

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 6481

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to award grants to eligible entities to establish, expand, or support school-based mentoring programs to assist at-risk middle school students with the transition from middle school to high school.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 25, 2022

Mr. CARSON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on Education and Labor

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## A BILL

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to award grants to eligible entities to establish, expand, or support school-based mentoring programs to assist at-risk middle school students with the transition from middle school to high school.

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 “Transition-to-Success  
5 Mentoring Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. TRANSITION-TO-SUCCESS MENTORING PROGRAM.**

2 (a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section  
3 1002(d) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act  
4 of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6553) is amended to read as follows:

5 “(d) PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION PROGRAMS  
6 FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH WHO ARE NEGLECTED, DE-  
7 LINQUENT, OR AT-RISK.—There are authorized to be ap-  
8 propriated to carry out the activities described in part D,  
9 \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2023 and such sums as may  
10 be necessary for each succeeding fiscal year.”.

11 (b) TRANSITION-TO-SUCCESS MENTORING PRO-  
12 GRAM.—Part D of title I of such Act (20 U.S.C. 6421  
13 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

14 **“Subpart 4—Transition-to-Success Mentoring**  
15 **Program**

16 **“SEC. 1441. TRANSITION-TO-SUCCESS MENTORING PRO-**  
17 **GRAM.**

18 “(a) IN GENERAL.—From the amounts appropriated  
19 to carry out this section, the Secretary shall award grants  
20 to eligible entities to establish, expand, or support school-  
21 based mentoring programs to assist eligible students with  
22 the transition from middle school to high school.

23 “(b) APPLICATION.—To receive a grant under this  
24 section, an eligible entity shall submit an application to  
25 the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and con-  
26 taining such information as the Secretary may require.

1 “(c) USES OF FUNDS.—

2 “(1) REQUIRED USES OF FUNDS.—An eligible  
3 entity that receives a grant under this section shall  
4 use the grant funds to establish a mentoring pro-  
5 gram, or to expand or provide technical support to  
6 an existing mentoring program, in all middle schools  
7 served by the entity, under which each eligible stu-  
8 dent is assigned to a success coach who—

9 “(A) creates a plan for success for the stu-  
10 dent that—

11 “(i) is created with the student, men-  
12 tor, relevant school staff (such as a teacher  
13 or school counselor), and parents of the  
14 student;

15 “(ii) includes, for each academic year,  
16 the student’s academic, personal, college,  
17 and career exploration goals, and a strat-  
18 egy on how to accomplish such goals;

19 “(iii) identifies the student’s  
20 strengths, areas for improvement, and aca-  
21 demic progress; and

22 “(iv) includes a plan to educate and  
23 support the student’s college or career ex-  
24 ploration goals;

1           “(B) enters into a signed, written agree-  
2           ment with the parents of the student that de-  
3           scribes how the parents should assist the stu-  
4           dent in carrying out the plan for success;

5           “(C) meets with the student at least once  
6           per month to—

7                   “(i) assist the student in achieving the  
8                   goals under the plan for success;

9                   “(ii) identify the student’s academic  
10                  areas for improvement;

11                  “(iii) connect the student with the  
12                  tools and resources necessary to help im-  
13                  prove the student’s potential for academic  
14                  success;

15                  “(iv) ensure the student’s successful  
16                  transition from middle school to high  
17                  school by identifying opportunities to help  
18                  the student develop a positive attitude to-  
19                  ward school, improve classroom behavior,  
20                  complete coursework, and socialize with  
21                  peers; and

22                  “(v) in the case of a student with be-  
23                  havioral issues, assist the student in behav-  
24                  ior management techniques;

1           “(D) at least monthly, meets with the stu-  
2           dent and the parents, teachers, or counselors of  
3           the student to—

4                   “(i) evaluate the student’s progress in  
5                   achieving the goals under the plan for the  
6                   current academic year; and

7                   “(ii) revise or establish new goals for  
8                   the next academic year; and

9           “(E) assists the student in exploring high-  
10          er education and career exposure opportunities.

11          “(2) AUTHORIZED USES OF FUNDS.—An eligi-  
12          ble entity that receives a grant under this section  
13          may use such funds to—

14                   “(A) develop and carry out a training pro-  
15                   gram for success coaches;

16                   “(B) pay for costs related to success coach  
17                   and mentee participation in the program;

18                   “(C) hire staff to perform or support the  
19                   program objectives;

20                   “(D) recruit, screen, and match new suc-  
21                   cess coaches; and

22                   “(E) provide activities or programming  
23                   with the purpose of engaging and connecting  
24                   the student to the school community.

1       “(d) GRANT DURATION.—A grant under this section  
2 shall be awarded for a period of not more than 5 years.

3       “(e) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

4           “(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An eligible entity  
5 receiving a grant under this section shall submit to  
6 the Secretary, at the end of each academic year dur-  
7 ing the grant period, a report that includes—

8           “(A) the number of students who partici-  
9 pated in the school-based mentoring program  
10 that was funded in whole or in part with the  
11 grant funds under this section;

12           “(B) data on the academic achievement of  
13 such students;

14           “(C) the number of contact hours between  
15 such students and their success coaches; and

16           “(D) any other information that the Sec-  
17 retary may require to evaluate the success of  
18 the school-based mentoring program.

19       “(2) SECRETARY.—

20           “(A) INTERIM REPORT.—At the end of the  
21 third fiscal year for which funds are made  
22 available to carry out this section, the Secretary  
23 shall submit to Congress an interim report on  
24 the success of the school-based mentoring pro-

1           grams funded under this section that includes  
2           the information received under paragraph (1).

3           “(B) FINAL REPORT.—At the end of the  
4           fifth fiscal year for which funds are made avail-  
5           able to carry out this section, the Secretary  
6           shall submit to Congress a final report on the  
7           success of the school-based mentoring programs  
8           funded under this section that includes the in-  
9           formation received under paragraph (1).

10          “(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

11           “(1) AT-RISK.—The term ‘at-risk’ has the  
12           meaning given such term in section 1432 of the Ele-  
13           mentary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20  
14           U.S.C. 6472).

15           “(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-  
16           tity’ means—

17           “(A) a local educational agency that—

18           “(i) receives, or is eligible to receive,  
19           funds under part A of this title; or

20           “(ii) is a high-need local educational  
21           agency; or

22           “(B) a partnership between a local edu-  
23           cational agency described in subparagraph (A)  
24           and a nonprofit, community-based organization.

1           “(3) ELIGIBLE STUDENT.—The term ‘eligible  
2 student’ means a student who—

3                   “(A) is enrolled in a middle school served  
4 by an eligible entity; and

5                   “(B) is an at-risk student.

6           “(4) HIGH-NEED LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGEN-  
7 CY.—The term ‘high-need local educational agency’  
8 means a local educational agency that serves at least  
9 one high-need school.

10           “(5) HIGH-NEED SCHOOL.—The term ‘high-  
11 need school’ has the meaning given the term in sec-  
12 tion 2211(b)(2).

13           “(6) MIDDLE SCHOOL.—The term ‘middle  
14 school’ means a nonprofit institutional day or resi-  
15 dential school, including a public charter school, that  
16 provides middle school education, as determined  
17 under State law, except that the term does not in-  
18 clude any education below grade 6 or beyond grade  
19 9.

20           “(7) PARENT.—The term ‘parent’ has the  
21 meaning given the term in section 8101 of the Ele-  
22 mentary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20  
23 U.S.C. 7801).



1           “(8) SCHOOL-BASED MENTORING.—The term  
2           ‘school-based mentoring’ refers to mentoring activi-  
3           ties that—

4                   “(A) are closely coordinated with a school  
5                   by involving teachers, counselors, and other  
6                   school staff who may identify and refer stu-  
7                   dents for mentoring services; and

8                   “(B) assist at-risk students in improving  
9                   academic achievement and attitudes toward  
10                  school and reducing disciplinary referrals.

11           “(9) SUCCESS COACH.—The term ‘success  
12           coach’ means an individual who—

13                   “(A) is—

14                           “(i) an employee or volunteer of a  
15                           local educational agency in which a men-  
16                           toring program receiving support under  
17                           this section is being carried out; or

18                           “(ii) a volunteer or employee from a  
19                           nonprofit, community-based organization  
20                           that provides volunteers for mentoring pro-  
21                           grams in secondary schools; and

22                   “(B) prior to becoming a success coach—

23                           “(i) received training from an eligible  
24                           entity, which, at a minimum, was 2 hours

1 in length and covered the roles and respon-  
2 sibilities of a success coach; and  
3 “(ii) underwent a screening by an eli-  
4 gible entity that included—  
5 “(I) appropriate job reference  
6 checks;  
7 “(II) child and domestic abuse  
8 record checks; and  
9 “(III) criminal background  
10 checks.”.

11 **SEC. 3. TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

12 The table of contents in section 2 of the Elementary  
13 and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301  
14 et seq.) is amended by inserting after the item relating  
15 to section 1432 the following:

“SUBPART 4—TRANSITION-TO-SUCCESS MENTORING PROGRAM  
“Sec. 1441. Transition-to-success mentoring program.”.

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