

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1704

To provide for college affordability and high standards.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 6, 1999

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

A BILL

To provide for college affordability and high standards.

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 “Access to High Stand-
5 ards Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

8 (1) far too many students are not being pro-
9 vided sufficient academic preparation in secondary
10 school, which results in limited employment opportu-
11 nities, college dropout rates of over 25 percent for

1 the first year of college, and remediation for almost
2 one-third of incoming college freshmen;

3 (2) there is a growing consensus that raising
4 academic standards, establishing high academic ex-
5 pectations, and showing concrete results are at the
6 core of improving public education;

7 (3) modeling academic standards on the well-
8 known program of advanced placement courses is an
9 approach that many education leaders and almost
10 half of all States have endorsed;

11 (4) advanced placement programs already are
12 providing 30 different college-level courses, serving
13 almost 60 percent of all secondary schools, reaching
14 over 1,000,000 students (of whom 80 percent attend
15 public schools, 55 percent are females, and 30 per-
16 cent are minorities), and providing test scores that
17 are accepted for college credit at over 3,000 colleges
18 and universities, every university in Germany,
19 France, and Austria, and most institutions in Can-
20 ada and the United Kingdom;

21 (5) 24 States are now funding programs to in-
22 crease participation in advanced placement pro-
23 grams, including 19 States that provide funds for
24 advanced placement teacher professional develop-
25 ment, 3 States that require that all public secondary

1 schools offer advanced placement courses, 10 States
2 that pay the fees for advanced placement tests for
3 some or all students, and 4 States that require that
4 their public universities grant uniform academic
5 credit for scores of 3 or better on advanced place-
6 ment tests; and

7 (6) the State programs described in paragraph
8 (5) have shown the responsiveness of schools and
9 students to such programs, raised the academic
10 standards for both students participating in such
11 programs and other children taught by teachers who
12 are involved in advanced placement courses, and
13 shown tremendous success in increasing enrollment,
14 achievement, and minority participation in advanced
15 placement programs.

16 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

17 (1) to encourage more of the 600,000 students
18 who take advanced placement courses but do not
19 take advanced placement exams each year to dem-
20 onstrate their achievements through taking the
21 exams;

22 (2) to build on the many benefits of advanced
23 placement programs for students, which benefits
24 may include the acquisition of skills that are impor-
25 tant to many employers, Scholastic Aptitude Tests

1 (SAT) scores that are 100 points above the national
2 averages, and the achievement of better grades in
3 secondary school and in college than the grades of
4 students who have not participated in the programs;

5 (3) to support State and local efforts to raise
6 academic standards through advanced placement
7 programs, and thus further increase the number of
8 students who participate and succeed in advanced
9 placement programs;

10 (4) to increase the availability and broaden the
11 range of schools that have advanced placement pro-
12 grams, which programs are still often distributed un-
13 evenly among regions, States, and even secondary
14 schools within the same school district, while also in-
15 creasing and diversifying student participation in the
16 programs;

17 (5) to build on the State programs described in
18 subsection (a)(5) and demonstrate that larger and
19 more diverse groups of students can participate and
20 succeed in advanced placement programs;

21 (6) to provide greater access to advanced place-
22 ment courses for low-income and other disadvan-
23 tagged students; and

24 (7) to provide access to advanced placement
25 courses for secondary school juniors at schools that

1 do not offer advanced placement programs, increase
2 the rate of secondary school juniors and seniors who
3 participate in advanced placement courses to 25 per-
4 cent of the secondary school student population, and
5 increase the numbers of students who receive ad-
6 vanced placement test scores for which college aca-
7 demic credit is awarded.

8 **SEC. 3. ADVANCED PLACEMENT PROGRAM GRANTS.**

9 (a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—From amounts appropriated
11 under the authority of subsection (f) for a fiscal
12 year, the Secretary shall award grants, on a com-
13 petitive basis, to eligible entities to enable the eligi-
14 ble entities to carry out the authorized activities de-
15 scribed in subsection (c).

16 (2) DURATION AND PAYMENTS.—

17 (A) DURATION.—The Secretary shall
18 award a grant under this section for a period
19 of 3 years.

20 (B) PAYMENTS.—The Secretary shall
21 make grant payments under this section on an
22 annual basis.

23 (3) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—In this
24 section, the term “eligible entity” means a State

1 educational agency, or a local educational agency, in
2 the State.

3 (b) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this sec-
4 tion the Secretary shall give priority to eligible entities
5 submitting applications under subsection (d) that
6 demonstrate—

7 (1) a pervasive need for access to advanced
8 placement incentive programs;

9 (2) the involvement of business and community
10 organizations in the activities to be assisted;

11 (3) the availability of matching funds from
12 State or local sources to pay for the cost of activities
13 to be assisted;

14 (4) a focus on developing or expanding ad-
15 vanced placement programs and participation in the
16 core academic areas of English, mathematics, and
17 science; and

18 (5)(A) in the case of an eligible entity that is
19 a State educational agency, the State educational
20 agency carries out programs in the State that
21 target—

22 (i) local educational agencies serving
23 schools with a high concentration of low-income
24 students; or

1 (ii) schools with a high concentration of
2 low-income students; or

3 (B) in the case of an eligible entity that is a
4 local educational agency, the local educational agen-
5 cy serves schools with a high concentration of low-
6 income students.

7 (c) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—An eligible entity
8 may use grant funds under this section to expand access
9 for low-income individuals to advanced placement incen-
10 tive programs that involve—

11 (1) teacher training;

12 (2) preadvanced placement course development;

13 (3) curriculum coordination and articulation be-
14 tween grade levels that prepares students for ad-
15 vanced placement courses;

16 (4) curriculum development;

17 (5) books and supplies; and

18 (6) any other activity directly related to expand-
19 ing access to and participation in advanced place-
20 ment incentive programs particularly for low-income
21 individuals.

22 (d) APPLICATION.—Each eligible entity desiring a
23 grant under this section shall submit an application to the
24 Secretary at such time, in such manner, and accompanied
25 by such information as the Secretary may require.

1 (e) DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING.—

2 (1) DATA COLLECTION.—Each eligible entity
3 receiving a grant under this section shall annually
4 report to the Secretary—

5 (A) the number of students taking ad-
6 vanced placement courses who are served by the
7 eligible entity;

8 (B) the number of advanced placement
9 tests taken by students served by the eligible
10 entity;

11 (C) the scores on the advanced placement
12 tests; and

13 (D) demographic information regarding in-
14 dividuals taking the advanced placement
15 courses and tests disaggregated by race, eth-
16 nicity, sex, English proficiency status, and so-
17 cioeconomic status.

18 (2) REPORT.—The Secretary shall annually
19 compile the information received from each eligible
20 entity under paragraph (1) and report to Congress
21 regarding the information.

22 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
23 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
24 \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 2000, and such sums as may
25 be necessary for each of the 4 succeeding fiscal years.

1 **SEC. 4. ON-LINE ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES.**

2 (a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—From amounts appro-
3 priated under subsection (f) the Secretary shall award
4 grants to local educational agencies to enable the local
5 educational agencies to provide students with on-line ad-
6 vanced placement courses.

7 (b) CONTRACTS.—A local educational agency that re-
8 ceives a grant under this section may enter into a contract
9 with a nonprofit or for-profit organization to provide the
10 on-line advanced placement courses, including contracting
11 for necessary support services.

12 (c) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this sec-
13 tion the Secretary shall give priority to local educational
14 agencies that—

15 (1) serve high concentrations of low-income stu-
16 dents;

17 (2) serve rural areas; and

18 (3) the Secretary determines would not have ac-
19 cess to on-line advanced placement courses without
20 assistance provided under this section.

21 (d) USES.—Grant funds provided under this section
22 may be used to purchase the on-line curriculum, to train
23 teachers with respect to the use of on-line curriculum, or
24 to purchase course materials.

25 (e) APPLICATIONS.—Each local educational agency
26 desiring a grant under this section shall submit an appli-

1 cation to the Secretary at such time, in such manner and
 2 accompanied by such information as the Secretary may
 3 require.

4 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
 5 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
 6 \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2000 and such sums as may
 7 be necessary for each of the 4 succeeding fiscal years.

8 **SEC. 5. ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES FOR ADVANCED PLACE-**
 9 **MENT.**

10 (a) DISSEMINATION OF ADVANCED PLACEMENT IN-
 11 FORMATION.—Each institution of higher education receiv-
 12 ing Federal funds for research or for programs assisted
 13 under the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001
 14 et seq.)—

15 (1) shall distribute to secondary school coun-
 16 selors or advanced placement coordinators in the
 17 State information with respect to the amount and
 18 type of academic credit provided to students at the
 19 institution of higher education for advanced place-
 20 ment test scores; and

21 (2) shall standardize, not later than 4 years
 22 after the date of enactment of this Act, the form
 23 and manner in which the information described in
 24 paragraph (1) is disseminated by the various depart-

1 ments, offices, or other divisions of the institution of
2 higher education.

3 (b) STATE AND LOCAL INITIATIVES.—

4 (1) JAVITS GIFTED AND TALENTED STU-
5 DENTS.—Section 10205(a) of the Elementary and
6 Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
7 8035(a)) is amended—

8 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “and”
9 after the semicolon;

10 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking the pe-
11 riod and inserting “; and”; and

12 (C) by adding at the end the following:

13 “(3) to programs and projects for gifted and
14 talented students that build on or otherwise incor-
15 porate advanced placement courses and tests.”.

16 (2) UPWARD BOUND PROGRAM.—Section 402C
17 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
18 1070a–13) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
19 lowing:

20 “(f) PRIORITY.—The Secretary shall give priority in
21 awarding grants under this section to upward bound
22 projects that focus on increasing secondary school student
23 participation and success in advanced placement
24 courses.”.

1 (3) EISENHOWER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOP-
2 MENT.—

3 (A) FEDERAL ACTIVITIES.—Section 2101
4 of the Elementary and Secondary Education
5 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6621) is amended by
6 adding at the end the following:

7 “(c) PRIORITY.—The Secretary shall give priority in
8 awarding grants and entering into contracts and coopera-
9 tive agreements under this part to activities that involve
10 training in advanced placement instruction.”.

11 (B) STATE AND LOCAL ACTIVITIES.—Sec-
12 tion 2207 of the Elementary and Secondary
13 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6647) is
14 amended—

15 (i) in paragraph (12), by striking
16 “and” after the semicolon;

17 (ii) in paragraph (13), by striking the
18 period and inserting “; and”; and

19 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
20 lowing:

21 “(14) providing professional development activi-
22 ties involving training in advanced placement in-
23 struction.”.

24 (4) TECHNOLOGY.—

1 (A) STAR SCHOOLS.—Section 3204 of the
2 Elementary and Secondary Education Act of
3 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6894) is amended by adding
4 at the end the following:

5 “(i) ADVANCED PLACEMENT INSTRUCTION.—Each
6 eligible entity receiving funds under this part is encour-
7 aged to deliver advanced placement instruction to under-
8 served communities.”.

9 (B) EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY GRANTS.—
10 Subpart 2 of part A of title III of the Elemen-
11 tary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
12 U.S.C. 6841 et seq.) is amended—

13 (i) in section 3134 (20 U.S.C.
14 6844)—

15 (I) in paragraph (5), by striking
16 “and” after the semicolon;

17 (II) in paragraph (6), by striking
18 the period and inserting “; and”; and

19 (III) by adding at the end the
20 following:

21 “(7) providing education technology for ad-
22 vanced placement instruction.”; and

23 (ii) in section 3136(c) (20 U.S.C.
24 6846(c))—

1 (I) in paragraph (4), by striking
2 “and” after the semicolon;

3 (II) in paragraph (5), by striking
4 the period and inserting “; and”; and

5 (III) by adding at the end the
6 following:

7 “(6) the project will use education technology
8 for advanced placement instruction.”.

9 **SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.**

10 In this Act:

11 (1) **ADVANCED PLACEMENT INCENTIVE PRO-**
12 **GRAM.**—The term “advanced placement incentive
13 program” means a program that provides advanced
14 placement activities and services to low-income indi-
15 viduals.

16 (2) **ADVANCED PLACEMENT TEST.**—The term
17 “advanced placement test” means an advanced
18 placement test administered by the College Board or
19 approved by the Secretary.

20 (3) **HIGH CONCENTRATION OF LOW-INCOME**
21 **STUDENTS.**—The term “high concentration of low-
22 income students”, used with respect to a State edu-
23 cational agency, local educational agency or school,
24 means an agency or school, as the case may be, that
25 serves a student population 40 percent or more of

1 whom are from families with incomes below the pov-
 2 erty level, as determined in the same manner as the
 3 determination is made under section 1124(c)(2) of
 4 the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of
 5 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6333(c)(2)).

6 (4) LOW-INCOME INDIVIDUAL.—The term “low-
 7 income individual” means a low-income individual
 8 (as defined in section 402A(g)(2) of the Higher
 9 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a–11(g)(2))
 10 who is academically prepared to successfully take an
 11 advanced placement test as determined by a school
 12 teacher or advanced placement coordinator taking
 13 into consideration factors such as enrollment and
 14 performance in an advanced placement course or su-
 15 perior academic ability.

16 (5) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
 17 term “institution of higher education” has the
 18 meaning given the term in section 101(a) of the
 19 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

20 (6) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY; SECONDARY
 21 SCHOOL; AND STATE EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The
 22 terms “local educational agency”, “secondary
 23 school”, and “State educational agency” have the
 24 meanings given the terms in section 14101 of the

1 Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965
2 (20 U.S.C. 8801).

3 (7) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
4 the Secretary of Education.

5 (8) STATE.—The term “State” means each of
6 the several States of the United States, the District
7 of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico,
8 Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin
9 Islands, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the
10 Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of
11 Palau.

