

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 620

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to establish the model school dropout prevention grant program and the national school dropout prevention grant program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 14, 2001

Ms. BERKLEY (for herself, Mr. FROST, Mr. OWENS, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KUCINICH, Ms. MCKINNEY, Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. UDALL of New Mexico) 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 establish the model school dropout prevention grant program and the national school dropout prevention grant program, 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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “National Student
5 Dropout Prevention and Recovery Act of 2001”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Lowering the student dropout rate is one of
2 the most significant challenges facing educators
3 today. Students must stay in school in order to re-
4 ceive the education they need to succeed in the new
5 economy and contribute fully to American society.

6 (2) The ability of local educational agencies to
7 lower the student dropout rate has been inhibited by
8 the lack of focus at the Federal level and the limited
9 availability of appropriate dropout prevention-fo-
10 cused curriculum, instruction, professional develop-
11 ment, and administrative support services.

12 (3) According to the National Dropout Preven-
13 tion Network, it is at the local and community level
14 where school improvements and change occur that
15 will eventually have an impact on the graduation
16 rate of students. The focus of these efforts should be
17 concentrated on the most successful strategies that
18 research has identified as having an impact on in-
19 creasing the graduation rate. These strategies
20 encompass—

- 21 (A) systemic renewal;
- 22 (B) community collaboration;
- 23 (C) professional development;
- 24 (D) family involvement;
- 25 (E) early childhood education;

- 1 (F) reading and writing programs;
- 2 (G) individualized instruction;
- 3 (H) instructional technologies;
- 4 (I) mentoring and tutoring;
- 5 (J) service learning;
- 6 (K) learning styles and multiple
- 7 intelligences;
- 8 (L) violence prevention and conflict resolu-
- 9 tion;
- 10 (M) career education and workforce readi-
- 11 ness;
- 12 (N) out-of-school experiences; and
- 13 (O) alternative public schooling.

14 (4) The National Dropout Prevention Network
 15 has found that the strategies described in paragraph
 16 (3) have been successful in all school levels from K–
 17 12 in rural, suburban, or urban centers. When
 18 schools or school districts develop a program im-
 19 provement plan that encompasses most or all of
 20 these strategies, positive outcomes will result.

21 (5) It is necessary to develop a number of
 22 model dropout prevention programs to fully develop
 23 the effective strategies listed above into comprehen-
 24 sive dropout prevention programs. These model pro-
 25 grams should be used as examples by schools across

1 the country that wish to implement similar pro-
 2 grams. Subsequently, a nationwide dropout preven-
 3 tion program, in order to be effective, should be
 4 based on these model programs.

5 (6) Dropout prevention and recovery programs
 6 which are proven to be successful in lowering drop-
 7 out rates need to be disseminated to school and com-
 8 munity leaders willing to adapt and support these
 9 innovative programs in their schools and community.

10 **SEC. 3. SCHOOL DROPOUT PREVENTION GRANT PRO-**
 11 **GRAMS.**

12 Part C of title V of the Elementary and Secondary
 13 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7261 et seq.) is amend-
 14 ed to read as follows:

15 **“PART C—SCHOOL DROPOUT PREVENTION**
 16 **GRANT PROGRAMS**
 17 **“Subpart 1—Model School Dropout Prevention Grant**
 18 **Program**

19 **“SEC. 5311. AUTHORIZATION.**

20 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Office of
 21 Dropout Prevention and Program Completion shall award
 22 grants to public elementary schools, middle schools, and
 23 secondary schools that have established and are carrying
 24 out school dropout prevention programs to provide those
 25 schools with additional resources to develop such programs

1 further, develop methods to assist other schools to imple-
2 ment similar programs, and provide for research on the
3 effects of such programs on the student populations of the
4 schools involved.

5 “(b) DURATION.—A grant under subsection (a) shall
6 be awarded for a period of not more than 5 years. A school
7 that desires to continue to receive funding for the purposes
8 described in subsection (a) shall apply for a grant under
9 the national school dropout prevention grant program
10 under subpart 2.

11 **“SEC. 5312. REQUIRED ACTIVITIES.**

12 “A school that receives a grant under section 5311
13 shall use amounts under the grant to establish and carry
14 out, or further develop, school dropout prevention pro-
15 grams, intervention programs, and recovery programs, in-
16 cluding as many of the following activities as possible: sys-
17 temic renewal, community and family participation, pro-
18 fessional development, early childhood education, reading
19 and writing programs, alternative public schooling, indi-
20 vidualized instruction, use of instructional technologies,
21 mentoring and tutoring, service learning, instruction that
22 recognizes that students learn in different ways (com-
23 monly referred to as ‘learning styles instruction’), violence
24 prevention and conflict resolution, career education and

1 workforce readiness, out-of-school experiences, and a com-
2 prehensive plan for dropout prevention.

3 **“SEC. 5313. APPLICATION; SELECTION OF SCHOOLS; FISCAL**
4 **AGENT.**

5 “(a) APPLICATION.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each school desiring a
7 grant under section 5311 shall submit an applica-
8 tion, after review by the local educational agency of
9 the school, to the Director at such time, in such
10 manner, and accompanied by such information as
11 the Director may require.

12 “(2) CONTENTS.—A school desiring a grant
13 under section 5311 shall submit an application,
14 through the local educational agency of the school
15 under paragraph (1), that contains a description of
16 the current dropout prevention program of the
17 school.

18 “(b) SELECTION OF SCHOOLS.—

19 “(1) LIMITATION.—The Director may award
20 grants to not more than 20 schools under section
21 5311. Such schools shall have demonstrated success
22 in establishing and carrying out activities described
23 in section 5312.

1 “(2) ALLOCATION.—Grants awarded under sec-
2 tion 5311 shall be allocated among schools that meet
3 the following requirements:

4 “(A) 4 elementary schools that have estab-
5 lished and are carrying out early childhood edu-
6 cation programs.

7 “(B) 4 secondary schools that have estab-
8 lished and are carrying out academic interven-
9 tion programs and mediation programs.

10 “(C) 4 secondary schools that have estab-
11 lished and are carrying out intervention pro-
12 grams and recovery programs.

13 “(D) 4 schools (either elementary, middle,
14 or secondary) that are located in rural school
15 districts and that have demonstrated success in
16 establishing and carrying out 12 or more of the
17 activities described in section 5312.

18 “(E) 4 schools (either elementary, middle,
19 or secondary) that are located in urban school
20 districts and that have demonstrated success in
21 establishing and carrying out all of the activi-
22 ties described in section 5312.

23 “(3) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under sec-
24 tion 5311, the Director shall give priority to schools
25 that have demonstrated success in establishing and

1 carrying out the highest number of activities de-
2 scribed in section 5312.

3 “(c) FISCAL AGENT.—The local educational agency
4 of the school shall act as the fiscal agent for the school
5 and shall accept and administer the grant awarded to the
6 school under section 5311, except that all funds shall be
7 expended at the school level.

8 **“Subpart 2—National School Dropout Prevention**
9 **Grant Program**

10 **“SEC. 5321. AUTHORIZATION.**

11 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning in the third year of
12 the Model School Dropout Prevention Grant Program
13 under subpart 1, the Director of the Office of Dropout
14 Prevention and Program Completion shall award grants
15 to public elementary schools, middle schools, and sec-
16 ondary schools to enable the schools to implement, or fur-
17 ther carry out, effective, sustainable, and coordinated
18 school dropout prevention programs.

19 “(b) DURATION.—A grant under subsection (a) shall
20 be awarded for a period of not less than 2 years but not
21 more than 5 years.

22 **“SEC. 5322. REQUIRED ACTIVITIES.**

23 “A school that receives a grant under section 5321
24 shall use amounts under the grant to establish and carry
25 out, or further develop, school dropout prevention pro-

1 grams, intervention programs, and recovery programs, in-
 2 cluding as many of the following activities as possible: sys-
 3 temic renewal, community and family participation, pro-
 4 fessional development, early childhood education, reading
 5 and writing programs, alternative public schooling, indi-
 6 vidualized instruction, use of instructional technologies,
 7 mentoring and tutoring, service learning, instruction that
 8 recognizes that students learn in different ways (com-
 9 monly referred to as ‘learning styles instruction’), violence
 10 prevention and conflict resolution, career education and
 11 workforce readiness, out-of-school experiences, and a com-
 12 prehensive plan for dropout prevention.

13 **“SEC. 5323. APPLICATION; SELECTION OF SCHOOLS; FISCAL**
 14 **AGENT.**

15 “(a) APPLICATION.—Each school desiring a grant
 16 under section 5321 shall submit an application, after re-
 17 view by the local educational agency of the school, to the
 18 Director at such time, in such manner, and accompanied
 19 by such information as the Director may require.

20 “(b) SELECTION OF SCHOOLS.—The Director shall
 21 establish clear and specific selection criteria for awarding
 22 grants to schools under section 5321, including the num-
 23 ber of grants to award and the type of schools to be award-
 24 ed grants. Such criteria shall be based on school dropout
 25 rates and other relevant factors, such as the quality of

1 the existing or proposed dropout prevention program, the
2 number of students who are dropouts, the number of stu-
3 dents who are eligible to receive free or reduced price
4 lunches under the Richard B. Russell National School
5 Lunch Act, the number of students who are below their
6 grade level in basic skills, the number of students who are
7 involved in family court or the juvenile justice system, and
8 the number of students who are teen mothers.

9 “(c) FISCAL AGENT.—The local educational agency
10 of the school shall act as the fiscal agent for the school
11 and shall accept and administer the grant awarded to the
12 school under section 5321, except that all funds shall be
13 expended at the school level.

14 **“Subpart 3—Additional Requirements for Model and**
15 **National Dropout Prevention Grant Program**

16 **“SEC. 5331. DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES.**

17 “Each school that receives a grant under section
18 5311 or 5321, or the local educational agency of the
19 school, shall provide information and technical assistance,
20 including presentations, document-sharing, and joint staff
21 development, to other schools within their school district
22 and to other schools in their State that are desiring to
23 receive grants under section 5311 or 5321, as the case
24 may be.

1 **“SEC. 5332. SCHOOL DROPOUT RATE CALCULATION.**

2 “For purposes of calculating a school dropout rate
3 under subparts 1 and 2, a school shall use—

4 “(1) the annual event school dropout rate for
5 students leaving a school in a single year determined
6 in accordance with the National Center for Edu-
7 cation Statistics’ Common Core of Data, if available;

8 “(2) the standard method used by the State
9 agency; or

10 “(3) in other cases, a standard method for cal-
11 culating the school dropout rate as determined by
12 the Director.

13 **“SEC. 5333. REPORTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY.**

14 “(a) REPORTING.—In order to receive funding under
15 subpart 1 or 2 for a fiscal year after the first fiscal year
16 a school receives funding under subpart 1 or 2, as the
17 case may be, the school shall provide, on an annual basis,
18 to the Director a report regarding the status of the imple-
19 mentation of activities funded under subpart 1 or 2 and
20 certification of progress from the eligible entity whose
21 strategies the school is implementing.

22 “(b) ACCOUNTABILITY.—On the basis of the reports
23 submitted under subsection (a), the Director shall evaluate
24 the effect of the activities assisted under subpart 1 or 2,
25 as the case may be, on school dropout prevention com-
26 pared to a control group, to the extent practicable.

1 **“Subpart 4—National Clearinghouse on Effective**
2 **School Dropout Prevention**

3 **“SEC. 5341. ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL CLEARING-**
4 **HOUSE.**

5 “Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment
6 of this part, the Director shall establish a national clear-
7 inghouse on effective school dropout prevention, interven-
8 tion programs, and reentry programs. The clearinghouse
9 shall be established through a competitive grant or con-
10 tract awarded to an organization with a demonstrated ca-
11 pacity to provide technical assistance and disseminate in-
12 formation in the area of school dropout prevention, inter-
13 vention programs, and reentry programs. The clearing-
14 house shall—

15 “(1) collect and disseminate to educators, par-
16 ents, and policymakers information on research, ef-
17 fective programs, best practices, and available Fed-
18 eral resources with respect to school dropout preven-
19 tion, intervention programs, and reentry programs,
20 including dissemination by an electronically acces-
21 sible database, a worldwide Web site, and a national
22 journal;

23 “(2) provide technical assistance regarding se-
24 curing resources with respect to, and designing and
25 implementing, effective and comprehensive school

1 dropout prevention, intervention programs, and re-
2 entry programs; and

3 “(3) provide professional development opportu-
4 nities through workshops, seminars, and institutes
5 for educators and program providers responsible for
6 planning, implementing, and evaluating comprehen-
7 sive school dropout prevention, intervention pro-
8 grams, and recovery programs.

9 **“Subpart 5—Definitions; Authorization of**
10 **Appropriations**

11 **“SEC. 5351. DEFINITIONS.**

12 “In this part:

13 “(1) DIRECTOR.—The term ‘Director’ means
14 the Director of the Office of Dropout Prevention and
15 Program Completion established under section 218
16 of the General Education Provisions Act.

17 “(2) INTERVENTION PROGRAMS.—The term
18 ‘intervention programs’ means programs or strate-
19 gies that are designed to improve academic or per-
20 sonal problems of students that negatively affect the
21 students’ performance or ability to remain in school
22 and graduate from school with a diploma.

23 “(3) PREVENTION PROGRAMS.—The term ‘pre-
24 ventation programs’ means programs that anticipate,
25 forestall, or relate to cognitive, social, or personal

1 problems of students before such problems impair a
2 student's ability to perform in school.

3 “(4) RECOVERY PROGRAMS.—The term ‘recov-
4 ery programs’ means programs or strategies de-
5 signed to offer another schooling option to an indi-
6 vidual who has dropped out of school.

7 “(5) SCHOOL DROPOUT.—The term ‘school
8 dropout’ has the meaning given the term in section
9 4(17) of the School-to-Work Opportunities Act of
10 1994.

11 **“SEC. 5352. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

12 “(a) SUBPART 1.—There are authorized to be appro-
13 priated to carry out subpart 1 such sums as may be nec-
14 essary for fiscal year 2002 and for each of the 4 suc-
15 ceeding fiscal years.

16 “(b) SUBPART 2.—There are authorized to be appro-
17 priated to carry out subpart 2 such sums as may be nec-
18 essary for fiscal year 2004 and for each of the 4 suc-
19 ceeding fiscal years.

20 “(c) SUBPART 4.—There are authorized to be appro-
21 priated to carry out subpart 4 such sums as may be nec-
22 essary for fiscal year 2002 and for each of the 4 suc-
23 ceeding fiscal years.”.

1 **SEC. 4. OFFICE OF DROPOUT PREVENTION AND PROGRAM**
2 **COMPLETION.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Title II of the Department of
4 Education Organization Act (20 U.S.C. 3411 et seq.) is
5 amended by adding at the end the following:

6 “OFFICE OF DROPOUT PREVENTION AND PROGRAM
7 COMPLETION

8 “SEC. 220. (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There shall be in
9 the Department of Education an Office of Dropout Pre-
10 vention and Program Completion (hereafter in this section
11 referred to as the ‘Office’), to be administered by the Di-
12 rector of the Office of Dropout Prevention and Program
13 Completion. The Director of the Office shall report di-
14 rectly to the Under Secretary of Education and shall per-
15 form such additional functions as the Under Secretary
16 may prescribe.

17 “(b) DUTIES.—The Director of the Office of Dropout
18 Prevention and Program Completion (hereafter in this
19 section referred to as the ‘Director’), through the Office,
20 shall—

21 “(1) help coordinate Federal, State, and local
22 efforts to lower school dropout rates and increase
23 program completion by elementary, middle, and sec-
24 ondary school students;

1 “(2) recommend Federal policies, objectives,
2 and priorities to lower school dropout rates and in-
3 crease program completion;

4 “(3) oversee the implementation of subparts 1
5 and 2 of part C of title V of the Elementary and
6 Secondary Education Act of 1965;

7 “(4) annually prepare and submit to Congress
8 and the Secretary a national report describing ef-
9 forts and recommended actions regarding school
10 dropout prevention and program completion;

11 “(5) recommend action to the Secretary and the
12 President, as appropriate, regarding school dropout
13 prevention and program completion; and

14 “(6) consult with and assist State and local
15 governments regarding school dropout prevention
16 and program completion.

17 “(c) SCOPE OF DUTIES.—The scope of the Director’s
18 duties under subsection (b) shall include examination of
19 all Federal and non-Federal efforts related to—

20 “(1) promoting program completion for children
21 attending elementary, middle, or secondary school;

22 “(2) programs to obtain a secondary school di-
23 ploma or its recognized equivalent (including general
24 equivalency diploma (GED) programs); and

1 “(3) reentry programs for individuals aged 12
2 to 24 who are out of school.

3 “(d) DETAILING.—In carrying out the Director’s du-
4 ties under this section, the Director may request the head
5 of any Federal department or agency to detail personnel
6 who are engaged in school dropout prevention activities
7 to another Federal department or agency in order to im-
8 plement the National School Dropout Prevention Strat-
9 egy.”.

10 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of con-
11 tents of the Department of Education Organization Act
12 (20 U.S.C. 3401 note) is amended by inserting after the
13 item relating to section 217 the following new item:

“Sec. 220. Office of Dropout Prevention and Program Completion.”.

