

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3296

To authorize the Secretary of Education to make grants to States and local educational agencies for hiring and training prekindergarten teachers.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 14, 2005

Mr. FORD introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Education to make grants to States and local educational agencies for hiring and training prekindergarten teachers.

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 “Prekindergarten-Ori-
5 ented Professional Support Act of 2005”.

6 **SEC. 2. GRANTS FOR HIRING AND TRAINING ELIGIBLE PRE-**
7 **KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS.**

8 (a) GRANTS.—The Secretary of Education, in con-
9 sultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Serv-
10 ices, may make grants to States and local educational

1 agencies to pay all or a portion of the salaries, benefits,
2 and training costs of new eligible prekindergarten teachers
3 for the purposes of—

4 (1) increasing the number of such teachers; and
5 (2) expanding children’s access to free or af-
6 fordable, high-quality, early education.

7 (b) USE OF FUNDS.—The Secretary shall require
8 each applicant for a grant under this section to agree to
9 use the grant to pay all or a portion of the salaries, bene-
10 fits, and training costs of new eligible prekindergarten
11 teachers to serve at eligible prekindergarten providers de-
12 scribed in subsection (c).

13 (c) ELIGIBLE PREKINDERGARTEN PROVIDERS.—An
14 eligible prekindergarten provider described in this para-
15 graph is a State, local, or private non-profit or for-profit
16 prekindergarten provider that—

17 (1) is a high-quality, prekindergarten provider
18 meeting the standards issued by the Secretary under
19 subsection (d);

20 (2) is serving a significant percentage of low-in-
21 come children; and

22 (3) if the provider is a private, tuition-based
23 provider, agrees to adjust tuition standards or take
24 other appropriate measures to ensure that not less
25 than 50 percent of the children to be served through

1 the provider by new eligible prekindergarten teachers
2 under this section will be low-income children.

3 (d) STANDARDS FOR HIGH-QUALITY, PREKINDER-
4 GARTEN PROVIDERS.—

5 (1) STANDARDS.—Not later than 180 days
6 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
7 retary shall issue standards to determine whether a
8 prekindergarten provider is a high-quality, pre-
9 kindergarten provider.

10 (2) CRITERIA.—In issuing standards under this
11 subsection, the Secretary shall take into consider-
12 ation the following criteria:

13 (A) Administration.

14 (B) Support services.

15 (C) Health, safety, and nutrition.

16 (D) Parental involvement.

17 (E) Teacher training.

18 (F) Teacher-to-student ratio.

19 (G) Curriculum, including pre-literacy, pre-
20 numeracy, emotion regulation, and behavioral
21 skills training.

22 (3) RELATION TO STANDARDS UNDER HEAD
23 START ACT.—Any standards issued by the Secretary
24 under this subsection shall be consistent with or in
25 addition to any standards applicable to prekindergarten

1 garten providers under the Head Start Act (42
2 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.).

3 (e) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary
4 shall require each applicant for a grant under this section
5 to comply with the following:

6 (1) LEAD AGENCY.—The chief executive officer
7 of the State or local educational agency applying for
8 the grant must designate an agency (which may be
9 an appropriate collaborative agency) or establish a
10 joint interagency office to serve as the lead agency
11 for administering the grant.

12 (2) COORDINATION.—The applicant must have
13 a mechanism in place to coordinate the applicant's
14 activities under the grant with other programs in
15 order to ensure the effective and efficient use of all
16 available resources to meet early childhood and fam-
17 ily needs.

18 (3) MATCHING FUNDS.—

19 (A) IN GENERAL.—With respect to the
20 costs of the program to be carried out through
21 a grant under this section, a condition for the
22 receipt of the grant is that the applicant agree
23 to make available (directly or through donations
24 from public or private entities) non-Federal

1 contributions toward such costs in an amount
2 that is not less than 25 percent of such costs.

3 (B) DETERMINATION OF AMOUNT CON-
4 TRIBUTED.—Non-Federal contributions re-
5 quired in subparagraph (A) may be in cash or
6 in kind, fairly evaluated, including plant, equip-
7 ment, or services. Amounts provided by the
8 Federal Government, or services assisted or
9 subsidized to any significant extent by the Fed-
10 eral Government, may not be included in deter-
11 mining the amount of such non-Federal con-
12 tributions.

13 (C) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive
14 the requirements of this paragraph in whole or
15 in part with respect to any grantee for any fis-
16 cal year if the Secretary determines that such
17 a waiver would be equitable due to lack of avail-
18 able financial resources.

19 (4) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—Funds
20 made available under this section shall be used to
21 supplement, and not supplant, other Federal, State,
22 and local funds expended to support early childhood
23 programs.

24 (f) APPLICATION.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—To seek a grant under this
2 section, a State or local educational agency shall
3 submit an application to the Secretary at such time,
4 in such form and manner, and containing such in-
5 formation as the Secretary may reasonably require.

6 (2) CONTENTS.—At a minimum, an application
7 under this subsection shall include a description of—

8 (A) the applicant’s need for expanded ac-
9 cess to high-quality, early childhood education;
10 and

11 (B) the applicant’s ability to use resources
12 efficiently and effectively to address such need.

13 (g) PRIORITY.—In making grants under this section,
14 the Secretary shall give priority to States and local edu-
15 cational agencies that demonstrate the greatest need for
16 increased access to high-quality, early childhood edu-
17 cation.

18 (h) MONITORING; REPORTS.—The Secretary shall—

19 (1) require each recipient of a grant under this
20 section to monitor and report to the Secretary on
21 the progress achieved through the grant; and

22 (2) submit an annual report to the Congress on
23 the progress of grantees under this section.

1 **SEC. 3. GRANTS FOR INCREASING RETENTION OF PRE-**
2 **KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS.**

3 (a) GRANTS.—The Secretary of Education, in con-
4 sultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Serv-
5 ices, may make grants to States and local educational
6 agencies to increase retention of prekindergarten teachers
7 by establishing a career ladder described in subsection (b)
8 for such teachers.

9 (b) CAREER LADDER.—A career ladder described in
10 this subsection—

11 (1) shall provide incentives for prekindergarten
12 teachers to obtain additional training and education,
13 such as by obtaining certification, an associate’s de-
14 gree, a bachelor’s degree, or other recognition of
15 higher education; and

16 (2) shall not undermine the valuable contribu-
17 tions of prekindergarten teachers lacking formal
18 education, but having a wealth of early childhood ex-
19 perience.

20 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

21 In this Act:

22 (1) The term “eligible prekindergarten teacher”
23 means an individual who has, or is currently enrolled
24 in classes to obtain, a Bachelor of Arts degree in
25 early childhood development.

1 (2) The terms “local educational agency” and
2 “State” have the meanings given to those terms in
3 section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
4 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

5 (3) The term “low-income child” means a child
6 from a family with an income below 200 percent of
7 the poverty line.

8 (4) The term “poverty line” means the poverty
9 line (as defined by the Office of Management and
10 Budget and revised annually in accordance with sec-
11 tion 673(2) of the Community Services Block Grant
12 Act) applicable to a family of the size involved.

13 (5) The term “prekindergarten” means a pro-
14 gram serving children 3, 4, and 5 years of age that
15 requires teachers to equip such children with the
16 pre-literacy, pre-numeracy emotion regulation, and
17 behavioral skills required for school success.

18 (6) The term “Secretary” means the Secretary
19 of Education.

20 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

21 To carry out this Act, there is authorized to be appro-
22 priated \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2006 through
23 2010.

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