting “(including evaluations of impact and implementation)” after “education evaluation”; and
(B) by inserting before the semicolon the following “and utilization”; and

(2) in paragraph (2)—

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

(B) by adding before the semicolon the following: “and scientifically valid education evaluations carried out under this title”.

SEC. 113. DELEGATION.

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

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking paragraph (1);

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (5) as paragraphs (1) through (4), respectively; and

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

(2) in subsection (b), by striking “Secretary may assign the Institute responsibility for administering” and inserting “Director may accept requests from the Secretary for the Institute to administer”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:
“(c) CONTRACT ACQUISITION.—With respect to any contract entered into under this title, the Director shall be consulted—

“(1) during the procurement process; and

“(2) in the management of such contract’s performance, which shall be consistent with the requirements of the performance management system described in section 185.”.

SEC. 114. OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR.

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

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

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting before the period the following: “, except that if a successor to the Director has not been appointed as of the date of expiration of the Director’s term, the Director may serve for an additional 1-year period, beginning on the day after the date of expiration of the Director’s term, or until a successor has been appointed under subsection (a), whichever occurs first”;

(B) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:
“(2) Reappointment.—A Director may be re-appointed under subsection (a) for one additional term.”; and

(C) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in the heading, by striking “SUBSEQUENT DIRECTORS” and inserting “RECOMMENDATIONS”; and

(ii) by striking “, other than a Director appointed under paragraph (2)”;

(3) in subsection (f)—

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

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

(C) in paragraph (5)—

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

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

(D) in paragraph (7), by inserting “disability,” after “gender,”;
(E) in paragraph (8), by striking “historically Black colleges or universities” and inserting “minority-serving institutions”;

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

“(9) To coordinate with the Secretary to ensure that the results of the Institute’s work are coordinated with, and utilized by, the Department’s technical assistance providers and dissemination networks.”;

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

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

(4) by redesignating subsection (h) as subsection (i);

(5) by inserting after subsection (g), the following:

“(h) PEER-REVIEW SYSTEM.—The Director shall establish and maintain a peer-review system involving highly-qualified individuals, including practitioners, as appropriate, with an in-depth knowledge of the subject to be investigated, for—

“(1) reviewing and evaluating each application for a grant or cooperative agreement under this title that exceeds $100,000; and
“(2) evaluating and assessing all reports and other products that exceed $100,000 to be published and publicly released by the Institute.”;

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

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

(B) by striking “certify that evidence-based claims about those products and” and inserting “determine whether evidence-based claims in those”; and

(7) by adding at the end the following:

“(j) RELEVANCE, DISSEMINATION, AND UTILIZATION.—To ensure all activities authorized under this title are rigorous, relevant, and useful for researchers, policymakers, practitioners, and the public, the Director shall—

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

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

“(A) prepared and widely disseminated—

“(i) in a timely fashion; and

“(ii) in forms that are understandable, easily accessible, and usable, or adaptable for use in, the improvement of educational practice; and
“(B) widely disseminated through electronic transfer, and other means, such as posting to the Institute’s website or other relevant place;

“(3) promote the utilization of the information, products, and publications of the Institute, including through the use of dissemination networks and technical assistance providers, within the Institute and the Department; and

“(4) monitor and manage the performance of all activities authorized under this title in accordance with section 185.”.

SEC. 115. PRIORITIES.

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

(1) in subsection (a)—

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

(i) by striking “(taking into consideration long-term research and development on core issues conducted through the national research and development centers)” and inserting “at least once every 6 years”; and

(ii) by striking “such as” and inserting “including”;

•HR 4366 EH
(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by inserting “ensuring that all children have the ability to obtain a high-quality education, particularly” before “closing”;

(ii) by striking “especially achievement gaps between”;

(iii) by striking “nonminority children” and inserting “nonminority children, disabled and nondisabled children,”;

(iv) by striking “and between disadvantaged” and inserting “and disadvantaged”;

(v) by striking “and” at the end;

(C) by striking paragraph (2); and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

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

“(3) improving education in elementary and secondary schools, particularly among low-performing students and schools; and

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

(2) in subsection (d), by striking “by means of the Internet” and inserting “by electronic means
such as posting in an easily accessible manner on
the Institute’s website”.

SEC. 116. NATIONAL BOARD FOR EDUCATION SCIENCES.

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

(1) in subsection (b)—

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

(B) in paragraph (3), by inserting “under
section 114(h)” after “procedures”;  
(C) in paragraph (8), by inserting “dis-
ability,” after “gender,”

(D) in paragraph (9)—

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

(ii) by striking “consistent with” and
inserting “consistent with section 114(j)
and”;  
(E) in paragraph (11)—
(i) by inserting “the Institute’s” after “enhance”; and

(ii) by striking “among other Federal and State research agencies” and inserting “with public and private entities to improve the work of the Institute”; and

(F) by adding at the end the following:

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

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by inserting “Board,” before “National Academy”;  

(ii) by striking “and the National Science Advisor” and inserting “the National Science Advisor, and other entities and organizations that have knowledge of individuals who are highly-qualified to appraise education research, statistics, evaluations, or development”;  

(B) in paragraph (4)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) in clause (i), by striking “, which may include those researchers
recommended by the National Academy of Sciences’’;

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

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

“(ii) Not fewer than 2 practitioners who are knowledgeable about the education needs of the United States, who may include school based professional educators, teachers, school leaders, local educational agency superintendents, and members of local boards of education or Bureau-funded school boards.’’; and

(IV) in clause (iii), as so redesignated—

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

(bb) by striking “local educational agency superintendents,’”;

(cc) by striking “principals,’”;

(dd) by striking “or local’’;

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

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

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

(II) by striking clause (i);

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

(IV) in clause (i), as so redesignated, by striking the period and inserting “; and”; and

(V) by adding at the end the following:

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

(iii) by striking subparagraph (C); and
(iv) by redesignating subparagraph (D) as subparagraph (C);

(C) in paragraph (8)—

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

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

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

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

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

“(G) SUBCOMMITTEES.—The Board may establish standing or temporary subcommittees
to make recommendations to the Board for carrying out activities authorized under this title.”;

(3) by striking subsection (d);

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

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

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

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

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board”;

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

(D) by adding at the end the following:

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

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

“(i) uses the performance management system described in section 185; and
“(ii) is conducted by an independent entity;

“(B) a review of the Institute to ensure its work, consistent with the requirements of section 114(j), is timely, rigorous, and relevant;

“(C) any recommendations regarding actions that may be taken to enhance the ability of the Institute and the National Education Centers to carry out their priorities and missions; and

“(D) a summary of the major research findings of the Institute and the activities carried out under section 113(b) during the 3 preceding fiscal years.

“(3) NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION EVALUATION AND REGIONAL ASSISTANCE.—With respect to the National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance, an evaluation report described in paragraph (1) shall contain—

“(A) an evaluation described in paragraph (2)(A) of the activities authorized for such Center, except for the regional educational laboratories established under section 174; and

“(B) a summative or interim evaluation, whichever is most recent, for each such labora-
tory conducted under section 174(i) on or after the date of enactment of the Strengthening Education through Research Act or, in a case in which such an evaluation is not available for a laboratory, the most recent evaluation for the laboratory conducted prior to the date of enactment of the Strengthening Education through Research Act.”; and

(6) by striking subsection (f).

SEC. 117. COMMISSIONERS OF THE NATIONAL EDUCATION CENTERS.

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

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “Except as provided in subsection (b), each” and inserting “Each”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

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

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

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking “Except as provided in subsection (b), each” and inserting “Each”;
(2) by striking subsection (b);

(3) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as

subsections (b) and (c), respectively; and

(4) in subsection (c), as so redesignated, by

striking “, except the Commissioner for Education

Statistics,”.

SEC. 118. TRANSPARENCY.

(a) In General.—Section 119 (20 U.S.C. 9519) is

amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 119. TRANSPARENCY.

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

(b) Conforming Amendment.—The table of con-
tents in section 1 of the Act of November 5, 2002 (Public

Law 107–279; 116 Stat. 1940) is amended by striking
the item relating to section 119 and inserting the fol-
lowing:

“Sec. 119. Transparency.”.
SEC. 119. COMPETITIVE AWARDS.

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

PART B—NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION RESEARCH

SEC. 131. ESTABLISHMENT.

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

(1) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

“(1) to sponsor sustained research that will lead to the accumulation of knowledge and understanding of education, consistent with the priorities described in section 115;”;

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

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

(4) by adding at the end the following:

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

SEC. 132. DUTIES.

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

(1) in subsection (a)—
(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “peer-review standards and”;

  (B) by striking paragraph (2);

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

  (D) by striking paragraph (4);

  (E) by redesignating paragraphs (5) through (9) as paragraphs (3) through (7), respectively;

  (F) in paragraph (3), as so redesignated, by inserting “in the implementation of programs carried out by the Department and other agencies” before “within the Federal Government”;

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

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

    (i) by striking “Director” and inserting “Board”; and

    (ii) by striking “of a biennial report, as described in section 119” and inserting
“and dissemination of each evaluation re-
port under section 116(d)”;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

and

(N) by adding at the end the following:
“(11) to the extent feasible, carry out research on the quality of implementation of practices and strategies determined to be effective through scientifically valid research.”;

(2) by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

“(b) PLAN.—The Research Commissioner shall propose to the Director and, subject to the approval of the Director, implement a research plan for the activities of the Research Center that—

“(1) is consistent with the priorities and mission of the Institute and the mission of the Research Center described in section 131(b), and includes the activities described in subsection (a);

“(2) is carried out and, as appropriate, updated and modified, including through the use of the results of the Research Center’s most recent evaluation report under section 116(d);

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

“(4) meets the procedures for peer review established and maintained by the Director under sect-
tion 114(f)(5) and the standards of research described in section 134; and

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

(3) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d);

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

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

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Research Commissioner may award grants to, or enter into contracts or cooperative agreements, with eligible applicants to carry out research under subsection (a).

“(2) ELIGIBILITY.—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘eligible applicant’ means an applicant that has the ability and capacity to conduct scientifically valid research.

“(3) APPLICATIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible applicant that wishes to receive a grant, or enter into a contract or cooperative agreement, under this section shall submit an application to the Re-
search Commissioner at such time, in such
manner, and containing such information as the
Research Commissioner may require.

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

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

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

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

(B) by striking paragraphs (2), (3), and
(5);
(C) by redesignating paragraphs (4), (6), and (7) as paragraph (2), (3), and (4), respectively;

(D) by amending paragraph (2), as so redesignated—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “5 additional” and inserting “2 additional”;

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

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) demonstrates progress on the requirements of the performance management system described in section 185.”;

(E) in paragraph (3), as so redesignated, by striking “paragraphs (4) and (5)” and inserting “paragraph (2)”; and

(F) by amending paragraph (4), as so redesignated, to read as follows:

“(4) DISAGGREGATION.—To the extent feasible and when relevant to the research being conducted, research conducted under this subsection shall be disaggregated and cross-tabulated by age, race, gen-
der, disability status, English learner status, and socioeconomic background.”.

SEC. 133. STANDARDS FOR CONDUCT AND EVALUATION OF RESEARCH.

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

(1) in subsection (a)—

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

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “and wide dissemination activities” and inserting “and, consistent with section 114(j), wide dissemination and utilization activities”;

(2) by striking subsection (b); and

(3) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (b).

PART C—NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS

SEC. 151. ESTABLISHMENT.

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

(1) in paragraph (2), by inserting “and consistent with the privacy protections under section 183” after “manner”; and

(2) in paragraph (3)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “disability,,” after “cultural,”; and
(B) by amending subparagraph (B) to read
as follows:
“(B) consistent with section 114(j), is rel-
evant, timely, and widely disseminated.”.

SEC. 152. DUTIES.

Section 153 (20 U.S.C. 9543) is amended—
(1) in subsection (a)—
(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
by inserting “, consistent with the privacy pro-
tections under section 183,” after “Center
shall”;
(B) in paragraph (1)—
(i) by amending subparagraph (D) to
read as follows:
“(D) secondary school graduation and
completion rates, including the four-year ad-
justed cohort graduation rate (as defined in sec-
tion 200.19(b)(1)(i)(A) of title 34, Code of Fed-
eral Regulations, as such section was in effect
on November 28, 2008) and the extended-year
adjusted cohort graduation rate (as defined in
section 200.19(b)(1)(v)(A) of title 34, Code of
Federal Regulations, as such section was in ef-
fect on November 28, 2008), and school drop-
out rates, and adult literacy;”;

•HR 4366 EH
(i) in subparagraph (E), by striking “and opportunity for,” and inserting “opportunity for, and completion of”;

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

“(F) teaching, including information on pre-service preparation, professional development, teacher distribution, and teacher and school leader evaluation;”;

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

(v) in subparagraph (H), by inserting “, climate, and in- and out-of-school suspensions and expulsions” before “, including information regarding”;

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

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

(vii) in subparagraph (L), by striking “and opportunity for,” and inserting “opportunity for, and quality of”;}
(viii) in subparagraph (M), by striking “such programs during school recesses” and inserting “summer school”; and

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

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking “when such disaggregated information will facilitate educational and policy decisionmaking” and inserting “so long as any reported information does not reveal individually identifiable information”;

(D) in paragraph (4), by inserting before the semicolon the following: “, and the implementation (with the assistance of the Department and other Federal officials who have statutory authority to provide assistance on applicable privacy laws, regulations, and policies) of appropriate privacy protections”;

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

(F) in paragraph (6)—

(i) by striking “Third” and inserting “Trends in”; and
(ii) by inserting “and the Program for
International Student Assessment” after
“Science Study”;

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

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

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

(I) by striking paragraph (9);

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

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

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

“(1) is consistent with the priorities and mis-
ion of the Institute and the mission of the Statistics
Center described in section 151(b);
“(2) is carried out and, as appropriate, updated and modified, including through the use of the results of the Statistic Center’s most recent evaluation report under section 116(d); and

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

SEC. 153. PERFORMANCE OF DUTIES.

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

(1) in subsection (a)—

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

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) ELIGIBILITY.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘eligible applicant’ means an applicant that has the ability and capacity to carry out activities under this part.

“(3) APPLICATIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible applicant that wishes to receive a grant, or enter into a contract or cooperative agreement, under this section shall submit an application to the Statistics Commissioner at such time, in such man-
ner, and containing such information as the
Statistics Commissioner may require.

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

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

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

SEC. 154. REPORTS.

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

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting “(consistent
with section 114(h))” after “review”; and
(2) in subsection (b), by striking “2003” and inserting “2015”.

SEC. 155. DISSEMINATION.

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

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

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end the following: “Before receiving access to educational data under this paragraph, a Federal agency shall describe to the Statistics Center the specific research intent for use of the data, how access to the data may meet such research intent, and how the Federal agency will protect the confidentiality of the data consistent with the requirements of section 183.”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

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

(ii) by adding at the end the following: “Before receiving access to data under this paragraph, an interested party shall describe to the Statistics Center the specific research intent for use of the data,
how access to the data may meet such re-
search intent, and how the party will pro-
tect the confidentiality of the data con-
sistent with the requirements of section
183.”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

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

SEC. 156. COOPERATIVE EDUCATION STATISTICS SYSTEMS.

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

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

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

(3) by striking “producing and maintaining,
with the cooperation” and inserting “reviewing and
improving, with the voluntary participation”;
(4) by striking “comparable and uniform” and inserting “data quality standards, which may include establishing voluntary guidelines to standardize”;

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

(6) by adding at the end the following: “No student data shall be collected by the partnerships established under this section, nor shall such partnerships establish a national student data system.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1 of the Act of November 5, 2002 (Public Law 107–279; 116 Stat. 1940) is amended by striking the item relating to section 157 and inserting the following:

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

PART D—NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION EVALUATION AND REGIONAL ASSISTANCE

SEC. 171. ESTABLISHMENT.

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

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking paragraph (1);

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (2), (3), and (4) as paragraphs (1), (2), and (3), respectively;

(C) in paragraph (1), as so redesignated, by striking “of such programs” and all that fol-
(D) in paragraph (2), as so redesignated, by striking “and wide dissemination of results of” and inserting “and, consistent with section 114(j), the wide dissemination and utilization of results of all”; and

(2) by striking subsection (c).

SEC. 172. COMMISSIONER FOR EDUCATION EVALUATION AND REGIONAL ASSISTANCE.

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

(1) in subsection (a)—

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

“(2) widely disseminate, consistent with section 114(j), all information on scientifically valid research and statistics supported by the Institute and all scientifically valid education evaluations supported by the Institute, particularly to State educational agencies and local educational agencies, to institutions of higher education, to the public, the media, voluntary organizations, professional associations, and other constituencies, especially with respect to the priorities described in section 115;”;
(B) in paragraph (3), by inserting ‘‘, consistent with section 114(j)’’ after ‘‘timely, and efficient manner’’;

(C) in paragraph (4)—

(i) by striking ‘‘development and dissemination’’ and inserting ‘‘development, dissemination, and utilization’’; and

(ii) by striking ‘‘the provision of technical assistance,’’;

(D) in paragraph (5), by inserting ‘‘and’’ after the semicolon;

(E) in paragraph (6)—

(i) by striking ‘‘Director’’ and inserting ‘‘Board’’;

(ii) by striking ‘‘preparation of a biennial report’’ and inserting ‘‘preparation and dissemination of each evaluation report’’; and

(iii) by striking ‘‘119; and’’ and inserting ‘‘116(d).’’;

(F) by striking paragraph (7);

(2) in subsection (b)(1)—

(A) by inserting ‘‘all’’ before ‘‘information disseminated’’; and
(B) by striking "", which may include"" and all that follows through "of this Act"; (3) by striking subsection (c) and redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (e); and (4) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

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

"(1) is consistent with the priorities and mission of the Institute and the mission of the Center described in section 171(b);" (2) is carried out and, as appropriate, updated and modified, including through the use of the results of the Center's most recent evaluation report under section 116(d); and "(3) describes how the Center will use the performance management system described in section 185 to assess and improve the activities of the Center. "(d) GRANTS, CONTRACTS, AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—
“(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the duties under this part, the Evaluation and Regional Assistance Commissioner may—

“(A) award grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements to eligible applicants to carry out the activities under this part; and

“(B) provide technical assistance.

“(2) ELIGIBILITY.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘eligible applicant’ means an applicant that has the ability and capacity to carry out activities under this part.

“(3) ENTITIES TO CONDUCT EVALUATIONS.—In awarding grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements under paragraph (1) to carry out activities under section 173, the Evaluation and Regional Assistance Commissioner shall make such awards to eligible applicants with the ability and capacity to conduct scientifically valid education evaluations.

“(4) APPLICATIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible applicant that wishes to receive a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement under paragraph (1) shall submit an application to the Evaluation and Regional Assistance Commissioner at such time,
in such manner, and containing such information as the Commissioner may require.

“(B) CONTENTS.—An application submitted under subparagraph (A) shall describe how the eligible applicant will address and demonstrate progress on the requirements of the performance management system described in section 185, with respect to the activities carried out under such grant, contract, or cooperative agreement.

“(5) DURATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements under paragraph (1) may be awarded, on a competitive basis, for a period of not more than 5 years, and may be renewed at the discretion of the Evaluation and Regional Assistance Commissioner for an additional period of not more than 2 years if the recipient demonstrates progress on the requirements of the performance management system described in section 185, with respect to the activities carried out under the grant, contract, or cooperative agreement.”;

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

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “There is established” and all that follows through “Re-
regional Assistance” and inserting “The Evaluation and Regional Assistance Commissioner may establish”;

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

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

SEC. 173. EVALUATIONS.

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

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “may” and inserting “shall”;

(ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking “evaluations” and inserting “high-quality evaluations, including impact evaluations that use rigorous methodologies that permit the strongest possible causal inferences,”;

(iii) in subparagraph (B), by inserting before the semicolon at the end the following: “, including programs under part A of such title (20 U.S.C. 6311 et seq.)”;
(iv) by striking subparagraph (C) and redesignating subparagraph (D) as subparagraph (C);

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

(vi) in subparagraph (D), as so redesignated, by striking “and” at the end; and

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

“(E) provide evaluation findings in an understandable, easily accessible, and usable format to support program improvement;

“(F) support the evaluation activities described in section 401 of the Strengthening Education through Research Act that are carried about by the Director; and

“(G) to the extent feasible—

“(i) examine evaluations conducted or supported by others to determine the quality and relevance of the evidence of effectiveness generated by those evaluations, with the approval of the Director;

“(ii) review and supplement Federal education program evaluations, particularly
such evaluations by the Department, to de-
terminate or enhance the quality and rel-
evance of the evidence generated by those
evaluations;

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

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

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

and
(B) in paragraph (2)—

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

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

(iii) by adding at the end the fol-
lowing:
“(C) be widely disseminated, consistent with section 114(j).”; and

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

SEC. 174. REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL LABORATORIES FOR RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, DISSEMINATION, AND EVALUATION.

(a) In General.—Section 174 (20 U.S.C. 9564) is amended—

(1) in the section heading by striking “TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE” and inserting “EVALUATION”;

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking “Director” and inserting “Evaluation and Regional Assistance Commissioner”;

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

and

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

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking “The Director” and inserting the following:
“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Evaluation and Regional Assistance Commissioner”;

(B) by striking “contracts under this section with research organizations, institutions, agencies, institutions of higher education,” and inserting “grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements under this section with public or private, nonprofit or for-profit research organizations, other organizations, or institutions of higher education,”;

(C) by striking “or individuals,”;

(D) by striking “, including regional entities” and all that follows through “107–110))”;

and

(E) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘eligible applicant’ means an entity described in paragraph (1).”;

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

“(d) APPLICATIONS.—

“(1) SUBMISSION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible applicant desiring a contract grant, contract, or cooperative agreement under this section shall
submit an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Evaluation and Regional Assistance Commissioner may reasonably require.

“(B) INPUT.—To ensure that applications submitted under this paragraph are reflective of the needs of the regions to be served, each eligible applicant submitting such an application shall seek input from State educational agencies and local educational agencies in the region that the award will serve, and other individuals with knowledge of the region’s needs. Such individuals may include members of the regional advisory committee for the region under section 206(a).

“(2) PLAN.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Each application submitted under paragraph (1) shall contain a plan for the activities of the regional educational laboratory to be established under this section, which shall be updated, modified, and improved, as appropriate, on an ongoing basis, including by using the results of the laboratory’s interim evaluation under subsection (i)(3).
“(B) CONTENTS.—A plan described in subparagraph (A) shall address—

“(i) the priorities for applied research, development, evaluations, and wide dissemination established under section 207;

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

“(iii) if available, demonstrated support from State educational agencies and local educational agencies in the region, such as letters of support or signed memorandum of understanding.

“(3) NON-FEDERAL SUPPORT.—In conducting a competition for grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements under subsection (a), the Evaluation and Regional Assistance Commissioner shall give priority to eligible applicants that will provide a portion of non-Federal funds to maximize support for activities of the regional educational laboratories to be established under this section.
“(e) AWARDING GRANTS, CONTRACTS, OR COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

“(1) ASSURANCES.—In awarding grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements under this section, the Evaluation and Regional Assistance Commissioner shall—

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

“(B) ensure that regional educational laboratories established under this section have strong and effective governance, organization, management, and administration, and employ qualified staff; and

“(C) ensure that each such laboratory has the flexibility to respond in a timely fashion to the needs of the laboratory’s region, including—

“(i) through using the results of the laboratory’s interim evaluation under subsection (i)(3) to improve and modify the activities of the laboratory before the end of the award period; and

“(ii) through sharing preliminary results of the laboratory’s research, as ap-
propriate, to increase the relevance and usefulness of the research.

“(2) COORDINATION.—To ensure coordination and prevent unnecessary duplication of activities among the regions, the Evaluation and Regional Assistance Commissioner shall—

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

“(B) ensure, where appropriate, that the activities of each regional educational laboratory established under this section also serve national interests;

“(C) ensure each such regional educational laboratory establishes strong partnerships among practitioners, policymakers, researchers, and others, so that such partnerships are continued in the absence of Federal support; and

“(D) enable, where appropriate, for such a laboratory to work in a region being served by another laboratory or to carry out a project that extends beyond the region served by the laboratory.
“(3) COLLABORATION WITH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDERS.—Each regional educational laboratory established under this section shall, on an ongoing basis, coordinate its activities, collaborate, and regularly exchange information with the comprehensive centers (established in section 203) in the region in which the center is located, and with comprehensive centers located outside of its region, as appropriate.

“(4) OUTREACH.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In conducting competitions for grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements under this section, the Evaluation and Regional Assistance Commissioner shall—

“(i) by making information and technical assistance relating to the competition widely available, actively encourage eligible applicants to compete for such an award; and

“(ii) seek input from the chief executive officers of States, chief State school officers, educators, parents, superintendents, and other individuals with knowledge of the needs of the regions to be served by the awards, regarding—
“(I) the needs in the regions for applied research, evaluation, development, and wide-dissemination activities authorized by this title; and

“(II) how such needs may be addressed most effectively.

“(B) **Regional Advisory Committees.**—The individuals described in subparagraph (A)(ii) may include members of the regional advisory committees established under section 206(a).

“(5) **Performance Management.**—Before the Evaluation and Regional Assistance Commissioner awards a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement under this section, the Director shall establish measurable performance indicators for assessing the ongoing progress and performance of the regional educational laboratories established with such awards that address—

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

“(B) the relevant results of the regional assessments under section 206(e).
“(6) **STANDARDS.**—The Evaluation and Regional Assistance Commissioner shall adhere to the Institute’s system for technical and peer review under section 114(h) in reviewing the applied research activities and research-based reports of the regional educational laboratories.

“(7) **REQUIRED CONSIDERATION.**—In determining whether to award a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement under this section to an eligible applicant that previously established a regional educational laboratory under this section, the Evaluation and Regional Assistance Commissioner shall consider the results of such laboratory’s summative evaluation under subsection (i)(2).

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

“(1) conduct applied research, development, and evaluation activities with State educational agencies, local educational agencies, and, as appropriate, schools funded by the Bureau;

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

“(3) develop the capacity of State educational agencies, local educational agencies, and, as appro-
appropriate, schools funded by the Bureau to carry out the activities described in paragraphs (1) and (2).

“(g) ACTIVITIES.—To carry out the mission described in subsection (f), each regional educational laboratory established under this section shall carry out the following activities:

“(1) Conduct, widely disseminate, and promote utilization of applied research, development activities, evaluations, and other scientifically valid research.

“(2) Develop and improve the plan for the laboratory under subsection (d)(2) for serving the region of the laboratory, and as appropriate, national needs, on an ongoing basis, which shall include seeking input and incorporating feedback from the representatives of State educational agencies and local educational agencies in the region, and other individuals with knowledge of the region’s needs. Such representatives and other individuals may include members of the regional advisory committee for the region established under section 206(a).

“(3) Ensure research and related products are relevant and responsive to the needs of the region, including by using the relevant results of the region’s assessment under section 206(e).
“(h) Governing Board.—

“(1) In general.—Each regional educational laboratory established under this section may establish a governing board to improve the management of activities that the laboratory carries out under this section.

“(2) Board duties.—A Board established under paragraph (1) shall coordinate and align its work with the work of the regional advisory committee for the region established under section 206.

“(i) Evaluations.—

“(1) In general.—The Evaluation and Regional Assistance Commissioner shall—

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

“(B) transmit the results of such evaluations, through appropriate means, to the appropriate congressional committees, the Director, and the public.

“(2) Summative evaluations.—The Evaluation and Regional Assistance Commissioner shall en-
sure each regional educational laboratory established under this section is evaluated by an independent entity at the end of the period of the grant, contract, or cooperative agreement that established such laboratory, which shall—

“(A) be completed in a timely fashion;

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

“(C) consider the extent to which the laboratory ensures that the activities of such laboratory are relevant and useful to the work of State and local practitioners and policymakers.

“(3) INTERIM EVALUATIONS.—The Evaluation and Regional Assistance Commissioner shall ensure each regional educational laboratory established under this section is evaluated at the midpoint of the period of the grant, contract, or cooperative agreement that established such laboratory, which shall—

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

“(B) be used to improve the effectiveness of such laboratory in carrying out its plan under subsection (d)(2).
“(j) Continuation of Awards; Recompetition.—

“(1) Continuation of Awards.—The Evaluation and Regional Assistance Commissioner shall continue awards made to each eligible applicant for the support of regional educational laboratories established under this section prior to the date of enactment of the Strengthening Education through Research Act, as such awards were in effect on the day before the date of enactment of the Strengthening Education through Research Act, for the duration of those awards, in accordance with the terms and agreements of such awards.

“(2) Recompetition.—Not later than the end of the period of the awards described in paragraph (1), the Evaluation and Regional Assistance Commissioner shall—

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

“(B) in determining whether to select an eligible applicant that held an award described in paragraph (1) for an award under subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, consider the re-
sults of the summative evaluation under sub-
section (i)(2) of the laboratory established with
the eligible applicant’s award described in para-
graph (1).”;
(5) by striking subsection (l);
(6) by redesignating subsections (m), (n), and
(o) as subsections (l), (m), and (n), respectively;
(7) in subsection (l), as so redesignated, by in-
serting “and local” after “achieve State”;
(8) by amending subsection (m), as so redesig-
nated, to read as follows:
“(m) ANNUAL REPORT.—Each regional educational
laboratory established under this section shall submit to
the Evaluation and Regional Assistance Commissioner an
annual report containing such information as the Commis-
sioner may require, but which shall include, at a minimum,
the following:
“(1) A summary of the laboratory’s activities
and products developed during the previous year.
“(2) A listing of the State educational agencies,
local educational agencies, and schools the labora-
tory assisted during the previous year.
“(3) Using the measurable performance indica-
tors established under subsection (e)(5), a descrip-
tion of how well the laboratory is meeting educational needs of the region served by the laboratory.

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

(9) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(o) Appropriations Reservation.—Of the amounts appropriated under section 194(a), the Evaluation and Regional Assistance Commissioner shall reserve 16.13 percent of such funds to carry out this section, of which the Commissioner shall use not less than 25 percent to serve rural areas (including schools funded by the Bureau which are located in rural areas).”.

(b) Conforming Amendment.—The table of contents in section 1 of the Act of November 5, 2002 (Public Law 107–279; 116 Stat. 1940) is amended by striking the item relating to section 174 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 174. Regional educational laboratories for research, development, dissemination, and evaluation.”.

PART E—NATIONAL CENTER FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION RESEARCH

SEC. 175. ESTABLISHMENT.

Section 175(b) (20 U.S.C. 9567(b)) is amended—
(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “and children” and inserting “children, and youth”;
(2) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” at the end;
(3) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and
(4) by adding at the end the following:
“(4) to promote quality and integrity through the use of accepted practices of scientific inquiry to obtain knowledge and understanding of the validity of education theories, practices, or conditions with respect to special education research and evaluation described in paragraphs (1) through (3); and
“(5) to promote scientifically valid research findings in special education that may provide the basis for improving academic instruction and lifelong learning.”.

SEC. 176. COMMISSIONER FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION RESEARCH.
Section 176 (20 U.S.C. 9567a) is amended by inserting “and youth” after “children”.

SEC. 177. DUTIES.
Section 177 (20 U.S.C. 9567b) is amended—
(1) in subsection (a)—
(A) in paragraph (1)(A), by inserting “and youth” after “children”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “scientifically based educational practices” and inserting “educational practices, including the use of technology based on scientifically valid research,”;

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

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

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

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

“(11) examine the participation and outcomes of students with disabilities in secondary and post-secondary career and technical education programs;”;}
(G) in paragraph (14), as so redesignated, by inserting “and professional development” after “preparation”;

(H) in paragraph (16), as so redesignated, by striking “help parents” and inserting “examine the methods by which parents may”;

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

“(17) assist the Board in the preparation and dissemination of each evaluation report under section 116(d);”;

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

(K) by amending paragraph (19), as so redesignated, to read as follows:

“(19) examine the needs of children with disabilities who are English learners, gifted and talented, or who have other unique learning needs; and”; and

(L) by adding at the end the following:

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

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—
(i) by inserting “for the activities of
the Special Education Research Center”
after “research plan”; and

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

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

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

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

(D) by striking paragraph (5);

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

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

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

(G) in paragraph (5), as so redesignated,
by striking “and types of children with” and in-
serting ‘‘, student subgroups, and types of’’;
and

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

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

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ‘‘Direc-
tor’’ and inserting ‘‘Special Education Research Commissione’’;

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

‘‘(3) APPLICATIONS.—

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

‘‘(B) CONTENTS.—An application sub-
mitted under subparagraph (A) shall describe
how the eligible applicant will address and demonstrate progress on the requirements of the performance management system described in section 185, with respect to the activities that will be carried out under such grant, contract, or cooperative agreement.”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) DURATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements under this section may be awarded, on a competitive basis, for a period of not more than 5 years, and may be renewed at the discretion of the Special Education Research Commissioner for an additional period of not more than 2 years if the recipient demonstrates progress on the requirements of the performance management system described in section 185, with respect to the activities carried out under the grant, contract, or cooperative agreement received under this section.”;

(4) by amending subsection (e) to read as follows:

“(e) DISSEMINATION.—The Special Education Research Center shall synthesize and, consistent with section 114(j), widely disseminate and promote utilization of the findings and results of special education research con-
ducted or supported by the Special Education Research Center.”; and

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

“(1) for fiscal year 2015, $54,000,000;
“(2) for fiscal year 2016, $54,108,000;
“(3) for fiscal year 2017, $55,298,376;
“(4) for fiscal year 2018, $56,625,537;
“(5) for fiscal year 2019, $58,154,426; and
“(6) for fiscal year 2020, $65,645,169.”.

PART F—GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 182. PROHIBITIONS.

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

(1) in subsection (b)—

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

(B) by inserting “specific academic standards or assessments,” after “the curriculum,”

(3) in subsection (c)—

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

and

(B) by striking “an elementary school or secondary school” and inserting “early edu-
cation, or in an elementary school, secondary school, or institution of higher education”.

SEC. 183. CONFIDENTIALITY.

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

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking “their families, and information with respect to individual schools,” and inserting “and their families”; and

(B) by inserting before the period at the end the following: “, and that any disclosed information with respect to individual schools not reveal such individually identifiable information”;

(2) in subsection (d)(2), by inserting “, including voluntary and uncompensated services under section 190” after “providing services”; and

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

SEC. 184. AVAILABILITY OF DATA.

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

•HR 4366 EH
SEC. 185. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT.

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

“SEC. 185. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT.

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

“(1) developing and using measurable performance indicators, including timelines, to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of the activities;

“(2) using the performance indicators described in paragraph (1) to inform funding decisions, including the awarding and continuation of all grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements under this title;

“(3) establishing and improving formal feedback mechanisms to—

“(A) anticipate and meet stakeholder needs; and

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

“(4) promoting the wide dissemination and utilization, consistent with section 114(j), of all information, products, and publications of the Institute.”.
SEC. 186. AUTHORITY TO PUBLISH.

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

SEC. 187. REPEALS.

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

(b) Conforming Amendments.—The table of contents in section 1 of the Act of November 5, 2002 (Public Law 107–279; 116 Stat. 1940) is amended by striking the items relating to sections 187 and 193.

SEC. 188. FELLOWSHIPS.

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

(1) by inserting “and the mission of each National Education Center authorized under this title” after “related to education”; and

(2) by striking “historically Black colleges and universities” and inserting “minority-serving institutions”.

SEC. 189. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

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

(1) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:
“(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be ap-
propriated to administer and carry out this title (except
part E)—

“(1) for fiscal year 2015, $337,343,000;
“(2) for fiscal year 2016, $338,017,686;
“(3) for fiscal year 2017, $345,454,075;
“(4) for fiscal year 2018, $353,744,974;
“(5) for fiscal year 2019, $363,296,087; and
“(6) for fiscal year 2020, $368,745,528.”.

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

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

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

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

•HR 4366 EH
TITLE II—EDUCATIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

SEC. 201. REFERENCES.  
Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this title an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the Educational Technical Assistance Act of 2002 (20 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.).

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

(1) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (1), the following:

“(2) SCHOOL LEADER.—The term ‘school leader’ has the meaning given the term in section 102.”.

SEC. 203. COMPREHENSIVE CENTERS.  
Section 203 (20 U.S.C. 9602)—

(1) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

“(a) AUTHORIZATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (3), the Secretary is authorized to award not more than 17 grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements to
eligible applicants to establish comprehensive centers.

“(2) MISSION.—The mission of the comprehensive centers is to provide State educational agencies and local educational agencies technical assistance, analysis, and training to build their capacity in implementing the requirements of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) and other Federal education laws, and research-based practices.

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

“(A) shall establish at least one comprehensive center for each of the 10 geographic regions served by the regional educational laboratories established under section 941(h) of the Educational Research, Development, Dissemination, and Improvement Act of 1994 (as such provision existed on the day before the date of enactment of this Act); and

“(B) may establish additional comprehensive centers—

“(i) for one or more of the regions described in subparagraph (A); or
“(ii) to serve the Nation as a whole by providing technical assistance on a particular content area of importance to the Nation, as determined by the Secretary with the advice of the regional advisory committees established under section 206(a).

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

“(5) AWARD PERIOD.—A grant, contract, or cooperative agreement under this section may be awarded, on a competitive basis, for a period of not more than 5 years.

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

(2) in subsection (b)—
(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by inserting “, contracts, or cooperative agreements” after “Grants”; 

(ii) by striking “research organizations, institutions, agencies, institutions of higher education,” and inserting “public or private, nonprofit or for-profit research organizations, other organizations, or institutions of higher education,”; 

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

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

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

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

“(2) OUTREACH.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In conducting competitions for grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements under this section, the Secretary shall—

“(i) by making widely available information and technical assistance relating to
the competition, actively encourage eligible applicants to compete for such awards; and

“(ii) seek input from chief executive officers of States, chief State school officers, educators, parents, superintendents, and other individuals with knowledge of the needs of the regions to be served by the awards, regarding—

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

“(II) how such needs may be addressed most effectively.

“(B) REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES.—The individuals described in subparagraph (A)(ii) may include members of the regional advisory committees established under section 206(a).

“(3) PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT.—Before awarding a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement under this section, the Secretary shall establish measurable performance indicators to be used to assess the ongoing progress and performance of the comprehensive centers to be established under this title that address—
“(A) paragraphs (1) through (3) of the performance management system described in section 185; and

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

“(4) REQUIRED CONSIDERATION.—In determining whether to award a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement under this section to an eligible applicant that previously established a comprehensive center under this section, the Secretary shall consider the results of such center’s summative evaluation under section 204(b).

“(5) CONTINUATION OF AWARDS.—

“(A) CONTINUATION OF AWARDS.—The Secretary shall continue awards made to each eligible applicant for the support of comprehensive centers established under this section prior to the date of enactment of the Strengthening Education through Research Act, as such awards were in effect on the day before the date of enactment of the Strengthening Education through Research Act, for the duration of those awards, in accordance with the terms and agreements of such awards.
“(B) RECOMPETITION.—Not later than the end of the period of the awards described in subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall—

“(i) hold a competition to make grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements under this section to eligible applicants, which may include eligible applicants that held awards described in subparagraph (A); and

“(ii) in determining whether to select an eligible applicant that held an award described in subparagraph (A) for an award under clause (i) of this subparagraph, consider the results of the summative evaluation under section 204(b) of the center established with the eligible applicant’s award described in subparagraph (A).

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

(3) by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

“(c) APPLICATIONS.—

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

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

“(2) PLAN.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Each application sub-
mitted under paragraph (1) shall contain a plan
for the comprehensive center to be established
under this section, which shall be updated,
modified, and improved, as appropriate, on an
ongoing basis, including by using the results of
the center’s interim evaluation under section 204(c).

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

“(i) the priorities for technical assistance established under section 207;

“(ii) the needs of State educational agencies and local educational agencies, on an ongoing basis, using available State and local data, including the relevant results of the regional assessments under section 206(c); and

“(iii) if available, demonstrated support from State educational agencies and local educational agencies, such as letters of support or signed memoranda of understanding.

“(3) NON-FEDERAL SUPPORT.—In conducting a competition for grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements under subsection (a), the Secretary shall give priority to eligible applicants that will provide a portion of non-Federal funds to maximize support for activities of the comprehensive centers to be established under this section.”;
(4) in subsection (d), by inserting “the number
of low-performing schools in the region,” after “eco-
nomically disadvantaged students,”;

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

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

(A) in paragraph (1)—

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

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

(iii) in subparagraph (A)(ii)—

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

(II) in subclause (I), by striking
“mathematics, science,” and inserting
“mathematics and science, which may
include computer science or engineering,”; and

(III) in subclause (III), by inserting “, including innovative tools and methods” before the semicolon;

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

“(iii) the replication and adaptation of exemplary practices and innovative methods that have an evidence base of effectiveness; and”;

(v) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) by inserting “, consistent with section 114(j),” after “disseminating”; and

(II) by striking “(as described” and all that follows through “is located”; and

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

“(C) ensuring activities carried out under this section are relevant and responsive to the needs of the region being served, including by using the relevant results of the regional assessments under section 206(e).”; and
(B) in paragraph (2)—

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

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

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

“(f) COMPREHENSIVE CENTER ADVISORY BOARD.—

A comprehensive center established under this section may establish an advisory board to support and monitor the priorities and activities of such center. An advisory board established under this subsection shall coordinate and align its work with the work of the regional advisory committee of the region served by such center established under section 206.

“(g) REPORT TO THE SECRETARY.—Each comprehensive center established under this section shall submit to the Secretary an annual report, at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require, which shall include the following:

“(1) A summary of the center’s activities and products developed during the previous year.
“(2) A listing of the State educational agencies, local educational agencies, and schools the center assisted during the previous year.

“(3) Using the measurable performance indicators established under subsection (b)(3), a description of how well the center is meeting educational needs of the region served by the center.

“(4) Any changes to the center’s plan under subsection (c)(2) to improve its activities in the remaining years of the grant, contract, or cooperative agreement.”.

SEC. 204. EVALUATIONS.

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

“SEC. 204. EVALUATIONS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

“(1) provide for ongoing summative and interim evaluations described in subsections (b) and (c), respectively, of each of the comprehensive centers established under this title in carrying out the full range of duties of the center under this title; and

“(2) transmit the results of such evaluations, through appropriate means, to the appropriate congressional committees, the Director of the Institute of Education Sciences, and the public.
“(b) SUMMATIVE EVALUATION.—The Secretary shall ensure each comprehensive center established under this title is evaluated by an independent entity at the end of the period of the grant, contract, or cooperative agreement that established such center, which shall—

“(1) be completed in a timely fashion;

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

“(3) consider the extent to which the center ensures that the technical assistance of such center is relevant and useful to the work of State and local practitioners and policymakers.

“(c) INTERIM EVALUATION.—The Secretary shall ensure that each comprehensive center established under this title is evaluated at the midpoint of the period of the grant, contract, or cooperative agreement that established such center, which shall—

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

“(2) be used to improve the effectiveness of such center in carrying out its plan under section 203(c)(2).”.
SEC. 205. EXISTING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDERS.

(a) REPEAL.—Section 205 (20 U.S.C. 9604) is repealed.

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

SEC. 206. REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES.

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

(1) in subsection (a)—

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

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

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

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

“(b) MISSION.—The mission of each regional advisory committee established under subsection (a) shall be to—

“(1) support, strengthen, and, as appropriate, align the work of the regional educational laboratories established under section 174 and the comprehensive centers established under this title; and
“(2) ensure that the regional educational laboratories and comprehensive centers are meeting the needs of their regions.

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

“(1) conduct, on at least a biennial basis, a needs assessments of the region served by the committee, as described in subsection (e);

“(2) to ensure the activities of the regional educational laboratory and comprehensive centers serving the region of the committee are responsive to the needs of such region, provide ongoing input to the laboratory and centers on planning and carrying out their activities under section 174 and this title, respectively;

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

“(4) support the continuous improvement of the laboratory and centers in the region served by the committee, especially in meeting the measurable performance indicators established under sections 174(e)(4) and 203(b)(3), respectively.”;

(4) by amending subsection (d), as so redesignated, to read as follows:
“(d) Membership.—

“(1) Composition.—The membership of each regional advisory committee shall—

“(A) not exceed 25 members;

“(B) include the chief State school officer, or such officer’s designee, or other State official, of States within the region of the committee who have primary responsibility under State law for elementary and secondary education in the State;

“(C) include representatives of local educational agencies, including rural and urban local educational agencies, that represent the geographic diversity of the region; and

“(D) include researchers.

“(2) Eligibility.—The membership of each regional advisory committee may include the following:

“(A) Representatives of institutions of higher education.

“(B) Parents.

“(C) Practicing educators, including classroom teachers, school leaders, administrators, school board members, and other local school officials.
“(D) Representatives of business.
“(E) Policymakers.
“(F) Representatives from the regional educational laboratory and comprehensive centers in the region.
“(3) RECOMMENDATIONS.—In choosing individuals for membership on a regional advisory committee, the Secretary shall consult with, and solicit recommendations from, the chief executive officers of States, chief State school officers, local educational agencies, and other education stakeholders within the applicable region.
“(4) SPECIAL RULE.—The total number of members on each committee who are selected under subparagraphs (B) and (C) of paragraph (1), in the aggregate, shall exceed the total number of members who are selected under paragraph (2), collectively.”;
(5) in subsection (e), as so redesignated—
(A) in paragraph (1)—
(i) by inserting “, at least on a biennial basis,” after “assess”; and
(ii) by inserting “, strengths, and weaknesses” after “educational needs”;
(B) in paragraph (2)—
(i) by striking “State school officers,”
and all that follows through “within the re-
region)” and inserting “State school officers,
local educational agencies, representatives
of public charter schools, educators, par-
ents, and others within the region”; 
(ii) by striking “of the Education
Sciences Reform Act of 2002 and section
203 of this title” and inserting “and sec-
tion 203”; and
(iii) by striking “and” at the end;
(C) by redesignating paragraph (3) as
paragraph (4); 
(D) by inserting after paragraph (2) the
following new paragraph:
“(3) use available State and local data, con-
sistent with privacy protections under section 183,
to determine regional educational needs; and”.

SEC. 207. PRIORITIES.

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

(1) by inserting “Director and” before “Sec-
retary shall establish”; 
(2) by striking “of the Education Sciences Re-
form Act of 2002”; 
(3) by striking “of this title”;

•HR 4366 EH
(4) by striking “to address, taking onto account” and inserting “, respectively, using the results of”;

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

SEC. 208. GRANT PROGRAM FOR STATEWIDE LONGITUDINAL DATA SYSTEMS.

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

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by inserting before the period at the end the following: “, the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.), and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.)”;

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“State educational agencies receiving a grant under this section may provide subgrants to local educational agencies to improve the capacity of local educational agencies to carry out the activities authorized under this section.”;

(2) by redesignating subsections (c), (d), and (e) as subsections (d), (e), and (g), respectively;
(3) by inserting after subsection (b), the following:

“(c) PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT.—Before awarding a grant under this section, the Secretary shall establish measurable performance indicators—

“(1) to be used to assess the ongoing progress and performance of State educational agencies receiving a grant under this section; and

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

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

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “, promotes linkages across States,”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting “supports school improvement and” after “data that”; 

(ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking “and close achievement gaps” and inserting “, other reporting requirements, close achievement gaps, and improve teaching;”;

(iii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “and close achievement gaps” and by in-
serting “, close achievement gaps, and improve teaching”; and

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

“(C) to align statewide longitudinal data systems from early education through postsecondary education (including pre-service preparation programs), and the workforce, consistent with privacy protections under section 183;”;

and

(C) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

“(3) ensures the protection of student privacy, and includes a review of how State educational agencies, local educational agencies, and others that will have access to the statewide data systems under this section will adhere to Federal privacy laws and protections, consistent with section 183, in the building, maintenance, and use of such data systems;

“(4) ensures State educational agencies receiving a grant under this section support professional development that builds the capacity of teachers and school leaders to use data effectively; and

“(5) gives priority to State educational agencies that leverage the use of longitudinal data systems to
improve student achievement and growth, including such State educational agencies that—

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

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

“(C) demonstrate the capacity to share teacher and school leader performance data, including student achievement and growth data, with local educational agencies and teacher and school leader preparation programs.”;

(5) by inserting after subsection (e), as so redesignated, the following:

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

(6) by amending subsection (g), as so redesignated, to read as follows:

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

“(A) information on progress in the development and use of statewide longitudinal data systems described in this section;

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

“(C) how the State educational agencies are adhering to Federal privacy laws and protections in the building, maintenance, and use of such data systems.

“(2) Succeeding reports.—Every succeeding 3 years after the report is made publicly available under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall prepare and make publicly available a report on the implementation and effectiveness of the activities carried out by State educational agencies receiving a grant under this section, including—
“(A) information on the requirements of subparagraphs (A) through (C) of paragraph (1); and

“(B) the progress, in the aggregate, State educational agencies are making on the measurable performance indicators established under subsection (c).”.

SEC. 209. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

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

“SEC. 209. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

TITLE III—NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS

SEC. 301. REFERENCES.

Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this title an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms
of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provi-
sion, the reference shall be considered to be made to a
section or other provision of the National Assessment of
Educational Progress Authorization Act (20 U.S.C. 9621
et seq.).

SEC. 302. NATIONAL ASSESSMENT GOVERNING BOARD.

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

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

(2) in subsection (b)(1)(L)—

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

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

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

(4) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

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

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) by striking “Each organiza-
tion submitting nominations to the
Secretary with” and inserting “With”; and

(II) by inserting “, the Assessment Board” after “particular vacancy”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking “that each organization described in paragraph (1)(A) submit additional nominations” and inserting “additional nominations from the Assessment Board or each organization described in paragraph (1)(A)”; and

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

(5) in subsection (e)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by inserting “in consultation with the Commissioner for Education Statistics,” before “select”;

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

(iii) by inserting “, and determine the year in which such assessments will be conducted” after “assessed”;
(B) in subparagraph (D), by inserting “school leaders,” after “teachers,”;

(C) in subparagraph (E), by striking “design” and inserting “provide input on”;

(D) by striking “and” at the end of subparagraph (I);

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

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

“(J) provide input to the Director on annual budget requests for the National Assessment of Educational Progress; and”;

(G) in subparagraph (K), as so redesignated—

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

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

(H) in the matter following subparagraph (K), as so amended and redesignated, by striking “subparagraph (J)” and inserting “subparagraph (K)”.
SEC. 303. NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS.

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

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “with the advice of the Assessment Board established under section 302” and inserting “in a manner consistent with accepted professional standards and the policies set forth by the Assessment Board under section 302(a)”;

(2) in subsection (b)(2)—

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

(B) by striking “and” at the end of subparagraph (G);

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

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

“(I) determine, after taking into account section 302(e)(1)(I), the content of initial and subsequent reports of all assessments authorized under this section and ensure that such reports are valid and reliable.”;

(3) in subsection (c)(2)—
(A) in subparagraph (B), by striking “of Education” after “Secretary”; and

(B) in subparagraph (D)—

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

(ii) by inserting “of the House of Representatives” after “Workforce”;

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

and

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

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

(5) in subsection (e)—

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

and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking “shall” and all that follows through “be” and insert “shall be”;
(II) by redesignating subclauses (I) and (II) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively (and by moving the margins 2 ems to the left); and

(III) in clause (ii) (as so redesignated), by striking “, or the age of the students, as the case may be”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) by striking “After the determinations described in subparagraph (A), devising” and inserting “The Assessment Board shall, in making the determination described in subparagraph (A), use”; and

(II) by inserting after “approach” the following: “, providing for the active participation of teachers, school leaders, curriculum specialists, local school administrators, parents, and concerned members of the general public”; and

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

(6) in subsection (g)(2)—
(A) in the heading, by striking “AFFAIRS” and inserting “EDUCATION”; and

(B) by striking “Affairs” and inserting “Education”.

SEC. 304. DEFINITIONS.

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

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “(1)” and inserting “(1) DIRECTOR.—”;

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking “(2)” and inserting “(2) STATE.—”; and

(3) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) (as so amended) as paragraphs (2) and (5), respectively;

(4) by inserting before paragraph (2) (as so redesignated) the following new paragraph:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The terms ‘elementary school’, ‘local educational agency’, and ‘secondary school’ have the meanings given those terms in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).”; and

(5) by inserting after paragraph (2) (as so redesignated), the following new paragraphs:

“(3) SCHOOL LEADER.—The term ‘school leader’ has the meaning given the term in section 102.

“(4) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means the Secretary of Education.”.
SEC. 305. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

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

“(a) In General.—There are authorized to be appropriated—

“(1) for fiscal year 2015—

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

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

“(2) for fiscal year 2016—

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

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

“(3) for fiscal year 2017—

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

“(B) $135,173,808 to carry out section 303 (relating to the National Assessment of Educational Progress);
“(4) for fiscal year 2018—

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

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

“(5) for fiscal year 2019—

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

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

“(6) for fiscal year 2020—

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

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

**TITLE IV—EVALUATION PLAN**

**SEC. 401. RESEARCH AND EVALUATION.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Institute of Education Sciences shall be the primary entity for conducting re-
search on and evaluations of Federal education programs 
within the Department of Education to ensure the rigor 
and independence of such research and evaluation.

(b) Flexible Authority.—

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

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

(i) reserve not more than 0.5 percent 
of the total amount of funds appropriated 
for each program authorized under the El-

tementary and Secondary Education Act of 
1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.), other than 
part A of title I of such Act (20 U.S.C. 
6311 et seq.) and section 1501 of such Act 
(20 U.S.C. 6491); and

(ii) reserve, in the manner described 
in subparagraph (B), an amount equal to 
not more than 0.1 percent of the total 
amount of funds appropriated for—
(I) part A of title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311 et seq.); and

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

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

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

(ii) may, in a case in which the total amount of funds appropriated for such section 1501 (20 U.S.C. 6491) is less than the amount described in subparagraph (A)(ii), reserve the amount of funds appropriated for part A of title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311 et seq.) that is needed for the sum of the total amount of funds appropriated for such section 1501 (20 U.S.C. 6491) and such amount of funds appropriated for such part A of title I (20
U.S.C. 6311 et seq.) to equal the amount described in subparagraph (A)(ii).

(2) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—If funds are reserved under paragraph (1)—

(A) neither the Secretary of Education nor the Director of the Institute of Education Sciences shall—

(i) carry out evaluations under section 1501 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6491); or

(ii) reserve funds for evaluation activities under section 3111(c)(1)(C) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 6821); and

(B) the Secretary of Education, in consultation with the Director of the Institute of Education Sciences—

(i) shall use the funds reserved under paragraph (1) to carry out high-quality evaluations (consistent with the requirements of section 173(a) of the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (20 U.S.C. 9563(a)), as amended by this Act, and the evaluation plan described in subsection (c) of this section) of programs authorized
under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.); and

(ii) may use the funds reserved under paragraph (1) to—

(I) increase the usefulness of the evaluations conducted under clause (i) to promote continuous improvement of programs under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.); or

(II) assist grantees of such programs in collecting and analyzing data and other activities related to conducting high-quality evaluations under clause (i).

(3) DISSEMINATION.—The Secretary of Education or the Director of the Institute of Education Sciences shall disseminate evaluation findings, consistent with section 114(j) of the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (20 U.S.C. 9514(j)), as amended by this Act, of evaluations carried out under paragraph (2)(B)(i).
(4) CONSOLIDATION.—The Secretary of Edu-
cation, in consultation with the Director of the Insti-
tute of Education Sciences—

(A) may consolidate the funds reserved
under paragraph (1) for purposes of carrying
out the activities under paragraph (2)(B); and

(B) shall not be required to evaluate under
paragraph (2)(B)(i) each program authorized
under the Elementary and Secondary Education

(c) EVALUATION PLAN.—The Director of the Insti-
tute of Education Sciences, in consultation with the Sec-
retary of Education, shall, on a biennial basis, develop,
submit to Congress, and make publicly available an eval-
uation plan, that—

(1) describes the specific activities that will be
carried out under subsection (b)(2)(B) for the 2-year
period applicable to the plan, and the timelines of
such activities;

(2) contains the results of the activities carried
out under subsection (b)(2)(B) for the most recent
2-year period; and

(3) describes how programs authorized under
the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of
1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) will be regularly evaluated.

(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect section 173(b) of the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (20 U.S.C. 9563(b)), as amended by this Act.

Passed the House of Representatives May 8, 2014.

Attest:

Clerk.
AN ACT

To increase student achievement.

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION
H. R. 4366
AN ACT

To strengthen the Federal education research sys-

To make research and evaluations more timely and relevant to State and local needs in order to increase student achievement.

To strengthen the Federal education research sys-

To make research and evaluations more timely and relevant to State and local needs in order to increase student achievement.

To strengthen the Federal education research sys-

An Act

To increase student achievement.

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION
H. R. 4366
AN ACT

To strengthen the Federal education research sys-

To make research and evaluations more timely and relevant to State and local needs in order to increase student achievement.

To strengthen the Federal education research sys-

H.R. 4366
AN ACT

To increase student achievement.

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION
H. R. 4366
AN ACT

To strengthen the Federal education research sys-

To make research and evaluations more timely and relevant to State and local needs in order to increase student achievement.

To strengthen the Federal education research sys-

H.R. 4366
AN ACT

To increase student achievement.

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION
H. R. 4366
AN ACT

To strengthen the Federal education research sys-

To make research and evaluations more timely and relevant to State and local needs in order to increase student achievement.

To strengthen the Federal education research sys-

H.R. 4366
AN ACT

To increase student achievement.

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION
H. R. 4366
AN ACT

To strengthen the Federal education research sys-

To make research and evaluations more timely and relevant to State and local needs in order to increase student achievement.

To strengthen the Federal education research sys-

H.R. 4366
AN ACT

To increase student achievement.