

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3357

To authorize the Secretary of Education to make grants to States to improve the knowledge, credentials, compensation, and professional development of early childhood educators working with children in early childhood education programs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 28, 2013

Ms. MENG (for herself and Mr. POLIS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Education to make grants to States to improve the knowledge, credentials, compensation, and professional development of early childhood educators working with children in early childhood 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 “Early Childhood Edu-
5 cation Professional Improvement Act of 2013”.

1 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

2 The purpose of this Act is to provide assistance to
3 States to improve the knowledge, credentials, compensa-
4 tion, and professional development of early childhood edu-
5 cators working with children in early childhood education
6 programs.

7 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

8 In this Act:

9 (1) The term “early childhood education pro-
10 gram” means a Head Start Program carried out
11 under the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.),
12 a State-funded prekindergarten program, a licensed
13 child care serving prekindergarten children, and spe-
14 cial education preschool.

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

19 **SEC. 4. PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.**

20 The Secretary of Education, in consultation with the
21 Secretary of Health and Human Services, is authorized
22 to award grants to States to implement and administer
23 the activities described in section 6.

24 **SEC. 5. APPLICATIONS.**

25 (a) IN GENERAL.—Each State desiring a grant under
26 this Act shall submit an application to the Secretary of

1 Education at such time, in such manner, and accompanied
2 by such information as the Secretary may reasonably re-
3 quire.

4 (b) CONTENTS.—Each application submitted under
5 subsection (a) shall include a description of the State’s
6 comprehensive early childhood professional development
7 system, including the following:

8 (1) A description of how the State’s system was
9 developed in collaboration with the State Advisory
10 Council on Early Childhood Education and Care
11 designated or established under section 642B of the
12 Head Start Act, the State agency responsible for ad-
13 ministering childcare, the State Head Start collabo-
14 ration director, the State educational agency, insti-
15 tutions of higher education, organizations that rep-
16 resent early childhood educators, and credible early
17 childhood education professional organizations.

18 (2) A designation of a State agency to admin-
19 ister the grant program.

20 (3) A description of how the State’s system pro-
21 vides—

22 (A) an oversight structure for the system;

23 (B) professional standards and com-
24 petencies;

25 (C) a career lattice;

1 (D) coordination with State higher edu-
2 cation agencies, higher education accrediting
3 bodies, and accredited two- and four-year insti-
4 tutions of higher education;

5 (E) encouragement of articulation agree-
6 ments between two- and four-year institutions
7 of higher education and credit-bearing opportu-
8 nities and articulation agreements that recog-
9 nize prior learning and expertise;

10 (F) more accessible higher education for
11 working learners through offering of college
12 courses at accessible time and locations, with
13 particular attention to rural areas;

14 (G) support to adult learners who are dual
15 language learners, or come from low-income or
16 minority communities;

17 (H) use of workforce data to assess the
18 State's workforce needs; and

19 (I) its financing over time.

20 **SEC. 6. STATE USE OF FUNDS.**

21 A State that receives a grant under this Act shall
22 ensure that grant funds are used to carry out the fol-
23 lowing:

24 (1) To provide scholarships to cover the costs of
25 tuition, fees, materials, transportation, paid sub-

stitutes, and release time for preschool teachers employed in an early childhood education program to pursue a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a closely related field.

(2) To support preschool teachers employed in an early childhood education program, and who have obtained a bachelor's degree in a field other than early childhood education or a closely related field, to attain a credential, licensure, or endorsement that demonstrates competence in early childhood education.

(3) To increase compensation for teachers who are enrolled and making progress toward a degree in early childhood education and to provide parity of compensation upon completion of such degree and retention in the early childhood education program.

(4) To provide ongoing professional development opportunities to preschool teachers and teacher assistants employed in an early childhood education program that address—

(A) all areas of child development and learning (cognitive, social, emotional, and physical);

(B) teacher-child interaction;

(C) family engagement; and

1 (D) cultural competence for working with
2 a diversity of children (including children with
3 special needs and dual language learners) and
4 families.

5 **SEC. 7. SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.**

6 Grant funds provided under this Act shall supple-
7 ment, and not supplant, other Federal, State, and local
8 funds that are available for early childhood educator prep-
9 aration and professional development.

10 **SEC. 8. MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT.**

11 A State that receives funds under this Act for a fiscal
12 year shall maintain the fiscal effort provided by the State
13 for the activities supported by the funds under this Act
14 at a level equal to or greater than the level of such fiscal
15 effort for the preceding fiscal year.

16 **SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

17 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
18 this Act such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years
19 2014 through 2019.

○