

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 102

To provide assistance to address school dropout problems.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 22, 2001

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

A BILL

To provide assistance to address school dropout problems.

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. ASSISTANCE TO ADDRESS SCHOOL DROPOUT 4 PROBLEMS.

5 Part D of title I of the Elementary and Secondary
6 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6421 et seq.) is amend-
7 ed by adding at the end the following:

1 **“Subpart 4—Assistance to Address School Dropout**

2 **Problems**

3 "SEC. 1441. SHORT TITLE.

4 “This subpart may be cited as the ‘Dropout Preven-
5 tion Act’.

6 "SEC. 1442. PURPOSE.

7 “The purpose of this subpart is to provide for school
8 dropout prevention and reentry and to raise academic
9 achievement levels by providing grants, to schools through
10 State educational agencies, that—

“(1) challenge all children to attain their highest academic potential; and

13 “(2) ensure that all students have substantial
14 and ongoing opportunities to do so through
15 schoolwide programs proven effective in school drop-
16 out prevention.

17 “Chapter 1—Coordinated National Strategy

18 "SEC. 1451. NATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

19 "(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized—

20 “(1) to collect systematic data on the participa-
21 tion in the programs described in paragraph (2)(C)
22 of individuals disaggregated within each State, local
23 educational agency, and school by gender, by each
24 major racial and ethnic group, by English pro-
25 ficiency status, by migrant status, by students with
26 disabilities as compared to nondisabled students, and

1 by economically disadvantaged students as compared
2 to students who are not economically disadvantaged;

3 “(2) to establish and to consult with an inter-
4 agency working group which shall—

5 “(A) address inter- and intra-agency pro-
6 gram coordination issues at the Federal level
7 with respect to school dropout prevention and
8 middle school and secondary school reentry, as-
9 sess the targeting of existing Federal services to
10 students who are most at risk of dropping out
11 of school, and the cost-effectiveness of various
12 programs and approaches used to address
13 school dropout prevention;

14 “(B) describe the ways in which State and
15 local agencies can implement effective school
16 dropout prevention programs using funds from
17 a variety of Federal programs, including the
18 programs under title I and the School-to-Work
19 Opportunities Act of 1994; and

20 “(C) address all Federal programs with
21 school dropout prevention or school reentry ele-
22 ments or objectives, programs under title I of
23 this Act, the School-to-Work Opportunities Act
24 of 1994, subtitle C of title I of the Workforce

1 Investment Act of 1998, and other programs;
2 and

3 “(3) carry out a national recognition program
4 in accordance with subsection (b) that recognizes
5 schools that have made extraordinary progress in
6 lowering school dropout rates under which a public
7 middle school or secondary school from each State
8 will be recognized.

9 "(b) RECOGNITION PROGRAM.—

10 “(1) NATIONAL GUIDELINES.—The Secretary
11 shall develop uniform national guidelines for the rec-
12 ognition program which shall be used to recognize
13 schools from nominations submitted by State edu-
14 cational agencies.

15 “(2) ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS.—The Secretary may
16 recognize under the recognition program any public
17 middle school or secondary school (including a char-
18 ter school) that has implemented comprehensive re-
19 forms regarding the lowering of school dropout rates
20 for all students at that school.

21 “(3) SUPPORT.—The Secretary may make mon-
22 etary awards to schools recognized under the rec-
23 ognition program in amounts determined by the Sec-
24 retary. Amounts received under this section shall be

1 used for dissemination activities within the school
2 district or nationally.

3 “(c) CAPACITY BUILDING.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, through a
5 contract with a non-Federal entity, may conduct a
6 capacity building and design initiative in order to in-
7 crease the types of proven strategies for dropout
8 prevention and reentry that address the needs of an
9 entire school population rather than a subset of stu-
10 dents.

11 “(2) NUMBER AND DURATION.—

12 “(A) NUMBER.—The Secretary may award
13 not more than 5 contracts under this sub-
14 section.

15 “(B) DURATION.—The Secretary may
16 award a contract under this subsection for a pe-
17 riod of not more than 5 years.

18 “(d) SUPPORT FOR EXISTING REFORM NET-
19 WORKS.—

20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may provide
21 appropriate support to eligible entities to enable the
22 eligible entities to provide training, materials, devel-
23 opment, and staff assistance to schools assisted
24 under this chapter.

1 “(2) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—In
2 this subsection, the term ‘eligible entity’ means an
3 entity that, prior to the date of enactment of the
4 Dropout Prevention Act—

5 “(A) provided training, technical assistance,
6 and materials to 100 or more elementary
7 schools or secondary schools; and

8 “(B) developed and published a specific
9 educational program or design for use by the
10 schools.

11 **“Chapter 2—National School Dropout Prevention
12 Initiative**

13 **“SEC. 1461. PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.**

14 “(a) GRANTS.—

15 “(1) DISCRETIONARY GRANTS.—If the sum ap-
16 propriated under section 1472 for a fiscal year is
17 less than \$250,000,000, then the Secretary shall use
18 such sum to award grants, on a competitive basis,
19 to State educational agencies to enable the State
20 educational agencies to award grants under sub-
21 section (b).

22 “(2) FORMULA.—If the sum appropriated
23 under section 1472 for a fiscal year equals or ex-
24 ceeds \$250,000,000, then the Secretary shall use
25 such sum to make an allotment to each State in an

1 amount that bears the same relation to the sum as
2 the amount the State received under part A of title
3 I for the preceding fiscal year bears to the amount
4 received by all States under such part for the pre-
5 ceding fiscal year.

6 “(3) DEFINITION OF STATE.—In this chapter,
7 the term ‘State’ means each of the several States of
8 the United States, the District of Columbia, the
9 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States
10 Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Com-
11 monwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Re-
12 public of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States
13 of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau.

14 “(b) GRANTS.—From amounts made available to a
15 State under subsection (a), the State educational agency
16 may award grants to public middle schools or secondary
17 schools that serve students in grades 6 through 12, that
18 have school dropout rates which are the highest of all
19 school dropout rates in the State, to enable the schools
20 to pay only the startup and implementation costs of effec-
21 tive, sustainable, coordinated, and whole school dropout
22 prevention programs that involve activities such as—

23 “(1) professional development;
24 “(2) obtaining curricular materials;
25 “(3) release time for professional staff;

1 “(4) planning and research;
2 “(5) remedial education;
3 “(6) reduction in pupil-to-teacher ratios;
4 “(7) efforts to meet State student achievement
5 standards;
6 “(8) counseling and mentoring for at-risk stu-
7 dents; and
8 “(9) comprehensive school reform models.

9 “(c) AMOUNT.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (d)
11 and except as provided in paragraph (2), a grant
12 under this chapter shall be awarded—

13 “(A) in the first year that a school receives
14 a grant payment under this chapter, based on
15 factors such as—

16 “(i) school size;

17 “(ii) costs of the model or set of pre-
18 vention and reentry strategies being imple-
19 mented; and

20 “(iii) local cost factors such as poverty
21 rates;

22 “(B) in the second such year, in an
23 amount that is not less than 75 percent of the
24 amount the school received under this chapter
25 in the first such year;

1 “(C) in the third year, in an amount that
2 is not less than 50 percent of the amount the
3 school received under this chapter in the first
4 such year; and

5 “(D) in each succeeding year in an amount
6 that is not less than 30 percent of the amount
7 the school received under this chapter in the
8 first such year.

9 “(2) INCREASES.—The Secretary shall increase
10 the amount awarded to a school under this chapter
11 by 10 percent if the school creates smaller learning
12 communities within the school and the creation is
13 certified by the State educational agency.

14 “(d) DURATION.—A grant under this chapter shall
15 be awarded for a period of 3 years, and may be continued
16 for a period of 2 additional years if the State educational
17 agency determines, based on the annual reports described
18 in section 1467(a), that significant progress has been
19 made in lowering the school dropout rate for students par-
20 ticipating in the program assisted under this chapter com-
21 pared to students at similar schools who are not partici-
22 pating in the program.

23 **“SEC. 1462. STRATEGIES AND CAPACITY BUILDING.**

24 “Each school receiving a grant under this chapter
25 shall implement research-based, sustainable, and widely

1 replicated, strategies for school dropout prevention and re-
2 entry that address the needs of an entire school population
3 rather than a subset of students. The strategies may
4 include—

5 “(1) specific strategies for targeted purposes,
6 such as effective early intervention programs de-
7 signed to identify at-risk students, effective pro-
8 grams encompassing traditionally underserved stu-
9 dents, including racial and ethnic minorities and
10 pregnant and parenting teenagers, designed to pre-
11 vent such students from dropping out of school, and
12 effective programs to identify and encourage youth
13 who have already dropped out of school to reenter
14 school and complete their secondary education; and

15 “(2) approaches such as breaking larger schools
16 down into smaller learning communities and other
17 comprehensive reform approaches, creating alter-
18 native school programs, developing clear linkages to
19 career skills and employment, and addressing spe-
20 cific gatekeeper hurdles that often limit student re-
21 tention and academic success.

22 **“SEC. 1463. SELECTION OF SCHOOLS.**

23 “(a) SCHOOL APPLICATION.—

24 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each school desiring a
25 grant under this chapter shall submit an application

1 to the State educational agency at such time, in
2 such manner, and accompanied by such information
3 as the State educational agency may require.

4 “(2) CONTENTS.—Each application submitted
5 under paragraph (1) shall—

6 “(A) contain a certification from the local
7 educational agency serving the school that—

8 “(i) the school has the highest number
9 or rates of school dropouts in the age
10 group served by the local educational agen-
11 cy;

12 “(ii) the local educational agency is
13 committed to providing ongoing oper-
14 ational support, for the school’s com-
15 prehensive reform plan to address the
16 problem of school dropouts, for a period of
17 5 years; and

18 “(iii) the local educational agency will
19 support the plan, including—

20 “(I) release time for teacher
21 training;

22 “(II) efforts to coordinate activi-
23 ties for feeder schools; and

1 “(III) encouraging other schools
2 served by the local educational agency
3 to participate in the plan;

4 “(B) demonstrate that the faculty and ad-
5 ministration of the school have agreed to apply
6 for assistance under this chapter, and provide
7 evidence of the school’s willingness and ability
8 to use the funds under this chapter, including
9 providing an assurance of the support of 80
10 percent or more of the professional staff at the
11 school;

12 “(C) describe the instructional strategies
13 to be implemented, how the strategies will serve
14 all students, and the effectiveness of the strate-
15 gies;

16 “(D) describe a budget and timeline for
17 implementing the strategies;

18 “(E) contain evidence of coordination with
19 existing resources;

20 “(F) provide an assurance that funds pro-
21 vided under this chapter will supplement and
22 not supplant other Federal, State, and local
23 funds;

24 “(G) describe how the activities to be as-
25 sisted conform with research-based knowledge

1 about school dropout prevention and reentry;
2 and

3 “(H) demonstrate that the school and local
4 educational agency have agreed to conduct a
5 schoolwide program under section 1114.

6 “(b) STATE AGENCY REVIEW AND AWARD.—The
7 State educational agency shall review applications and
8 award grants to schools under subsection (a) according to
9 a review by a panel of experts on school dropout preven-
10 tion.

11 “(c) ELIGIBILITY.—A school is eligible to receive a
12 grant under this chapter if the school is—

13 “(1) a public school (including a public alter-
14 native school)—

15 “(A) that is eligible to receive assistance
16 under part A of title I, including a comprehen-
17 sive secondary school, a vocational or technical
18 secondary school, or a charter school; and

19 “(B)(i) that serves students 50 percent or
20 more of whom are low-income individuals; or

21 “(ii) with respect to which the feeder
22 schools that provide the majority of the incom-
23 ing students to the school serve students 50
24 percent or more of whom are low-income indi-
25 viduals; or

1 “(2) participating in a schoolwide program
2 under section 1114 during the grant period.

3 “(d) COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS.—A school
4 that receives a grant under this chapter may use the grant
5 funds to secure necessary services from a community-
6 based organization, including private sector entities, if—

7 “(1) the school approves the use;

8 “(2) the funds are used to provide school drop-
9 out prevention and reentry activities related to
10 schoolwide efforts; and

11 “(3) the community-based organization has
12 demonstrated the organization’s ability to provide ef-
13 fective services as described in section 122 of the
14 Workforce Investment Act of 1998.

15 “(e) COORDINATION.—Each school that receives a
16 grant under this chapter shall coordinate the activities as-
17 sisted under this chapter with other Federal programs,
18 such as programs assisted under chapter 1 of subpart 2
19 of part A of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965
20 and the School-to-Work Opportunities Act of 1994.

21 **“SEC. 1464. DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES.**

22 “Each school that receives a grant under this chapter
23 shall provide information and technical assistance to other
24 schools within the school district, including presentations,
25 document-sharing, and joint staff development.

1 **“SEC. 1465. PROGRESS INCENTIVES.**

2 “Notwithstanding any other provision of law, each
3 local educational agency that receives funds under title I
4 shall use such funding to provide assistance to schools
5 served by the agency that have not made progress toward
6 lowering school dropout rates after receiving assistance
7 under this chapter for 2 fiscal years.

8 **“SEC. 1466. SCHOOL DROPOUT RATE CALCULATION.**

9 “For purposes of calculating a school dropout rate
10 under this chapter, a school shall use—

11 “(1) the annual event school dropout rate for
12 students leaving a school in a single year determined
13 in accordance with the National Center for Edu-
14 cation Statistics’ Common Core of Data, if available;
15 or

16 “(2) in other cases, a standard method for cal-
17 culating the school dropout rate as determined by
18 the State educational agency.

19 **“SEC. 1467. REPORTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY.**

20 “(a) REPORTING.—In order to receive funding under
21 this chapter for a fiscal year after the first fiscal year a
22 school receives funding under this chapter, the school shall
23 provide, on an annual basis, to the Secretary and the State
24 educational agency a report regarding the status of the
25 implementation of activities funded under this chapter, the
26 outcome data for students at schools assisted under this

1 chapter disaggregated in the same manner as information
2 under section 1451(a) (such as dropout rates), and certifi-
3 cation of progress from the eligible entity whose strategies
4 the school is implementing.

5 “(b) ACCOUNTABILITY.—On the basis of the reports
6 submitted under subsection (a), the Secretary shall evalu-
7 ate the effect of the activities assisted under this chapter
8 on school dropout prevention compared to a control group.

9 **“SEC. 1468. STATE RESPONSIBILITIES.**

10 “(a) UNIFORM DATA COLLECTION.—Within 1 year
11 after the date of enactment of the Dropout Prevention
12 Act, a State educational agency that receives funds under
13 this chapter shall report to the Secretary and statewide,
14 all school district and school data regarding school drop-
15 out rates in the State disaggregated in the same manner
16 as information under section 1451(a), according to proce-
17 dures that conform with the National Center for Edu-
18 cation Statistics’ Common Core of Data.

19 “(b) ATTENDANCE-NEUTRAL FUNDING POLICIES.—
20 Within 2 years after the date of enactment of the Dropout
21 Prevention Act, a State educational agency that receives
22 funds under this chapter shall develop and implement edu-
23 cation funding formula policies for public schools that pro-
24 vide appropriate incentives to retain students in school
25 throughout the school year, such as—

1 “(1) a student count methodology that does not
2 determine annual budgets based on attendance on a
3 single day early in the academic year; and
4 “(2) specific incentives for retaining enrolled
5 students throughout each year.

6 “(c) SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION POLICIES.—With-
7 in 2 years after the date of enactment of the Dropout Pre-
8 vention Act, a State educational agency that receives
9 funds under this chapter shall develop uniform, long-term
10 suspension and expulsion policies (that in the case of a
11 child with a disability are consistent with the suspension
12 and expulsion policies under the Individuals with Disabil-
13 ties Education Act) for serious infractions resulting in
14 more than 10 days of exclusion from school per academic
15 year so that similar violations result in similar penalties.

16 "(d) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall promul-
17 gate regulations implementing subsections (a) through (c).

20 "SEC. 1471. DEFINITIONS.

21 “In this subpart:

22 “(1) LOW-INCOME.—The term ‘low-income’,
23 used with respect to an individual, means an indi-
24 vidual determined to be low-income in accordance
25 with measures described in section 1113(a)(5).

1 “(2) SCHOOL DROPOUT.—The term ‘school
2 dropout’ has the meaning given the term in section
3 4(17) of the School-to-Work Opportunities Act of
4 1994.

5 **“SEC. 1472. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

6 “There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
7 this subpart, \$250,000,000 for fiscal year 2001 and such
8 sums as may be necessary for each of the 4 succeeding
9 fiscal years, of which—

10 “(1) 10 percent shall be available to carry out
11 chapter 1; and

12 “(2) 90 percent shall be available to carry out
13 chapter 2.”.

○