

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 276

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 26, 2019

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education,
Labor, and Pensions

AN ACT

To direct the Secretary of Education to establish the Recognizing Inspiring School Employees (RISE) Award Program recognizing excellence exhibited by classified school employees providing services to students in prekindergarten through high school.

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

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Recognizing Achieve-
3 ment in Classified School Employees Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds the following:

6 (1) Classified school employees provide valuable
7 service in the United States.

8 (2) Classified school employees provide essential
9 services, such as transportation, facilities mainte-
10 nance and operations, food service, safety, and
11 health care.

12 (3) Classified school employees play a vital role
13 in providing for the welfare and safety of students.

14 (4) Classified school employees strive for excel-
15 lence in all areas of service to the education commu-
16 nity.

17 (5) Exemplary classified school employees
18 should be recognized for their outstanding contribu-
19 tions to quality education in the United States.

20 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

21 In this Act:

22 (1) **CLASSIFIED SCHOOL EMPLOYEE.**—The term
23 “classified school employee” means an employee of a
24 State or of any political subdivision of a State, or an
25 employee of a nonprofit entity, who works in any

1 grade from prekindergarten through high school in
2 any of the following occupational specialties:

3 (A) Paraprofessional, including
4 paraeducator services.

5 (B) Clerical and administrative services.

6 (C) Transportation services.

7 (D) Food and nutrition services.

8 (E) Custodial and maintenance services.

9 (F) Security services.

10 (G) Health and student services.

11 (H) Technical services.

12 (I) Skilled trades.

13 (2) OTHER DEFINITIONS.—The terms used in
14 this Act have the meanings given the terms in sec-
15 tion 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
16 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

17 **SEC. 4. RECOGNITION PROGRAM ESTABLISHED.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Education shall
19 establish a national recognition program to be known as
20 the “Recognizing Inspiring School Employees Award Pro-
21 gram” or the “award program”. The purpose of the award
22 program shall be to recognize and promote the commit-
23 ment and excellence exhibited by classified school employ-
24 ees who provide exemplary service to students in pre-
25 kindergarten through high school.

1 (b) AWARD.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—Prior to May 31 of each
3 year (beginning with the second calendar year that
4 begins after the date of the enactment of this Act),
5 the Secretary shall select a classified school em-
6 ployee to receive the Recognizing Inspiring School
7 Employees Award for the year.

8 (2) NON-MONETARY VALUE.—The award and
9 recognition provided under this Act shall have no
10 monetary value.

11 (c) SELECTION PROCESS.—

12 (1) NOMINATION PROCESS.—

13 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than Novem-
14 ber 1 of each year (beginning with the first cal-
15 endar year that begins after the date of the en-
16 actment of this Act), the Secretary shall solicit
17 nominations of classified school employees from
18 the occupational specialties described in section
19 3(1) from the Governor of each State.

20 (B) NOMINATION SUBMISSIONS.—In order
21 for individuals in a State to be eligible to re-
22 ceive recognition under this section, the Gov-
23 ernor of the State shall consider nominations
24 submitted by the following:

25 (i) Local educational agencies.

- 1 (ii) School administrators.
- 2 (iii) Professional associations.
- 3 (iv) Labor organizations.
- 4 (v) Educational service agencies.
- 5 (vi) Nonprofit entities.
- 6 (vii) Parents and students.
- 7 (viii) Any other group determined ap-
8 propriate by the Secretary.

9 (2) DEMONSTRATION.—Each Governor of a
10 State who desires individuals in the State to receive
11 recognition under this section shall submit the nomi-
12 nations described in paragraph (1) to the Secretary
13 in such manner as may be required by the Secretary.
14 Each such nomination shall contain, at a minimum,
15 demonstrations of excellence in the following areas:

- 16 (A) Work performance.
- 17 (B) School and community involvement.
- 18 (C) Leadership and commitment.
- 19 (D) Local support.
- 20 (E) Enhancement of classified school em-
21 ployees' image in the community and schools.

22 (3) SELECTION.—The Secretary shall develop
23 uniform national guidelines for evaluating nomina-
24 tions submitted under paragraph (2) in order to se-
25 lect the most deserving nominees based on the dem-

Attest: **CHERYL L. JOHNSON,**
Clerk.