

## Calendar No. 13

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 227

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.

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### IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 21, 2015

Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. MURRAY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

FEBRUARY 4, 2015

Reported by Mr. ALEXANDER, without amendment

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## A BILL

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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

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

**1 SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

**2** The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title.
- Sec. 2. Table of contents.
- Sec. 3. Nonduplication.

TITLE I—EDUCATION SCIENCES REFORM

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

PART A—THE INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION SCIENCES

- Sec. 111. Establishment.
- Sec. 112. Functions.
- Sec. 113. Delegation.
- Sec. 114. Office of the Director.
- Sec. 115. Priorities.
- Sec. 116. National Board for Education Sciences.
- Sec. 117. Commissioners of the National Education Centers.
- Sec. 118. Transparency.
- Sec. 119. Competitive awards.

PART B—NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION RESEARCH

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

PART C—NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS

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

PART D—NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION EVALUATION AND REGIONAL ASSISTANCE

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

PART E—NATIONAL CENTER FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION RESEARCH

- Sec. 175. Establishment.
- Sec. 176. Commissioner for Special Education Research.
- Sec. 177. Duties.

PART F—GENERAL PROVISIONS

- Sec. 181. Prohibitions.

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

PART G—TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS

- Sec. 191. Technical and conforming amendments to other laws.

TITLE II—EDUCATIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- Sec. 201. References.
- Sec. 202. Definitions.
- Sec. 203. Comprehensive centers.
- Sec. 204. Evaluations.
- Sec. 205. Existing technical assistance providers.
- Sec. 206. Regional advisory committees.
- Sec. 207. Priorities.
- Sec. 208. Grant program for statewide, longitudinal data systems.
- Sec. 209. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE III—NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS

- Sec. 301. References.
- Sec. 302. National Assessment Governing Board.
- Sec. 303. National Assessment of Educational Progress.
- Sec. 304. Definitions.
- Sec. 305. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE IV—EVALUATION PLAN

- Sec. 401. Research and evaluation.

**1 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,  
 8 the Secretary of Education shall, to the extent appro-  
 9 priate, not duplicate other requirements and shall use in-  
 10 formation and data that are available from existing Fed-

1 eral, State, and local sources, in order to reduce burden  
 2 and cost to the Department of Education, States, local  
 3 educational agencies (as defined in section 9101 of the El-  
 4 ementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20  
 5 U.S.C. 7801)), and other entities.”.

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

“Sec. 2. Nonduplication.”.

10 **TITLE I—EDUCATION SCIENCES**  
 11 **REFORM**

12 **SEC. 101. REFERENCES.**

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

19 **SEC. 102. DEFINITIONS.**

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

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

22 (2) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through  
 23 (11), (12), (14), (15), (16), (17), and (19) through  
 24 (23), as paragraphs (3) through (12), (14), (15),  
 25 (16), (18), (20), and (22) through (26), respectively;

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

3           “(2) ADULT EDUCATION; ADULT EDUCATION  
4           AND LITERACY ACTIVITIES.—The terms ‘adult edu-  
5           cation’ and ‘adult education and literacy activities’  
6           have the meanings given the terms in section 203 of  
7           the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (20  
8           U.S.C. 9202).”;

9           (4) in paragraph (6), as redesignated by para-  
10          graph (2), by striking “Affairs” and inserting “Edu-  
11          cation”;

12          (5) in paragraph (11), as redesignated by para-  
13          graph (2)—

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

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

18          (6) by inserting after paragraph (12), as redesi-  
19          gnated by paragraph (2), the following:

20                 “(13) ENGLISH LEARNER.—The term ‘English  
21                 learner’ means an individual who is limited English  
22                 proficient, as defined in section 9101 of the Elemen-  
23                 tary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20  
24                 U.S.C. 7801) or section 637 of the Head Start Act  
25                 (42 U.S.C. 9832).”;

1           (7) in paragraph (14), as redesignated by para-  
2           graph (2), by inserting “, school leaders,” after  
3           “teachers”;

4           (8) by inserting after paragraph (16), as redesi-  
5           gnated by paragraph (2), the following:

6           “(17) MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTION.—The  
7           term ‘minority-serving institution’ means an institu-  
8           tion of higher education described in section 371(a)  
9           of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
10          1067q(a)).”;

11          (9) in paragraph (18), as redesignated by para-  
12          graph (2), by striking “section 133(c)” and inserting  
13          “section 133(d)”;

14          (10) by inserting after paragraph (18), as re-  
15          designated by paragraph (2), the following:

16          “(19) PRINCIPLES OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH.—  
17          The term ‘principles of scientific research’ means  
18          principles of research that—

19                 “(A) apply rigorous, systematic, and objec-  
20                 tive methodology to obtain reliable and valid  
21                 knowledge relevant to education activities and  
22                 programs;

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

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

3           “(i) use of systematic, empirical meth-  
4 ods that draw on observation or experi-  
5 ment;

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

8           “(iii) reliance on measurements or ob-  
9 servational methods that provide reliable  
10 and generalizable findings;

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

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

21           “(vi) acceptance by a peer-reviewed  
22 journal or critique by a panel of inde-  
23 pendent experts through a comparably rig-  
24 orous, objective, and scientific review; and

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

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

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

9           “(A) an employee or officer of—

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

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

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

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

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



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

3 **SEC. 111. ESTABLISHMENT.**

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

5                   (1) in paragraph (1), in the matter preceding  
6           subparagraph (A), by inserting “including adult edu-  
7           cation,” after “postsecondary study,”; and

8                   (2) in paragraph (2)—

9                           (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph

10                           (A)—

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

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

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

19 **SEC. 112. FUNCTIONS.**

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

21                   (1) in paragraph (1)—

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

25                           (B) by inserting “and utilization” before  
26                   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” 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-

1 tute are relevant to education policy and  
2 practice by soliciting, on an ongoing  
3 basis,”; and

4 (ii) by striking “consistent with” and  
5 inserting “consistent with section 114(j)  
6 and”;

7 (E) in paragraph (11)—

8 (i) by inserting “the Institute’s” after  
9 “enhance”; and

10 (ii) by striking “among other Federal  
11 and State research agencies” and inserting  
12 “with public and private entities to im-  
13 prove the work of the Institute”; and

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

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

17 (2) in subsection (c)—

18 (A) in paragraph (2)—

19 (i) by inserting “Board,” before “Na-  
20 tional Academy”; and

21 (ii) by striking “and the National  
22 Science Advisor” and inserting “the Na-  
23 tional Science Advisor, and other entities  
24 and organizations that have knowledge of  
25 individuals who are highly qualified to ap-

1 praise education research, statistics, eval-  
2 uations, or development”;

3 (B) in paragraph (4)—

4 (i) in subparagraph (A)—

5 (I) in clause (i), by striking “,  
6 which may include those researchers  
7 recommended by the National Acad-  
8 emy of Sciences”;

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

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

13 “(ii) Not fewer than 2 practitioners  
14 who are knowledgeable about the education  
15 needs of the United States, who may in-  
16 clude school-based professional educators,  
17 teachers, school leaders, local educational  
18 agency superintendents, and members of  
19 local boards of education or Bureau-funded  
20 school boards.”; and

21 (IV) in clause (iii), as redesign-  
22 nated by subclause (II)—

23 (aa) by striking “school-  
24 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”;

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

1 widely available to the public (including by elec-  
2 tronic means such as posting in an easily acces-  
3 sible manner on the Institute’s website), a re-  
4 port once every 5 years”; and

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

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

8 “(A) subject to paragraph (3), an evalua-  
9 tion of the activities authorized for each of the  
10 National Education Centers, which—

11 “(i) uses the performance manage-  
12 ment system described in section 185; and

13 “(ii) is conducted by an independent  
14 entity;

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

18 “(C) any recommendations regarding ac-  
19 tions that may be taken to enhance the ability  
20 of the Institute and the National Education  
21 Centers to carry out their priorities and mis-  
22 sions;

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

1           ried out under section 113(b) during the 3 pre-  
2           ceding fiscal years; and

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

9           “(3) NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION EVAL-  
10          UATION AND REGIONAL ASSISTANCE.—With respect  
11          to the National Center for Education Evaluation  
12          and Regional Assistance, an evaluation report de-  
13          scribed in paragraph (1) shall contain—

14               “(A) an evaluation described in paragraph  
15               (2)(A) of the activities authorized for such Cen-  
16               ter, except for the regional educational labora-  
17               tories established under section 174; and

18               “(B) a summative or interim evaluation,  
19               whichever is most recent, for each such labora-  
20               tory conducted under section 174(i) on or after  
21               the date of enactment of the Strengthening  
22               Education through Research Act or, in a case  
23               in which such an evaluation is not available for  
24               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-

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

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

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

14 (A) by striking paragraph (1) and insert-  
15 ing the following:

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

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



1 (C) by redesignating paragraphs (4), (6),  
2 and (7) as 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 redesignig-  
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-

1           justed cohort graduation rate (as defined in sec-  
2           tion 200.19(b)(1)(i)(A) of title 34, Code of Fed-  
3           eral Regulations, as such section was in effect  
4           on November 28, 2008) and the extended-year  
5           adjusted cohort graduation rate (as defined in  
6           section 200.19(b)(1)(v)(A) of title 34, Code of  
7           Federal Regulations, as such section was in ef-  
8           fect on November 28, 2008), and school drop-  
9           out rates, and adult literacy;”;

10                   (ii) in subparagraph (E), by striking  
11                   “and opportunity for,” and inserting “op-  
12                   portunity for, and completion of”;

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

15                   “(F) teaching and school leadership, in-  
16                   cluding information on teacher and school lead-  
17                   er pre-service preparation, professional develop-  
18                   ment, teacher distribution, and teacher and  
19                   school leader evaluation;”;

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

22                   (v) in subparagraph (H), by inserting  
23                   “, climate, and in- and out-of-school sus-  
24                   pensions and expulsions” before “, includ-  
25                   ing 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

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

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

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

15 (E) in paragraph (5)—

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

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

22 (F) in paragraph (6)—

23 (i) by striking “Third” and inserting  
24 “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 SYSTEMS.**

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

22           (1) in the section heading, by striking “**SYS-**  
23           **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, to the public, the media, voluntary  
4 organizations, professional associations, and other  
5 constituencies, especially with respect to the prior-  
6 ities 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)”;

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 (e);

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 contract grant, contract, or co-  
17 operative agreement under this section shall  
18 submit an application at such time, in such  
19 manner, and containing such information as the  
20 Evaluation and Regional Assistance Commis-  
21 sioner may 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 center is located, and with com-  
18          prehensive centers located outside of its region, as  
19          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 sassing 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        appropriate, schools funded by the Bureau to carry out  
2        the activities described in paragraphs (1) and (2).

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

7                “(1) Conduct, widely disseminate, and promote  
8        utilization of applied research, development activi-  
9        ties, evaluations, 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-

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

3       “(i) EVALUATIONS.—

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

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

12                      “(B) transmit the results of such evalua-  
13      tions, through appropriate means, to the appro-  
14      priate congressional committees, the Director,  
15      and the public.

16               “(2) SUMMATIVE EVALUATIONS.—The Evalua-  
17      tion and Regional Assistance Commissioner shall en-  
18      sure each regional educational laboratory established  
19      under this section is evaluated by an independent  
20      entity at the end of the period of the grant, contract,  
21      or cooperative agreement that established such lab-  
22      oratory, and such evaluation shall—

23                      “(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       commissioner 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 (1);

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, develop-  
ment, dissemination, 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 “scientific-  
24           ally 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:

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

4           (G) in paragraph (5), as redesignated by  
5           subparagraph (E), by striking “and types of  
6           children with” and inserting “, student sub-  
7           groups, and types of”; and

8           (H) by inserting after paragraph (5), as  
9           redesignated by subparagraph (E), the fol-  
10          lowing:

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

15          (3) in subsection (d)—

16               (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “Direc-  
17               tor” and inserting “Special Education Research  
18               Commissioner”;

19               (B) by striking paragraph (3) and insert-  
20               ing the following:

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 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—

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

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

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

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

21          “(c) APPLICATIONS.—

22                  “(1) SUBMISSION.—

23                          “(A) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible appli-  
24                          cant seeking a grant, contract, or cooperative  
25                          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           activities, 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) meet the voluntary standards and  
4 guidelines described in section 153(a)(5);

5 “(B) define the roles of State educational  
6 agencies, local educational agencies, and others  
7 in providing timely access to data under the  
8 statewide, 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 redesi-  
16                                      gnated 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.

**Calendar No. 13**

114<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> Session

**S. 227**

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**A BILL**

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.

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FEBRUARY 4, 2015

Reported without amendment