

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7262

To authorize the Secretary of Education to make payments to State educational agencies to provide immediate services or assistance to local educational agencies and non-public schools that serve an area in which a major disaster or emergency has been declared, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 27, 2026

Mr. MANNION (for himself, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, and Ms. CHU) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Workforce

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Education to make payments to State educational agencies to provide immediate services or assistance to local educational agencies and non-public schools that serve an area in which a major disaster or emergency has been declared, and for other purposes.

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 “Restarting Education
5 After Disasters Act” or the “READ Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. IMMEDIATE AID TO RESTART SCHOOL OPERATIONS.**

2 (a) PAYMENTS AUTHORIZED.—

3 (1) IN GENERAL.—From amounts appropriated
4 to carry out this section, the Secretary is authorized
5 to make payments, on such basis as the Secretary
6 determines appropriate, to State educational agen-
7 cies to enable such agencies to provide services or
8 assistance to local educational agencies or non-public
9 schools serving an area in which a covered disaster
10 or emergency has been declared.

11 (2) ENROLLMENT.—In determining the amount
12 to be provided in payments authorized under para-
13 graph (1), the Secretary shall—

14 (A) take into consideration the number of
15 students who were enrolled, during the school
16 year immediately preceding the school year in
17 which a covered disaster or emergency occurred,
18 in elementary schools and secondary schools
19 that were closed as a result of such covered dis-
20 aster or emergency; and

21 (B) give priority to State educational agen-
22 cies serving elementary schools and secondary
23 schools that were not used for educational in-
24 struction for 30 or more days.

25 (b) ELIGIBILITY, CONSIDERATION, AND EQUITY.—

1 (1) ELIGIBILITY AND CONSIDERATION.—From
2 the payment provided by the Secretary under sub-
3 section (a), the State educational agency shall pro-
4 vide services and assistance to local educational
5 agencies and non-public schools, consistent with the
6 provisions of this section. In determining the amount
7 to be provided for services or assistance under this
8 section, the State educational agency shall consider
9 the following:

10 (A) The number of school-aged children
11 served by the local educational agency or non-
12 public school in the academic year preceding
13 the academic year for which the services or as-
14 sistance are provided.

15 (B) The severity of the impact of the cov-
16 ered disaster or emergency on the local edu-
17 cational agency or nonpublic school and the ex-
18 tent of the needs in each local educational agen-
19 cy or non-public school that is in an area in
20 which a covered disaster or emergency has been
21 declared.

22 (2) EQUITY.—Educational services and assist-
23 ance provided for eligible non-public school students
24 under paragraph (1) shall be equitable in compari-
25 son to the educational services and other benefits

1 provided for public school students under this sec-
2 tion, and shall be provided in a timely manner.

3 (c) APPLICATIONS.—Each local educational agency
4 or non-public school desiring services or assistance under
5 this section shall submit an application to the State edu-
6 cational agency at such time, in such manner, and accom-
7 panied by such information as the State educational agen-
8 cy may reasonably require to ensure expedited and timely
9 provision of services or assistance to the local educational
10 agency or non-public school.

11 (d) USES OF FUNDS.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—A local educational agency
13 or non-public school receiving services or assistance
14 from the State educational agency under this section
15 shall use such services or assistance for—

16 (A) recovery of student and personnel
17 data, and other electronic information;

18 (B) replacement of school district informa-
19 tion systems, including hardware and software;

20 (C) financial operations;

21 (D) reasonable transportation costs;

22 (E) rental of mobile educational units and
23 leasing of neutral sites or spaces;

24 (F) initial replacement of instructional ma-
25 terials and equipment, including textbooks;

1 (G) redeveloping instructional plans, in-
2 cluding curriculum development;

3 (H) initiating and maintaining education
4 and support services;

5 (I) facility and equipment repairs and
6 minor renovation of schools; and

7 (J) such other activities related to the pur-
8 pose of this section that are approved by the
9 Secretary.

10 (2) USE WITH OTHER AVAILABLE FUNDS.—A
11 local educational agency or non-public school receiv-
12 ing services or assistance under this section may use
13 such services or assistance in coordination with other
14 Federal, State, or local funds available for the activi-
15 ties described in paragraph (1).

16 (3) SPECIAL RULES.—

17 (A) PROHIBITION.—Services or assistance
18 provided under this section shall not be used for
19 construction or major renovation of schools.

20 (B) SECULAR, NEUTRAL, AND NONIDEO-
21 LOGICAL SERVICES OR ASSISTANCE.—Services
22 or assistance provided under this section, in-
23 cluding equipment and materials, shall be sec-
24 ular, neutral, and nonideological.

25 (e) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
2 graph (2), services or assistance made available
3 under this section shall be used to supplement, not
4 supplant, any funds made available through the Fed-
5 eral Emergency Management Agency or through a
6 State.

7 (2) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1) shall not pro-
8 hibit the provision of Federal assistance under this
9 section to an eligible State educational agency, local
10 educational agency, or nonpublic school that is or
11 may be entitled to receive, from another source, ben-
12 efits for the same purposes as under this section
13 if—

14 (A) such State educational agency, local
15 educational agency, or school has not received
16 such other benefits by the time of application
17 for Federal assistance under this section; and

18 (B) such State educational agency, local
19 educational agency, or school agrees to repay all
20 duplicative Federal assistance received to carry
21 out the purposes of this section.

22 (f) ASSISTANCE TO NON-PUBLIC SCHOOLS.—

23 (1) FUNDS AVAILABILITY.—

24 (A) IN GENERAL.—From the payment pro-
25 vided by the Secretary under subsection (b) to

1 a State educational agency, the State edu-
2 cational agency shall reserve an amount of
3 funds, to be made available to non-public
4 schools in the State, that is not less than an
5 amount that bears the same relation to the pay-
6 ment as the number of students in non-public
7 elementary schools and secondary schools in the
8 State bears to the total number of students in
9 non-public and public elementary schools and
10 secondary schools in the State.

11 (B) NUMBER OF SCHOOLS.—The number
12 of students in schools described in subpara-
13 graph (A) shall be determined by the National
14 Center for Education Statistics Common Core
15 of Data for the most recent school year for
16 which data is available.

17 (C) USE OF FUNDS.—Except as provided
18 in paragraph (2), the funds reserved under sub-
19 paragraph (A) shall be used for the provision of
20 services or assistance at non-public schools.

21 (2) SPECIAL RULE.—If funds reserved under
22 paragraph (1) remain unobligated 120 days after
23 the date of enactment of this section, such funds
24 may be used to provide services or assistance under
25 this section to local educational agencies.

1 (3) PUBLIC CONTROL OF FUNDS.—The control
 2 of funds for the services and assistance provided to
 3 a non-public school under paragraph (1), and title to
 4 materials, equipment, and property purchased with
 5 such funds, shall be in a public agency, and a public
 6 agency shall administer such funds, materials, equip-
 7 ment, and property and shall provide such services
 8 (or may contract for the provision of such services
 9 with a public or private entity).

10 (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

11 (1) COVERED DISASTER OR EMERGENCY.—The
 12 term “covered disaster or emergency” means a
 13 major disaster or emergency that has been de-
 14 clared—

15 (A) in accordance with section 401 or 501
 16 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and
 17 Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170;
 18 5190); or

19 (B) by the State served by such State edu-
 20 cational agency, in accordance with State law.

21 (2) ESEA TERMS.—The terms “elementary
 22 school”, “local educational agency”, “secondary
 23 school”, “Secretary”, and “State educational agen-
 24 cy” have the meanings given such terms in section

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

3 (3) NON-PUBLIC SCHOOL.—The term “non-pub-
4 lic school” means a non-public elementary school or
5 secondary school that—

6 (A) is accredited or licensed or otherwise
7 operates in accordance with State law; and

8 (B) was in existence on the date that is 1
9 week prior to the date that the major disaster
10 or emergency was declared for the area.

11 (h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
12 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
13 \$200,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2030,
14 to remain available until expended.

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