

115TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 3408

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to direct the Secretary of Education to award grants for teaching English learners to institutions of higher education.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 5, 2018

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BENNET, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. HARRIS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Ms. HIRONO) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

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## A BILL

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to direct the Secretary of Education to award grants for teaching English learners to institutions of higher education.

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 “Reaching English  
5 Learners Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. TEACHING ENGLISH LEARNERS GRANT.**

2 Part B of title II of the Higher Education Act of  
3 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1031 et seq.) is amended by adding at  
4 the end the following:

5 **“Subpart 6—Teaching English Learners**

6 **“SEC. 259. TEACHING ENGLISH LEARNERS GRANT.**

7 “(a) AUTHORIZATION OF PROGRAM.—The Secretary  
8 shall award grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible part-  
9 nerships to pay the Federal share of the costs of improving  
10 the preparation of teacher candidates to ensure that such  
11 teacher candidates possess the knowledge and skills nec-  
12 essary to effectively instruct English learners.

13 “(b) DURATION OF GRANTS.—A grant awarded  
14 under this section shall be for a period of not more than  
15 5 years.

16 “(c) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—An eligible partnership  
17 that receives a grant under this section shall provide an  
18 amount of not less than 25 percent of the cost of the ac-  
19 tivities carried out under the grant from non-Federal  
20 sources, which may be provided in cash or in-kind.

21 “(d) USES OF FUNDS.—An eligible partnership that  
22 receives a grant under this section shall use the grant to—

23 “(1) develop or strengthen a teacher prepara-  
24 tion program by integrating strategies for teaching  
25 English learners into the education curriculum and  
26 academic content;

1           “(2) provide teacher candidates participating in  
2 the teacher preparation program with skills related  
3 to—

4           “(A) helping English learners—

5           “(i) achieve at high levels in early  
6 childhood education programs, and in ele-  
7 mentary schools and secondary schools, so  
8 such English learners can meet the chal-  
9 lenging State academic standards adopted  
10 under section 1111(b)(1) of the Elemen-  
11 tary and Secondary Education Act of 1965  
12 by the State of the school attended by the  
13 English learners, which all children in the  
14 State are expected to meet; and

15           “(ii) attain English proficiency;

16           “(B) appropriately identifying and meeting  
17 the specific learning needs of children with dis-  
18 abilities who are English learners;

19           “(C) recognizing and addressing the social  
20 and emotional needs of English learners; and

21           “(D) promoting parental, family, and com-  
22 munity engagement in educational programs  
23 that serve English learners;

1           “(3) provide work-based learning opportunities  
2 for teacher candidates participating in the teacher  
3 preparation program; and

4           “(4) provide teacher candidates enrolled in the  
5 teacher preparation program with the required  
6 coursework to qualify for an English as a second  
7 language endorsement or initial teaching credential,  
8 as recognized by the State served by the eligible  
9 partnership.

10          “(e) APPLICATION.—

11           “(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible partnership  
12 seeking a grant under this section shall submit an  
13 application to the Secretary at such time, in such  
14 manner, and containing such information as the Sec-  
15 retary may require.

16           “(2) CONTENTS.—Such application shall in-  
17 clude a self-assessment by the eligible partnership  
18 of—

19           “(A) the existing teacher preparation pro-  
20 gram at the institution of higher education par-  
21 ticipating in the eligible partnership, as of the  
22 date of application, and the needs related to  
23 preparing teacher candidates to instruct  
24 English learners in the manner described in  
25 subsection (d)(2); and

1           “(B) the personnel needs for teachers who  
2           instruct English learners at local, public early  
3           childhood education programs and at elemen-  
4           tary schools and secondary schools.

5           “(f) EVALUATIONS.—

6           “(1) REPORTS FROM ELIGIBLE PARTNER-  
7           SHIPS.—At the end of the grant period for a grant  
8           under this section, an eligible partnership receiving  
9           a grant under this section shall submit to the Sec-  
10          retary the results of an evaluation conducted by the  
11          partnership to determine—

12           “(A) the effectiveness of teachers who com-  
13          pleted a program under subsection (d)(1) with  
14          respect to the instruction of English learners;  
15          and

16           “(B) the systemic impact of the activities  
17          carried out by such grant on how such partner-  
18          ship prepares teachers to provide instruction in  
19          early childhood education programs, and ele-  
20          mentary schools and secondary schools.

21          “(2) REPORT FROM THE SECRETARY.—Not  
22          later than 180 days after the last day of a grant pe-  
23          riod for grants awarded under this section, the Sec-  
24          retary shall make available to the authorizing com-  
25          mittees and the public—

1           “(A) a summary of the evaluations sub-  
2           mitted under paragraph (1) for such grants;  
3           and

4           “(B) information on best practices related  
5           to effective instruction of English learners.

6           “(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7           “(1) CHILD WITH A DISABILITY.—The term  
8           ‘child with a disability’ has the meaning given the  
9           term in section 602 of the Individuals with Disabil-  
10          ities Education Act.

11          “(2) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDU-  
12          CATION.—The term ‘eligible institution of higher  
13          education’ means an institution of higher education  
14          that has a teacher preparation program.

15          “(3) ELIGIBLE PARTNERSHIP.—The term ‘eligi-  
16          ble partnership’ means an eligible institution of  
17          higher education in partnership with a high-need  
18          local educational agency.

19          “(4) ENGLISH LEARNER.—The term ‘English  
20          learner’ has the meaning given the term in section  
21          8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education  
22          Act of 1965.

23          “(5) TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAM.—The  
24          term ‘teacher preparation program’ means a pro-  
25          gram—

1           “(A) that is offered by an institution of  
2 higher education;

3           “(B) that leads to an undergraduate de-  
4 gree, a master’s degree, or completion of a  
5 postbaccalaureate program required for teacher  
6 certification; and

7           “(C) the graduates of which meet the ap-  
8 plicable State certification or licensure require-  
9 ments, including any requirements for certifi-  
10 cation obtained through alternative routes to  
11 certification.

12           “(6) WORK-BASED LEARNING.—The term  
13 ‘work-based learning’ means learning involving sus-  
14 tained interactions with teachers and English learn-  
15 ers at public early childhood education programs, or  
16 elementary schools or secondary schools, to the ex-  
17 tent practicable, or simulated environments at the  
18 eligible institution of higher education involved, that  
19 foster in-depth, first-hand engagement with tasks re-  
20 quired of a teacher providing instruction to English  
21 learners.”.

1 **SEC. 3. CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**

2       Section 200(6) of the of the Higher Education Act  
3 of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1021(6)) is amended by striking “sec-  
4 tion 251” and inserting “sections 251 and 259”.

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