

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 3681

To improve character education programs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 16, 2000

Mr. ETHERIDGE (for himself and Ms. STABENOW) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To improve character education programs.

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 “Character Counts for
5 the 21st Century Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. CHARACTER EDUCATION PROGRAM.**

7 Sections 10102 and 10103 of part A of title X of
8 the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 are
9 amended to read as follows:

1 **“SEC. 10102. STATE AND LOCAL CHARACTER EDUCATION**
2 **PROGRAM.**

3 “(a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—(1) The Secretary
4 may make grants to State educational agencies, local edu-
5 cational agencies, or consortia of such educational agen-
6 cies for the design and implementation of character edu-
7 cation programs.

8 “(2) Each grant under this section shall be awarded
9 for a period not to exceed five years, of which the recipient
10 shall use not more than one year for planning and pro-
11 gram design.

12 “(b) APPLICATIONS.—(1) Each applicant desiring a
13 grant under this section shall submit an application to the
14 Secretary at such time and in such manner as the Sec-
15 retary may require.

16 “(2) Each application under this section shall
17 include—

18 “(A) a description of any partnerships and
19 other collaborative efforts between the applicant and
20 other educational agencies;

21 “(B) a description of the program’s goals and
22 objectives;

23 “(C) a description of the activities the applicant
24 will carry out, and how these activities are designed
25 to meet the program’s goals and objectives under
26 subparagraph (B), including—

1 “(i) how parents, students, and other
2 members of the community, including members
3 of private and nonprofit organizations, will be
4 involved in the design and implementation of
5 the program;

6 “(ii) the curriculum and instructional prac-
7 tices that will be used or developed; and

8 “(iii) the methods of teacher training and
9 parent education that will be used or developed;

10 “(D) a description of how the program will be
11 linked to other efforts to improve educational out-
12 comes, including—

13 “(i) broader educational reforms that are
14 being instituted by the applicant or its partners;
15 and

16 “(ii) applicable State and local standards
17 for student performance;

18 “(E) a description of how the applicant will
19 evaluate the progress of its program in meeting the
20 goals and objectives under subparagraph (B), includ-
21 ing the performance indicators that will be used to
22 measure progress; and

23 “(F) such other information as the Secretary
24 may require.

1 “(c) DIVERSITY OF PROJECTS.—The Secretary shall
2 make awards under this section that, to the extent prac-
3 ticable, support programs that serve different geographic
4 areas of the Nation, including urban, suburban, and rural
5 areas.”;

6 **“SEC. 10103. CHARACTER EDUCATION RESEARCH, DISSEMI-**
7 **NATION, AND EVALUATION.**

8 “(a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary is au-
9 thorized to make grants, or enter into contracts or cooper-
10 ative agreements with, State educational agencies, local
11 educational agencies, institutions of higher education, trib-
12 al organizations, and other public or private agencies or
13 organizations to carry out research, development, dissemi-
14 nation, technical assistance, and evaluation activities that
15 support or inform character education programs under
16 section 10102.

17 “(b) USE OF FUNDS.—Consistent with subsection
18 (a), funds under this section may be used—

19 “(1) to conduct research and development ac-
20 tivities that focus on such matters as—

21 “(A) the effectiveness of instructional mod-
22 els;

23 “(B) materials and curricula that can be
24 used by programs in character education;

1 “(C) models of professional development in
2 character education; and

3 “(D) the development of outcome measures
4 for character education programs;

5 “(2) to provide technical assistance to the agen-
6 cies receiving awards under section 10102, particu-
7 larly on matters of program evaluation;

8 “(3) to conduct a national evaluation of pro-
9 grams under section 10102; and

10 “(4) to compile and disseminate, through var-
11 ious approaches, such as a national clearinghouse—

12 “(A) information on model character edu-
13 cation programs;

14 “(B) character education materials and
15 curricula;

16 “(C) research findings in the area of char-
17 acter education and character development; and

18 “(D) any other information that will be
19 useful to character education program partici-
20 pants and other educators and administrators,
21 nationwide.”.

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