

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3559

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to strengthen mentoring programs, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 30, 2010

Mr. DODD 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 strengthen mentoring programs, 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.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Mentoring America’s
5 Children Act of 2009”.

6 **SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO MENTORING PROGRAMS.**

7 (a) PURPOSE; DEFINITIONS.—Section 4130(a) of the
8 Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
9 U.S.C. 7140(a)) is amended—

10 (1) in paragraph (1)—

1 (A) in subparagraph (B), by striking
2 “achievement of such children” and inserting
3 “outcomes of such children by improving their
4 school connectedness, decreasing absenteeism,
5 and increasing academic performance”;

6 (B) in subparagraph (D), by striking
7 “and” after the semicolon;

8 (C) in subparagraph (E), by striking the
9 period and inserting “; and”; and

10 (D) by adding at the end the following:

11 “(F) to foster character education.”;

12 (2) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking “or who
13 lacks strong positive role models” and inserting
14 “who lacks strong positive role models, who is a fos-
15 ter youth, or who has 1 or both parents incarcer-
16 ated”;

17 (3) in paragraph (2)(B)(iii), by striking “a
18 partnership between a local educational agency and
19 a nonprofit, community-based organization” and in-
20 serting “a consortium between or among 1 or more
21 local educational agencies, nonprofit community-
22 based organizations, and other partners, such as cor-
23 porations, universities, or foster care group homes”;
24 and

1 (4) in paragraph (2)(C)(iii), by inserting “and
2 successful” after “responsible”.

3 (b) GRANT PROGRAM.—Section 4130(b) of the Ele-
4 mentary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
5 7140(b)) is amended—

6 (1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)
7 of paragraph (1), by striking “this subpart under
8 section 4003(2)” and inserting “this section under
9 subsection (d)”;

10 (2) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking “(particu-
11 larly” and all that follows through “failure)” and in-
12 serting “, particularly children living in rural, subur-
13 ban, or urban areas facing high rates of crime, gang
14 involvement, drug use, school dropouts, or youth sui-
15 cides,”;

16 (3) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking clauses (vi)
17 and (viii) and inserting the following:

18 “(vi) Encourage setting goals and
19 planning for the future, including encour-
20 agement of graduation from secondary
21 school, planning for postsecondary edu-
22 cation or training, and participating in in-
23 ternships.

24 “(vii) Discourage involvement in
25 gangs.”;

1 (4) in paragraph (4)—

2 (A) by striking subparagraph (D) and in-
3 serting the following:

4 “(D) an assurance that each mentor will
5 be assigned to not more than 3 children, and
6 that when assigned to more than 1 child (which
7 is preferable where practicable), the assignment
8 shall not undermine the mentor’s ability to be
9 an effective mentor or to establish a close rela-
10 tionship with each mentored child;”;

11 (B) in subparagraph (I), by striking “and”
12 after the semicolon;

13 (C) in subparagraph (J)(iv), by striking
14 the period and inserting a semicolon; and

15 (D) by adding at the end the following:

16 “(K) information regarding the staffing
17 plan and levels the eligible entity will use to
18 monitor the mentor and mentee match over the
19 duration of the match; and

20 “(L) information regarding how the eligi-
21 ble entity will meet the matching funds require-
22 ment described in paragraph (7).”;

23 (5) in paragraph (5)—

24 (A) in subparagraph (B), by striking
25 clause (i) and inserting the following:

1 “(i) serves children with greatest need
 2 who live in rural areas, high-crime areas,
 3 troubled home environments, or commu-
 4 nities with a high rate of youth suicide,
 5 who attended a school with violence prob-
 6 lems, or who are foster children;”;

7 (B) in subparagraph (C)—

8 (i) in clause (i), by striking “urban
 9 and rural” and inserting “urban, subur-
 10 ban, and rural”;

11 (ii) in clause (ii)(II), by inserting
 12 “children,” after “organizations,”; and

13 (iii) in clause (iii), by inserting “and
 14 sustain the mentoring program for the du-
 15 ration of the grant and beyond” after
 16 “mentoring program”; and

17 (C) by adding at the end following:

18 “(E) SUBSEQUENT GRANTS.—In awarding
 19 grants under subparagraph (A), the Secretary
 20 shall consider eligible entities who have received
 21 funding in a prior grant cycle for a new grant
 22 only if each of the following criteria is met:

23 “(i) Performance during the initial
 24 grant was satisfactory in terms of program
 25 design and numbers of children served.

1 “(ii) The subsequent grant will exclu-
 2 sively support expanded service to a new
 3 geographic area or target population.

4 “(iii) The eligible entity demonstrates
 5 that the eligible entity is able to provide
 6 the matching funds required under para-
 7 graph (7)(B) for all years of the new
 8 grant.

9 “(F) POLICY ON ONE ENTITY RECEIVING
 10 TWO GRANTS AT SAME TIME.—

11 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as pro-
 12 vided in clause (ii), in awarding grants
 13 under subparagraph (A) the Secretary may
 14 have in effect a policy under which an eli-
 15 gible entity is prohibited from receiving 2
 16 grants under this subsection at the same
 17 time.

18 “(ii) EXCEPTION.—The policy de-
 19 scribed in clause (i) shall not prohibit an
 20 eligible entity from receiving 2 grants
 21 under this subsection at the same time
 22 when the periods of the 2 grants overlap
 23 by 3 months or less.”; and

24 (6) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(7) MATCHING FUNDS.—Each eligible entity
2 receiving a grant under this subsection shall provide,
3 toward the cost of the activities assisted under the
4 grant, matching funds in an amount that—

5 “(A) in the case of the first multiyear
6 grant awarded to the eligible entity under this
7 subsection—

8 “(i) in the first year of the grant, is
9 not less than 10 percent of the grant
10 amount awarded for that year;

11 “(ii) in the second year of the grant,
12 is not less than 25 percent of the grant
13 amount awarded for that year; and

14 “(iii) in the third year of the grant, is
15 not less than 50 percent of the grant
16 amount awarded for that year; and

17 “(B) in the case of the eligible entity re-
18 ceiving subsequent grant funding under para-
19 graph (5)(E) for a year, is not less than 50 per-
20 cent of the grant amount awarded for that
21 year.”.

22 (c) ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 4130 of the Elemen-
24 tary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20

1 U.S.C. 7140) is amended by adding at the end the
2 following:

3 “(c) ENSURING QUALITY GRANTS.—

4 “(1) SUPPORT FOR ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—In
5 order to ensure the strongest possible outcomes for
6 children mentored through this section, the Sec-
7 retary shall—

8 “(A) provide training and technical assist-
9 ance to eligible entities that receive a grant
10 under subsection (b), beginning in the first year
11 of the grant and continuing throughout the du-
12 ration of the grant;

13 “(B) track the mentoring practices and
14 outcomes of all eligible entities that receive a
15 grant under subsection (b) throughout the du-
16 ration of the grant utilizing a robust online
17 tracking and evaluation system; and

18 “(C) submit an annual report to Congress
19 detailing the number of children served by eligi-
20 ble entities that receive a grant under sub-
21 section (b) and the outcomes achieved for those
22 children.

23 “(2) RESEARCH ON SCHOOL-BASED MEN-
24 TORING.—In order to ensure that eligible entities
25 that receive a grant under subsection (b) have access

1 to the most current research-based knowledge about
2 building and carrying out strong and effective men-
3 toring programs, the Secretary shall carry out the
4 following:

5 “(A) Consult with leading mentoring orga-
6 nizations and researchers, including the Federal
7 Mentoring Council and the National Mentoring
8 Working Group, to determine priorities for re-
9 search on school-based mentoring and appro-
10 priate research design, with consideration for—

11 “(i) determining the ideal school envi-
12 ronments in which school-based mentoring
13 succeeds;

14 “(ii) identifying techniques for match-
15 ing children with specific characteristics
16 (such as age, academic situation, risk fac-
17 tors) with the most appropriate mentoring
18 models;

19 “(iii) determining the ideal infrastruc-
20 ture needed to foster the expansion of
21 school-based mentoring in a sustainable
22 way; and

23 “(iv) refining best practices, match
24 activities, and a range of mentoring models

1 to lead to the best possible outcomes for
2 children.

3 “(B) Award grants or contracts to high-
4 quality research entities to perform research on
5 the priorities identified in subparagraph (A),
6 which research shall meet the following criteria:

7 “(i) The proposed research design
8 shall meet accepted standards within the
9 academic community.

10 “(ii) All research results and findings
11 shall be widely disseminated to eligible en-
12 tities that receive a grant under subsection
13 (b) and to the larger mentoring commu-
14 nity.

15 “(C) Award grants or contracts under sub-
16 paragraph (B) only if amount the appropriated
17 under subsection (d)(1) for each fiscal year for
18 which such grant or contract is awarded ex-
19 ceeds \$50,000,000.

20 “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS; RES-
21 ERVATIONS OF CERTAIN AMOUNTS.—

22 “(1) AUTHORIZATION.—There are authorized to
23 be appropriated to carry out this section
24 \$100,000,000 for fiscal year 2011 and such sums as
25 may be necessary for each succeeding fiscal year.

1 “(2) RESERVATIONS.—Each fiscal year the Sec-
2 retary shall reserve—

3 “(A) not more than 5 percent of the
4 amount appropriated for that fiscal year under
5 paragraph (1) for expenditure on support for el-
6 igible entities as authorized by subsection
7 (c)(1); and

8 “(B) not more than 10 percent of the
9 amount appropriated for that fiscal year under
10 paragraph (1) for expenditure on research as
11 authorized by subsection (c)(2).”.

12 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section
13 4130(b) of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
14 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7140(b)) is further
15 amended—

16 (A) in the matter preceding clause (i) of
17 paragraph (2)(B), by striking “this section”
18 and inserting “this subsection”;

19 (B) in paragraph (3), by striking “this sec-
20 tion” and inserting “this subsection”;

21 (C) in the matter preceding subparagraph
22 (A) of paragraph (4), by striking “this section”
23 and inserting “this subsection”;

1 (D) in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (5),
 2 by inserting “under this subsection” after
 3 “grants”; and

4 (E) in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (6),
 5 by striking “this section” each place the term
 6 appears and inserting “this subsection”.

7 (d) REVISIONS TO OTHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS.—

8 (1) TRANSITION SERVICES.—Section
 9 1418(a)(2)(C) of the Elementary and Secondary
 10 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6438(a)(2)(C)) is
 11 amended—

12 (A) in clause (iv), by striking “and” after
 13 the semicolon;

14 (B) in clause (v), by striking the period
 15 and inserting “; and”; and

16 (C) by adding at the end the following:

17 “(vi) youth mentoring programs.”.

18 (2) NATIONAL SAFE AND DRUG-FREE SCHOOLS
 19 PROGRAMS.—Section 4121(a)(2) of the Elementary
 20 and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
 21 7131(a)(2)) is amended—

22 (A) in subparagraph (C), by striking
 23 “and” after the semicolon;

24 (B) in subparagraph (D), by inserting
 25 “and” after the semicolon; and

1 (C) by adding at the end the following:

2 “(E) school and community-based men-
3 toring programs;”.

4 (3) INCLUSION OF MENTORING FOR MINORITY
5 PROGRAMS.—

6 (A) IMPROVEMENT OF EDUCATIONAL OP-
7 PORTUNITIES FOR INDIAN CHILDREN.—Section
8 7121(c)(1) of the Elementary and Secondary
9 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7441(c)(1))
10 is amended—

11 (i) in subparagraph (E), by inserting
12 “, including mentoring programs and
13 projects,” after “programs and projects”;
14 and

15 (ii) in subparagraph (J), by inserting
16 “, including mentoring programs,” after
17 “programs”.

18 (B) NATIVE HAWAIIAN EDUCATION.—Sec-
19 tion 7205(a)(3) of the Elementary and Sec-
20 ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
21 7515(a)(3)) is amended—

22 (i) in subparagraph (H)(ii), by insert-
23 ing “, including afterschool mentoring pro-
24 grams” after “programs”; and

1 (ii) in subparagraph (I)(iii), by insert-
2 ing “, mentoring,” after “counseling”.

3 (C) ALASKA NATIVE EDUCATION.—Section
4 7304(a)(2)(P) of the Elementary and Sec-
5 ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
6 7544(a)(2)(P)) is amended by inserting “or
7 mentoring programs” after “Success program”.

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