

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 227

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 18, 2015

Referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

AN ACT

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

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

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

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

4 SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

5 The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title.
- Sec. 2. Table of contents.
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TITLE IV—EVALUATION PLAN

Sec. 401. Research and evaluation.

1 **SEC. 3. NONDUPLICATION.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Act of November 5, 2002
 3 (Public Law 107–279; 116 Stat. 1940), is amended by
 4 inserting after section 1 the following:

5 **“SEC. 2. NONDUPLICATION.**

6 “In collecting information and data under this Act,
 7 including requiring the reporting of information and data,

1 the Secretary of Education shall, to the extent appro-
 2 priate, not duplicate other requirements and shall use in-
 3 formation and data that are available from existing Fed-
 4 eral, State, and local sources, in order to reduce burden
 5 and cost to the Department of Education, States, local
 6 educational agencies (as defined in section 9101 of the El-
 7 ementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
 8 U.S.C. 7801)), and other entities.”.

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

“Sec. 2. Nonduplication.”.

13 **TITLE I—EDUCATION SCIENCES** 14 **REFORM**

15 **SEC. 101. REFERENCES.**

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

22 **SEC. 102. DEFINITIONS.**

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

24 (1) by striking paragraphs (13) and (18);

1 (2) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through
 2 (11), (12), (14), (15), (16), (17), and (19) through
 3 (23), as paragraphs (3) through (12), (14), (15),
 4 (16), (18), (20), and (22) through (26), respectively;

5 (3) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-
 6 lowing:

7 “(2) ADULT EDUCATION; ADULT EDUCATION
 8 AND LITERACY ACTIVITIES.—The terms ‘adult edu-
 9 cation’ and ‘adult education and literacy activities’
 10 have the meanings given the terms in section 203 of
 11 the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act.”;

12 (4) in paragraph (6), as redesignated by para-
 13 graph (2), by striking “Affairs” and inserting “Edu-
 14 cation”;

15 (5) in paragraph (11), as redesignated by para-
 16 graph (2)—

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

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

21 (6) by inserting after paragraph (12), as red-
 22 esignated by paragraph (2), the following:

23 “(13) ENGLISH LEARNER.—The term ‘English
 24 learner’ means an individual who is limited English
 25 proficient, as defined in section 9101 of the Elemen-

tary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801) or section 637 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9832).”;

(7) in paragraph (14), as redesignated by paragraph (2), by inserting “, school leaders,” after “teachers”;

(8) by inserting after paragraph (16), as redesignated by paragraph (2), the following:

“(17) 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)).”;

(9) in paragraph (18), as redesignated by paragraph (2), by striking “section 133(c)” and inserting “section 133(d)”;

(10) by inserting after paragraph (18), as redesignated by paragraph (2), the following:

“(19) 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;

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

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

6 “(i) use of systematic, empirical meth-
 7 ods that draw on observation or experi-
 8 ment;

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

11 “(iii) reliance on measurements or ob-
 12 servational methods that provide reliable
 13 and generalizable findings;

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

19 “(v) presentation of studies and meth-
 20 ods in sufficient detail and clarity to allow
 21 for replication or, at a minimum, to offer
 22 the opportunity to build systematically on
 23 the findings of the research;

24 “(vi) acceptance by a peer-reviewed
 25 journal or critique by a panel of inde-

1 pendent experts through a comparably rig-
 2 orous, objective, and scientific review; and
 3 “(vii) consistency of findings across
 4 multiple studies or sites to support the
 5 generality of results and conclusions.”;

6 (11) by inserting after paragraph (20), as re-
 7 designated by paragraph (2), the following:

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

11 “(A) an employee or officer of—

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

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

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

19 “(B) responsible for the daily instructional
 20 leadership and managerial operations of the ele-
 21 mentary school or secondary school.”; and

22 (12) in paragraph (23), as redesignated by
 23 paragraph (2), by striking “scientifically based re-
 24 search standards” and inserting “the principles of
 25 scientific research”.

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

SEC. 111. ESTABLISHMENT.

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

(1) in paragraph (1), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting “including adult education,” after “postsecondary study,”; and

(2) in paragraph (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)”; and

(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 “and utilization” before the semicolon; and

1 (2) in paragraph (2)—

2 (A) by inserting “, consistent with section
3 114(j),” after “disseminate”; and

4 (B) by inserting “and scientifically valid
5 education evaluations carried out under this
6 title” before the semicolon.

7 **SEC. 113. DELEGATION.**

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

9 (1) in subsection (a)—

10 (A) by striking paragraph (1); and

11 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (2)
12 through (5) as paragraphs (1) through (4), re-
13 spectively;

14 (2) in subsection (b), by striking “Secretary
15 may assign the Institute responsibility for admin-
16 istering” and inserting “Director may accept re-
17 quests from the Secretary for the Institute to admin-
18 ister”; and

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

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

23 “(1) during the procurement process; and

24 “(2) in the management of such contract’s per-
25 formance, which shall be consistent with the require-

1 ments of the performance management system de-
2 scribed in section 185.”.

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

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

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

8 (2) in subsection (b)—

9 (A) in paragraph (1), by inserting before
10 the period the following: “, except that if a suc-
11 cessor to the Director has not been appointed
12 as of the date of expiration of the Director’s
13 term, the Director may serve for an additional
14 1-year period, beginning on the day after the
15 date of expiration of the Director’s term, or
16 until a successor has been appointed under sub-
17 section (a), whichever occurs first”;

18 (B) by striking paragraph (2) and insert-
19 ing the following:

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

23 (C) in paragraph (3)—

1 (i) in the heading, by striking “SUB-
 2 SEQUENT DIRECTORS” and inserting
 3 “RECOMMENDATIONS”; and

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

6 (3) in subsection (f)—

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

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

14 (C) in paragraph (5)—

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

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

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

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

24 (F) by striking paragraph (9) and insert-
 25 ing the following:

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

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

7 and

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

10 (4) by redesignating subsection (h) as sub-
11 section (i);

12 (5) by inserting after subsection (g), the fol-
13 lowing:

14 “(h) PEER-REVIEW SYSTEM.—The Director shall es-
15 tablish and maintain a peer-review system involving highly
16 qualified individuals, including practitioners, as appro-
17 priate, with an in-depth knowledge of the subject to be
18 investigated, including, in the case of special education re-
19 search, an understanding of special education, for—

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

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

1 (6) in subsection (i), as redesignated by para-
2 graph (4)—

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

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

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

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

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

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

18 “(A) prepared and widely disseminated—

19 “(i) in a timely fashion; and

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

24 “(B) widely disseminated through elec-
25 tronic transfer, and other means, such as post-

1 ing to the Institute’s website or other relevant
2 place;

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

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

11 **SEC. 115. PRIORITIES.**

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

13 (1) in subsection (a)—

14 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph

15 (1)—

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

22 (ii) by striking “such as” and insert-
23 ing “including”;

24 (B) in paragraph (1)—

1 (i) by inserting “ensuring that all stu-
2 dents have the ability to obtain a high-
3 quality education, particularly by” before
4 “closing”;

5 (ii) by striking “low-performing chil-
6 dren” and inserting “low-performing stu-
7 dents”;

8 (iii) by striking “especially achieve-
9 ment gaps between”;

10 (iv) by striking “nonminority chil-
11 dren” and inserting “nonminority stu-
12 dents, students with disabilities and stu-
13 dents without disabilities,”;

14 (v) by striking “and between dis-
15 advantaged children and such children’s”
16 and inserting “and disadvantaged students
17 and such students’ ”; and

18 (vi) by striking “and” after the semi-
19 colon;

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

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

22 “(2) improving access to and the quality of
23 early childhood education;

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

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

7 (2) in subsection (d)(1), by striking “by means
8 of the Internet” and inserting “by electronic means
9 such as posting in an easily accessible manner on
10 the Institute’s website”.

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

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

13 (1) in subsection (b)—

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

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

21 (C) in paragraph (8), by inserting “dis-
22 ability,” after “gender,”;

23 (D) in paragraph (9)—

24 (i) by striking “To solicit” and insert-
25 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”; and

(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 ap-

praise 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 redesignated by subclause (II)—

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

1 (bb) by inserting “State
2 leaders in adult education,” after
3 “executives,”;

4 (cc) by striking “local edu-
5 cational agency superintend-
6 ents,”;

7 (dd) by striking “prin-
8 cipals,”;

9 (ee) by striking “or local”;
10 and

11 (ff) by striking “or Bureau-
12 funded school boards”;

13 (ii) in subparagraph (B)—

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

18 (II) by striking clause (i);

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

21 (IV) in clause (i), as redesignated
22 by subclause (III), by striking the pe-
23 riod and inserting “; and”; and

24 (V) by adding at the end the fol-
25 lowing:

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

9 (iii) by striking subparagraph (C);
10 and

11 (iv) by redesignating subparagraph
12 (D) as subparagraph (C); and
13 (C) in paragraph (8)—

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

17 (ii) by inserting before subparagraph
18 (B), as redesignated by clause (i), the fol-
19 lowing:

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

1 (iii) in subparagraph (B), as redesignig-
 2 nated by clause (i), by inserting before the
 3 period at the end the following: “for a
 4 term of not more than 6 years, and who
 5 may be reappointed by the Board for 1 ad-
 6 ditional term of not more than 6 years”;
 7 and

8 (iv) by adding at the end the fol-
 9 lowing:

10 “(G) SUBCOMMITTEES.—The Board may
 11 establish standing or temporary subcommittees
 12 to make recommendations to the Board for car-
 13 rying out activities authorized under this title.”;

14 (3) by striking subsection (d);

15 (4) by redesignating subsection (e) as sub-
 16 section (d);

17 (5) in subsection (d), as redesignated by para-
 18 graph (4)—

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

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

23 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board”;

24 (C) by striking “not later than July 1 of
 25 each year, a report” 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 report once every 5 years”; 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;

“(D) a summary of the major research findings of the Institute and the activities car-

ried out under section 113(b) during the 3 preceding fiscal years; and

“(E) interim findings made widely available to the public (including by electronic means such as posting in an easily accessible manner on the Institute’s website) 3 years after the independent entity has begun reviewing the work of the Institute.

“(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 laboratory 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

1 laboratory conducted prior to the date of enact-
 2 ment of such Act.”; and

3 (6) by striking subsection (f).

4 **SEC. 117. COMMISSIONERS OF THE NATIONAL EDUCATION**
 5 **CENTERS.**

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

7 (1) in subsection (a)—

8 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “Except
 9 as provided in subsection (b), each” and insert-
 10 ing “Each”;

11 (B) in paragraph (2)—

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

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

17 (C) in paragraph (3), by striking “Except
 18 as provided in subsection (b), each” and insert-
 19 ing “Each”;

20 (2) by striking subsection (b);

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

23 (4) in subsection (c), as redesignated by para-
 24 graph (3), by striking “, except the Commissioner
 25 for Education Statistics,”.

1 **SEC. 118. TRANSPARENCY.**

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

4 **“SEC. 119. TRANSPARENCY.**

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

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

“Sec. 119. Transparency.”.

19 **SEC. 119. COMPETITIVE AWARDS.**

20 Section 120 (20 U.S.C. 9520) is amended by striking
21 “when practicable” and inserting “consistent with section
22 114(h)”.

1 **PART B—NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION**
2 **RESEARCH**

3 **SEC. 131. ESTABLISHMENT.**

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

5 (1) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the
6 following:

7 “(1) to sponsor sustained research that will
8 lead to the accumulation of knowledge and under-
9 standing of education, consistent with the priorities
10 described in section 115;”;

11 (2) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph
12 (3);

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

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

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

19 **SEC. 132. DUTIES.**

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

21 (1) in subsection (a)—

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

24 (B) by striking paragraph (2);

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

1 (D) by striking paragraph (4);

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

5 (F) in paragraph (3), as redesignated by
6 subparagraph (E), by inserting “in the imple-
7 mentation of programs carried out by the De-
8 partment and other agencies” before “within
9 the Federal Government”;

10 (G) in paragraph (5), as redesignated by
11 subparagraph (E), by striking “disseminate,
12 through the National Center for Education
13 Evaluation and Regional Assistance,” and in-
14 serting “widely disseminate, consistent with sec-
15 tion 114(j),”;

16 (H) in paragraph (6), as redesignated by
17 subparagraph (E)—

18 (i) by striking “Director” and insert-
19 ing “Board”; and

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

24 (I) in paragraph (7), as redesignated by
25 subparagraph (E), by inserting “and which may

1 include research on social and emotional learn-
 2 ing, and the acquisition of competencies and
 3 skills, including the ability to think critically,
 4 solve complex problems, evaluate evidence, and
 5 communicate effectively,” after “gap,”;

6 (J) by inserting after paragraph (7), as re-
 7 designated by subparagraph (E), the following:

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

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

14 (L) by striking paragraph (9), as redesign-
 15 ated by subparagraph (K), and inserting the
 16 following:

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

22 (M) in paragraph (10), as redesignated by
 23 subparagraph (K), by striking the period at the
 24 end and inserting “; and”; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

9 (4) by inserting after subsection (b), the fol-
 10 lowing:

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

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

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

21 “(3) APPLICATIONS.—

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

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 performance management system described in section 185, with respect to the activities that will be carried out under the grant, contract, or cooperative agreement.”; and

(5) in subsection (d), as redesignated by paragraph (3)—

(A) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

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

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

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

4 (D) in paragraph (2), as redesignated by
5 subparagraph (C)—

6 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
7 graph (A)—

8 (I) by striking “5 additional”
9 and inserting “2 additional”; and

10 (II) by striking “notwithstanding
11 section 134(b),” and inserting “not-
12 withstanding section 114(h),”;

13 (ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking
14 “and” after the semicolon;

15 (iii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
16 the period and inserting “; and”; and

17 (iv) by adding at the end the fol-
18 lowing:

19 “(C) demonstrates progress on the require-
20 ments of the performance management system
21 described in section 185.”;

22 (E) in paragraph (3), as redesignated by
23 subparagraph (C), by striking “paragraphs (4)
24 and (5)” and inserting “paragraph (2)”; and

1 (F) by striking paragraph (4), as redesign-
 2 nated by subparagraph (C), and inserting the
 3 following:

4 “(4) DISAGGREGATION.—To the extent feasible
 5 and when relevant to the research being conducted,
 6 research conducted under this subsection shall be
 7 disaggregated and cross-tabulated by age, race, gen-
 8 der, disability status, English learner status, socio-
 9 economic background, and other population charac-
 10 teristics as determined by the Research Commis-
 11 sioner, so long as any reported information does not
 12 reveal individually identifiable information.”.

13 **SEC. 133. STANDARDS FOR CONDUCT AND EVALUATION OF**
 14 **RESEARCH.**

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

16 (1) in subsection (a)—

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

19 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “and
 20 wide dissemination activities” and inserting
 21 “and, consistent with section 114(j), wide dis-
 22 semination and utilization activities”;

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

24 (3) by redesignating subsection (c) as sub-
 25 section (b).

1 **PART C—NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION**
 2 **STATISTICS**

3 **SEC. 151. ESTABLISHMENT.**

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

5 (1) in paragraph (2), by inserting “and con-
 6 sistent with the privacy protections under section
 7 183” after “manner”; and

8 (2) in paragraph (3)—

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

11 (B) by striking subparagraph (B) and in-
 12 serting the following:

13 “(B) is consistent with section 114(j), is
 14 relevant, timely, and widely disseminated.”.

15 **SEC. 152. DUTIES.**

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

17 (1) in subsection (a)—

18 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
 19 by inserting “, consistent with the privacy pro-
 20 tections under section 183,” after “Center
 21 shall”;

22 (B) in paragraph (1)—

23 (i) by striking subparagraph (D) and
 24 inserting the following:

25 “(D) secondary school graduation and
 26 completion rates, including the four-year ad-

justed cohort graduation rate (as defined in section 200.19(b)(1)(i)(A) of title 34, Code of Federal 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 effect on November 28, 2008), and school dropout rates, and adult literacy;”;

(ii) in subparagraph (E), by striking “and opportunity for,” and inserting “opportunity for, and completion of”;

(iii) by striking subparagraph (F) and inserting the following:

“(F) teaching and school leadership, including information on teacher and school leader 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”;

1 (vi) by striking subparagraph (K) and
 2 inserting the following:

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

6 (vii) in subparagraph (L), by striking
 7 “and opportunity for,” and inserting “op-
 8 portunity for, and quality of”;

9 (viii) in subparagraph (M), by striking
 10 “such programs during school recesses”
 11 and inserting “summer school”;

12 (ix) in subparagraph (N)—

13 (I) by striking “vocational” and
 14 inserting “career”; and

15 (II) by striking “and” after the
 16 semicolon;

17 (x) in subparagraph (O), by inserting
 18 “and” after the semicolon; and

19 (xi) by adding at the end the fol-
 20 lowing:

21 “(P) access to, and opportunity for, adult
 22 education and literacy activities;”;

23 (C) in paragraph (3)—

24 (i) by striking “when such
 25 disaggregated information will facilitate

educational and policy decisionmaking”
 and inserting “so long as any reported in-
 formation does not reveal individually iden-
 tifiable information”; and

(ii) by striking “limited English pro-
 ficiency” and inserting “English learner
 status”;

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

(E) in paragraph (5)—

(i) by striking “determining voluntary
 standards and guidelines to assist” and in-
 serting “providing technical assistance to”;
 and

(ii) by striking “promote linkages
 across States,”;

(F) in paragraph (6)—

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

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

4 (G) in paragraph (7), by striking the semi-
 5 colon and inserting the following: “and ensuring
 6 such collections protect student privacy con-
 7 sistent with section 183; and”;

8 (H) by striking paragraph (8) and insert-
 9 ing the following:

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

13 (I) by striking paragraph (9);

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

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

18 “(b) PLAN.—The Statistics Commissioner shall de-
 19 velop a plan in consultation with the Director and imple-
 20 ment a plan for activities of the Statistics Center that—

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

24 “(2) is carried out and, as appropriate, updated
 25 and modified, including through the use of the re-

1 sults of the Statistic Center’s most recent evaluation
 2 report under section 116(d); and

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

7 **SEC. 153. PERFORMANCE OF DUTIES.**

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

9 (1) in subsection (a)—

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

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying”;

13 (B) by inserting “to eligible applicants”
 14 after “technical assistance”; and

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

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

20 “(3) APPLICATIONS.—

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

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

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

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

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

21 **SEC. 154. REPORTS.**

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

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

1 (2) in subsection (b), by striking “2003” and
2 inserting “2016”.

3 **SEC. 155. DISSEMINATION.**

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

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

8 (2) in subsection (e)—

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

18 (B) in paragraph (2)—

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

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

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

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

7 “(3) DENIAL AUTHORITY.—The Statistics Cen-
 8 ter shall have the authority to deny any requests for
 9 access to data under paragraph (1) or (2) if the
 10 data requested would be unnecessary for or unre-
 11 lated to the proposed research design or research in-
 12 tent, or if the request would introduce risk of a pri-
 13 vacy violation or misuse of data.

14 “(4) APPLICABILITY OF REQUIREMENTS.—The
 15 requirements described under the second sentence of
 16 paragraph (1) and the second sentence of paragraph
 17 (2) and the authority under paragraph (3) shall not
 18 apply to public use data sets.”.

19 **SEC. 156. COOPERATIVE EDUCATION STATISTICS PARTNER-**
 20 **SHIPS.**

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

23 (1) in the section heading, by striking “**SYS-**
 24 **TEMS**” and inserting “**PARTNERSHIPS**”;

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

4 (3) by striking “producing and maintaining,
5 with the cooperation” and inserting “reviewing and
6 improving, with the voluntary participation”;

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

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

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

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

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

21 **PART D—NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION**
22 **EVALUATION AND REGIONAL ASSISTANCE**

23 **SEC. 171. ESTABLISHMENT.**

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

25 (1) in subsection (b)—

1 (A) by striking paragraph (1);

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

5 (C) in paragraph (1), as redesignated by
6 subparagraph (B), by striking “of such pro-
7 grams” and all that follows through “science)”
8 and inserting “and to evaluate the implementa-
9 tion of such programs”; and

10 (D) in paragraph (2), as redesignated by
11 subparagraph (B), by striking “and wide dis-
12 semination of results of” and inserting “and,
13 consistent with section 114(j), the wide dissemi-
14 nation and utilization of results of all”; and
15 (2) by striking subsection (c).

16 **SEC. 172. COMMISSIONER FOR EDUCATION EVALUATION**
17 **AND REGIONAL ASSISTANCE.**

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

19 (1) in subsection (a)—

20 (A) by striking paragraph (2) and insert-
21 ing the following:

22 “(2) widely disseminate, consistent with section
23 114(j), all information on scientifically valid research
24 and statistics supported by the Institute and all sci-
25 entifically valid education evaluations supported by

1 the Institute, particularly to State educational agen-
2 cies and local educational agencies, to institutions of
3 higher education, and to the public, the media, vol-
4 untary organizations, professional associations, and
5 other constituencies, especially with respect to the
6 priorities described in section 115;”;

7 (B) in paragraph (3)—

8 (i) by inserting “, consistent with sec-
9 tion 114(j)” after “timely, and efficient
10 manner”; and

11 (ii) by striking “that shall include all
12 topics covered in paragraph (2)(E)”;

13 (C) in paragraph (4)—

14 (i) by striking “development and dis-
15 semination” and inserting “development,
16 dissemination, and utilization”; and

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

19 (D) in paragraph (5)—

20 (i) by striking “subsection (d)” and
21 inserting “subsection (e)”; and

22 (ii) by inserting “and” after the semi-
23 colon;

24 (E) in paragraph (6)—

1 (i) by striking “Director” and insert-
2 ing “Board”;

3 (ii) by striking “preparation of a bien-
4 nial report,” and inserting “preparation
5 and dissemination of each evaluation re-
6 port”; and

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

9 (F) by striking paragraph (7);

10 (2) in subsection (b)(1)—

11 (A) by inserting “all” before “information
12 disseminated”; and

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

15 (3) by striking subsection (c);

16 (4) by redesignating subsection (d) as sub-
17 section (e);

18 (5) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-
19 lowing:

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

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

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

8 “(3) describes how the Center will use the per-
 9 formance management system described in section
 10 185 to assess and improve the activities of the Cen-
 11 ter.

12 “(d) GRANTS, CONTRACTS, AND COOPERATIVE
 13 AGREEMENTS.—

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

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

20 “(B) provide technical assistance.

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

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

8 “(4) APPLICATIONS.—

9 “(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible applicant
10 that wishes to receive a grant, contract, or co-
11 operative agreement under paragraph (1) shall
12 submit an application to the Evaluation and
13 Regional Assistance Commissioner at such time,
14 in such manner, and containing such informa-
15 tion as the Commissioner may require.

16 “(B) CONTENTS.—An application sub-
17 mitted under subparagraph (A) shall describe
18 how the eligible applicant will address and dem-
19 onstrate progress on the requirements of the
20 performance management system described in
21 section 185, with respect to the activities car-
22 ried out under such grant, contract, or coopera-
23 tive agreement.

24 “(5) DURATION.—Notwithstanding any other
25 provision of law, the grants, contracts, and coopera-

1 tive agreements under paragraph (1) may be award-
 2 ed, on a competitive basis, for a period of not more
 3 than 5 years, and may be renewed at the discretion
 4 of the Evaluation and Regional Assistance Commis-
 5 sioner for an additional period of not more than 2
 6 years if the recipient demonstrates progress on the
 7 requirements of the performance management sys-
 8 tem described in section 185, with respect to the ac-
 9 tivities carried out under the grant, contract, or co-
 10 operative agreement.”; and

11 (6) in subsection (e), as redesignated by para-
 12 graph (4)—

13 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “There is
 14 established” and all that follows through “Re-
 15 gional Assistance” and inserting “The Evalua-
 16 tion and Regional Assistance Commissioner
 17 may establish”;

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

20 (C) in paragraph (2)(B)(ii), by striking
 21 “2002” and all that follows through the period
 22 and inserting “2002).”.

23 **SEC. 173. EVALUATIONS.**

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

25 (1) in subsection (a)—

1 (A) in paragraph (1)—

2 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
3 graph (A), by striking “may” and inserting
4 “shall”;

5 (ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking
6 “evaluations” and inserting “high-quality
7 evaluations, including impact evaluations
8 that use rigorous methodologies that per-
9 mit the strongest possible causal infer-
10 ences,”;

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

15 (iv) by striking subparagraph (C);

16 (v) by redesignating subparagraph
17 (D) as subparagraph (C);

18 (vi) by striking subparagraphs (E)
19 and (G);

20 (vii) by redesignating subparagraph
21 (F) as subparagraph (D);

22 (viii) in subparagraph (D), as redesign-
23 ated by clause (vii), by striking “and” at
24 the end; and

1 (ix) by inserting after subparagraph
2 (D), as redesignated by clause (vii), the
3 following:

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

7 “(F) support the evaluation activities de-
8 scribed in section 401 of the Strengthening
9 Education through Research Act that are car-
10 ried out by the Director; and

11 “(G) to the extent feasible—

12 “(i) examine evaluations conducted or
13 supported by others to determine the qual-
14 ity and relevance of the evidence of effec-
15 tiveness generated by those evaluations,
16 with the approval of the Director;

17 “(ii) review and supplement Federal
18 education program evaluations, particularly
19 such evaluations by the Department, to de-
20 termine or enhance the quality and rel-
21 evance of the evidence generated by those
22 evaluations;

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

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

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

10 (B) in paragraph (2)—

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

13 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
14 the period and inserting “under section
15 114(h); and”; and

16 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
17 lowing:

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

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

1 **SEC. 174. REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL LABORATORIES FOR**
 2 **RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, DISSEMINATION,**
 3 **AND EVALUATION.**

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

6 (1) in the section heading, by striking “**TECH-**
 7 **NICAL ASSISTANCE**” and inserting “**EVALUA-**
 8 **TION**”;

9 (2) in subsection (a)—

10 (A) by striking “The Director” and insert-
 11 ing “Except as provided in subsection (e)(8),
 12 the Evaluation and Regional Assistance Com-
 13 missioner”; and

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

16 (3) in subsection (c)—

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

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

21 (B) by striking “contracts under this sec-
 22 tion with research organizations, institutions,
 23 agencies, institutions of higher education,” and
 24 inserting “grants, contracts, or cooperative
 25 agreements under this section with public or
 26 private, nonprofit or for-profit research organi-

1 zations, other organizations, or institutions of
2 higher education,”;

3 (C) by striking “or individuals,”;

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

6 and

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

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

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

13 “(d) APPLICATIONS.—

14 “(1) SUBMISSION.—

15 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible appli-
16 cant desiring a grant, contract, or cooperative
17 agreement under this section shall submit an
18 application at such time, in such manner, and
19 containing such information as the Evaluation
20 and Regional Assistance Commissioner may
21 reasonably require.

22 “(B) INPUT.—To ensure that applications
23 submitted under this paragraph are reflective of
24 the needs of the regions to be served, each eligi-
25 ble applicant submitting such an application

1 shall seek input from State educational agencies
2 and local educational agencies in the region
3 that the award will serve, and other individuals
4 with knowledge of the region's needs.

5 “(2) PLAN.—

6 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Each application sub-
7 mitted under paragraph (1) shall contain a plan
8 for the activities of the regional educational lab-
9 oratory to be established under this section,
10 which shall be updated, modified, and improved,
11 as appropriate, on an ongoing basis, including
12 by using the results of the laboratory's interim
13 evaluation under subsection (i)(3).

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

16 “(i) the priorities for applied research,
17 development, evaluations, and wide dis-
18 semination established under section 207;

19 “(ii) the needs of State educational
20 agencies and local educational agencies, on
21 an ongoing basis, using available State and
22 local data; and

23 “(iii) if available, demonstrated sup-
24 port from State educational agencies and
25 local educational agencies in the region,

1 such as letters of support or signed memo-
2 randa of understanding.

3 “(3) NON-FEDERAL SUPPORT.—In conducting a
4 competition for grants, contracts, or cooperative
5 agreements under subsection (a), the Evaluation and
6 Regional Assistance Commissioner shall give priority
7 to eligible applicants that will provide a portion of
8 non-Federal funds to maximize support for activities
9 of the regional educational laboratories to be estab-
10 lished under this section.

11 “(e) AWARDING GRANTS, CONTRACTS, OR COOPERA-
12 TIVE AGREEMENTS.—

13 “(1) ASSURANCES.—In awarding grants, con-
14 tracts, or cooperative agreements under this section,
15 the Evaluation and Regional Assistance Commis-
16 sioner shall—

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

19 “(B) ensure that regional educational lab-
20 oratories established under this section have
21 strong and effective governance, organization,
22 management, and administration, and employ
23 qualified staff; and

24 “(C) ensure that each such laboratory has
25 the flexibility to respond in a timely fashion to

1 the needs of the laboratory's region, includ-
2 ing—

3 “(i) through using the results of the
4 laboratory's interim evaluation under sub-
5 section (i)(3) to improve and modify the
6 activities of the laboratory before the end
7 of the award period; and

8 “(ii) through sharing preliminary re-
9 sults of the laboratory's research, as ap-
10 propriate, to increase the relevance and
11 usefulness of the research.

12 “(2) COORDINATION.—To ensure coordination
13 and prevent unnecessary duplication of activities
14 among the regions, the Evaluation and Regional As-
15 sistance Commissioner shall—

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

21 “(B) ensure, where appropriate, that the
22 activities of each regional educational laboratory
23 established under this section also serve na-
24 tional interests;

1 “(C) ensure each such regional educational
2 laboratory establishes strong partnerships
3 among practitioners, policymakers, researchers,
4 and others, so that such partnerships are con-
5 tinued in the absence of Federal support; and

6 “(D) enable, where appropriate, for such a
7 laboratory to work in a region being served by
8 another laboratory or to carry out a project
9 that extends beyond the region served by the
10 laboratory.

11 “(3) COLLABORATION WITH TECHNICAL ASSIST-
12 ANCE PROVIDERS.—Each regional educational lab-
13 oratory established under this section shall, on an
14 ongoing basis, coordinate its activities, collaborate,
15 and regularly exchange information with the com-
16 prehensive centers (established in section 203) in the
17 region in which the laboratory is located, and with
18 comprehensive centers located outside of its region,
19 as appropriate.

20 “(4) OUTREACH.—In conducting competitions
21 for grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements
22 under this section, the Evaluation and Regional As-
23 sistance Commissioner shall—

24 “(A) by making information and technical
25 assistance relating to the competition widely

1 available, actively encourage eligible applicants
2 to compete for such an award; and

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

8 “(i) the needs in the regions for ap-
9 plied research, evaluation, development,
10 and wide-dissemination activities author-
11 ized by this title; and

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

14 “(5) PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT.—Before
15 the Evaluation and Regional Assistance Commis-
16 sioner awards a grant, contract, or cooperative
17 agreement under this section, the Director shall es-
18 tablish measurable performance indicators for as-
19 sessing the ongoing progress and performance of the
20 regional educational laboratories established with
21 such awards that address the requirements of the
22 performance management system described in sec-
23 tion 185.

24 “(6) STANDARDS.—The Evaluation and Re-
25 gional Assistance Commissioner shall adhere to the

1 Institute's system for technical and peer review
2 under section 114(h) in reviewing the applied re-
3 search activities and research-based reports of the
4 regional educational laboratories.

5 “(7) REQUIRED CONSIDERATION.—In deter-
6 mining whether to award a grant, contract, or coop-
7 erative agreement under this section—

8 “(A) to an eligible applicant that pre-
9 viously established a regional educational lab-
10 oratory under this section, the Evaluation and
11 Regional Assistance Commissioner shall—

12 “(i) consider the results of such lab-
13 oratory's summative evaluation under sub-
14 section (i)(2), or, if not available, any in-
15 terim evaluation findings under subsection
16 (i)(3); and

17 “(ii) ensure that only such labora-
18 tories determined effective in their relevant
19 interim or summative evaluations, as de-
20 scribed in subsection (i), are eligible to re-
21 ceive a new grant, contract, or cooperative
22 agreement; and

23 “(B) to any eligible applicant, the Evalua-
24 tion and Regional Assistance Commissioner
25 shall ensure that such applicant has—

1 “(i) a history of effectiveness in con-
2 ducting high-quality applied research; and

3 “(ii) the capacity to meet the measur-
4 able performance indicators established
5 under paragraph (5).

6 “(8) FLEXIBILITY IN LABORATORY NUMBER.—

7 “(A) DETERMINATION.—The Evaluation
8 and Regional Assistance Commissioner, in con-
9 sultation with the regional educational labora-
10 tory advisory boards described in subsection
11 (h), may determine that establishing 10 re-
12 gional educational laboratories is unnecessary,
13 as required in subsection (a), and grant an al-
14 ternative number of awards or reorganize such
15 laboratories, which may include not basing the
16 awards on the regions described in subsection
17 (b), if—

18 “(i) an insufficient number of regional
19 educational laboratories are meeting the
20 needs of the regions described in sub-
21 section (b), as determined by the Commis-
22 sioner;

23 “(ii) an insufficient number of labora-
24 tories are meeting the measurable perform-
25 ance indicators established under para-

1 graph (5), as determined by the Commis-
 2 sioner and the most recent interim or
 3 summative evaluation under subsection (i);
 4 or

5 “(iii) an insufficient number of eligi-
 6 ble applicants have the capacity to meet
 7 the measurable performance indicators es-
 8 tablished under paragraph (5), as deter-
 9 mined by the Commissioner.

10 “(B) LIMITATION.—If the Evaluation and
 11 Regional Assistance Commissioner uses the de-
 12 termination authority described in subpara-
 13 graph (A), there shall be no more than 10 re-
 14 gional educational laboratories established.

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

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

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

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

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

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

7 “(1) Conduct, widely disseminate, and promote
 8 utilization of applied research, development activi-
 9 ties, evaluations, data analysis, and other scientif-
 10 ically valid research.

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

19 “(3) Ensure research and related products are
 20 relevant and responsive to the needs of the region.

21 “(h) REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL LABORATORY ADVI-
 22 SORY BOARD.—

23 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Each regional edu-
 24 cational laboratory established under this section

1 may establish an advisory board that shall support
2 the priorities of such laboratory.

3 “(2) DUTIES.—Each advisory board established
4 under paragraph (1) shall advise the regional edu-
5 cational laboratory—

6 “(A) concerning the activities described in
7 subsection (g);

8 “(B) on strategies for monitoring and ad-
9 dressing the educational needs of the region, on
10 an ongoing basis, and as appropriate, national
11 needs;

12 “(C) on maintaining a high standard of
13 quality in the performance of the laboratory’s
14 activities, especially in meeting the measurable
15 performance indicators established under sub-
16 section (e)(5);

17 “(D) on carrying out the laboratory’s du-
18 ties in a manner that promotes progress toward
19 improving student academic achievement;

20 “(E) on the activities undertaken by the
21 comprehensive center in the region, other cen-
22 ters, as appropriate, and other laboratories to
23 align the work of such entities, reduce redun-
24 dancy, and increase collaboration and resource-
25 sharing in such activities; and

1 “(F) on joint activities with other com-
2 prehensive centers or laboratories that would
3 meet the needs of multiple regions.

4 “(3) COMPOSITION.—

5 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Each advisory board
6 shall—

7 “(i) not exceed 25 members;

8 “(ii) include the chief State school of-
9 ficer, or such officer’s designee, or other
10 State official, of States within the region
11 of the laboratory who have primary respon-
12 sibility under State law for elementary and
13 secondary education in the State;

14 “(iii) include representatives of local
15 educational agencies, including rural and
16 urban local educational agencies, that rep-
17 resent the geographic diversity of the re-
18 gion;

19 “(iv) include researchers; and

20 “(v) include not less than 1 represent-
21 ative from an advisory board of a com-
22 prehensive center serving the region, if ap-
23 plicable.

1 “(B) ELIGIBILITY.—The membership of
 2 each regional educational laboratory advisory
 3 board may include the following:

4 “(i) Representatives of institutions of
 5 higher education.

6 “(ii) Parents.

7 “(iii) Practicing educators, including
 8 classroom teachers, school leaders, admin-
 9 istrators, school board members, and other
 10 local school officials.

11 “(iv) Representatives of business.

12 “(v) Policymakers.

13 “(4) RECOMMENDATIONS.—In choosing individ-
 14 uals for membership on a regional educational lab-
 15 oratory advisory board, the regional educational lab-
 16 oratory shall consult with, and solicit recommenda-
 17 tions from, the Evaluation and Regional Assistance
 18 Commissioner, the chief executive officers of States,
 19 chief State school officers, local educational agencies,
 20 and other education stakeholders within the applica-
 21 ble region.

22 “(5) SPECIAL RULE.—The total number of
 23 members on each regional educational laboratory ad-
 24 visory board who are selected under clauses (ii) and
 25 (iii) of paragraph (3)(A), in the aggregate, shall ex-

ceed the total number of members who are selected
under paragraph (3)(B), collectively.

“(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 ensure 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, and such evaluation shall—

“(A) be completed in a timely fashion;

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

4 “(C) consider the extent to which the lab-
5 oratory ensures that the activities of such lab-
6 oratory are relevant and useful to the work of
7 State and local practitioners and policymakers.

8 “(3) INTERIM EVALUATIONS.—The Evaluation
9 and Regional Assistance Commissioner shall ensure
10 each regional educational laboratory established
11 under this section is evaluated at the midpoint of the
12 period of the grant, contract, or cooperative agree-
13 ment that established such laboratory, and such
14 evaluation shall—

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

18 “(B) be used to improve the effectiveness
19 of such laboratory in carrying out its plan
20 under subsection (d)(2).

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

22 “(1) CONTINUATION OF AWARDS.—The Evalua-
23 tion and Regional Assistance Commissioner shall
24 continue awards made to each eligible applicant for
25 the support of regional educational laboratories es-

1 tablished under this section prior to the date of en-
2 actment of the Strengthening Education through
3 Research Act, as such awards were in effect on the
4 day before the date of enactment of such Act, for
5 the duration of those awards, in accordance with the
6 terms and agreements of such awards.

7 “(2) RECOMPETITION.—Not later than the end
8 of the period of the awards described in paragraph
9 (1), the Evaluation and Regional Assistance Com-
10 missioner shall—

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

16 “(B) in determining whether to select an
17 eligible applicant that held an award described
18 in paragraph (1) for an award under subpara-
19 graph (A) of this paragraph, consider the re-
20 sults of the summative evaluation under sub-
21 section (i)(2) of the laboratory established with
22 the eligible applicant’s award described in para-
23 graph (1).”;

24 (5) by striking subsection (l);

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

3 (7) in subsection (l), as redesignated by para-
4 graph (6), by inserting “and local” after “achieve
5 State”;

6 (8) by striking subsection (m), as redesignated
7 by paragraph (6), and inserting the following:

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

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

16 “(2) A listing of the State educational agencies,
17 local educational agencies, and schools the labora-
18 tory assisted during the previous year.

19 “(3) Using the measurable performance indica-
20 tors established under subsection (e)(5), a descrip-
21 tion of how well the laboratory is meeting edu-
22 cational needs of the region served by the laboratory.

23 “(4) Any changes to the laboratory’s plan under
24 subsection (d)(2) to improve its activities in the re-

1 maining years of the grant, contract, or cooperative
2 agreement.”; and

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

4 “(o) APPROPRIATIONS RESERVATION.—Of the
5 amounts appropriated under section 194(a), the Evalua-
6 tion and Regional Assistance Commissioner shall reserve
7 16.13 percent of such funds to carry out this section, of
8 which the Commissioner shall use not less than 25 percent
9 to serve rural areas (including schools funded by the Bu-
10 reau which are located in rural areas).”.

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

“Sec. 174. Regional educational laboratories for research, development, disse-
mination, and evaluation.”.

16 **PART E—NATIONAL CENTER FOR SPECIAL**
17 **EDUCATION RESEARCH**

18 **SEC. 175. ESTABLISHMENT.**

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

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

22 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” at the
23 end;

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

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

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

10 “(5) to promote scientifically valid research
11 findings in special education that may provide the
12 basis for improving academic instruction and lifelong
13 learning.”.

14 **SEC. 176. COMMISSIONER FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION RE-**
15 **SEARCH.**

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

18 **SEC. 177. DUTIES.**

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

20 (1) in subsection (a)—

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

23 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “scientif-
24 ically based educational practices” and inserting
25 “educational practices, including the use of

1 technology based on scientifically valid re-
2 search,”;

3 (C) in paragraph (4)—

4 (i) by striking “scientifically based”;

5 and

6 (ii) by inserting “are based on sci-
7 entifically valid research and” after “inter-
8 ventions that”;

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

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

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

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

23 (G) in paragraph (14), as redesignated by
24 subparagraph (E), by inserting “and profes-
25 sional development” after “preparation”;

1 (H) in paragraph (16), as redesignated by
2 subparagraph (E), by striking “help parents”
3 and inserting “examine the methods by which
4 parents may”;

5 (I) by inserting after paragraph (16), as
6 redesignated by subparagraph (E), the fol-
7 lowing:

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

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

14 (K) by striking paragraph (19), as redesign-
15 ated by subparagraph (E), and inserting the
16 following:

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

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

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

24 (2) in subsection (c)—

1 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph

2 (1)—

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

6 (ii) by striking “Services, that—” and
7 inserting “Services, and, subject to the ap-
8 proval of the Director, implement the re-
9 search plan. The research plan shall be a
10 plan that—”;

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

13 (C) by striking paragraph (2) and insert-
14 ing the following:

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

19 (D) by striking paragraph (5);

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

23 (F) by inserting after paragraph (2) the
24 following:

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

(G) in paragraph (5), as redesignated by subparagraph (E), by striking “and types of children with” and inserting “, student subgroups, and types of”; and

(H) by inserting after paragraph (5), as redesignated by subparagraph (E), the following:

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

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “Director” and inserting “Special Education Research Commissioner”;

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

“(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-

1 cial Education Research Commissioner at such
2 time, in such manner, and containing such in-
3 formation as the Special Education Research
4 Commissioner may require.

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

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

14 “(4) DURATION.—Notwithstanding any other
15 provision of law, the grants, contracts, and coopera-
16 tive agreements under this section may be awarded
17 or entered into, on a competitive basis, for a period
18 of not more than 5 years, and may be renewed at
19 the discretion of the Special Education Research
20 Commissioner for an additional period of not more
21 than 2 years if the recipient demonstrates progress
22 on the requirements of the performance management
23 system described in section 185, with respect to the
24 activities carried out under the grant, contract, or

1 cooperative agreement received or entered into under
 2 this section.”;

3 (4) by striking subsection (e) and inserting the
 4 following:

5 “(e) DISSEMINATION.—The Special Education Re-
 6 search Center shall synthesize and, consistent with section
 7 114(j), widely disseminate and promote utilization of the
 8 findings and results of special education research con-
 9 ducted or supported by the Special Education Research
 10 Center.”; and

11 (5) in subsection (f), by striking “part such
 12 sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years
 13 2005 through 2010.” and inserting the following:

14 “part—

15 “(1) for fiscal year 2016, \$54,000,000;

16 “(2) for fiscal year 2017, \$55,242,000;

17 “(3) for fiscal year 2018, \$56,512,566;

18 “(4) for fiscal year 2019, \$57,812,355;

19 “(5) for fiscal year 2020, \$59,142,039; and

20 “(6) for fiscal year 2021, \$66,922,118.”.

21 **PART F—GENERAL PROVISIONS**

22 **SEC. 181. PROHIBITIONS.**

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

1 (1) in subsection (b), by inserting “specific aca-
 2 demic achievement or content standards or assess-
 3 ments,” after “the curriculum,”; and

4 (2) in subsection (c), by striking “an elemen-
 5 tary school or secondary school” and inserting
 6 “early education, or in an elementary school, sec-
 7 ondary school, or institution of higher education”.

8 **SEC. 182. CONFIDENTIALITY.**

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

10 (1) in subsection (b)—

11 (A) by striking “their families, and infor-
 12 mation with respect to individual schools,” and
 13 inserting “and their families”; and

14 (B) by inserting before the period at the
 15 end the following: “, and that any disclosed in-
 16 formation with respect to individual schools not
 17 reveal such individually identifiable informa-
 18 tion”;

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

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

1 **SEC. 183. AVAILABILITY OF DATA.**

2 Section 184 (20 U.S.C. 9574) is amended by striking
3 “use of the Internet” and inserting “electronic means,
4 such as posting in an easily accessible manner on the In-
5 stitute’s website”.

6 **SEC. 184. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT.**

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

9 **“SEC. 185. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT.**

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

14 “(1) developing and using measurable perform-
15 ance indicators, including timelines, to evaluate and
16 improve the effectiveness of the activities;

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

21 “(3) establishing and improving formal feed-
22 back mechanisms to—

23 “(A) anticipate and meet stakeholder
24 needs; and

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

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

7 **SEC. 185. AUTHORITY TO PUBLISH.**

8 Section 186(b) (20 U.S.C. 9576(b)) is amended by
 9 striking “any information to be published under this sec-
 10 tion before publication” and inserting “any publication
 11 under this section before the public release of such publi-
 12 cation”.

13 **SEC. 186. REPEALS.**

14 (a) REPEALS.—Sections 187 (20 U.S.C. 9577) and
 15 193 (20 U.S.C. 9583) are repealed.

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

20 **SEC. 187. FELLOWSHIPS.**

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

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

1 (2) by striking “historically Black colleges and
2 universities” and inserting “minority-serving institu-
3 tions”.

4 **SEC. 188. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

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

6 (1) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the
7 following:

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

11 “(1) for fiscal year 2016, \$337,343,000;

12 “(2) for fiscal year 2017, \$345,101,889;

13 “(3) for fiscal year 2018, \$353,039,232;

14 “(4) for fiscal year 2019, \$361,159,135;

15 “(5) for fiscal year 2020, \$369,465,795; and

16 “(6) for fiscal year 2021, \$376,225,846.”; and

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

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

21 “(1) not less than the amount provided to the
22 National Center for Education Statistics (as such
23 Center was in existence on the day before the date
24 of enactment of the Strengthening Education
25 through Research Act) for fiscal year 2015 shall be

1 provided to the National Center for Education Sta-
 2 tistics, as authorized under part C; and

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

7 **PART G—TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING**
 8 **AMENDMENTS**

9 **SEC. 191. TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO**
 10 **OTHER LAWS.**

11 (a) CARL D. PERKINS CAREER AND TECHNICAL
 12 EDUCATION ACT OF 2006.—Section 3(25) of the Carl D.
 13 Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20
 14 U.S.C. 2302(25)) is amended by striking “using scientif-
 15 ically based research standards, as defined in section 102”
 16 and inserting “in accordance with the principles of sci-
 17 entific research, as defined in section 102”.

18 (b) ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT
 19 OF 1965.—Section 9529(b) of the Elementary and Sec-
 20 ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7909(b)) is
 21 amended by striking “section 153(a)(5)” and inserting
 22 “section 153(a)(6)”.

23 (c) INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION
 24 ACT.—Section 681(a)(1) of the Individuals with Disabil-
 25 ities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1481(a)(1)) is amended

1 by striking “section 178(c)” and inserting “section
2 177(c)”.

3 **TITLE II—EDUCATIONAL** 4 **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

5 **SEC. 201. REFERENCES.**

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

12 **SEC. 202. DEFINITIONS.**

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

14 (1) by redesignating paragraph (2) as para-
15 graph (3); and

16 (2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-
17 lowing:

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

20 **SEC. 203. COMPREHENSIVE CENTERS.**

21 Section 203 (20 U.S.C. 9602) is amended—

22 (1) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the
23 following:

24 “(a) AUTHORIZATION.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (3)
 2 and except as provided in subsection (b)(5), the Sec-
 3 retary shall award 17 grants, contracts, or coopera-
 4 tive agreements to eligible applicants to establish
 5 comprehensive centers.

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

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

17 “(A) shall establish at least one com-
 18 prehensive center for each of the 10 geographic
 19 regions served by the regional educational lab-
 20 oratories established under section 941(h) of
 21 the Educational Research, Development, Dis-
 22 semination, and Improvement Act of 1994 (20
 23 U.S.C. 6041(h)) (as such provision existed on
 24 the day before the date of enactment of this
 25 Act);

1 “(B) may establish additional comprehen-
2 sive centers—

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

5 “(ii) to serve the Nation as a whole by
6 providing technical assistance on a par-
7 ticular content area of importance to the
8 Nation, as determined by the Secretary;
9 and

10 “(C) may make such arrangements as the
11 Secretary determines necessary to ensure that
12 the Bureau of Indian Education and States or
13 local educational agencies serving significant
14 numbers of American Indian, Alaska Native, or
15 Native Hawaiian students have access to serv-
16 ices provided under this section.

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

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

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

10 (2) in subsection (b)—

11 (A) in paragraph (1)—

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

14 (ii) by striking “research organiza-
 15 tions, institutions, agencies, institutions of
 16 higher education,” and inserting “public or
 17 private, nonprofit or for-profit research or-
 18 ganizations, other organizations, or institu-
 19 tions of higher education,”;

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

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

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

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

3 “(2) OUTREACH.—In conducting competitions
4 for grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements
5 under this section, the Secretary shall—

6 “(A) by making widely available informa-
7 tion and technical assistance relating to the
8 competition, actively encourage eligible appli-
9 cants to compete for such awards; and

10 “(B) seek input from chief executive offi-
11 cers of States, chief State school officers, edu-
12 cators, parents, superintendents, and other indi-
13 viduals with knowledge of the needs of the re-
14 gions to be served by the awards, regarding—

15 “(i) the needs in the regions for tech-
16 nical assistance authorized under this title;
17 and

18 “(ii) how such needs may be ad-
19 dressed most effectively.

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

1 title that address paragraphs (1) through (3) of the
 2 performance management system described in sec-
 3 tion 185.

4 “(4) REQUIRED CONSIDERATION.—In deter-
 5 mining whether to award or enter into a grant, con-
 6 tract, or cooperative agreement under this section—

7 “(A) to an eligible applicant that pre-
 8 viously established a comprehensive center
 9 under this section, the Secretary shall—

10 “(i) consider the results of such cen-
 11 ter’s summative evaluation under section
 12 204(b) or, if not available, any interim
 13 evaluation results under section 204(c);
 14 and

15 “(ii) ensure that only centers deter-
 16 mined effective in the centers’ relevant in-
 17 terim or summative evaluations, as de-
 18 scribed in section 204, are eligible to re-
 19 ceive a new grant, contract, or cooperative
 20 agreement; and

21 “(B) to any eligible applicant, the Sec-
 22 retary shall ensure that such applicant has—

23 “(i) a history of effectiveness in pro-
 24 viding high-quality technical assistance;
 25 and

1 “(ii) the capacity to meet the measur-
2 able performance indicators established
3 under paragraph (3).

4 “(5) FLEXIBILITY IN COMPREHENSIVE CENTER
5 NUMBER.—

6 “(A) DETERMINATION.—The Secretary, in
7 consultation with the comprehensive center ad-
8 visory boards described in subsection (f), may
9 determine that establishing 17 comprehensive
10 centers under this section is unnecessary, as re-
11 quired in subsection (a)(1), and grant an alter-
12 native number of awards or reorganize such
13 centers, which may include organizing the cen-
14 ters around content area instead of by the re-
15 gions described in subsection (a)(3), if—

16 “(i) an insufficient number of such
17 comprehensive centers are meeting the
18 needs of the regions described in para-
19 graphs (3) and (4) of subsection (a), as de-
20 termined by the Secretary;

21 “(ii) an insufficient number of such
22 comprehensive centers are meeting the
23 measurable performance indicators estab-
24 lished under paragraph (3), as determined
25 by the Secretary and the most recent in-

1 terim or summative evaluation under sec-
 2 tion 204; or

3 “(iii) an insufficient number of eligi-
 4 ble applicants have the capacity to meet
 5 the measurable performance indicators es-
 6 tablished under paragraph (3), as deter-
 7 mined by the Secretary.

8 “(B) LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall
 9 not use the determination authority described
 10 in subparagraph (A) to establish more than 17
 11 comprehensive centers under this section.

12 “(6) CONTINUATION OF AWARDS.—

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

23 “(B) RECOMPETITION.—Not later than the
 24 end of the period of the awards described in
 25 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).

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

(3) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

“(c) APPLICATIONS.—

“(1) SUBMISSION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible applicant seeking a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement under this section shall submit an

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

4 “(B) INPUT.—To ensure that applications
5 submitted under this paragraph are reflective of
6 the needs of the regions to be served, each eligi-
7 ble applicant submitting such an application
8 shall seek input from—

9 “(i) State educational agencies and
10 local educational agencies in the region
11 that the award will serve; and

12 “(ii) other individuals with knowledge
13 of the region’s needs.

14 “(2) PLAN.—

15 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Each application sub-
16 mitted under paragraph (1) shall contain a plan
17 for the comprehensive center to be established
18 under this section, which shall be updated,
19 modified, and improved, as appropriate, on an
20 ongoing basis, including by using the results of
21 the center’s interim evaluation under section
22 204(c).

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

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

3 “(ii) the needs of State educational
4 agencies and local educational agencies, on
5 an ongoing basis, using available State and
6 local data, including how the needs of
7 schools identified for improvement and
8 schools and local educational agencies with
9 a high percentage or number of low-income
10 students will be prioritized and served; and

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

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

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

1 (5) by striking subsections (e), (g), and (h);

2 (6) by redesignating subsection (f) as sub-
3 section (e);

4 (7) in subsection (e), as redesignated by para-
5 graph (6)—

6 (A) in paragraph (1)—

7 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
8 graph (A), by striking “support dissemina-
9 tion and technical assistance activities by”
10 and inserting “support State educational
11 agencies and local educational agencies, in-
12 cluding by”;

13 (ii) in subparagraph (A)—

14 (I) in clause (i), by inserting
15 “and other Federal education laws”
16 before the semicolon;

17 (II) in clause (ii)—

18 (aa) in the matter preceding
19 subclause (I), by striking “and
20 assessment tools” and inserting
21 “, assessment tools, and other
22 educational strategies”;

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

1 science, which may include com-
 2 puter science or engineering,”;
 3 and

4 (cc) in subclause (III), by
 5 inserting “, including innovative
 6 tools and methods” before the
 7 semicolon; and

8 (III) by striking clause (iii) and
 9 inserting the following:

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

14 (iii) in subparagraph (B)—

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

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

21 (iv) by striking subparagraph (C) and
 22 inserting the following:

23 “(C) ensuring activities carried out under
 24 this section are relevant and responsive to the
 25 needs of the region being served.”; and

1 (B) in paragraph (2)—

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

4 (ii) by striking “in which the center is
5 located” and inserting “served by the cen-
6 ter or other regional educational labora-
7 tories or comprehensive centers, as appro-
8 priate”; and

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

10 “(f) COMPREHENSIVE CENTER ADVISORY BOARD.—

11 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Each comprehensive
12 center established under this section may establish
13 an advisory board that shall support the priorities of
14 such center.

15 “(2) DUTIES.—Each advisory board established
16 under paragraph (1) shall advise the comprehensive
17 center—

18 “(A) concerning the activities described in
19 subsection (e);

20 “(B) on strategies for monitoring and ad-
21 dressing the educational needs of the region
22 being served on an ongoing basis and, as appro-
23 priate, national needs;

24 “(C) on maintaining a high standard of
25 quality in the performance of the center’s ac-

1 tivities, especially in meeting the measurable
 2 performance indicators established under sub-
 3 section (b)(3);

4 “(D) on carrying out the center’s duties in
 5 a manner that promotes progress toward im-
 6 proving student academic achievement;

7 “(E) on the activities undertaken by re-
 8 gional educational laboratories of the region
 9 being served, other regional educational labora-
 10 tories, as appropriate, and other comprehensive
 11 centers to align the work of the laboratories
 12 and centers, reduce redundancy, and increase
 13 collaboration and resource-sharing in such ac-
 14 tivities; and

15 “(F) on joint activities, with other com-
 16 prehensive centers or regional educational lab-
 17 oratories from other regions, that would meet
 18 the needs of multiple regions.

19 “(3) COMPOSITION.—

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Each advisory board
 21 shall—

22 “(i) not exceed 25 members;

23 “(ii) include the chief State school of-
 24 ficer, or such officer’s designee, or other
 25 State official, of States within the region

1 served by the comprehensive center who
2 have primary responsibility under State
3 law for elementary and secondary edu-
4 cation in the State;

5 “(iii) include representatives of local
6 educational agencies, including rural and
7 urban local educational agencies, that rep-
8 resent the geographic diversity of the re-
9 gion;

10 “(iv) include researchers; and

11 “(v) include not less than 1 represent-
12 ative from the advisory board of a regional
13 educational laboratory in the region being
14 served by the comprehensive center.

15 “(B) ELIGIBILITY.—The membership of
16 each comprehensive center advisory board may
17 include the following:

18 “(i) Representatives of institutions of
19 higher education.

20 “(ii) Parents.

21 “(iii) Practicing educators, including
22 classroom teachers, school leaders, admin-
23 istrators, school board members, and other
24 local school officials.

25 “(iv) Representatives of business.

1 “(v) Policymakers.

2 “(4) RECOMMENDATIONS.—In choosing individ-
3 uals for membership on a comprehensive center advi-
4 sory board, the comprehensive center shall consult
5 with, and solicit recommendations from, the Sec-
6 retary, chief executive officers of States, chief State
7 school officers, local educational agencies, and other
8 education stakeholders within the applicable region.

9 “(5) SPECIAL RULE.—The total number of
10 members on each board who are selected under
11 clauses (ii) and (iii) of paragraph (3)(A), in the ag-
12 gregate, shall exceed the total number of members
13 who are selected under paragraph (3)(B), collec-
14 tively.

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

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

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

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

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

9 **SEC. 204. EVALUATIONS.**

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

12 **“SEC. 204. EVALUATIONS.**

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

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

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

23 “(b) SUMMATIVE EVALUATION.—The Secretary shall
 24 ensure each comprehensive center established under this
 25 title is evaluated by an independent entity at the end of

1 the period of the grant, contract, or cooperative agreement
 2 that established such center, which shall—

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

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

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

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

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

19 “(2) be used to improve the effectiveness of
 20 such center in carrying out its plan under section
 21 203(c)(2).”.

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

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

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

5 **SEC. 206. REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES.**

6 (a) REPEAL.—Section 206 (20 U.S.C. 9605) is re-
7 pealed.

8 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of con-
9 tents in section 1 of the Act of November 5, 2002 (Public
10 Law 107–279; 116 Stat. 1940), is amended by striking
11 the item relating to section 206.

12 **SEC. 207. PRIORITIES.**

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

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

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

18 (3) by striking “of this title”;

19 (4) by striking “to address, taking onto account
20 the regional assessments conducted under section
21 206 and other” and inserting “, respectively, using
22 the results of”; and

23 (5) by striking “relevant regional” and all that
24 follows through “Secretary deems appropriate” and

1 inserting “relevant regional and national surveys of
2 educational needs”.

3 **SEC. 208. GRANT PROGRAM FOR STATEWIDE, LONGITU-**
4 **DINAL DATA SYSTEMS.**

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

6 (1) in subsection (a)—

7 (A) by inserting before the period at the
8 end the following: “, the Higher Education Act
9 of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.), and the Indi-
10 viduals with Disabilities Education Act (20
11 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.)”; and

12 (B) by adding at the end the following:
13 “State educational agencies receiving a grant
14 under this section may provide subgrants to
15 local educational agencies to improve the capac-
16 ity of local educational agencies to carry out the
17 activities authorized under this section.”;

18 (2) by redesignating subsections (c), (d), and
19 (e) as subsections (d), (e), and (g), respectively;

20 (3) by inserting after subsection (b), the fol-
21 lowing:

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

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

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

7 (4) in subsection (d), as redesignated by para-
8 graph (2)—

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

11 (B) in paragraph (2)—

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

15 (ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking
16 “and other reporting requirements and
17 close achievement gaps; and” and inserting
18 “and other reporting requirements, close
19 achievement gaps, and improve teaching
20 and school leadership”;

21 (iii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
22 “and close achievement gaps; and” and by
23 inserting “, close achievement gaps, and
24 improve teaching and school leadership;
25 and”; and

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

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

9 (C) by striking paragraph (3) and insert-
10 ing the following:

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

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

23 “(5) gives priority to State educational agencies
24 that leverage the use of statewide, longitudinal data

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

3 “(A) are carrying out the activities de-
4 scribed in section 153(a)(5);

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

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

15 (5) by inserting after subsection (e), as redesign-
16 nated by paragraph (2), the following:

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

23 (6) by striking subsection (g), as redesignated
24 by paragraph (2), and inserting the following:

25 “(g) REPORTS.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

14 “(1) for fiscal year 2016, \$82,984,000;

15 “(2) for fiscal year 2017, \$84,892,632;

16 “(3) for fiscal year 2018, \$86,845,163;

17 “(4) for fiscal year 2019, \$88,842,601;

18 “(5) for fiscal year 2020, \$90,885,981; and

19 “(6) for fiscal year 2021, \$92,548,906.”.

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

23 **SEC. 301. REFERENCES.**

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

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

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

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

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

12 (2) in subsection (b)(1)(L)—

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

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

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

18 (4) in subsection (d)—

19 (A) in paragraph (1)—

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

23 (ii) in subparagraph (B)—

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

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

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

6 (B) in paragraph (2)—

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

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

16 (5) in subsection (e)(1)—

17 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

14 (G) in subparagraph (K), as redesignated
15 by subparagraph (E)—

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

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

20 (H) in the matter following subparagraph
21 (K), as redesignated by subparagraph (E), by
22 striking “subparagraph (J)” and inserting
23 “subparagraph (K)”.

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

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

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

10 (2) in subsection (b)—

11 (A) in paragraph (2)—

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

15 (ii) in subparagraph (G)—

16 (I) by striking “limited English
17 proficiency” and inserting “English
18 learner status”; and

19 (II) by striking “and” at the end
20 of subparagraph (G);

21 (iii) in subparagraph (H), by striking
22 the period at the end and inserting “;
23 and”; and

24 (iv) by adding at the end the fol-
25 lowing:

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

6 (B) in paragraph (5)(C), by striking “lim-
 7 ited English proficiency” and inserting
 8 “English learner status”;
 9 (3) in subsection (c)(2)—

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

12 (B) in subparagraph (D)—

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

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

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

19 and

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

22 (4) in subsection (d)(1), by inserting before the
 23 period, the following: “, except as required under
 24 section 1112(b)(1)(F) of the Elementary and Sec-

1 ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
2 6312(b)(1)(F))”;

3 (5) in subsection (e)—

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

5 and

6 (B) in paragraph (2)—

7 (i) in subparagraph (A)—

8 (I) by striking “shall” and all
9 that follows through “be” and insert
10 “shall be”;

11 (II) by redesignating subclauses
12 (I) and (II) as clauses (i) and (ii), re-
13 spectively (and by moving the margins
14 2 ems to the left); and

15 (III) in clause (ii), as redesign-
16 ated by subclause (II), by striking “,
17 or the age of the students, as the case
18 may be”;

19 (ii) in subparagraph (B)—

20 (I) by striking “After the deter-
21 minations described in subparagraph
22 (A), devising” and inserting “The As-
23 sessment Board shall, in making the
24 determination described in subpara-
25 graph (A), use”; and

- 1 (II) by inserting “, providing for
 2 the active participation of teachers,
 3 school leaders, curriculum specialists,
 4 local school administrators, parents,
 5 and concerned members of the general
 6 public” after “approach”; and
 7 (iii) in subparagraph (D), by inserting
 8 “Assessment” before “Board”; and
 9 (6) in subsection (g)(2)—
 10 (A) in the heading, by striking “AFFAIRS”
 11 and inserting “EDUCATION”; and
 12 (B) by striking “Affairs” and inserting
 13 “Education”.

14 **SEC. 304. DEFINITIONS.**

15 Section 304 (20 U.S.C. 9623) is amended by striking
 16 paragraphs (1) and (2) and inserting the following:

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The terms ‘elementary
 18 school’, ‘local educational agency’, and ‘secondary
 19 school’ have the meanings given those terms in sec-
 20 tion 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
 21 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

22 “(2) DIRECTOR.—The term ‘Director’ means
 23 the Director of the Institute of Education Sciences.

24 “(3) SCHOOL LEADER.—The term ‘school lead-
 25 er’ has the meaning given the term in section 102.

1 “(4) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means
2 the Secretary of Education.

3 “(5) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means each of
4 the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the
5 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.”.

6 **SEC. 305. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

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

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

11 “(1) for fiscal year 2016—

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

15 “(B) \$129,000,000 to carry out section
16 303 (relating to the National Assessment of
17 Educational Progress);

18 “(2) for fiscal year 2017—

19 “(A) \$8,424,405 to carry out section 302
20 (relating to the National Assessment Governing
21 Board); and

22 “(B) \$131,967,000 to carry out section
23 303 (relating to the National Assessment of
24 Educational Progress);

25 “(3) for fiscal year 2018—

1 “(A) \$8,618,166 to carry out section 302
2 (relating to the National Assessment Governing
3 Board); and

4 “(B) \$135,002,241 to carry out section
5 303 (relating to the National Assessment of
6 Educational Progress);

7 “(4) for fiscal year 2019—

8 “(A) \$8,816,384 to carry out section 302
9 (relating to the National Assessment Governing
10 Board); and

11 “(B) \$138,107,293 to carry out section
12 303 (relating to the National Assessment of
13 Educational Progress);

14 “(5) for fiscal year 2020—

15 “(A) \$9,019,161 to carry out section 302
16 (relating to the National Assessment Governing
17 Board); and

18 “(B) \$141,283,760 to carry out section
19 303 (relating to the National Assessment of
20 Educational Progress); and

21 “(6) for fiscal year 2021—

22 “(A) \$9,184,183 to carry out section 302
23 (relating to the National Assessment Governing
24 Board); and

1 “(B) \$143,868,805 to carry out section
2 303 (relating to the National Assessment of
3 Educational Progress).”.

4 **TITLE IV—EVALUATION PLAN**

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

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

11 (b) FLEXIBLE AUTHORITY.—

12 (1) RESERVATION.—Notwithstanding any other
13 provision of law in the Elementary and Secondary
14 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) re-
15 lated to evaluation, the Secretary of Education, in
16 consultation with the Director of the Institute of
17 Education Sciences—

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

20 (i) reserve not more than 0.5 percent
21 of the total amount of funds appropriated
22 for each program authorized under the El-
23 ementary and Secondary Education Act of
24 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.), other than
25 part A of title I of such Act (20 U.S.C.

1 6311 et seq.) and section 1501 of such Act
2 (20 U.S.C. 6491); and

3 (ii) reserve, in the manner described
4 in subparagraph (B), an amount equal to
5 not more than 0.1 percent of the total
6 amount of funds appropriated for—

7 (I) part A of title I of the Ele-
8 mentary and Secondary Education
9 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311 et seq.);
10 and

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

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

15 (i) shall reserve not more than the
16 total amount of funds appropriated for sec-
17 tion 1501 of the Elementary and Sec-
18 ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
19 6491); and

20 (ii) may, in a case in which the total
21 amount of funds appropriated for such sec-
22 tion 1501 (20 U.S.C. 6491) is less than
23 the amount described in subparagraph
24 (A)(ii), reserve the amount of funds appro-
25 priated for part A of title I of the Elemen-

1 tary and Secondary Education Act of 1965
 2 (20 U.S.C. 6311 et seq.) that is needed for
 3 the sum of the total amount of funds ap-
 4 propriated for such section 1501 (20
 5 U.S.C. 6491) and such amount of funds
 6 appropriated for such part A of title I (20
 7 U.S.C. 6311 et seq.) to equal the amount
 8 described in subparagraph (A)(ii).

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

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

14 (i) carry out evaluations under section
 15 1501 of the Elementary and Secondary
 16 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6491);
 17 or

18 (ii) reserve funds for evaluation activi-
 19 ties under section 3111(c)(1)(C) of such
 20 Act (20 U.S.C. 6821(c)(1)(C)); and

21 (B) the Secretary of Education, in con-
 22 sultation with the Director of the Institute of
 23 Education Sciences—

24 (i) shall use the funds reserved under
 25 paragraph (1) to carry out high-quality

1 evaluations (consistent with the require-
2 ments of section 173(a) of the Education
3 Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (20 U.S.C.
4 9563(a)), as amended by this Act, and the
5 evaluation plan described in subsection (c)
6 of this section) of programs authorized
7 under the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
8 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et
9 seq.); and

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

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

18 (II) assist grantees of such pro-
19 grams in collecting and analyzing data
20 and other activities related to con-
21 ducting high-quality evaluations under
22 clause (i).

23 (3) DISSEMINATION.—The Secretary of Edu-
24 cation or the Director of the Institute of Education
25 Sciences shall disseminate evaluation findings, con-

1 sistent with section 114(j) of the Education Sciences
 2 Reform Act of 2002 (20 U.S.C. 9514(j)), as amend-
 3 ed by this Act, of evaluations carried out under
 4 paragraph (2)(B)(i).

5 (4) CONSOLIDATION.—The Secretary of Edu-
 6 cation, in consultation with the Director of the Insti-
 7 tute of Education Sciences—

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

11 (B) shall not be required to evaluate under
 12 paragraph (2)(B)(i) each program authorized
 13 under the Elementary and Secondary Education
 14 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) each year.

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

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

1 (2) contains the results of the activities carried
2 out under subsection (b)(2)(B) for the most recent
3 2-year period; and

4 (3) describes how programs authorized under
5 the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of
6 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) will be regularly eval-
7 uated.

8 (d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
9 tion shall be construed to affect section 173(b) of the Edu-
10 cation Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (20 U.S.C. 9563(b)),
11 as amended by this Act.

Passed the Senate December 17, 2015.

Attest:

JULIE E. ADAMS,
Secretary.