

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 3340

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to provide grants to local educational agencies to encourage girls and underrepresented minorities to pursue studies and careers in STEM fields.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 3, 2025

Ms. ALSOBROOKS (for herself and Ms. ROSEN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

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## A BILL

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to provide grants to local educational agencies to encourage girls and underrepresented minorities to pursue studies and careers in STEM fields.

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 “21st Century STEM  
5       for Girls and Underrepresented Minorities Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. GRANTS TO PREPARE GIRLS AND UNDERREP-**  
 2 **RESENTED MINORITIES.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title IV of the Elementary and  
 4 Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7101 et  
 5 seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

6 **“PART G—PREPARING GIRLS AND UNDERREP-**  
 7 **RESENTED MINORITIES FOR THE 21ST CEN-**  
 8 **TURY**

9 **“SEC. 4701. PROGRAM AUTHORITY.**

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning not later than 90  
 11 days after the date of enactment of this part, the Sec-  
 12 retary shall carry out a program under which the Sec-  
 13 retary makes grants to qualified local educational agen-  
 14 cies, on a competitive basis, to pay the costs of carrying  
 15 out STEM education activities for girls and underrep-  
 16 resented minorities as described in subsection (c).

17 “(b) APPLICATION.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a  
 19 grant under this part, a qualified local educational  
 20 agency shall submit to the Secretary an application  
 21 at such time, in such form, and containing such in-  
 22 formation as the Secretary may reasonably require.  
 23 At minimum, the application shall include a descrip-  
 24 tion of the following:

25 “(A) The educational program that will be  
 26 carried out by the local educational agency

1 using the grant, including the content of the  
2 program and the research and models used to  
3 design the program.

4 “(B) How elementary schools and sec-  
5 ondary schools served by the agency will col-  
6 laborate to fulfill goals of the program.

7 “(C) How the agency will ensure that there  
8 is a comprehensive plan to improve STEM edu-  
9 cation for girls and underrepresented minorities  
10 in grades kindergarten through grade 12.

11 “(D) The process that will be used for the  
12 recruitment and selection of students for par-  
13 ticipation in the program.

14 “(E) The instructional and motivational  
15 activities that will be included as part of the  
16 program.

17 “(F) Any expected collaboration among na-  
18 tional, regional, or local institutions and organi-  
19 zations for the purpose of fulfilling the goals of  
20 the program.

21 “(2) PRIORITY.—In selecting among applica-  
22 tions submitted under paragraph (1), the Secretary  
23 shall give priority to qualified local educational agen-  
24 cies that partner or coordinate, to the extent prac-  
25 ticable, with national, regional, or local institutions

1 and organizations that have extensive experience and  
2 expertise in—

3 “(A) increasing the participation of girls or  
4 underrepresented minorities in STEM fields; or

5 “(B) conducting research on methods to  
6 increase such participation.

7 “(c) USE OF FUNDS.—A qualified local educational  
8 agency that receives a grant under this part shall use the  
9 grant to carry out a STEM education program for girls  
10 and underrepresented minorities from elementary schools  
11 and secondary schools served by the agency. The program  
12 may include the following activities:

13 “(1) Preparing girls and underrepresented mi-  
14 norities for careers in STEM fields and the advan-  
15 tages of pursuing careers in such fields.

16 “(2) Educating the parents of girls and under-  
17 represented minorities about the opportunities and  
18 advantages of STEM careers.

19 “(3) Enlisting the help of the parents of girls  
20 and underrepresented minorities—

21 “(A) to overcome the obstacles faced by  
22 such groups; and

23 “(B) to encourage their child’s continued  
24 interest and involvement in STEM subjects.

1           “(4) Providing tutoring and mentoring pro-  
2           grams in STEM subjects.

3           “(5) Establishing partnerships and other oppor-  
4           tunities that expose girls and underrepresented mi-  
5           norities to role models in the STEM fields.

6           “(6) Enabling female and underrepresented mi-  
7           nority students and their teachers to attend events  
8           and academic programs in STEM subjects.

9           “(7) Providing after school activities designed  
10          to encourage interest and develop the skills of girls  
11          and underrepresented minorities in STEM subjects.

12          “(8) Summer programs designed to help girls  
13          and underrepresented minorities—

14               “(A) develop an interest in STEM sub-  
15               jects;

16               “(B) develop skills in such subjects; and

17               “(C) understand the relevance and signifi-  
18               cance of such subjects.

19          “(9) Purchasing—

20               “(A) educational instructional materials or  
21               software designed to help girls and underrep-  
22               resented minorities develop an interest in  
23               STEM subjects; or

24               “(B) equipment, instrumentation, or hard-  
25               ware for teaching STEM subjects to girls and

1 underrepresented minorities and encouraging  
2 their interest in such subjects.

3 “(10) Field trips to locations, including institu-  
4 tions of higher education, to expose girls and under-  
5 represented minorities to STEM activities, encour-  
6 age their interest in such activities, and acquaint  
7 them with careers in STEM fields.

8 “(11) Providing academic advice and assistance  
9 in high school course selection to encourage girls and  
10 underrepresented minorities to take advanced  
11 courses in STEM subjects.

12 “(12) Paying not more than 50 percent of the  
13 cost of an internship in a STEM discipline for fe-  
14 male and underrepresented minority students.

15 “(13) Providing professional development for  
16 teachers and other school personnel, including with  
17 respect to—

18 “(A) eliminating gender and racial bias in  
19 the classroom;

20 “(B) sensitivity to gender and racial dif-  
21 ferences;

22 “(C) engaging students in the face of gen-  
23 der-based and racial peer pressure and parental  
24 expectations;

1           “(D) creating and maintaining a positive  
2           environment; and

3           “(E) encouraging girls and underrep-  
4           resented minorities through academic advice  
5           and assistance to pursue advanced classes and  
6           careers in STEM fields.

7           “(14) Such other STEM-related activities as  
8           the local educational agency determines to be appro-  
9           priate.

10          “(d) GRANT DURATION AND AMOUNT.—

11           “(1) DURATION.—Each grant under this sec-  
12           tion shall be made for a period of 4 years.

13           “(2) AMOUNT.—The amount of each grant  
14           under this section shall be \$250,000 for each year  
15           of the grant period.

16          “(e) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—A qualified  
17           local educational agency that receives a grant under this  
18           section shall use the grant only to supplement, and not  
19           to supplant, other assistance and funds made available  
20           from non-Federal sources for the activities supported by  
21           the grant.

22          “(f) ANNUAL EVALUATIONS.—

23           “(1) EVALUATION REQUIRED.—Not later than  
24           30 days after the last day of each school year for  
25           which a qualified local educational agency receives a

1 grant under this section, the agency shall submit to  
 2 the Secretary a written evaluation of the program  
 3 carried out using the grant.

4 “(2) ELEMENTS.—The evaluation required  
 5 under paragraph (1) shall include—

6 “(A) a description of the program and ac-  
 7 tivities carried out using the grant;

8 “(B) a description of the curriculum and  
 9 any partnerships developed using the grant;

10 “(C) the percentage of time that students  
 11 who participated in the program spent directly  
 12 engaged in STEM activities;

13 “(D) an assessment of the academic  
 14 progress made by such students during the pro-  
 15 gram, which shall be based on an evaluation of  
 16 each student at the beginning of the program  
 17 and after the student completes the program;  
 18 and

19 “(E) such other information as the Sec-  
 20 retary may require.

21 “(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

22 “(1) The term ‘qualified local educational agen-  
 23 cy’ means a local educational agency that—

24 “(A) receives funds under part A of title I;  
 25 and



1           “(B) serves a total student population of  
 2           which not less than 40 percent are children who  
 3           are eligible for a free or reduced price lunch  
 4           under the Richard B. Russell National School  
 5           Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.).

6           “(2) The term ‘STEM’ means science, tech-  
 7           nology, engineering, and mathematics.

8   **“SEC. 4702. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

9           “‘There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out  
 10          this part \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026  
 11          through 2029.’”.

12          (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents  
 13          in section 2 of the Elementary and Secondary Education  
 14          Act of 1965 is amended by inserting after the item relat-  
 15          ing to section 4644 the following:

          “PART G—PREPARING GIRLS AND UNDERREPRESENTED MINORITIES FOR  
   THE 21ST CENTURY

          “Sec. 4701. Program authority.

          “Sec. 4702. Authorization of appropriations.”.

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