

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2496

To amend title II of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to enhance teaching standards and provide for license portability.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 18, 2007

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

A BILL

To amend title II of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to enhance teaching standards and provide for license portability.

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 “Enhancing Teaching
5 Standards and License Portability Act of 2007”.

6 **SEC. 2. TEACHING STANDARDS AND LICENSE PORTABILITY.**

7 Part C of title II of the Elementary and Secondary
8 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6671 et seq.) is amend-
9 ed by adding at the end the following:

1 **“Subpart 6—Teaching Standards and License**
2 **Portability**

3 **“SEC. 2371. PURPOSES.**

4 “The purposes of this subpart are the following:

5 “(1) To support the development of rigorous
6 kindergarten through grade 12 teaching standards
7 that incorporate 21st century learning skills.

8 “(2) To create incentives for States to adopt,
9 pilot, and implement such rigorous kindergarten
10 through grade 12 teaching standards.

11 “(3) To create incentives for States to align the
12 States’ teacher licensing systems to such rigorous
13 kindergarten through grade 12 teaching standards.

14 “(4) To create incentives for States to develop
15 policies to facilitate teacher license portability across
16 States in order to improve the capacity of States to
17 collaboratively address teacher shortages.

18 **“SEC. 2372. DEFINITIONS.**

19 “In this subpart:

20 “(1) CORE TEACHING STANDARDS.—The term
21 ‘core teaching standards’ means standards that all
22 beginning teachers should know and be able to teach
23 in order to practice responsibly, regardless of the
24 subject matter or grade level being taught.

25 “(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-
26 tity’ means an organization representing administra-

1 tors of State educational agencies in partnership
 2 with 1 or more independent professional organiza-
 3 tions with expertise in the following areas:

4 “(A) Teacher preparation and licensure.

5 “(B) Assessment of teacher knowledge,
 6 skills, and competencies.

7 “(3) 21ST CENTURY LEARNING SKILLS.—The
 8 term ‘21st century learning skills’ means the skills,
 9 knowledge, and competencies that students should
 10 master to succeed in postsecondary education and
 11 the workforce of the 21st century, including cre-
 12 ativity and innovation skills, critical thinking and
 13 problem-solving skills, communication and collabora-
 14 tion skills, information and technology literacy, civic
 15 and health literacy, adaptability, social and cross-
 16 cultural skills, and leadership skills.

17 **“SEC. 2373. GRANT PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.**

18 “(a) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary is authorized
 19 to award a competitive grant to an eligible entity to enable
 20 such entity to carry out the following:

21 “(1) The development or updating of core
 22 teaching standards and content-specific kindergarten
 23 through grade 12 teaching standards that are rig-
 24 orous and incorporate 21st century learning skills

1 and recent research and expert knowledge on teach-
 2 ing practices.

3 “(2) The development of teacher assessments
 4 linked to the kindergarten through grade 12 teach-
 5 ing standards that can be used for licensing, are
 6 valid and reliable, and are performance-based.

7 “(3) The awarding of subgrants as described in
 8 subsection (b)(2) to State educational agencies.

9 “(4) The provision of technical assistance to
 10 States in the adoption, pilot testing, and implemen-
 11 tation of kindergarten through grade 12 teaching
 12 standards and teacher assessments as described in
 13 paragraph (2).

14 “(5) The provision of technical assistance to
 15 States to facilitate teacher license portability across
 16 States through changes in relevant State policies or
 17 the creation of new policies for such purpose.

18 “(b) USES OF FUNDS.—

19 “(1) DIRECT ACTIVITIES.—

20 “(A) FIRST AND SECOND YEARS.—An eli-
 21 gible entity that receives a grant under sub-
 22 section (a) shall use 100 percent of the funds
 23 made available through the grant for the first
 24 and second fiscal years—

1 “(i) to develop or update the core
2 teaching standards and content-specific
3 kindergarten through grade 12 teaching
4 standards; and

5 “(ii) to develop and pilot test teacher
6 performance assessments that can be used
7 to supplement or supplant current State li-
8 censing exams.

9 “(B) THIRD YEAR AND BEYOND.—An eli-
10 gible entity that receives a grant under sub-
11 section (a) shall use not more than 40 percent
12 of the funds made available through the grant
13 for the third fiscal year, not more than 30 per-
14 cent of the funds made available through the
15 grant for the fourth fiscal year, and not more
16 than 20 percent of the funds made available
17 through the grant for the fifth fiscal year—

18 “(i) to continue pilot testing and vali-
19 dating the teacher performance assess-
20 ments;

21 “(ii) to disseminate the kindergarten
22 through grade 12 teaching standards, as-
23 sessments, and any other materials that
24 States may need to properly evaluate and

1 adopt such standards, assessments, and
2 materials;

3 “(iii) to provide technical assistance to
4 States in—

5 “(I) adopting the kindergarten
6 through grade 12 teaching standards;

7 “(II) pilot testing the teacher as-
8 sessments; and

9 “(III) reliably and accurately ad-
10 ministering and interpreting the
11 teacher assessments; and

12 “(iv) to fund research activities that
13 further the development of kindergarten
14 through grade 12 teaching standards and
15 assessments.

16 “(2) SUBGRANTS.—An eligible entity that re-
17 ceives a grant under subsection (a) shall use not less
18 than 60 percent of the funds made available through
19 the grant for the third fiscal year, not less than 70
20 percent of the funds made available through the
21 grant for the fourth fiscal year, and not less than 80
22 percent of the funds made available through the
23 grant for the fifth fiscal year to award subgrants to
24 State educational agencies to pay the Federal share

1 of the costs of carrying out the following activities
 2 in the States:

3 “(A) To adopt the core teaching standards
 4 and content-specific kindergarten through grade
 5 12 teaching standards developed or updated by
 6 the eligible entity.

7 “(B) To align the States’ teacher licensing
 8 systems to such standards, which may include
 9 the pilot testing and use of teacher assessments
 10 developed by the eligible entity under paragraph
 11 (1)(A)(ii).

12 “(C) To change relevant policies or intro-
 13 duce new policies to facilitate teacher license
 14 portability across the States.

15 **“SEC. 2374. APPLICATIONS.**

16 “(a) GRANT APPLICATION.—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity that de-
 18 sires a grant under this subpart shall submit to the
 19 Secretary an application at such time, in such man-
 20 ner, and accompanied by such information as the
 21 Secretary may require.

22 “(2) CONTENTS.—In an application submitted
 23 under paragraph (1), an eligible entity shall include,
 24 at a minimum, a description of the capability of the
 25 entity to carry out section 2373(b).

1 “(b) SUBGRANT APPLICATION.—

2 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A State educational agency
3 that desires a subgrant under this subpart shall sub-
4 mit an application to the eligible entity at such time,
5 in such manner, and accompanied by such informa-
6 tion as the eligible entity may require.

7 “(2) CONTENTS.—In an application submitted
8 under paragraph (1), a State educational agency
9 shall include, at a minimum, a description of how
10 the agency plans to carry out the activities described
11 in subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of section
12 2373(b)(2).

13 **“SEC. 2375. FEDERAL SHARE.**

14 “(a) FEDERAL SHARE.—For State educational agen-
15 cies receiving a subgrant under section 2371(b)(2), the
16 Federal share of the cost of carrying out the activities de-
17 scribed in subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of section
18 2371(b)(2) shall be 50 percent.

19 “(b) PAYMENT OF NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—The non-
20 Federal share may be paid in cash or in kind (fairly evalu-
21 ated).

22 **“SEC. 2376. REPORTS TO CONGRESS.**

23 “Not later than 2 years after the date funds are first
24 made available to carry out this subpart, and again 2
25 years thereafter, the Comptroller General of the United

1 States shall submit to the appropriate committees of Con-
2 gress a report regarding activities assisted under this sub-
3 part.

4 **“SEC. 2377. SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.**

5 “Funds made available to carry out this subpart shall
6 be used to supplement, and not supplant, other Federal,
7 State, and local funds available to carry out the [purposes
8 described in section 2371].

9 **“SEC. 2378. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

10 “There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
11 this subpart—

12 “(1) \$4,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008
13 and 2009; and

14 “(2) \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2010,
15 2011, and 2012.”.

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