

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1855

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to authorize a grant program to enhance parental involvement in elementary and secondary schools.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 15, 2001

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to authorize a grant program to enhance parental involvement in elementary and secondary schools.

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 “Parental Involvement
5 Enhancement Act”.

6 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

7 The Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Research indicates that, regardless of eco-
9 nomic, ethnic, or cultural background, parental in-

1 involvement in a child's education is a major factor in
2 determining success in school.

3 (2) Parental involvement in a child's education
4 contributes to such positive outcomes as improved
5 grades and test scores, higher expectations for stu-
6 dent achievement, better school attendance, im-
7 proved rates of homework completion and gradu-
8 ation from secondary schools, decreased violence and
9 substance abuse, and higher rates of graduation
10 from and enrollment in postsecondary schools.

11 (3) According to the Department of Education
12 study entitled "Strong Families, Strong Schools", in
13 elementary schools where parents were actively in-
14 volved, the average fourth grade reading scores were
15 17 points above the national average.

16 (4) According to the National Commission on
17 Children, more than 70 percent of students ages 10
18 to 13, and more than 50 percent of students ages
19 14 to 17, would like to talk to their parents more
20 about school and schoolwork.

21 (5) Ninety-five percent of parents strongly
22 agree that parental involvement is as important a
23 factor as quality of teachers in ensuring student suc-
24 cess in school, and 69 percent of parents believe that

1 in order to improve public schools, more opportuni-
2 ties for parental involvement are necessary.

3 (6) Of the 800 parents questioned under the
4 National Parent Teacher Association's 1998 survey
5 of public school parents, more than half stated that
6 low levels of parental involvement and the inability
7 of schools to keep parents informed are serious prob-
8 lems.

9 (7) Teachers rank strengthening parental roles
10 in their children's education as an important issue
11 that should receive the highest priority in the formu-
12 lation of public education policy over the next few
13 years.

14 **SEC. 3. GRANT PROGRAM.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title I of the Elementary and
16 Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et
17 seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new
18 part:

19 **“PART G—PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT**

20 **“SEC. 1701. PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT GRANT PROGRAM.**

21 “(a) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with this section,
22 the Secretary may make grants to elementary schools or
23 secondary schools to promote the involvement of parents
24 in the education of their children.

1 “(b) USE OF FUNDS.—Each school receiving a grant
2 under this section may use the proceeds of such grant
3 only—

4 “(1) for educational or outreach materials or
5 resources designed to increase parental involvement
6 in their children’s education; or

7 “(2) to pay the salary or benefits of an indi-
8 vidual who is an eligible parent liaison as described
9 in subsection (c).

10 “(c) ELIGIBLE PARENT LIAISONS.—For the pur-
11 poses of this section, an individual shall be an eligible par-
12 ent liaison if the individual is employed by the school to
13 be a parent liaison and meets each of the following cri-
14 teria:

15 “(1) The individual holds a degree in social
16 work, counseling, psychology, human resources, or
17 any other field that the school considers relevant to
18 performing the functions described in paragraph (3).

19 “(2) The individual is bilingual or multilingual,
20 if appropriate for the needs of the school.

21 “(3) The individual is responsible for—

22 “(A) facilitating communication between
23 the school’s teachers and the parents of the
24 school’s students, especially parents who have
25 limited English proficiency;

1 “(B) if national or State tests or assessments are conducted at the school, explaining to such parents how such tests or assessments work and what the results mean; and

5 “(C) if the school provides report cards, explaining to such parents what such report cards mean.

8 “(4) The individual maintains a flexible schedule that allows the individual to perform the functions described in paragraph (3) while accommodating the needs of working parents.

12 “(d) APPLICATION.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each school seeking a grant under this section shall submit to the Secretary an application that includes—

16 “(A) a description of the school’s student population, including information on the socio-economic status and the English-speaking ability of the students;

20 “(B) a plan describing how the school seeks to increase parental involvement at the school, including information on—

23 “(i) the number of eligible parent liaisons the school plans to employ;

1 “(ii) the activities the school plans to
2 conduct to increase parental involvement;
3 and

4 “(iii) the materials or resources that
5 the school plans to acquire to increase pa-
6 rental involvement; and

7 “(C) a description of how the school will
8 evaluate the materials and resources acquired,
9 and the success of the activities carried out,
10 with the grant.

11 “(2) PARENTAL INPUT.—Each application sub-
12 mitted under this paragraph (including the plan de-
13 scribed in paragraph (1)(B)) shall be developed with
14 the input of parents of students at the school sub-
15 mitting the application.

16 “(e) SELECTION CRITERIA.—In making grants under
17 this section, the Secretary shall give preference—

18 “(1) to schools that have a large percentage of
19 students whose parents have limited English pro-
20 ficiency; and

21 “(2) to schools at which the involvement of par-
22 ents in the education of their children has tradition-
23 ally been low.

24 “(f) PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT IN HIRING DECI-
25 SIONS.—As a condition of the receipt of funds made avail-

1 able under this section, the Secretary shall require that
2 each school receiving such funds involve each of the fol-
3 lowing when making a hiring decision with respect to an
4 eligible parent liaison hired with such funds:

5 “(1) The parents of the students at the school.
6 “(2) Any local parent organization active in the
7 affairs of the school.”.

8 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section
9 1002 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of
10 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6302) is amended by adding at the end
11 the following new subsection:

12 “(h) PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT.—There is authorized
13 to be appropriated to carry out part G \$100,000,000 for
14 fiscal year 2002.”.

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