

106TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1252

To provide parents, taxpayers, and educators with useful, understandable school report cards.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 21, 1999

Mr. DORGAN (for himself, Mr. BINGAMAN, and Mr. BYRD) 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 provide parents, taxpayers, and educators with useful, understandable school report cards.

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 “Standardized School  
5       Report Card Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       Congress makes the following findings:

8               (1) According to the report “Quality Counts  
9       99”, by Education Week, 36 States require the pub-

1        lishing of annual report cards on individual schools,  
2        but the content of the report cards varies widely.

3            (2) The content of most of the report cards de-  
4        scribed in paragraph (1) does not provide parents  
5        with the information the parents need to measure  
6        how their school or State is doing compared with  
7        other schools and States.

8            (3) Ninety percent of taxpayers believe that  
9        published information about individual schools would  
10       motivate educators to work harder to improve the  
11       schools' performance.

12           (4) More than 60 percent of parents and 70  
13       percent of taxpayers have not seen an individual re-  
14       port card for their area school.

15           (5) Dissemination of understandable informa-  
16       tion about schools can be an important tool for par-  
17       ents and taxpayers to measure the quality of the  
18       schools and to hold the schools accountable for im-  
19       proving performance.

20    **SEC. 3. PURPOSE.**

21        The purpose of this Act is to provide parents, tax-  
22       payers, and educators with useful, understandable school  
23       report cards.

1 **SEC. 4. REPORT CARDS.**

2 (a) STATE REPORT CARDS.—Each State educational  
3 agency receiving assistance under the Elementary and  
4 Secondary Education Act of 1965 shall produce and wide-  
5 ly disseminate an annual report card for parents, the gen-  
6 eral public, teachers and the Secretary of Education, in  
7 easily understandable language, with respect to elemen-  
8 tary and secondary education in the State. The report  
9 card shall contain information regarding—

10 (1) student performance in language arts and  
11 mathematics, plus any other subject areas in which  
12 the State requires assessments, including compari-  
13 sons with students from different school districts  
14 within the State, and, to the extent possible, com-  
15 parisons with students throughout the Nation;

16 (2) attendance and graduation rates;

17 (3) professional qualifications of teachers in the  
18 State, the number of teachers teaching out of field,  
19 and the number of teachers with emergency certifi-  
20 cation;

21 (4) average class size in the State;

22 (5) school safety, including the safety of school  
23 facilities, incidents of school violence and drug and  
24 alcohol abuse, and the number of instances in which  
25 a student was determined to have brought a firearm

1 to school under the State law described in the Gun-  
2 Free Schools Act of 1994;

3 (6) to the extent practicable, parental involve-  
4 ment, as measured by the extent of parental partici-  
5 pation in school parental involvement policies de-  
6 scribed in section 1118(b) of the Elementary and  
7 Secondary Education Act of 1965;

8 (7) the annual school dropout rate, as cal-  
9 culated by procedures conforming with the National  
10 Center for Education Statistics Common Core of  
11 Data;

12 (8) student access to technology, including the  
13 number of computers for educational purposes, the  
14 number of computers per classroom, and the number  
15 of computers connected to the Internet; and

16 (9) other indicators of school performance and  
17 quality.

18 (b) SCHOOL REPORT CARDS.—Each school receiving  
19 assistance under the Elementary and Secondary Edu-  
20 cation Act of 1965, or the local educational agency serving  
21 that school, shall produce and widely disseminate an an-  
22 nual report card for parents, the general public, teachers  
23 and the State educational agency, in easily understandable  
24 language, with respect to elementary or secondary edu-

1 cation, as appropriate, in the school. The report card shall  
2 contain information regarding—

3 (1) student performance in the school in lan-  
4 guage arts and mathematics, plus any other subject  
5 areas in which the State requires assessments, in-  
6 cluding comparisons with other students within the  
7 school district, in the State, and, to the extent pos-  
8 sible, in the Nation;

9 (2) attendance and graduation rates;

10 (3) professional qualifications of the school's  
11 teachers, the number of teachers teaching out of  
12 field, and the number of teachers with emergency  
13 certification;

14 (4) average class size in the school;

15 (5) school safety, including the safety of the  
16 school facility, incidents of school violence and drug  
17 and alcohol abuse, and the number of instances in  
18 which a student was determined to have brought a  
19 firearm to school under the State law described in  
20 the Gun-Free Schools Act of 1994;

21 (6) parental involvement, as measured by the  
22 extent of parental participation in school parental in-  
23 volvement policies described in section 1118(b) of  
24 the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of  
25 1965;

1           (7) the annual school dropout rate, as cal-  
 2           culated by procedures conforming with the National  
 3           Center for Education Statistics Common Core of  
 4           Data;

5           (8) student access to technology, including the  
 6           number of computers for educational purposes, the  
 7           number of computers per classroom, and the number  
 8           of computers connected to the Internet; and

9           (9) other indicators of school performance and  
 10          quality.

11          (c) MODEL SCHOOL REPORT CARDS.—The Secretary  
 12          of Education shall use funds made available to the Office  
 13          of Educational Research and Improvement to develop a  
 14          model school report card for dissemination, upon request,  
 15          to a school, local educational agency, or State educational  
 16          agency.

17          (d) DISAGGREGATION OF DATA.—Each State edu-  
 18          cational agency or school producing an annual report card  
 19          under this section shall disaggregate the student perform-  
 20          ance data reported under section 4(a)(1) or 4(b)(1), as  
 21          appropriate, in the same manner as results are  
 22          disaggregated under section 1111(b)(3)(I) of the Elemen-  
 23          tary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

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