

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 566

To award grants to improve equality of access to technology-enabled education innovations and understanding of how partnerships of educational agencies and research institutions design and implement such innovations in ways that improve student outcomes, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 27, 2015

Mr. HONDA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To award grants to improve equality of access to technology-enabled education innovations and understanding of how partnerships of educational agencies and research institutions design and implement such innovations in ways that improve student outcomes, and for other purposes.

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

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE AND TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Technology-Enabled Education Innovation Partnership
6 Act”.

1 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of
 2 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title and table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Findings and purposes.
- Sec. 3. Definitions.

TITLE I—TECHNOLOGY-ENABLED EDUCATION INNOVATION
 PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM.

- Sec. 101. Grants.
- Sec. 102. Report and evaluation.
- Sec. 103. National technology activities.

TITLE II—TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION RESEARCH CENTERS.

- Sec. 201. Establishment of a Technology Innovation Partnership Coordinating Center.
- Sec. 202. Establishment of Advanced Learning Technology Research and Development Centers.

TITLE III—AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

- Sec. 301. Availability of funds.

3 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

4 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

- 5 (1) Technology and the Internet have trans-
 6 formed nearly every aspect of both the global econ-
 7 omy and our daily lives. In a technology-rich world,
 8 no amount of memorizing information will make a
 9 student competitive in the global labor market.
 10 America needs an education system that supports
 11 students from all walks of life in becoming inquisi-
 12 tive, resourceful thinkers who use technology to pur-
 13 sue knowledge, collaborate across geographic and
 14 cultural boundaries, acquire new skills, and solve
 15 complex problems.

1 (2) Equality and equity of access is more than
2 access to the same hardware, software, and
3 broadband connections. It includes access to the best
4 digital learning resources and access to teachers who
5 know how to orchestrate the use of these resources
6 in ways that inspire students and produce better
7 learning outcomes.

8 (3) Technology by itself will not improve stu-
9 dent outcomes. What is needed are carefully de-
10 signed innovations that include not just technology
11 but also good learning content, effective instructional
12 strategies, supports for teachers and school systems
13 figuring out how to use the new approach, and the
14 capacity to collect, analyze and reflect on data that
15 will show whether or not the innovation is having the
16 intended effects.

17 (4) Effective learning technology implementa-
18 tions addressing the challenging aspects of language
19 arts, mathematics and science that all students are
20 expected to master. This will require partnerships
21 among education agencies, education researchers,
22 and technology developers with the common goal of
23 harnessing technology to provide opportunities for
24 deeper learning to students who would not otherwise
25 experience them.

1 (b) PURPOSES.—The purpose of this Act is to—

2 (1) accelerate the development of technology-
3 supported innovations that improve student learning
4 and educational attainment; and

5 (2) promote the use of technology-supported in-
6 novations that improve student outcomes in class-
7 rooms serving high-need students.

8 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

9 In this Act:

10 (1) ESEA TERMS.—The terms “local edu-
11 cational agency”, “professional development”, and
12 “State educational agency” have the meanings given
13 the terms in section 9101 of the Elementary and
14 Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

15 (2) ELIGIBLE PARTNERSHIP.—The term “eligi-
16 ble partnership” means a partnership that—

17 (A) shall include—

18 (i) not less than one—

19 (I) State educational agency; or

20 (II) local educational agency; and

21 (ii) not less than one research and
22 evaluation partner; and

23 (B) may include other necessary partner
24 organizations, as determined by the Secretary
25 (acting through the Office of Innovation and

1 Improvement), including technology developers
2 or vendors, technical assistance providers, and
3 education associations.

4 (3) HIGH-NEED STUDENT.—The term “high-
5 need student” means—

6 (A) a student from a family living below
7 the poverty level for the most recent fiscal year
8 for which satisfactory data are available;

9 (B) English language learners; and

10 (C) students with disabilities.

11 (4) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
12 term “institution of higher education” has the
13 meaning given the term in section 101(a) of the
14 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

15 (5) META-ANALYSIS.—The term “meta-anal-
16 ysis” means a statistical technique for combining the
17 results of multiple independent studies of the same
18 or similar phenomena in order to provide a more
19 precise estimate of the treatment effect.

20 (6) RESEARCH AND EVALUATION COLLABO-
21 RATOR.—The term “research and evaluation collabo-
22 rator” means as an institution of higher education,
23 a nonprofit research organization, or an established
24 evaluator of educational programs that—

1 (A) is not a member of an eligible partner-
2 ship;

3 (B) is independent of a State educational
4 agency; and

5 (C) has demonstrated capacity to—

6 (i) conduct valid and objective social
7 science research on the relationship be-
8 tween technology-enabled education innova-
9 tion programs and outcomes, mediated by
10 qualities of implementation; and

11 (ii) provide timely empirical feedback
12 that contributes to improving technology-
13 enabled education innovation.

14 (7) RESEARCH AND EVALUATION PARTNER.—

15 The term “research and evaluation partner” means
16 an institution of higher education or a nonprofit re-
17 search organization in an eligible partnership that is
18 responsible for—

19 (A) designing and conducting an evalua-
20 tion of the extent to which the partnership’s in-
21 novation leads to better outcomes for students;
22 and

23 (B) researching the way in which the inno-
24 vation is implemented in different settings and
25 with different kinds of students, and the rela-

1 tationship between implementation practices and
2 differences in student outcomes.

3 (8) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
4 the Secretary of Education.

5 (9) TECHNOLOGY-ENABLED EDUCATION INNO-
6 VATION PROGRAM.—The term “technology-enabled
7 education innovation program” means an edu-
8 cational intervention that—

9 (A) employs information technology, best
10 available knowledge about how people learn,
11 and an understanding of how programs are im-
12 plemented in education settings; and

13 (B) may be implemented at scale with rea-
14 sonable costs, with the ratio of expected bene-
15 fits to costs being significantly superior to that
16 for existing approaches.

17 **TITLE I—TECHNOLOGY-EN-**
18 **ABLED EDUCATION INNOVA-**
19 **TION PARTNERSHIP PRO-**
20 **GRAM.**

21 **SEC. 101. GRANTS.**

22 (a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION.—From the amounts
23 appropriated under section 103 after making a reservation
24 under subsection (b) of such section, the Secretary of Edu-
25 cation is authorized to award grants, on a competitive

1 basis, to eligible partnerships to design, implement, refine,
2 and scale technology-enabled education innovation pro-
3 grams.

4 (b) APPLICATION.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible partnership de-
6 siring a grant under this section shall submit an ap-
7 plication to the Secretary at such time, in such man-
8 ner, and accompanied by such information as the
9 Secretary may require.

10 (2) APPLICATION CONTENTS.—An application
11 described in paragraph (1), shall, at a minimum—

12 (A) include a description of how the eligi-
13 ble partnership proposes to use the grant funds
14 to implement a technology-enabled education in-
15 novation program;

16 (B) list the objectives of the technology-en-
17 abled education innovation program;

18 (C) provide a budget for the use of the
19 grant funds;

20 (D) describe the evaluation plan and as-
21 sessment measures for the technology-enabled
22 education innovation program; and

23 (E) provide such additional assurances and
24 information as the Secretary determines to be
25 necessary.

1 (c) AWARDS.—

2 (1) MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM GRANT
3 AMOUNT.—A grant awarded under this section shall
4 be not less than \$300,000 and not greater than
5 \$1,000,000 for each fiscal year.

6 (2) DURATION.—A grant under this section
7 shall be awarded for a period of 3 years.

8 (3) EXTENSION.—

9 (A) DURATION AND AMOUNT.—A grant
10 awarded under this section may be extended for
11 an additional 2 years in an amount determined
12 appropriate by the Secretary.

13 (B) PROGRESS AND PEER REVIEW.—An
14 extension of a grant awarded to an eligible
15 partnership under this section shall be contin-
16 gent upon evidence of progress and capacity for
17 scaling the technology-enabled education inno-
18 vation program carried out by the partnership
19 with the grant funds, as determined by a peer
20 review process conducted by the Secretary.

21 (d) PREFERENCE POINTS FOR MATCHING FUNDS.—

22 The Secretary may award up to 10 percent in competitive
23 preference points to an eligible partnership in which the
24 State educational agency or local educational agency part-
25 ner provides 10 percent or more matching funds to cover

1 the cost of the activities funded by a grant awarded under
2 this section.

3 (e) REQUIRED USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible partner-
4 ship that is awarded a grant under this section shall use
5 such grant to carry out a technology-enabled education in-
6 novation program—

7 (1) under which 75 percent or more of students
8 taking part in such program attend a school in
9 which 50 percent or more of the student body is eli-
10 gible for free or reduced-price lunches (under the
11 Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42
12 U.S.C. 1761)); and

13 (2) that at a minimum—

14 (A) uses technology to address curriculum
15 content and instructional strategies that sup-
16 port science, language arts, or mathematics, in
17 accordance with career and college ready stand-
18 ards and 21st century skills;

19 (B) demonstrates that sufficient techno-
20 logical infrastructure (which may include
21 connectivity, end user devices, servers, periph-
22 erals, or other technology directly related to the
23 technology-enabled innovation) is, or will be,
24 available in the schools participating in the

1 partnership grant to implement the innovation
2 program successfully;

3 (C) measures student learning outcomes
4 aligned to the objectives of such innovation pro-
5 gram; and

6 (D) provides teachers with professional de-
7 velopment to increase their knowledge and skill
8 related to educational content, pedagogical tech-
9 niques, and how to use technology effectively in
10 support of learning, which will enable teachers
11 to have the skills and knowledge to implement
12 the innovation program's instructional strate-
13 gies with the intended level of frequency and
14 with fidelity to the learning principles on which
15 the innovation is based.

16 **SEC. 102. REPORT AND EVALUATION.**

17 (a) ANNUAL REPORT REQUIRED.—An eligible part-
18 nership shall submit an annual report to the Secretary de-
19 tailing—

20 (1) all activities undertaken by the eligible part-
21 nership using grant funds;

22 (2) student learning outcomes; and

23 (3) refinements planned for the technology-en-
24 abled education innovation program based on anal-
25 ysis of student learning outcome data.

1 (b) INDEPENDENT EVALUATION.—Data used in the
2 report shall be gathered and evaluated by a research and
3 evaluation collaborator.

4 (c) ALTERNATIVE MEASURES.—

5 (1) ASSESSMENT.—Measures to evaluate under
6 subsection (b) the academic achievement of students
7 enrolled in a technology-enabled education innova-
8 tion program may include alternative measures such
9 as student enrollment in advanced course options,
10 consistent completion of homework, or other alter-
11 native measures that the Secretary may prescribe,
12 except that if no suitable alternate measure exists to
13 capture outcome data of national significance, an eli-
14 gible partnership may develop a new measure.

15 (2) RELIABILITY.—An eligible partnership shall
16 demonstrate that the alternative measures of aca-
17 demic achievement are reliable and valid for the pur-
18 pose for which such measures are used.

19 (d) DATA SETS.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years of
21 carrying out the innovation program established
22 under this section, an eligible partnership shall pro-
23 vide a data set containing student records to a Tech-
24 nology-Enabled Education Innovation Partnership
25 Coordinating Center established under section 201.

1 (2) DATA ELEMENTS.—A data set described in
2 paragraph (1)—

3 (A) shall contain—

4 (i) a record with an assigned student
5 number for each student participating in
6 the innovation program carried out by the
7 eligible partnership and—

8 (I) information sufficient to de-
9 termine which innovations were expe-
10 rienced by the student and to analyze
11 the quantitative education outcomes
12 that were measured for that student;

13 (II) student demographic data
14 that will permit subgroup analyses, in-
15 cluding by gender, racial or ethnic
16 group, disability status, economic dis-
17 advantage, English language pro-
18 ficiency, and migrant status; and

19 (III) such other information that
20 the Secretary may require based on
21 the specifications determined under
22 section 201(b)(1) and that is common
23 to all technology-enabled education in-
24 novation programs; and

1 (B) may not include any personally identi-
2 fying information.

3 **SEC. 103. NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY ACTIVITIES.**

4 From the amounts appropriated under section 4 to
5 carry out this title, the Secretary shall reserve 5 percent
6 for the support of national technology activities that share
7 information across technology-enabled education innova-
8 tion programs funded under this title, such as support for
9 better dissemination of information across such innovation
10 programs to national audiences, by—

11 (1) conducting a study of new approaches to
12 using technology to enhance education outcomes as
13 needed to support making policy around educational
14 technology;

15 (2) disseminating on the Internet for all State
16 educational agencies and other interested parties
17 findings concerning the conditions and practices as-
18 sociated with the use of technology in schools; and

19 (3) providing technical assistance to assist
20 State educational agencies and local educational
21 agencies in applying research-based knowledge to
22 implementing technology in schools.

1 **TITLE II—TECHNOLOGY INNOVA-**
2 **TION RESEARCH CENTERS.**

3 **SEC. 201. ESTABLISHMENT OF A TECHNOLOGY INNOVA-**
4 **TION PARTNERSHIP COORDINATING CENTER.**

5 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF CENTER.—The Secretary
6 shall establish a Technology-Enabled Education Innova-
7 tion Partnership Coordinating Center for the purpose of
8 creating and promoting use of a Web-accessible archive
9 of the data sets gathered from eligible partnerships under
10 section 102(d).

11 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall direct the
12 center established under subsection (a) to—

13 (1) convene a panel of experts in learning tech-
14 nology, educational improvement, and research
15 methods to specify a set of common data elements
16 required to be submitted by eligible partnerships
17 under section 102(d);

18 (2) provide technical assistance to such eligible
19 partnerships around data submission, data security,
20 and privacy protection;

21 (3) conduct meta-analyses and other syntheses
22 of the data produced by such eligible partnerships;
23 and

24 (4) allow independent researchers access to the
25 data.

1 **SEC. 202. ESTABLISHMENT OF ADVANCED LEARNING TECH-**
2 **NOLOGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT**
3 **CENTERS.**

4 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF CENTERS.—The Secretary,
5 in consultation with the Director of the National Science
6 Foundation, shall establish and oversee one or more ad-
7 vanced learning technology research and development cen-
8 ters to address the priorities and grand challenges for
9 learning technology set forth in the 2010 National Edu-
10 cation Technology Plan, Transforming American Edu-
11 cation: Learning Powered by Technology published by the
12 Office of Educational Technology of the Department of
13 Education.

14 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—A center established under
15 subsection (a), for the purpose of advancing learning tech-
16 nology evaluation and assessment, shall—

17 (1) design and validate an integrated system for
18 designing and implementing valid, reliable, and cost-
19 effective assessments of important college- and work-
20 relevant complex skills, such as critical thinking,
21 problem solving, effective communication, collabora-
22 tion, creativity, and innovation, across academic dis-
23 ciplines;

24 (2) design and validate an integrated approach
25 for capturing, aggregating, mining, student learning,
26 and financial data, and sharing content cost-effec-

1 tively for multiple purposes across multiple learning
2 platforms and data systems; and

3 (3) report data to the Secretary on the designs
4 and validations carried out under paragraphs (1)
5 and (2) in an expedited manner and make such data
6 publicly available within 1 year of carrying out such
7 designs and validations.

8 **TITLE III—AVAILABILITY OF**
9 **FUNDS**

10 **SEC. 301. AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.**

11 For fiscal year 2016 and for each succeeding fiscal
12 year not less than 10 percent of the amount appropriated
13 for such fiscal year for the Office of Innovation and Im-
14 provement of the Department of Education shall be avail-
15 able to carry out this Act.

○