

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6517

To direct the Secretary of Education to make grants to State-based STEM networks to expand STEM education.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 21, 2012

Mr. HONDA (for himself, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. SIRES, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. POLIS, and Ms. MATSUI) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Education to make grants to State-based STEM networks to expand STEM education.

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 “STEM Network Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. GRANTS AUTHORIZED.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—From amounts made available to
7 carry out this Act, the Secretary of Education shall make
8 grants to eligible networks to expand STEM education.

1 (b) ELIGIBLE NETWORK DEFINED.—In this Act, the
2 term “eligible network” means a State-based STEM net-
3 work or similar organization, which—

4 (1) may include the participation of State offi-
5 cials, educators, administrators, parents, industry
6 leaders, philanthropists, and representatives from
7 the STEM communities; and

8 (2) aims to increase student achievement in the
9 STEM disciplines at the elementary schools and sec-
10 ondary schools in its State, particularly at schools
11 with a high concentration of low-income students
12 and at rural schools (within the meaning of part B
13 of title VI of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
14 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6201 et seq.)).

15 **SEC. 3. ELIGIBLE NETWORK APPLICATION.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—An eligible network seeking a
17 grant under section 2 shall submit an application at such
18 time, in such manner, and containing such information as
19 the Secretary may reasonably require.

20 (b) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—In order to receive
21 a grant under section 2, an eligible network shall agree
22 to provide, either directly or through private contributions,
23 non-Federal matching funds equal to not less than 30 per-
24 cent of the amount of the grant.

1 **SEC. 4. USES OF FUNDS.**

2 Each eligible network receiving a grant under section
3 2 shall use the funds to carry out one or more of the fol-
4 lowing:

5 (1) Testing, validating, sharing, and scaling up
6 STEM education research, promising practices, and
7 exemplary programs among members of the network
8 and with other eligible networks receiving grants
9 under section 3.

10 (2) Identifying points of weakness and strength
11 among State STEM education efforts, prioritizing
12 strategies for addressing problem areas, and commu-
13 nicating State needs to the Secretary.

14 (3) Assisting in the implementation of rigorous
15 common content standards in STEM education for
16 grades prekindergarten through grade 12 that re-
17 flect common elements between such disciplines and
18 take into consideration—

19 (A) the Next Generation Science Stand-
20 ards and the Common Core State Standards
21 Initiative;

22 (B) established international standards
23 and 21st century skills;

24 (C) the needs of English language learners
25 and special education students; and

1 (D) the need to increase scientific literacy
2 of prekindergarten through grade 12 students.

3 (4) Assisting and supporting the development
4 and implementation of innovative STEM assess-
5 ments based on common content standards in math-
6 ematics and science.

7 (5) Promoting and developing rigorous under-
8 graduate pre-service teacher programs in institutions
9 of higher education that emphasize STEM content
10 in the part of the program that focuses on elemen-
11 tary school education.

12 (6) Promoting and developing curriculum tools
13 and professional development for in-service STEM
14 teachers that foster innovation and inventiveness.

15 (7) Developing STEM career pathways that re-
16 flect the projected STEM workforce needs of the
17 21st century that may include mentoring programs
18 and STEM professional outreach.

19 (8) Developing STEM-related workforce edu-
20 cation and training programs in secondary schools
21 and institutions of higher education to enhance the
22 skills of workers to meet the needs of business and
23 industry.

24 (9) Developing systems for the implementation
25 of extended learning times on school sites to enhance

1 STEM education inside and outside of the class-
2 room.

3 **SEC. 5. EVALUATION AND REPORT.**

4 Not later than 2 years after receiving a grant under
5 section 2, each eligible network receiving such a grant
6 shall—

7 (1) conduct periodic independent evaluations,
8 by grant or by contract, of the eligible network's ef-
9 fectiveness at accomplishing the activities described
10 in section 4, which shall include an assessment of
11 the impact of such activities on STEM teaching and
12 learning; and

13 (2) prepare and submit a report on the results
14 of each evaluation described in paragraph (1) to the
15 Secretary.

16 **SEC. 6. PROHIBITIONS.**

17 In implementing this Act, the Secretary may not—

18 (1) endorse, approve, or sanction any STEM
19 curriculum designed for use in any elementary
20 school, secondary school, or institution of higher
21 education; or

22 (2) engage in oversight, technical assistance, or
23 activities that will require the adoption of a specific
24 STEM program or instructional materials by a
25 State, local educational agency, or school.

1 **SEC. 7. TOTAL AMOUNT OF GRANTS.**

2 The total amount of grants made under this Act in
3 any fiscal year may not exceed \$20,000,000.

4 **SEC. 8. DEFINITIONS.**

5 In this Act:

6 (1) The terms “elementary school”, “local edu-
7 cational agency”, and “secondary school” have the
8 meanings given such terms in section 9101 of the
9 Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965
10 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

11 (2) The term “high concentration of low-income
12 students” has the meaning given such term in sec-
13 tion 1707 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
14 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6537).

15 (3) The term “institution of higher education”
16 has the meaning given such term in section 101 of
17 the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
18 1001).

19 (4) The term “Secretary” means the Secretary
20 of Education.

21 (5) The term “State” means each of the several
22 States of the United States, the District of Colum-
23 bia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, the
24 Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, Amer-
25 ican Samoa, and the United States Virgin Islands.

- 1 (6) The term “STEM” means science, tech-
2 nology, engineering, and mathematics.

