

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4366

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to direct the Secretary of Education to award grants for science, technology, engineering, and math education programs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 17, 2012

Ms. FUDGE (for herself, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. RICHARDSON, Ms. SEWELL, and Mr. FILNER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to direct the Secretary of Education to award grants for science, technology, engineering, and math education programs.

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 “Project Ready STEM
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Minorities are seriously underrepresented in
2 the science and engineering workforce in the United
3 States, with only 4 percent of the Black population
4 and slightly over 4 percent of the Hispanic popu-
5 lation participating in the STEM workforce.

6 (2) The number of degrees awarded in the
7 fields of science, technology, engineering, and math
8 (referred to in this Act as “STEM”) in the United
9 States is stagnant even though employment projec-
10 tions forecast a 17-percent growth in STEM fields
11 over the next decade.

12 (3) Twenty percent of Black college students
13 enter college with STEM majors, but only 15 per-
14 cent actually receive a bachelor’s degree in a STEM
15 major.

16 (4) Nearly $\frac{1}{4}$ of Black public school students
17 are interested in STEM, but are not proficient in
18 math.

19 (5) Since 1990, mathematic scores on the as-
20 sessments conducted by the National Assessment of
21 Education Progress have increased for all students,
22 but White students have average scores 26 points
23 higher than Black and Hispanic students.

24 (6) After school programs play an important
25 role in addressing the achievement gap in under-

1 served communities. Studies demonstrate that
2 STEM learning during the school day is necessary
3 but not sufficient for life-long STEM literacy.

4 (7) As many as 8,400,000 students are enrolled
5 in after school programs. Ethnic minority children
6 are more likely than non-minority children to partici-
7 pate in after school programs. While 15 percent of
8 all students are enrolled in after school programs,
9 24 percent of Black students and 21 percent of His-
10 panic students are enrolled in such programs.

11 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to prepare
12 middle school and secondary school students to be ready
13 for opportunities in the STEM fields in college and in ca-
14 reers through strong after school, summer, and weekend
15 programs that focus on STEM education.

16 **SEC. 3. AMENDMENT TO ESEA FOR STEM GRANTS.**

17 Title II of the Elementary and Secondary Education
18 Act of 1964 (20 U.S.C. 6601 et seq.) is amended—

19 (1) in the heading, by inserting “**AND STEM**
20 **GRANTS**” after “**PARTNERSHIPS**”;

21 (2) by inserting after the heading of part B the
22 following:

23 “**Subpart 1—Math and Science Partnerships**”;

24 and

1 (3) by inserting after section 2203 the following
2 new subpart:

3 **“Subpart 2—STEM Grants**

4 **“SEC. 2211. PROJECT READY STEM GRANT PROGRAM.**

5 “(a) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary is authorized
6 to award grants, to be known as ‘Project Ready STEM
7 Program’ grants, to national intermediaries to establish
8 after school, summer, and weekend programs that focus
9 on science, technology, engineering, and math (referred to
10 in this section as ‘STEM’) education.

11 “(b) APPLICATION.—A national intermediary seeking
12 a grant under this section shall submit an application to
13 the Secretary at such time, in such form, and containing
14 such information as the Secretary may reasonably require,
15 including the following:

16 “(1) The amount requested and the proposed
17 use of the funds.

18 “(2) A description of how the national inter-
19 mediary will require a community-based affiliate op-
20 erating a Project Ready STEM Program to provide
21 the following:

22 “(A) A program description, including a
23 description of—

24 “(i) the project-based learning that
25 the program will use and the applicability

1 of such projects to students’ lives after
2 graduation from secondary school;

3 “(ii) the academic instruction, re-
4 search model, or curriculum that the pro-
5 gram will use; and

6 “(iii) any service-learning opportuni-
7 ties that will be available to students.

8 “(B) Evidence that the Project Ready
9 STEM Program will primarily serve students
10 who are traditionally underrepresented in
11 STEM field careers.

12 “(C) A description of the student recruit-
13 ment plan, student retention plan, and parental
14 engagement plan.

15 “(D) A description of the professional de-
16 velopment and training that the community-
17 based affiliate will provide to its Project Ready
18 STEM Program staff.

19 “(E) A description of the community-based
20 affiliate’s collaboration with an institution of
21 higher education (as defined in section 101 of
22 the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
23 10001)).

24 “(F) A description of how the community-
25 based affiliate will enable students who partici-

1 pate in the program to achieve the goals in sub-
2 section (c).

3 “(c) GOALS.—The goals of the Project Ready STEM
4 Programs are the following:

5 “(1) To increase awareness of and exposure to
6 current science content, scientific processes, and
7 tools for students who are traditionally underrep-
8 resented in STEM field careers.

9 “(2) To provide STEM learning that is con-
10 nected to workforce skills that are essential in the
11 21st century.

12 “(3) To increase on time grade promotion, the
13 number of students who graduate high school, and
14 the number of students who pursue opportunities in
15 STEM fields.

16 “(4) To increase enrollment in and completion
17 of more STEM related coursework in school for stu-
18 dents who are traditionally underrepresented in
19 STEM field careers.

20 “(5) To increase awareness of students who are
21 traditionally underrepresented in STEM field ca-
22 reers of the opportunities after graduation from sec-
23 ondary school in STEM fields, including college ma-
24 jors in STEM and careers in STEM.

1 “(6) For students to have the experience of
2 interacting with staff who demonstrate a positive at-
3 titude toward STEM fields.

4 “(7) To facilitate project-based learning and
5 service-learning.

6 “(d) ALLOCATION.—A national intermediary that re-
7 ceives a grant under this section shall reserve—

8 “(1) not more than 25 percent to provide tech-
9 nical and administrative assistance to and collect
10 data from its community-based affiliates to which it
11 makes subgrants;

12 “(2) not less than 50 percent for subgrants to
13 community-based affiliates that have demonstrated
14 effectiveness in operating STEM programs in order
15 for such affiliates to expand such STEM programs
16 to reach more students who are traditionally under-
17 represented in STEM field careers; and

18 “(3) not less than 25 percent for subgrants to
19 community-based affiliates that do not operate
20 STEM programs in order for such affiliates that
21 seek to develop new STEM programs that are con-
22 sistent with the goals of this section to develop and
23 establish such new STEM programs.

24 “(e) SUBGRANTS TO COMMUNITY-BASED AFFILI-
25 ATES.—

1 “(1) APPLICATION.—A community-based affil-
2 iate seeking a subgrant shall submit an application
3 to its national intermediary at such time, in such
4 form, and containing such information as the na-
5 tional intermediary may reasonably require.

6 “(2) USES OF FUNDS.—A community-based af-
7 filiate that receives a subgrant under this section to
8 operate a Project Ready STEM Program shall oper-
9 ate an after school, summer, or weekend program
10 that focuses on STEM education and primarily
11 serves students who are traditionally underrep-
12 resented in STEM field careers. Such program shall
13 include the following:

14 “(A) Educational services that include—
15 “(i) an initial assessment of students’
16 progress in math, science, and reading;
17 “(ii) remediation and educational en-
18 richment services; and
19 “(iii) helping students to improve
20 their study skills.

21 “(B) Project-based learning opportunities.

22 “(C) Individualized instruction and track-
23 ing of student progress that is aligned with in-
24 school performance.

1 “(3) COLLABORATION.—A community-based af-
2 filiate that receives a subgrant under this section
3 shall collaborate with an institution of higher edu-
4 cation to provide the services described in paragraph
5 (2).

6 “(f) REPORTS.—

7 “(1) SECRETARY REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The
8 Secretary shall submit a report annually to the Com-
9 mittee on Education and the Workforce in the
10 House of Representatives and the Committee on
11 Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions in the Sen-
12 ate on the progress that national intermediaries and
13 their community-based affiliates operating Project
14 Ready STEM Programs have made toward achieving
15 the goals in subsection (c).

16 “(2) NATIONAL AFFILIATE REPORT TO THE
17 SECRETARY.—A national intermediary receiving a
18 grant under this section shall submit a report annu-
19 ally to the Secretary at such time, in such manner,
20 and containing such information as the Secretary
21 may require, including the progress that its commu-
22 nity-based affiliates operating Project Ready STEM
23 Programs have made toward achieving the goals in
24 subsection (c).

1 “(3) COMMUNITY-BASED AFFILIATE REPORT TO
 2 ITS NATIONAL INTERMEDIARY.—A community-based
 3 affiliate that receives a subgrant under this section
 4 shall submit a report annually to the national inter-
 5 mediary that awarded such subgrant at such time,
 6 in such manner, and containing such information as
 7 the national intermediary may require, including the
 8 progress its Project Ready STEM Program has
 9 made toward achieving the goals in subsection (c).

10 “(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

11 “(1) COMMUNITY-BASED AFFILIATE.—The term
 12 ‘community-based affiliate’ means a community-
 13 based organization (as defined in section 9101) that
 14 is an affiliate of a national intermediary.

15 “(2) NATIONAL INTERMEDIARY.—The term
 16 ‘national intermediary’ means a national private
 17 nonprofit organization that—

18 “(A) has a network comprised of commu-
 19 nity-based affiliates in not less than 50 urban
 20 communities;

21 “(B) has demonstrated expertise and effec-
 22 tiveness in overseeing programs to help middle
 23 school and secondary school students succeed,
 24 including programs to help such students be-
 25 come college-ready and career-ready; and

1 “(C) has operated in not less than 25
2 States continuously for not less than 20 years.

3 “(3) PROJECT-BASED LEARNING.—The term
4 ‘project-based learning’ means learning through a
5 broad project that includes instruction, substantive
6 content, and reflection, with the goal that students
7 who participate in the project will achieve a concrete
8 goal or complete a project.

9 “(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
10 is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry
11 out this section—

12 “(1) \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2013;

13 “(2) \$30,000,000 for fiscal year 2014;

14 “(3) \$40,000,000 for fiscal year 2015; and

15 “(4) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2016.”.

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