

107TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 342

To assist local educational agencies by providing grants for proven measures for increasing the quality of education, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 15, 2001

Mrs. CARNAHAN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

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## A BILL

To assist local educational agencies by providing grants for proven measures for increasing the quality of education, 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 “Quality Classrooms  
5       Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

7       The purpose of this Act is to support local edu-  
8       cational agencies by awarding grants for—

9               (1) the implementation of specific measures, as  
10       selected by local educational agencies from a local

1       accountability menu, that have been proven to in-  
2       crease the quality of education; and

3               (2) the conduct of other activities that local  
4       educational agencies demonstrate will provide en-  
5       hanced individual instruction for the students served  
6       by the agencies.

7   **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

8       In this Act:

9               (1) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The term  
10       “local educational agency” has the same meaning  
11       given that term under section 14101 of the Elemen-  
12       tary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20  
13       U.S.C. 8801).

14              (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
15       the Secretary of Education.

16   **SEC. 4. GRANT PROGRAMS.**

17       (a) LOCAL ACCOUNTABILITY MENU GRANTS.—

18              (1) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary  
19       shall award grants to local educational agencies to  
20       be used for the activities described in paragraph (3).

21              (2) APPLICATION.—

22              (A) IN GENERAL.—A local educational  
23       agency desiring a grant under this subsection  
24       shall submit an application to the Secretary at  
25       such time, in such manner, and containing such

1 information as the Secretary may reasonably  
2 require.

3 (B) CONTENTS.—Each application sub-  
4 mitted under subparagraph (A) shall include—

5 (i) a description of the local edu-  
6 cational agency's plan of activities for  
7 which grant funds under this subsection  
8 are sought;

9 (ii) a detailed budget of anticipated  
10 grant fund expenditures;

11 (iii) a detailed description of the  
12 methodology that the local educational  
13 agency will use to evaluate the effective-  
14 ness of grants received by such agency  
15 under this subsection; and

16 (iv) such assurances as the Secretary  
17 determines to be essential to ensure com-  
18 pliance with the requirements of this Act.

19 (3) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—Grant funds  
20 awarded under this subsection may be used for one  
21 or more of the following measures, collectively estab-  
22 lished as the local accountability menu:

23 (A) Reduction of student-teacher ratios  
24 through the hiring of new classroom teachers.

1 (B) School construction assistance for the  
2 purpose of relieving overcrowded classrooms  
3 and reducing the use of portable classrooms.

4 (C) Hiring of additional experienced teach-  
5 ers who specialize in teaching core subjects such  
6 as reading, math, and science, and who will  
7 provide increased individualized instruction to  
8 students served by the local educational agency.

9 (D) Alternative programs for the education  
10 and discipline of chronically violent and disrup-  
11 tive students.

12 (E) Assistance to facilitate the local edu-  
13 cational agency's establishment of a year-round  
14 school schedule that will allow the agency to in-  
15 crease pay for veteran teachers and reduce the  
16 agency's need to hire additional teachers or  
17 construct new facilities.

18 (4) ADMINISTRATIVE CAP.—A local educational  
19 agency that receives a grant under this subsection  
20 shall not use more than 3 percent of the funds re-  
21 ceived for administrative expenses.

22 (b) INNOVATION GRANTS.—

23 (1) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary  
24 shall reserve 10 percent of the amount made avail-  
25 able to carry out this Act in each fiscal year to

1       award grants, on a competitive basis, to local edu-  
2       cational agencies for the local educational agencies  
3       to carry out the activities described in paragraph  
4       (3).

5               (2) APPLICATION.—

6               (A) IN GENERAL.—A local educational  
7       agency desiring a grant under this subsection  
8       shall submit an application to the Secretary at  
9       such time, in such manner, and containing such  
10      information as the Secretary may reasonably  
11      require.

12              (B) CONTENTS.—Each application sub-  
13      mitted under subparagraph (A) shall include—

14              (i) a description of the local edu-  
15      cational agency's plan of activities for  
16      which grant funds under this subsection  
17      are sought;

18              (ii) a detailed budget of anticipated  
19      grant fund expenditures;

20              (iii) a detailed description of the  
21      methodology that the local educational  
22      agency will use to evaluate the effective-  
23      ness of grants received by such agency  
24      under this subsection; and

1 (iv) such assurances as the Secretary  
 2 determines to be essential to ensure com-  
 3 pliance with the requirements of this Act.

4 (3) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—Each local edu-  
 5 cational agency receiving a grant under this sub-  
 6 section shall use the amounts received under the  
 7 grant for one or more activities that the local edu-  
 8 cational agency sufficiently demonstrates, as deter-  
 9 mined by the Secretary, will provide enhanced indi-  
 10 vidual instruction for students served by the agency,  
 11 but that are not part of the local accountability  
 12 menu described in subsection (a)(3).

13 (4) LIMITATION.—No funds awarded under this  
 14 subsection shall be used for tuition payments for  
 15 students at private schools or for public school  
 16 choice programs.

17 (5) ADMINISTRATIVE CAP.—A local educational  
 18 agency that receives a grant under this subsection  
 19 shall not use more than 3 percent of the funds re-  
 20 ceived for administrative expenses.

21 **SEC. 5. ALLOCATION.**

22 (a) ADMINISTRATIVE CAP.—The Secretary shall ex-  
 23 pend not more than 0.25 percent of the funds made avail-  
 24 able to carry out this Act on administrative costs.

1 (b) FUNDING TO INDIAN TRIBES.—From the amount  
2 made available to carry out this Act for any fiscal year,  
3 the Secretary shall reserve 0.75 percent to awards grants  
4 to Indian tribes to carry out the purposes of this Act.

5 (c) FORMULA.—From the amount made available to  
6 carry out this Act for any fiscal year, and remaining after  
7 the reservations under subsections (a) and (b) and under  
8 section 4(b)(1), the Secretary shall distribute such remain-  
9 ing amounts among the local education agencies as fol-  
10 lows:

11 (1) 80 percent of such amount shall be allo-  
12 cated among such eligible, local educational agencies  
13 in proportion to the number of children, aged 5 to  
14 17, who reside in the school district served by such  
15 local educational agency from families with incomes  
16 below the poverty line (as defined by the Office of  
17 Management and Budget and revised annually in ac-  
18 cordance with section 673(2) of the Community  
19 Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9902(2)) appli-  
20 cable to a family of the size involved for the most  
21 recent fiscal year for which satisfactory data are  
22 available as compared to the number of such chil-  
23 dren who reside in the school districts served by all  
24 eligible, local educational agencies for the fiscal year  
25 involved.

1           (2) 20 percent of such amount shall be allo-  
 2           cated among such eligible local educational agencies  
 3           in proportion to the relative enrollments of children,  
 4           aged 5 to 17, in public and private nonprofit elemen-  
 5           tary and secondary schools within the boundaries of  
 6           such agencies.

7           (d) LIMITATION ON CARRYOVER.—Not more than 20  
 8           percent of the funds allocated to a local educational agency  
 9           for any fiscal year under this Act may remain available  
 10          for obligation by such agency for 1 additional fiscal year.

11   **SEC. 6. SANCTIONS.**

12          If the Secretary determines that the local educational  
 13          agency has used funds in violation of the provisions of this  
 14          Act or the regulations promulgated by the Secretary pur-  
 15          suant to section 8, the Secretary may impose an appro-  
 16          priate sanction that may include reimbursement or ineligi-  
 17          bility for additional funds for a period of years, depending  
 18          upon the severity of the misuse of funds.

19   **SEC. 7. REPORT AND DOCUMENTATION.**

20          (a) REPORT TO THE SECRETARY.—At such time as  
 21          the Secretary deems appropriate, and not less than once  
 22          each year thereafter, each recipient of a grant under this  
 23          Act shall submit to the Secretary a report that includes,  
 24          for the year to which the report relates—



1           (1) a description of how the funds made avail-  
 2           able under this Act were expended in correlation  
 3           with the plan and budget submitted under sections  
 4           4(a)(2) and 4(b)(2), as applicable; and

5           (2) an evaluation of the effectiveness of the  
 6           grant received under this Act, as required by sec-  
 7           tions 4(a)(2)(B) and 4(b)(2)(B), as applicable.

8           (b) DOCUMENTS AND INFORMATION.—Each recipient  
 9           of a grant under this Act shall provide the Secretary with  
 10          all documents and information that the Secretary reason-  
 11          ably determines to be necessary to conduct an evaluation  
 12          of the effectiveness of programs funded under this Act.

13 **SEC. 8. REGULATORY AUTHORITY.**

14          The Secretary shall issue such regulations and guide-  
 15          lines as may be necessary to carry out this Act.

16 **SEC. 9. NOTICE.**

17          Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment  
 18          of this Act, the Secretary shall provide specific notification  
 19          concerning the availability of grants authorized by this Act  
 20          to each local educational agency.

21 **SEC. 10. ANTIDISCRIMINATION.**

22          Nothing in this Act shall be construed to modify or  
 23          affect any Federal or State law prohibiting discrimination  
 24          on the basis of race, religion, color, ethnicity, national ori-  
 25          gin, gender, age, or disability, or to modify or affect any

1 right to enforcement of this Act that may exist under  
2 other Federal laws, except as expressly provided by this  
3 Act.

4 **SEC. 11. MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT.**

5 Funds made available under this Act shall be used  
6 to supplement, not supplant, any other Federal, State, or  
7 local funds that would otherwise be available to carry out  
8 the activities assisted under this Act.

9 **SEC. 12. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

10 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out  
11 this Act, \$50,000,000,000 for the 10-fiscal year period be-  
12 ginning on October 1, 2002.

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