

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 206

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to establish a program to help States expand the education system to include at least 1 year of early education preceding the year a child enters kindergarten.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 12, 2009

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

A BILL

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to establish a program to help States expand the education system to include at least 1 year of early education preceding the year a child enters kindergarten.

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 “Early Education Act
5 of 2009”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

1 (1) A national commitment should be estab-
2 lished that all children have access to high quality
3 early education.

4 (2) Research suggests that a child's early years
5 are critical to the development of the brain. Early
6 brain development is an important component of
7 educational and intellectual achievement.

8 (3) The National Research Council of the Na-
9 tional Academy of Sciences reported that early edu-
10 cation opportunities are necessary if children are
11 going to develop the language and literacy skills nec-
12 essary to learn to read.

13 (4) Evaluations of early education programs
14 demonstrate that compared to children with similar
15 backgrounds who have not participated in early edu-
16 cation programs, children who participate in such
17 programs—

18 (A) perform better on reading and mathe-
19 matics achievement tests;

20 (B) are more likely to stay academically
21 near their grade level and make normal aca-
22 demic progress throughout elementary school;

23 (C) are less likely to be held back a grade
24 or require special education services in elemen-
25 tary school;

1 (D) show greater learning retention, initia-
 2 tive, creativity, and social competency; and

3 (E) are more enthusiastic about school and
 4 are more likely to have good attendance
 5 records.

6 (5) Studies have estimated that for every dollar
 7 invested in quality early education, about 7 dollars
 8 are saved in later costs.

9 **SEC. 3. EARLY EDUCATION.**

10 The Elementary and Secondary Education Act of
 11 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) is amended by adding at
 12 the end the following:

13 **“TITLE X—EARLY EDUCATION**

14 **“SEC. 10001. EARLY EDUCATION PROGRAM.**

15 “(a) DEFINITION OF EARLY EDUCATION.—In this
 16 section, the term ‘early education’ means not less than a
 17 half-day of schooling each week day during the academic
 18 year preceding the academic year a child enters kinder-
 19 garten.

20 “(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to es-
 21 tablish a program to develop the foundation of early lit-
 22 eracy and numerical training among young children by
 23 helping State educational agencies expand the education
 24 system to include early education for all children.

25 “(c) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized
 2 to award grants to not less than 10 State edu-
 3 cational agencies to enable the State educational
 4 agencies to expand the education system with pro-
 5 grams that provide early education.

6 “(2) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—The amount
 7 provided to a State educational agency under para-
 8 graph (1) shall not exceed 50 percent of the cost of
 9 the program described in the application submitted
 10 pursuant to subsection (d).

11 “(3) REQUIREMENTS.—Each program assisted
 12 under this section shall—

13 “(A) be carried out by 1 or more local edu-
 14 cational agencies, as selected by the State edu-
 15 cational agency;

16 “(B) be carried out—

17 “(i) in a public school building; or

18 “(ii) in another facility by, or through
 19 a contract or agreement with, a local edu-
 20 cational agency carrying out the program;

21 “(C) be available to all children served by
 22 such local educational agency; and

23 “(D) only involve instructors who are li-
 24 censed or certified in accordance with applicable
 25 State law.

1 “(d) APPLICATION.—Each State educational agency
2 desiring a grant under this section shall submit an appli-
3 cation to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and
4 accompanied by such information as the Secretary may
5 require. Each application shall—

6 “(1) include a description of—

7 “(A) the program to be assisted under this
8 section; and

9 “(B) how the program will meet the pur-
10 pose of this section; and

11 “(2) contain a statement of the total cost of the
12 program and the source of the matching funds for
13 the program.

14 “(e) SECRETARIAL AUTHORITY.—In order to carry
15 out the purpose of this section, the Secretary—

16 “(1) shall establish a system for the monitoring
17 and evaluation of, and shall annually report to Con-
18 gress regarding, the programs funded under this
19 section; and

20 “(2) may establish any other policies, proce-
21 dures, or requirements, with respect to the pro-
22 grams.

23 “(f) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—Funds made
24 available under this section shall be used to supplement,
25 not supplant, other Federal, State, or local funds, includ-

1 ing funds provided under Federal programs such as the
 2 Head Start programs carried out under the Head Start
 3 Act and the Even Start family literacy program carried
 4 out under subpart 3 of part B of title I.

5 “(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
 6 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
 7 not less than \$300,000,000 for each of the fiscal years
 8 2010 through 2014.”.

9 **SEC. 4. CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**

10 The table of contents in section 2 of the Elementary
 11 and Secondary Education Act of 1965 is amended by add-
 12 ing at the end the following:

“TITLE X—EARLY EDUCATION

“Sec. 10001. Early education program.”.

