

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 334

To provide for a Rural Education Initiative.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 14, 2001

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

A BILL

To provide for a Rural Education Initiative.

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. RURAL EDUCATION INITIATIVE.**

4 Title X of the Elementary and Secondary Education

5 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 8001 et seq.) is amended—

6 (1) by redesignating part L as part M; and

7 (2) by inserting after part K the following:

8 **“PART L—RURAL EDUCATION INITIATIVE**

9 **“SEC. 10995A. SHORT TITLE.**

10 “This part may be cited as the ‘Rural Education

11 Achievement Program’.

1 **“SEC. 10995B. PURPOSE.**2 “It is the purpose of this part to address the unique
3 needs of rural school districts that frequently—4 “(1) lack the personnel and resources needed to
5 compete for Federal competitive grants; and6 “(2) receive formula allocations in amounts too
7 small to be effective in meeting their intended pur-
8 poses.9 **“SEC. 10995C. DEFINITIONS.**

10 “In this part:

11 “(1) POVERTY LINE.—The term ‘poverty line’
12 means the poverty line (as defined by the Office of
13 Management and Budget, and revised annually in
14 accordance with section 673(2) of the Community
15 Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9902(2))) ap-
16 plicable to a family of the size involved.17 “(2) SPECIALLY QUALIFIED AGENCY.—The
18 term ‘specially qualified agency’ means an eligible
19 local educational agency, located in a State that does
20 not participate in a program carried out under this
21 part for a fiscal year, which may apply directly to
22 the Secretary for a grant for such year in accord-
23 ance with section 10995D(b).24 **“SEC. 10995D. PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.**

25 “(a) GRANTS TO STATES.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—From the amount made
2 available to carry out this part for a fiscal year, the
3 Secretary shall award grants, from allotments made
4 under paragraph (2), to State educational agencies
5 that have applications approved under section
6 10995F to enable the State educational agencies to
7 award grants to eligible local educational agencies
8 for innovative assistance activities described in sec-
9 tion 6301(b).

10 “(2) ALLOTMENT.—From the amount made
11 available to carry out this part for a fiscal year, the
12 Secretary shall allot to each State educational agen-
13 cy an amount that bears the same ratio to the sum
14 as the number of students in average daily attend-
15 ance at the schools served by eligible local edu-
16 cational agencies in the State for that fiscal year
17 bears to the number of all such students at the
18 schools served by eligible local educational agencies
19 in all States for that fiscal year.

20 “(b) DIRECT GRANTS TO SPECIALLY QUALIFIED
21 AGENCIES.—

22 “(1) NONPARTICIPATING STATE.—If a State
23 educational agency elects not to participate in the
24 program carried out under this part or does not
25 have an application approved under section 10995F,

1 a specially qualified agency in such State desiring a
2 grant under this part shall apply directly to the Sec-
3 retary under section 10995F to receive a grant
4 under this part.

5 “(2) DIRECT AWARDS TO SPECIALLY QUALI-
6 FIED AGENCIES.—The Secretary may award, on a
7 competitive basis, the amount the State educational
8 agency is eligible to receive under subsection (a)(2)
9 directly to specially qualified agencies in the State.

10 “(c) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—A State educational
11 agency that receives a grant under this part may not use
12 more than 5 percent of the amount of the grant for State
13 administrative costs.

14 **“SEC. 10995E. STATE DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.**

15 “(a) IN GENERAL.—A State educational agency that
16 receives a grant under this part may use the funds made
17 available through the grant to award grants to eligible
18 local educational agencies to enable the local educational
19 agencies to carry out innovative assistance activities de-
20 scribed in section 6301(b).

21 “(b) LOCAL AWARDS.—

22 “(1) ELIGIBILITY.—A local educational agency
23 shall be eligible to receive a grant under this part
24 if—

1 “(A) 20 percent or more of the children
2 age 5 through 17 that are served by the local
3 educational agency are from families with in-
4 comes below the poverty line; and

5 “(B) all of the schools served by the agen-
6 cy are located in a community with a School-
7 Locale Code of 6, 7, or 8, as determined by the
8 Secretary of Education.

9 “(c) AWARD BASIS.—The State educational agency
10 shall award the grants to eligible local educational
11 agencies—

12 “(1) on a competitive basis; or
13 “(2) according to a formula based on the num-
14 ber of students in average daily attendance at
15 schools served by the eligible local educational agen-
16 cies.

17 **“SEC. 10995F. APPLICATIONS.**

18 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Each State educational agency
19 and specially qualified agency desiring to receive a grant
20 under this part shall submit an application to the Sec-
21 retary at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by
22 such information as the Secretary may require.

23 “(b) CONTENTS.—At a minimum, such application
24 shall include information on specific measurable goals and
25 objectives to be achieved through the activities carried out

1 through the grant, which may include specific educational
2 goals and objectives relating to—
3 “(1) increasing student academic achievement;
4 “(2) decreasing student dropout rates;
5 “(3) narrowing the achievement gap between
6 the students in the State who are economically dis-
7 advantaged and the students in the State who are
8 not economically disadvantaged; or
9 “(4) such other factors as the State educational
10 agency or specially qualified agency may choose to
11 measure.

12 **“SEC. 10995G. ACCOUNTABILITY.**

13 “(a) STATE REPORTS.—Each State educational
14 agency that receives a grant under this part shall prepare
15 and submit to the Secretary an annual report. The report
16 shall describe—
17 “(1) the method the State educational agency
18 used to award grants to eligible local educational
19 agencies under this part;
20 “(2) how the local educational agencies used the
21 funds provided under this part; and
22 “(3) the degree to which the State made
23 progress toward meeting the goals and objectives de-
24 scribed in the application submitted under section
25 10995F.

1 “(b) SPECIALLY QUALIFIED AGENCY REPORT.—

2 Each specially qualified agency that receives a grant under
3 this part shall prepare and submit to the Secretary an an-
4 nual report. The report shall describe—

5 “(1) how such agency used the funds provided
6 under this part; and

7 “(2) the degree to which the agency made
8 progress toward meeting the goals and objectives de-
9 scribed in the application submitted under section
10 10995F.

11 “(c) ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each local educational
13 agency that receives a grant under this part for a
14 fiscal year shall—

15 “(A) administer an assessment that is used
16 statewide and is consistent with the assessment
17 described in section 1111(b), to assess the aca-
18 demic achievement of students in the schools
19 served by the local educational agency; or

20 “(B) in the case of a local educational
21 agency for which there is no statewide assess-
22 ment described in subparagraph (A), administer
23 a test, that is selected by the local educational
24 agency, to assess the academic achievement of

1 students in the schools served by the local edu-
2 cational agency.

3 “(2) SPECIAL RULE.—Each local educational
4 agency that receives a grant under this part shall
5 use the same assessment or test described in para-
6 graph (1) for each year of participation in the pro-
7 gram carried out under this part.

8 “(d) STATE EDUCATIONAL AGENCY DETERMINATION
9 REGARDING CONTINUING PARTICIPATION.—Each State
10 educational agency that receives a grant under this part
11 shall—

12 “(1) after the fifth year that a local educational
13 agency in the State participates in the program au-
14 thorized under this part and on the basis of the re-
15 sults of the assessments or tests described in sub-
16 section (c), determine whether the students served
17 by the local educational agency participating in the
18 program performed better on the assessments or
19 tests after the fifth year of the participation than
20 the students performed on the assessments or tests
21 after the first year of the participation;

22 “(2) permit only the local educational agencies
23 that participated in the program and served students
24 that performed better on the assessments or tests,
25 as described in paragraph (1), to continue to partici-

1 pate in the program for an additional period of 5
2 years; and

3 “(3) prohibit the local educational agencies that
4 participated in the program and served students that
5 did not perform better on the assessments or tests,
6 as described in paragraph (1), from participating in
7 the program for a period of 5 years from the date
8 of the determination.

9 **“SEC. 10995H. SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.**

10 “Funds made available under this part shall be used
11 to supplement and not supplant any other Federal, State,
12 or local education funds.

13 **“SEC. 10995I. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

14 “There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
15 this part \$150,000,000 for fiscal year 2002, and such
16 sums as may be necessary for each of the 5 succeeding
17 fiscal years.”.

