

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1674

To help establish, enhance, and increase access to early childhood parent education and family engagement programs, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 7, 2013

Mr. FRANKEN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To help establish, enhance, and increase access to early childhood parent education and family engagement programs, and for other purposes.

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 “Parent Education and
5 Family Engagement in Early Childhood Care and Edu-
6 cation Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. PURPOSES.**

8 The purposes of this Act are—

9 (1) to strengthen families by helping all parents
10 provide the best possible environment for the healthy

1 growth and development of their young children
 2 from birth through early elementary school;

3 (2) to support parents in their role as their
 4 child's first and most important teacher by enabling
 5 the participation of parents in the early learning
 6 process through integrating parent education, joint
 7 parent-child interaction activities, and family en-
 8 gagement into early childhood education programs;
 9 and

10 (3) to facilitate successful transitions into ele-
 11 mentary school by providing continuity of supports
 12 for children and parents.

13 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

14 In this Act:

15 (1) **EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR.**—The term
 16 “early childhood educator” means any State-licensed
 17 or State-regulated professional working in an early
 18 childhood care and education program, including
 19 such a professional who is—

20 (A) a child care provider;

21 (B) a center-based or family child care
 22 provider;

23 (C) an infant or toddler specialist;

24 (D) an early intervention specialist or early
 25 childhood special educator;

(E) a home visitor working for an early childhood care and education program described in paragraph (2)(D);

(F) an administrator, such as a director, supervisor, or other early childhood care and education leader;

(G) a Head Start or Early Head Start teacher or teacher assistant;

(H) a preschool teacher or other teacher, or teacher assistant;

(I) an early elementary school teacher; and

(J) a trainer or technical assistance provider.

(2) EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION PROGRAM.—The term “early childhood care and education program” means—

(A) a State-licensed or State-regulated program or provider, regardless of setting or funding source, that provides early care and education for children from the ages of birth to kindergarten entry, including any program operated by a child care center or in a family child care home;

(B) a preschool program funded by the Federal Government or by a State or a local

educational agency (including any preschool program supported under section 619 or part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1419, 1431 et seq.));

(C) an Early Head Start program or Head Start program; or

(D) a program that delivers early childhood care and education services in a child's home, such as the maternal, infant, and early childhood home visiting programs established under section 511 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 711) and home visits supported under the Early Head Start program.

(3) EARLY HEAD START PROGRAM.—The term “Early Head Start program” means an Early Head Start program supported under section 645A of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9840).

(4) HEAD START PROGRAM.—The term “Head Start program” means the Head Start program supported under the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.).

(5) HIGH-NEED AREA.—The term “high-need area” means a defined geographical area in which there is—

(A) a high rate of child poverty; and

(B)(i) a limited supply of high-quality, affordable, and culturally and linguistically competent early childhood care and education program opportunities for children; or

(ii) 1 or more elementary schools that are identified under section 1116 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6316).

(6) LOCAL AGENCY.—The term “local agency” means—

(A) a local educational agency, as defined in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801);

(B) an agency administering an Early Head Start program or Head Start program;

(C) a local agency responsible for administering a home visiting program for young children;

(D) an agency responsible for administering any other Federal, State, or local government child care or early childhood education program;

(E) a local early childhood advisory council or coalition;

1 (F) a local child care resource and referral
 2 agency; or

3 (G) a consortium of agencies described in
 4 any of subparagraphs (A) through (F).

5 (7) PARENT.—The term “parent” has the
 6 meaning given the term in section 9101 of the Ele-
 7 mentary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
 8 U.S.C. 7801).

9 (8) SECRETARIES.—The term “Secretaries”
 10 means the Secretary of Education and the Secretary
 11 of Health and Human Services, acting in accordance
 12 with the interagency agreement described in section
 13 10.

14 (9) STATE.—The term “State” means each of
 15 the several States of the United States, the District
 16 of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the
 17 United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American
 18 Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern
 19 Mariana Islands.

20 **SEC. 4. EARLY CHILDHOOD PARENT EDUCATION AND FAM-**
 21 **ILY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM.**

22 (a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—From the amounts made
 24 available under section 11 and not reserved under
 25 paragraph (2), the Secretaries are authorized to

award grants, on a competitive basis, to States to enable such States to support early childhood parent education and family engagement activities by awarding subgrants to local agencies.

(2) RESERVATION.—Of the amounts appropriated to carry out this Act for a fiscal year, the Secretaries may use not more than 3 percent to carry out section 8.

(b) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—

(1) MATCHING FUNDS REQUIRED.—A State that receives a grant under this section shall contribute, to the activities assisted under such grant, matching funds in an amount equal to not less than 20 percent of the amount of the grant.

(2) TYPES OF FUNDS.—The matching funds required under paragraph (1)—

(A) shall be from non-Federal sources; and

(B) may be met by—

(i) contributions that are in cash or in-kind; and

(ii) State or local funds or funds from any private source.

SEC. 5. APPLICATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Each State desiring a grant under this Act shall submit an application to the Secretaries at

1 such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such in-
 2 formation as the Secretaries may reasonably require.

3 (b) CONTENTS.—Each application submitted under
 4 subsection (a) shall include the following:

5 (1) A description of how the State, through a
 6 local agency, will achieve the following goals:

7 (A) Providing families with increased op-
 8 portunities, including through the use of cul-
 9 turally and linguistically appropriate materials,
 10 to learn how to best support their children’s
 11 physical, cognitive, social, and emotional devel-
 12 opment during the first 5 years of life in the
 13 family and home setting.

14 (B) Increasing parent involvement in their
 15 children’s early childhood care and education
 16 program settings.

17 (C) As applicable, coordinating activities
 18 under this Act with—

19 (i) parent involvement and education
 20 supported under part C of the Individuals
 21 with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C.
 22 1431 et seq.);

23 (ii) parent training and information
 24 centers authorized under section 671 of
 25 such Act (20 U.S.C. 1471);

(iii) parent engagement activities carried out under section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6318); and

(iv) parental information and resource centers supported under subpart 16 of part D of title V of such Act (20 U.S.C. 7273 et seq.).

(D) Facilitating successful transitions between settings, including transitions between early childhood care and education programs, transitions into elementary school, and transitions between the early grades of elementary school.

(2) A description of how the State will—

(A) engage and assist local agencies in high-need areas in applying for subgrants under this Act;

(B) award subgrants to local agencies serving high-need areas; and

(C) provide technical assistance to local agencies receiving subgrants in high-need areas to address unique barriers to the implementation of the subgrant activities.

(3) A description of how the State will—

1 (A) engage and assist local agencies in
2 rural communities in applying for subgrants
3 under this Act; and

4 (B) provide technical assistance to local
5 agencies receiving subgrants in rural commu-
6 nities to address unique barriers to implementa-
7 tion of the subgrant activities.

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

9 (a) DISTRIBUTION OF SUBGRANTS.—A State that re-
10 ceives a grant under this Act for a fiscal year—

11 (1) shall use not less than 83 percent of the
12 grant funds to award subgrants to local agencies to
13 establish, expand, or enhance early childhood parent
14 education and family engagement programs involv-
15 ing children from birth through 5 years of age and
16 their parents; and

17 (2) may use not more than 15 percent of the
18 grant funds to award subgrants to local agencies to
19 establish, expand, or enhance elementary school par-
20 ent education and family engagement programs serv-
21 ing children between 5 and 8 years of age and their
22 parents to assist with the transition to elementary
23 school.

24 (b) ADMINISTRATION.—A State may use not more
25 than 2 percent of the amount received under this Act for

1 any fiscal year to pay for the administrative costs of the
2 program supported by the grant.

3 **SEC. 7. SUBGRANTS.**

4 (a) SUBGRANTS AUTHORIZED.—A State receiving a
5 grant under this Act shall use grant funds, in accordance
6 with section 6(a), to award subgrants, on a competitive
7 basis, to local agencies to enable the local agencies to es-
8 tablish, expand, or enhance early childhood and elemen-
9 tary school parent education and family engagement pro-
10 grams through the activities described in subsection (d).

11 (b) APPLICATIONS.—A local agency desiring a
12 subgrant under this section shall submit an application to
13 the State at such time, in such manner, and containing
14 such information as the State may reasonably require.

15 (c) CONSULTATION.—Each local agency receiving a
16 subgrant under this section shall develop the program car-
17 ried out with grant funds in consultation with—

18 (1) other Federal, State, or local government-
19 sponsored early childhood care and education pro-
20 grams, including child care programs supported
21 through Federal, State, or local funding sources,
22 Early Head Start programs, Head Start programs,
23 early childhood mental health providers, early inter-
24 vention services, and home visiting programs for
25 young children, as appropriate; and

1 (2) parents who will be participating in the pro-
2 gram carried out under the subgrant.

3 (d) USE OF FUNDS.—

4 (1) REQUIRED ACTIVITIES.—A program carried
5 out by a local agency receiving a subgrant under this
6 section shall include—

7 (A) support for parent education activities
8 to enhance the skills of parents to provide for
9 and understand their children’s learning proc-
10 esses and intellectual, social, emotional, and
11 physical development, including instruction in
12 positive parenting practices through parent-
13 child interaction;

14 (B) training and professional development
15 for early childhood educators in—

16 (i) strategies for engaging parents, es-
17 pecially working parents, in parent edu-
18 cation activities; and

19 (ii) culturally and linguistically appro-
20 priate approaches to discussing parenting,
21 behavior management, and healthy child
22 development;

23 (C) training for parent educators and early
24 childhood educators in—

1 (i) detecting challenges to children's
 2 physical, cognitive, social and emotional, or
 3 behavioral development that may lead to
 4 learning problems and can be addressed
 5 through the community resources described
 6 in paragraph (2)(A); and

7 (ii) improving child and family health,
 8 safety, and stability; and

9 (D) coordination between early childhood
 10 educators and instructional staff at elementary
 11 schools in the same geographic area as the local
 12 agency, in order to establish ongoing channels
 13 of communication to help teachers, early child-
 14 hood educators, and parents prepare children
 15 for school.

16 (2) PERMISSIBLE ACTIVITIES.—A program car-
 17 ried out by a local agency receiving a subgrant
 18 under this section may include—

19 (A) coordination with, and referral to, re-
 20 lated community resources, including, where ap-
 21 propriate—

22 (i) child care subsidy services;

23 (ii) health and mental health services;

1 (iii) early intervention services pro-
2 vided under part C of Individuals with Dis-
3 abilities Education Act;

4 (iv) employment and financial serv-
5 ices;

6 (v) adult education services; and

7 (vi) home visiting services;

8 (B) indirect parental involvement activities
9 designed to update parents and families on the
10 progress of their children and the other activi-
11 ties of the program, such as newsletter-related
12 activities, parent-teacher conferences, or other
13 parent outreach activities, when the use of such
14 indirect parental involvement activities support
15 the activities described in paragraph (1); and

16 (C) other parent and family education or
17 engagement activities to improve the health, de-
18 velopment, and school readiness of children.

19 (e) RESTRICTIONS.—A local agency receiving a
20 subgrant under this section may not use such funds for
21 routine child care or early childhood education program
22 services that are not directly related to parent education
23 or family engagement programs.

24 (f) REPORTS.—

1 (1) ANNUAL REPORT.—A local agency that re-
2 ceives a subgrant under this section shall submit an
3 annual report to the State and to the Secretaries at
4 such time, in such manner, and containing such in-
5 formation as the Secretaries may require, including
6 at a minimum—

7 (A) data on the number and characteristics
8 of parents and families who have received serv-
9 ices from the local agency's program, includ-
10 ing—

11 (i) the number and percentage of such
12 families with incomes below the poverty
13 line (as defined by the Office of Manage-
14 ment and Budget and revised annually in
15 accordance with section 673(2) of the
16 Community Services Block Grant Act (42
17 U.S.C. 9902(2))) applicable to a family of
18 the size involved; and

19 (ii) the number and percentage of
20 such families that include children with
21 high needs, including—

22 (I) children with disabilities, as
23 defined in section 602 of the Individ-
24 uals with Disabilities Education Act
25 (20 U.S.C. 1401), or with develop-

1 mental delays, as defined in section
2 632 of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1432);

3 (II) children who are dual lan-
4 guage learners;

5 (III) children who reside on In-
6 dian lands, as defined in section 8013
7 of the Elementary and Secondary
8 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
9 7713); and

10 (IV) children who are migrant,
11 homeless, or in foster care;

12 (B) data demonstrating an increase in the
13 availability and quality of parent education and
14 family engagement services in communities in
15 which the local agency operates;

16 (C) data describing the training provided
17 to teachers, early childhood educators, and par-
18 ents;

19 (D) evidence of improved support for par-
20 ents and children to help promote successful
21 transitions for children into elementary school;

22 (E) evidence that parents developed posi-
23 tive relationships with early childhood care and
24 education staff and gained confidence in ad-
25 dressing family specific needs, including—

- 1 (i) family safety and stability; and
- 2 (ii) family health and mental health;
- 3 and
- 4 (F) if a local agency uses funds under this
- 5 Act for permissible activities under subsection
- 6 (d)(2), evidence of coordination with, and refer-
- 7 ral to, related community resources, including
- 8 evidence that parents were referred to and
- 9 accessed services described in subsection
- 10 (d)(2)(A).

11 **SEC. 8. RESEARCH, EVALUATION, AND DISSEMINATION.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretaries shall enter into
 13 an agreement with the National Academy of Sciences,
 14 under which the National Academy of Sciences shall con-
 15 duct a study and evaluation, including a report, on best
 16 practices that support the purposes of this Act, including
 17 best practices—

- 18 (1) for training early childhood educators and
- 19 parents in detecting children’s physical, cognitive,
- 20 social and emotional, or behavioral developmental
- 21 issues that are associated with learning problems;
- 22 (2) for training and professional development
- 23 for early childhood educators (including early child-
- 24 hood care and education program directors) in—

1 (A) strategies for engaging parents, espe-
 2 cially working parents, in parent education ac-
 3 tivities; and

4 (B) culturally and linguistically appro-
 5 priate approaches to discussing parenting, be-
 6 havior management, and healthy child develop-
 7 ment, especially in areas with diverse popu-
 8 lations of children and families;

9 (3) for training parent educators and early
 10 childhood educators in identifying and preventing
 11 child abuse and neglect; and

12 (4) for referring parents to community re-
 13 sources and services to address identified family
 14 needs.

15 (b) SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES.—The evaluation described
 16 in subsection (a) shall carry out all of the following:

17 (1) Assess the impact of each local agency's
 18 program, using evidence of the program's outcomes,
 19 including—

20 (A) increased quality of parent education
 21 and engagement services within early childhood
 22 care and education programs; and

23 (B) improved child and family health, safe-
 24 ty, and stability.

1 (2) Identify factors that foster or hinder the
2 successful implementation of each local agency’s pro-
3 gram.

4 (3) Utilize the data on best practices, as de-
5 scribed in subsection (a), to provide information to
6 each local agency that can be used to drive program
7 improvement.

8 (4) Generate and disseminate information about
9 best practices, as described in subsection (a), that
10 are associated with—

11 (A) increased quality of parent education
12 and family engagement services within early
13 childhood care and education programs; and

14 (B) improved child and family health, safe-
15 ty, and stability.

16 (c) REPORTING SCHEDULE AND PLAN.—The Secre-
17 taries shall work with the National Academy of Sciences
18 to establish and approve a reporting schedule and a re-
19 search, evaluation, and dissemination plan for the evalua-
20 tion described in subsection (a).

21 (d) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Secretaries shall
22 submit an annual report to the Committee on Health,
23 Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, the Com-
24 mittee on Appropriations of the Senate, the Committee on
25 Education and the Workforce of the House of Representa-

1 tives, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House
2 of Representatives, on the lessons learned through pro-
3 grams funded under this Act.

4 **SEC. 9. GENERAL PROVISIONS.**

5 (a) SUPPLEMENT AND NOT SUPPLANT.—Grant and
6 subgrant funds provided under this Act shall supplement,
7 and not supplant, other Federal, State, and local funds
8 that are available for early childhood parent education and
9 family engagement programs. States receiving grant
10 funds, and local agencies receiving subgrant funds, under
11 this Act may provide additional funds, other than those
12 received under this Act, to enhance the parent education
13 and family engagement programs that are supported by
14 such grant or subgrant funds.

15 (b) MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT.—A State that re-
16 ceives funds under this part for a fiscal year shall main-
17 tain the fiscal effort provided by the State for the activities
18 supported by the funds under this Act at a level equal
19 to or greater than the level of such fiscal effort for the
20 preceding fiscal year.

21 (c) VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION.—Family participa-
22 tion in any program supported under this Act shall be vol-
23 untary and shall not preclude the family's participation
24 in other Federal, State, or local programs.

1 **SEC. 10. INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT.**

2 The Secretary of Education and the Secretary of
3 Health and Human Services shall jointly develop policies
4 for, and administer activities under, this Act in accordance
5 with such terms as the Secretaries shall set forth in an
6 interagency agreement. Such interagency agreement, at a
7 minimum, shall include a description of the respective
8 roles and responsibilities of the Secretaries in carrying out
9 this Act.

10 **SEC. 11. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

11 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
12 this Act such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years
13 2014 through 2019.

