

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 5458

To allow Federal funds appropriated for kindergarten through grade 12 education to follow the student.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 9, 2024

Mr. PAUL introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To allow Federal funds appropriated for kindergarten through grade 12 education to follow the student.

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 “Support Children Hav-
5 ing Open Opportunities for Learning Act of 2024” or the
6 “SCHOOL Act of 2024”.

1 **SEC. 2. FEDERAL FUNDING UNDER THE ELEMENTARY AND**
2 **SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT OF 1965 TO**
3 **FOLLOW THE STUDENT.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title VIII of the Elementary and
5 Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801 et
6 seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

7 **“PART H—FUNDS TO FOLLOW THE STUDENT**

8 **“SEC. 8701. FUNDS TO FOLLOW THE STUDENT.**

9 “(a) IN GENERAL.—

10 “(1) FUNDS TO FOLLOW THE STUDENT.—Not-
11 withstanding any other provision of law and to the
12 extent permitted under State law, a State edu-
13 cational agency shall allocate grant funds provided
14 under titles I, III, IV, V, and VI, for the purposes
15 of ensuring that funding under such titles follows
16 children, whether learning in person or remotely, to
17 the public school, private school, or home school they
18 attend—

19 “(A) among the local educational agencies
20 in the State based on the number of eligible
21 children enrolled in the public schools operated
22 by each local educational agency; and

23 “(B) directly to the eligible children,
24 through education savings accounts, residing in
25 the State who are enrolled in private schools or
26 home schools.

1 “(2) ALLOWABLE USES OF FUNDS.—Funds al-
2 located under paragraph (1) may be used for, but
3 not limited to—

4 “(A) curriculum and curricular materials;

5 “(B) books or other instructional mate-
6 rials;

7 “(C) technological educational materials;

8 “(D) online educational materials;

9 “(E) tutoring or educational classes out-
10 side the home;

11 “(F) private school tuition;

12 “(G) extracurricular activities;

13 “(H) testing fees;

14 “(I) diagnostic tools; and

15 “(J) educational therapies for student with
16 disabilities.

17 “(3) PLAN.—

18 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Each State that car-
19 ries out allocations described in paragraph (1)
20 shall establish a plan whereby the parent or
21 guardian of each eligible child in the State will
22 annually notify the relevant local educational
23 agency of the public school or private school
24 which the child will attend, or if the child will
25 instead attend home school.

1 “(B) DATA COLLECTION.—Information
 2 collected under this section by the State shall
 3 be used for the sole purposes of calculating the
 4 allocation of funds and distribution of funds
 5 under this section.

6 “(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 “(1) ELIGIBLE CHILD.—The term ‘eligible
 8 child’ means a child aged 5 to 17.

9 “(2) HOME SCHOOL.—The term ‘home school’
 10 means a home school as defined by the laws of the
 11 State in which the eligible child resides.

12 “(c) STUDENT ENROLLMENT IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS,
 13 PRIVATE SCHOOLS, AND HOME SCHOOLS.—

14 “(1) IDENTIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE CHIL-
 15 DREN.—On an annual basis, on a date to be deter-
 16 mined by the State educational agency, each local
 17 educational agency that receives grant funding in ac-
 18 cordance with subsection (a) shall inform the State
 19 educational agency of the number of eligible children
 20 enrolled in public schools served by the local edu-
 21 cational agency and private schools and home
 22 schools located in the school district served by the
 23 local educational agency in order to provide alloca-
 24 tions for each eligible child in equal amounts regard-
 25 less of where the child attends school in the State.

1 “(2) ALLOCATION TO LOCAL EDUCATIONAL
2 AGENCIES AND ELIGIBLE CHILDREN.—Based on the
3 identification of eligible children in paragraph (1),
4 the State educational agency shall provide—

5 “(A) to a local educational agency an
6 amount equal to the sum of the amount avail-
7 able for each eligible child in the State multi-
8 plied by the number of eligible children identi-
9 fied by the local educational agency under para-
10 graph (1) enrolled in public schools served by
11 the local educational agency; and

12 “(B) to an eligible child residing in the
13 State who is enrolled in a private school or
14 home school, through an education savings ac-
15 count, an amount equal to the sum of the
16 amount available for an eligible child in the
17 State.

18 “(3) DISTRIBUTION TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS.—
19 Each local educational agency that receives funds
20 under paragraph (2)(A) shall distribute such funds
21 to the public schools served by the local educational
22 agency—

23 “(A) based on the number of eligible chil-
24 dren enrolled in such schools; and

1 “(B) in a manner that would, in the ab-
 2 sence of such Federal funds, supplement the
 3 funds made available from non-Federal re-
 4 sources for the education of pupils participating
 5 in programs under this Act, and not to sup-
 6 plant such funds (in accordance with the meth-
 7 od of determination described in section 1118).

8 “(4) DISTRIBUTION TO ELIGIBLE CHILDREN.—
 9 Each State that carries out allocations described in
 10 paragraph (1) shall distribute amounts to the eligi-
 11 ble children residing in that State who enroll in a
 12 private school or home school—

13 “(A) through an education savings ac-
 14 count, as described in paragraph (2)(B); and

15 “(B) in a manner that would, in the ab-
 16 sence of such Federal funds, supplement the
 17 funds made available from non-Federal re-
 18 sources for the education of pupils participating
 19 in programs under this Act, and not to sup-
 20 plant such funds (in accordance with the meth-
 21 od of determination described in section 1118).

22 “(d) APPLICATION OF PARTICIPATION OF CHILDREN
 23 ENROLLED IN PRIVATE SCHOOLS.—The provisions of sec-
 24 tion 1117 shall apply to this section.

25 “(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—

1 “(1) FEDERALLY FUNDED SCHOOL FOOD PRO-
 2 GRAMS.—Nothing in this section shall be construed
 3 to preclude a child eligible for assistance under the
 4 free and reduced price school lunch program estab-
 5 lished under the Richard B. Russell National School
 6 Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.) from receiving
 7 assistance under such program.

8 “(2) PROHIBITION OF CONTROL OVER NON-
 9 PUBLIC EDUCATION PROVIDERS.—Nothing in this
 10 section shall permit, allow, encourage, or authorize
 11 Federal or State control over non-public education
 12 providers.”.

13 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents in
 14 section 2 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act
 15 of 1965 is amended by inserting after the item relating
 16 to section 8601 the following:

“PART H—FUNDS TO FOLLOW THE STUDENT

“Sec. 8701. Funds to follow the student.”.

17 **SEC. 3. FEDERAL FUNDING UNDER THE INDIVIDUALS WITH**
 18 **DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT TO FOLLOW**
 19 **THE STUDENT.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—Part A of the Individuals with
 21 Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.) is
 22 amended by adding at the end the following:

23 **“SEC. 610A. FUNDS TO FOLLOW THE STUDENT.**

24 “(a) IN GENERAL.—

1 “(1) FUNDS TO FOLLOW THE STUDENT.—Not-
 2 withstanding any other provision of law and to the
 3 extent permitted under State law, a State edu-
 4 cational agency shall allocate grant funds provided
 5 under this Act, for the purposes of ensuring that
 6 funding under this Act follows children, whether
 7 learning in person or remotely, to the public school,
 8 private school, or home school they attend—

9 “(A) among the local educational agencies
 10 in the State based on the number of eligible
 11 children enrolled in the public schools operated
 12 by each local educational agency; and

13 “(B) directly to the eligible children,
 14 through education savings accounts, residing in
 15 that State who are enrolled in private schools or
 16 home schools.

17 “(2) ALLOWABLE USES OF FUNDS.—Funds al-
 18 located under paragraph (1) may be used for, but
 19 not limited to—

20 “(A) curriculum and curricular materials;

21 “(B) books or other instructional mate-
 22 rials;

23 “(C) technological educational materials;

24 “(D) online educational materials;

1 “(E) tutoring or educational classes out-
2 side the home;

3 “(F) private school tuition;

4 “(G) extracurricular activities;

5 “(H) testing fees;

6 “(I) diagnostic tools; and

7 “(J) educational therapies for student with
8 disabilities.

9 “(3) PLAN.—

10 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Each State that car-
11 ries out allocations described in paragraph (1)
12 shall establish a plan whereby the parent or
13 guardian of each eligible child in the State will
14 annually notify the relevant local educational
15 agency of the public school or private school
16 which the child will attend, or if the child will
17 instead attend home school.

18 “(B) DATA COLLECTION.—Information
19 collected under this section by the State shall
20 be used for the sole purposes of calculating the
21 allocation of funds and distribution of funds
22 under this section.

23 “(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

24 “(1) ELIGIBLE CHILD.—The term ‘eligible
25 child’ means a child with a disability who is eligible

1 to receive special education and related services
2 under this Act.

3 “(2) HOME SCHOOL.—The term ‘home school’
4 means a home school as defined by the laws of the
5 State in which the eligible child resides.

6 “(c) STUDENT ENROLLMENT IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS,
7 PRIVATE SCHOOLS, AND HOME SCHOOLS.—

8 “(1) IDENTIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE CHIL-
9 DREN.—On an annual basis, on a date to be deter-
10 mined by the State educational agency, each local
11 educational agency that receives grant funding in ac-
12 cordance with subsection (a) shall inform the State
13 educational agency of the number of eligible children
14 enrolled in public schools served by the local edu-
15 cational agency and private schools and home
16 schools located in the school district served by the
17 local educational agency in order to provide alloca-
18 tions for each eligible child in equal amounts regard-
19 less of where the child attends school in the State.

20 “(2) ALLOCATION TO LOCAL EDUCATIONAL
21 AGENCIES AND ELIGIBLE CHILDREN.—Based on the
22 identification of eligible children in paragraph (1),
23 the State educational agency shall provide—

24 “(A) to a local educational agency an
25 amount equal to the sum of the amount avail-

1 able for each eligible child in the State multi-
2 plied by the number of eligible children identi-
3 fied by the local educational agency under para-
4 graph (1) enrolled in public schools served by
5 the local educational agency; and

6 “(B) to an eligible child residing in the
7 State who is enrolled in a private school or
8 home school, through an education savings ac-
9 count, an amount equal to the sum of the
10 amount available for an eligible child in the
11 State.

12 “(3) DISTRIBUTION TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS.—

13 Each local educational agency that receives funds
14 under paragraph (2)(A) shall distribute such funds
15 to the public schools served by the local educational
16 agency—

17 “(A) based on the number of eligible chil-
18 dren enrolled in such schools; and

19 “(B) in a manner that would, in the ab-
20 sence of such Federal funds, supplement the
21 funds made available from non-Federal re-
22 sources for the education of pupils participating
23 in programs under this Act, and not to sup-
24 plant such funds.

1 “(4) DISTRIBUTION TO ELIGIBLE CHILDREN.—
 2 Each State that carries out allocations described in
 3 paragraph (1) shall distribute amounts to the eligi-
 4 ble children residing in that State who enroll in a
 5 private school or home school—

6 “(A) through an education savings ac-
 7 count, as described in paragraph (2)(B); and

8 “(B) in a manner that would, in the ab-
 9 sence of such Federal funds, supplement the
 10 funds made available from non-Federal re-
 11 sources for the education of pupils participating
 12 in programs under this Act, and not to sup-
 13 plant such funds.

14 “(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—

15 “(1) FEDERALLY FUNDED SCHOOL LUNCH PRO-
 16 GRAMS.—Nothing in this section shall be construed
 17 to preclude a child eligible for assistance under the
 18 free and reduced price school lunch program estab-
 19 lished under the Richard B. Russell National School
 20 Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.) from receiving
 21 assistance under such program.

22 “(2) PROHIBITION OF CONTROL OVER NON-
 23 PUBLIC EDUCATION PROVIDERS.—Nothing in this
 24 section shall permit, allow, encourage, or authorize

1 Federal or State control over non-public education
2 providers.”.

3 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents in
4 section 601(b) of the Individuals with Disabilities Edu-
5 cation Act is amended by inserting after the item relating
6 to section 610 the following:

“Sec. 610A. Funds to follow the student.”.

