

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3605

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

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 23, 2023

Mr. GRIJALVA (for himself, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. CROCKETT, and Mr. BOWMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

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## A BILL

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

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”.

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

7 Part B of title II of the Higher Education Act of  
8 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1031 et seq.) is amended by adding at  
9 the end the following:

1       **“Subpart 6—Teaching English Learners Grant**

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

3           “(a) AUTHORIZATION OF PROGRAM.—The Secretary  
4 shall award grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible part-  
5 nerships to improve the preparation of teacher candidates  
6 to ensure that such teacher candidates possess the knowl-  
7 edge and skills necessary to effectively instruct English  
8 learners.

9           “(b) DURATION OF GRANTS.—A grant under this  
10 section shall be awarded for a period of not more than  
11 5 years.

12          “(c) PREFERENCE.—In awarding grants under this  
13 section, the Secretary shall give preference to eligible part-  
14 nerships that recruit and enroll teacher candidates who  
15 are from underrepresented populations or former English  
16 learners.

17          “(d) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—An eligible partnership  
18 that receives a grant under this section shall provide not  
19 less than 50 percent of the cost of the activities carried  
20 out with such grant from non-Federal sources, which may  
21 be provided in cash or in kind.

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

24               “(1) develop, or strengthen, an undergraduate,  
25               postbaccalaureate, or master’s teacher preparation  
26               program that enables the graduate to meet the

1 State’s licensure or certification requirements to  
2 teach English learners and incorporates evidence-  
3 based strategies for teaching English learners (in-  
4 cluding bilingual, immersion, and dual-language edu-  
5 cation) into the education curriculum and academic  
6 content;

7 “(2) provide teacher candidates participating in  
8 a program under paragraph (1) with skills related  
9 to—

10 “(A) helping English learners—

11 “(i) achieve at high levels in early  
12 childhood education programs, and elemen-  
13 tary schools and secondary schools so such  
14 English learners can meet the challenging  
15 State academic standards that—

16 “(I) have been adopted under  
17 section 1111(b)(1) of the Elementary  
18 and Secondary Education Act of 1965  
19 (20 U.S.C. 6311(b)(1)) by the State  
20 of the school attended or to be at-  
21 tended by the English learners; and

22 “(II) apply to all public school  
23 students in the State; and

24 “(ii) attain English proficiency;

1           “(B) appropriately identifying and meeting  
2           the specific learning needs of children with dis-  
3           abilities who are English learners;

4           “(C) recognizing and addressing the social  
5           and emotional needs of English learners; and

6           “(D) promoting parental, family, and com-  
7           munity engagement in educational programs  
8           that serve English learners; and

9           “(3) provide high-quality preservice clinical ex-  
10          perience that meets the requirements of section  
11          202(d)(2) for teacher candidates participating in the  
12          program that includes, to the extent practicable—

13               “(A) clinical learning in classrooms that  
14               serve English learners; and

15               “(B) mentoring by a teacher certified to  
16               teach English learners.

17          “(f) APPLICATION.—An eligible partnership seeking  
18          a grant under this section shall submit an application to  
19          the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and con-  
20          taining such information as the Secretary may require.  
21          Such application shall include—

22               “(1) a self-assessment by the eligible partner-  
23               ship of the existing teacher preparation program at  
24               the institution of higher education, and the needs re-  
25               lated to preparing teacher candidates to instruct

1 English learners in the manner described in sub-  
2 section (e)(2);

3 “(2) a self-assessment by the eligible partner-  
4 ship of the personnel needs for teachers who instruct  
5 English learners at local, early childhood education  
6 programs, and elementary schools and secondary  
7 schools;

8 “(3) a description of the intended uses of such  
9 grant; and

10 “(4) a description of the plan to carry out the  
11 evaluation under subsection (g)(1).

12 “(g) EVALUATIONS.—

13 “(1) REPORT FROM ELIGIBLE PARTNER-  
14 SHIPS.—An eligible partnership receiving a grant  
15 under this section shall submit to the Secretary the  
16 results of an evaluation conducted by the partner-  
17 ship at the end of the grant period to determine—

18 “(A) the number and percentage of teacher  
19 candidates who enroll in the teacher prepara-  
20 tion program supported by such grant, and  
21 who—

22 “(i) complete such program;

23 “(ii) meet the licensure or certification  
24 requirements to teach English learners in  
25 the State of such program; and

1 “(iii) obtain employment in—

2 “(I) the high-need local edu-  
3 cational agency in the eligible partner-  
4 ship; or

5 “(II) the high-need early child-  
6 hood education program in the eligible  
7 partnership; and

8 “(B) the systemic impact of the activities  
9 carried out by such grant on how such partner-  
10 ship prepares teachers to provide instruction in  
11 early childhood education programs, and ele-  
12 mentary schools and secondary schools.

13 “(2) REPORT FROM THE SECRETARY.—Not  
14 later than 180 days after the last day of the last  
15 grant period under this section, the Secretary shall  
16 make available to the authorizing committees and  
17 the public—

18 “(A) the findings of the evaluations sub-  
19 mitted under paragraph (1); and

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

22 “(h) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—An eligible  
23 partnership receiving a grant under this section may use  
24 the grant only to supplement funds made available from  
25 non-Federal sources to carry out the activities supported

1 by such grant, and in no case to supplant such funds from  
2 non-Federal sources.

3 “(i) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 “(1) CHILD WITH A DISABILITY.—The term  
5 ‘child with a disability’ has the meaning given the  
6 term in section 602 of the Individuals with Disabil-  
7 ities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1401).

8 “(2) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDU-  
9 CATION.—The term ‘eligible institution of higher  
10 education’ means an institution of higher education  
11 that has a program of study that leads to an under-  
12 graduate degree, a master’s degree, or completion of  
13 a postbaccalaureate program required for teacher  
14 certification or licensure, including any requirements  
15 for certification obtained through alternative routes  
16 to certification.

17 “(3) ELIGIBLE PARTNERSHIP.—The term ‘eligi-  
18 ble partnership’ means an eligible institution of  
19 higher education in partnership with a high-need  
20 local educational agency or a high-need early child-  
21 hood education program.

22 “(4) ENGLISH LEARNER.—The term ‘English  
23 learner’ has the meaning given the term in section

- 1 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education
- 2 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).”.

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