

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1785

To provide for local family information centers, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 26, 1999

Mr. WELLSTONE (for himself and Mr. KERRY) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Edu-
cation, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To provide for local family information centers, and for other
purposes.

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. LOCAL FAMILY INFORMATION CENTERS.**

4 (a) CENTERS ESTABLISHED.—Part E of title I of the
5 Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
6 U.S.C. 6491 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
7 the following:

8 **“SEC. 1503. LOCAL FAMILY INFORMATION CENTERS.**

9 “(a) CENTERS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary may
10 make grants to, and enter into contracts and cooperative

1 agreements with, local nonprofit parent organizations to
 2 enable the organizations to support local family informa-
 3 tion centers that help ensure that parents of students in
 4 schools assisted under part A have the training, informa-
 5 tion, and support the parents need to enable the parents
 6 to participate effectively in helping their children to meet
 7 challenging State standards.

8 “(b) DEFINITION OF LOCAL NONPROFIT PARENT
 9 ORGANIZATION.—In this section, the term ‘local nonprofit
 10 parent organization’ means a private nonprofit organiza-
 11 tion (other than an institution of higher education) that—

12 “(1) has a demonstrated record of working with
 13 low-income individuals and parents;

14 “(2)(A) has a board of directors—

15 “(i) the majority of whom are parents of
 16 students in schools that are assisted under part
 17 A and located in the geographic area to be
 18 served by the center; and

19 “(ii) that includes individuals who work in
 20 schools that are assisted under part A and lo-
 21 cated in the geographic area to be served by the
 22 center; or

23 “(B) has—

24 “(i) as a part of the organization’s mis-
 25 sion, serving the interests of low-income fami-

1 lies in public schools located in the geographic
2 area to be served by the center; and

3 “(ii)(I) a special governing committee to
4 direct and implement the center, a majority of
5 the members of whom are parents of students
6 in schools assisted under part A, which com-
7 mittee shall include 1 or more individuals work-
8 ing in the schools assisted under part A in the
9 geographic area to be served by the center; and

10 “(II) entered into a memorandum of un-
11 derstanding between the special governing com-
12 mittee and the board of directors that clearly
13 outlines the decisionmaking responsibilities and
14 authority of the special governing committee;
15 and

16 “(3) is located in a community with schools
17 that receive funds under part A, and is accessible to
18 the families of students in those schools.

19 “(c) REQUIRED CENTER ACTIVITIES.—Each center
20 assisted under this section shall—

21 “(1) provide training, information, and support
22 that meets the needs of parents of children in
23 schools assisted under part A who are served
24 through the grant, contract, or cooperative agree-
25 ment, particularly underserved parents, low-income

1 parents, parents of students with limited English
2 proficiency, parents of students with disabilities, and
3 parents of students in schools identified for school
4 improvement or corrective action under section
5 1116(c);

6 “(2) help families of students enrolled in a
7 school assisted under part A—

8 “(A) to understand and effectively carry
9 out their responsibilities under the parent in-
10 volvement provisions of this Act, including par-
11 ticipation in parent compacts, parent involve-
12 ment policies, and joint decisionmaking;

13 “(B) to learn how to participate effectively
14 with the school to create a needs assessment or
15 school improvement plan in accordance with
16 part A; and

17 “(C) to understand all of the provisions of
18 this Act designed to improve the achievement of
19 students in the school;

20 “(3) provide information in a language and
21 form that parents understand, including taking steps
22 to ensure that underserved parents, low-income par-
23 ents, parents with limited English proficiency, par-
24 ents of students with disabilities, or parents of stu-
25 dents in schools identified for school improvement or

1 corrective action, are effectively informed and as-
2 sisted;

3 “(4) assist parents to—

4 “(A) understand State content and student
5 performance standards, State and local assess-
6 ments, and how schools assisted under part A
7 are required to help students meet the State
8 standards;

9 “(B) understand the accountability system
10 in place in the State, and support activities that
11 are likely to improve student achievement in
12 schools assisted under part A;

13 “(C) communicate effectively with per-
14 sonnel responsible for providing educational
15 services to their child, and for planning and im-
16 plementing policies and programs under part A,
17 in the school and the school district;

18 “(D) understand and analyze the meaning
19 of data that schools, local educational agencies,
20 and States provide under the reporting require-
21 ments of this Act and other statutes, including
22 State reporting requirements;

23 “(E) locate and understand appropriate in-
24 formation about research on ways in which high

1 poverty schools have made real progress in hav-
 2 ing all students meet State standards;

3 “(F) understand what their child’s school
 4 is doing to enable students at the school to
 5 meet the standards, including understanding
 6 the curriculum and instructional methods the
 7 school is using to help the students meet the
 8 standards;

9 “(G) better understand their child’s edu-
 10 cational needs, where their child stands with re-
 11 spect to State standards, and how the school is
 12 addressing the child’s education needs;

13 “(H) participate in—

14 “(i) the decisionmaking processes at
 15 the school, school district, and State levels;

16 “(ii) the development, review, and
 17 amendment of school-parent compacts, the
 18 school and school district parent involve-
 19 ment policies, and the school plan; and

20 “(iii) the review of the needs assess-
 21 ment of the school;

22 “(I) understand the requirements of sec-
 23 tions 1114, 1115, and 1116, regarding im-
 24 proved student achievement, school planning
 25 and improvement, and corrective action;

1 “(J) understand the provisions of other
2 Federal education programs that provide—

3 “(i) resources and opportunities for
4 school improvement; or

5 “(ii) educational resources to indi-
6 vidual students, including programs under
7 chapters 1 and 2 of subpart 2 of part A
8 of title IV of the Higher Education Act of
9 1965 (Gear Up and Federal TRIO pro-
10 grams) and other programs;

11 “(K) participate in other school reform ac-
12 tivities; and

13 “(L) understand public school choice op-
14 tions available in the local community, including
15 magnet schools, charter schools, and alternative
16 schools;

17 “(5) provide appropriate training and informa-
18 tion to students in schools assisted under part A, to
19 enable the students to participate in school compacts
20 and in school reform activities;

21 “(6) provide information on local parent in-
22 volvement needs and successes, where appropriate,
23 to teachers and administrators in schools assisted
24 under part A, and facilitate greater understanding
25 of good parent involvement strategies;

1 “(7) establish cooperative partnerships with
2 parent training and information centers and commu-
3 nity parent resource centers assisted under sections
4 682 and 683, respectively, of the Individuals with
5 Disabilities Education Act, and with parental infor-
6 mation and resource centers assisted under section
7 1118(g);

8 “(8) be designed to meet the specific needs of
9 families who experience significant isolation from
10 available sources of information and support;

11 “(9) network with appropriate clearinghouses;
12 and

13 “(10) report annually to the Secretary
14 regarding—

15 “(A) the number of parents to whom the
16 center provided information and support in the
17 preceding fiscal year;

18 “(B) the number of parents who partici-
19 pate in training sessions and the average num-
20 ber of parents at training sessions;

21 “(C) the prior year’s training that was
22 held at times and places designed to allow the
23 attendance of the largest number of parents of
24 students in schools assisted under part A who

1 are most likely to have been isolated from other
2 sources of information and training;

3 “(D) the effectiveness of strategies used to
4 reach and serve parents, including underserved
5 parents, low-income parents, parents with lim-
6 ited English proficiency, parents of students
7 with disabilities, and parents of students in
8 schools identified for school improvement or
9 corrective action;

10 “(E) how the center ensured that parents
11 had the skills necessary to participate in their
12 children’s education, as described in paragraph
13 (4);

14 “(F) the information provided to parents
15 by local educational agencies in the geographic
16 area served by the center; and

17 “(G) other measures, as determined appro-
18 priate by the Secretary.

19 “(c) APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.—Each local non-
20 profit parent organization desiring assistance under this
21 section shall submit to the Secretary an application at
22 such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such in-
23 formation as the Secretary may require. Each such appli-
24 cation shall—

1 “(1) describe how the organization will use the
2 assistance to help families under this section;

3 “(2) describe what steps the organization has
4 taken to meet with school district or school per-
5 sonnel in the geographic area to be served by the
6 center in order to inform the personnel of the plan
7 and application for the assistance; and

8 “(3) identify with specificity the special efforts
9 that the organization will take—

10 “(A) to ensure that the needs for training,
11 information, and support for parents of stu-
12 dents in schools assisted under part A, particu-
13 larly underserved parents, low-income parents,
14 parents with limited English proficiency, par-
15 ents of students with disabilities, and parents of
16 students in schools identified for school im-
17 provement or corrective action, are effectively
18 met; and

19 “(B) to work with community-based orga-
20 nizations.

21 “(d) DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.—

22 “(1) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—The Secretary
23 shall make at least 2 awards of assistance under this
24 section to a local nonprofit parent organization in
25 each State, unless the Secretary does not receive at

1 least 2 applications from such organizations in a
2 State of sufficient quality to warrant providing the
3 assistance in the State.

4 “(2) SELECTION REQUIREMENT FOR LOCAL
5 FAMILY INFORMATION CENTERS.—

6 “(A) ELIGIBILITY.—In order to be eligible
7 to receive assistance under this part, a center
8 shall serve a geographic area (which may in-
9 clude 1 or more school districts), having be-
10 tween 15,000 and 25,000 students, 50 percent
11 of whom are eligible for a free and reduced
12 price lunch under the National School Lunch
13 Act. The number of students served under the
14 preceding sentence may increase, at the discre-
15 tion of the Secretary, if the geographic area to
16 be served contains only 1 school district and the
17 center has the capacity to serve effectively the
18 entire school district.

19 “(B) SELECTION.—The Secretary shall se-
20 lect local nonprofit parent organizations in a
21 State to receive assistance under this section in
22 a manner that ensures the provision of the most
23 effective assistance to low-income parents of
24 students in schools assisted under part A that
25 are located in high poverty rural and urban

1 areas in the State, with particular emphasis on
2 rural and urban geographic areas with high
3 school dropout rates, high percentages of lim-
4 ited English proficient students, or geographic
5 areas with schools identified for school improve-
6 ment or corrective action under section 1116(c).

7 “(e) QUARTERLY REVIEW.—

8 “(1) REQUIREMENTS.—

9 “(A) MEETINGS.—The board of directors
10 or special governing committee of each organi-
11 zation that receives assistance under this sec-
12 tion shall meet at least once in each calendar
13 quarter to review the activities for which the as-
14 sistance was provided.

15 “(B) CONTINUATION REQUIREMENT.—For
16 each year that an organization submits an ap-
17 plication for assistance under this section after
18 the first year the organization receives assist-
19 ance under this section, the board of directors
20 or special governing committee of the organiza-
21 tion shall submit to the Secretary a written re-
22 view of the activities of the center carried out
23 by the organization during the preceding year.

24 “(f) EVALUATION.—The Secretary shall conduct an
25 evaluation of the centers assisted under this section, and

1 shall report the findings of such evaluation to Congress
2 not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this
3 section.”.

4 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section
5 1002(g)(2) of the Elementary and Secondary Education
6 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6302(g)(2)) is amended to read
7 as follows:

8 “(2) SECTIONS 1502 AND 1503.—For the pur-
9 poses of carrying out sections 1502 and 1503, there
10 are authorized to be appropriated \$100,000,000 for
11 fiscal year 2001 and such sums as may be necessary
12 for each of the 4 succeeding fiscal years, of which
13 \$50,000,000 shall be available for each fiscal year to
14 carry out section 1503.”.

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