

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2892

To direct the Secretary of Education to make grants to support early college high schools and dual or concurrent enrollment programs, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 18 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 16), 2025

Mr. MARKEY (for himself and Mr. DURBIN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Education to make grants to support early college high schools and dual or concurrent enrollment programs, 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 “Jumpstart on College
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

7 The purpose of this Act is to increase the percentage
8 of students who complete a recognized postsecondary cre-
9 dential within 100 percent of the normal time for the com-

1 pletion of such credential, including low-income students
 2 and students from other populations that are underrep-
 3 resented in higher education.

4 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

5 In this Act:

6 (1) ESEA TERMS.—The terms “dual or concur-
 7 rent enrollment program”, “early college high
 8 school”, “educational service agency”, “four-year ad-
 9 justed cohort graduation rate”, “local educational
 10 agency”, “secondary school”, and “State” have the
 11 meanings given the terms in section 8101 of the Ele-
 12 mentary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
 13 U.S.C. 7801).

14 (2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
 15 ty” means an institution of higher education in part-
 16 nership with one or more local educational agencies
 17 (which may be an educational service agency). Such
 18 partnership may also include other entities, such as
 19 nonprofit organizations or businesses and schools in
 20 juvenile detention centers.

21 (3) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
 22 term “institution of higher education” has the
 23 meaning given the term in section 101 of the Higher
 24 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

1 (4) LOW-INCOME STUDENT.—The term “low-in-
2 come student” means a student counted under sec-
3 tion 1124(c) of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
4 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6333(c)).

5 (5) RECOGNIZED POSTSECONDARY CREDEN-
6 TIAL.—The term “recognized postsecondary creden-
7 tial” has the meaning given the term in section 3 of
8 the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29
9 U.S.C. 3102).

10 (6) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
11 the Secretary of Education.

12 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS; RESERVA-**
13 **TIONS.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—To carry out this Act, there are
15 authorized to be appropriated \$250,000,000 for fiscal year
16 2026 and each of the 5 succeeding fiscal years.

17 (b) RESERVATIONS.—From the funds appropriated
18 under subsection (a) for each fiscal year, the Secretary
19 shall reserve—

20 (1) not less than 40 percent for grants to eligi-
21 ble entities under section 5;

22 (2) not less than 55 percent for grants to
23 States under section 6; and

24 (3) not less than 5 percent for national activi-
25 ties under section 8.

1 **SEC. 5. GRANTS TO ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award grants
3 to eligible entities, on a competitive basis, to assist such
4 entities in establishing or supporting an early college high
5 school or dual or concurrent enrollment program in ac-
6 cordance with this section.

7 (b) DURATION.—Each grant under this section shall
8 be awarded for a period of 6 years.

9 (c) GRANT AMOUNT.—The Secretary shall ensure
10 that the amount of each grant under this section is suffi-
11 cient to enable each grantee to carry out the activities de-
12 scribed in subsection (h), except that a grant under this
13 section may not exceed \$2,000,000, of which not more
14 than 15 percent of the overall grant total may be used
15 to improve data systems for the purpose of facilitating the
16 execution of the reporting requirement in section 7(a).

17 (d) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—For each year that an eligi-
19 ble entity receives a grant under this section, the en-
20 tity shall contribute matching funds, in the amounts
21 described in paragraph (2), for the activities sup-
22 ported by the grant.

23 (2) AMOUNTS DESCRIBED.—The amounts de-
24 scribed in this paragraph are—

1 (A) for each of the first and second years
2 of the grant period, 20 percent of the grant
3 amount;

4 (B) for each of the third and fourth years
5 of the grant period, 30 percent of the grant
6 amount;

7 (C) for the fifth year of the grant period,
8 40 percent of the grant amount; and

9 (D) for the sixth year of the grant period,
10 50 percent of the grant amount.

11 (3) DETERMINATION OF AMOUNT CONTRIB-
12 UTED.—

13 (A) IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS.—The Sec-
14 retary shall allow an eligible entity to meet the
15 requirements of this subsection through in-kind
16 contributions.

17 (B) NON-FEDERAL SOURCES.—Not less
18 than half of each amount described in para-
19 graph (2) shall be provided by the eligible entity
20 from non-Federal sources.

21 (e) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—An eligible enti-
22 ty shall use a grant received under this section only to
23 supplement funds that would, in the absence of such a
24 grant, be made available from other Federal, State, or

1 local sources for activities supported by the grant, and not
2 to supplant such funds.

3 (f) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this sec-
4 tion, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible entities
5 that—

6 (1) propose to establish or support an early col-
7 lege high school or dual or concurrent enrollment
8 program that will serve a student population of
9 which not less than 51 percent are low-income stu-
10 dents;

11 (2) include a local educational agency that
12 serves a high school that is—

13 (A) identified for comprehensive support
14 and improvement under section
15 1111(c)(4)(D)(i) of the Elementary and Sec-
16 ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
17 6311(c)(4)(D)(i)); or

18 (B) implementing a targeted support and
19 improvement plan as described in section
20 1111(d)(2) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 6311(d)(2));

21 (3) are from States that provide assistance to
22 early college high schools or dual or concurrent en-
23 rollment programs, such as assistance to defray the
24 costs of higher education (including costs of tuition,
25 fees, and textbooks); and

1 (4) propose to establish or support an early col-
 2 lege high school or dual or concurrent enrollment
 3 program that meets quality standards established
 4 by—

5 (A) a nationally recognized accrediting
 6 agency or association that offers accreditation
 7 specifically for such programs; or

8 (B) a State process specifically for the re-
 9 view and approval of such programs.

10 (g) EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION.—The Secretary shall
 11 ensure, to the extent practicable, that eligible entities re-
 12 ceiving grants under this section—

13 (1) are from a representative cross-section of—

14 (A) urban, suburban, and rural areas; and

15 (B) regions of the United States; and

16 (2) include both 2-year and 4-year institutions
 17 of higher education.

18 (h) USES OF FUNDS.—

19 (1) MANDATORY ACTIVITIES.—

20 (A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity shall
 21 use grant funds received under this section—

22 (i) to support the activities described
 23 in its application under subsection (i);

24 (ii) to create and maintain a coherent
 25 system of supports for students, teachers,

principals, and faculty under the program,
including—

(I) college and career readiness,
academic, and social support services
for students; and

(II) professional development for
secondary school teachers, faculty,
and principals, and faculty from the
institution of higher education, includ-
ing—

(aa) joint professional devel-
opment activities; and

(bb) activities to assist such
teachers, faculty, and principals
in using effective parent and
community engagement strate-
gies and to help ensure the suc-
cess of students academically at
risk of not enrolling in or com-
pleting postsecondary education,
first-generation college students,
and each category of students de-
scribed in section
1111(b)(2)(B)(xi) of the Elemen-
tary and Secondary Education

1 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
2 6311(b)(2)(B)(xi));

3 (iii) to carry out liaison activities
4 among the partners that comprise the eli-
5 gible entity pursuant to an agreement or
6 memorandum of understanding docu-
7 menting commitments, resources, roles,
8 and responsibilities of the partners con-
9 sistent with the design of the program;

10 (iv) for outreach programs to ensure
11 that secondary school students and their
12 families, including students academically at
13 risk of not enrolling in or completing post-
14 secondary education, first-generation col-
15 lege students, and each category of stu-
16 dents described in section
17 1111(b)(2)(B)(xi) of the Elementary and
18 Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
19 U.S.C. 6311(b)(2)(B)(xi)), are—

20 (I) aware of, and recruited into,
21 the early college high school or dual
22 or concurrent enrollment program;
23 and

24 (II) assisted with the process of
25 enrolling and succeeding in the early

1 college high school or dual or concur-
2 rent enrollment program, which may
3 include providing academic support;

4 (v) to collect, share, and use data (in
5 compliance with section 444 of the General
6 Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C.
7 1232g)) for program improvement and
8 program evaluation; and

9 (vi) to review and strengthen its pro-
10 gram to maximize the potential that stu-
11 dents participating in the program will
12 eventually complete a recognized postsec-
13 ondary credential, including by opti-
14 mizing—

15 (I) the curriculum of the pro-
16 gram;

17 (II) the use of high-quality as-
18 sessments of student learning, such as
19 performance-based, project-based, or
20 portfolio assessments that measure
21 higher-order thinking skills;

22 (III) the sequence of courses of-
23 fered by the program; and

24 (IV) the alignment of academic
25 calendars between the secondary

1 schools and the institution of higher
 2 education participating in the pro-
 3 gram.

4 (B) NEW PROGRAMS.—In the case of an
 5 eligible entity that uses a grant under this sec-
 6 tion to establish an early college high school or
 7 dual or concurrent enrollment program, the en-
 8 tity shall use such funds during the first year
 9 of the grant period—

10 (i) to design the curriculum and se-
 11 quence of courses in collaboration with, at
 12 a minimum—

13 (I) faculty from the institution of
 14 higher education;

15 (II) teachers and faculty from
 16 the local educational agency; and

17 (III) in the case of a career and
 18 technical education program, employ-
 19 ers or workforce development entities
 20 to ensure that the program is aligned
 21 with labor market demand;

22 (ii) to develop and implement an ar-
 23 ticulation agreement between the institu-
 24 tion of higher education and the local edu-
 25 cational agency that governs how sec-

1 ondary and postsecondary credits will be
2 awarded under the program; and

3 (iii) to carry out the activities de-
4 scribed in subparagraph (A).

5 (2) ALLOWABLE ACTIVITIES.—An eligible entity
6 may use grant funds received under this section to
7 support the activities described in its application
8 under subsection (i), including by—

9 (A) purchasing textbooks and equipment
10 that support the program’s curriculum;

11 (B) pursuant to the assurance provided by
12 the eligible entity under subsection (i)(3)(A),
13 paying tuition and fees for postsecondary
14 courses taken by students under the program;

15 (C) incorporating work-based learning op-
16 portunities (other than by paying wages of stu-
17 dents) into the program (which may include
18 partnering with entities that provide such op-
19 portunities), including—

20 (i) internships;

21 (ii) career-based capstone projects;

22 (iii) pre-apprenticeships and reg-
23 istered apprenticeships provided by eligible
24 providers of apprenticeship programs de-
25 scribed in section 122(a)(2)(B) of the

- 1 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
2 (29 U.S.C. 3152(a)(2)(B)); and
3 (iv) work-based learning opportunities
4 provided under chapters 1 and 2 of sub-
5 part 2 of part A of title IV of the Higher
6 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a–
7 11 et seq.);
8 (D) providing students with transportation
9 to and from the program;
10 (E) paying costs for—
11 (i) high school teachers to obtain the
12 skills, credentials, or industry certifications
13 necessary to teach for the institution of
14 higher education participating in the pro-
15 gram; or
16 (ii) postsecondary faculty to become
17 certified to teach high school; or
18 (F) providing time during which secondary
19 school teachers and faculty and faculty from an
20 institution of higher education can collaborate,
21 which may include—
22 (i) professional development;
23 (ii) the planning of team activities for
24 such teachers and faculty; and

1 (iii) curricular design and student as-
2 sessment.

3 (i) APPLICATION.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a
5 grant under this section, an eligible entity shall sub-
6 mit to the Secretary an application at such time, in
7 such manner, and containing such information as
8 the Secretary may require.

9 (2) CONTENTS OF APPLICATION.—The applica-
10 tion under paragraph (1) shall include, at minimum,
11 a description of—

12 (A) the partnership that comprises the eli-
13 gible entity, including documentation of partner
14 commitments, resources and budget, roles, and
15 responsibilities;

16 (B) how the partners that comprise the eli-
17 gible entity will coordinate to carry out the
18 mandatory activities described in subsection
19 (h)(1);

20 (C) the number of students intended to be
21 served by the program and demographic infor-
22 mation relating to such students;

23 (D) how the eligible entity's curriculum
24 and sequence of courses form a program of

1 study leading to a recognized postsecondary cre-
2 dential;

3 (E) how postsecondary credits earned will
4 be transferable to institutions of higher edu-
5 cation within the State, including any applicable
6 statewide transfer agreements and any provi-
7 sions of such agreements that are specific to
8 dual or concurrent enrollment programs;

9 (F) how the eligible entity will conduct
10 outreach to students;

11 (G) how the eligible entity will determine
12 the eligibility of students for postsecondary
13 courses, including an explanation of the mul-
14 tiple factors the entity will take into account to
15 assess the readiness of students for such
16 courses; and

17 (H) the sustainability plan for the early
18 college high school or dual or concurrent enroll-
19 ment program.

20 (3) ASSURANCES.—The application under para-
21 graph (1) shall include assurances from the eligible
22 entity that—

23 (A) students participating in a program
24 funded with a grant under this section will not

1 be required to pay tuition or fees for postsec-
 2 ondary courses taken under the program;

3 (B) postsecondary credits earned by stu-
 4 dents under the program will be transcribed
 5 upon completion of the required course work;
 6 and

7 (C) instructors of postsecondary courses
 8 under the program will meet the same stand-
 9 ards applicable to other faculty at the institu-
 10 tion of higher education that is participating in
 11 the program.

12 **SEC. 6. GRANTS TO STATES.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award grants
 14 to States, on a competitive basis, to assist States in sup-
 15 porting or establishing early college high schools or dual
 16 or concurrent enrollment programs.

17 (b) DURATION.—Each grant under this section shall
 18 be awarded for a period of 6 years.

19 (c) GRANT AMOUNT.—The Secretary shall ensure
 20 that the amount of each grant under this section is suffi-
 21 cient to enable each grantee to carry out the activities de-
 22 scribed in subsection (f), of which not more than 15 per-
 23 cent of the overall grant total may be used to improve data
 24 systems for the purpose of facilitating the execution of the
 25 reporting requirement in section 7(a).

1 (d) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—For each year that
2 a State receives a grant under this section, the State shall
3 provide, from non-Federal sources, an amount equal to 50
4 percent of the amount of the grant received by the State
5 for such year to carry out the activities supported by the
6 grant.

7 (e) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—A State shall
8 use a grant received under this section only to supplement
9 funds that would, in the absence of such grant, be made
10 available from other Federal, State, or local sources for
11 activities supported by the grant, and not to supplant such
12 funds.

13 (f) USES OF FUNDS.—

14 (1) MANDATORY ACTIVITIES.—A State shall use
15 grant funds received under this section to—

16 (A) support the activities described in its
17 application under subsection (g);

18 (B) plan and implement a statewide strat-
19 egy for expanding access to early college high
20 schools and dual or concurrent enrollment pro-
21 grams for students who are underrepresented in
22 higher education to raise statewide rates of sec-
23 ondary school graduation, readiness for postsec-
24 ondary education, and completion of recognized
25 postsecondary credentials, with a focus on stu-

dents academically at risk of not enrolling in or completing postsecondary education;

(C) identify any obstacles to such a strategy under State law or policy;

(D) provide technical assistance (either directly or through a knowledgeable intermediary) to early college high schools and dual or concurrent enrollment programs, which may include—

(i) brokering relationships and agreements that forge a strong partnership between elementary and secondary and postsecondary partners; and

(ii) offering statewide training, professional development, and peer learning opportunities for school leaders, instructors, and counselors or advisors;

(E) identify and implement policies that will improve the effectiveness and ensure the quality of early college high schools and dual or concurrent enrollment programs, such as eligibility and access, funding, data and quality assurance, governance, accountability, and alignment policies;

(F) update the State's requirements for a student to receive a regular high school diploma

1 to align with the challenging State academic
2 standards and entrance requirements for credit-
3 bearing coursework as described in subpara-
4 graphs (A) and (D) of section 1111(b)(1) of the
5 Elementary and Secondary Education Act of
6 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311(b)(1));

7 (G) incorporate indicators regarding stu-
8 dent access to and completion of early college
9 high schools and dual or concurrent enrollment
10 programs into the school quality and student
11 success indicators included in the State system
12 of annual meaningful differentiation as de-
13 scribed under section 1111(c)(4)(B)(v)(I) of the
14 Elementary and Secondary Education Act of
15 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311(c)(4)(B)(v)(I));

16 (H) disseminate best practices for early
17 college high schools and dual or concurrent en-
18 rollment programs, which may include best
19 practices from programs in the State or other
20 States;

21 (I) facilitate statewide secondary and post-
22 secondary data collection, research and evalua-
23 tion, and reporting to policymakers and other
24 stakeholders, disaggregated for each category of
25 students described in section 1111(b)(2)(B)(xi)

1 of the Elementary and Secondary Education
2 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311(b)(2)(B)(xi)); and

3 (J) conduct outreach programs to ensure
4 that secondary school students, their families,
5 and community members are made aware of
6 early college high schools and dual or concur-
7 rent enrollment programs in the State through
8 a new or existing State online website that com-
9 plies with the web accessibility requirements
10 under Federal and State laws that protect indi-
11 viduals with disabilities.

12 (2) ALLOWABLE ACTIVITIES.—A State may use
13 grant funds received under this section to—

14 (A) establish a mechanism to offset the
15 costs of tuition, fees, standardized testing, per-
16 formance assessments, and support services for
17 low-income students and students from under-
18 represented populations enrolled in early college
19 high schools or dual or concurrent enrollment
20 programs;

21 (B) establish formal transfer systems with-
22 in and across State higher education systems,
23 including 2-year and 4-year public and private
24 institutions to maximize the transferability of
25 postsecondary courses;

1 (C) provide incentives to local educational
2 agencies that—

3 (i) assist high school teachers in get-
4 ting the credentials needed to participate
5 in early college high school and dual or
6 concurrent enrollment programs;

7 (ii) encourage the use of instructors
8 at institutions of higher education to teach
9 higher education courses in high schools;
10 and

11 (iii) participate in an annual assess-
12 ment of current availability and shortages
13 of high school instructors who are
14 credentialed to teach a dual or concurrent
15 enrollment course, and shortages of these
16 instructors in specific curricular areas; and

17 (D) support initiatives to improve the qual-
18 ity of early college high school and dual or con-
19 current enrollment programs at participating
20 institutions, including by assisting such institu-
21 tions in aligning programs with the quality
22 standards described in section 5(f)(4).

23 (g) STATE APPLICATIONS.—

24 (1) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a
25 grant under this section, a State shall submit to the

1 Secretary an application at such time, in such man-
2 ner, and containing such information as the Sec-
3 retary may require.

4 (2) CONTENTS OF APPLICATION.—The applica-
5 tion under paragraph (1) shall include, at minimum,
6 a description of—

7 (A) how the State will carry out the man-
8 datory State activities described in subsection
9 (f)(1);

10 (B) how the State will ensure that any
11 programs funded with a grant under this sec-
12 tion are coordinated with programs under—

13 (i) the Carl D. Perkins Career and
14 Technical Education Act of 2006 (20
15 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.);

16 (ii) the Workforce Innovation and Op-
17 portunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.);

18 (iii) the Elementary and Secondary
19 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et
20 seq.); and

21 (iv) the Individuals with Disabilities
22 Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.);

23 (C) how the State intends to use grant
24 funds to address achievement gaps for each cat-
25 egory of students described in section

1 1111(b)(2)(B)(xi) of the Elementary and Sec-
 2 ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
 3 6311(b)(2)(B)(xi));

4 (D) how the State will access and leverage
 5 additional resources necessary to sustain early
 6 college high schools and dual or concurrent en-
 7 rollment programs;

8 (E) how the State will identify and elimi-
 9 nate barriers to implementing effective early
 10 college high schools and dual or concurrent en-
 11 rollment programs after the grant expires, in-
 12 cluding by engaging businesses and nonprofit
 13 organizations; and

14 (F) such other information as the Sec-
 15 retary determines to be appropriate.

16 **SEC. 7. REPORTING AND OVERSIGHT.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not less frequently than once an-
 18 nually, each State and eligible entity that receives a grant
 19 under this Act shall submit to the Secretary a report on
 20 the progress of the State or eligible entity in carrying out
 21 the programs supported by such grant.

22 (b) FORM OF REPORT.—The report under subsection
 23 (a) shall be submitted to the Secretary at such time, in
 24 such manner, and containing such information as the Sec-
 25 retary may require. The Secretary shall issue uniform

1 guidelines describing the information that shall be re-
2 ported by grantees under such subsection.

3 (c) CONTENTS OF REPORT.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The report under subsection
5 (a) shall include, at minimum, the following:

6 (A) The number of students enrolled in the
7 early college high school or dual or concurrent
8 enrollment program.

9 (B) The number and percentage of stu-
10 dents enrolled in the early college high school or
11 dual or concurrent enrollment program who
12 earn a recognized postsecondary credential con-
13 currently with a high school diploma.

14 (C) The number of postsecondary credits
15 earned by students while enrolled in the early
16 college high school or dual or concurrent enroll-
17 ment program that may be applied toward a
18 recognized postsecondary credential.

19 (D) The number and percentage of stu-
20 dents enrolled in the early college high school or
21 dual or concurrent enrollment program who
22 earn a high school diploma.

23 (E) The number and percentage of individ-
24 uals who complete the early college high school

1 or dual or concurrent enrollment program and
2 who enroll in postsecondary education.

3 (2) CATEGORIES OF STUDENTS.—The informa-
4 tion described in each of subparagraphs (A) through
5 (E) of paragraph (1) shall be disaggregated for each
6 category of students described in section
7 1111(b)(2)(B)(xi) of the Elementary and Secondary
8 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
9 6311(b)(2)(B)(xi)).

10 **SEC. 8. NATIONAL ACTIVITIES.**

11 (a) REPORTING BY SECRETARY.—Not less frequently
12 than once annually, the Secretary shall submit to Con-
13 gress a report that includes—

14 (1) an analysis of the information received from
15 States and eligible entities under section 7;

16 (2) an identification of best practices for car-
17 rying out programs supported by grants under this
18 Act; and

19 (3) the results of the evaluation under sub-
20 section (b).

21 (b) NATIONAL EVALUATION.—Not later than 6
22 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-
23 retary shall seek to enter into a contract with an inde-
24 pendent entity to perform an evaluation of the grants
25 awarded under this Act. Such evaluation shall apply rig-

1 orous procedures to obtain valid and reliable data con-
2 cerning student outcomes by social and academic charac-
3 teristics and monitor the progress of students from sec-
4 ondary school to and through postsecondary education.

5 (c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall
6 provide technical assistance to States and eligible entities
7 concerning best practices and quality improvement pro-
8 grams in early college high schools and dual or concurrent
9 enrollment programs and shall disseminate such best prac-
10 tices among eligible entities, States, and local educational
11 agencies.

12 (d) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—From amounts re-
13 served to carry out this section under section 4(b)(3), the
14 Secretary may reserve such sums as may be necessary for
15 the direct administrative costs of carrying out the Sec-
16 retary’s responsibilities under this Act.

17 **SEC. 9. RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.**

18 (a) EMPLOYEES.—Nothing in this Act shall be con-
19 strued to alter or otherwise affect the rights, remedies,
20 and procedures afforded to the employees of local edu-
21 cational agencies (including schools) or institutions of
22 higher education under Federal, State, or local laws (in-
23 cluding applicable regulations or court orders) or under
24 the terms of collective bargaining agreements, memoranda

1 of understanding, or other agreements between such em-
2 ployees and their employers.

3 (b) GRADUATION RATE.—For purposes of this Act
4 and any other Federal law, a student who graduates from
5 an early college high school supported by a grant under
6 section 5 within 100 percent of the normal time for com-
7 pletion described in the eligible entity’s application under
8 such section shall be counted in the four-year adjusted co-
9 hort graduation rate for such high school.

○