#### 110TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION

## S. 224

To create or adopt, and implement, rigorous and voluntary American education content standards in mathematics and science covering kindergarten through grade 12, to provide for the assessment of student proficiency benchmarked against such standards, and for other purposes.

#### IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

January 9, 2007

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

### A BILL

To create or adopt, and implement, rigorous and voluntary American education content standards in mathematics and science covering kindergarten through grade 12, to provide for the assessment of student proficiency benchmarked against such standards, 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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.
- 4 (a) Short Title.—This Act may be cited as the
- 5 "Standards to Provide Educational Achievement for Kids
- 6 Act" or the "SPEAK Act".

1 (b) Table of Contents for

#### 2 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Findings.
- Sec. 3. Assessing science in the National Assessment of Educational Progress.
- Sec. 4. Definitions.
- Sec. 5. Voluntary American education content standards; American Standards Incentive Fund.
- Sec. 6. Authorization of appropriations.

#### 3 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

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- 4 Congress finds the following:
  - (1) Throughout the years, educators and policymakers have consistently embraced standards as the
    mechanism to ensure that every student, no matter
    what school the student attends, masters the skills
    and develops the knowledge needed to participate in
    a global economy.
    - (2) Recent international comparisons make clear that students in the United States have significant shortcomings in mathematics and science, yet a high level of scientific and mathematics literacy is essential to societal innovations and advancements.
    - (3) With more than 50 different sets of academic content standards, 50 State academic assessments, and 50 definitions of proficiency under section 1111(b) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311(b)), there is great variability in the measures, standards, and

- benchmarks for academic achievement in mathematics and science.
  - (4) Variation in State standards and the accompanying measures of proficiency make it difficult for parents and teachers to meaningfully gauge how well their children are learning mathematics and science in comparison to their peers internationally or here at home.
  - (5) The disparity in the rigor of standards across States yield test results that tell the public little about how schools are performing and progressing, as States with low standards or low proficiency scores may appear to be doing much better than States with more rigorous standards or higher requirements for proficiency.
  - (6) As a result, the United States' highly mobile student-aged population moves through the Nation's schools gaining widely varying levels of knowledge, skills, and preparedness.
  - (7) In order for the United States to compete in a global economy, the country needs to strengthen its educational expectations for all children.
  - (8) To compete, the people of the United States must compare themselves against international benchmarks.

1	(9) Grounded in a real world analysis and inter-
2	national comparisons of what students need to suc-
3	ceed in work and college, rigorous and voluntary
4	core American education content standards will keep
5	the United States economically competitive and en-
6	sure that the children of the United States are given
7	the same opportunity to learn to a high standard no
8	matter where they reside.
9	(10) Rigorous and voluntary core American
10	education content standards in mathematics and
11	science will enable students to succeed in academic
12	settings across States while ensuring an American
13	edge in the global marketplace.
14	SEC. 3. ASSESSING SCIENCE IN THE NATIONAL ASSESS
15	MENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS.
16	(a) National Assessment of Educational
17	Progress Authorization Act.—Section 303 of the Na-
18	tional Assessment of Educational Progress Authorization
19	Act (20 U.S.C. 9622) is amended—
20	(1) in subsection (a), by striking "reading and
21	mathematics" and inserting "reading, mathematics,
22	and science";
23	(2) in subsection (b)—
24	(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting
25	"science," after "mathematics,";

1	(B) in paragraph (2)—
2	(i) in subparagraph (B), by striking
3	"reading and mathematics" and inserting
4	"reading, mathematics, and science";
5	(ii) in subparagraph (C), by striking
6	"reading and mathematics" and inserting
7	"reading, mathematics, and science";
8	(iii) in subparagraph (D), by striking
9	"science,";
10	(iv) in subparagraph (E), by striking
11	"reading and mathematics" and inserting
12	"reading, mathematics, and science"; and
13	(v) in subparagraph (F)—
14	(I) by striking "continue to";
15	and
16	(II) by striking "reading and
17	mathematics" and inserting "reading,
18	mathematics, and science";
19	(C) in paragraph (3)—
20	(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking
21	"reading and mathematics" each place the
22	term occurs and inserting "reading, mathe-
23	matics, and science"; and
24	(ii) in subparagraph (C)(ii), by strik-
25	ing "reading and mathematics" and insert-

1	ing "reading, mathematics, and science"
2	and
3	(D) in paragraph (4)(B), by striking ", re-
4	quire, or influence" and inserting "or require"
5	(3) in subsection (d)(3), by striking "reading
6	and mathematics" each place the term occurs and
7	inserting "reading, mathematics, and science"; and
8	(4) in subsection (f)(1)(B)(v), by striking "and
9	mathematical knowledge" and inserting ", mathe-
10	matical knowledge, and science knowledge".
11	(b) Elementary and Secondary Education Act
12	OF 1965.—Subpart 1 of part A of title I of the Elemen-
13	tary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C
14	6311 et seq.) is amended—
15	(1) in section $1111(c)(2)$ (20 U.S.C
16	6311(e)(2))—
17	(A) by inserting "(and, for science, begin-
18	ning with the 2008–2009 school year)" after
19	"2002–2003"; and
20	(B) by striking "reading and mathe-
21	matics" and inserting "reading, mathematics
22	and science"; and
23	(2) in section $1112(b)(1)(F)$ (20 U.S.C
24	6312(b)(1)(F)) by striking "reading and mathe-

1	matics" and inserting "reading, mathematics, and
2	science''.
3	SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.
4	Section 304 of the National Assessment of Edu-
5	cational Progress Authorization Act (20 U.S.C. 9623) is
6	amended—
7	(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by
8	striking "In this title:" and inserting "Except as
9	otherwise provided, in this title:";
10	(2) by redesignating paragraph (2) as para-
11	graph (3); and
12	(3) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-
13	lowing:
14	"(3) Secretary.—The term 'Secretary' means
15	the Secretary of Education.".
16	SEC. 5. VOLUNTARY AMERICAN EDUCATION CONTENT
17	STANDARDS; AMERICAN STANDARDS INCEN-
18	TIVE FUND.
19	The National Assessment of Educational Progress
20	Authorization Act (20 U.S.C. 9621 et seq.) is amended—
21	(1) by redesignating sections 304 (as amended
22	by section 4) and 305 as sections 306 and 307, re-
23	spectively; and
24	(2) by inserting after section 303 the following:

# 1 "SEC. 304. CREATION OR ADOPTION OF VOLUNTARY AMER2 ICAN EDUCATION CONTENT STANDARDS. 3 "(a) IN CENERAL Not later than 2 years often the

- 3 "(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the
- 4 date of enactment of the Standards to Provide Edu-
- 5 cational Achievement for Kids Act and from amounts ap-
- 6 propriated under section 307(a)(3) for a fiscal year, the
- 7 Assessment Board shall create or adopt voluntary Amer-
- 8 ican education content standards in mathematics and
- 9 science covering kindergarten through grade 12.
- 10 "(b) Duties.—The Assessment Board shall imple-
- 11 ment subsection (a) by carrying out the following duties:
- "(1) Create or adopt voluntary American edu-
- 13 cation content standards for mathematics and
- science covering kindergarten through grade 12 that
- 15 reflect a common core of what students in the
- 16 United States should know and be able to do to
- 17 compete in a global economy.
- 18 "(2) Anchor the voluntary American education
- 19 content standards based on the mathematics and
- science frameworks and the achievement levels under
- section 303(e) of the National Assessment of Edu-
- cational Progress for grades 4, 8, and 12.
- "(3) Ensure that the voluntary American edu-
- cation content standards are internationally competi-
- 25 tive and comparable to the best standards in the
- world.

1	"(4) Review existing standards in mathematics
2	and science developed by professional organizations.
3	"(5) Review State standards in mathematics
4	and science as of the date of enactment of the
5	Standards to Provide Educational Achievement for
6	Kids Act and consult and work with entities that are
7	developing, or have already developed, such State
8	standards.
9	"(6) Review the reports, views, and analyses of
10	a broad spectrum of experts, including classroom
11	educators, and of the public, as such reports, views,
12	and analyses relate to mathematics and science edu-
13	cation, including reviews of blue ribbon reports, ex-
14	emplary practices in the field, and recent reports by
15	government agencies and professional organizations.
16	"(7) Review scientifically rigorous studies that
17	examine the relationship between—
18	"(A) the sequences of secondary school-
19	level mathematics and science courses; and
20	"(B) student achievement.
21	"(8) Ensure that steps are taken in the devel-
22	opment of the voluntary American education content
23	standards to recognize the needs of students who re-
24	ceive special education and related services under

the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20

1	U.S.C. 1400 et seq.) and of students who are limited
2	English proficient (as defined in section 9101 of the
3	Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965
4	(20 U.S.C. 7801)).
5	"(9) Solicit input from State and local rep-
6	resentative organizations, mathematics and science
7	organizations (including mathematics and science
8	teacher organizations), institutions of higher edu-
9	cation, higher education organizations, business or-
10	ganizations, and other appropriate organizations.
11	"(10) Ensure that the voluntary American edu-
12	cation content standards reflect what students will
13	be required to know and be able to do after sec-
14	ondary school graduation to be academically quali-
15	fied to enter an institution of higher education or
16	training for the civilian or military workforce.
17	"(11) Widely disseminate the voluntary Amer-
18	ican education content standards for public review
19	and comment before final adoption.
20	"(12) Provide for continuing review of the vol-
21	untary American education content standards not
22	less often than once every 10 years, which review—
23	"(A) shall solicit input from organizations

and entities, including—

1	"(i) 1 or more professional mathe-
2	matics or science organizations, including
3	mathematics or science educator organiza-
4	tions;
5	"(ii) the State educational agencies
6	that have received American Standards In-
7	centive Fund grants under section 305
8	during the period covered by the review;
9	and
10	"(iii) other organizations and entities,
11	as determined appropriate by Assessment
12	Board; and
13	"(B) shall address issues including—
14	"(i) whether the voluntary American
15	education content standards continue to
16	reflect international standards of excellence
17	and the latest developments in the fields of
18	mathematics and science; and
19	"(ii) whether the voluntary American
20	education content standards continue to
21	reflect what students are required to know
22	and be able to do in science and mathe-
23	matics after graduation from secondary
24	school to be academically qualified to enter
25	an institution of higher education or train-

1	ing for the civilian or military workforce
2	as of the date of the review.
3	"SEC. 305. THE AMERICAN STANDARDS INCENTIVE FUND.
4	"(a) Definitions.—In this section:
5	"(1) In General.—The terms 'elementary
6	school', 'local educational agency', 'professional de-
7	velopment', 'secondary school', 'State', and 'State
8	educational agency' have the meanings given the
9	terms in section 9101 of the Elementary and Sec-
10	ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).
11	"(2) Academic content standards.—The
12	term 'academic content standards' means the chal-
13	lenging academic content standards described in sec-
14	tion 1111(b)(1) of the Elementary and Secondary
15	Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311(b)(1)).
16	"(3) Levels of achievement.—The term
17	'levels of achievement' means the State levels of
18	achievement under subclauses (II) and (III) of sec-
19	tion 1111(b)(1)(D)(ii) of the Elementary and Sec-
20	ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C
21	6311(b)(1)(D)(ii)(II), (III)).
22	"(4) State academic assessments.—The
23	term 'State academic assessments' means the aca-
24	domic accomments for a State described in section

1	1111(b)(3) of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
2	cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311(b)(3)).
3	"(b) Establishment of Fund.—From amounts
4	appropriated under section 307(a)(4) for a fiscal year, the
5	Secretary shall establish and fund the American Stand-
6	ards Incentive Fund to carry out the grant program under
7	subsection (c).
8	"(c) Incentive Grant Program Authorized.—
9	"(1) In general.—Not later than 12 months
10	after the Assessment Board adopts the voluntary
11	American education content standards under section
12	304, the Secretary shall use amounts available from
13	the American Standards Incentive Fund to award
14	on a competitive basis, grants to State educational
15	agencies to enable each State educational agency to
16	adopt the voluntary American education content
17	standards in mathematics and science as the core of
18	the State's academic content standards in mathe-
19	matics and science by carrying out the activities de-
20	scribed in subsection (f).
21	"(2) Duration and amount.—A grant under
22	this subsection shall be awarded—
23	"(A) for a period of not more than 4 years
24	and

1	"(B) in an amount that is not more than
2	\$4,000,000 over the period of the grant.
3	"(3) SEA COLLABORATION PERMITTED.—A
4	State educational agency receiving a grant under
5	this subsection may collaborate with another State
6	educational agency receiving a grant under this sub-
7	section in carrying out the activities described in
8	subsection (f).
9	"(d) Core Standards.—A State educational agency
10	receiving a grant under subsection (e) shall adopt and use
11	the voluntary American education content standards in
12	mathematics and science as the core of the State academic
13	content standards in mathematics and science. The State
14	educational agency may add additional standards to the
15	voluntary American education content standards as part
16	of the State academic content standards in mathematics
17	and science.
18	"(e) State Application.—A State educational
19	agency desiring to receive a grant under subsection (c)
20	shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time,
21	in such manner, and containing such information as the
22	Secretary may require. The application shall include—
23	"(1) timelines for carrying out each of the ac-
24	tivities described in subsection (f)(1); and

"(2) a description of the activities that the State educational agency will undertake to implement the voluntary American education content standards in mathematics and science adopted under section 304, and the achievement levels in mathematics and science developed under section 303(e) for the national and State assessments of the National Assessment of Educational Progress, at both the State educational agency and local educational agency levels, including any additional activities described in subsection (f)(2).

#### "(f) Use of Funds.—

- "(1) Mandatory activities.—A State educational agency receiving a grant under subsection (c) shall use grant funds to carry out all of the following:
  - "(A) Adopt the voluntary American education content standards in mathematics and science as the core of the State's academic content standards in mathematics and science not later than 2 years after the receipt of a grant under this section.
  - "(B) Align the teacher certification or licensure, pre-service, and professional development requirements of the State to the voluntary

American education content standards in mathematics and science not later than 3 years after the receipt of the grant.

- "(C) Align the State academic assessments in mathematics and science (or develop new such State academic assessments that are aligned) with the voluntary American education content standards in mathematics and science not later than 4 years after the receipt of the grant.
- "(D) Align the State levels of achievement in mathematics and science with the student achievement levels in mathematics and science developed under section 303(e) for the national and State assessments of the National Assessment of Educational Progress not later than 4 years after the receipt of the grant.
- "(E) Develop dissemination, technical assistance, and professional development activities for the purpose of educating local educational agencies and schools on what the standards adopted by the State educational agency under this section are and how the standards can be incorporated into classroom instruction.

1	"(2) Permissive activities.—A State edu-
2	cational agency receiving a grant under subsection
3	(c) may use the grant funds to carry out, at the
4	local educational agency or State educational agency
5	level, any of the following activities:
6	"(A) Develop curricula and instructional
7	materials in mathematics or science that are
8	aligned with the voluntary American education
9	content standards in mathematics and science.
10	"(B) Conduct other activities needed for
11	the implementation of the voluntary American
12	education content standards in mathematics
13	and science.
14	"(3) Priority.—In awarding grants under this
15	section the Secretary shall give priority to a State
16	educational agency that will use the grant funds to
17	carry out subparagraph (A) of paragraph (2).
18	"(g) AWARD BASIS.—In determining the amount of
19	a grant under subsection (c), the Secretary shall take into
20	consideration—
21	"(1) the extent to which a State's academic
22	content standards, State academic assessments, lev-
23	els of achievement in mathematics and science, and
24	teacher certification or licensure, pre-service, and

professional development requirements, must be re-

- 1 vised to align such State standards, assessments,
- 2 levels, and teacher requirements with the voluntary
- 3 American education content standards created or
- 4 adopted under section 304 and the achievement lev-
- 5 els in mathematics and science developed under sec-
- 6 tion 303(e); and
- 7 "(2) the planned activities described in the ap-
- 8 plication submitted under subsection (e).
- 9 "(h) Annual State Educational Agency Re-
- 10 PORTS.—A State educational agency receiving a grant
- 11 under subsection (c) shall submit an annual report to the
- 12 Secretary demonstrating the State educational agency's
- 13 progress in meeting the timelines described in the applica-
- 14 tion under subsection (e)(1).
- 15 "(i) Grants for DoD and BIA Schools.—
- 16 "(1) Department of Defense schools.—
- 17 From amounts available from the American Stand-
- ards Incentive Fund, the Secretary, upon application
- by the Secretary of Defense, may award grants
- under subsection (c) to the Secretary of Defense on
- 21 behalf of elementary schools and secondary schools
- operated by the Department of Defense to enable
- 23 the Secretary of Defense to carry out activities simi-
- lar to the activities described in subsection (f) for

the elementary schools and secondary schools operated by the Department of Defense.

"(2) Bureau of Indian Affairs schools.—
From amounts available from the American Standards Incentive Fund, the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, may award grants under subsection (c) to the Bureau of Indian Affairs on behalf of elementary schools and secondary schools operated or funded by the Department of the Interior to enable the Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs to carry out activities similar to the activities described in subsection (f) for the elementary schools and secondary schools operated or funded by the Department of the Interior.

"(j) Study.—Not later than 2 years after the completion of the first 4-year grant cycle for grants under this section, the Commissioner for Education Statistics shall carry out a study comparing the gap between the reported proficiency on State academic assessments and assess-ments under section 303 for State educational agencies receiving grants under subsection (c), before and after the State adopts the voluntary American education content standards in mathematics and science as the core of the State education content standards in mathematics and

science.

1	"(k) Data Grant.—
2	"(1) Program authorized.—
3	"(A) In general.—From amounts appro-
4	priated under section 307(a)(4), the Secretary
5	shall award, to each State educational agency
6	that meets the requirements of paragraph (3),
7	a grant to enhance statewide student level lon-
8	gitudinal data systems as those systems relate
9	to the requirements of part A of title I of the
10	Elementary and Secondary Education Act of
11	1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311 et seq.).
12	"(B) DATA AUDIT SYSTEM.—The State,
13	through the implementation of such enhanced
14	data system, shall—
15	"(i) ensure that the State has in place
16	a State data audit system to assess data
17	quality, validity, and reliability; and
18	"(ii) provide guidance, technical as-
19	sistance, and professional development to
20	local educational agencies to ensure local
21	education officials and educators have the
22	tools, knowledge, and protocol necessary to
23	use the enhanced data system properly, en-
24	sure the integrity of the data, and be able

1	to use the data to inform education policy
2	and practice.
3	"(2) Amount of grant.—A grant awarded to
4	a State educational agency under this subsection
5	shall be in an amount equal to 5 percent of the
6	amount allocated to the State under section 1122 of
7	the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of
8	1965 (20 U.S.C. 6332). If the amounts available
9	from the American Standards Incentive Fund are
10	insufficient to pay the full amounts of grants under
11	paragraph (1) to all State educational agencies that
12	receive a grant under this subsection, then the Sec-
13	retary shall ratably reduce the amount of all grants
14	under this subsection.
15	"(3) Requirements.—In order to receive a
16	grant under this subsection, a State educational
17	agency shall—
18	"(A) have received a grant under sub-
19	section (c); and
20	"(B) successfully demonstrate to the Sec-
21	retary that the State has aligned—
22	"(i) the State's academic content
23	standards and State academic assessments
24	in mathematics and science, and the
25	State's teacher certification or licensure,

1	pre-service, and professional development
2	requirements, with the voluntary American
3	education content standards in mathe-
4	matics and science; and
5	"(ii) the State levels of achievement in
6	mathematics and science for grades 4, 8,
7	and 12, with the achievement levels in
8	mathematics and science developed under
9	section 303(e) for such grades.
10	"(4) Nature of Grant.—A grant under this
11	subsection to a State educational agency shall be in
12	addition to any grant awarded to the State edu-
13	cational agency under subsection (c).
14	"(5) Limit on number of grants.—In no
15	case shall a State educational agency receive more
16	than 1 grant under this subsection.
17	"(l) Reports to Congress.—Not later than 2 years
18	after the date of enactment of the Standards to Provide
19	Educational Achievement for Kids Act, and every 2 years
20	thereafter, the Secretary shall report to Congress regard-
21	ing the status of all grants awarded under this section.
22	"(m) Rule of Construction.—Nothing in this sec-
23	tion shall be construed to establish a preferred national
24	curriculum or preferred teaching methodology for elemen-
25	tary school or secondary school instruction.

"(n) TIMELINE EXTENSION.—The Secretary may ex-1 tend the 12-year requirement under section 1111(b)(2)(F) 3 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 4 (20 U.S.C. 6311(b)(2)(F)) by not less than 2 years and by not more than 4 years for a State served by a State educational agency that receives grants under subsections 6 7 (c) and (k).". 8 SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS. 9 Section 307(a) of the National Assessment of Edu-10 cational Progress Authorization Act (as redesignated by section 5(1)) (20 U.S.C. 9624(a)) is amended to read as 12 follows: 13 "(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be ap-14 propriated— 15 "(1) to carry out section 302, \$6,000,000 for 16 fiscal year 2007 and such sums as may be necessary 17 for each succeeding fiscal year; 18 "(2) to carry out section 303, \$200,000,000 for 19 fiscal year 2007 and such sums as may be necessary 20 for each succeeding fiscal year; 21 "(3) to carry out section 304, \$3,000,000 for 22 fiscal year 2007 and such sums as may be necessary

for each succeeding fiscal year; and

1 "(4) to carry out section 305, \$400,000,000 for 2 fiscal year 2007 and such sums as may be necessary 3 for each succeeding fiscal year.".

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