

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3246

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to establish a Teacher Advisory Committee and a Parents and Families Advisory Committee.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 14, 2017

Miss RICE of New York (for herself and Ms. STEFANIK) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to establish a Teacher Advisory Committee and a Parents and Families Advisory Committee.

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 “Teachers and Parents
5 at the Table Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. TEACHER ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**

7 The Elementary and Secondary Education Act of
8 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) is amended by inserting
9 after section 1004 (20 U.S.C. 6304) the following:

1 **“SEC. 1005. TEACHER ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**

2 “(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds as follows:

3 “(1) Expert teachers offer an important re-
4 source to policymakers as they can bring their exper-
5 tise and perspective from the classroom to inform
6 policy so that positive outcomes for all students will
7 be maximized.

8 “(2) State Teachers of the Year represent a
9 valuable resource with a body of expert knowledge
10 and skill about instructional practice, 21st century
11 learning, and school functioning that can be infused
12 into policymaking to promote better outcomes for
13 prekindergarten, elementary, and secondary stu-
14 dents.

15 “(3) State Teachers of the Year have been se-
16 lected by their communities and States as models of
17 their profession and represent every State in the Na-
18 tion and every discipline and grade level.

19 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall estab-
20 lish an advisory committee, to be known as the Teacher
21 Advisory Committee (referred to in this section as the
22 ‘Committee’).

23 “(c) DUTY.—The duty of the Committee shall be to
24 bring the perspective of expert teachers to policymakers
25 regarding the implementation and impact of the Every

1 Student Succeeds Act (Public Law 114–95) and to make
2 policy recommendations.

3 “(d) MEMBERSHIP.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The membership of the
5 Committee shall consist of not more than 10 teach-
6 ers employed in a public elementary school and not
7 more than 10 teachers employed in a public sec-
8 ondary school who—

9 “(A) are past or present finalists or State
10 Teachers of the Year, or are nominated from
11 organizations representing teachers and have
12 demonstrated similar evidence of expertise;

13 “(B) have experience working with edu-
14 cational policy;

15 “(C) have a demonstrated history of work-
16 ing as a teacher leader in the policy arena; and

17 “(D) have submitted an application to the
18 Secretary to serve on the Committee.

19 “(2) LIST; APPOINTMENT.—The Secretary shall
20 compile a list of teachers submitting applications
21 under paragraph (1)(D). The members of the Com-
22 mittee shall be appointed sequentially as follows:

23 “(A) The Secretary shall appoint 4 teach-
24 ers from the list.

1 “(B) The Majority Leader of the Senate
2 shall appoint 4 teachers from the list.

3 “(C) The Minority Leader of the Senate
4 shall appoint 4 teachers from the list.

5 “(D) The Speaker of the House of Rep-
6 resentatives shall appoint 4 teachers from the
7 list.

8 “(E) The Minority Leader of the House of
9 Representatives shall appoint 4 teachers from
10 the list.

11 “(3) SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS.—

12 “(A) FINALISTS OR STATE TEACHERS OF
13 THE YEAR.—Not less than half of the members
14 of the Committee shall be past or present final-
15 ists or State Teachers of the Year.

16 “(B) REPRESENTATION REQUIREMENT.—
17 The members of the Committee shall represent
18 the diversity of the teaching workforce from
19 multiple geographic, grade level, and specialty
20 areas (such as English Language Learners,
21 high ability, et al.).

22 “(4) TERM.—Each member of the Committee
23 shall serve on the Committee for a 3-year term.

24 “(e) ANNUAL REPORT.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall sub-
2 mit to Congress and the Secretary—

3 “(A) 2 reports per year on the monitoring
4 carried out under subsection (c); and

5 “(B) on a quarterly basis, updates on such
6 monitoring.

7 “(2) CONTENTS OF REPORT.—The reports sub-
8 mitted under paragraph (1) shall provide the per-
9 spective of members of the Committee and surveys
10 of teachers in the networks represented on the Com-
11 mittee on not more than 3 topics per year deter-
12 mined by the Committee in consultation with policy-
13 makers; such topics might include—

14 “(A) testing and assessment;

15 “(B) the equitable distribution of teachers;

16 “(C) the diversity of the teaching work-
17 force;

18 “(D) the Every Student Succeeds Act
19 (Public Law 114–95) in rural schools; and

20 “(E) other topics of relevance determined
21 by the Committee in consultation with policy-
22 makers and members of other Department
23 school and family engagement fellowships (such
24 as the School Ambassadors Program).

1 “(f) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT APPLICA-
2 BILITY.—The provisions of the Federal Advisory Com-
3 mittee Act (Public Law 92–463; 5 U.S.C. App.) shall
4 apply to the Committee.

5 “(g) COMPENSATION.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each member of the Com-
7 mittee may be compensated at not to exceed the
8 daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay in
9 effect for a position at level IV of the Executive
10 Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United
11 States Code, for each day during which that member
12 is engaged in the actual performance of the duties
13 of the Committee.

14 “(2) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—While away from
15 their homes or regular places of business in the per-
16 formance of services for the Committees, members of
17 the Committee shall be allowed travel expenses, in-
18 cluding per diem in lieu of subsistence, in the same
19 manner as persons employed intermittently in the
20 Government service are allowed expenses under sec-
21 tion 5703(b) of title 5, United States Code.

22 “(h) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—The following
23 additional requirements shall apply to the Committee:

24 “(1) The Committee shall meet in person at
25 least once per year for deliberation.

1 “(1) Parents and families have a major influ-
2 ence on their children’s achievement in school and
3 throughout life.

4 “(2) Parents and family members offer an im-
5 portant resource to policymakers as they provide a
6 unique perspective as consumers of our Nation’s
7 public schools.

8 “(3) All parents and family members—regard-
9 less of income, education, or cultural background—
10 are critical in their child’s learning and development
11 and want their child to reach their fullest potential.

12 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall estab-
13 lish an advisory committee, to be known as the Parents
14 and Families Advisory Committee (referred to in this sec-
15 tion as the ‘Committee’).

16 “(c) DUTIES AND FOCUS.—The duty of the Com-
17 mittee shall be to monitor the effects of this Act on chil-
18 dren and families, and review and analyze implementation
19 of State and local parent and family engagement policies,
20 school-parent compacts, and other family engagement ac-
21 tivities described in section 1116 and part E of title IV.

22 “(d) MEMBERSHIP.—

23 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The membership of the
24 Committee shall consist of 10 parents or family
25 members of children enrolled in a public elementary

1 school and 10 parents or family members of children
2 enrolled in a public secondary school who—

3 “(A) have a demonstrated history of paren-
4 tal involvement and family engagement in
5 schools; and

6 “(B) have submitted an application to the
7 Secretary to serve on the Committee.

8 “(2) LIST; APPOINTMENT.—The Secretary shall
9 compile a list of parents and family members sub-
10 mitting applications under paragraph (1)(B). The
11 members of the Committee shall be appointed as fol-
12 lows:

13 “(A) The Secretary shall appoint 4 parents
14 or family members from the list.

15 “(B) The Majority Leader of the Senate
16 shall appoint 4 parents or family members from
17 the list.

18 “(C) The Minority Leader of the Senate
19 shall appoint 4 parents or family members from
20 the list.

21 “(D) The Speaker of the House of Rep-
22 resentatives shall appoint 4 parents or family
23 members from the list.

1 “(E) The Minority Leader of the House of
2 Representatives shall appoint 4 parents or fam-
3 ily members from the list.

4 “(3) REPRESENTATION REQUIREMENT.—

5 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The members of the
6 Committee shall represent multiple geographic
7 areas and a diversity of students, and shall in-
8 clude at least one parent or family member rep-
9 resenting each of the following student groups:

10 “(i) Economically disadvantaged stu-
11 dents.

12 “(ii) Students from major racial and
13 ethnic groups.

14 “(iii) Children with disabilities.

15 “(iv) English learners.

16 “(v) Students who are members of an
17 Indian tribe or tribal organization, as de-
18 fined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Deter-
19 mination and Education Assistance Act
20 (25 U.S.C. 450b).

21 “(B) SPECIAL CONSIDERATION.—Consider-
22 ation should also be given to representation of
23 students’ gender identity, migrant status, and
24 residence in rural areas in the appointment of
25 members of the Committee.

1 “(4) ADVISORS.—If requested by the Com-
2 mittee, the Secretary may provide access to not
3 more than 5 research advisors to the Committee,
4 such as researchers, practitioners or representatives
5 from national nonprofit organizations with expertise
6 in family engagement in education, to provide evi-
7 dence-based information and materials.

8 “(5) TERM.—Each member of the Committee
9 shall serve on the Committee for a 3-year term.

10 “(e) ANNUAL REPORT.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall sub-
12 mit to Congress and the Secretary—

13 “(A) on an annual basis, a report and pol-
14 icy recommendations on the review and analysis
15 carried out under subsection (c); and

16 “(B) on a quarterly basis, updates on such
17 review and analysis.

18 “(2) CONTENTS OF REPORT.—The report sub-
19 mitted under paragraph (1) shall provide the per-
20 spective of parents and families on not more than 3
21 topics per year determined by the Committee. Such
22 topics may include the following:

23 “(A) The effects of this Act on parental in-
24 volvement and family engagement in education,
25 including schools and classrooms.

1 “(B) Direction for State education authori-
2 ties and local education authorities for imple-
3 menting written family engagement policies
4 under section 1116 and part E of title IV.

5 “(C) Recommendations for strengthening
6 family engagement policy and implementation
7 in order to meet the goals of section 1116 and
8 part E of title IV.

9 “(f) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT APPLICA-
10 BILITY.—The provisions of the Federal Advisory Com-
11 mittee Act (Public Law 92–463; 5 U.S.C. App.) shall
12 apply to the Committee.

13 “(g) COMPENSATION.—

14 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each member of the Com-
15 mittee may be compensated at not to exceed the
16 daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay in
17 effect for a position at level IV of the Executive
18 Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United
19 States Code, for each day during which that member
20 is engaged in the actual performance of the duties
21 of the Committee.

22 “(2) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—While away from
23 their homes or regular places of business in the per-
24 formance of services for the Committees, members of
25 the Committee shall be allowed travel expenses, in-

1 including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in the same
2 manner as persons employed intermittently in the
3 Government service are allowed expenses under sec-
4 tion 5703(b) of title 5, United States Code.

5 “(h) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—The following
6 additional requirements shall apply to the Committee:

7 “(1) The Committee shall meet in person at
8 least once per year for deliberation.

9 “(2) The Committee shall be available for con-
10 sultation with officials at the Department and the
11 authorizing Committees of Congress regarding the
12 contents of the reports submitted under subsection
13 (e) .

14 “(i) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

15 “(1) The term ‘family engagement’ means a
16 shared responsibility of families and schools for stu-
17 dent success—

18 “(A) in which schools and community-
19 based organizations are committed to reaching
20 out to engage families in meaningful ways and
21 families are committed actively to support their
22 children’s learning and development;

23 “(B) that is continuous from birth through
24 young adulthood; and

1 “(C) that reinforces learning that takes
2 place in the home, school, and community.

3 “(2) The term ‘parental involvement’ means the
4 participation of parents or family members in reg-
5 ular, two-way, and meaningful communication in-
6 volving student academic learning and other school
7 activities, including ensuring—

8 “(A) that parents or family members play
9 an integral role in assisting their child’s learn-
10 ing;

11 “(B) that parents or family members are
12 encouraged to be actively involved in their
13 child’s education at school;

14 “(C) that parents or family members are
15 full partners in their child’s education and are
16 included, as appropriate, in decisionmaking and
17 on advisory committees to assist in the edu-
18 cation of their child; and

19 “(D) the carrying out of other activities,
20 such as those described in section 1116.

21 “(j) AUTHORIZATION OF FUNDS.—Of the amounts
22 appropriated to, and available at the discretion of, the Sec-
23 retary for programmatic and administrative expenditures
24 for fiscal years 2018 through 2022, a total of \$500,000

- 1 shall be used to establish and carry out the functions of
- 2 the Committee established under this section.”.

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