

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5303

To promote the use of blended learning in classrooms across America.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 31, 2014

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS introduced the following bill; which was referred
to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To promote the use of blended learning in classrooms across
America.

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 “21st Century Class-
5 room Innovation Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. REFERENCES.**

7 Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in
8 this Act an amendment is expressed in terms of an amend-
9 ment to a section or other provision, the reference shall
10 be considered to be made to a section or other provision

1 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965
2 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.).

3 **SEC. 3. ENCOURAGING STATE AND LOCAL BLENDED**
4 **LEARNING PROJECTS.**

5 (a) STATE APPLICATIONS.—Section 2112(b) (20
6 U.S.C. 6612(b)) is amended by inserting at the end the
7 following:

8 “(13) In the case of a State that will carry out
9 a program to award grants under section
10 2113(c)(3), a description of the program, which
11 shall include—

12 “(A) the criteria the State will use to
13 award grants under such section to eligible enti-
14 ties to carry out blended learning projects;

15 “(B) the State policies and procedures to
16 be waived by the State, consistent with Federal
17 law, for such eligible entities to carry out such
18 projects, which may include waivers with re-
19 spect to—

20 “(i) restrictions on class sizes;

21 “(ii) restrictions on licensing or
22 credentialing of personnel supervising stu-
23 dent work in such projects;

1 “(iii) restrictions on the use of State
 2 funding for instructional materials for the
 3 purchase of digital instructional resources;

4 “(iv) restrictions on advancing stu-
 5 dents based on demonstrated mastery of
 6 learning outcomes, rather than seat-time
 7 requirements; and

8 “(v) restrictions on secondary school
 9 students in the State enrolling in online
 10 coursework;

11 “(C) how the State will inform eligible en-
 12 tities of the availability of the waivers described
 13 in subparagraph (B); and

14 “(D) how the State will provide the non-
 15 Federal match required under subparagraph
 16 (D) of section 2113(c)(3).”.

17 (b) STATE USE OF FUNDS.—Section 2113 (20
 18 U.S.C. 6613) is amended—

19 (1) in subsection (a)(2), by striking “2.5” and
 20 inserting “1.5”; and

21 (2) in subsection (c)—

22 (A) by striking the matter preceding para-
 23 graph (1) and inserting the following:

24 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The State educational
 25 agency for a State that receives a grant under sec-

tion 2111 shall use the funds described in subsection (a)(3) to carry out one or more of the activities described in paragraph (2) or (3).

“(2) ACTIVITIES.—The State educational agency may use the funds described in subsection (a)(3) to carry out one or more of the following, which may be carried out through a grant or contract with a for-profit or nonprofit entity:”;

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (18) as subparagraphs (A) through (R), respectively;

(C) in subparagraph (A), as so redesignated—

(i) by redesignating subparagraph (A)(i) and clause (ii) as clause (i)(I) and subclause (II), respectively; and

(ii) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) and (C) as clauses (ii) and (iii), respectively;

(D) in subparagraph (B), as so redesignated, by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively;

(E) in subparagraph (D), as so redesignated, by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively;

1 (F) in subparagraph (R), as so redesign-
2 nated, by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and
3 (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively; and

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

5 “(3) BLENDED LEARNING PROJECTS.—

6 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The State educational
7 agency may use the funds described in sub-
8 section (a)(3) to carry out a program to award
9 grants on a competitive basis to eligible entities
10 in the State to carry out blended learning
11 projects described in this paragraph.

12 “(B) APPLICATION.—An eligible entity de-
13 siring to receive a grant under this paragraph
14 shall submit an application to the State edu-
15 cational agency at such time and in such man-
16 ner as the agency may require, and which de-
17 scribes—

18 “(i) the blended learning project to be
19 carried out by the eligible entity, including
20 the design of the instructional model to be
21 carried out by the eligible entity and how
22 such eligible entity will use funds provided
23 under this paragraph to carry out the
24 project;

1 “(ii) in the case of an eligible entity
2 described in subclause (I) or (III) of sub-
3 paragraph (E)(ii), the schools that will
4 participate in the project;

5 “(iii) how the eligible entity will en-
6 sure sufficient information technology is
7 available to carry out the project;

8 “(iv) how the eligible entity will en-
9 sure sufficient digital instructional re-
10 sources are available to students partici-
11 pating in the project;

12 “(v) the ongoing professional develop-
13 ment to be provided for teachers, school
14 leaders, and other personnel carrying out
15 the project;

16 “(vi) the State policies and procedures
17 for which the eligible entity requests waiv-
18 ers from the State to carry out the project,
19 which may include requests for the waivers
20 described in section 2112(b)(13)(B);

21 “(vii) as appropriate, how the eligible
22 entity will use the blended learning project
23 to improve instruction and access to the
24 curriculum for diverse groups of students,
25 including students with disabilities and

1 students who are limited English pro-
2 ficient;

3 “(viii) how the eligible entity will
4 evaluate the project and publicly report the
5 results of such evaluation; and

6 “(ix) how the eligible entity will sus-
7 tain the project beyond the grant period.

8 “(C) USES OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity
9 receiving a grant under this paragraph shall use
10 such grant to carry out a blended learning
11 project, which shall include at least one of the
12 following activities:

13 “(i) Planning activities, which may in-
14 clude development of new instructional
15 models (including blended learning tech-
16 nology software and platforms), the pur-
17 chase of digital instructional resources, ini-
18 tial professional development activities, and
19 one-time information technology purchases,
20 except that such expenditures may not in-
21 clude expenditures related to significant
22 construction or renovation of facilities.

23 “(ii) Ongoing professional develop-
24 ment for teachers, school leaders, or other
25 personnel involved in the project.

1 “(D) NON-FEDERAL MATCH.—A State
2 educational agency that carries out a grant pro-
3 gram under this paragraph shall provide non-
4 Federal matching funds equal to not less than
5 10 percent of the grant funds awarded by the
6 State educational agency to eligible entities
7 under this paragraph.

8 “(E) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this
9 paragraph:

10 “(i) BLENDED LEARNING PROJECT.—
11 The term ‘blended learning project’ means
12 a formal education program—

13 “(I) that includes an element of
14 online learning, and instructional time
15 in a supervised location away from
16 home;

17 “(II) that includes an element of
18 student control over time, place, path,
19 or pace; and

20 “(III) the modalities along each
21 student’s learning path within a
22 course or subject are connected to
23 provide an integrated learning experi-
24 ence.

1 “(ii) CHARTER SCHOOL.—The term
2 ‘charter school’ has the meaning given the
3 term in section 5210.

4 “(iii) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term
5 ‘eligible entity’ means a—

6 “(I) local educational agency;

7 “(II) charter school; or

8 “(III) consortium of the entities
9 described in subclause (I) or (II),
10 which may be in partnership with a
11 for-profit or nonprofit entity.”.

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