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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 12, 2014

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education,
Labor, and Pensions

NOVEMBER 17, 2014

Reported by Mr. HARKIN, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

AN ACT

To strengthen the Federal education research system to make research and evaluations more timely and relevant to State and local needs in order to increase student achievement.

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 “Strengthening Edu-
5 cation through Research Act”.

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1 **TITLE I—EDUCATION SCIENCES** 2 **REFORM**

3 **SEC. 101. REFERENCES.**

4 Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in
 5 this title an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms
 6 of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provi-
 7 sion, the reference shall be considered to be made to a
 8 section or other provision of the Education Sciences Re-
 9 form Act of 2002 (20 U.S.C. 9501 et seq.).

10 **SEC. 102. DEFINITIONS.**

11 Section 102 (20 U.S.C. 9501) is amended—

12 (1) in paragraph (5), by striking “Affairs” and
 13 inserting “Education”;

1 (2) in paragraph (10)—

2 (A) by inserting “or other information, in
3 a timely manner and” after “evaluations,”; and

4 (B) by inserting “school leaders,” after
5 “teachers,”;

6 (3) in paragraph (12), by inserting “; school
7 leaders,” after “teachers”;

8 (4) by striking paragraph (13);

9 (5) by redesignating paragraphs (14) and (15)
10 as paragraphs (13) and (14), respectively;

11 (6) by inserting after paragraph (14), as so re-
12 designated, the following:

13 “(15) MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTION.—The
14 term ‘minority-serving institution’ means an institu-
15 tion of higher education described in section 371(a)
16 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
17 1067q(a)).”;

18 (7) by amending paragraph (18) to read as fol-
19 lows:

20 “(18) PRINCIPLES OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH.—

21 The term ‘principles of scientific research’ means
22 principles of research that—

23 “(A) apply rigorous, systematic, and objec-
24 tive methodology to obtain reliable and valid

1 knowledge relevant to education activities and
2 programs;

3 “(B) present findings and make claims
4 that are appropriate to, and supported by, the
5 methods that have been employed; and

6 “(C) include, appropriate to the research
7 being conducted—

8 “(i) use of systematic, empirical meth-
9 ods that draw on observation or experi-
10 ment;

11 “(ii) use of data analyses that are
12 adequate to support the general findings;

13 “(iii) reliance on measurements or ob-
14 servational methods that provide reliable
15 and generalizable findings;

16 “(iv) strong claims of causal relation-
17 ships, only with research designs that
18 eliminate plausible competing explanations
19 for observed results, such as, but not lim-
20 ited to, random-assignment experiments;

21 “(v) presentation of studies and meth-
22 ods in sufficient detail and clarity to allow
23 for replication or, at a minimum, to offer
24 the opportunity to build systematically on
25 the findings of the research;

1 “(vi) acceptance by a peer-reviewed
 2 journal or critique by a panel of inde-
 3 pendent experts through a comparably rig-
 4 orous, objective, and scientific review; and
 5 “(vii) consistency of findings across
 6 multiple studies or sites to support the
 7 generality of results and conclusions.”;

8 (8) in paragraph (20), by striking “scientifically
 9 based research standards” and inserting “the prin-
 10 ciples of scientific research”; and

11 (9) by adding at the end the following:

12 “(24) SCHOOL LEADER.—The term ‘school
 13 leader’ means a principal, assistant principal, or
 14 other individual who is—

15 “(A) an employee or officer of—

16 “(i) an elementary school or sec-
 17 ondary school;

18 “(ii) a local educational agency serv-
 19 ing an elementary school or secondary
 20 school; or

21 “(iii) another entity operating the ele-
 22 mentary school or secondary school; and

23 “(B) responsible for the daily instructional
 24 leadership and managerial operations of the ele-
 25 mentary school or secondary school.”.

PART A—THE INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

SCIENCES

SEC. 111. ESTABLISHMENT.

Section 111 (20 U.S.C. 9511) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(2)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph

(A)—

(i) by striking “and wide dissemination activities” and inserting “and, consistent with section 114(j), wide dissemination and utilization activities”; and

(ii) by striking “(including in technology areas)”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “disability,” after “gender,”.

SEC. 112. FUNCTIONS.

Section 112 (20 U.S.C. 9512) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by inserting “(including evaluations of impact and implementation)” after “education evaluation”; and

(B) by inserting before the semicolon the following “and utilization”; and

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by inserting “, consistent with section 114(j),” after “disseminate”; and

1 (B) by adding before the semicolon the fol-
 2 lowing: “and scientifically valid education eval-
 3 uations carried out under this title”.

4 **SEC. 113. DELEGATION.**

5 Section 113 (20 U.S.C. 9513) is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (a)—

7 (A) by striking paragraph (1);

8 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (2)
 9 through (5) as paragraphs (1) through (4), re-
 10 spectively; and

11 (C) in paragraph (2), as so redesignated,
 12 by striking “of the National Assessment of
 13 Educational Progress Authorization Act”;

14 (2) in subsection (b), by striking “Secretary
 15 may assign the Institute responsibility for admin-
 16 istering” and inserting “Director may accept re-
 17 quests from the Secretary for the Institute to admin-
 18 ister”; and

19 (3) by adding at the end the following:

20 “(e) CONTRACT ACQUISITION.—With respect to any
 21 contract entered into under this title, the Director shall
 22 be consulted—

23 “(1) during the procurement process; and

24 “(2) in the management of such contract’s per-
 25 formance, which shall be consistent with the require-

1 ments of the performance management system de-
 2 scribed in section 185.”.

3 **SEC. 114. OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR.**

4 Section ~~114~~ (20 U.S.C. 9514) is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “Except as
 6 provided in subsection (b)(2), the” and inserting
 7 “~~The~~”;

8 (2) in subsection (b)—

9 (A) in paragraph (1), by inserting before
 10 the period the following: “, except that if a suc-
 11 cessor to the Director has not been appointed
 12 as of the date of expiration of the Director’s
 13 term, the Director may serve for an additional
 14 1-year period, beginning on the day after the
 15 date of expiration of the Director’s term, or
 16 until a successor has been appointed under sub-
 17 section (a), whichever occurs first”;

18 (B) by amending paragraph (2) to read as
 19 follows:

20 “(2) REAPPOINTMENT.—A Director may be re-
 21 appointed under subsection (a) for one additional
 22 term.”; and

23 (C) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in the heading, by striking “SUBSEQUENT DIRECTORS” and inserting “RECOMMENDATIONS”; and

(ii) by striking “, other than a Director appointed under paragraph (2)”;

(3) in subsection (f)—

(A) in paragraph (3), by inserting before the period the following: “, and, as appropriate, with such research and activities carried out by public and private entities, to avoid duplicative or overlapping efforts”;

(B) in paragraph (4), by inserting “, and the use of evidence” after “statistics activities”;

(C) in paragraph (5)—

(i) by inserting “and maintain” after “establish”; and

(ii) by inserting “and subsection (h)” after “section 116(b)(3)”;

(D) in paragraph (7), by inserting “disability,” after “gender,”;

(E) in paragraph (8), by striking “historically Black colleges or universities” and inserting “minority-serving institutions”;

(F) by amending paragraph (9) to read as follows:

1 “(9) To coordinate with the Secretary to ensure
2 that the results of the Institute’s work are coordi-
3 nated with, and utilized by, the Department’s tech-
4 nical assistance providers and dissemination net-
5 works.”;

6 (G) by striking paragraphs (10) and (11);

7 (H) by redesignating paragraph (12) as
8 paragraph (10);

9 (4) by redesignating subsection (h) as sub-
10 section (i);

11 (5) by inserting after subsection (g), the fol-
12 lowing:

13 “(h) PEER-REVIEW SYSTEM.—The Director shall es-
14 tablish and maintain a peer-review system involving high-
15 ly-qualified individuals, including practitioners, as appro-
16 priate, with an in-depth knowledge of the subject to be
17 investigated, for—

18 “(1) reviewing and evaluating each application
19 for a grant or cooperative agreement under this title
20 that exceeds \$100,000; and

21 “(2) evaluating and assessing all reports and
22 other products that exceed \$100,000 to be published
23 and publicly released by the Institute.”;

24 (6) in subsection (i), as so redesignated—

25 (A) by striking “the products and”; and

1 ~~(B) by striking “certify that evidence-~~
 2 ~~based claims about those products and” and in-~~
 3 ~~serting “determine whether evidence-based~~
 4 ~~claims in those”; and~~

5 ~~(7) by adding at the end the following:~~

6 ~~“(j) RELEVANCE, DISSEMINATION, AND UTILIZA-~~
 7 ~~TION.—To ensure all activities authorized under this title~~
 8 ~~are rigorous, relevant, and useful for researchers, policy-~~
 9 ~~makers, practitioners, and the public, the Director shall—~~
 10 ~~“(1) ensure such activities address significant~~
 11 ~~challenges faced by practitioners, and increase~~
 12 ~~knowledge in the field of education;~~

13 ~~“(2) ensure that the information, products, and~~
 14 ~~publications of the Institute are—~~

15 ~~“(A) prepared and widely disseminated—~~

16 ~~“(i) in a timely fashion; and~~

17 ~~“(ii) in forms that are understand-~~
 18 ~~able, easily accessible, and usable, or~~
 19 ~~adaptable for use in, the improvement of~~
 20 ~~educational practice; and~~

21 ~~“(B) widely disseminated through elec-~~
 22 ~~tronic transfer, and other means, such as post-~~
 23 ~~ing to the Institute’s website or other relevant~~
 24 ~~place;~~

1 ~~“(3) promote the utilization of the information;~~
 2 ~~products; and publications of the Institute; including~~
 3 ~~through the use of dissemination networks and tech-~~
 4 ~~nical assistance providers; within the Institute and~~
 5 ~~the Department; and~~

6 ~~“(4) monitor and manage the performance of~~
 7 ~~all activities authorized under this title in accord-~~
 8 ~~ance with section 185.”.~~

9 **SEC. 115. PRIORITIES.**

10 Section ~~115~~ (20 U.S.C. 9515) is amended—

11 (1) in subsection (a)—

12 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph

13 (1)—

14 (i) by striking ~~“(taking into consider-~~
 15 ~~ation long-term research and development~~
 16 ~~on core issues conducted through the na-~~
 17 ~~tional research and development centers)”~~
 18 and inserting ~~“at least once every 6~~
 19 ~~years”~~; and

20 (ii) by striking ~~“such as”~~ and insert-

21 ing ~~“including”~~;

22 (B) in paragraph (1)—

23 (i) by inserting ~~“ensuring that all chil-~~
 24 ~~dren have the ability to obtain a high-qual-~~

1 ity education, particularly” before “clos-
2 ing”;

3 (ii) by striking “especially achieve-
4 ment gaps between”;

5 (iii) by striking “nonminority chil-
6 dren” and inserting “nonminority children,
7 disabled and nondisabled children”;

8 (iv) by striking “and between dis-
9 advantaged” and inserting “and disadvan-
10 taged”;

11 (v) by striking “and” at the end;

12 (C) by striking paragraph (2); and

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

14 “(2) improving the quality of early childhood
15 education;

16 “(3) improving education in elementary and
17 secondary schools, particularly among low-per-
18 forming students and schools; and

19 “(4) improving access to, opportunities for, and
20 completion of postsecondary education.”; and

21 (2) in subsection (d), by striking “by means of
22 the Internet” and inserting “by electronic means
23 such as posting in an easily accessible manner on
24 the Institute’s website”.

1 **SEC. 116. NATIONAL BOARD FOR EDUCATION SCIENCES.**

2 Section 116 (20 U.S.C. 9516) is amended—

3 (1) in subsection (b)—

4 (A) in paragraph (2), by striking “to guide
5 the work of the Institute” and inserting “, and
6 to advise, and provide input to, the Director on
7 the activities of the Institute on an ongoing
8 basis”;

9 (B) in paragraph (3), by inserting “under
10 section 114(h)” after “procedures”;

11 (C) in paragraph (8), by inserting “dis-
12 ability,” after “gender,”

13 (D) in paragraph (9)—

14 (i) by striking “To solicit” and insert-
15 ing “To ensure all activities of the Insti-
16 tute are relevant to education policy and
17 practice by soliciting, on an ongoing
18 basis,”; and

19 (ii) by striking “consistent with” and
20 inserting “consistent with section 114(j)
21 and”;

22 (E) in paragraph (11)—

23 (i) by inserting “the Institute’s” after
24 “enhance”; and

25 (ii) by striking “among other Federal
26 and State research agencies” and inserting

1 “with public and private entities to im-
 2 prove the work of the Institute”; and

3 ~~(F)~~ by adding at the end the following:

4 “~~(13)~~ To conduct the evaluations required
 5 under subsection (d).”;

6 ~~(2)~~ in subsection (c)—

7 (A) in paragraph (2)—

8 (i) by inserting “Board,” before “Na-
 9 tional Academy”;

10 (ii) by striking “and the National
 11 Science Advisor” and inserting “the Na-
 12 tional Science Advisor, and other entities
 13 and organizations that have knowledge of
 14 individuals who are highly-qualified to ap-
 15 praise education research, statistics, eval-
 16 uations, or development”;

17 ~~(B)~~ in paragraph (4)—

18 (i) in subparagraph (A)—

19 ~~(I)~~ in clause (i), by striking “,
 20 which may include those researchers
 21 recommended by the National Acad-
 22 emy of Sciences”;

23 ~~(II)~~ by redesignating clause (ii)
 24 as clause (iii);

1 (III) by inserting after clause (i),
2 the following:

3 “(ii) Not fewer than 2 practitioners
4 who are knowledgeable about the education
5 needs of the United States, who may in-
6 clude school based professional educators,
7 teachers, school leaders, local educational
8 agency superintendents, and members of
9 local boards of education or Bureau-funded
10 school boards.”; and

11 (IV) in clause (iii), as so redesign-
12 nated—

13 (aa) by striking “school-
14 based professional educators,”;

15 (bb) by striking “local edu-
16 cational agency superintend-
17 ents,”;

18 (cc) by striking “prin-
19 cipals,”;

20 (dd) by striking “or local”;
21 and

22 (ee) by striking “or Bureau-
23 funded school boards”;

24 (ii) in subparagraph (B)—

1 (I) in the matter preceding clause
 2 (i); by inserting “beginning on the
 3 date of appointment of the member,”
 4 after “4 years,”

5 (II) by striking clause (i);

6 (III) by redesignating clause (ii)
 7 as clause (i);

8 (IV) in clause (i), as so redesign-
 9 ated, by striking the period and in-
 10 serting “; and”; and

11 (V) by adding at the end the fol-
 12 lowing:

13 “(ii) in a case in which a successor to
 14 a member has not been appointed as of the
 15 date of expiration of the member’s term,
 16 the member may serve for an additional 1-
 17 year period, beginning on the day after the
 18 date of expiration of the member’s term, or
 19 until a successor has been appointed under
 20 paragraph (1), whichever occurs first.”;

21 (iii) by striking subparagraph (C);
 22 and

23 (iv) by redesignating subparagraph
 24 (D) as subparagraph (C);
 25 (C) in paragraph (8)—

1 (i) by redesignating subparagraphs
 2 (A) through (E) as subparagraphs (B)
 3 through (F), respectively;

4 (ii) by inserting before subparagraph
 5 (B), as so redesignated, the following:

6 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In the exercise of its
 7 duties under section 116(b) and in accordance
 8 with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5
 9 U.S.C. App.), the Board shall be independent of
 10 the Director and the other offices and officers
 11 of the Institute.”;

12 (iii) in subparagraph (B), as so reded-
 13 icated, by inserting before the period at
 14 the end the following: “for a term of not
 15 more than 6 years, and who may be re-
 16 appointed by the Board for 1 additional
 17 term of not more than 6 years”; and

18 (iv) by adding at the end the fol-
 19 lowing:

20 “(G) SUBCOMMITTEES.—The Board may
 21 establish standing or temporary subcommittees
 22 to make recommendations to the Board for ear-
 23 rying out activities authorized under this title.”;

24 (3) by striking subsection (d);

1 (4) by redesignating subsection (e) as sub-
2 section (d);

3 (5) in subsection (d), as so redesignated—

4 (A) in the subsection heading, by striking
5 “ANNUAL” and inserting “EVALUATION”;

6 (B) by striking “The Board” and inserting
7 the following:

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board”;

9 (C) by striking “not later than July 1 of
10 each year, a” and inserting “and make widely
11 available to the public (including by electronic
12 means such as posting in an easily accessible
13 manner on the Institute’s website), a triennial”;
14 and

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

16 “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—An evaluation report
17 described in paragraph (1) shall include—

18 “(A) subject to paragraph (3), an evalua-
19 tion of the activities authorized for each of the
20 National Education Centers, which—

21 “(i) uses the performance manage-
22 ment system described in section 185; and

23 “(ii) is conducted by an independent
24 entity;

1 “(B) a review of the Institute to ensure its
2 work, consistent with the requirements of sec-
3 tion 114(j), is timely, rigorous, and relevant;

4 “(C) any recommendations regarding ac-
5 tions that may be taken to enhance the ability
6 of the Institute and the National Education
7 Centers to carry out their priorities and mis-
8 sions; and

9 “(D) a summary of the major research
10 findings of the Institute and the activities ear-
11 ried out under section 113(b) during the 3 pre-
12 ceding fiscal years.

13 “(3) NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION EVAL-
14 UATION AND REGIONAL ASSISTANCE.—With respect
15 to the National Center for Education Evaluation
16 and Regional Assistance, an evaluation report de-
17 scribed in paragraph (1) shall contain—

18 “(A) an evaluation described in paragraph
19 (2)(A) of the activities authorized for such Cen-
20 ter, except for the regional educational labora-
21 tories established under section 174; and

22 “(B) a summative or interim evaluation;
23 whichever is most recent, for each such labora-
24 tory conducted under section 174(i) on or after
25 the date of enactment of the Strengthening

Education through Research Act or, in a case in which such an evaluation is not available for a laboratory, the most recent evaluation for the laboratory conducted prior to the date of enactment of the Strengthening Education through Research Act.”; and

(6) by striking subsection (f).

SEC. 117. COMMISSIONERS OF THE NATIONAL EDUCATION CENTERS.

Section 117 (20 U.S.C. 9517) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “Except as provided in subsection (b), each” and inserting “Each”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking “Except as provided in subsection (b), each” and inserting “Each”; and

(ii) by inserting “, statistics,” after “research”;

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking “Except as provided in subsection (b), each” and inserting “Each”;

(2) by striking subsection (b);

1 (3) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as
 2 subsections (b) and (e), respectively; and
 3 (4) in subsection (e), as so redesignated, by
 4 striking “, except the Commissioner for Education
 5 Statistics,”.

6 **SEC. 118. TRANSPARENCY.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 119 (20 U.S.C. 9519) is
 8 amended to read as follows:

9 **“SEC. 119. TRANSPARENCY.**

10 “Not later than 120 days after awarding a grant,
 11 contract, or cooperative agreement under this title in ex-
 12 cess of \$100,000, the Director shall make publicly avail-
 13 able (including through electronic means such as posting
 14 in an easily accessible manner on the Institute’s website)
 15 a description of the grant, contract, or cooperative agree-
 16 ment, including, at a minimum, the amount, duration, re-
 17 cipient, and the purpose of the grant, contract, or coopera-
 18 tive agreement.”.

19 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of con-
 20 tents in section 4 of the Act of November 5, 2002 (Public
 21 Law 107–279; 116 Stat. 1940) is amended by striking
 22 the item relating to section 119 and inserting the fol-
 23 lowing:

“Sec. 119. Transparency.”.

1 **SEC. 119. COMPETITIVE AWARDS.**

2 Section 120 (20 U.S.C. 9520) is amended by striking
3 “when practicable” and inserting “consistent with section
4 114(h)”.

5 **PART B—NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION**
6 **RESEARCH**

7 **SEC. 131. ESTABLISHMENT.**

8 Section 131(b) (20 U.S.C. 9531(b)) is amended—

9 (1) by amending paragraph (1) to read as fol-
10 lows:

11 “(1) to sponsor sustained research that will
12 lead to the accumulation of knowledge and under-
13 standing of education, consistent with the priorities
14 described in section 115;”;

15 (2) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph
16 (3);

17 (3) in paragraph (4), by striking the period and
18 inserting “; and”; and

19 (4) by adding at the end the following:

20 “(5) consistent with section 114(j), to widely
21 disseminate and promote utilization of the work of
22 the Research Center.”.

23 **SEC. 132. DUTIES.**

24 Section 133 (20 U.S.C. 9533) is amended—

25 (1) in subsection (a)—

1 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “peer-re-
2 view standards and”;

3 (B) by striking paragraph (2);

4 (C) by redesignating paragraph (3) as
5 paragraph (2);

6 (D) by striking paragraph (4);

7 (E) by redesignating paragraphs (5)
8 through (9) as paragraphs (3) through (7), re-
9 spectively;

10 (F) in paragraph (3), as so redesignated,
11 by inserting “in the implementation of pro-
12 grams carried out by the Department and other
13 agencies” before “within the Federal Govern-
14 ment”;

15 (G) in paragraph (5), as so redesignated,
16 by striking “disseminate, through the National
17 Center for Education Evaluation and Regional
18 Assistance,” and inserting “widely disseminate,
19 consistent with section 114(j),”;

20 (H) in paragraph (6), as so redesignated—

21 (i) by striking “Director” and insert-
22 ing “Board”; and

23 (ii) by striking “of a biennial report,
24 as described in section 119” and inserting

1 “and dissemination of each evaluation re-
 2 port under section 116(d)”;

3 (I) in paragraph (7), as so redesignated,
 4 by inserting “and which may include research
 5 on social and emotional learning,” after “gap,”;

6 (J) by inserting after paragraph (7), as so
 7 redesignated, the following:

8 “(8) to the extent time and resources allow,
 9 when findings from previous research under this
 10 part provoke relevant follow up questions, carry out
 11 research initiatives on such follow up questions,”;

12 (K) by redesignating paragraphs (10) and
 13 (11) as paragraphs (9) and (10), respectively;

14 (L) by amending paragraph (9), as so re-
 15 designated, to read as follows:

16 “(9) carry out research initiatives, including
 17 rigorous, peer-reviewed, large-scale, long-term, and
 18 broadly applicable empirical research, regarding the
 19 impact of technology on education, including online
 20 education and hybrid learning,”;

21 (M) in paragraph (10), as so redesignated,
 22 by striking the period and inserting “; and”;
 23 and

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

1 “(11) to the extent feasible, carry out research
2 on the quality of implementation of practices and
3 strategies determined to be effective through sci-
4 entifically valid research.”;

5 (2) by amending subsection (b) to read as fol-
6 lows:

7 “(b) **PLAN.**—The Research Commissioner shall pro-
8 pose to the Director and, subject to the approval of the
9 Director, implement a research plan for the activities of
10 the Research Center that—

11 “(1) is consistent with the priorities and mis-
12 sion of the Institute and the mission of the Research
13 Center described in section 131(b), and includes the
14 activities described in subsection (a);

15 “(2) is carried out and, as appropriate, updated
16 and modified, including through the use of the re-
17 sults of the Research Center’s most recent evalua-
18 tion report under section 116(d);

19 “(3) describes how the Research Center will use
20 the performance management system described in
21 section 185 to assess and improve the activities of
22 the Center;

23 “(4) meets the procedures for peer review es-
24 tablished and maintained by the Director under sec-

1 tion 114(f)(5) and the standards of research de-
2 scribed in section 134; and

3 ~~“(5) includes both basic research and applied~~
4 ~~research, which shall include research conducted~~
5 ~~through field-initiated research and ongoing research~~
6 ~~initiatives.”;~~

7 ~~(3) by redesignating subsection (c) as sub-~~
8 ~~section (d);~~

9 ~~(4) by inserting after subsection (b), as so~~
10 ~~amended, the following:~~

11 ~~“(e) GRANTS, CONTRACTS, AND COOPERATIVE~~
12 ~~AGREEMENTS.—~~

13 ~~“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Research Commis-~~
14 ~~sioner may award grants to, or enter into contracts~~
15 ~~or cooperative agreements, with eligible applicants to~~
16 ~~carry out research under subsection (a).~~

17 ~~“(2) ELIGIBILITY.—For purposes of this sub-~~
18 ~~section, the term ‘eligible applicant’ means an appli-~~
19 ~~cant that has the ability and capacity to conduct sci-~~
20 ~~entifically valid research.~~

21 ~~“(3) APPLICATIONS.—~~

22 ~~“(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible applicant~~
23 ~~that wishes to receive a grant, or enter into a~~
24 ~~contract or cooperative agreement, under this~~
25 ~~section shall submit an application to the Re-~~

1 search Commissioner at such time, in such
 2 manner, and containing such information as the
 3 Research Commissioner may require.

4 “(B) CONTENT.—An application submitted
 5 under subparagraph (A) shall describe how the
 6 eligible applicant will address and demonstrate
 7 progress on the requirements of the perform-
 8 ance management system described in section
 9 185, with respect to the activities that will be
 10 carried out under the grant, contract, or coop-
 11 erative agreement.”; and

12 (5) in subsection (d), as redesignated by para-
 13 graph (3)—

14 (A) by amending paragraph (1) to read as
 15 follows:

16 “(1) SUPPORT.—In carrying out activities
 17 under subsection (a)(2), the Research Commissioner
 18 shall support national research and development cen-
 19 ters that address topics of importance and relevance
 20 in the field of education across the country and are
 21 consistent with the Institute’s priorities under sec-
 22 tion 115.”;

23 (B) by striking paragraphs (2), (3), and
 24 (5);

(C) by redesignating paragraphs (4), (6), and (7) as paragraph (2), (3), and (4), respectively;

(D) by amending paragraph (2), as so redesignated—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “5 additional” and inserting “2 additional”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period and inserting “; and”; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) demonstrates progress on the requirements of the performance management system described in section 185.”;

(E) in paragraph (3), as so redesignated, by striking “paragraphs (4) and (5)” and inserting “paragraph (2)”; and

(F) by amending paragraph (4), as so redesignated, to read as follows:

“(4) DISAGGREGATION.—To the extent feasible and when relevant to the research being conducted, research conducted under this subsection shall be disaggregated and cross-tabulated by age, race, gen-

der, disability status, English learner status, and socioeconomic background.”.

SEC. 133. STANDARDS FOR CONDUCT AND EVALUATION OF RESEARCH.

Section 134 (20 U.S.C. 9534) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “based” and inserting “valid”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “and wide dissemination activities” and inserting “and, consistent with section 114(j), wide dissemination and utilization activities”;

(2) by striking subsection (b); and

(3) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (b).

PART C—NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS

SEC. 151. ESTABLISHMENT.

Section 151(b) (20 U.S.C. 9541(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by inserting “and consistent with the privacy protections under section 183” after “manner”; and

(2) in paragraph (3)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “disability,” after “cultural,”; and

1 (B) by amending subparagraph (B) to read
2 as follows:

3 “(B) consistent with section 114(j), is rel-
4 evant, timely, and widely disseminated.”.

5 **SEC. 152. DUTIES.**

6 Section 153 (20 U.S.C. 9543) is amended—

7 (1) in subsection (a)—

8 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
9 by inserting “, consistent with the privacy pro-
10 tections under section 183,” after “Center
11 shall”;

12 (B) in paragraph (1)—

13 (i) by amending subparagraph (D) to
14 read as follows:

15 “(D) secondary school graduation and
16 completion rates, including the four-year ad-
17 justed cohort graduation rate (as defined in sec-
18 tion 200.19(b)(1)(i)(A) of title 34, Code of Fed-
19 eral Regulations, as such section was in effect
20 on November 28, 2008) and the extended-year
21 adjusted cohort graduation rate (as defined in
22 section 200.19(b)(1)(v)(A) of title 34, Code of
23 Federal Regulations, as such section was in ef-
24 fect on November 28, 2008), and school drop-
25 out rates, and adult literacy;”;

1 (ii) in subparagraph (E), by striking
2 “and opportunity for,” and inserting “op-
3 portunity for, and completion of”;

4 (iii) by amending subparagraph (F) to
5 read as follows:

6 “(F) teaching, including information on
7 pre-service preparation, professional develop-
8 ment, teacher distribution, and teacher and
9 school leader evaluation;”;

10 (iv) in subparagraph (G), by inserting
11 “and school leaders” before the semicolon;

12 (v) in subparagraph (H), by inserting
13 “, climate, and in- and out-of-school sus-
14 pensions and expulsions” before “, includ-
15 ing information regarding”;

16 (vi) by amending subparagraph (K) to
17 read as follows:

18 “(K) the access to, and use of, technology
19 to improve elementary schools and secondary
20 schools;”;

21 (vii) in subparagraph (L), by striking
22 “and opportunity for,” and inserting “op-
23 portunity for, and quality of”;

1 (viii) in subparagraph (M), by striking
 2 “such programs during school recesses”
 3 and inserting “summer school”; and

4 (ix) in subparagraph (N), by striking
 5 “vocational” and inserting “career”;

6 (C) in paragraph (3), by striking “when
 7 such disaggregated information will facilitate
 8 educational and policy decisionmaking” and in-
 9 serting “so long as any reported information
 10 does not reveal individually identifiable informa-
 11 tion”;

12 (D) in paragraph (4), by inserting before
 13 the semicolon the following: “, and the imple-
 14 mentation (with the assistance of the Depart-
 15 ment and other Federal officials who have stat-
 16 utory authority to provide assistance on appli-
 17 cable privacy laws, regulations, and policies) of
 18 appropriate privacy protections”;

19 (E) in paragraph (5), by striking “promote
 20 linkages across States,”;

21 (F) in paragraph (6)—

22 (i) by striking “Third” and inserting
 23 “Trends in”; and

1 (ii) by inserting “and the Program for
2 International Student Assessment” after
3 “Science Study”;

4 (G) in paragraph (7), by inserting before
5 the semicolon the following: “, ensuring such
6 collections protect student privacy consistent
7 with section 183”;

8 (H) by amending paragraph (8) to read as
9 follows:

10 “(8) assisting the Board in the preparation and
11 dissemination of each evaluation report under sec-
12 tion 116(d); and”;

13 (I) by striking paragraph (9);

14 (2) by redesignating subsection (b) as sub-
15 section (e); and

16 (3) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-
17 lowing:

18 “(b) PLAN.—The Statistics Commissioner shall pro-
19 pose to the Director and, subject to the approval of the
20 Director, implement a plan for activities of the Statistics
21 Center that—

22 “(1) is consistent with the priorities and mis-
23 sion of the Institute and the mission of the Statistics
24 Center described in section 151(b);

1 “(2) is carried out and, as appropriate, updated
2 and modified, including through the use of the re-
3 sults of the Statistic Center’s most recent evaluation
4 report under section 116(d); and

5 “(3) describes how the Statistics Center will use
6 the performance management system described in
7 section 185 to assess and improve the activities of
8 the Center.”.

9 **SEC. 153. PERFORMANCE OF DUTIES.**

10 Section 154 (20 U.S.C. 9544) is amended—

11 (1) in subsection (a)—

12 (A) by striking “In carrying” and inserting
13 the following:

14 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying”; and

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

16 “(2) ELIGIBILITY.—For purposes of this sec-
17 tion, the term ‘eligible applicant’ means an applicant
18 that has the ability and capacity to carry out activi-
19 ties under this part.

20 “(3) APPLICATIONS.—

21 “(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible applicant
22 that wishes to receive a grant, or enter into a
23 contract or cooperative agreement, under this
24 section shall submit an application to the Sta-
25 tistics Commissioner at such time, in such man-

ner, and containing such information as the
Statistics Commissioner may require.

“(B) CONTENTS.—An application submitted under subparagraph (A) shall describe how the eligible applicant will address and demonstrate progress on the requirements of the performance management system described in section 185, with respect to the activities that will be carried out under the grant, contract, or cooperative agreement.”;

(2) in subsection (b)(2)(A), by striking “vocational and” and inserting “career and technical education programs,”; and

(3) in subsection (c), by striking “5 years” the second place it appears and inserting “2 years if the recipient demonstrates progress on the requirements of the performance management system described in section 185, with respect to the activities carried out under the grant, contract, or cooperative agreement received under this section”.

SEC. 154. REPORTS.

Section 155 (20 U.S.C. 9545) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting “(consistent with section 114(h))” after “review”; and

1 (2) in subsection (b), by striking “2003” and
2 inserting “2015”.

3 **SEC. 155. DISSEMINATION.**

4 Section 156 (20 U.S.C. 9546) is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (e), by adding at the end the
6 following: “Such projects shall adhere to student pri-
7 vacy requirements under section 183.”; and

8 (2) in subsection (e)—

9 (A) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end
10 the following: “Before receiving access to edu-
11 cational data under this paragraph, a Federal
12 agency shall describe to the Statistics Center
13 the specific research intent for use of the data;
14 how access to the data may meet such research
15 intent, and how the Federal agency will protect
16 the confidentiality of the data consistent with
17 the requirements of section 183.”;

18 (B) in paragraph (2)—

19 (i) by inserting “and consistent with
20 section 183” after “may prescribe”; and

21 (ii) by adding at the end the fol-
22 lowing: “Before receiving access to data
23 under this paragraph, an interested party
24 shall describe to the Statistics Center the
25 specific research intent for use of the data;

1 how access to the data may meet such re-
 2 search intent, and how the party will pro-
 3 tect the confidentiality of the data con-
 4 sistent with the requirements of section
 5 183.”; and

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

7 “(3) **DENIAL AUTHORITY.**—The Statistics Cen-
 8 ter shall have the authority to deny any requests for
 9 access to data under paragraph (1) or (2) for any
 10 scientific deficiencies in the proposed research design
 11 or research intent for use of the data, or if the re-
 12 quest would introduce risk of a privacy violation or
 13 misuse of data.”.

14 **SEC. 156. COOPERATIVE EDUCATION STATISTICS SYSTEMS.**

15 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 157 (20 U.S.C. 9547) is
 16 amended—

17 (1) in the heading, by striking “**SYSTEMS**” and
 18 inserting “**PARTNERSHIPS**”;

19 (2) by striking “national cooperative education
 20 statistics systems” and inserting “cooperative edu-
 21 cation statistics partnerships”;

22 (3) by striking “producing and maintaining,
 23 with the cooperation” and inserting “reviewing and
 24 improving, with the voluntary participation”;

1 (4) by striking “comparable and uniform” and
 2 inserting “data quality standards, which may include
 3 establishing voluntary guidelines to standardize”;

4 (5) by striking “adult education, and libraries,”
 5 and inserting “and adult education”; and

6 (6) by adding at the end the following: “No stu-
 7 dent data shall be collected by the partnerships es-
 8 tablished under this section, nor shall such partner-
 9 ships establish a national student data system.”.

10 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of con-
 11 tents in section 4 of the Act of November 5, 2002 (Public
 12 Law 107–279; 116 Stat. 1940) is amended by striking
 13 the item relating to section 157 and inserting the fol-
 14 lowing:

“Sec. 157. Cooperative education statistics partnerships.”.

15 **PART D—NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION**
 16 **EVALUATION AND REGIONAL ASSISTANCE**

17 **SEC. 171. ESTABLISHMENT.**

18 Section 171 (20 U.S.C. 9561) is amended—

19 (1) in subsection (b)—

20 (A) by striking paragraph (1);

21 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (2), (3),
 22 and (4) as paragraphs (1), (2), and (3), respec-
 23 tively;

24 (C) in paragraph (1), as so redesignated,
 25 by striking “of such programs” and all that fol-

1 lows through “science)” and inserting “and to
2 evaluate the implementation of such programs”;

3 (D) in paragraph (2), as so redesignated,
4 by striking “and wide dissemination of results
5 of” and inserting “and, consistent with section
6 114(j), the wide dissemination and utilization of
7 results of all”; and

8 (2) by striking subsection (c).

9 **SEC. 172. COMMISSIONER FOR EDUCATION EVALUATION**

10 **AND REGIONAL ASSISTANCE.**

11 Section 172 (20 U.S.C. 9562) is amended—

12 (1) in subsection (a)—

13 (A) by amending paragraph (2) to read as
14 follows:

15 “(2) widely disseminate, consistent with section
16 114(j), all information on scientifically valid research
17 and statistics supported by the Institute and all sci-
18 entifically valid education evaluations supported by
19 the Institute, particularly to State educational agen-
20 cies and local educational agencies, to institutions of
21 higher education, to the public, the media, voluntary
22 organizations, professional associations, and other
23 constituencies, especially with respect to the prior-
24 ities described in section 115;”;

(B) in paragraph (3), by inserting “, consistent with section 114(j)” after “timely, and efficient manner”;

(C) in paragraph (4)—

(i) by striking “development and dissemination” and inserting “development, dissemination, and utilization”; and

(ii) by striking “the provision of technical assistance,”;

(D) in paragraph (5), by inserting “and” after the semicolon;

(E) in paragraph (6)—

(i) by striking “Director” and inserting “Board”;

(ii) by striking “preparation of a biennial report” and inserting “preparation and dissemination of each evaluation report”; and

(iii) by striking “119, and” and inserting “116(d).”;

(F) by striking paragraph (7);

(2) in subsection (b)(1)—

(A) by inserting “all” before “information disseminated”; and

1 (B) by striking “, which may include” and
 2 all that follows through “of this Act”;

3 (3) by striking subsection (e) and redesignating
 4 subsection (d) as subsection (e); and

5 (4) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-
 6 lowing:

7 “(c) PLAN.—The Evaluation and Regional Assistance
 8 Commissioner shall propose to the Director and, subject
 9 to the approval of the Director, implement a plan for the
 10 activities of the National Center for Education Evaluation
 11 and Regional Assistance that—

12 “(1) is consistent with the priorities and mis-
 13 sion of the Institute and the mission of the Center
 14 described in section 171(b);

15 “(2) is carried out and, as appropriate, updated
 16 and modified, including through the use of the re-
 17 sults of the Center’s most recent evaluation report
 18 under section 116(d); and

19 “(3) describes how the Center will use the per-
 20 formance management system described in section
 21 185 to assess and improve the activities of the Cen-
 22 ter.

23 “(d) GRANTS, CONTRACTS, AND COOPERATIVE
 24 AGREEMENTS.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the duties
2 under this part, the Evaluation and Regional Assist-
3 ance Commissioner may—

4 “(A) award grants, contracts, or coopera-
5 tive agreements to eligible applicants to carry
6 out the activities under this part; and

7 “(B) provide technical assistance.

8 “(2) ELIGIBILITY.—For purposes of this sec-
9 tion, the term ‘eligible applicant’ means an applicant
10 that has the ability and capacity to carry out activi-
11 ties under this part.

12 “(3) ENTITIES TO CONDUCT EVALUATIONS.—In
13 awarding grants, contracts, or cooperative agree-
14 ments under paragraph (1) to carry out activities
15 under section 173, the Evaluation and Regional As-
16 sistance Commissioner shall make such awards to el-
17 igible applicants with the ability and capacity to con-
18 duct scientifically valid education evaluations.

19 “(4) APPLICATIONS.—

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible applicant
21 that wishes to receive a grant, contract, or co-
22 operative agreement under paragraph (1) shall
23 submit an application to the Evaluation and
24 Regional Assistance Commissioner at such time;

1 in such manner, and containing such informa-
2 tion as the Commissioner may require.

3 “(B) CONTENTS.—An application sub-
4 mitted under subparagraph (A) shall describe
5 how the eligible applicant will address and dem-
6 onstrate progress on the requirements of the
7 performance management system described in
8 section 185, with respect to the activities ear-
9 ried out under such grant, contract, or coopera-
10 tive agreement.

11 “(5) DURATION.—Notwithstanding any other
12 provision of law, the grants, contracts, and coopera-
13 tive agreements under paragraph (1) may be award-
14 ed, on a competitive basis, for a period of not more
15 than 5 years, and may be renewed at the discretion
16 of the Evaluation and Regional Assistance Commis-
17 sioner for an additional period of not more than 2
18 years if the recipient demonstrates progress on the
19 requirements of the performance management sys-
20 tem described in section 185, with respect to the ac-
21 tivities carried out under the grant, contract, or co-
22 operative agreement.”;

23 (5) in subsection (c), as so redesignated—

24 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “There is
25 established” and all that follows through “Re-

gional Assistance” and inserting “The Evaluation and Regional Assistance Commissioner may establish”;

(B) in paragraph (2)(A), by inserting “all” before “products”; and

(C) in paragraph (2)(B)(ii), by striking “2002” and all that follows through the period and inserting “2002.”.

SEC. 173. EVALUATIONS.

Section 173 (20 U.S.C. 9563) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “may” and inserting “shall”;

(ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking “evaluations” and inserting “high-quality evaluations, including impact evaluations that use rigorous methodologies that permit the strongest possible causal inferences,”;

(iii) in subparagraph (B), by inserting before the semicolon at the end the following: “, including programs under part A of such title (20 U.S.C. 6311 et seq.)”;

1 (iv) by striking subparagraph (C) and
2 redesignating subparagraph (D) as sub-
3 paragraph (C);

4 (v) by striking subparagraphs (E) and
5 (G), and redesignating subparagraph (F)
6 as subparagraph (D);

7 (vi) in subparagraph (D), as so redes-
8 ignated, by striking “and” at the end; and

9 (vii) by inserting after subparagraph
10 (D), as so redesignated, the following:

11 “(E) provide evaluation findings in an un-
12 derstandable, easily accessible, and usable for-
13 mat to support program improvement;

14 “(F) support the evaluation activities de-
15 scribed in section 401 of the Strengthening
16 Education through Research Act that are car-
17 ried about by the Director; and

18 “(G) to the extent feasible—

19 “(i) examine evaluations conducted or
20 supported by others to determine the qual-
21 ity and relevance of the evidence of effec-
22 tiveness generated by those evaluations;
23 with the approval of the Director;

24 “(ii) review and supplement Federal
25 education program evaluations, particularly

1 such evaluations by the Department, to de-
 2 termine or enhance the quality and rel-
 3 evance of the evidence generated by those
 4 evaluations;

5 “(iii) conduct implementation evalua-
 6 tions that promote continuous improve-
 7 ment and inform policymaking;

8 “(iv) evaluate the short- and long-
 9 term effects and cost efficiencies across
 10 programs assisted or authorized under
 11 Federal law and administrated by the De-
 12 partment; and

13 “(v) synthesize the results of evalua-
 14 tion studies for and across Federal edu-
 15 cation programs, policies, and practices.”;
 16 and

17 (B) in paragraph (2)—

18 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking
 19 “and” at the end;

20 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
 21 the period and inserting “under section
 22 114(h); and”; and

23 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
 24 lowing:

1 “(C) be widely disseminated, consistent
2 with section 114(j).”; and

3 (2) in subsection (b), by striking “contracts”
4 and inserting “grants, contracts, or cooperative
5 agreements”.

6 **SEC. 174. REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL LABORATORIES FOR**
7 **RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, DISSEMINATION,**
8 **AND EVALUATION.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 174 (20 U.S.C. 9564) is
10 amended—

11 (1) in the section heading by striking “**TECH-**
12 **NICAL ASSISTANCE**” and inserting “**EVALUA-**
13 **TION**”;

14 (2) in subsection (a)—

15 (A) by striking “Director” and inserting
16 “Evaluation and Regional Assistance Commis-
17 sioner”;

18 (B) by striking “contracts” and inserting
19 “grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements”;
20 and

21 (C) by inserting “not more than” before
22 “10 regional”;

23 (3) in subsection (c)—

24 (A) by striking “The Director” and insert-
25 ing the following:

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Evaluation and Re-
2 gional Assistance Commissioner”;

3 (B) by striking “contracts under this sec-
4 tion with research organizations, institutions,
5 agencies, institutions of higher education,” and
6 inserting “grants, contracts, or cooperative
7 agreements under this section with public or
8 private, nonprofit or for-profit research organi-
9 zations, other organizations, or institutions of
10 higher education,”;

11 (C) by striking “or individuals,”;

12 (D) by striking “, including regional enti-
13 ties” and all that follows through “107–110))”;
14 and

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

16 “(2) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this sec-
17 tion, the term ‘eligible applicant’ means an entity
18 described in paragraph (1).”;

19 (4) by striking subsections (d) through (j) and
20 inserting the following:

21 “(d) APPLICATIONS.—

22 “(1) SUBMISSION.—

23 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible appli-
24 cant desiring a contract grant, contract, or co-
25 operative agreement under this section shall

1 submit an application at such time, in such
2 manner, and containing such information as the
3 Evaluation and Regional Assistance Commis-
4 sioner may reasonably require.

5 “(B) INPUT.—To ensure that applications
6 submitted under this paragraph are reflective of
7 the needs of the regions to be served, each eligi-
8 ble applicant submitting such an application
9 shall seek input from State educational agencies
10 and local educational agencies in the region
11 that the award will serve, and other individuals
12 with knowledge of the region’s needs. Such indi-
13 viduals may include members of the regional
14 advisory committee for the region under section
15 206(a).

16 “(2) PLAN.—

17 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Each application sub-
18 mitted under paragraph (1) shall contain a plan
19 for the activities of the regional educational lab-
20 oratory to be established under this section,
21 which shall be updated, modified, and improved,
22 as appropriate, on an ongoing basis, including
23 by using the results of the laboratory’s interim
24 evaluation under subsection (i)(3).

1 “(B) CONTENTS.—A plan described in
2 subparagraph (A) shall address—

3 “(i) the priorities for applied research,
4 development, evaluations, and wide dis-
5 semination established under section 207;

6 “(ii) the needs of State educational
7 agencies and local educational agencies, on
8 an ongoing basis, using available State and
9 local data, including the relevant results of
10 the region’s assessment under section
11 206(e); and

12 “(iii) if available, demonstrated sup-
13 port from State educational agencies and
14 local educational agencies in the region,
15 such as letters of support or signed memo-
16 randa of understanding.

17 “(3) NON-FEDERAL SUPPORT.—In conducting a
18 competition for grants, contracts, or cooperative
19 agreements under subsection (a), the Evaluation and
20 Regional Assistance Commissioner shall give priority
21 to eligible applicants that will provide a portion of
22 non-Federal funds to maximize support for activities
23 of the regional educational laboratories to be estab-
24 lished under this section.

1 “(e) AWARDING GRANTS, CONTRACTS, OR COOPERA-
2 TIVE AGREEMENTS.—

3 “(1) ASSURANCES.—In awarding grants, con-
4 tracts, or cooperative agreements under this section,
5 the Evaluation and Regional Assistance Commis-
6 sioner shall—

7 “(A) make such an award for not more
8 than a 5-year period;

9 “(B) ensure that regional educational lab-
10 oratories established under this section have
11 strong and effective governance, organization,
12 management, and administration, and employ
13 qualified staff; and

14 “(C) ensure that each such laboratory has
15 the flexibility to respond in a timely fashion to
16 the needs of the laboratory’s region, includ-
17 ing—

18 “(i) through using the results of the
19 laboratory’s interim evaluation under sub-
20 section (i)(3) to improve and modify the
21 activities of the laboratory before the end
22 of the award period; and

23 “(ii) through sharing preliminary re-
24 sults of the laboratory’s research, as ap-

1 appropriate, to increase the relevance and
2 usefulness of the research.

3 “(2) COORDINATION.—To ensure coordination
4 and prevent unnecessary duplication of activities
5 among the regions, the Evaluation and Regional As-
6 sistance Commissioner shall—

7 “(A) share information about the activities
8 of each regional educational laboratory with
9 each other regional educational laboratory; the
10 Department, the Director, and the National
11 Board for Education Sciences;

12 “(B) ensure, where appropriate, that the
13 activities of each regional educational laboratory
14 established under this section also serve na-
15 tional interests;

16 “(C) ensure each such regional educational
17 laboratory establishes strong partnerships
18 among practitioners, policymakers, researchers,
19 and others, so that such partnerships are con-
20 tinued in the absence of Federal support; and

21 “(D) enable, where appropriate, for such a
22 laboratory to work in a region being served by
23 another laboratory or to carry out a project
24 that extends beyond the region served by the
25 laboratory.

1 ~~“(3) COLLABORATION WITH TECHNICAL ASSIST-~~
 2 ~~ANCE PROVIDERS.—~~Each regional educational lab-
 3 oratory established under this section shall, on an
 4 ongoing basis, coordinate its activities, collaborate,
 5 and regularly exchange information with the com-
 6 prehensive centers (established in section 203) in the
 7 region in which the center is located, and with com-
 8 prehensive centers located outside of its region, as
 9 appropriate.

10 ~~“(4) OUTREACH.—~~

11 ~~“(A) IN GENERAL.—~~In conducting com-
 12 petitions for grants, contracts, or cooperative
 13 agreements under this section, the Evaluation
 14 and Regional Assistance Commissioner shall—

15 ~~“(i) by making information and tech-~~
 16 ~~nical assistance relating to the competition~~
 17 ~~widely available, actively encourage eligible~~
 18 ~~applicants to compete for such an award;~~
 19 ~~and~~

20 ~~“(ii) seek input from the chief execu-~~
 21 ~~tive officers of States, chief State school~~
 22 ~~officers, educators, parents, superintend-~~
 23 ~~ents, and other individuals with knowledge~~
 24 ~~of the needs of the regions to be served by~~
 25 ~~the awards, regarding—~~

1 “(I) the needs in the regions for
 2 applied research, evaluation, develop-
 3 ment, and wide-dissemination activi-
 4 ties authorized by this title; and

5 “(II) how such needs may be ad-
 6 dressed most effectively.

7 “(B) REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES.—

8 The individuals described in subparagraph
 9 (A)(ii) may include members of the regional ad-
 10 visory committees established under section
 11 206(a).

12 “(5) PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT.—Before
 13 the Evaluation and Regional Assistance Commis-
 14 sioner awards a grant, contract, or cooperative
 15 agreement under this section, the Director shall es-
 16 tablish measurable performance indicators for as-
 17 sessing the ongoing progress and performance of the
 18 regional educational laboratories established with
 19 such awards that address—

20 “(A) the requirements of the performance
 21 management system described in section 185;
 22 and

23 “(B) the relevant results of the regional
 24 assessments under section 206(e).

1 “(6) ~~STANDARDS.~~—The Evaluation and Re-
 2 gional Assistance Commissioner shall adhere to the
 3 Institute’s system for technical and peer review
 4 under section 114(h) in reviewing the applied re-
 5 search activities and research-based reports of the
 6 regional educational laboratories.

7 “(7) ~~REQUIRED CONSIDERATION.~~—In deter-
 8 mining whether to award a grant, contract, or coop-
 9 erative agreement under this section to an eligible
 10 applicant that previously established a regional edu-
 11 cational laboratory under this section, the Evalua-
 12 tion and Regional Assistance Commissioner shall
 13 consider the results of such laboratory’s summative
 14 evaluation under subsection (i)(2).

15 “(f) ~~MISSION.~~—Each regional educational laboratory
 16 established under this section shall—

17 “(1) conduct applied research, development,
 18 and evaluation activities with State educational
 19 agencies, local educational agencies, and, as appro-
 20 priate, schools funded by the Bureau;

21 “(2) widely disseminate such work, consistent
 22 with section 114(j); and

23 “(3) develop the capacity of State educational
 24 agencies, local educational agencies, and, as appro-

1 prate, schools funded by the Bureau to carry out
2 the activities described in paragraphs (1) and (2).

3 “(g) ACTIVITIES.—To carry out the mission de-
4 scribed in subsection (f), each regional educational labora-
5 tory established under this section shall carry out the fol-
6 lowing activities:

7 “(1) Conduct, widely disseminate, and promote
8 utilization of applied research, development activi-
9 ties, evaluations, and other scientifically valid re-
10 search.

11 “(2) Develop and improve the plan for the lab-
12 oratory under subsection (d)(2) for serving the re-
13 gion of the laboratory, and as appropriate, national
14 needs, on an ongoing basis, which shall include seek-
15 ing input and incorporating feedback from the rep-
16 resentatives of State educational agencies and local
17 educational agencies in the region, and other individ-
18 uals with knowledge of the region’s needs. Such rep-
19 resentatives and other individuals may include mem-
20 bers of the regional advisory committee for the re-
21 gion established under section 206(a).

22 “(3) Ensure research and related products are
23 relevant and responsive to the needs of the region,
24 including by using the relevant results of the re-
25 gion’s assessment under section 206(e).

1 ~~“(h) GOVERNING BOARD.—~~

2 ~~“(1) IN GENERAL.—Each regional educational~~
 3 ~~laboratory established under this section may estab-~~
 4 ~~lish a governing board to improve the management~~
 5 ~~of activities that the laboratory carries out under~~
 6 ~~this section.~~

7 ~~“(2) BOARD DUTIES.—A Board established~~
 8 ~~under paragraph (1) shall coordinate and align its~~
 9 ~~work with the work of the regional advisory com-~~
 10 ~~mittee for the region established under section 206.~~

11 ~~“(i) EVALUATIONS.—~~

12 ~~“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Evaluation and Re-~~
 13 ~~gional Assistance Commissioner shall—~~

14 ~~“(A) provide for ongoing summative and~~
 15 ~~interim evaluations described in paragraphs (2)~~
 16 ~~and (3), respectively, of each of the regional~~
 17 ~~educational laboratories established under this~~
 18 ~~section in carrying out the full range of duties~~
 19 ~~described in this section; and~~

20 ~~“(B) transmit the results of such evalua-~~
 21 ~~tions, through appropriate means, to the appro-~~
 22 ~~priate congressional committees, the Director,~~
 23 ~~and the public.~~

24 ~~“(2) SUMMATIVE EVALUATIONS.—The Evalua-~~
 25 ~~tion and Regional Assistance Commissioner shall en-~~

1 sure each regional educational laboratory established
2 under this section is evaluated by an independent
3 entity at the end of the period of the grant, contract,
4 or cooperative agreement that established such lab-
5 oratory, which shall—

6 “(A) be completed in a timely fashion;

7 “(B) assess how well the laboratory is
8 meeting the measurable performance indicators
9 established under subsection (e)(5); and

10 “(C) consider the extent to which the lab-
11 oratory ensures that the activities of such lab-
12 oratory are relevant and useful to the work of
13 State and local practitioners and policymakers.

14 “(3) INTERIM EVALUATIONS.—The Evaluation
15 and Regional Assistance Commissioner shall ensure
16 each regional educational laboratory established
17 under this section is evaluated at the midpoint of the
18 period of the grant, contract, or cooperative agree-
19 ment that established such laboratory, which shall—

20 “(A) assess how well such laboratory is
21 meeting the performance indicators described in
22 subsection (e)(5); and

23 “(B) be used to improve the effectiveness
24 of such laboratory in carrying out its plan
25 under subsection (d)(2).

1 “(j) CONTINUATION OF AWARDS; RECOMPETITION.—

2 “(1) CONTINUATION OF AWARDS.—The Evalua-
 3 tion and Regional Assistance Commissioner shall
 4 continue awards made to each eligible applicant for
 5 the support of regional educational laboratories es-
 6 tablished under this section prior to the date of en-
 7 actment of the Strengthening Education through
 8 Research Act, as such awards were in effect on the
 9 day before the date of enactment of the Strengthen-
 10 ing Education through Research Act, for the du-
 11 ration of those awards, in accordance with the terms
 12 and agreements of such awards.

13 “(2) RECOMPETITION.—Not later than the end
 14 of the period of the awards described in paragraph
 15 (1), the Evaluation and Regional Assistance Com-
 16 missioner shall—

17 “(A) hold a competition to make grants,
 18 contracts, or cooperative agreements under this
 19 section to eligible applicants, which may include
 20 eligible applicants that held awards described in
 21 paragraph (1); and

22 “(B) in determining whether to select an
 23 eligible applicant that held an award described
 24 in paragraph (1) for an award under subpara-
 25 graph (A) of this paragraph, consider the re-

1 sults of the summative evaluation under sub-
 2 section (i)(2) of the laboratory established with
 3 the eligible applicant's award described in para-
 4 graph (1).”;

5 (5) by striking subsection (l);

6 (6) by redesignating subsections (m), (n), and
 7 (o) as subsections (l), (m), and (n), respectively;

8 (7) in subsection (l), as so redesignated, by in-
 9 serting “and local” after “achieve State”;

10 (8) by amending subsection (m), as so redesi-
 11 gnated, to read as follows:

12 “(m) ANNUAL REPORT.—Each regional educational
 13 laboratory established under this section shall submit to
 14 the Evaluation and Regional Assistance Commissioner an
 15 annual report containing such information as the Commis-
 16 sioner may require, but which shall include, at a minimum,
 17 the following:

18 “(1) A summary of the laboratory's activities
 19 and products developed during the previous year.

20 “(2) A listing of the State educational agencies,
 21 local educational agencies, and schools the labora-
 22 tory assisted during the previous year.

23 “(3) Using the measurable performance indica-
 24 tors established under subsection (e)(5), a descrip-

1 tion of how well the laboratory is meeting edu-
2 cational needs of the region served by the laboratory.

3 “(4) Any changes to the laboratory’s plan under
4 subsection (d)(2) to improve its activities in the re-
5 maining years of the grant, contract, or cooperative
6 agreement.”; and

7 (9) by adding at the end the following new sub-
8 section:

9 “(o) APPROPRIATIONS RESERVATION.—Of the
10 amounts appropriated under section 194(a), the Evalua-
11 tion and Regional Assistance Commissioner shall reserve
12 16.13 percent of such funds to carry out this section, of
13 which the Commissioner shall use not less than 25 percent
14 to serve rural areas (including schools funded by the Bu-
15 reau which are located in rural areas).”.

16 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of con-
17 tents in section 4 of the Act of November 5, 2002 (Public
18 Law 107–279; 116 Stat. 1940) is amended by striking
19 the item relating to section 174 and inserting the fol-
20 lowing:

“Sec. 174. Regional educational laboratories for research, development, disse-
mination, and evaluation.”.

21 **PART E—NATIONAL CENTER FOR SPECIAL**
22 **EDUCATION RESEARCH**

23 **SEC. 175. ESTABLISHMENT.**

24 Section 175(b) (20 U.S.C. 9567(b)) is amended—

1 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “and chil-
2 dren” and inserting “children, and youth”;

3 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” at the
4 end;

5 (3) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at
6 the end and inserting a semicolon; and

7 (4) by adding at the end the following:

8 “(4) to promote quality and integrity through
9 the use of accepted practices of scientific inquiry to
10 obtain knowledge and understanding of the validity
11 of education theories, practices, or conditions with
12 respect to special education research and evaluation
13 described in paragraphs (1) through (3); and

14 “(5) to promote scientifically valid research
15 findings in special education that may provide the
16 basis for improving academic instruction and lifelong
17 learning.”.

18 **SEC. 176. COMMISSIONER FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION RE-**
19 **SEARCH.**

20 Section 176 (20 U.S.C. 9567a) is amended by insert-
21 ing “and youth” after “children”.

22 **SEC. 177. DUTIES.**

23 Section 177 (20 U.S.C. 9567b) is amended—

24 (1) in subsection (a)—

1 (A) in paragraph (1)(A), by inserting “and
2 youth” after “children”;

3 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “scientif-
4 ically based educational practices” and inserting
5 “educational practices, including the use of
6 technology based on scientifically valid re-
7 search,”;

8 (C) in paragraph (4), by striking “based”
9 and inserting “valid”;

10 (D) in paragraph (10), by inserting before
11 the semicolon the following: “, including how
12 secondary school credentials are related to post-
13 secondary and employment outcomes”;

14 (E) by redesignating paragraphs (11)
15 through (15) and paragraphs (16) and (17) as
16 paragraphs (12) through (16), respectively, and
17 paragraphs (18) and (19), respectively;

18 (F) by inserting after paragraph (10), the
19 following:

20 “(11) examine the participation and outcomes
21 of students with disabilities in secondary and post-
22 secondary career and technical education pro-
23 grams;”;

1 (G) in paragraph (14), as so redesignated;
 2 by inserting “and professional development”
 3 after “preparation”;

4 (H) in paragraph (16), as so redesignated;
 5 by striking “help parents” and inserting “exam-
 6 ine the methods by which parents may”;

7 (I) by inserting after paragraph (16), as so
 8 redesignated, the following:

9 “(17) assist the Board in the preparation and
 10 dissemination of each evaluation report under sec-
 11 tion 116(d);”;

12 (J) in paragraph (18), as so redesignated;
 13 by striking “and” at the end;

14 (K) by amending paragraph (19), as so re-
 15 designated, to read as follows:

16 “(19) examine the needs of children with dis-
 17 abilities who are English learners, gifted and tal-
 18 ented, or who have other unique learning needs;
 19 and”; and

20 (L) by adding at the end the following:

21 “(20) examine innovations in the field of special
 22 education, such as multi-tiered systems of support.”;

23 (2) in subsection (c)—

24 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph

25 (1)—

1 (i) by inserting “for the activities of
 2 the Special Education Research Center”
 3 after “research plan”; and

4 (ii) by inserting “and, subject to the
 5 approval of the Director, implement such
 6 plan” after “Services”;

7 (B) in paragraph (1), by inserting “de-
 8 scribed in section 175(b)” after “Center”;

9 (C) by amending paragraph (2) to read as
 10 follows:

11 “(2) is carried out, and, as appropriate, up-
 12 dated and modified, including by using the results of
 13 the Special Education Research Center’s most recent
 14 evaluation report under section 116(d);”;

15 (D) by striking paragraph (5);

16 (E) by redesignating paragraphs (3), (4),
 17 and (6) as paragraphs (4), (5), and (7), respec-
 18 tively;

19 (F) by inserting after paragraph (2), as so
 20 amended, the following:

21 “(3) provides for research that addresses sig-
 22 nificant questions of practice where such research is
 23 lacking;”;

24 (G) in paragraph (5), as so redesignated,
 25 by striking “and types of children with” and in-

1 serting “, student subgroups, and types of”;
2 and

3 (H) by inserting after paragraph (5), as so
4 redesignated and amended, the following:

5 “(6) describes how the Special Education Re-
6 search Center will use the performance management
7 system described in section 185 to assess and im-
8 prove the activities of the Center; and”;

9 (3) in subsection (d)—

10 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “Direc-
11 tor” and inserting “Special Education Research
12 Commissioner”;

13 (B) by amending paragraph (3) to read as
14 follows:

15 “(3) APPLICATIONS.—

16 “(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible applicant
17 that wishes to receive a grant, or enter into a
18 contract or cooperative agreement, under this
19 section shall submit an application to the Spe-
20 cial Education Research Commissioner at such
21 time, in such manner, and containing such in-
22 formation as the Special Education Research
23 Commissioner may require.

24 “(B) CONTENTS.—An application sub-
25 mitted under subparagraph (A) shall describe

1 how the eligible applicant will address and dem-
 2 onstrate progress on the requirements of the
 3 performance management system described in
 4 section 185, with respect to the activities that
 5 will be carried out under such grant, contract,
 6 or cooperative agreement.”; and

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

8 “(4) DURATION.—Notwithstanding any other
 9 provision of law, the grants, contracts, and coopera-
 10 tive agreements under this section may be awarded;
 11 on a competitive basis, for a period of not more than
 12 5 years, and may be renewed at the discretion of the
 13 Special Education Research Commissioner for an
 14 additional period of not more than 2 years if the re-
 15 cipient demonstrates progress on the requirements
 16 of the performance management system described in
 17 section 185, with respect to the activities carried out
 18 under the grant, contract, or cooperative agreement
 19 received under this section.”;

20 (4) by amending subsection (e) to read as fol-
 21 lows:

22 “(e) DISSEMINATION.—The Special Education Re-
 23 search Center shall synthesize and, consistent with section
 24 114(j), widely disseminate and promote utilization of the
 25 findings and results of special education research con-

1 ducted or supported by the Special Education Research
2 Center.”; and

3 (5) in subsection (f), by striking “part such
4 sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years
5 2005 through 2010.” and inserting “part—
6 “(1) for fiscal year 2015, \$54,000,000;
7 “(2) for fiscal year 2016, \$54,108,000;
8 “(3) for fiscal year 2017, \$55,298,376;
9 “(4) for fiscal year 2018, \$56,625,537;
10 “(5) for fiscal year 2019, \$58,154,426; and
11 “(6) for fiscal year 2020, \$65,645,169.”.

12 **PART F—GENERAL PROVISIONS**

13 **SEC. 182. PROHIBITIONS.**

14 Section 182 (20 U.S.C. 9572) is amended—

15 (1) in subsection (b)—

16 (A) by striking “or control” and inserting
17 “control, or coerce”; and

18 (B) by inserting “specific academic stand-
19 ards or assessments,” after “the curriculum,”

20 (3) in subsection (c)—

21 (A) by inserting “coerce,” after “approve,”

22 and

23 (B) by striking “an elementary school or
24 secondary school” and inserting “early edu-

1 ~~ation, or in an elementary school, secondary~~
 2 ~~school, or institution of higher education”.~~

3 **SEC. 183. CONFIDENTIALITY.**

4 ~~Section 183 (20 U.S.C. 9573) is amended—~~

5 ~~(1) in subsection (b)—~~

6 ~~(A) by striking “their families, and infor-~~
 7 ~~mation with respect to individual schools,” and~~
 8 ~~inserting “and their families”; and~~

9 ~~(B) by inserting before the period at the~~
 10 ~~end the following: “, and that any disclosed in-~~
 11 ~~formation with respect to individual schools not~~
 12 ~~reveal such individually identifiable informa-~~
 13 ~~tion”;~~

14 ~~(2) in subsection (d)(2), by inserting “, includ-~~
 15 ~~ing voluntary and uncompensated services under sec-~~
 16 ~~tion 190” after “providing services”; and~~

17 ~~(3) in subsection (e)(1), in the matter preceding~~
 18 ~~subparagraph (A), by inserting “and Director” after~~
 19 ~~“Secretary”.~~

20 **SEC. 184. AVAILABILITY OF DATA.**

21 ~~Section 184 (20 U.S.C. 9574) is amended by striking~~
 22 ~~“use of the Internet” and inserting “electronic means,~~
 23 ~~such as posting to the Institute’s website in an easily ac-~~
 24 ~~cessible manner”.~~

1 **SEC. 185. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT.**

2 Section 185 (20 U.S.C. 9575) is amended to read as
3 follows:

4 **“SEC. 185. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT.**

5 “The Director shall establish a system for managing
6 the performance of all activities authorized under this title
7 to promote continuous improvement of the activities and
8 to ensure the effective use of Federal funds by—

9 “(1) developing and using measurable perform-
10 ance indicators, including timelines, to evaluate and
11 improve the effectiveness of the activities;

12 “(2) using the performance indicators described
13 in paragraph (1) to inform funding decisions, includ-
14 ing the awarding and continuation of all grants, con-
15 tracts, and cooperative agreements under this title;

16 “(3) establishing and improving formal feed-
17 back mechanisms to—

18 “(A) anticipate and meet stakeholder
19 needs; and

20 “(B) incorporate, on an ongoing basis, the
21 feedback of such stakeholders into the activities
22 authorized under this title; and

23 “(4) promoting the wide dissemination and uti-
24 lization, consistent with section 114(j), of all infor-
25 mation, products, and publications of the Institute.”.

1 **SEC. 186. AUTHORITY TO PUBLISH.**

2 Section 186(b) (20 U.S.C. 9576) is amended by strik-
 3 ing “any information to be published under this section
 4 before publication” and inserting “publications under this
 5 section before the public release of such publications”.

6 **SEC. 187. REPEALS.**

7 (a) REPEALS.—Sections 187 (20 U.S.C. 9577) and
 8 193 (20 U.S.C. 9583) are repealed.

9 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The table of con-
 10 tents in section 4 of the Act of November 5, 2002 (Public
 11 Law 107–279; 116 Stat. 1940) is amended by striking
 12 the items relating to sections 187 and 193.

13 **SEC. 188. FELLOWSHIPS.**

14 Section 189 (20 U.S.C. 9579) is amended—

15 (1) by inserting “and the mission of each Na-
 16 tional Education Center authorized under this title”
 17 after “related to education”; and

18 (2) by striking “historically Black colleges and
 19 universities” and inserting “minority-serving institu-
 20 tions”.

21 **SEC. 189. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

22 Section 194 (20 U.S.C. 9584) is amended—

23 (1) by amending subsection (a) to read as fol-
 24 lows:

1 “(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be ap-
 2 propriated to administer and carry out this title (except
 3 part E)—

4 “(1) for fiscal year 2015, \$337,343,000;

5 “(2) for fiscal year 2016, \$338,017,686;

6 “(3) for fiscal year 2017, \$345,454,075;

7 “(4) for fiscal year 2018, \$353,744,974;

8 “(5) for fiscal year 2019, \$363,296,087; and

9 “(6) for fiscal year 2020, \$368,745,528.”.

10 (2) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the
 11 following:

12 “(b) RESERVATIONS.—Of the amounts appropriated
 13 under subsection (a) for each fiscal year—

14 “(1) not less than the amount provided to the
 15 National Center for Education Statistics (as such
 16 Center was in existence on the day before the date
 17 of enactment of the Strengthening Education
 18 through Research Act) for fiscal year 2014 shall be
 19 provided to the National Center for Education Sta-
 20 tistics, as authorized under part C; and

21 “(2) not more than the lesser of 2 percent of
 22 such funds or \$2,000,000 shall be made available to
 23 carry out section 116 (relating to the National
 24 Board for Education Sciences).”.

TITLE II—EDUCATIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

SEC. 201. REFERENCES.

Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this title an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the Educational Technical Assistance Act of 2002 (20 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.).

SEC. 202. DEFINITIONS.

Section 202 (20 U.S.C. 9601) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (1), the following:

“(2) SCHOOL LEADER.—The term ‘school leader’ has the meaning given the term in section 102.”.

SEC. 203. COMPREHENSIVE CENTERS.

Section 203 (20 U.S.C. 9602)—

(1) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

“(a) AUTHORIZATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (3), the Secretary is authorized to award not more than 17 grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements to

1 eligible applicants to establish comprehensive cen-
2 ters.

3 “(2) MISSION.—The mission of the comprehen-
4 sive centers is to provide State educational agencies
5 and local educational agencies technical assistance,
6 analysis, and training to build their capacity in im-
7 plementing the requirements of the Elementary and
8 Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301
9 et seq.) and other Federal education laws, and re-
10 search-based practices.

11 “(3) REGIONS.—In awarding grants, contracts,
12 or cooperative agreements under paragraph (1), the
13 Secretary—

14 “(A) shall establish at least one com-
15 prehensive center for each of the 10 geographic
16 regions served by the regional educational lab-
17 oratories established under section 941(h) of
18 the Educational Research, Development, Dis-
19 semination, and Improvement Act of 1994 (as
20 such provision existed on the day before the
21 date of enactment of this Act); and

22 “(B) may establish additional comprehen-
23 sive centers—

24 “(i) for one or more of the regions de-
25 scribed in subparagraph (A); or

1 “(ii) to serve the Nation as a whole by
 2 providing technical assistance on a par-
 3 ticular content area of importance to the
 4 Nation, as determined by the Secretary
 5 with the advice of the regional advisory
 6 committees established under section
 7 206(a).

8 “(4) NATION.—In the case of a comprehensive
 9 center established to serve the Nation as described
 10 in paragraph (3)(B)(ii), the Nation shall be consid-
 11 ered to be a region served by such Center.

12 “(5) AWARD PERIOD.—A grant, contract, or co-
 13 operative agreement under this section may be
 14 awarded, on a competitive basis, for a period of not
 15 more than 5 years.

16 “(6) RESPONSIVENESS.—The Secretary shall
 17 ensure that each comprehensive center established
 18 under this section has the ability to respond in a
 19 timely fashion to the needs of State educational
 20 agencies and local educational agencies, including
 21 through using the results of the center’s interim
 22 evaluation under section 204(c), to improve and
 23 modify the activities of the center before the end of
 24 the award period.”;

25 (2) in subsection (b)—

1 (A) in paragraph (1)—

2 (i) by inserting “, contracts, or coop-
3 erative agreements” after “Grants”;

4 (ii) by striking “research organiza-
5 tions, institutions, agencies, institutions of
6 higher education,” and inserting “public or
7 private, nonprofit or for-profit research or-
8 ganizations, other organizations, or institu-
9 tions of higher education,”;

10 (iii) by striking “, or individuals,”;

11 (iv) by striking “subsection (f)” and
12 inserting “subsection (e)”; and

13 (v) by striking “, including regional”
14 and all that follows through “107–110))”;
15 and

16 (B) by striking paragraphs (2) and (3) and
17 inserting the following:

18 “(2) OUTREACH.—

19 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In conducting com-
20 petitions for grants, contracts, or cooperative
21 agreements under this section, the Secretary
22 shall—

23 “(i) by making widely available infor-
24 mation and technical assistance relating to

the competition; actively encourage eligible applicants to compete for such awards; and

“(ii) seek input from chief executive officers of States; chief State school officers; educators; parents; superintendents; and other individuals with knowledge of the needs of the regions to be served by the awards; regarding—

“(I) the needs in the regions for technical assistance authorized under this title; and

“(H) how such needs may be addressed most effectively.

“(B) REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES.—

The individuals described in subparagraph (A)(ii) may include members of the regional advisory committees established under section 206(a).

“(3) PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT.—Before awarding a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement under this section, the Secretary shall establish measurable performance indicators to be used to assess the ongoing progress and performance of the comprehensive centers to be established under this title that address—

1 “(A) paragraphs (1) through (3) of the
2 performance management system described in
3 section 185; and

4 “(B) the relevant results of the regional
5 assessments under section 206(e).

6 “(4) REQUIRED CONSIDERATION.—In deter-
7 mining whether to award a grant, contract, or coop-
8 erative agreement under this section to an eligible
9 applicant that previously established a comprehen-
10 sive center under this section, the Secretary shall
11 consider the results of such center’s summative eval-
12 uation under section 204(b).

13 “(5) CONTINUATION OF AWARDS.—

14 “(A) CONTINUATION OF AWARDS.—The
15 Secretary shall continue awards made to each
16 eligible applicant for the support of comprehen-
17 sive centers established under this section prior
18 to the date of enactment of the Strengthening
19 Education through Research Act, as such
20 awards were in effect on the day before the
21 date of enactment of the Strengthening Edu-
22 cation through Research Act, for the duration
23 of those awards, in accordance with the terms
24 and agreements of such awards.

1 “(B) RECOMPETITION.—Not later than the
2 end of the period of the awards described in
3 subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall—

4 “(i) hold a competition to make
5 grants, contracts, or cooperative agree-
6 ments under this section to eligible appli-
7 cants, which may include eligible appli-
8 cants that held awards described in sub-
9 paragraph (A); and

10 “(ii) in determining whether to select
11 an eligible applicant that held an award
12 described in subparagraph (A) for an
13 award under clause (i) of this subpara-
14 graph, consider the results of the
15 summative evaluation under section 204(b)
16 of the center established with the eligible
17 applicant’s award described in subpara-
18 graph (A).

19 “(6) ELIGIBLE APPLICANT DEFINED.—For pur-
20 poses of this section, the term ‘eligible applicant’
21 means an entity described in paragraph (1).”;

22 (2) by amending subsection (c) to read as fol-
23 lows:

24 “(c) APPLICATIONS.—

25 “(1) SUBMISSION.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible appli-
2 cant seeking a grant, contract, or cooperative
3 agreement under this section shall submit an
4 application at such time, in such manner, and
5 containing such additional information as the
6 Secretary may reasonably require.

7 “(B) INPUT.—To ensure that applications
8 submitted under this paragraph are reflective of
9 the needs of the regions to be served, each eligi-
10 ble applicant submitting such an application
11 shall seek input from State educational agencies
12 and local educational agencies in the region
13 that the award will serve, and other individuals
14 with knowledge of the region’s needs. Such indi-
15 viduals may include members of the regional
16 advisory committee for the region under section
17 206(a).

18 “(2) PLAN.—

19 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Each application sub-
20 mitted under paragraph (1) shall contain a plan
21 for the comprehensive center to be established
22 under this section, which shall be updated,
23 modified, and improved, as appropriate, on an
24 ongoing basis, including by using the results of

1 the center's interim evaluation under section
2 204(e).

3 “(B) CONTENTS.—A plan described in
4 subparagraph (A) shall address—

5 “(i) the priorities for technical assist-
6 ance established under section 207;

7 “(ii) the needs of State educational
8 agencies and local educational agencies, on
9 an ongoing basis, using available State and
10 local data, including the relevant results of
11 the regional assessments under section
12 206(e); and

13 “(iii) if available, demonstrated sup-
14 port from State educational agencies and
15 local educational agencies, such as letters
16 of support or signed memoranda of under-
17 standing.

18 “(3) NON-FEDERAL SUPPORT.—In conducting a
19 competition for grants, contracts, or cooperative
20 agreements under subsection (a), the Secretary shall
21 give priority to eligible applicants that will provide
22 a portion of non-Federal funds to maximize support
23 for activities of the comprehensive centers to be es-
24 tablished under this section.”;

(4) in subsection (d), by inserting “the number of low-performing schools in the region,” after “economically disadvantaged students,”;

(5) by striking subsection (e) and redesignating subsections (f), (g), and (h) as subsections (e), (f), and (g), respectively;

(6) in subsection (e), as so redesignated—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “support dissemination and technical assistance activities by” and inserting “support State educational agencies and local educational agencies, including by”;

(ii) in subparagraph (A)(i), by inserting “and other Federal education laws” before the semicolon;

(iii) in subparagraph (A)(ii)—

(I) in the matter preceding subclause (I), by striking “and assessment tools” and inserting “, assessment tools, and other educational strategies”;

(II) in subclause (I), by striking “mathematics, science,” and inserting “mathematics and science, which may

1 include computer science or engineer-
 2 ing.”; and

3 (III) in subclause (III), by insert-
 4 ing “, including innovative tools and
 5 methods” before the semicolon;

6 (iv) by striking subparagraph (A)(iii)
 7 and inserting the following:

8 “(iii) the replication and adaptation of
 9 exemplary practices and innovative meth-
 10 ods that have an evidence base of effective-
 11 ness; and”;

12 (v) in subparagraph (B)—

13 (I) by inserting “, consistent with
 14 section 114(j),” after “dissemi-
 15 nating”; and

16 (II) by striking “(as described”
 17 and all that follows through “is lo-
 18 cated”; and

19 (vi) by amending subparagraph (C) to
 20 read as follows:

21 “(C) ensuring activities carried out under
 22 this section are relevant and responsive to the
 23 needs of the region being served, including by
 24 using the relevant results of the regional assess-
 25 ments under section 206(e).”; and

1 ~~(B)~~ in paragraph (2)—

2 (i) by inserting “, on an ongoing
3 basis,” after “this section shall”; and

4 (ii) by inserting “or other regional
5 educational laboratories or comprehensive
6 centers, as appropriate,” after “center is
7 located,”; and

8 ~~(7)~~ by amending subsections ~~(f)~~ and ~~(g)~~, as
9 each so redesignated, to read as follows:

10 “~~(f)~~ COMPREHENSIVE CENTER ADVISORY BOARD.—

11 A comprehensive center established under this section may
12 establish an advisory board to support and monitor the
13 priorities and activities of such center. An advisory board
14 established under this subsection shall coordinate and
15 align its work with the work of the regional advisory com-
16 mittee of the region served by such center established
17 under section 206.

18 “~~(g)~~ REPORT TO THE SECRETARY.—Each com-
19 prehensive center established under this section shall sub-
20 mit to the Secretary an annual report, at such time, in
21 such manner, and containing such information as the Sec-
22 retary may require, which shall include the following:

23 “(1) A summary of the center’s activities and
24 products developed during the previous year.

1 “(2) A listing of the State educational agencies;
2 local educational agencies; and schools the center as-
3 sisted during the previous year.

4 “(3) Using the measurable performance indica-
5 tors established under subsection (b)(3), a descrip-
6 tion of how well the center is meeting educational
7 needs of the region served by the center.

8 “(4) Any changes to the center’s plan under
9 subsection (c)(2) to improve its activities in the re-
10 maining years of the grant, contract, or cooperative
11 agreement.”.

12 **SEC. 204. EVALUATIONS.**

13 Section 204 (20 U.S.C. 9603) is amended to read as
14 follows:

15 **“SEC. 204. EVALUATIONS.**

16 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

17 “(1) provide for ongoing summative and interim
18 evaluations described in subsections (b) and (c), re-
19 spectively, of each of the comprehensive centers es-
20 tablished under this title in carrying out the full
21 range of duties of the center under this title; and

22 “(2) transmit the results of such evaluations;
23 through appropriate means, to the appropriate con-
24 gressional committees, the Director of the Institute
25 of Education Sciences, and the public.

1 “(b) ~~SUMMATIVE EVALUATION.~~—The Secretary shall
 2 ensure each comprehensive center established under this
 3 title is evaluated by an independent entity at the end of
 4 the period of the grant, contract, or cooperative agreement
 5 that established such center, which shall—

6 “(1) be completed in a timely fashion;

7 “(2) assess how well the center is meeting the
 8 measurable performance indicators established under
 9 section 203(b)(3); and

10 “(3) consider the extent to which the center en-
 11 sures that the technical assistance of such center is
 12 relevant and useful to the work of State and local
 13 practitioners and policymakers.

14 “(c) ~~INTERIM EVALUATION.~~—The Secretary shall en-
 15 sure that each comprehensive center established under this
 16 title is evaluated at the midpoint of the period of the
 17 grant, contract, or cooperative agreement that established
 18 such center, which shall—

19 “(1) assess how well such center is meeting the
 20 measurable performance indicators established under
 21 section 203(b)(3); and

22 “(2) be used to improve the effectiveness of
 23 such center in carrying out its plan under section
 24 203(c)(2).”.

1 **SEC. 205. EXISTING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDERS.**

2 (a) ~~REPEAL.~~—Section 205 (20 U.S.C. 9604) is re-
3 pealed.

4 (b) ~~CONFORMING AMENDMENT.~~—The table of con-
5 tents in section 1 of the Act of November 5, 2002 (Public
6 Law 107–279, 116 Stat. 1940) is amended by striking
7 the item relating to section 205.

8 **SEC. 206. REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES.**

9 Section 206 (20 U.S.C. 9605) is amended—

10 (1) in subsection (a)—

11 (A) by striking “Beginning in 2004, the”
12 and inserting “The”; and

13 (B) by striking “of the Education Sciences
14 Reform Act of 2002”;

15 (2) by striking subsection (c) and redesignating
16 subsections (b) and (d) as subsections (d) and (e),
17 respectively;

18 (3) by inserting the following after subsection
19 (a):

20 “(b) ~~MISSION.~~—The mission of each regional advi-
21 sory committee established under subsection (a) shall be
22 to—

23 “(1) support, strengthen, and, as appropriate,
24 align the work of the regional educational labora-
25 tories established under section 174 and the com-
26 prehensive centers established under this title; and

1 ~~“(2) ensure that the regional educational lab-~~
 2 ~~oratories and comprehensive centers are meeting the~~
 3 ~~needs of their regions.~~

4 ~~“(c) DUTIES.—Each advisory committee established~~
 5 ~~under subsection (a) shall—~~

6 ~~“(1) conduct, on at least a biennial basis, a~~
 7 ~~needs assessments of the region served by the com-~~
 8 ~~mittee, as described in subsection (c);~~

9 ~~“(2) to ensure the activities of the regional edu-~~
 10 ~~cational laboratory and comprehensive centers serv-~~
 11 ~~ing the region of the committee are responsive to the~~
 12 ~~needs of such region; provide ongoing input to the~~
 13 ~~laboratory and centers on planning and carrying out~~
 14 ~~their activities under section 174 and this title, re-~~
 15 ~~spectively;~~

16 ~~“(3) maintain a high standard of quality in the~~
 17 ~~performance of the activities of the laboratory and~~
 18 ~~centers, respectively; and~~

19 ~~“(4) support the continuous improvement of the~~
 20 ~~laboratory and centers in the region served by the~~
 21 ~~committee, especially in meeting the measurable per-~~
 22 ~~formance indicators established under sections~~
 23 ~~174(c)(4) and 203(b)(3), respectively.”;~~

24 ~~(4) by amending subsection (d), as so redesign-~~
 25 ~~ated, to read as follows:~~

1 ~~“(d) MEMBERSHIP.—~~

2 ~~“(1) COMPOSITION.—The membership of each~~
3 ~~regional advisory committee shall—~~

4 ~~“(A) not exceed 25 members;~~

5 ~~“(B) include the chief State school officer,~~
6 ~~or such officer’s designee, or other State offi-~~
7 ~~cial, of States within the region of the com-~~
8 ~~mittee who have primary responsibility under~~
9 ~~State law for elementary and secondary edu-~~
10 ~~cation in the State;~~

11 ~~“(C) include representatives of local edu-~~
12 ~~cational agencies, including rural and urban~~
13 ~~local educational agencies, that represent the~~
14 ~~geographic diversity of the region; and~~

15 ~~“(D) include researchers.~~

16 ~~“(2) ELIGIBILITY.—The membership of each~~
17 ~~regional advisory committee may include the fol-~~
18 ~~lowing:~~

19 ~~“(A) Representatives of institutions of~~
20 ~~higher education.~~

21 ~~“(B) Parents.~~

22 ~~“(C) Practicing educators, including class-~~
23 ~~room teachers, school leaders, administrators,~~
24 ~~school board members, and other local school~~
25 ~~officials.~~

1 ~~“(D) Representatives of business.~~

2 ~~“(E) Policymakers.~~

3 ~~“(F) Representatives from the regional~~
 4 ~~educational laboratory and comprehensive cen-~~
 5 ~~ters in the region.~~

6 ~~“(3) RECOMMENDATIONS.—In choosing individ-~~
 7 ~~uals for membership on a regional advisory com-~~
 8 ~~mittee, the Secretary shall consult with, and solicit~~
 9 ~~recommendations from, the chief executive officers of~~
 10 ~~States, chief State school officers, local educational~~
 11 ~~agencies, and other education stakeholders within~~
 12 ~~the applicable region.~~

13 ~~“(4) SPECIAL RULE.—The total number of~~
 14 ~~members on each committee who are selected under~~
 15 ~~subparagraphs (B) and (C) of paragraph (1), in the~~
 16 ~~aggregate, shall exceed the total number of members~~
 17 ~~who are selected under paragraph (2), collectively.”;~~

18 ~~(5) in subsection (e), as so redesignated—~~

19 ~~(A) in paragraph (1)—~~

20 ~~(i) by inserting “, at least on a bien-~~
 21 ~~ennial basis,” after “assess”; and~~

22 ~~(ii) by inserting “, strengths, and~~
 23 ~~weaknesses” after “educational needs”;~~

24 ~~(B) in paragraph (2)—~~

1 (i) by striking “State school officers,”
 2 and all that follows through “within the re-
 3 gion)” and inserting “State school officers,
 4 local educational agencies, representatives
 5 of public charter schools, educators, par-
 6 ents, and others within the region”;

7 (ii) by striking “of the Education
 8 Sciences Reform Act of 2002 and section
 9 203 of this title” and inserting “and sec-
 10 tion 203”; and

11 (iii) by striking “and” at the end;

12 (C) by redesignating paragraph (3) as
 13 paragraph (4);

14 (D) by inserting after paragraph (2) the
 15 following new paragraph:

16 “(3) use available State and local data, con-
 17 sistent with privacy protections under section 183,
 18 to determine regional educational needs; and”.

19 **SEC. 207. PRIORITIES.**

20 Section 207 (20 U.S.C. 9606) is amended—

21 (1) by inserting “Director and” before “Sec-
 22 retary shall establish”;

23 (2) by striking “of the Education Sciences Re-
 24 form Act of 2002”;

25 (3) by striking “of this title”;

1 (4) by striking “to address, taking onto ac-
 2 count” and inserting “, respectively, using the re-
 3 sults of”; and

4 (5) by striking “relevant regional” and all that
 5 follows through “Secretary deems appropriate” and
 6 inserting “relevant regional and national surveys of
 7 educational needs”.

8 **SEC. 208. GRANT PROGRAM FOR STATEWIDE LONGITU-**
 9 **DINAL DATA SYSTEMS.**

10 Section 208 (20 U.S.C. 9607) is amended—

11 (1) in subsection (a)—

12 (A) by inserting before the period at the
 13 end the following: “, the Higher Education Act
 14 of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.), and the Indi-
 15 viduals with Disabilities Education Act (20
 16 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.)”; and

17 (B) by adding at the end the following:
 18 “State educational agencies receiving a grant
 19 under this section may provide subgrants to
 20 local educational agencies to improve the capac-
 21 ity of local educational agencies to carry out the
 22 activities authorized under this section.”;

23 (2) by redesignating subsections (e), (d), and
 24 (e) as subsections (d), (e), and (g), respectively;

1 ~~(3)~~ by inserting after subsection (b), the fol-
 2 lowing:

3 ~~“(c) PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT.—~~Before award-
 4 ing a grant under this section, the Secretary shall estab-
 5 lish measurable performance indicators—

6 ~~“(1)~~ to be used to assess the ongoing progress
 7 and performance of State educational agencies re-
 8 ceiving a grant under this section; and

9 ~~“(2)~~ that address paragraphs (1) through (3) of
 10 the performance management system described in
 11 section 185.”;

12 ~~(4)~~ in subsection (d), as so redesignated—

13 ~~(A)~~ in paragraph (1), by striking “, pro-
 14 motes linkages across States,”;

15 ~~(B)~~ in paragraph (2)—

16 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
 17 graph (A), by inserting “supports school
 18 improvement and” after “data that”;

19 (ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking
 20 “and other reporting requirements and
 21 close achievement gaps; and” and inserting
 22 “, other reporting requirements, close
 23 achievement gaps, and improve teaching”;

24 (iii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
 25 “and close achievement gaps” and by in-

serting “, close achievement gaps, and improve teaching”; and

(iv) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following:

“(C) to align statewide longitudinal data systems from early education through postsecondary education (including pre-service preparation programs), and the workforce, consistent with privacy protections under section 183;”;

and

(C) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

“(3) ensures the protection of student privacy, and includes a review of how State educational agencies, local educational agencies, and others that will have access to the statewide data systems under this section will adhere to Federal privacy laws and protections, consistent with section 183, in the building, maintenance, and use of such data systems;

“(4) ensures State educational agencies receiving a grant under this section support professional development that builds the capacity of teachers and school leaders to use data effectively; and

“(5) gives priority to State educational agencies that leverage the use of longitudinal data systems to

1 improve student achievement and growth, including
 2 such State educational agencies that—

3 “(A) meet the voluntary standards and
 4 guidelines described in section 153(a)(5);

5 “(B) define the roles of State educational
 6 agencies, local educational agencies, and others
 7 in providing timely access to data under the
 8 statewide data systems, consistent with privacy
 9 protections in section 183; and

10 “(C) demonstrate the capacity to share
 11 teacher and school leader performance data, in-
 12 cluding student achievement and growth data,
 13 with local educational agencies and teacher and
 14 school leader preparation programs.”;

15 (5) by inserting after subsection (c), as so re-
 16 designated, the following:

17 “(f) RENEWAL OF AWARDS.—The Secretary may
 18 renew a grant awarded to a State educational agency
 19 under this section for a period not to exceed 3 years, if
 20 the State educational agency has demonstrated progress
 21 on the measurable performance indicators established
 22 under subsection (c).”; and

23 (6) by amending subsection (g), as so redesign-
 24 nated, to read as follows:

25 “(g) REPORTS.—

1 “(1) FIRST REPORT.—Not later than 1 year
 2 after the date of enactment of the Strengthening
 3 Education through Research Act, the Secretary shall
 4 prepare and make publicly available a report on the
 5 implementation and effectiveness of the activities
 6 carried out by State educational agencies receiving a
 7 grant under this section, including—

8 “(A) information on progress in the devel-
 9 opment and use of statewide longitudinal data
 10 systems described in this section;

11 “(B) information on best practices and
 12 areas for improvement in such development and
 13 use; and

14 “(C) how the State educational agencies
 15 are adhering to Federal privacy laws and pro-
 16 tections in the building, maintenance, and use
 17 of such data systems.

18 “(2) SUCCEEDING REPORTS.—Every succeeding
 19 3 years after the report is made publicly available
 20 under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall prepare
 21 and make publicly available a report on the imple-
 22 mentation and effectiveness of the activities carried
 23 out by State educational agencies receiving a grant
 24 under this section, including—

1 “(A) information on the requirements of
 2 subparagraphs (A) through (C) of paragraph
 3 (1); and

4 “(B) the progress, in the aggregate, State
 5 educational agencies are making on the measur-
 6 able performance indicators established under
 7 subsection (c).”.

8 **SEC. 209. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

9 Section 209 (20 U.S.C. 9608) is amended to read as
 10 follows:

11 **“SEC. 209. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

12 “There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
 13 this title—

14 “(1) for fiscal year 2015, \$82,984,000;

15 “(2) for fiscal year 2016, \$83,149,968;

16 “(3) for fiscal year 2017, \$84,979,268;

17 “(4) for fiscal year 2018, \$87,018,769;

18 “(5) for fiscal year 2019, \$89,368,277; and

19 “(6) for fiscal year 2020, \$90,708,801.”.

20 **TITLE III—NATIONAL ASSESS-**
 21 **MENT OF EDUCATIONAL**
 22 **PROGRESS**

23 **SEC. 301. REFERENCES.**

24 Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in
 25 this title an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms

1 of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provi-
 2 sion, the reference shall be considered to be made to a
 3 section or other provision of the National Assessment of
 4 Educational Progress Authorization Act (20 U.S.C. 9621
 5 et seq.).

6 **SEC. 302. NATIONAL ASSESSMENT GOVERNING BOARD.**

7 Section 302 (20 U.S.C. 9621) is amended—

8 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “shall formu-
 9 late policy guidelines” and inserting “shall oversee
 10 and set policies, in a manner consistent with sub-
 11 section (e) and accepted professional standards,”;

12 (2) in subsection (b)(1)(L)—

13 (A) by striking “principals” and inserting
 14 “leaders”; and

15 (B) by striking “principal” both places it
 16 appears and inserting “leader”;

17 (3) in subsection (c), by striking paragraph (4);

18 (4) in subsection (d)—

19 (A) in paragraph (1)—

20 (i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting
 21 “the Assessment Board after consultation
 22 with” before “organizations”; and

23 (ii) in subparagraph (B)—

24 (I) by striking “Each organiza-
 25 tion submitting nominations to the

1 Secretary with” and inserting “With”;
2 and

3 (H) by inserting “, the Assess-
4 ment Board” after “particular va-
5 cancy”; and

6 (B) in paragraph (2)—

7 (i) by striking “that each organization
8 described in paragraph (1)(A) submit addi-
9 tional nominations” and inserting “addi-
10 tional nominations from the Assessment
11 Board or each organization described in
12 paragraph (1)(A)”;

13 (ii) by striking “such organization”
14 and inserting “the Assessment Board”;
15 and

16 (5) in subsection (c)(1)—

17 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

18 (i) by inserting “in consultation with
19 the Commissioner for Education Statis-
20 tics,” before “select”;

21 (ii) by inserting “and grades or ages”
22 before “to be”; and

23 (iii) by inserting “, and determine the
24 year in which such assessments will be
25 conducted” after “assessed”;

1 (B) in subparagraph (D), by inserting
2 “school leaders,” after “teachers,”;

3 (C) in subparagraph (E), by striking “de-
4 sign” and inserting “provide input on”;

5 (D) by striking “and” at the end of sub-
6 paragraph (I);

7 (E) by redesignating subparagraph (J) as
8 subparagraph (K);

9 (F) by inserting after subparagraph (I),
10 the following:

11 “(J) provide input to the Director on an-
12 nual budget requests for the National Assess-
13 ment of Educational Progress; and”;

14 (G) in subparagraph (K), as so redesign-
15 ated—

16 (i) by striking “plan and execute the
17 initial public release of”; and

18 (ii) by inserting “release the initial”
19 before “National”; and

20 (H) in the matter following subparagraph
21 (K), as so amended and redesignated, by strik-
22 ing “subparagraph (J)” and inserting “sub-
23 paragraph (K)”.

1 **SEC. 303. NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL**
2 **PROGRESS.**

3 Section 303 (20 U.S.C. 9622) is amended—

4 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “with the ad-
5 vice of the Assessment Board established under sec-
6 tion 302” and inserting “in a manner consistent
7 with accepted professional standards and the policies
8 set forth by the Assessment Board under section
9 302(a)”;

10 (2) in subsection (b)(2)—

11 (A) in subparagraph (D), by inserting
12 “and consistent with section 302(e)(1)(A)”
13 after “resources allow”;

14 (B) by striking “and” at the end of sub-
15 paragraph (G);

16 (C) by striking the period and inserting “;
17 and” at the end of subparagraph (H); and

18 (D) by adding at the end the following new
19 subparagraph:

20 “(I) determine, after taking into account
21 section 302(e)(1)(I), the content of initial and
22 subsequent reports of all assessments author-
23 ized under this section and ensure that such re-
24 ports are valid and reliable.”;

25 (3) in subsection (c)(2)—

1 (A) in subparagraph (B), by striking “of
2 Education” after “Secretary”; and

3 (B) in subparagraph (D)—

4 (i) by striking “Chairman of the
5 House” before “Committee on Education”;

6 (ii) by inserting “of the House of Rep-
7 resentatives” after “Workforce”;

8 (iii) by striking “Chairman of the
9 Senate” before “Committee on Health”;
10 and

11 (iv) by inserting “of the Senate” after
12 “Pensions”;

13 (4) in subsection (d)(1), by inserting before the
14 period, the following: “, except as required under
15 section 1112(b)(1)(F) of the Elementary and Sec-
16 ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
17 6312(b)(1)(F))”;

18 (5) in subsection (e)—

19 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “or age”;
20 and

21 (B) in paragraph (2)—

22 (i) in subparagraph (A)—

23 (I) by striking “shall” and all
24 that follows through “be” and insert
25 “shall be”;

1 (HI) by redesignating subclauses
 2 (I) and (II) as clauses (i) and (ii), re-
 3 spectively (and by moving the margins
 4 2 ems to the left); and

5 (III) in clause (ii) (as so redesign-
 6 ated), by striking “, or the age of
 7 the students, as the case may be”;
 8 (ii) in subparagraph (B)—

9 (I) by striking “After the deter-
 10 minations described in subparagraph
 11 (A), devising” and inserting “The As-
 12 sessment Board shall, in making the
 13 determination described in subpara-
 14 graph (A), use”; and

15 (II) by inserting after “ap-
 16 proach” the following: “, providing for
 17 the active participation of teachers,
 18 school leaders, curriculum specialists,
 19 local school administrators, parents,
 20 and concerned members of the general
 21 public”; and

22 (iii) in subparagraph (D), by inserting
 23 “Assessment” before “Board”; and

24 (6) in subsection (g)(2)—

1 (A) in the heading, by striking “AFFAIRS”
 2 and inserting “EDUCATION”; and
 3 (B) by striking “Affairs” and inserting
 4 “Education”.

5 **SEC. 304. DEFINITIONS.**

6 Section 304 (20 U.S.C. 9623) is amended—

7 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “(1)” and in-
 8 serting “(1) DIRECTOR.—”;
 9 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “(2)” and in-
 10 serting “(2) STATE.—”; and
 11 (3) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) (as
 12 so amended) as paragraphs (2) and (5), respectively;
 13 (4) by inserting before paragraph (2) (as so re-
 14 designated) the following new paragraph:
 15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The terms ‘elementary
 16 school’, ‘local educational agency’, and ‘secondary
 17 school’ have the meanings given those terms in sec-
 18 tion 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
 19 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).”; and
 20 (5) by inserting after paragraph (2) (as so re-
 21 designated), the following new paragraphs:
 22 “(3) SCHOOL LEADER.—The term ‘school lead-
 23 er’ has the meaning given the term in section 102.
 24 “(4) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means
 25 the Secretary of Education.”.

1 **SEC. 305. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 Section 305(a) (20 U.S.C. 9624(a)) is amended to
3 read as follows:

4 “(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be ap-
5 propriated—

6 “(1) for fiscal year 2015—

7 “(A) \$8,235,000 to carry out section 302
8 (relating to the National Assessment Governing
9 Board); and

10 “(B) \$132,000,000 to carry out section
11 303 (relating to the National Assessment of
12 Educational Progress);

13 “(2) for fiscal year 2016—

14 “(A) \$8,251,470 to carry out section 302
15 (relating to the National Assessment Governing
16 Board); and

17 “(B) \$132,264,000 to carry out section
18 303 (relating to the National Assessment of
19 Educational Progress);

20 “(3) for fiscal year 2017—

21 “(A) \$8,433,002 to carry out section 302
22 (relating to the National Assessment Governing
23 Board); and

24 “(B) \$135,173,808 to carry out section
25 303 (relating to the National Assessment of
26 Educational Progress);

1 “(4) for fiscal year 2018—

2 “(A) ~~\$8,635,395~~ to carry out section 302
3 (relating to the National Assessment Governing
4 Board); and

5 “(B) ~~\$138,417,979~~ to carry out section
6 303 (relating to the National Assessment of
7 Educational Progress);

8 “(5) for fiscal year 2019—

9 “(A) ~~\$8,868,550~~ to carry out section 302
10 (relating to the National Assessment Governing
11 Board); and

12 “(B) ~~\$142,155,266~~ to carry out section
13 303 (relating to the National Assessment of
14 Educational Progress); and

15 “(6) for fiscal year 2020—

16 “(A) ~~\$9,001,578~~ to carry out section 302
17 (relating to the National Assessment Governing
18 Board); and

19 “(B) ~~\$144,287,595~~ to carry out section
20 303 (relating to the National Assessment of
21 Educational Progress).”.

22 **TITLE IV—EVALUATION PLAN**

23 **SEC. 401. RESEARCH AND EVALUATION.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Institute of Education
25 Sciences shall be the primary entity for conducting re-

1 search on and evaluations of Federal education programs
 2 within the Department of Education to ensure the rigor
 3 and independence of such research and evaluation.

4 (b) FLEXIBLE AUTHORITY.—

5 (1) RESERVATION.—Notwithstanding any other
 6 provision of law in the Elementary and Secondary
 7 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. et seq. 6301 et
 8 seq.) related to evaluation, the Secretary of Edu-
 9 cation, in consultation with the Director of the Insti-
 10 tute of Education Sciences—

11 (A) may, for purposes of carrying out the
 12 activities described in paragraph (2)(B)—

13 (i) reserve not more than 0.5 percent
 14 of the total amount of funds appropriated
 15 for each program authorized under the El-
 16 ementary and Secondary Education Act of
 17 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.); other than
 18 part A of title I of such Act (20 U.S.C.
 19 6311 et seq.) and section 1501 of such Act
 20 (20 U.S.C. 6491); and

21 (ii) reserve, in the manner described
 22 in subparagraph (B), an amount equal to
 23 not more than 0.1 percent of the total
 24 amount of funds appropriated for—

1 (I) part A of title I of the Ele-
2 mentary and Secondary Education
3 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311 et seq.);
4 and

5 (II) section 1501 of such Act (20
6 U.S.C. 6491); and

7 (B) in reserving the amount described in
8 subparagraph (A)(ii)—

9 (i) shall reserve up to the total
10 amount of funds appropriated for section
11 1501 of the Elementary and Secondary
12 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6491);
13 and

14 (ii) may, in a case in which the total
15 amount of funds appropriated for such sec-
16 tion 1501 (20 U.S.C. 6491) is less than
17 the amount described in subparagraph
18 (A)(ii), reserve the amount of funds appro-
19 priated for part A of title I of the Elemen-
20 tary and Secondary Education Act of 1965
21 (20 U.S.C. 6311 et seq.) that is needed for
22 the sum of the total amount of funds ap-
23 propriated for such section 1501 (20
24 U.S.C. 6491) and such amount of funds
25 appropriated for such part A of title I (20

1 U.S.C. 6311 et seq.) to equal the amount
2 described in subparagraph (A)(ii).

3 ~~(2) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—If funds are re-~~
4 ~~served under paragraph (1)—~~

5 (A) neither the Secretary of Education nor
6 the Director of the Institute of Education
7 Sciences shall—

8 (i) carry out evaluations under section
9 1501 of the Elementary and Secondary
10 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6491);
11 or

12 (ii) reserve funds for evaluation activi-
13 ties under section 3111(c)(1)(C) of such
14 Act (20 U.S.C. 6821); and

15 (B) the Secretary of Education, in con-
16 sultation with the Director of the Institute of
17 Education Sciences—

18 (i) shall use the funds reserved under
19 paragraph (1) to carry out high-quality
20 evaluations (consistent with the require-
21 ments of section 173(a) of the Education
22 Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (20 U.S.C.
23 9563(a)), as amended by this Act, and the
24 evaluation plan described in subsection (e)
25 of this section) of programs authorized

1 under the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
2 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et
3 seq.); and

4 (ii) may use the funds reserved under
5 paragraph (1) to—

6 (I) increase the usefulness of the
7 evaluations conducted under clause (i)
8 to promote continuous improvement of
9 programs under the Elementary and
10 Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
11 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.); or

12 (II) assist grantees of such pro-
13 grams in collecting and analyzing data
14 and other activities related to con-
15 ducting high-quality evaluations under
16 clause (i).

17 (3) DISSEMINATION.—The Secretary of Edu-
18 cation or the Director of the Institute of Education
19 Sciences shall disseminate evaluation findings, con-
20 sistent with section 114(j) of the Education Sciences
21 Reform Act of 2002 (20 U.S.C. 9514(j)), as amend-
22 ed by this Act, of evaluations carried out under
23 paragraph (2)(B)(i).

1 (4) ~~CONSOLIDATION.~~—The Secretary of Edu-
 2 cation, in consultation with the Director of the Insti-
 3 tute of Education Sciences—

4 (A) may consolidate the funds reserved
 5 under paragraph (1) for purposes of carrying
 6 out the activities under paragraph (2)(B); and

7 (B) shall not be required to evaluate under
 8 paragraph (2)(B)(i) each program authorized
 9 under the Elementary and Secondary Education
 10 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) each year.

11 (c) ~~EVALUATION PLAN.~~—The Director of the Insti-
 12 tute of Education Sciences, in consultation with the Sec-
 13 retary of Education, shall, on a biennial basis, develop,
 14 submit to Congress, and make publicly available an eval-
 15 uation plan, that—

16 (1) describes the specific activities that will be
 17 carried out under subsection (b)(2)(B) for the 2-year
 18 period applicable to the plan, and the timelines of
 19 such activities;

20 (2) contains the results of the activities carried
 21 out under subsection (b)(2)(B) for the most recent
 22 2-year period; and

23 (3) describes how programs authorized under
 24 the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of

1 ~~1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.)~~ will be regularly eval-
 2 uated.

3 ~~(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-~~
 4 tion shall be construed to affect section 173(b) of the Edu-
 5 cation Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (20 U.S.C. 9563(b)),
 6 as amended by this Act.

7 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

8 *This Act may be cited as the “Strengthening Edu-*
 9 *cation through Research Act”.*

10 **SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

11 *The table of contents for this Act is as follows:*

Sec. 1. Short title.
Sec. 2. Table of contents.
Sec. 3. Nonduplication.

TITLE I—EDUCATION SCIENCES REFORM

Sec. 101. References.
Sec. 102. Definitions.

PART A—THE INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION SCIENCES

Sec. 111. Establishment.
Sec. 112. Functions.
Sec. 113. Delegation.
Sec. 114. Office of the Director.
Sec. 115. Priorities.
Sec. 116. National Board for Education Sciences.
Sec. 117. Commissioners of the National Education Centers.
Sec. 118. Transparency.
Sec. 119. Competitive awards.

PART B—NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION RESEARCH

Sec. 131. Establishment.
Sec. 132. Duties.
Sec. 133. Standards for conduct and evaluation of research.

PART C—NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS

Sec. 151. Establishment.
Sec. 152. Duties.
Sec. 153. Performance of duties.
Sec. 154. Reports.

- Sec. 155. Dissemination.*
Sec. 156. Cooperative education statistics systems.

PART D—NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION EVALUATION AND REGIONAL ASSISTANCE

- Sec. 171. Establishment.*
Sec. 172. Commissioner for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance.
Sec. 173. Evaluations.
Sec. 174. Regional educational laboratories for research, development, dissemination, and evaluation.

PART E—NATIONAL CENTER FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION RESEARCH

- Sec. 175. Establishment.*
Sec. 176. Commissioner for Special Education Research.
Sec. 177. Duties.

PART F—GENERAL PROVISIONS

- Sec. 181. Prohibitions.*
Sec. 182. Confidentiality.
Sec. 183. Availability of data.
Sec. 184. Performance management.
Sec. 185. Authority to publish.
Sec. 186. Repeals.
Sec. 187. Fellowships.
Sec. 188. Authorization of appropriations.

PART G—TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS

- Sec. 191. Technical and conforming amendments to other laws.*

TITLE II—EDUCATIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- Sec. 201. References.*
Sec. 202. Definitions.
Sec. 203. Comprehensive centers.
Sec. 204. Evaluations.
Sec. 205. Existing technical assistance providers.
Sec. 206. Regional advisory committees.
Sec. 207. Priorities.
Sec. 208. Grant program for statewide, longitudinal data systems.
Sec. 209. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE III—NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS

- Sec. 301. References.*
Sec. 302. National Assessment Governing Board.
Sec. 303. National Assessment of Educational Progress.
Sec. 304. Definitions.
Sec. 305. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE IV—EVALUATION PLAN

- Sec. 401. Research and evaluation.*

1 **SEC. 3. NONDUPLICATION.**

2 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Act of November 5, 2002 (Public Law 107–279; 116 Stat. 1940) is amended by inserting*
 3 *after section 1 the following:*

4 **“SEC. 2. NONDUPLICATION.**

5 *“In collecting information and data under this Act,*
 6 *including requiring the reporting of information and data,*
 7 *the Secretary of Education shall, to the extent appropriate,*
 8 *not duplicate other requirements and shall use information*
 9 *and data that are available from existing Federal, State,*
 10 *and local sources, in order to reduce burden and cost to*
 11 *the Department of Education, States, local educational*
 12 *agencies (as defined in section 9101 of the Elementary and*
 13 *Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801)), and*
 14 *other entities.”.*

15 (b) *CONFORMING AMENDMENT.*—*The table of contents*
 16 *in section 1 of the Act of November 5, 2002 (Public Law*
 17 *107–279; 116 Stat. 1940) is amended by inserting after the*
 18 *item relating to section 1 the following:*

19 *“Sec. 2. Nonduplication.”.*

20 **TITLE I—EDUCATION SCIENCES**
 21 **REFORM**

22 **SEC. 101. REFERENCES.**

23 *Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in*
 24 *this title an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of*
 25 *an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision,*

1 *the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or*
 2 *other provision of the Education Sciences Reform Act of*
 3 *2002 (20 U.S.C. 9501 et seq.).*

4 **SEC. 102. DEFINITIONS.**

5 *Section 102 (20 U.S.C. 9501) is amended—*

6 *(1) by striking paragraphs (13) and (18);*

7 *(2) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through*
 8 *(11), (12), (14), (15), (16), (17), and (19) through*
 9 *(23), as paragraphs (3) through (12), (14), (15), (16),*
 10 *(18), (20), and (22) through (26), respectively;*

11 *(3) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-*
 12 *lowing:*

13 *“(2) ADULT EDUCATION; ADULT EDUCATION AND*
 14 *LITERACY ACTIVITIES.—The terms ‘adult education’*
 15 *and ‘adult education and literacy activities’ have the*
 16 *meanings given the terms in section 203 of the Adult*
 17 *Education and Family Literacy Act (20 U.S.C.*
 18 *9202).”;*

19 *(4) in paragraph (6), as redesignated by para-*
 20 *graph (2), by striking “Affairs” and inserting “Edu-*
 21 *cation”;*

22 *(5) in paragraph (11), as redesignated by para-*
 23 *graph (2)—*

24 *(A) by inserting “or other information, in*
 25 *a timely manner and” after “evaluations,”; and*

1 (B) by inserting “school leaders,” after
2 “teachers,”;

3 (6) by inserting after paragraph (12), as redesign-
4 ated by paragraph (2), the following:

5 “(13) *ENGLISH LEARNER*.—The term ‘English
6 learner’ means an individual who is limited English
7 proficient, as defined in section 9101 of the *Elemen-*
8 *tary and Secondary Education Act of 1965* (20
9 *U.S.C. 7801*) or section 637 of the *Head Start Act* (42
10 *U.S.C. 9832*).”;

11 (7) in paragraph (14), as redesignated by para-
12 graph (2), by inserting “, school leaders,” after
13 “teachers”;

14 (8) by inserting after paragraph (16), as redesign-
15 ated by paragraph (2), the following:

16 “(17) *MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTION*.—The
17 term ‘minority-serving institution’ means an institu-
18 tion of higher education described in section 371(a) of
19 the *Higher Education Act of 1965* (20 *U.S.C.*
20 *1067q(a)*).”;

21 (9) in paragraph (18), as redesignated by para-
22 graph (2), by striking “section 133(c)” and inserting
23 “section 133(d)”;

24 (10) by inserting after paragraph (18), as redesi-
25 gnated by paragraph (2), the following:

1 “(19) *PRINCIPLES OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH.*—

2 *The term ‘principles of scientific research’ means*
3 *principles of research that—*

4 “(A) *apply rigorous, systematic, and objec-*
5 *tive methodology to obtain reliable and valid*
6 *knowledge relevant to education activities and*
7 *programs;*

8 “(B) *present findings and make claims that*
9 *are appropriate to, and supported by, the meth-*
10 *ods that have been employed; and*

11 “(C) *include, appropriate to the research*
12 *being conducted—*

13 “(i) *use of systematic, empirical meth-*
14 *ods that draw on observation or experiment;*

15 “(ii) *use of data analyses that are ade-*
16 *quate to support the general findings;*

17 “(iii) *reliance on measurements or ob-*
18 *servational methods that provide reliable*
19 *and generalizable findings;*

20 “(iv) *strong claims of causal relation-*
21 *ships, only with research designs that elimi-*
22 *nate plausible competing explanations for*
23 *observed results, such as, but not limited to,*
24 *random-assignment experiments;*

1 “(v) presentation of studies and meth-
 2 ods in sufficient detail and clarity to allow
 3 for replication or, at a minimum, to offer
 4 the opportunity to build systematically on
 5 the findings of the research;

6 “(vi) acceptance by a peer-reviewed
 7 journal or critique by a panel of inde-
 8 pendent experts through a comparably rig-
 9 orous, objective, and scientific review; and

10 “(vii) consistency of findings across
 11 multiple studies or sites to support the gen-
 12 erality of results and conclusions.”;

13 (11) by inserting after paragraph (20), as redes-
 14 ignated by paragraph (2), the following:

15 “(21) SCHOOL LEADER.—The term ‘school lead-
 16 er’ means a principal, assistant principal, or other
 17 individual who is—

18 “(A) an employee or officer of—

19 “(i) an elementary school or secondary
 20 school;

21 “(ii) a local educational agency serv-
 22 ing an elementary school or secondary
 23 school; or

24 “(iii) another entity operating the ele-
 25 mentary school or secondary school; and

1 “(B) responsible for the daily instructional
 2 leadership and managerial operations of the ele-
 3 mentary school or secondary school.”; and
 4 (12) in paragraph (23), as redesignated by para-
 5 graph (2), by striking “scientifically based research
 6 standards” and inserting “the principles of scientific
 7 research”.

8 **PART A—THE INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION**
 9 **SCIENCES**

10 **SEC. 111. ESTABLISHMENT.**

11 Section 111(b) (20 U.S.C. 9511(b)) is amended—

12 (1) in paragraph (1), in the matter preceding
 13 subparagraph (A), by inserting “including adult edu-
 14 cation,” after “postsecondary study,”; and

15 (2) in paragraph (2)—

16 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph
 17 (A)—

18 (i) by striking “and wide dissemina-
 19 tion activities” and inserting “and, con-
 20 sistent with section 114(j), wide dissemina-
 21 tion and utilization activities”; and

22 (ii) by striking “(including in tech-
 23 nology areas)”; and

24 (B) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “dis-
 25 ability,” after “gender,”.

1 **SEC. 112. FUNCTIONS.**

2 *Section 112 (20 U.S.C. 9512) is amended—*

3 *(1) in paragraph (1)—*

4 *(A) by inserting “(including evaluations of*
5 *impact and implementation)” after “education*
6 *evaluation”; and*

7 *(B) by inserting “and utilization” before*
8 *the semicolon; and*

9 *(2) in paragraph (2)—*

10 *(A) by inserting “, consistent with section*
11 *114(j),” after “disseminate”; and*

12 *(B) by inserting “and scientifically valid*
13 *education evaluations carried out under this*
14 *title” before the semicolon.*

15 **SEC. 113. DELEGATION.**

16 *Section 113 (20 U.S.C. 9513) is amended—*

17 *(1) in subsection (a)—*

18 *(A) by striking paragraph (1); and*

19 *(B) by redesignating paragraphs (2)*
20 *through (5) as paragraphs (1) through (4), re-*
21 *spectively;*

22 *(2) in subsection (b), by striking “Secretary may*
23 *assign the Institute responsibility for administering”*
24 *and inserting “Director may accept requests from the*
25 *Secretary for the Institute to administer”; and*

26 *(3) by adding at the end the following:*

1 “(c) *CONTRACT ACQUISITION.*—*With respect to any*
 2 *contract entered into under this title, the Director shall be*
 3 *consulted—*

4 “(1) *during the procurement process; and*

5 “(2) *in the management of such contract’s per-*
 6 *formance, which shall be consistent with the require-*
 7 *ments of the performance management system de-*
 8 *scribed in section 185.”.*

9 **SEC. 114. OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR.**

10 *Section 114 (20 U.S.C. 9514) is amended—*

11 *(1) in subsection (a), by striking “Except as pro-*
 12 *vided in subsection (b)(2), the” and inserting “The”;*

13 *(2) in subsection (b)—*

14 *(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting before*
 15 *the period the following: “, except that if a suc-*
 16 *cessor to the Director has not been appointed as*
 17 *of the date of expiration of the Director’s term,*
 18 *the Director may serve for an additional 1-year*
 19 *period, beginning on the day after the date of ex-*
 20 *piration of the Director’s term, or until a suc-*
 21 *cessor has been appointed under subsection (a),*
 22 *whichever occurs first”;*

23 *(B) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting*
 24 *the following:*

1 “(2) *REAPPOINTMENT*.—A Director may be re-
 2 appointed under subsection (a) for one additional
 3 term.”; and

4 (C) in paragraph (3)—

5 (i) in the heading, by striking “*SUBSE-*
 6 *QUENT DIRECTORS*” and inserting “*REC-*
 7 *OMMENDATIONS*”; and

8 (ii) by striking “, other than a Direc-
 9 tor appointed under paragraph (2)”;
 10 (3) in subsection (f)—

11 (A) in paragraph (3), by inserting before
 12 the period the following: “, and, as appropriate,
 13 with such research and activities carried out by
 14 public and private entities, to avoid duplicative
 15 or overlapping efforts”;

16 (B) in paragraph (4), by inserting “, and
 17 the use of evidence” after “statistics activities”;

18 (C) in paragraph (5)—

19 (i) by inserting “and maintain” after
 20 “establish”; and

21 (ii) by inserting “and subsection (h)”
 22 after “section 116(b)(3)”;

23 (D) in paragraph (7), by inserting “dis-
 24 ability,” after “gender,”;

1 (E) in paragraph (8), by striking “histori-
2 cally Black colleges or universities” and insert-
3 ing “minority-serving institutions”;

4 (F) by striking paragraph (9) and inserting
5 the following:

6 “(9) To coordinate with the Secretary to ensure
7 that the results of the Institute’s work are coordinated
8 with, and utilized by, the Department’s technical as-
9 sistance providers and dissemination networks.”;

10 (G) by striking paragraphs (10) and (11);

11 and

12 (H) by redesignating paragraph (12) as
13 paragraph (10);

14 (4) by redesignating subsection (h) as subsection
15 (i);

16 (5) by inserting after subsection (g), the fol-
17 lowing:

18 “(h) *PEER-REVIEW SYSTEM.*—The Director shall es-
19 tablish and maintain a peer-review system involving highly
20 qualified individuals, including practitioners, as appro-
21 priate, with an in-depth knowledge of the subject to be in-
22 vestigated, including, in the case of special education re-
23 search, an understanding of special education, for—

1 “(1) reviewing and evaluating each application
2 for a grant or cooperative agreement under this title
3 that exceeds \$100,000; and

4 “(2) evaluating and assessing all reports and
5 other products that exceed \$100,000 to be published
6 and publicly released by the Institute.”;

7 (6) in subsection (i), as redesignated by para-
8 graph (4)—

9 (A) by striking “the products and”; and

10 (B) by striking “certify that evidence-based
11 claims about those products and” and inserting
12 “determine whether evidence-based claims in
13 those”; and

14 (7) by adding at the end the following:

15 “(j) *RELEVANCE, DISSEMINATION, AND UTILIZA-*
16 *TION.—To ensure all activities authorized under this title*
17 *are rigorous, relevant, and useful for researchers, policy-*
18 *makers, practitioners, and the public, the Director shall—*

19 “(1) ensure such activities address significant
20 challenges faced by practitioners, and increase knowl-
21 edge in the field of education;

22 “(2) ensure that the information, products, and
23 publications of the Institute are—

24 “(A) prepared and widely disseminated—

25 “(i) in a timely fashion; and

1 “(ii) in forms that are understandable,
 2 easily accessible, and usable, or adaptable
 3 for use in, the improvement of educational
 4 practice; and

5 “(B) widely disseminated through electronic
 6 transfer, and other means, such as posting to the
 7 Institute’s website or other relevant place;

8 “(3) promote the utilization of the information,
 9 products, and publications of the Institute, including
 10 through the use of dissemination networks and tech-
 11 nical assistance providers, within the Institute and
 12 the Department; and

13 “(4) monitor and manage the performance of all
 14 activities authorized under this title in accordance
 15 with section 185.”.

16 **SEC. 115. PRIORITIES.**

17 Section 115 (20 U.S.C. 9515) is amended—

18 (1) in subsection (a)—

19 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph

20 (1)—

21 (i) by striking “(taking into consider-
 22 ation long-term research and development
 23 on core issues conducted through the na-
 24 tional research and development centers)”

1 *and inserting “at least once every 6 years”;*

2 *and*

3 *(ii) by striking “such as” and insert-*

4 *ing “including”;*

5 *(B) in paragraph (1)—*

6 *(i) by inserting “ensuring that all stu-*

7 *dents have the ability to obtain a high-qual-*

8 *ity education, particularly” before “clos-*

9 *ing”;*

10 *(ii) by striking “low-performing chil-*

11 *dren” and inserting “low-performing stu-*

12 *dents”;*

13 *(iii) by striking “especially achieve-*

14 *ment gaps between”;*

15 *(iv) by striking “nonminority chil-*

16 *dren” and inserting “nonminority students,*

17 *students with disabilities and students with-*

18 *out disabilities,”;*

19 *(v) by striking “and between disadvan-*

20 *tagged children and such children’s” and in-*

21 *serting “and disadvantaged students and*

22 *such students’”;* and

23 *(vi) by striking “and” after the semi-*

24 *colon;*

25 *(C) by striking paragraph (2); and*

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

2 “(2) improving access to and the quality of early
3 childhood education;

4 “(3) improving education in elementary schools
5 and secondary schools, particularly among low-per-
6 forming students and schools; and

7 “(4) improving access to, opportunities for, and
8 completion of postsecondary education and adult edu-
9 cation.”; and

10 (2) in subsection (d)(1), by striking “by means
11 of the Internet” and inserting “by electronic means
12 such as posting in an easily accessible manner on the
13 Institute’s website”.

14 **SEC. 116. NATIONAL BOARD FOR EDUCATION SCIENCES.**

15 Section 116 (20 U.S.C. 9516) is amended—

16 (1) in subsection (b)—

17 (A) in paragraph (2), by striking “to guide
18 the work of the Institute” and inserting “, and
19 to advise, and provide input to, the Director on
20 the activities of the Institute on an ongoing
21 basis”;

22 (B) in paragraph (3), by inserting “under
23 section 114(h)” after “procedures”;

24 (C) in paragraph (8), by inserting “dis-
25 ability,” after “gender,”;

1 (D) in paragraph (9)—

2 (i) by striking “To solicit” and insert-
 3 ing “To ensure all activities of the Institute
 4 are relevant to education policy and prac-
 5 tice by soliciting, on an ongoing basis,”;
 6 and

7 (ii) by striking “consistent with” and
 8 inserting “consistent with section 114(j)
 9 and”;

10 (E) in paragraph (11)—

11 (i) by inserting “the Institute’s” after
 12 “enhance”; and

13 (ii) by striking “among other Federal
 14 and State research agencies” and inserting
 15 “with public and private entities to im-
 16 prove the work of the Institute”; and

17 (F) by adding at the end the following:

18 “(13) To conduct the evaluations required under
 19 subsection (d).”;

20 (2) in subsection (c)—

21 (A) in paragraph (2)—

22 (i) by inserting “Board,” before “Na-
 23 tional Academy”; and

24 (ii) by striking “and the National
 25 Science Advisor” and inserting “the Na-

1 *tional Science Advisor, and other entities*
2 *and organizations that have knowledge of*
3 *individuals who are highly qualified to ap-*
4 *praise education research, statistics, evalua-*
5 *tions, or development”;*

6 *(B) in paragraph (4)—*

7 *(i) in subparagraph (A)—*

8 *(I) in clause (i), by striking “,*
9 *which may include those researchers*
10 *recommended by the National Academy*
11 *of Sciences”;*

12 *(II) by redesignating clause (ii)*
13 *as clause (iii);*

14 *(III) by inserting after clause (i),*
15 *the following:*

16 *“(ii) Not fewer than 2 practitioners*
17 *who are knowledgeable about the education*
18 *needs of the United States, who may include*
19 *school-based professional educators, teachers,*
20 *school leaders, local educational agency su-*
21 *perintendents, and members of local boards*
22 *of education or Bureau-funded school*
23 *boards.”; and*

24 *(IV) in clause (iii), as redesign-*
25 *ated by subclause (II)—*

1 (aa) by striking “school-
2 based professional educators,”;

3 (bb) by inserting “State lead-
4 ers in adult education,” after “ex-
5 ecutives,”;

6 (cc) by striking “local edu-
7 cational agency superintendents,”;

8 (dd) by striking “prin-
9 cipals,”;

10 (ee) by striking “or local”;
11 and

12 (ff) by striking “or Bureau-
13 funded school boards”; and

14 (ii) in subparagraph (B)—

15 (I) in the matter preceding clause
16 (i), by inserting “beginning on the
17 date of appointment of the member,”
18 after “4 years,”;

19 (II) by striking clause (i);

20 (III) by redesignating clause (ii)
21 as clause (i);

22 (IV) in clause (i), as redesignated
23 by subclause (III), by striking the pe-
24 riod and inserting “; and”; and

1 (V) by adding at the end the fol-
2 lowing:

3 “(ii) in a case in which a successor to
4 a member has not been appointed as of the
5 date of expiration of the member’s term, the
6 member may serve for an additional 1-year
7 period, beginning on the day after the date
8 of expiration of the member’s term, or until
9 a successor has been appointed under para-
10 graph (1), whichever occurs first.”;

11 (iii) by striking subparagraph (C);
12 and

13 (iv) by redesignating subparagraph
14 (D) as subparagraph (C); and
15 (C) in paragraph (8)—

16 (i) by redesignating subparagraphs (A)
17 through (E) as subparagraphs (B) through
18 (F), respectively;

19 (ii) by inserting before subparagraph
20 (B), as redesignated by clause (i), the fol-
21 lowing:

22 “(A) *IN GENERAL*.—In the exercise of its
23 duties under subsection (b) and in accordance
24 with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5
25 U.S.C. App.), the Board shall be independent of

1 *the Director and the other offices and officers of*
 2 *the Institute.”;*

3 *(iii) in subparagraph (B), as redesign-*
 4 *ated by clause (i), by inserting before the*
 5 *period at the end the following: “for a term*
 6 *of not more than 6 years, and who may be*
 7 *reappointed by the Board for 1 additional*
 8 *term of not more than 6 years”;* and

9 *(iv) by adding at the end the following:*
 10 *“(G) SUBCOMMITTEES.—The Board may es-*
 11 *tablish standing or temporary subcommittees to*
 12 *make recommendations to the Board for carrying*
 13 *out activities authorized under this title.”;*

14 *(3) by striking subsection (d);*

15 *(4) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection*
 16 *(d);*

17 *(5) in subsection (d), as redesignated by para-*
 18 *graph (4)—*

19 *(A) in the subsection heading, by striking*
 20 *“ANNUAL” and inserting “EVALUATION”;*

21 *(B) by striking “The Board” and inserting*
 22 *the following:*

23 *“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board”;*

24 *(C) by striking “not later than July 1 of*
 25 *each year, a report” and inserting “and make*

1 *widely available to the public (including by elec-*
2 *tronic means such as posting in an easily acces-*
3 *sible manner on the Institute’s website), a report*
4 *once every 5 years”; and*

5 *(D) by adding at the end the following:*

6 *“(2) REQUIREMENTS.—An evaluation report de-*
7 *scribed in paragraph (1) shall include—*

8 *“(A) subject to paragraph (3), an evalua-*
9 *tion of the activities authorized for each of the*
10 *National Education Centers, which—*

11 *“(i) uses the performance management*
12 *system described in section 185; and*

13 *“(ii) is conducted by an independent*
14 *entity;*

15 *“(B) a review of the Institute to ensure its*
16 *work, consistent with the requirements of section*
17 *114(j), is timely, rigorous, and relevant;*

18 *“(C) any recommendations regarding ac-*
19 *tions that may be taken to enhance the ability*
20 *of the Institute and the National Education Cen-*
21 *ters to carry out their priorities and missions;*

22 *“(D) a summary of the major research find-*
23 *ings of the Institute and the activities carried*
24 *out under section 113(b) during the 3 preceding*
25 *fiscal years; and*

1 “(E) interim findings made widely avail-
 2 able to the public (including by electronic means
 3 such as posting in an easily accessible manner
 4 on the Institute’s website) 3 years after the inde-
 5 pendent entity has begun reviewing the work of
 6 the Institute.

7 “(3) NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION EVAL-
 8 UATION AND REGIONAL ASSISTANCE.—With respect to
 9 the National Center for Education Evaluation and
 10 Regional Assistance, an evaluation report described
 11 in paragraph (1) shall contain—

12 “(A) an evaluation described in paragraph
 13 (2)(A) of the activities authorized for such Cen-
 14 ter, except for the regional educational labora-
 15 tories established under section 174; and

16 “(B) a summative or interim evaluation,
 17 whichever is most recent, for each such labora-
 18 tory conducted under section 174(i) on or after
 19 the date of enactment of the Strengthening Edu-
 20 cation through Research Act or, in a case in
 21 which such an evaluation is not available for a
 22 laboratory, the most recent evaluation for the
 23 laboratory conducted prior to the date of enact-
 24 ment of such Act.”; and

25 (6) by striking subsection (f).

1 **SEC. 117. COMMISSIONERS OF THE NATIONAL EDUCATION**
 2 **CENTERS.**

3 *Section 117 (20 U.S.C. 9517) is amended—*

4 *(1) in subsection (a)—*

5 *(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “Except*
 6 *as provided in subsection (b), each” and insert-*
 7 *ing “Each”;*

8 *(B) in paragraph (2)—*

9 *(i) by striking “Except as provided in*
 10 *subsection (b), each” and inserting “Each”;*
 11 *and*

12 *(ii) by inserting “, statistics,” after*
 13 *“research”; and*

14 *(C) in paragraph (3), by striking “Except*
 15 *as provided in subsection (b), each” and insert-*
 16 *ing “Each”;*

17 *(2) by striking subsection (b);*

18 *(3) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as*
 19 *subsections (b) and (c), respectively; and*

20 *(4) in subsection (c), as redesignated by para-*
 21 *graph (3), by striking “, except the Commissioner for*
 22 *Education Statistics,”.*

23 **SEC. 118. TRANSPARENCY.**

24 *(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 119 (20 U.S.C. 9519) is*
 25 *amended to read as follows:*

1 **“SEC. 119. TRANSPARENCY.**

2 *“Not later than 120 days after awarding a grant, con-*
 3 *tract, or cooperative agreement under this title in excess of*
 4 *\$100,000, the Director shall make publicly available (in-*
 5 *cluding through electronic means such as posting in an eas-*
 6 *ily accessible manner on the Institute’s website) a descrip-*
 7 *tion of the grant, contract, or cooperative agreement, in-*
 8 *cluding, at a minimum, the amount, duration, recipient,*
 9 *and the purpose of the grant, contract, or cooperative agree-*
 10 *ment.”.*

11 **(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—*The table of contents*
 12 *in section 1 of the Act of November 5, 2002 (Public Law*
 13 *107–279; 116 Stat. 1940) is amended by striking the item*
 14 *relating to section 119 and inserting the following:*

“Sec. 119. Transparency.”.

15 **SEC. 119. COMPETITIVE AWARDS.**

16 *Section 120 (20 U.S.C. 9520) is amended by striking*
 17 *“when practicable” and inserting “consistent with section*
 18 *114(h)”.*

19 **PART B—NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION**
 20 **RESEARCH**

21 **SEC. 131. ESTABLISHMENT.**

22 *Section 131(b) (20 U.S.C. 9531(b)) is amended—*

23 *(1) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the*
 24 *following:*

1 “(1) to sponsor sustained research that will lead
2 to the accumulation of knowledge and understanding
3 of education, consistent with the priorities described
4 in section 115;”;

5 (2) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph
6 (3);

7 (3) in paragraph (4), by striking the period and
8 inserting “; and”; and

9 (4) by adding at the end the following:

10 “(5) consistent with section 114(j), to widely dis-
11 seminate and promote utilization of the work of the
12 Research Center.”.

13 **SEC. 132. DUTIES.**

14 Section 133 (20 U.S.C. 9533) is amended—

15 (1) in subsection (a)—

16 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “peer-re-
17 view standards and”;

18 (B) by striking paragraph (2);

19 (C) by redesignating paragraph (3) as
20 paragraph (2);

21 (D) by striking paragraph (4);

22 (E) by redesignating paragraphs (5)
23 through (9) as paragraphs (3) through (7), re-
24 spectively;

1 (F) in paragraph (3), as redesignated by
2 subparagraph (E), by inserting “in the imple-
3 mentation of programs carried out by the De-
4 partment and other agencies” before “within the
5 Federal Government”;

6 (G) in paragraph (5), as redesignated by
7 subparagraph (E), by striking “disseminate,
8 through the National Center for Education Eval-
9 uation and Regional Assistance,” and inserting
10 “widely disseminate, consistent with section
11 114(j),”;

12 (H) in paragraph (6), as redesignated by
13 subparagraph (E)—

14 (i) by striking “Director” and insert-
15 ing “Board”; and

16 (ii) by striking “of a biennial report,
17 as described in section 119” and inserting
18 “and dissemination of each evaluation re-
19 port under section 116(d)”;

20 (I) in paragraph (7), as redesignated by
21 subparagraph (E), by inserting “and which may
22 include research on social and emotional learn-
23 ing, and the acquisition of competencies and
24 skills, including the ability to think critically,

1 *solve complex problems, evaluate evidence, and*
2 *communicate effectively,” after “gap,”;*

3 *(J) by inserting after paragraph (7), as re-*
4 *designated by subparagraph (E), the following:*

5 *“(8) to the extent time and resources allow, when*
6 *findings from previous research under this part pro-*
7 *voke relevant follow up questions, carry out research*
8 *initiatives on such follow up questions;”;*

9 *(K) by redesignating paragraphs (10) and*
10 *(11) as paragraphs (9) and (10), respectively;*

11 *(L) by striking paragraph (9), as redesign-*
12 *ated by subparagraph (K), and inserting the*
13 *following:*

14 *“(9) carry out research initiatives, including rig-*
15 *orous, peer-reviewed, large-scale, long-term, and*
16 *broadly applicable empirical research, regarding the*
17 *impact of technology on education, including online*
18 *education and hybrid learning;”;*

19 *(M) in paragraph (10), as redesignated by*
20 *subparagraph (K), by striking the period at the*
21 *end and inserting “; and”; and*

22 *(N) by adding at the end the following:*

23 *“(11) to the extent feasible, carry out research on*
24 *the quality of implementation of practices and strate-*

1 *gies determined to be effective through scientifically*
2 *valid research.”;*

3 *(2) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the*
4 *following:*

5 *“(b) PLAN.—The Research Commissioner shall propose*
6 *to the Director and, subject to the approval of the Director,*
7 *implement a research plan for the activities of the Research*
8 *Center that—*

9 *“(1) is consistent with the priorities and mission*
10 *of the Institute and the mission of the Research Cen-*
11 *ter described in section 131(b), and includes the ac-*
12 *tivities described in subsection (a);*

13 *“(2) is carried out and, as appropriate, updated*
14 *and modified, including through the use of the results*
15 *of the Research Center’s most recent evaluation report*
16 *under section 116(d);*

17 *“(3) describes how the Research Center will use*
18 *the performance management system described in sec-*
19 *tion 185 to assess and improve the activities of the*
20 *Center;*

21 *“(4) meets the procedures for peer review estab-*
22 *lished and maintained by the Director under section*
23 *114(f)(5) and the standards of research described in*
24 *section 134; and*

1 “(5) includes both basic research and applied re-
 2 search, which shall include research conducted
 3 through field-initiated research and ongoing research
 4 initiatives.”;

5 (3) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection
 6 (d);

7 (4) by inserting after subsection (b), the fol-
 8 lowing:

9 “(c) GRANTS, CONTRACTS, AND COOPERATIVE AGREE-
 10 MENTS.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Research Commissioner
 12 may award grants to, or enter into contracts or coop-
 13 erative agreements with, eligible applicants to carry
 14 out research under subsection (a).

15 “(2) ELIGIBILITY.—For purposes of this sub-
 16 section, the term ‘eligible applicant’ means an appli-
 17 cant that has the ability and capacity to conduct sci-
 18 entifically valid research.

19 “(3) APPLICATIONS.—

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible applicant
 21 that wishes to receive a grant, or enter into a
 22 contract or cooperative agreement, under this
 23 section shall submit an application to the Re-
 24 search Commissioner at such time, in such man-

1 *ner, and containing such information as the Re-*
 2 *search Commissioner may require.*

3 *“(B) CONTENT.—An application submitted*
 4 *under subparagraph (A) shall describe how the*
 5 *eligible applicant will address and demonstrate*
 6 *progress on the requirements of the performance*
 7 *management system described in section 185,*
 8 *with respect to the activities that will be carried*
 9 *out under the grant, contract, or cooperative*
 10 *agreement.”; and*

11 *(5) in subsection (d), as redesignated by para-*
 12 *graph (3)—*

13 *(A) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting*
 14 *the following:*

15 *“(1) SUPPORT.—In carrying out activities under*
 16 *subsection (a)(2), the Research Commissioner shall*
 17 *support national research and development centers*
 18 *that address topics of importance and relevance in the*
 19 *field of education across the country and are con-*
 20 *sistent with the Institute’s priorities under section*
 21 *115.”;*

22 *(B) by striking paragraphs (2), (3), and*
 23 *(5);*

1 (C) by redesignating paragraphs (4), (6),
2 and (7) as paragraphs (2), (3), and (4), respec-
3 tively;

4 (D) in paragraph (2), as redesignated by
5 subparagraph (C)—

6 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
7 graph (A)—

8 (I) by striking “5 additional” and
9 inserting “2 additional”; and

10 (II) by striking “notwithstanding
11 section 134(b),” and inserting “not-
12 withstanding section 114(h),”;

13 (ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking
14 “and” after the semicolon;

15 (iii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
16 the period and inserting “; and”; and

17 (iv) by adding at the end the following:

18 “(C) demonstrates progress on the require-
19 ments of the performance management system
20 described in section 185.”;

21 (E) in paragraph (3), as redesignated by
22 subparagraph (C), by striking “paragraphs (4)
23 and (5)” and inserting “paragraph (2)”; and

1 (F) by striking paragraph (4), as redesign-
 2 nated by subparagraph (C), and inserting the
 3 following:

4 “(4) *DISAGGREGATION.*—To the extent feasible
 5 and when relevant to the research being conducted, re-
 6 search conducted under this subsection shall be
 7 disaggregated and cross-tabulated by age, race, gen-
 8 der, disability status, English learner status, socio-
 9 economic background, and other population character-
 10 istics as determined by the Research Commissioner, so
 11 long as any reported information does not reveal in-
 12 dividually identifiable information.”.

13 **SEC. 133. STANDARDS FOR CONDUCT AND EVALUATION OF**
 14 **RESEARCH.**

15 Section 134 (20 U.S.C. 9534) is amended—

16 (1) in subsection (a)—

17 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “based”
 18 and inserting “valid”; and

19 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “and
 20 wide dissemination activities” and inserting
 21 “and, consistent with section 114(j), wide dis-
 22 semination and utilization activities”;

23 (2) by striking subsection (b); and

24 (3) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection
 25 (b).

1 **PART C—NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION**
2 **STATISTICS**

3 **SEC. 151. ESTABLISHMENT.**

4 *Section 151(b) (20 U.S.C. 9541(b)) is amended—*

5 *(1) in paragraph (2), by inserting “and con-*
6 *sistent with the privacy protections under section*
7 *183” after “manner”; and*

8 *(2) in paragraph (3)—*

9 *(A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “dis-*
10 *ability,” after “cultural,”; and*

11 *(B) by striking subparagraph (B) and in-*
12 *serting the following:*

13 *“(B) is consistent with section 114(j), is rel-*
14 *evant, timely, and widely disseminated.”.*

15 **SEC. 152. DUTIES.**

16 *Section 153 (20 U.S.C. 9543) is amended—*

17 *(1) in subsection (a)—*

18 *(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),*
19 *by inserting “, consistent with the privacy pro-*
20 *tections under section 183,” after “Center shall”;*

21 *(B) in paragraph (1)—*

22 *(i) by striking subparagraph (D) and*
23 *inserting the following:*

24 *“(D) secondary school graduation and com-*
25 *pletion rates, including the four-year adjusted*
26 *cohort graduation rate (as defined in section*

1 *200.19(b)(1)(i)(A) of title 34, Code of Federal*
2 *Regulations, as such section was in effect on No-*
3 *vember 28, 2008) and the extended-year adjusted*
4 *cohort graduation rate (as defined in section*
5 *200.19(b)(1)(v)(A) of title 34, Code of Federal*
6 *Regulations, as such section was in effect on No-*
7 *vember 28, 2008), and school dropout rates, and*
8 *adult literacy;”;*

9 *(ii) in subparagraph (E), by striking*
10 *“and opportunity for,” and inserting “op-*
11 *portunity for, and completion of”;*

12 *(iii) by striking subparagraph (F) and*
13 *inserting the following:*

14 *“(F) teaching and school leadership, includ-*
15 *ing information on teacher and school leader*
16 *pre-service preparation, professional develop-*
17 *ment, teacher distribution, and teacher and*
18 *school leader evaluation;”;*

19 *(iv) in subparagraph (G), by inserting*
20 *“and school leaders” before the semicolon;*

21 *(v) in subparagraph (H), by inserting*
22 *“, climate, and in- and out-of-school suspen-*
23 *sions and expulsions” before “, including*
24 *information regarding”;*

1 (vi) by striking subparagraph (K) and
 2 inserting the following:

3 “(K) the access to, and use of, technology to
 4 improve elementary schools and secondary
 5 schools;”;

6 (vii) in subparagraph (L), by striking
 7 “and opportunity for,” and inserting “op-
 8 portunity for, and quality of”;

9 (viii) in subparagraph (M), by striking
 10 “such programs during school recesses” and
 11 inserting “summer school”;

12 (ix) in subparagraph (N)—

13 (I) by striking “vocational” and
 14 inserting “career”; and

15 (II) by striking “and” after the
 16 semicolon;

17 (x) in subparagraph (O), by inserting
 18 “and” after the semicolon; and

19 (xi) by adding at the end the following:

20 “(P) access to, and opportunity for, adult
 21 education and literacy activities;”;

22 (C) in paragraph (3)—

23 (i) by striking “when such
 24 disaggregated information will facilitate
 25 educational and policy decisionmaking”

1 *and inserting “so long as any reported in-*
2 *formation does not reveal individually iden-*
3 *tifiable information”; and*

4 *(ii) by striking “limited English pro-*
5 *ficiency” and inserting “English learner*
6 *status”;*

7 *(D) in paragraph (4), by inserting before*
8 *the semicolon the following: “, and the imple-*
9 *mentation (with the assistance of the Depart-*
10 *ment and other Federal officials who have statu-*
11 *tory authority to provide assistance on applica-*
12 *ble privacy laws, regulations, and policies) of*
13 *appropriate privacy protections”;*

14 *(E) in paragraph (5)—*

15 *(i) by striking “determining voluntary*
16 *standards and guidelines to assist” and in-*
17 *serting “providing technical assistance to”;*
18 *and*

19 *(ii) by striking “promote linkages*
20 *across States,”;*

21 *(F) in paragraph (6)—*

22 *(i) by striking “Third” and inserting*
23 *“Trends in”; and*

1 (ii) by inserting “and the Program for
2 International Student Assessment” after
3 “Science Study”;

4 (G) in paragraph (7), by striking the semi-
5 colon and inserting the following: “and ensuring
6 such collections protect student privacy con-
7 sistent with section 183; and”;

8 (H) by striking paragraph (8) and insert-
9 ing the following:

10 “(8) assisting the Board in the preparation and
11 dissemination of each evaluation report under section
12 116(d).”; and

13 (I) by striking paragraph (9);

14 (2) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection
15 (c); and

16 (3) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-
17 lowing:

18 “(b) *PLAN.*—The Statistics Commissioner shall de-
19 velop a plan in consultation with the Director and imple-
20 ment a plan for activities of the Statistics Center that—

21 “(1) is consistent with the priorities and mission
22 of the Institute and the mission of the Statistics Cen-
23 ter described in section 151(b);

24 “(2) is carried out and, as appropriate, updated
25 and modified, including through the use of the results

1 of the Statistic Center’s most recent evaluation report
2 under section 116(d); and

3 “(3) describes how the Statistics Center will use
4 the performance management system described in sec-
5 tion 185 to assess and improve the activities of the
6 Center.”.

7 **SEC. 153. PERFORMANCE OF DUTIES.**

8 Section 154 (20 U.S.C. 9544) is amended—

9 (1) in subsection (a)—

10 (A) by striking “In carrying” and inserting
11 the following:

12 “(1) *IN GENERAL.*—In carrying”;

13 (B) by inserting “to eligible applicants”
14 after “technical assistance”; and

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

16 “(2) *ELIGIBILITY.*—For purposes of this section,
17 the term ‘eligible applicant’ means an applicant that
18 has the ability and capacity to carry out activities
19 under this part.

20 “(3) *APPLICATIONS.*—

21 “(A) *IN GENERAL.*—An eligible applicant
22 that wishes to receive a grant, or enter into a
23 contract or cooperative agreement, under this
24 section shall submit an application to the Statis-
25 tics Commissioner at such time, in such manner,

1 *and containing such information as the Statis-*
 2 *tics Commissioner may require.*

3 “(B) *CONTENTS.*—*An application submitted*
 4 *under subparagraph (A) shall describe how the*
 5 *eligible applicant will address and demonstrate*
 6 *progress on the requirements of the performance*
 7 *management system described in section 185,*
 8 *with respect to the activities that will be carried*
 9 *out under the grant, contract, or cooperative*
 10 *agreement.”;*

11 *(2) in subsection (b)(2)(A), by striking “voca-*
 12 *tional and” and inserting “career and technical edu-*
 13 *cation programs,”; and*

14 *(3) in subsection (c), by striking “5 years” the*
 15 *second place it appears and inserting “2 years if the*
 16 *recipient demonstrates progress on the requirements of*
 17 *the performance management system described in sec-*
 18 *tion 185, with respect to the activities carried out*
 19 *under the grant, contract, or cooperative agreement*
 20 *received under this section”.*

21 **SEC. 154. REPORTS.**

22 *Section 155 (20 U.S.C. 9545) is amended—*

23 *(1) in subsection (a), by inserting “(consistent*
 24 *with section 114(h))” after “review”; and*

1 (2) in subsection (b), by striking “2003” and in-
2 serting “2015”.

3 **SEC. 155. DISSEMINATION.**

4 Section 156 (20 U.S.C. 9546) is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (c), by adding at the end the
6 following: “Such projects shall adhere to student pri-
7 vacy requirements under section 183.”; and

8 (2) in subsection (e)—

9 (A) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end
10 the following: “Before receiving access to edu-
11 cational data under this paragraph, a Federal
12 agency shall describe to the Statistics Center the
13 specific research intent for use of the data, how
14 access to the data may meet such research intent,
15 and how the Federal agency will protect the con-
16 fidentiality of the data consistent with the re-
17 quirements of section 183.”;

18 (B) in paragraph (2)—

19 (i) by inserting “and consistent with
20 section 183” after “may prescribe”; and

21 (ii) by adding at the end the following:
22 “Before receiving access to data under this
23 paragraph, an interested party shall de-
24 scribe to the Statistics Center the specific
25 research intent for use of the data, how ac-

cess to the data may meet such research intent, and how the party will protect the confidentiality of the data consistent with the requirements of section 183.”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) *DENIAL AUTHORITY.*—The Statistics Center shall have the authority to deny any requests for access to data under paragraph (1) or (2) if the data requested would be unnecessary for or unrelated to the proposed research design or research intent, or if the request would introduce risk of a privacy violation or misuse of data.

“(4) *APPLICABILITY OF REQUIREMENTS.*—The requirements described under the second sentence of paragraph (1) and the second sentence of paragraph (2) and the authority under paragraph (3) shall not apply to public use data sets.”.

SEC. 156. COOPERATIVE EDUCATION STATISTICS SYSTEMS.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Section 157 (20 U.S.C. 9547) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking “**SYSTEMS**” and inserting “**PARTNERSHIPS**”;

(2) by striking “national cooperative education statistics systems” and inserting “cooperative education statistics partnerships”;

1 (3) by striking “producing and maintaining,
2 with the cooperation” and inserting “reviewing and
3 improving, with the voluntary participation”;

4 (4) by striking “comparable and uniform” and
5 inserting “data quality standards, which may include
6 establishing voluntary guidelines to standardize”;

7 (5) by striking “adult education, and libraries,”
8 and inserting “and adult education”; and

9 (6) by adding at the end the following: “No stu-
10 dent data shall be collected by the partnerships estab-
11 lished under this section, nor shall such partnerships
12 establish a national student data system.”.

13 (b) *CONFORMING AMENDMENT.*—*The table of contents*
14 *in section 1 of the Act of November 5, 2002 (Public Law*
15 *107–279; 116 Stat. 1940) is amended by striking the item*
16 *relating to section 157 and inserting the following:*

 “Sec. 157. Cooperative education statistics partnerships.”.

17 **PART D—NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION**

18 **EVALUATION AND REGIONAL ASSISTANCE**

19 **SEC. 171. ESTABLISHMENT.**

20 Section 171 (20 U.S.C. 9561) is amended—

21 (1) in subsection (b)—

22 (A) by striking paragraph (1);

23 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (2), (3),
24 and (4) as paragraphs (1), (2), and (3), respec-
25 tively;

1 (C) in paragraph (1), as redesignated by
 2 subparagraph (B), by striking “of such pro-
 3 grams” and all that follows through “science)”
 4 and inserting “and to evaluate the implementa-
 5 tion of such programs”; and

6 (D) in paragraph (2), as redesignated by
 7 subparagraph (B), by striking “and wide dis-
 8 semination of results of” and inserting “and,
 9 consistent with section 114(j), the wide dissemi-
 10 nation and utilization of results of all”; and
 11 (2) by striking subsection (c).

12 **SEC. 172. COMMISSIONER FOR EDUCATION EVALUATION**
 13 **AND REGIONAL ASSISTANCE.**

14 Section 172 (20 U.S.C. 9562) is amended—

15 (1) in subsection (a)—

16 (A) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting
 17 the following:

18 “(2) widely disseminate, consistent with section
 19 114(j), all information on scientifically valid research
 20 and statistics supported by the Institute and all sci-
 21 entifically valid education evaluations supported by
 22 the Institute, particularly to State educational agen-
 23 cies and local educational agencies, to institutions of
 24 higher education, to the public, the media, voluntary
 25 organizations, professional associations, and other

1 *constituencies, especially with respect to the priorities*
2 *described in section 115;*”;

3 *(B) in paragraph (3)—*

4 *(i) by inserting “, consistent with sec-*
5 *tion 114(j)” after “timely, and efficient*
6 *manner”; and*

7 *(ii) by striking “that shall include all*
8 *topics covered in paragraph (2)(E)”;*

9 *(C) in paragraph (4)—*

10 *(i) by striking “development and dis-*
11 *semination” and inserting “development,*
12 *dissemination, and utilization”; and*

13 *(ii) by striking “the provision of tech-*
14 *nical assistance,”;*

15 *(D) in paragraph (5)—*

16 *(i) by striking “subsection (d)” and in-*
17 *serting “subsection (e)”;* and

18 *(ii) by inserting “and” after the semi-*
19 *colon;*

20 *(E) in paragraph (6)—*

21 *(i) by striking “Director” and insert-*
22 *ing “Board”;*

23 *(ii) by striking “preparation of a bien-*
24 *nial report” and inserting “preparation*

1 *and dissemination of each evaluation re-*
 2 *port”; and*

3 *(iii) by striking “119; and” and in-*
 4 *serting “116(d).”; and*

5 *(F) by striking paragraph (7);*

6 *(2) in subsection (b)(1)—*

7 *(A) by inserting “all” before “information*
 8 *disseminated”; and*

9 *(B) by striking “, which may include” and*
 10 *all that follows through “of this Act)”;*

11 *(3) by striking subsection (c);*

12 *(4) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection*
 13 *(e);*

14 *(5) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-*
 15 *lowing:*

16 *“(c) PLAN.—The Evaluation and Regional Assistance*
 17 *Commissioner shall propose to the Director and, subject to*
 18 *the approval of the Director, implement a plan for the ac-*
 19 *tivities of the National Center for Education Evaluation*
 20 *and Regional Assistance that—*

21 *“(1) is consistent with the priorities and mission*
 22 *of the Institute and the mission of the Center de-*
 23 *scribed in section 171(b);*

24 *“(2) is carried out and, as appropriate, updated*
 25 *and modified, including through the use of the results*

1 *of the Center’s most recent evaluation report under*
 2 *section 116(d); and*

3 “(3) *describes how the Center will use the per-*
 4 *formance management system described in section 185*
 5 *to assess and improve the activities of the Center.*

6 “(d) *GRANTS, CONTRACTS, AND COOPERATIVE AGREE-*
 7 *MENTS.—*

8 “(1) *IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the duties*
 9 *under this part, the Evaluation and Regional Assist-*
 10 *ance Commissioner may—*

11 “(A) *award grants, contracts, or cooperative*
 12 *agreements to eligible applicants to carry out the*
 13 *activities under this part; and*

14 “(B) *provide technical assistance.*

15 “(2) *ELIGIBILITY.—For purposes of this section,*
 16 *the term ‘eligible applicant’ means an applicant that*
 17 *has the ability and capacity to carry out activities*
 18 *under this part.*

19 “(3) *ENTITIES TO CONDUCT EVALUATIONS.—In*
 20 *awarding grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements*
 21 *under paragraph (1) to carry out activities under sec-*
 22 *tion 173, the Evaluation and Regional Assistance*
 23 *Commissioner shall make such awards to eligible ap-*
 24 *plicants with the ability and capacity to conduct sci-*
 25 *entifically valid education evaluations.*

1 “(4) *APPLICATIONS.*—

2 “(A) *IN GENERAL.*—*An eligible applicant*
3 *that wishes to receive a grant, contract, or coop-*
4 *erative agreement under paragraph (1) shall sub-*
5 *mit an application to the Evaluation and Re-*
6 *gional Assistance Commissioner at such time, in*
7 *such manner, and containing such information*
8 *as the Commissioner may require.*

9 “(B) *CONTENTS.*—*An application submitted*
10 *under subparagraph (A) shall describe how the*
11 *eligible applicant will address and demonstrate*
12 *progress on the requirements of the performance*
13 *management system described in section 185,*
14 *with respect to the activities carried out under*
15 *such grant, contract, or cooperative agreement.*

16 “(5) *DURATION.*—*Notwithstanding any other*
17 *provision of law, the grants, contracts, and coopera-*
18 *tive agreements under paragraph (1) may be award-*
19 *ed, on a competitive basis, for a period of not more*
20 *than 5 years, and may be renewed at the discretion*
21 *of the Evaluation and Regional Assistance Commis-*
22 *sioner for an additional period of not more than 2*
23 *years if the recipient demonstrates progress on the re-*
24 *quirements of the performance management system*
25 *described in section 185, with respect to the activities*

1 *carried out under the grant, contract, or cooperative*
 2 *agreement.”; and*

3 *(6) in subsection (e), as redesignated by para-*
 4 *graph (4)—*

5 *(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “There is*
 6 *established” and all that follows through “Re-*
 7 *gional Assistance” and inserting “The Evalua-*
 8 *tion and Regional Assistance Commissioner may*
 9 *establish”;*

10 *(B) in paragraph (2)(A), by inserting “all”*
 11 *before “products”; and*

12 *(C) in paragraph (2)(B)(ii), by striking*
 13 *“2002” and all that follows through the period*
 14 *and inserting “2002).”.*

15 **SEC. 173. EVALUATIONS.**

16 *Section 173 (20 U.S.C. 9563) is amended—*

17 *(1) in subsection (a)—*

18 *(A) in paragraph (1)—*

19 *(i) in the matter preceding subpara-*
 20 *graph (A), by striking “may” and inserting*
 21 *“shall”;*

22 *(ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking*
 23 *“evaluations” and inserting “high-quality*
 24 *evaluations, including impact evaluations*

1 *that use rigorous methodologies that permit*
2 *the strongest possible causal inferences,”;*

3 (iii) *in subparagraph (B), by inserting*
4 *before the semicolon at the end the fol-*
5 *lowing: “, including programs under part A*
6 *of such title (20 U.S.C. 6311 et seq.)”;*

7 (iv) *by striking subparagraph (C);*

8 (v) *by redesignating subparagraph (D)*
9 *as subparagraph (C);*

10 (vi) *by striking subparagraphs (E) and*
11 *(G);*

12 (vii) *by redesignating subparagraph*
13 *(F) as subparagraph (D);*

14 (viii) *in subparagraph (D), as redesign-*
15 *ated by clause (vii), by striking “and” at*
16 *the end; and*

17 (ix) *by inserting after subparagraph*
18 *(D), as redesignated by clause (vii), the fol-*
19 *lowing:*

20 “(E) *provide evaluation findings in an un-*
21 *derstandable, easily accessible, and usable format*
22 *to support program improvement;*

23 “(F) *support the evaluation activities de-*
24 *scribed in section 401 of the Strengthening Edu-*

1 *cation through Research Act that are carried out*
2 *by the Director; and*

3 “(G) to the extent feasible—

4 “(i) examine evaluations conducted or
5 supported by others to determine the quality
6 and relevance of the evidence of effectiveness
7 generated by those evaluations, with the ap-
8 proval of the Director;

9 “(ii) review and supplement Federal
10 education program evaluations, particularly
11 such evaluations by the Department, to de-
12 termine or enhance the quality and rel-
13 evance of the evidence generated by those
14 evaluations;

15 “(iii) conduct implementation evalua-
16 tions that promote continuous improvement
17 and inform policymaking;

18 “(iv) evaluate the short- and long-term
19 effects and cost efficiencies across programs
20 assisted or authorized under Federal law
21 and administrated by the Department; and

22 “(v) synthesize the results of evaluation
23 studies for and across Federal education
24 programs, policies, and practices.”; and

25 (B) in paragraph (2)—

1 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking
2 “and” at the end;

3 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
4 the period and inserting “under section
5 114(h); and”; and

6 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
7 lowing:

8 “(C) be widely disseminated, consistent with
9 section 114(j).”; and

10 (2) in subsection (b), by striking “contracts” and
11 inserting “grants, contracts, or cooperative agree-
12 ments”.

13 **SEC. 174. REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL LABORATORIES FOR RE-**
14 **SEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, DISSEMINATION,**
15 **AND EVALUATION.**

16 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—Section 174 (20 U.S.C. 9564) is
17 amended—

18 (1) in the section heading, by striking “**TECH-**
19 **NICAL ASSISTANCE**” and inserting “**EVALUA-**
20 **TION**”;

21 (2) in subsection (a)—

22 (A) by striking “The Director” and insert-
23 ing “Except as provided in subsection (e)(8), the
24 Evaluation and Regional Assistance Commis-
25 sioner”; and

1 (B) by striking “contracts” and inserting
2 “grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements”;

3 (3) in subsection (c)—

4 (A) by striking “The Director” and insert-
5 ing the following:

6 “(1) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Evaluation and Re-*
7 *gional Assistance Commissioner*”;

8 (B) by striking “contracts under this section
9 with research organizations, institutions, agen-
10 cies, institutions of higher education,” and in-
11 serting “grants, contracts, or cooperative agree-
12 ments under this section with public or private,
13 nonprofit or for-profit research organizations,
14 other organizations, or institutions of higher
15 education,”;

16 (C) by striking “or individuals,”;

17 (D) by striking “, including regional enti-
18 ties” and all that follows through “(107–110))”;
19 and

20 (E) by adding at the end the following:

21 “(2) *DEFINITION.*—*For purposes of this section,*
22 *the term ‘eligible applicant’ means an entity de-*
23 *scribed in paragraph (1).’*”;

24 (4) by striking subsections (d) through (j) and
25 inserting the following:

1 “(d) *APPLICATIONS.*—

2 “(1) *SUBMISSION.*—

3 “(A) *IN GENERAL.*—*Each eligible applicant*
4 *desiring a contract grant, contract, or coopera-*
5 *tive agreement under this section shall submit an*
6 *application at such time, in such manner, and*
7 *containing such information as the Evaluation*
8 *and Regional Assistance Commissioner may rea-*
9 *sonably require.*

10 “(B) *INPUT.*—*To ensure that applications*
11 *submitted under this paragraph are reflective of*
12 *the needs of the regions to be served, each eligible*
13 *applicant submitting such an application shall*
14 *seek input from State educational agencies and*
15 *local educational agencies in the region that the*
16 *award will serve, and other individuals with*
17 *knowledge of the region’s needs.*

18 “(2) *PLAN.*—

19 “(A) *IN GENERAL.*—*Each application sub-*
20 *mitted under paragraph (1) shall contain a plan*
21 *for the activities of the regional educational lab-*
22 *oratory to be established under this section,*
23 *which shall be updated, modified, and improved,*
24 *as appropriate, on an ongoing basis, including*

1 *by using the results of the laboratory's interim*
2 *evaluation under subsection (i)(3).*

3 “(B) *CONTENTS.—A plan described in sub-*
4 *paragraph (A) shall address—*

5 “(i) *the priorities for applied research,*
6 *development, evaluations, and wide dissemi-*
7 *nation established under section 207;*

8 “(ii) *the needs of State educational*
9 *agencies and local educational agencies, on*
10 *an ongoing basis, using available State and*
11 *local data; and*

12 “(iii) *if available, demonstrated sup-*
13 *port from State educational agencies and*
14 *local educational agencies in the region,*
15 *such as letters of support or signed memo-*
16 *randa of understanding.*

17 “(3) *NON-FEDERAL SUPPORT.—In conducting a*
18 *competition for grants, contracts, or cooperative*
19 *agreements under subsection (a), the Evaluation and*
20 *Regional Assistance Commissioner shall give priority*
21 *to eligible applicants that will provide a portion of*
22 *non-Federal funds to maximize support for activities*
23 *of the regional educational laboratories to be estab-*
24 *lished under this section.*

1 “(e) *AWARDING GRANTS, CONTRACTS, OR COOPERA-*
2 *TIVE AGREEMENTS.*—

3 “(1) *ASSURANCES.*—*In awarding grants, con-*
4 *tracts, or cooperative agreements under this section,*
5 *the Evaluation and Regional Assistance Commis-*
6 *sioner shall—*

7 “(A) *make such an award for not more*
8 *than a 5-year period;*

9 “(B) *ensure that regional educational lab-*
10 *oratories established under this section have*
11 *strong and effective governance, organization,*
12 *management, and administration, and employ*
13 *qualified staff; and*

14 “(C) *ensure that each such laboratory has*
15 *the flexibility to respond in a timely fashion to*
16 *the needs of the laboratory’s region, including—*

17 “(i) *through using the results of the*
18 *laboratory’s interim evaluation under sub-*
19 *section (i)(3) to improve and modify the ac-*
20 *tivities of the laboratory before the end of*
21 *the award period; and*

22 “(ii) *through sharing preliminary re-*
23 *sults of the laboratory’s research, as appro-*
24 *priate, to increase the relevance and useful-*
25 *ness of the research.*

1 “(2) *COORDINATION.*—*To ensure coordination*
2 *and prevent unnecessary duplication of activities*
3 *among the regions, the Evaluation and Regional As-*
4 *sistance Commissioner shall—*

5 “(A) *share information about the activities*
6 *of each regional educational laboratory with each*
7 *other regional educational laboratory, the De-*
8 *partment, the Director, and the National Board*
9 *for Education Sciences;*

10 “(B) *ensure, where appropriate, that the ac-*
11 *tivities of each regional educational laboratory*
12 *established under this section also serve national*
13 *interests;*

14 “(C) *ensure each such regional educational*
15 *laboratory establishes strong partnerships among*
16 *practitioners, policymakers, researchers, and oth-*
17 *ers, so that such partnerships are continued in*
18 *the absence of Federal support; and*

19 “(D) *enable, where appropriate, for such a*
20 *laboratory to work in a region being served by*
21 *another laboratory or to carry out a project that*
22 *extends beyond the region served by the labora-*
23 *tory.*

24 “(3) *COLLABORATION WITH TECHNICAL ASSIST-*
25 *ANCE PROVIDERS.*—*Each regional educational labora-*

1 *tory established under this section shall, on an ongoing*
2 *basis, coordinate its activities, collaborate, and*
3 *regularly exchange information with the comprehensive*
4 *centers (established in section 203) in the region*
5 *in which the center is located, and with comprehensive*
6 *centers located outside of its region, as appropriate.*

8 *“(4) OUTREACH.—In conducting competitions*
9 *for grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements under*
10 *this section, the Evaluation and Regional Assistance*
11 *Commissioner shall—*

12 *“(A) by making information and technical*
13 *assistance relating to the competition widely*
14 *available, actively encourage eligible applicants*
15 *to compete for such an award; and*

16 *“(B) seek input from the chief executive officers*
17 *of States, chief State school officers, educators,*
18 *parents, superintendents, and other individuals*
19 *with knowledge of the needs of the regions*
20 *to be served by the awards, regarding—*

21 *“(i) the needs in the regions for applied*
22 *research, evaluation, development, and*
23 *wide-dissemination activities authorized by*
24 *this title; and*

1 “(ii) how such needs may be addressed
2 most effectively.

3 “(5) *PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT.*—Before the
4 *Evaluation and Regional Assistance Commissioner*
5 *awards a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement*
6 *under this section, the Director shall establish meas-*
7 *urable performance indicators for assessing the ongo-*
8 *ing progress and performance of the regional edu-*
9 *cational laboratories established with such awards*
10 *that address the requirements of the performance*
11 *management system described in section 185.*

12 “(6) *STANDARDS.*—The *Evaluation and Re-*
13 *gional Assistance Commissioner shall adhere to the*
14 *Institute’s system for technical and peer review under*
15 *section 114(h) in reviewing the applied research ac-*
16 *tivities and research-based reports of the regional edu-*
17 *cational laboratories.*

18 “(7) *REQUIRED CONSIDERATION.*—In deter-
19 *mining whether to award a grant, contract, or coop-*
20 *erative agreement under this section—*

21 “(A) *to an eligible applicant that previously*
22 *established a regional educational laboratory*
23 *under this section, the Evaluation and Regional*
24 *Assistance Commissioner shall—*

1 “(i) consider the results of such labora-
 2 tory’s summative evaluation under sub-
 3 section (i)(2), or, if not available, any in-
 4 terim evaluation findings under subsection
 5 (i)(3); and

6 “(ii) ensure that only such laboratories
 7 determined effective in their relevant in-
 8 terim or summative evaluations, as de-
 9 scribed in subsection (i), are eligible to re-
 10 ceive a new grant, contract, or cooperative
 11 agreement; and

12 “(B) to any eligible applicant, the Evalua-
 13 tion and Regional Assistance Commissioner shall
 14 ensure that such applicant has—

15 “(i) a history of effectiveness in con-
 16 ducting high-quality applied research; and

17 “(ii) the capacity to meet the measur-
 18 able performance indicators established
 19 under paragraph (5).

20 “(8) *FLEXIBILITY IN LABORATORY NUMBER.*—

21 “(A) *DETERMINATION.*—*The Evaluation*
 22 *and Regional Assistance Commissioner, in con-*
 23 *sultation with the regional educational labora-*
 24 *tory advisory boards described in subsection (h),*
 25 *may determine that establishing 10 regional edu-*

1 *cational laboratories is unnecessary, as required*
2 *in subsection (a), and grant an alternative num-*
3 *ber of awards or reorganize such laboratories,*
4 *which may include not basing the awards on the*
5 *regions described in subsection (b), if—*

6 *“(i) an insufficient number of regional*
7 *educational laboratories are meeting the*
8 *needs of the regions described in subsection*
9 *(b), as determined by the Commissioner;*

10 *“(ii) an insufficient number of labora-*
11 *tories are meeting the measurable perform-*
12 *ance indicators established under paragraph*
13 *(5), as determined by the Commissioner and*
14 *the most recent interim or summative eval-*
15 *uation under subsection (i); or*

16 *“(iii) an insufficient number of eligible*
17 *applicants have the capacity to meet the*
18 *measurable performance indicators estab-*
19 *lished under paragraph (5), as determined*
20 *by the Commissioner.*

21 *“(B) LIMITATION.—If the Evaluation and*
22 *Regional Assistance Commissioner uses the deter-*
23 *mination authority described in subparagraph*
24 *(A), there shall be no more than 10 regional edu-*
25 *cational laboratories established.*

1 “(f) *MISSION.*—Each regional educational laboratory
2 *established under this section shall—*

3 “(1) *conduct applied research, development, data*
4 *analysis, and evaluation activities with State edu-*
5 *cational agencies, local educational agencies, and, as*
6 *appropriate, schools funded by the Bureau;*

7 “(2) *widely disseminate such work, consistent*
8 *with section 114(j); and*

9 “(3) *develop the capacity of State educational*
10 *agencies, local educational agencies, and, as appro-*
11 *priate, schools funded by the Bureau to carry out the*
12 *activities described in paragraphs (1) and (2).*

13 “(g) *ACTIVITIES.*—*To carry out the mission described*
14 *in subsection (f), each regional educational laboratory es-*
15 *tablished under this section shall carry out the following*
16 *activities:*

17 “(1) *Conduct, widely disseminate, and promote*
18 *utilization of applied research, development activities,*
19 *evaluations, data analysis, and other scientifically*
20 *valid research.*

21 “(2) *Develop and improve the plan for the lab-*
22 *oratory under subsection (d)(2) for serving the region*
23 *of the laboratory, and as appropriate, national needs,*
24 *on an ongoing basis, which shall include seeking*
25 *input and incorporating feedback from the representa-*

1 *tives of State educational agencies and local edu-*
 2 *cational agencies in the region, and other individuals*
 3 *with knowledge of the region's needs.*

4 *“(3) Ensure research and related products are*
 5 *relevant and responsive to the needs of the region.*

6 *“(h) REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL LABORATORY ADVISORY*
 7 *BOARD.—*

8 *“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Each regional edu-*
 9 *cational laboratory established under this section may*
 10 *establish an advisory board that shall support the*
 11 *priorities of such laboratory.*

12 *“(2) DUTIES.—Each advisory board established*
 13 *under paragraph (1) shall advise the regional edu-*
 14 *cational laboratory—*

15 *“(A) concerning the activities described in*
 16 *subsection (g);*

17 *“(B) on strategies for monitoring and ad-*
 18 *ressing the educational needs of the region, on*
 19 *an ongoing basis, and as appropriate, national*
 20 *needs;*

21 *“(C) on maintaining a high standard of*
 22 *quality in the performance of the laboratory's ac-*
 23 *tivities, especially in meeting the measurable*
 24 *performance indicators established under sub-*
 25 *section (e)(5);*

1 “(D) on carrying out the laboratory’s duties
2 in a manner that promotes progress toward im-
3 proving student academic achievement;

4 “(E) on the activities undertaken by the
5 comprehensive center in the region, other centers,
6 as appropriate, and other laboratories to align
7 the work of such entities, reduce redundancy,
8 and increase collaboration and resource-sharing
9 in such activities; and

10 “(F) on joint activities with other com-
11 prehensive centers or laboratories that would
12 meet the needs of multiple regions.

13 “(3) COMPOSITION.—

14 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Each advisory board
15 shall—

16 “(i) not exceed 25 members;

17 “(ii) include the chief State school offi-
18 cer, or such officer’s designee, or other State
19 official, of States within the region of the
20 laboratory who have primary responsibility
21 under State law for elementary and sec-
22 ondary education in the State;

23 “(iii) include representatives of local
24 educational agencies, including rural and

1 *urban local educational agencies, that rep-*
2 *resent the geographic diversity of the region;*

3 *“(iv) include researchers; and*

4 *“(v) include not less than 1 representa-*
5 *tive from an advisory board of a com-*
6 *prehensive center serving the region, if ap-*
7 *plicable.*

8 *“(B) ELIGIBILITY.—The membership of*
9 *each regional educational laboratory advisory*
10 *board may include the following:*

11 *“(i) Representatives of institutions of*
12 *higher education.*

13 *“(ii) Parents.*

14 *“(iii) Practicing educators, including*
15 *classroom teachers, school leaders, adminis-*
16 *trators, school board members, and other*
17 *local school officials.*

18 *“(iv) Representatives of business.*

19 *“(v) Policymakers.*

20 *“(4) RECOMMENDATIONS.—In choosing individ-*
21 *uals for membership on a regional educational lab-*
22 *oratory advisory board, the regional educational lab-*
23 *oratory shall consult with, and solicit recommenda-*
24 *tions from, the Evaluation and Regional Assistance*
25 *Commissioner, the chief executive officers of States,*

1 *chief State school officers, local educational agencies,*
 2 *and other education stakeholders within the applica-*
 3 *ble region.*

4 “(5) *SPECIAL RULE.*—*The total number of mem-*
 5 *bers on each regional educational laboratory advisory*
 6 *board who are selected under clauses (ii) and (iii) of*
 7 *paragraph (3)(A), in the aggregate, shall exceed the*
 8 *total number of members who are selected under para-*
 9 *graph (3)(B), collectively.*

10 “(i) *EVALUATIONS.*—

11 “(1) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Evaluation and Re-*
 12 *gional Assistance Commissioner shall—*

13 “(A) *provide for ongoing summative and*
 14 *interim evaluations described in paragraphs (2)*
 15 *and (3), respectively, of each of the regional edu-*
 16 *cational laboratories established under this sec-*
 17 *tion in carrying out the full range of duties de-*
 18 *scribed in this section; and*

19 “(B) *transmit the results of such evalua-*
 20 *tions, through appropriate means, to the appro-*
 21 *priate congressional committees, the Director,*
 22 *and the public.*

23 “(2) *SUMMATIVE EVALUATIONS.*—*The Evalua-*
 24 *tion and Regional Assistance Commissioner shall en-*
 25 *sure each regional educational laboratory established*

1 *under this section is evaluated by an independent en-*
 2 *tity at the end of the period of the grant, contract, or*
 3 *cooperative agreement that established such labora-*
 4 *tory, and such evaluation shall—*

5 *“(A) be completed in a timely fashion;*

6 *“(B) assess how well the laboratory is meet-*
 7 *ing the measurable performance indicators estab-*
 8 *lished under subsection (e)(5); and*

9 *“(C) consider the extent to which the labora-*
 10 *tory ensures that the activities of such laboratory*
 11 *are relevant and useful to the work of State and*
 12 *local practitioners and policymakers.*

13 *“(3) INTERIM EVALUATIONS.—The Evaluation*
 14 *and Regional Assistance Commissioner shall ensure*
 15 *each regional educational laboratory established*
 16 *under this section is evaluated at the midpoint of the*
 17 *period of the grant, contract, or cooperative agreement*
 18 *that established such laboratory, and such evaluation*
 19 *shall—*

20 *“(A) assess how well such laboratory is*
 21 *meeting the performance indicators described in*
 22 *subsection (e)(5); and*

23 *“(B) be used to improve the effectiveness of*
 24 *such laboratory in carrying out its plan under*
 25 *subsection (d)(2).*

1 “(j) *CONTINUATION OF AWARDS; RECOMPETITION.*—

2 “(1) *CONTINUATION OF AWARDS.*—*The Evalua-*
3 *tion and Regional Assistance Commissioner shall con-*
4 *tinue awards made to each eligible applicant for the*
5 *support of regional educational laboratories estab-*
6 *lished under this section prior to the date of enact-*
7 *ment of the Strengthening Education through Re-*
8 *search Act, as such awards were in effect on the day*
9 *before the date of enactment of such Act, for the dura-*
10 *tion of those awards, in accordance with the terms*
11 *and agreements of such awards.*

12 “(2) *RECOMPETITION.*—*Not later than the end of*
13 *the period of the awards described in paragraph (1),*
14 *the Evaluation and Regional Assistance Commis-*
15 *sioner shall—*

16 “(A) *hold a competition to make grants,*
17 *contracts, or cooperative agreements under this*
18 *section to eligible applicants, which may include*
19 *eligible applicants that held awards described in*
20 *paragraph (1); and*

21 “(B) *in determining whether to select an el-*
22 *igible applicant that held an award described in*
23 *paragraph (1) for an award under subparagraph*
24 *(A) of this paragraph, consider the results of the*
25 *summative evaluation under subsection (i)(2) of*

1 *the laboratory established with the eligible appli-*
 2 *cant's award described in paragraph (1).";*

3 *(5) by striking subsection (l);*

4 *(6) by redesignating subsections (m), (n), and (o)*
 5 *as subsections (l), (m), and (n), respectively;*

6 *(7) in subsection (l), as redesignated by para-*
 7 *graph (6), by inserting "and local" after "achieve*
 8 *State";*

9 *(8) by striking subsection (m), as redesignated*
 10 *by paragraph (6), and inserting the following:*

11 *"(m) ANNUAL REPORT.—Each regional educational*
 12 *laboratory established under this section shall submit to the*
 13 *Evaluation and Regional Assistance Commissioner an an-*
 14 *nual report containing such information as the Commis-*
 15 *sioner may require, but which shall include, at a minimum,*
 16 *the following:*

17 *"(1) A summary of the laboratory's activities*
 18 *and products developed during the previous year.*

19 *"(2) A listing of the State educational agencies,*
 20 *local educational agencies, and schools the laboratory*
 21 *assisted during the previous year.*

22 *"(3) Using the measurable performance indica-*
 23 *tors established under subsection (e)(5), a description*
 24 *of how well the laboratory is meeting educational*
 25 *needs of the region served by the laboratory.*

1 “(4) *Any changes to the laboratory’s plan under*
 2 *subsection (d)(2) to improve its activities in the re-*
 3 *maining years of the grant, contract, or cooperative*
 4 *agreement.”; and*

5 (9) *by adding at the end the following:*

6 “(o) *APPROPRIATIONS RESERVATION.—Of the*
 7 *amounts appropriated under section 194(a), the Evaluation*
 8 *and Regional Assistance Commissioner shall reserve 16.13*
 9 *percent of such funds to carry out this section, of which*
 10 *the Commissioner shall use not less than 25 percent to serve*
 11 *rural areas (including schools funded by the Bureau which*
 12 *are located in rural areas).”.*

13 (b) *CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents*
 14 *in section 1 of the Act of November 5, 2002 (Public Law*
 15 *107–279; 116 Stat. 1940) is amended by striking the item*
 16 *relating to section 174 and inserting the following:*

 “Sec. 174. *Regional educational laboratories for research, development, dissemina-*
 tion, and evaluation.”.

17 **PART E—NATIONAL CENTER FOR SPECIAL**
 18 **EDUCATION RESEARCH**

19 **SEC. 175. ESTABLISHMENT.**

20 *Section 175(b) (20 U.S.C. 9567(b)) is amended—*

21 (1) *in paragraph (1), by striking “and children”*
 22 *and inserting “children, and youth”;*

23 (2) *in paragraph (2), by striking “and” at the*
 24 *end;*

1 (3) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at
2 the end and inserting a semicolon; and

3 (4) by adding at the end the following:

4 “(4) to promote quality and integrity through
5 the use of accepted practices of scientific inquiry to
6 obtain knowledge and understanding of the validity of
7 education theories, practices, or conditions with re-
8 spect to special education research and evaluation de-
9 scribed in paragraphs (1) through (3); and

10 “(5) to promote scientifically valid research find-
11 ings in special education that may provide the basis
12 for improving academic instruction and lifelong
13 learning.”.

14 **SEC. 176. COMMISSIONER FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION RE-**
15 **SEARCH.**

16 Section 176 (20 U.S.C. 9567a) is amended by insert-
17 ing “and youth” after “children”.

18 **SEC. 177. DUTIES.**

19 Section 177 (20 U.S.C. 9567b) is amended—

20 (1) in subsection (a)—

21 (A) in paragraph (1)(A), by inserting “and
22 youth” after “children”;

23 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “scientif-
24 ically based educational practices” and inserting

1 *“educational practices, including the use of tech-*
2 *nology based on scientifically valid research,”;*

3 *(C) in paragraph (4)—*

4 *(i) by striking “scientifically based”;*
5 *and*

6 *(ii) by inserting “are based on scientif-*
7 *ically valid research and” after “interven-*
8 *tions that”;*

9 *(D) in paragraph (10), by inserting before*
10 *the semicolon the following: “, including how sec-*
11 *ondary school credentials are related to postsec-*
12 *ondary and employment outcomes”;*

13 *(E) by redesignating paragraphs (11)*
14 *through (15) and paragraphs (16) and (17) as*
15 *paragraphs (12) through (16), respectively, and*
16 *paragraphs (18) and (19), respectively;*

17 *(F) by inserting after paragraph (10), the*
18 *following:*

19 *“(11) examine the participation and outcomes of*
20 *students with disabilities in secondary and postsec-*
21 *ondary career and technical education programs;”;*

22 *(G) in paragraph (14), as redesignated by*
23 *subparagraph (E), by inserting “and profes-*
24 *sional development” after “preparation”;*

1 (H) in paragraph (16), as redesignated by
2 subparagraph (E), by striking “help parents”
3 and inserting “examine the methods by which
4 parents may”;

5 (I) by inserting after paragraph (16), as re-
6 designated by subparagraph (E), the following:

7 “(17) assist the Board in the preparation and
8 dissemination of each evaluation report under section
9 116(d);”;

10 (J) in paragraph (18), as redesignated by
11 subparagraph (E), by striking “and” at the end;

12 (K) by striking paragraph (19), as redesign-
13 ated by subparagraph (E), and inserting the
14 following:

15 “(19) examine the needs of children with disabil-
16 ities who are English learners, are gifted and tal-
17 ented, or have other unique learning needs; and”; and

18 (L) by adding at the end the following:

19 “(20) examine innovations in the field of special
20 education, such as multi-tiered systems of support.”;

21 (2) in subsection (c)—

22 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph

23 (1)—

1 (i) by inserting “for the activities of
2 the Special Education Research Center”
3 after “a research plan”; and

4 (ii) by striking “Services, that—” and
5 inserting “Services, and, subject to the ap-
6 proval of the Director, implement the re-
7 search plan. The research plan shall be a
8 plan that—”;

9 (B) in paragraph (1), by inserting “de-
10 scribed in section 175(b)” after “Center”;

11 (C) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting
12 the following:

13 “(2) is carried out, and, as appropriate, updated
14 and modified, including by using the results of the
15 Special Education Research Center’s most recent eval-
16 uation report under section 116(d);”;

17 (D) by striking paragraph (5);

18 (E) by redesignating paragraphs (3), (4),
19 and (6) as paragraphs (4), (5), and (7), respec-
20 tively;

21 (F) by inserting after paragraph (2) the fol-
22 lowing:

23 “(3) provides for research that addresses signifi-
24 cant questions of practice where such research is lack-
25 ing;”;

(G) in paragraph (5), as redesignated by subparagraph (E), by striking “and types of children with” and inserting “, student subgroups, and types of”; and

(H) by inserting after paragraph (5), as redesignated by subparagraph (E), the following:

“(6) describes how the Special Education Research Center will use the performance management system described in section 185 to assess and improve the activities of the Center; and”;

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “Director” and inserting “Special Education Research Commissioner”;

(B) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

“(3) APPLICATIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible applicant that wishes to receive a grant, or enter into a contract or cooperative agreement, under this section shall submit an application to the Special Education Research Commissioner at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Special Education Research Commissioner may require.

1 “(B) *CONTENTS.*—An application submitted
2 under subparagraph (A) shall describe how the
3 eligible applicant will address and demonstrate
4 progress on the requirements of the performance
5 management system described in section 185,
6 with respect to the activities that will be carried
7 out under such grant, contract, or cooperative
8 agreement.”; and

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

10 “(4) *DURATION.*—Notwithstanding any other
11 provision of law, the grants, contracts, and coopera-
12 tive agreements under this section may be awarded or
13 entered into, on a competitive basis, for a period of
14 not more than 5 years, and may be renewed at the
15 discretion of the Special Education Research Commis-
16 sioner for an additional period of not more than 2
17 years if the recipient demonstrates progress on the re-
18 quirements of the performance management system
19 described in section 185, with respect to the activities
20 carried out under the grant, contract, or cooperative
21 agreement received or entered into under this sec-
22 tion.”;

23 (4) by striking subsection (e) and inserting the
24 following:

1 “(e) *DISSEMINATION.*—*The Special Education Re-*
 2 *search Center shall synthesize and, consistent with section*
 3 *114(j), widely disseminate and promote utilization of the*
 4 *findings and results of special education research conducted*
 5 *or supported by the Special Education Research Center.*”;
 6 *and*

7 (5) *in subsection (f), by striking “part such sums*
 8 *as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2005*
 9 *through 2010.” and inserting the following: “part—*
 10 *“(1) for fiscal year 2015, \$54,000,000;*
 11 *“(2) for fiscal year 2016, \$55,080,000;*
 12 *“(3) for fiscal year 2017, \$56,181,600;*
 13 *“(4) for fiscal year 2018, \$57,305,232;*
 14 *“(5) for fiscal year 2019, \$58,394,031; and*
 15 *“(6) for fiscal year 2020, \$66,151,452.”.*

16 ***PART F—GENERAL PROVISIONS***

17 ***SEC. 181. PROHIBITIONS.***

18 *Section 182 (20 U.S.C. 9572) is amended—*

19 (1) *in subsection (b), by inserting “specific aca-*
 20 *ademic achievement or content standards or assess-*
 21 *ments,” after “the curriculum,”; and*

22 (2) *in subsection (c), by striking “an elementary*
 23 *school or secondary school” and inserting “early edu-*
 24 *cation, or in an elementary school, secondary school,*
 25 *or institution of higher education”.*

1 **SEC. 182. CONFIDENTIALITY.**

2 *Section 183 (20 U.S.C. 9573) is amended—*

3 *(1) in subsection (b)—*

4 *(A) by striking “their families, and infor-*
5 *mation with respect to individual schools,” and*
6 *inserting “and their families”; and*

7 *(B) by inserting before the period at the end*
8 *the following: “, and that any disclosed informa-*
9 *tion with respect to individual schools not reveal*
10 *such individually identifiable information”;*

11 *(2) in subsection (d)(2), by inserting “, includ-*
12 *ing voluntary and uncompensated services under sec-*
13 *tion 190” after “providing services”; and*

14 *(3) in subsection (e)(1), in the matter preceding*
15 *subparagraph (A), by inserting “and Director” after*
16 *“Secretary”.*

17 **SEC. 183. AVAILABILITY OF DATA.**

18 *Section 184 (20 U.S.C. 9574) is amended by striking*
19 *“use of the Internet” and inserting “electronic means, such*
20 *as posting in an easily accessible manner on the Institute’s*
21 *website”.*

22 **SEC. 184. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT.**

23 *Section 185 (20 U.S.C. 9575) is amended to read as*
24 *follows:*

1 **“SEC. 185. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT.**

2 *“The Director shall establish a system for managing*
3 *the performance of all activities authorized under this title*
4 *to promote continuous improvement of the activities and*
5 *to ensure the effective use of Federal funds by—*

6 *“(1) developing and using measurable perform-*
7 *ance indicators, including timelines, to evaluate and*
8 *improve the effectiveness of the activities;*

9 *“(2) using the performance indicators described*
10 *in paragraph (1) to inform funding decisions, includ-*
11 *ing the awarding and continuation of all grants, con-*
12 *tracts, and cooperative agreements under this title;*

13 *“(3) establishing and improving formal feedback*
14 *mechanisms to—*

15 *“(A) anticipate and meet stakeholder needs;*
16 *and*

17 *“(B) incorporate, on an ongoing basis, the*
18 *feedback of such stakeholders into the activities*
19 *authorized under this title; and*

20 *“(4) promoting the wide dissemination and uti-*
21 *lization, consistent with section 114(j), of all informa-*
22 *tion, products, and publications of the Institute.”.*

23 **SEC. 185. AUTHORITY TO PUBLISH.**

24 *Section 186(b) (20 U.S.C. 9576(b)) is amended by*
25 *striking “any information to be published under this section*

1 *before publication” and inserting “any publication under*
 2 *this section before the public release of such publication”.*

3 **SEC. 186. REPEALS.**

4 (a) *REPEALS.—Sections 187 (20 U.S.C. 9577) and*
 5 *193 (20 U.S.C. 9583) are repealed.*

6 (b) *CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The table of contents*
 7 *in section 1 of the Act of November 5, 2002 (Public Law*
 8 *107–279; 116 Stat. 1940) is amended by striking the items*
 9 *relating to sections 187 and 193.*

10 **SEC. 187. FELLOWSHIPS.**

11 *Section 189 (20 U.S.C. 9579) is amended—*

12 (1) *by inserting “and the mission of each Na-*
 13 *tional Education Center authorized under this title”*
 14 *after “related to education”; and*

15 (2) *by striking “historically Black colleges and*
 16 *universities” and inserting “minority-serving institu-*
 17 *tions”.*

18 **SEC. 188. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

19 *Section 194 (20 U.S.C. 9584) is amended—*

20 (1) *by striking subsection (a) and inserting the*
 21 *following:*

22 “(a) *IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appro-*
 23 *priated to administer and carry out this title (except part*
 24 *E)—*

25 “(1) *for fiscal year 2015, \$337,343,000;*

1 “(2) for fiscal year 2016, \$344,089,860;

2 “(3) for fiscal year 2017, \$350,971,657;

3 “(4) for fiscal year 2018, \$357,991,090;

4 “(5) for fiscal year 2019, \$364,792,921; and

5 “(6) for fiscal year 2020, \$368,440,850.”; and

6 (2) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the
7 *following:*

8 “(b) *RESERVATIONS.*—Of the amounts appropriated
9 under subsection (a) for each fiscal year—

10 “(1) not less than the amount provided to the
11 National Center for Education Statistics (as such
12 Center was in existence on the day before the date of
13 enactment of the Strengthening Education through
14 Research Act) for fiscal year 2014 shall be provided
15 to the National Center for Education Statistics, as
16 authorized under part C; and

17 “(2) not more than the lesser of 2 percent of such
18 appropriated amounts or \$2,000,000 shall be made
19 available to carry out section 116 (relating to the Na-
20 tional Board for Education Sciences).”.

1 **PART G—TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING**

2 **AMENDMENTS**

3 **SEC. 191. TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO**

4 **OTHER LAWS.**

5 (a) *CARL D. PERKINS CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDU-*
6 *CATION ACT OF 2006.*—Section 3(25) of the *Carl D. Perkins*
7 *Career and Technical Education Act of 2006* (20 U.S.C.
8 2302(25)) is amended by striking “using scientifically
9 based research standards, as defined in section 102” and
10 inserting “in accordance with the principles of scientific re-
11 search, as defined in section 102”.

12 (b) *ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT OF*
13 *1965.*—Section 9529(b) of the *Elementary and Secondary*
14 *Education Act of 1965* (20 U.S.C. 7909(b)) is amended by
15 striking “section 153(a)(5)” and inserting “section
16 153(a)(6)”.

17 (c) *INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION*
18 *ACT.*—Section 681(a)(1) of the *Individuals with Disabil-*
19 *ities Education Act* (20 U.S.C. 1481(a)(1)) is amended by
20 striking “section 178(c)” and inserting “section 177(c)”.

21 **TITLE II—EDUCATIONAL**
22 **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

23 **SEC. 201. REFERENCES.**

24 *Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in*
25 *this title an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of*
26 *an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision,*

1 *the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or*
 2 *other provision of the Educational Technical Assistance Act*
 3 *of 2002 (20 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.).*

4 **SEC. 202. DEFINITIONS.**

5 *Section 202 (20 U.S.C. 9601) is amended—*

6 *(1) by redesignating paragraph (2) as para-*
 7 *graph (3); and*

8 *(2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-*
 9 *lowing:*

10 *“(2) SCHOOL LEADER.—The term ‘school leader’*
 11 *has the meaning given the term in section 102.”.*

12 **SEC. 203. COMPREHENSIVE CENTERS.**

13 *Section 203 (20 U.S.C. 9602) is amended—*

14 *(1) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the*
 15 *following:*

16 *“(a) AUTHORIZATION.—*

17 *“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (3)*
 18 *and except as provided in subsection (b)(5), the Sec-*
 19 *retary shall award 17 grants, contracts, or coopera-*
 20 *tive agreements to eligible applicants to establish com-*
 21 *prehensive centers.*

22 *“(2) MISSION.—The mission of the comprehen-*
 23 *sive centers is to provide State educational agencies*
 24 *and local educational agencies technical assistance,*
 25 *analysis, and training to build their capacity in im-*

1 *plementing the requirements of the Elementary and*
2 *Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et*
3 *seq.) and other Federal education laws, and research-*
4 *based practices.*

5 “(3) *REGIONS.*—*In awarding grants, contracts,*
6 *or cooperative agreements under paragraph (1), the*
7 *Secretary—*

8 “(A) *shall establish at least one comprehen-*
9 *sive center for each of the 10 geographic regions*
10 *served by the regional educational laboratories*
11 *established under section 941(h) of the Edu-*
12 *cational Research, Development, Dissemination,*
13 *and Improvement Act of 1994 (20 U.S.C.*
14 *6041(h)) (as such provision existed on the day*
15 *before the date of enactment of this Act);*

16 “(B) *may establish additional comprehen-*
17 *sive centers—*

18 “(i) *for one or more of the regions de-*
19 *scribed in subparagraph (A); or*

20 “(ii) *to serve the Nation as a whole by*
21 *providing technical assistance on a par-*
22 *ticular content area of importance to the*
23 *Nation, as determined by the Secretary; and*

24 “(C) *may make such arrangements as the*
25 *Secretary determines necessary to ensure that the*

1 *Bureau of Indian Education and States or local*
2 *educational agencies serving significant numbers*
3 *of American Indian, Alaska Native, or Native*
4 *Hawaiian students have access to services pro-*
5 *vided under this section.*

6 “(4) *NATION.*—*In the case of a comprehensive*
7 *center established to serve the Nation as described in*
8 *paragraph (3)(B)(ii), the Nation shall be considered*
9 *to be a region served by such Center.*

10 “(5) *AWARD PERIOD.*—*A grant, contract, or co-*
11 *operative agreement under this section may be award-*
12 *ed, on a competitive basis, for a period of not more*
13 *than 5 years.*

14 “(6) *RESPONSIVENESS.*—*The Secretary shall en-*
15 *sure that each comprehensive center established under*
16 *this section has the ability to respond in a timely*
17 *fashion to the needs of State educational agencies and*
18 *local educational agencies, including through using*
19 *the results of the center’s interim evaluation under*
20 *section 204(c), to improve and modify the activities*
21 *of the center before the end of the award period.”;*

22 *(2) in subsection (b)—*

23 *(A) in paragraph (1)—*

24 *(i) by inserting “, contracts, or cooper-*
25 *ative agreements” after “Grants”;*

1 (ii) by striking “research organiza-
 2 tions, institutions, agencies, institutions of
 3 higher education,” and inserting “public or
 4 private, nonprofit or for-profit research or-
 5 ganizations, other organizations, or institu-
 6 tions of higher education,”;

7 (iii) by striking “, or individuals,”;

8 (iv) by striking “subsection (f)” and
 9 inserting “subsection (e)”; and

10 (v) by striking “, including regional”
 11 and all that follows through “107–110))”;
 12 and

13 (B) by striking paragraphs (2) and (3) and
 14 inserting the following:

15 “(2) *OUTREACH.*—In conducting competitions
 16 for grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements under
 17 this section, the Secretary shall—

18 “(A) by making widely available informa-
 19 tion and technical assistance relating to the com-
 20 petition, actively encourage eligible applicants to
 21 compete for such awards; and

22 “(B) seek input from chief executive officers
 23 of States, chief State school officers, educators,
 24 parents, superintendents, and other individuals

1 *with knowledge of the needs of the regions to be*
2 *served by the awards, regarding—*

3 “(i) *the needs in the regions for tech-*
4 *nical assistance authorized under this title;*
5 *and*

6 “(ii) *how such needs may be addressed*
7 *most effectively.*

8 “(3) *PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT.—Before*
9 *awarding a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement*
10 *under this section, the Secretary shall establish meas-*
11 *urable performance indicators to be used to assess the*
12 *ongoing progress and performance of the comprehen-*
13 *sive centers to be established under this title that ad-*
14 *dress paragraphs (1) through (3) of the performance*
15 *management system described in section 185.*

16 “(4) *REQUIRED CONSIDERATION.—In deter-*
17 *mining whether to award or enter into a grant, con-*
18 *tract, or cooperative agreement under this section—*

19 “(A) *to an eligible applicant that previously*
20 *established a comprehensive center under this*
21 *section, the Secretary shall—*

22 “(i) *consider the results of such center’s*
23 *summative evaluation under section 204(b)*
24 *or, if not available, any interim evaluation*
25 *results under section 204(c); and*

1 “(ii) ensure that only centers deter-
2 mined effective in the centers’ relevant in-
3 terim or summative evaluations, as de-
4 scribed in section 204, are eligible to receive
5 a new grant, contract, or cooperative agree-
6 ment; and

7 “(B) to any eligible applicant, the Secretary
8 shall ensure that such applicant has—

9 “(i) a history of effectiveness in pro-
10 viding high-quality technical assistance;
11 and

12 “(ii) the capacity to meet the measur-
13 able performance indicators established
14 under paragraph (3).

15 “(5) FLEXIBILITY IN COMPREHENSIVE CENTER
16 NUMBER.—

17 “(A) DETERMINATION.—The Secretary, in
18 consultation with the comprehensive center advi-
19 sory boards described in subsection (f), may de-
20 termine that establishing 17 comprehensive cen-
21 ters under this section is unnecessary, as re-
22 quired in subsection (a)(1), and grant an alter-
23 native number of awards or reorganize such cen-
24 ters, which may include organizing the centers

1 *around content area instead of by the regions de-*
2 *scribed in subsection (a)(3), if—*

3 *“(i) an insufficient number of such*
4 *comprehensive centers are meeting the needs*
5 *of the regions described in paragraphs (3)*
6 *and (4) of subsection (a), as determined by*
7 *the Secretary;*

8 *“(ii) an insufficient number of such*
9 *comprehensive centers are meeting the meas-*
10 *urable performance indicators established*
11 *under paragraph (3), as determined by the*
12 *Secretary and the most recent interim or*
13 *summative evaluation under section 204; or*

14 *“(iii) an insufficient number of eligible*
15 *applicants have the capacity to meet the*
16 *measurable performance indicators estab-*
17 *lished under paragraph (3), as determined*
18 *by the Secretary.*

19 *“(B) LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall not*
20 *use the determination authority described in sub-*
21 *paragraph (A) to establish more than 17 com-*
22 *prehensive centers under this section.*

23 *“(6) CONTINUATION OF AWARDS.—*

24 *“(A) CONTINUATION OF AWARDS.—The Sec-*
25 *retary shall continue awards made to each eligi-*

1 *ble applicant for the support of comprehensive*
2 *centers established under this section prior to the*
3 *date of enactment of the Strengthening Edu-*
4 *cation through Research Act, as such awards*
5 *were in effect on the day before the date of enact-*
6 *ment of such Act, for the duration of those*
7 *awards, in accordance with the terms and agree-*
8 *ments of such awards.*

9 *“(B) RECOMPETITION.—Not later than the*
10 *end of the period of the awards described in sub-*
11 *paragraph (A), the Secretary shall—*

12 *“(i) hold a competition to make grants,*
13 *contracts, or cooperative agreements under*
14 *this section to eligible applicants, which*
15 *may include eligible applicants that held*
16 *awards described in subparagraph (A); and*

17 *“(ii) in determining whether to select*
18 *an eligible applicant that held an award de-*
19 *scribed in subparagraph (A) for an award*
20 *under clause (i) of this subparagraph, con-*
21 *sider the results of the summative evalua-*
22 *tion under section 204(b) of the center es-*
23 *tablished with the eligible applicant’s award*
24 *described in subparagraph (A).*

1 “(7) *ELIGIBLE APPLICANT DEFINED.*—*For pur-*
 2 *poses of this section, the term ‘eligible applicant’*
 3 *means an entity described in paragraph (1).’;*

4 *(3) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the*
 5 *following:*

6 “(c) *APPLICATIONS.*—

7 “(1) *SUBMISSION.*—

8 “(A) *IN GENERAL.*—*Each eligible applicant*
 9 *seeking a grant, contract, or cooperative agree-*
 10 *ment under this section shall submit an applica-*
 11 *tion at such time, in such manner, and con-*
 12 *taining such additional information as the Sec-*
 13 *retary may reasonably require.*

14 “(B) *INPUT.*—*To ensure that applications*
 15 *submitted under this paragraph are reflective of*
 16 *the needs of the regions to be served, each eligible*
 17 *applicant submitting such an application shall*
 18 *seek input from—*

19 “(i) *State educational agencies and*
 20 *local educational agencies in the region that*
 21 *the award will serve; and*

22 “(ii) *other individuals with knowledge*
 23 *of the region’s needs.*

24 “(2) *PLAN.*—

1 “(A) *IN GENERAL.*—*Each application sub-*
2 *mitted under paragraph (1) shall contain a plan*
3 *for the comprehensive center to be established*
4 *under this section, which shall be updated, modi-*
5 *fied, and improved, as appropriate, on an ongo-*
6 *ing basis, including by using the results of the*
7 *center’s interim evaluation under section 204(c).*

8 “(B) *CONTENTS.*—*A plan described in sub-*
9 *paragraph (A) shall address—*

10 “(i) *the priorities for technical assist-*
11 *ance established under section 207;*

12 “(ii) *the needs of State educational*
13 *agencies and local educational agencies, on*
14 *an ongoing basis, using available State and*
15 *local data, including how the needs of*
16 *schools identified for improvement and*
17 *schools and local educational agencies with*
18 *a high percentage or number of low-income*
19 *students will be prioritized and served; and*

20 “(iii) *if available, demonstrated sup-*
21 *port from State educational agencies and*
22 *local educational agencies, such as letters of*
23 *support or signed memoranda of under-*
24 *standing.*

1 “(3) *NON-FEDERAL SUPPORT.*—*In conducting a*
 2 *competition for grants, contracts, or cooperative*
 3 *agreements under subsection (a), the Secretary shall*
 4 *give priority to eligible applicants that will provide*
 5 *a portion of non-Federal funds to maximize support*
 6 *for activities of the comprehensive centers to be estab-*
 7 *lished under this section.”;*

8 (4) *in subsection (d), by inserting “the number*
 9 *of low-performing schools in the region,” after “eco-*
 10 *nomically disadvantaged students,”;*

11 (5) *by striking subsections (e), (g), and (h);*

12 (6) *by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection*
 13 *(e);*

14 (7) *in subsection (e), as redesignated by para-*
 15 *graph (6)—*

16 (A) *in paragraph (1)—*

17 (i) *in the matter preceding subpara-*
 18 *graph (A), by striking “support dissemina-*
 19 *tion and technical assistance activities by”*
 20 *and inserting “support State educational*
 21 *agencies and local educational agencies, in-*
 22 *cluding by”;*

23 (ii) *in subparagraph (A)—*

1 (I) in clause (i), by inserting
2 “and other Federal education laws” be-
3 fore the semicolon;

4 (II) in clause (ii)—

5 (aa) in the matter preceding
6 subclause (I), by striking “and as-
7 sessment tools” and inserting “,
8 assessment tools, and other edu-
9 cational strategies”;

10 (bb) in subclause (I), by
11 striking “mathematics, science,”
12 and inserting “mathematics and
13 science, which may include com-
14 puter science or engineering,”;
15 and

16 (cc) in subclause (III), by in-
17 serting “, including innovative
18 tools and methods” before the
19 semicolon; and

20 (III) by striking clause (iii) and
21 inserting the following:

22 “(iii) the replication and adaptation of
23 exemplary practices and innovative methods
24 that have an evidence base of effectiveness;
25 and”;

1 (iii) in subparagraph (B)—

2 (I) by inserting “, consistent with
3 section 114(j),” after “disseminating”;
4 and

5 (II) by striking “(as described”
6 and all that follows through “is lo-
7 cated”; and

8 (iv) by striking subparagraph (C) and
9 inserting the following:

10 “(C) ensuring activities carried out under
11 this section are relevant and responsive to the
12 needs of the region being served.”; and

13 (B) in paragraph (2)—

14 (i) by inserting “, on an ongoing
15 basis,” after “this section shall”; and

16 (ii) by striking “in which the center is
17 located” and inserting “served by the center
18 or other regional educational laboratories or
19 comprehensive centers, as appropriate”; and

20 (8) by adding at the end the following:

21 “(f) *COMPREHENSIVE CENTER ADVISORY BOARD.*—

22 “(1) *ESTABLISHMENT.*—Each comprehensive
23 center established under this section may establish an
24 advisory board that shall support the priorities of
25 such center.

1 “(2) *DUTIES.—Each advisory board established*
2 *under paragraph (1) shall advise the comprehensive*
3 *center—*

4 “(A) *concerning the activities described in*
5 *subsection (e);*

6 “(B) *on strategies for monitoring and ad-*
7 *ressing the educational needs of the region being*
8 *served on an ongoing basis and, as appropriate,*
9 *national needs;*

10 “(C) *on maintaining a high standard of*
11 *quality in the performance of the center’s activi-*
12 *ties, especially in meeting the measurable per-*
13 *formance indicators established under subsection*
14 *(b)(3);*

15 “(D) *on carrying out the center’s duties in*
16 *a manner that promotes progress toward im-*
17 *proving student academic achievement;*

18 “(E) *on the activities undertaken by re-*
19 *gional educational laboratories of the region*
20 *being served, other regional educational labora-*
21 *tories, as appropriate, and other comprehensive*
22 *centers to align the work of the laboratories and*
23 *centers, reduce redundancy, and increase collabo-*
24 *ration and resource-sharing in such activities;*
25 *and*

1 “(F) on joint activities, with other com-
2 prehensive centers or regional educational lab-
3 oratories from other regions, that would meet the
4 needs of multiple regions.

5 “(3) COMPOSITION.—

6 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Each advisory board
7 shall—

8 “(i) not exceed 25 members;

9 “(ii) include the chief State school offi-
10 cer, or such officer’s designee, or other State
11 official, of States within the region served
12 by the comprehensive center who have pri-
13 mary responsibility under State law for ele-
14 mentary and secondary education in the
15 State;

16 “(iii) include representatives of local
17 educational agencies, including rural and
18 urban local educational agencies, that rep-
19 resent the geographic diversity of the region;

20 “(iv) include researchers; and

21 “(v) include not less than 1 representa-
22 tive from the advisory board of a regional
23 educational laboratory in the region being
24 served by the comprehensive center.

1 “(B) *ELIGIBILITY.*—*The membership of*
2 *each comprehensive center advisory board may*
3 *include the following:*

4 “(i) *Representatives of institutions of*
5 *higher education.*

6 “(ii) *Parents.*

7 “(iii) *Practicing educators, including*
8 *classroom teachers, school leaders, adminis-*
9 *trators, school board members, and other*
10 *local school officials.*

11 “(iv) *Representatives of business.*

12 “(v) *Policymakers.*

13 “(4) *RECOMMENDATIONS.*—*In choosing individ-*
14 *uals for membership on a comprehensive center advi-*
15 *sory board, the comprehensive center shall consult*
16 *with, and solicit recommendations from, the Sec-*
17 *retary, chief executive officers of States, chief State*
18 *school officers, local educational agencies, and other*
19 *education stakeholders within the applicable region.*

20 “(5) *SPECIAL RULE.*—*The total number of mem-*
21 *bers on each board who are selected under clauses (ii)*
22 *and (iii) of paragraph (3)(A), in the aggregate, shall*
23 *exceed the total number of members who are selected*
24 *under paragraph (3)(B), collectively.*

1 “(g) *REPORT TO THE SECRETARY.*—Each comprehen-
 2 sive center established under this section shall submit to the
 3 Secretary an annual report, at such time, in such manner,
 4 and containing such information as the Secretary may re-
 5 quire, which shall include the following:

6 “(1) *A summary of the center’s activities and*
 7 *products developed during the previous year.*

8 “(2) *A listing of the State educational agencies,*
 9 *local educational agencies, and schools the center as-*
 10 *sisted during the previous year.*

11 “(3) *Using the measurable performance indica-*
 12 *tors established under subsection (b)(3), a description*
 13 *of how well the center is meeting educational needs of*
 14 *the region served by the center.*

15 “(4) *Any changes to the center’s plan under sub-*
 16 *section (c)(2) to improve its activities in the remain-*
 17 *ing years of the grant, contract, or cooperative agree-*
 18 *ment.”.*

19 **SEC. 204. EVALUATIONS.**

20 Section 204 (20 U.S.C. 9603) is amended to read as
 21 follows:

22 **“SEC. 204. EVALUATIONS.**

23 “(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary shall—

24 “(1) *provide for ongoing summative and interim*
 25 *evaluations described in subsections (b) and (c), re-*

1 *spectively, of each of the comprehensive centers estab-*
2 *lished under this title in carrying out the full range*
3 *of duties of the center under this title; and*

4 *“(2) transmit the results of such evaluations,*
5 *through appropriate means, to the appropriate con-*
6 *gressional committees, the Director of the Institute of*
7 *Education Sciences, and the public.*

8 *“(b) SUMMATIVE EVALUATION.—The Secretary shall*
9 *ensure each comprehensive center established under this title*
10 *is evaluated by an independent entity at the end of the pe-*
11 *riod of the grant, contract, or cooperative agreement that*
12 *established such center, which shall—*

13 *“(1) be completed in a timely fashion;*

14 *“(2) assess how well the center is meeting the*
15 *measurable performance indicators established under*
16 *section 203(b)(3); and*

17 *“(3) consider the extent to which the center en-*
18 *sures that the technical assistance of such center is*
19 *relevant and useful to the work of State and local*
20 *practitioners and policymakers.*

21 *“(c) INTERIM EVALUATION.—The Secretary shall en-*
22 *sure that each comprehensive center established under this*
23 *title is evaluated at the midpoint of the period of the grant,*
24 *contract, or cooperative agreement that established such cen-*
25 *ter, which shall—*

1 “(1) assess how well such center is meeting the
2 measurable performance indicators established under
3 section 203(b)(3); and

4 “(2) be used to improve the effectiveness of such
5 center in carrying out its plan under section
6 203(c)(2).”.

7 **SEC. 205. EXISTING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDERS.**

8 (a) *REPEAL*.—Section 205 (20 U.S.C. 9604) is re-
9 pealed.

10 (b) *CONFORMING AMENDMENT*.—The table of contents
11 in section 1 of the Act of November 5, 2002 (Public Law
12 107–279; 116 Stat. 1940) is amended by striking the item
13 relating to section 205.

14 **SEC. 206. REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES.**

15 (a) *REPEAL*.—Section 206 (20 U.S.C. 9605) is re-
16 pealed.

17 (b) *CONFORMING AMENDMENT*.—The table of contents
18 in section 1 of the Act of November 5, 2002 (Public Law
19 107–279; 116 Stat. 1940) is amended by striking the item
20 relating to section 206.

21 **SEC. 207. PRIORITIES.**

22 Section 207 (20 U.S.C. 9606) is amended—

23 (1) by inserting “Director and” before “Sec-
24 retary shall establish”;

1 (2) *by striking “of the Education Sciences Re-*
2 *form Act of 2002”;*

3 (3) *by striking “of this title”;*

4 (4) *by striking “to address, taking onto account*
5 *the regional assessments conducted under section 206*
6 *and other” and inserting “, respectively, using the re-*
7 *sults of”; and*

8 (5) *by striking “relevant regional” and all that*
9 *follows through “Secretary deems appropriate” and*
10 *inserting “relevant regional and national surveys of*
11 *educational needs”.*

12 **SEC. 208. GRANT PROGRAM FOR STATEWIDE, LONGITU-**
13 **DINAL DATA SYSTEMS.**

14 *Section 208 (20 U.S.C. 9607) is amended—*

15 (1) *in subsection (a)—*

16 (A) *by inserting before the period at the end*
17 *the following: “, the Higher Education Act of*
18 *1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.), and the Individ-*
19 *uals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C.*
20 *1400 et seq.)”;* and

21 (B) *by adding at the end the following:*

22 *“State educational agencies receiving a grant*
23 *under this section may provide subgrants to local*
24 *educational agencies to improve the capacity of*

1 *local educational agencies to carry out the activi-*
 2 *ties authorized under this section.”;*

3 *(2) by redesignating subsections (c), (d), and (e)*
 4 *as subsections (d), (e), and (g), respectively;*

5 *(3) by inserting after subsection (b), the fol-*
 6 *lowing:*

7 *“(c) PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT.—Before awarding*
 8 *a grant under this section, the Secretary shall establish*
 9 *measurable performance indicators—*

10 *“(1) to be used to assess the ongoing progress and*
 11 *performance of State educational agencies receiving a*
 12 *grant under this section; and*

13 *“(2) that address paragraphs (1) through (3) of*
 14 *the performance management system described in sec-*
 15 *tion 185.”;*

16 *(4) in subsection (d), as redesignated by para-*
 17 *graph (2)—*

18 *(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “, pro-*
 19 *motes linkages across States,”;*

20 *(B) in paragraph (2)—*

21 *(i) in the matter preceding subpara-*
 22 *graph (A), by inserting “supports school*
 23 *improvement and” after “data that”;*

24 *(ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking*
 25 *“and other reporting requirements and close*

1 *achievement gaps; and” and inserting “*
2 *and other reporting requirements, close*
3 *achievement gaps, and improve teaching*
4 *and school leadership;”;*

5 *(iii) in subparagraph (B), by striking*
6 *“and close achievement gaps; and” and by*
7 *inserting “, close achievement gaps, and im-*
8 *prove teaching and school leadership; and”;*
9 *and*

10 *(iv) by inserting after subparagraph*
11 *(B) the following:*

12 *“(C) to align statewide, longitudinal data*
13 *systems from early education through postsec-*
14 *ondary education (including pre-service prepara-*
15 *tion programs), and the workforce, consistent*
16 *with privacy protections under section 183;”;*
17 *and*

18 *(C) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting*
19 *the following:*

20 *“(3) ensures the protection of student privacy,*
21 *and includes a review of how State educational agen-*
22 *cies, local educational agencies, and others that will*
23 *have access to the statewide, longitudinal data sys-*
24 *tems under this section will adhere to Federal privacy*
25 *laws and protections, consistent with section 183, in*

1 *the building, maintenance, and use of such data sys-*
2 *tems;*

3 *“(4) ensures State educational agencies receiving*
4 *a grant under this section support professional devel-*
5 *opment that builds the capacity of teachers and school*
6 *leaders to use data effectively; and*

7 *“(5) gives priority to State educational agencies*
8 *that leverage the use of statewide, longitudinal data*
9 *systems to improve student achievement and growth,*
10 *including such State educational agencies that—*

11 *“(A) meet the voluntary standards and*
12 *guidelines described in section 153(a)(5);*

13 *“(B) define the roles of State educational*
14 *agencies, local educational agencies, and others*
15 *in providing timely access to data under the*
16 *statewide, longitudinal data systems, consistent*
17 *with privacy protections in section 183; and*

18 *“(C) demonstrate the capacity to share*
19 *teacher and school leader performance data, in-*
20 *cluding student achievement and growth data,*
21 *with local educational agencies and teacher and*
22 *school leader preparation programs.”;*

23 *(5) by inserting after subsection (e), as redesign-*
24 *ated by paragraph (2), the following:*

1 “(f) *RENEWAL OF AWARDS.*—*The Secretary may*
 2 *renew a grant awarded to a State educational agency under*
 3 *this section for a period not to exceed 3 years, if the State*
 4 *educational agency has demonstrated progress on the meas-*
 5 *urable performance indicators established under subsection*
 6 *(c).”; and*

7 *(6) by striking subsection (g), as redesignated by*
 8 *paragraph (2), and inserting the following:*

9 “(g) *REPORTS.*—

10 “(1) *FIRST REPORT.*—*Not later than 1 year after*
 11 *the date of enactment of the Strengthening Education*
 12 *through Research Act, the Secretary shall prepare and*
 13 *make publicly available a report on the implementa-*
 14 *tion and effectiveness of the activities carried out by*
 15 *State educational agencies receiving a grant under*
 16 *this section, including—*

17 “(A) *information on progress in the devel-*
 18 *opment and use of statewide, longitudinal data*
 19 *systems described in this section;*

20 “(B) *information on best practices and*
 21 *areas for improvement in such development and*
 22 *use; and*

23 “(C) *how the State educational agencies are*
 24 *adhering to Federal privacy laws and protec-*

1 *tions in the building, maintenance, and use of*
 2 *such data systems.*

3 “(2) *SUCCEEDING REPORTS.*—*Every succeeding*
 4 *3 years after the report is made publicly available*
 5 *under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall prepare and*
 6 *make publicly available a report on the implementa-*
 7 *tion and effectiveness of the activities carried out by*
 8 *State educational agencies receiving a grant under*
 9 *this section, including—*

10 “(A) *information on the requirements of*
 11 *subparagraphs (A) through (C) of paragraph (1);*
 12 *and*

13 “(B) *the progress, in the aggregate, State*
 14 *educational agencies are making on the measur-*
 15 *able performance indicators established under*
 16 *subsection (c).”.*

17 **SEC. 209. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

18 *Section 209 (20 U.S.C. 9608) is amended to read as*
 19 *follows:*

20 **“SEC. 209. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

21 *“There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out*
 22 *this title—*

23 “(1) *for fiscal year 2015, \$82,984,000;*

24 “(2) *for fiscal year 2016, \$84,643,680;*

25 “(3) *for fiscal year 2017, \$86,336,554;*

1 “(4) for fiscal year 2018, \$88,063,285;
 2 “(5) for fiscal year 2019, \$89,736,487; and
 3 “(6) for fiscal year 2020, \$90,633,852.”.

4 **TITLE III—NATIONAL ASSESS-**
 5 **MENT OF EDUCATIONAL**
 6 **PROGRESS**

7 **SEC. 301. REFERENCES.**

8 *Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in*
 9 *this title an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of*
 10 *an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision,*
 11 *the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or*
 12 *other provision of the National Assessment of Educational*
 13 *Progress Authorization Act (20 U.S.C. 9621 et seq.).*

14 **SEC. 302. NATIONAL ASSESSMENT GOVERNING BOARD.**

15 *Section 302 (20 U.S.C. 9621) is amended—*

16 *(1) in subsection (a), by striking “shall formu-*
 17 *late policy guidelines” and inserting “shall oversee*
 18 *and set policies, in a manner consistent with sub-*
 19 *section (e) and accepted professional standards,”;*

20 *(2) in subsection (b)(1)(L)—*

21 *(A) by striking “principals” and inserting*
 22 *“leaders”; and*

23 *(B) by striking “principal” both places it*
 24 *appears and inserting “leader”;*

25 *(3) in subsection (c), by striking paragraph (4);*

1 (4) in subsection (d)—

2 (A) in paragraph (1)—

3 (i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting
4 “the Assessment Board after consultation
5 with” before “organizations”; and

6 (ii) in subparagraph (B)—

7 (I) by striking “Each organiza-
8 tion submitting nominations to the
9 Secretary with” and inserting “With”;
10 and

11 (II) by inserting “, the Assessment
12 Board” after “particular vacancy”;
13 and

14 (B) in paragraph (2)—

15 (i) by striking “that each organization
16 described in paragraph (1)(A) submit addi-
17 tional nominations” and inserting “addi-
18 tional nominations from the Assessment
19 Board or each organization described in
20 paragraph (1)(A)”;

21 (ii) by striking “such organization”
22 and inserting “the Assessment Board”; and

23 (5) in subsection (e)(1)—

24 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

1 (i) by inserting “in consultation with
2 the Commissioner for Education Statistics,”
3 before “select”;

4 (ii) by inserting “and grades or ages”
5 before “to be”; and

6 (iii) by inserting “, and determine the
7 year in which such assessments will be con-
8 ducted” after “assessed”;

9 (B) in subparagraph (D), by inserting
10 “school leaders,” after “teachers,”;

11 (C) in subparagraph (E), by striking “de-
12 sign” and inserting “provide input on”;

13 (D) by striking “and” at the end of sub-
14 paragraph (I);

15 (E) by redesignating subparagraph (J) as
16 subparagraph (K);

17 (F) by inserting after subparagraph (I), the
18 following:

19 “(J) provide input to the Director on an-
20 nual budget requests for the National Assessment
21 of Educational Progress; and”;

22 (G) in subparagraph (K), as redesignated
23 by subparagraph (E)—

24 (i) by striking “plan and execute the
25 initial public release of”; and

1 (ii) by inserting “release the initial”
 2 before “National”; and
 3 (H) in the matter following subparagraph
 4 (K), as redesignated by subparagraph (E), by
 5 striking “subparagraph (J)” and inserting “sub-
 6 paragraph (K)”.

7 **SEC. 303. NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL**
 8 **PROGRESS.**

9 Section 303 (20 U.S.C. 9622) is amended—

10 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “with the ad-
 11 vice of the Assessment Board established under section
 12 302” and inserting “in a manner consistent with ac-
 13 cepted professional standards and the policies set
 14 forth by the Assessment Board under section 302(a)”;

15 (2) in subsection (b)—

16 (A) in paragraph (2)—

17 (i) in subparagraph (D), by inserting
 18 “and consistent with section 302(e)(1)(A)”
 19 after “resources allow”;

20 (ii) in subparagraph (G)—

21 (I) by striking “limited English
 22 proficiency” and inserting “English
 23 learner status”; and

24 (II) by striking “and” at the end
 25 of subparagraph (G);

1 (iii) in subparagraph (H), by striking
2 the period at the end and inserting “; and”;
3 and

4 (iv) by adding at the end the following:
5 “(I) determine, after taking into account
6 section 302(e)(1)(I), the content of initial and
7 subsequent reports of all assessments authorized
8 under this section and ensure that such reports
9 are valid and reliable.”; and

10 (B) in paragraph (5)(C), by striking “lim-
11 ited English proficiency” and inserting “English
12 learner status”;

13 (3) in subsection (c)(2)—

14 (A) in subparagraph (B), by striking “of
15 Education” after “Secretary”; and

16 (B) in subparagraph (D)—

17 (i) by striking “Chairman of the
18 House” before “Committee on Education”;

19 (ii) by inserting “of the House of Rep-
20 resentatives” after “Workforce”;

21 (iii) by striking “Chairman of the Sen-
22 ate” before “Committee on Health”; and

23 (iv) by inserting “of the Senate” after
24 “Pensions”;

(4) in subsection (d)(1), by inserting before the period, the following: “, except as required under section 1112(b)(1)(F) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6312(b)(1)(F))”;

(5) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “or age”;

and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking “shall” and all that follows through “be” and insert “shall be”;

(II) by redesignating subclauses (I) and (II) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively (and by moving the margins 2 ems to the left); and

(III) in clause (ii), as redesignated by subclause (II), by striking “, or the age of the students, as the case may be”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) by striking “After the determinations described in subparagraph (A), devising” and inserting “The Assessment Board shall, in making the

1 *determination described in subpara-*
 2 *graph (A), use”; and*

3 *(II) by inserting “, providing for*
 4 *the active participation of teachers,*
 5 *school leaders, curriculum specialists,*
 6 *local school administrators, parents,*
 7 *and concerned members of the general*
 8 *public” after “approach”; and*

9 *(iii) in subparagraph (D), by inserting*
 10 *“Assessment” before “Board”; and*

11 *(6) in subsection (g)(2)—*

12 *(A) in the heading, by striking “AFFAIRS”*
 13 *and inserting “EDUCATION”; and*

14 *(B) by striking “Affairs” and inserting*
 15 *“Education”.*

16 **SEC. 304. DEFINITIONS.**

17 *Section 304 (20 U.S.C. 9623) is amended by striking*
 18 *paragraphs (1) and (2) and inserting the following:*

19 *“(1) IN GENERAL.—The terms ‘elementary*
 20 *school’, ‘local educational agency’, and ‘secondary*
 21 *school’ have the meanings given those terms in section*
 22 *9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education*
 23 *Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).*

24 *“(2) DIRECTOR.—The term ‘Director’ means the*
 25 *Director of the Institute of Education Sciences.*

1 “(3) *SCHOOL LEADER*.—The term ‘school leader’
2 *has the meaning given the term in section 102.*

3 “(4) *SECRETARY*.—The term ‘Secretary’ means
4 *the Secretary of Education.*

5 “(5) *STATE*.—The term ‘State’ means each of the
6 *50 States, the District of Columbia, and the Common-*
7 *wealth of Puerto Rico.’.*

8 **SEC. 305. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

9 *Section 305(a) (20 U.S.C. 9624(a)) is amended to read*
10 *as follows:*

11 “(a) *IN GENERAL*.—There are authorized to be appro-
12 *priated—*

13 “(1) *for fiscal year 2015—*

14 “(A) *\$8,235,000 to carry out section 302*
15 *(relating to the National Assessment Governing*
16 *Board); and*

17 “(B) *\$132,000,000 to carry out section 303*
18 *(relating to the National Assessment of Edu-*
19 *cational Progress);*

20 “(2) *for fiscal year 2016—*

21 “(A) *\$8,399,700 to carry out section 302*
22 *(relating to the National Assessment Governing*
23 *Board); and*

1 “(B) \$134,640,000 to carry out section 303
2 (relating to the National Assessment of Edu-
3 cational Progress);

4 “(3) for fiscal year 2017—

5 “(A) \$8,567,694 to carry out section 302
6 (relating to the National Assessment Governing
7 Board); and

8 “(B) \$137,332,800 to carry out section 303
9 (relating to the National Assessment of Edu-
10 cational Progress);

11 “(4) for fiscal year 2018—

12 “(A) \$8,739,048 to carry out section 302
13 (relating to the National Assessment Governing
14 Board); and

15 “(B) \$140,079,456 to carry out section 303
16 (relating to the National Assessment of Edu-
17 cational Progress);

18 “(5) for fiscal year 2019—

19 “(A) \$8,905,090 to carry out section 302
20 (relating to the National Assessment Governing
21 Board); and

22 “(B) \$142,740,966 to carry out section 303
23 (relating to the National Assessment of Edu-
24 cational Progress); and

25 “(6) for fiscal year 2020—

1 “(A) \$8,994,141 to carry out section 302
 2 (relating to the National Assessment Governing
 3 Board); and

4 “(B) \$144,168,376 to carry out section 303
 5 (relating to the National Assessment of Edu-
 6 cational Progress).”.

7 ***TITLE IV—EVALUATION PLAN***

8 ***SEC. 401. RESEARCH AND EVALUATION.***

9 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Institute of Education Sciences
 10 shall be the primary entity for conducting research on and
 11 evaluations of Federal education programs within the De-
 12 partment of Education to ensure the rigor and independ-
 13 ence of such research and evaluation.

14 (b) *FLEXIBLE AUTHORITY.*—

15 (1) *RESERVATION.*—Notwithstanding any other
 16 provision of law in the Elementary and Secondary
 17 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. et seq. 6301 et seq.)
 18 related to evaluation, the Secretary of Education, in
 19 consultation with the Director of the Institute of Edu-
 20 cation Sciences—

21 (A) may, for purposes of carrying out the
 22 activities described in paragraph (2)(B)—

23 (i) reserve not more than 0.5 percent of
 24 the total amount of funds appropriated for
 25 each program authorized under the Elemen-

1 *tary and Secondary Education Act of 1965*
2 *(20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.), other than part A*
3 *of title I of such Act (20 U.S.C. 6311 et*
4 *seq.) and section 1501 of such Act (20*
5 *U.S.C. 6491); and*

6 *(ii) reserve, in the manner described in*
7 *subparagraph (B), an amount equal to not*
8 *more than 0.1 percent of the total amount*
9 *of funds appropriated for—*

10 *(I) part A of title I of the Elemen-*
11 *tary and Secondary Education Act of*
12 *1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311 et seq.); and*

13 *(II) section 1501 of such Act (20*
14 *U.S.C. 6491); and*

15 *(B) in reserving the amount described in*
16 *subparagraph (A)(i)—*

17 *(i) shall reserve not more than the total*
18 *amount of funds appropriated for section*
19 *1501 of the Elementary and Secondary*
20 *Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6491);*
21 *and*

22 *(ii) may, in a case in which the total*
23 *amount of funds appropriated for such sec-*
24 *tion 1501 (20 U.S.C. 6491) is less than the*
25 *amount described in subparagraph (A)(i),*

1 *reserve the amount of funds appropriated*
 2 *for part A of title I of the Elementary and*
 3 *Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20*
 4 *U.S.C. 6311 et seq.) that is needed for the*
 5 *sum of the total amount of funds appro-*
 6 *priated for such section 1501 (20 U.S.C.*
 7 *6491) and such amount of funds appro-*
 8 *priated for such part A of title I (20 U.S.C.*
 9 *6311 et seq.) to equal the amount described*
 10 *in subparagraph (A)(ii).*

11 (2) *AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—If funds are re-*
 12 *served under paragraph (1)—*

13 *(A) neither the Secretary of Education nor*
 14 *the Director of the Institute of Education*
 15 *Sciences shall—*

16 *(i) carry out evaluations under section*
 17 *1501 of the Elementary and Secondary*
 18 *Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6491); or*

19 *(ii) reserve funds for evaluation activi-*
 20 *ties under section 3111(c)(1)(C) of such Act*
 21 *(20 U.S.C. 6821(c)(1)(C)); and*

22 *(B) the Secretary of Education, in consulta-*
 23 *tion with the Director of the Institute of Edu-*
 24 *cation Sciences—*

1 (i) shall use the funds reserved under
2 paragraph (1) to carry out high-quality
3 evaluations (consistent with the require-
4 ments of section 173(a) of the Education
5 Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (20 U.S.C.
6 9563(a)), as amended by this Act, and the
7 evaluation plan described in subsection (c)
8 of this section) of programs authorized
9 under the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
10 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.);
11 and

12 (ii) may use the funds reserved under
13 paragraph (1) to—

14 (I) increase the usefulness of the
15 evaluations conducted under clause (i)
16 to promote continuous improvement of
17 programs under the Elementary and
18 Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
19 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.); or

20 (II) assist grantees of such pro-
21 grams in collecting and analyzing data
22 and other activities related to con-
23 ducting high-quality evaluations under
24 clause (i).

1 (3) *DISSEMINATION.*—*The Secretary of Edu-*
 2 *cation or the Director of the Institute of Education*
 3 *Sciences shall disseminate evaluation findings, con-*
 4 *sistent with section 114(j) of the Education Sciences*
 5 *Reform Act of 2002 (20 U.S.C. 9514(j)), as amended*
 6 *by this Act, of evaluations carried out under para-*
 7 *graph (2)(B)(i).*

8 (4) *CONSOLIDATION.*—*The Secretary of Edu-*
 9 *cation, in consultation with the Director of the Insti-*
 10 *tute of Education Sciences—*

11 (A) *may consolidate the funds reserved*
 12 *under paragraph (1) for purposes of carrying*
 13 *out the activities under paragraph (2)(B); and*

14 (B) *shall not be required to evaluate under*
 15 *paragraph (2)(B)(i) each program authorized*
 16 *under the Elementary and Secondary Education*
 17 *Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) each year.*

18 (c) *EVALUATION PLAN.*—*The Director of the Institute*
 19 *of Education Sciences, in consultation with the Secretary*
 20 *of Education, shall, on a biennial basis, develop, submit to*
 21 *Congress, and make publicly available an evaluation plan,*
 22 *that—*

23 (1) *describes the specific activities that will be*
 24 *carried out under subsection (b)(2)(B) for the 2-year*

1 *period applicable to the plan, and the timelines of*
2 *such activities;*

3 *(2) contains the results of the activities carried*
4 *out under subsection (b)(2)(B) for the most recent 2-*
5 *year period; and*

6 *(3) describes how programs authorized under the*
7 *Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965*
8 *(20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) will be regularly evaluated.*

9 *(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section*
10 *shall be construed to affect section 173(b) of the Education*
11 *Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (20 U.S.C. 9563(b)), as*
12 *amended by this Act.*

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H. R. 4366

[Report No. 113-275]

AN ACT

To strengthen the Federal education research system to make research and evaluations more timely and relevant to State and local needs in order to increase student achievement.

NOVEMBER 17, 2014

Reported with an amendment