

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1703

To establish America's education goals.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 6, 1999

Mr. BINGAMAN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To establish America's education goals.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **TITLE I—AMERICA'S EDUCATION**
4 **GOALS**

5 **SEC. 101. PURPOSE.**

6 The purpose of this title is to establish America's
7 Education Goals.

8 **SEC. 102. AMERICA'S NATIONAL EDUCATION GOALS.**

9 Congress declares that America's Education Goals
10 are the following:

11 (1) SCHOOL READINESS.—(A) All children in
12 America will start school ready to learn.

1 (B) The objectives for this goal are that—

2 (i) all children will have access to high-
3 quality and developmentally appropriate pre-
4 school programs that help prepare children for
5 school;

6 (ii) every parent in the United States will
7 be a child's first teacher and devote time each
8 day to helping such parent's preschool child
9 learn, and parents will have access to the train-
10 ing and support parents need; and

11 (iii) children will receive the nutrition,
12 physical activity experiences, and health care
13 needed to arrive at school with healthy minds
14 and bodies, and to maintain the mental alert-
15 ness necessary to be prepared to learn, and the
16 number of low-birthweight babies will be signifi-
17 cantly reduced through enhanced prenatal
18 health systems.

19 (2) SCHOOL COMPLETION.—(A) The high
20 school graduation rate will increase to at least 90
21 percent.

22 (B) The objectives for this goal are that—

23 (i) the Nation must dramatically reduce its
24 school dropout rate, and 75 percent of the stu-

dents who do drop out will successfully complete a high school degree or its equivalent; and

(ii) the gap in high school graduation rates between American students from minority backgrounds and their non-minority counterparts will be eliminated.

(3) STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND CITIZENSHIP.—(A) All students will leave grades 4, 8, and 12 having demonstrated competency over challenging subject matter including English, mathematics, science, foreign languages, civics and government, economics, arts, history, and geography, and every school in America will ensure that all students learn to use their minds well, so they may be prepared for responsible citizenship, further learning, and productive employment in our Nation’s modern economy.

(B) The objectives for this goal are that—

(i) the academic performance of all students at the elementary and secondary level will increase significantly in every quartile, and the distribution of minority students in each quartile will more closely reflect the student population as a whole;

(ii) the percentage of all students who demonstrate the ability to reason, solve prob-

1 lems, apply knowledge, and write and commu-
 2 nicate effectively will increase substantially;

3 (iii) all students will be involved in activi-
 4 ties that promote and demonstrate good citizen-
 5 ship, good health, community service, and per-
 6 sonal responsibility;

7 (iv) all students will have access to phys-
 8 ical education and health education to ensure
 9 they are healthy and fit;

10 (v) the percentage of all students who are
 11 competent in more than one language will sub-
 12 stantially increase; and

13 (vi) all students will be knowledgeable
 14 about the diverse cultural heritage of this Na-
 15 tion and about the world community.

16 (4) TEACHER EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL
 17 DEVELOPMENT.—(A) The Nation's teaching force
 18 will have access to programs for the continued im-
 19 provement of their professional skills and the oppor-
 20 tunity to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to
 21 instruct and prepare all American students for the
 22 next century.

23 (B) The objectives for this goal are that—

24 (i) all teachers will have access to
 25 preservice teacher education and continuing

1 professional development activities that will pro-
2 vide such teachers with the knowledge and skills
3 needed to teach to an increasingly diverse stu-
4 dent population with a variety of educational,
5 social, and health needs;

6 (ii) all teachers will have continuing oppor-
7 tunities to acquire additional knowledge and
8 skills needed to teach challenging subject mat-
9 ter and to use emerging new methods, forms of
10 assessment, and technologies;

11 (iii) States and school districts will create
12 integrated strategies to attract, recruit, pre-
13 pare, retrain, and support the continued profes-
14 sional development of teachers, administrators,
15 and other educators, so that there is a highly
16 talented work force of professional educators to
17 teach challenging subject matter; and

18 (iv) partnerships will be established, when-
19 ever possible, among local educational agencies,
20 institutions of higher education, parents, and
21 local labor, business, and professional associa-
22 tions to provide and support programs for the
23 professional development of educators.

1 (5) MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE.—(A) United
 2 States students will be first in the world in mathe-
 3 matics and science achievement.

4 (B) The objectives for this goal are that—

5 (i) mathematics and science education, in-
 6 cluding the metric system of measurement, will
 7 be strengthened throughout the system, espe-
 8 cially in the early grades;

9 (ii) the number of teachers with a sub-
 10 stantive background in mathematics and
 11 science, including the metric system of meas-
 12 urement, will increase by 50 percent; and

13 (iii) the number of United States under-
 14 graduate and graduate students, especially
 15 women and minorities, who complete degrees in
 16 mathematics, science, and engineering will in-
 17 crease significantly.

18 (6) ADULT LITERACY AND LIFELONG LEARN-
 19 ING.—(A) Every adult American will be literate and
 20 will possess the knowledge and skills necessary to
 21 compete in a global economy and exercise the rights
 22 and responsibilities of citizenship.

23 (B) The objectives for this goal are that—

1 (i) every major American business will be
2 involved in strengthening the connection be-
3 tween education and work;

4 (ii) all workers will have the opportunity to
5 acquire the knowledge and skills, from basic to
6 highly technical, needed to adapt to emerging
7 new technologies, work methods, and markets
8 through public and private educational, voca-
9 tional, technical, workplace, or other programs;

10 (iii) the number of quality programs, in-
11 cluding those at libraries, that are designed to
12 serve more effectively the needs of the growing
13 number of part-time and midcareer students
14 will increase substantially;

15 (iv) the proportion of the qualified stu-
16 dents, especially minorities, who enter college,
17 who complete at least two years, and who com-
18 plete their degree programs will increase sub-
19 stantially;

20 (v) the proportion of college graduates who
21 demonstrate an advanced ability to think criti-
22 cally, communicate effectively, and solve prob-
23 lems will increase substantially; and

24 (vi) schools, in implementing comprehen-
25 sive parent involvement programs, will offer

1 more adult literacy, parent training and life-
2 long learning opportunities to improve the ties
3 between home and school, and enhance parents'
4 work and home lives.

5 (7) SAFE, DISCIPLINED, AND ALCOHOL- AND
6 DRUG-FREE SCHOOLS.—(A) Every school in the
7 United States will be free of drugs, violence, and the
8 unauthorized presence of firearms and alcohol and
9 will offer a disciplined environment conducive to
10 learning.

11 (B) The objectives for this goal are that—

12 (i) every school will implement a firm and
13 fair policy on use, possession, and distribution
14 of drugs and alcohol;

15 (ii) parents, businesses, governmental and
16 community organizations will work together to
17 ensure the rights of students to study in a safe
18 and secure environment that is free of drugs
19 and crime, and that schools provide a healthy
20 environment and are a safe haven for all chil-
21 dren;

22 (iii) every local educational agency will de-
23 velop and implement a policy to ensure that all
24 schools are free of violence and the unauthor-
25 ized presence of weapons;

1 (iv) every local educational agency will de-
 2 velop a sequential, comprehensive kindergarten
 3 through twelfth grade drug and alcohol preven-
 4 tion education program;

5 (v) drug and alcohol curriculum should be
 6 taught as an integral part of sequential, com-
 7 prehensive health education;

8 (vi) community-based teams should be or-
 9 ganized to provide students and teachers with
 10 needed support; and

11 (vii) every school should work to eliminate
 12 sexual harassment.

13 (8) PARENTAL PARTICIPATION.—(A) Every
 14 school will promote partnerships that will increase
 15 parental involvement and participation in promoting
 16 the social, emotional, and academic growth of chil-
 17 dren.

18 (B) The objectives for this goal are that—

19 (i) every State will develop policies to as-
 20 sist local schools and local educational agencies
 21 to establish programs for increasing partner-
 22 ships that respond to the varying needs of par-
 23 ents and the home, including parents of chil-
 24 dren who are disadvantaged or bilingual, or
 25 parents of children with disabilities;

(ii) every school will actively engage parents and families in a partnership which supports the academic work of children at home and shared educational decisionmaking at school; and

(iii) parents and families will help to ensure that schools are adequately supported and will hold schools and teachers to high standards of accountability.

TITLE II—AMERICA’S EDUCATION GOALS PANEL

SEC. 201. PURPOSE.

It is the purpose of this title to support a bipartisan mechanism for—

(1) building a national consensus for education improvement;

(2) reporting on progress toward achieving America’s Education Goals; and

(3) encouraging the development and use of challenging academic content and student performance standards.

SEC. 202. AMERICA’S EDUCATION GOALS PANEL.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the executive branch an “America’s Education Goals Panel” (hereafter in this title referred to as the “Goals Panel”)

1 to advise the President, the Secretary of Education (here-
 2 after in this title referred to as the “Secretary”), and Con-
 3 gress.

4 (b) COMPOSITION.—The Goals Panel shall be com-
 5 posed of 18 members (hereafter in this title referred to
 6 as “members”), including—

7 (1) 2 members appointed by the President;

8 (2) 8 members who are Governors, 3 of whom
 9 shall be from the same political party as the Presi-
 10 dent and 5 of whom shall be from the opposite polit-
 11 ical party of the President, appointed by the Chair-
 12 person and Vice Chairperson of the National Gov-
 13 ernors’ Association, with the Chairperson and Vice
 14 Chairperson each appointing representatives of such
 15 Chairperson’s or Vice Chairperson’s respective polit-
 16 ical party, in consultation with each other;

17 (3) 4 Members of Congress, of whom—

18 (A) 1 member shall be appointed by the
 19 Majority Leader of the Senate from among the
 20 Members of the Senate;

21 (B) 1 member shall be appointed by the
 22 Minority Leader of the Senate from among the
 23 Members of the Senate;

24 (C) 1 member shall be appointed by the
 25 Majority Leader of the House of Representa-

1 tives from among the Members of the House of
2 Representatives; and

3 (D) 1 member shall be appointed by the
4 Minority Leader of the House of Representa-
5 tives from among the Members of the House of
6 Representatives; and

7 (4) 4 members of State legislatures appointed
8 by the President of the National Conference of State
9 Legislatures, of whom 2 shall be of the same polit-
10 ical party as the President of the United States.

11 (c) SPECIAL APPOINTMENT RULES.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—The members appointed pur-
13 suant to subsection (b)(2) shall be appointed as fol-
14 lows:

15 (A) If the Chairperson of the National
16 Governors' Association is from the same polit-
17 ical party as the President, the Chairperson
18 shall appoint 3 individuals and the Vice Chair-
19 person of such association shall appoint 5 indi-
20 viduals.

21 (B) If the Chairperson of the National
22 Governors' Association is from the opposite po-
23 litical party as the President, the Chairperson
24 shall appoint 5 individuals and the Vice Chair-

1 person of such association shall appoint 3 indi-
2 viduals.

3 (2) REPRESENTATION.—To the extent feasible,
4 the membership of the Goals Panel shall be geo-
5 graphically representative and reflect the racial, eth-
6 nic, and gender diversity of the United States.

7 (d) TERMS.—The terms of service of members shall
8 be as follows:

9 (1) PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTEES.—Members ap-
10 pointed under subsection (b)(1) shall serve at the
11 pleasure of the President.

12 (2) GOVERNORS.—Members appointed under
13 subsection (b)(2) shall serve for 2-year terms.

14 (3) CONGRESSIONAL APPOINTEES AND STATE
15 LEGISLATORS.—Members appointed under para-
16 graphs (3) and (4) of subsection (b) shall serve for
17 2-year terms.

18 (e) VACANCIES.—A vacancy on the Goals Panel shall
19 not affect the powers of the Goals Panel, but shall be filled
20 in the same manner as the original appointment.

21 (f) TRAVEL.—Each member may be allowed travel
22 expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as au-
23 thorized by section 5703 of title 5, United States Code,
24 for each day the member is engaged in the performance

1 of duties for the Goals Panel away from the home or reg-
 2 ular place of business of the member.

3 (g) CHAIRPERSON.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The members shall select a
 5 Chairperson from among the members.

6 (2) TERM AND POLITICAL AFFILIATION.—The
 7 Chairperson of the Goals Panel shall serve a 1-year
 8 term and shall alternate between political parties.

9 (h) EX OFFICIO MEMBER.—If the President has not
 10 appointed the Secretary as 1 of the 2 members the Presi-
 11 dent appoints pursuant to subsection (b)(1), then the Sec-
 12 retary shall serve as a nonvoting ex officio member of the
 13 Goals Panel.

14 **SEC. 203. DUTIES.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Goals Panel shall—

16 (1) report to the President, the Secretary, and
 17 Congress regarding the progress the Nation and the
 18 States are making toward achieving America’s Edu-
 19 cation Goals established under title I of this Act, in-
 20 cluding issuing an annual report;

21 (2) encourage the development and use of chal-
 22 lenging academic content standards and student per-
 23 formance standards;

24 (3) report on promising or effective actions
 25 being taken at the national, State, and local levels,

1 and in the public and private sectors, to achieve
 2 America's Education Goals; and

3 (4) help build a nationwide, bipartisan con-
 4 sensus for the reforms necessary to achieve Amer-
 5 ica's Education Goals.

6 (b) REPORT.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Goals Panel shall annu-
 8 ally prepare and submit to the President, the Sec-
 9 retary, the appropriate committees of Congress, and
 10 the Governor of each State a report that shall—

11 (A) report on the progress of the United
 12 States toward achieving America's Education
 13 Goals; and

14 (B) identify actions that should be taken
 15 by Federal, State, and local governments to en-
 16 hance progress toward achieving America's
 17 Education Goals and to provide all students
 18 with a fair opportunity-to-learn.

19 (2) FORM; DATA.—Reports shall be presented
 20 in a form, and include data, that are understandable
 21 to parents and the general public.

22 **SEC. 204. POWERS OF THE GOALS PANEL.**

23 (a) HEARINGS.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Goals Panel shall, for
 25 the purpose of carrying out this title, conduct such

1 hearings, sit and act at such times and places, take
2 such testimony, and receive such evidence, as the
3 Goals Panel considers appropriate.

4 (2) REPRESENTATION.—In carrying out this
5 title, the Goals Panel shall conduct hearings to re-
6 ceive reports, views, and analyses of a broad spec-
7 trum of experts and the public on the establishment
8 and use of challenging academic content standards,
9 student performance standards, and State assess-
10 ments.

11 (b) INFORMATION.—The Goals Panel may secure di-
12 rectly from any department or agency of the United States
13 information necessary to enable the Goals Panel to carry
14 out this title. Upon request of the Chairperson of the
15 Goals Panel, the head of a department or agency shall
16 furnish such information to the Goals Panel to the extent
17 permitted by law.

18 (c) POSTAL SERVICES.—The Goals Panel may use
19 the United States mail in the same manner and under the
20 same conditions as other departments and agencies of the
21 United States.

22 (d) USE OF FACILITIES.—The Goals Panel may, with
23 consent of any agency or instrumentality of the United
24 States, or of any State or political subdivision thereof, use
25 the research, equipment, services, and facilities of such

1 agency, instrumentality, State, or subdivision, respec-
2 tively.

3 (e) ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS AND SUP-
4 PORT.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide
6 to the Goals Panel, on a reimbursable basis, such
7 administrative support services as the Goals Panel
8 may request.

9 (2) CONTRACTS AND OTHER ARRANGEMENTS.—
10 The Secretary, to the extent appropriate, and on a
11 reimbursable basis, shall make contracts and other
12 arrangements that are requested by the Goals Panel
13 to help the Goals Panel compile and analyze data or
14 carry out other functions necessary to the perform-
15 ance of such responsibilities.

16 (f) GIFTS.—The Goals Panel may accept, administer,
17 and utilize gifts or donations of services, money, or prop-
18 erty, whether real or personal, tangible or intangible.

19 **SEC. 205. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.**

20 (a) MEETINGS.—The Goals Panel shall meet on a
21 regular basis, as necessary, at the call of the Chairperson
22 of the Goals Panel or a majority of its members.

23 (b) QUORUM.—A majority of the members shall con-
24 stitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

25 (c) VOTING AND FINAL DECISION.—

1 (1) VOTING.—No individual may vote, or exer-
 2 cise any of the powers of a member, by proxy.

3 (2) FINAL DECISIONS.—(A) In making final de-
 4 cisions of the Goals Panel with respect to the exer-
 5 cise of its duties and powers the Goals Panel shall
 6 operate on the principle of consensus among the
 7 members of the Goals Panel.

8 (B) Except as otherwise provided in this title,
 9 if a vote of the membership of the Goals Panel is re-
 10 quired to reach a final decision with respect to the
 11 exercise of its duties and powers, then such final de-
 12 cision shall be made by a three-fourths vote of the
 13 members of the Goals Panel who are present and
 14 voting.

15 (d) PUBLIC ACCESS.—The Goals Panel shall ensure
 16 public access to its proceedings (other than proceedings,
 17 or portions of proceedings, relating to internal personnel
 18 and management matters) and make available to the pub-
 19 lic, at reasonable cost, transcripts of such proceedings.

20 **SEC. 206. DIRECTOR AND STAFF; EXPERTS AND CONSULT-**
 21 **ANTS.**

22 (a) DIRECTOR.—The Chairperson of the Goals Panel,
 23 without regard to the provisions of title 5, United States
 24 Code, relating to the appointment and compensation of of-
 25 ficers or employees of the United States, shall appoint a

1 Director of the Goals Panel to be paid at a rate not to
2 exceed the rate of basic pay payable for level V of the Ex-
3 ecutive Schedule.

4 (b) APPOINTMENT AND PAY OF EMPLOYEES.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—(A) The Director may ap-
6 point not more than 4 additional employees to serve
7 as staff to the Goals Panel without regard to the
8 provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing
9 appointments in the competitive service.

10 (B) The employees appointed under subpara-
11 graph (A) may be paid without regard to the provi-
12 sions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53
13 of that title relating to classification and General
14 Schedule pay rates, but shall not be paid a rate that
15 exceeds the maximum rate of basic pay payable for
16 GS–15 of the General Schedule.

17 (2) ADDITIONAL EMPLOYEES.—The Director
18 may appoint additional employees to serve as staff
19 to the Goals Panel in accordance with title 5, United
20 States Code.

21 (c) EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.—The Goals Panel
22 may procure temporary and intermittent services of ex-
23 perts and consultants under section 3109(b) of title 5,
24 United States Code.

1 (d) STAFF OF FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Upon the re-
2 quest of the Goals Panel, the head of any department or
3 agency of the United States may detail any of the per-
4 sonnel of such agency to the Goals Panel to assist the
5 Goals Panel in its duties under this title.

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