

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2669

To provide a model for school districts in the United States using and building on the experience of the District of Columbia in establishing fully accountable public alternatives to traditional public schools.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 8, 2003

Ms. NORTON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Government Reform

A BILL

To provide a model for school districts in the United States using and building on the experience of the District of Columbia in establishing fully accountable public alternatives to traditional public 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 “Model Alternative Pub-
5 licly Accountable Schools Act of 2003”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds as follows:

1 (1) Because of its extensive use of public char-
2 ter schools and transformation schools, the District
3 of Columbia has become a leading national model for
4 providing children and parents with alternatives to
5 traditional public schools.

6 (2) The District of Columbia has the largest
7 number of public charter schools per capita in the
8 Nation.

9 (3) Despite the unavailability of adequate facili-
10 ties and play areas at the District of Columbia's
11 public charter schools, they have proved a remark-
12 able success. The attractiveness of these schools to
13 parents has increased exponentially, as demonstrated
14 by the extensive wait lists for admission.

15 (4) By designating certain low-performing
16 schools as transformation schools and providing
17 these schools with increased resources and special-
18 ized attention, the District of Columbia is making a
19 significant difference in the performance of low-in-
20 come and other children who attend these schools.

21 (5) Many school districts have failed to estab-
22 lish charter schools, and many are only beginning to
23 consider removing low-performing schools from the
24 procedures applicable to traditional public schools,
25 as the District of Columbia has done in establishing

1 transformation schools from the low-performing tra-
2 ditional public schools.

3 (6) The District of Columbia experience should
4 be encouraged and further developed so that it can
5 be used by other school districts as a model for of-
6 fering public school alternatives that provide services
7 similar to the those available to targeted assistance
8 schools under section 1115 of the Elementary and
9 Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6315)
10 and charter schools under part B of title V of that
11 Act (20 U.S.C. 7221 et seq.).

12 **SEC. 3. PURPOSES.**

13 The purposes of this Act are the following:

14 (1) To provide a model for school districts in
15 the United States using and building on the experi-
16 ence of the District of Columbia in establishing fully
17 accountable public alternatives to traditional public
18 schools.

19 (2) To illustrate the range of public education
20 possibilities, including—

21 (A) public transformation schools that
22 focus on providing low-income children and
23 other children from low-performing schools re-
24 siding in the District of Columbia and their

1 parents with expanded opportunities and en-
2 riched resources; and

3 (B) public charter schools in the District
4 of Columbia, for children whose parents so
5 choose.

6 **SEC. 4. EXPANSION OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOW-INCOME**
7 **PARENTS IN D.C. TO ENROLL THEIR CHIL-**
8 **DREN IN HIGHER-PERFORMING SCHOOLS.**

9 (a) PUBLIC TRANSFORMATION SCHOOLS.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be
11 appropriated for public transformation schools in the
12 District of Columbia \$12,000,000 for fiscal year
13 2004 and such sums as may be necessary for each
14 of the succeeding 4 fiscal years, to be used to ex-
15 pand opportunities for students in the District of
16 Columbia to attend such schools and to fund the ad-
17 ditional services that are necessary to achieve contin-
18 ued improvements in the performance of the children
19 in these schools.

20 (2) PUBLIC TRANSFORMATION SCHOOL DE-
21 FINED.—In this subsection, the term “public trans-
22 formation school” means a public elementary or sec-
23 ondary school that—

1 (A) is designated as a transformation
2 school by the Superintendent of the District of
3 Columbia Public Schools; and

4 (B) is eligible for a schoolwide program
5 under section 1114 of the Elementary and Sec-
6 ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
7 6314) or targeted assistance under section
8 1115 of such Act (20 U.S.C. 6315).

9 (b) PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS.—There are author-
10 ized to be appropriated to the Direct Loan Fund for Char-
11 ter School Improvement (established under section 143(b)
12 of the District of Columbia Appropriations Act, 2003
13 (Public Law 108–7; 117 Stat. 131)) \$3,000,000 for fiscal
14 year 2004 and such sums as may be necessary for each
15 of the succeeding 4 fiscal years, to be used to expand op-
16 portunities for students in the District of Columbia to at-
17 tend public charter schools in the District of Columbia.

18 (c) AUTHORIZATIONS IN ADDITIONAL TO OTHER
19 FUNDS.—Any authorization of appropriations under this
20 section is in addition to any other authorizations of appro-
21 priations available for the purposes of this Act.

22 **SEC. 5. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOOLS RE-**
23 **CEIVING ASSISTANCE.**

24 Not later than 90 days after the end of each academic
25 year, the State Education Agency for the District of Co-

1 lumbia shall prepare and submit to the Congress and the
2 Mayor and City Council of the District of Columbia a re-
3 port on the progress for the academic year of all of the
4 public transformation schools and public charter schools
5 in the District that receive funds under this Act.

6 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

7 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
8 this Act \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2004 and such sums
9 as may be necessary for each of the succeeding 4 fiscal
10 years.

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