

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1874

To amend the provisions of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 regarding school library media specialists, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 16, 2015

Mr. GRIJALVA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To amend the provisions of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 regarding school library media specialists, 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 “Strengthening Kids’
5 Interest in Learning and Libraries Act” or the “SKILLs
6 Act”.

1 **TITLE I—SCHOOL LIBRARY**
 2 **MEDIA SPECIALIST REQUIRE-**
 3 **MENTS**

4 **SEC. 101. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

5 Section 1002(b)(4) of the Elementary and Secondary
 6 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6302) is amended by
 7 striking “2002” and inserting “2016”.

8 **SEC. 102. STATE PLANS.**

9 (a) ACADEMIC STANDARDS, ACADEMIC ASSESS-
 10 MENTS, AND ACCOUNTABILITY.—Section 1111(b)(8) of
 11 the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
 12 U.S.C. 6311(b)(8)) is amended—

13 (1) in subparagraph (D), by striking “and”
 14 after the semicolon;

15 (2) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as sub-
 16 paragraph (F); and

17 (3) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the fol-
 18 lowing:

19 “(E) how the State educational agency will
 20 meet the goal of ensuring that there is not less
 21 than 1 highly qualified school library media spe-
 22 cialist in each school receiving funds under this
 23 part, as described in section 1119(h)(2); and”.

24 (b) OTHER PROVISIONS TO SUPPORT TEACHING AND
 25 LEARNING.—Section 1111(c) of the Elementary and Sec-

1 onday Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311(c)) is
2 amended—

3 (1) in paragraph (13), by striking “and” after
4 the semicolon;

5 (2) in paragraph (14), by striking the period
6 and inserting “; and”; and

7 (3) by inserting after paragraph (14) the fol-
8 lowing:

9 “(15) the State educational agency will estab-
10 lish a goal of having not less than 1 State-certified
11 school library media specialist in each public school
12 that receives funds under this part.”.

13 **SEC. 103. LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY PLANS.**

14 (a) PLAN PROVISIONS.—Section 1112(b)(1)(N) of
15 the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
16 U.S.C. 6312(b)(1)(N)) is amended by inserting “, includ-
17 ing ensuring that there is not less than 1 highly qualified
18 school library media specialist in each school” before the
19 semicolon.

20 (b) ASSURANCES.—Section 1112(c)(1) of the Ele-
21 mentary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
22 6312(c)(1)) is amended—

23 (1) in subparagraph (N), by striking “and”
24 after the semicolon;

1 (2) in subparagraph (O), by striking the period
2 and inserting “; and”; and

3 (3) by inserting after subparagraph (O) the fol-
4 lowing:

5 “(P) ensure, to the extent feasible, that
6 each school served by the local educational
7 agency and receiving funds under this part em-
8 ploys not less than 1 State-certified school li-
9 brary media specialist.”.

10 **SEC. 104. SCHOOLWIDE PROGRAMS.**

11 Section 1114(b)(1)(D) of the Elementary and Sec-
12 ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6314(b)(1)(D))
13 is amended by inserting “school library media specialists,”
14 after “teachers,”.

15 **SEC. 105. TARGETED ASSISTANCE SCHOOLS.**

16 Section 1115(c)(1)(F) of the Elementary and Sec-
17 ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6315(c)(1)(F))
18 is amended by inserting “school library media specialists,”
19 after “teachers,”.

20 **SEC. 106. QUALIFICATIONS FOR TEACHERS, PARAPROFES-**
21 **SIONALS, AND SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA SPE-**
22 **CIALISTS.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1119 of the Elementary
24 and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6319)
25 is amended—

1 (1) in the section heading, by striking “**TEACH-**
2 **ERS AND PARAPROFESSIONALS**” and inserting
3 “**TEACHERS, PARAPROFESSIONALS, AND**
4 **SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA SPECIALISTS**”;

5 (2) by redesignating subsections (h) through (l)
6 as subsections (i) through (m), respectively;

7 (3) by inserting after subsection (g) the fol-
8 lowing:

9 “(h) SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA SPECIALISTS.—

10 “(1) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY REQUIRE-
11 MENT.—Each local educational agency receiving as-
12 sistance under this part shall ensure, to the extent
13 feasible, that each school that is served by the local
14 educational agency and receives funds under this
15 part employs not less than 1 highly qualified school
16 library media specialist.

17 “(2) STATE GOAL.—Each State educational
18 agency receiving assistance under this part shall—

19 “(A) establish a goal of having not less
20 than 1 highly qualified school library media spe-
21 cialist in each public school that is served by
22 the State educational agency and receives funds
23 under this part; and

24 “(B) specify a date by which the State will
25 reach this goal, which date shall be not later

1 than the beginning of the 2016–2017 school
2 year.”; and

3 (4) in subsection (i) (as redesignated by sub-
4 section (a)(2)), by striking “and paraprofessionals”
5 and inserting “, paraprofessionals, and school library
6 and media specialists”.

7 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1119(l) of
8 the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (as
9 redesignated by subsection (a)(2)) (20 U.S.C. 6319(l)) is
10 amended by striking “subsection (1)” and inserting “sub-
11 section (m)”.

12 **SEC. 107. IMPROVING LITERACY THROUGH SCHOOL LI-**
13 **BRARIES.**

14 Section 1251 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
15 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6383) is amended—

16 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “well-trained,
17 professionally certified” and inserting “highly quali-
18 fied”;

19 (2) in subsection (e)(3)—

20 (A) by striking “DISTRIBUTION.—The”
21 and inserting the following: “DISTRIBUTION.—

22 “(A) GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION.—The”;

23 and

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

1 “(B) BALANCE AMONG TYPES OF
2 SCHOOLS.—In awarding grants under this sub-
3 section, the Secretary shall take into consider-
4 ation whether funding is proportionally distrib-
5 uted among projects serving students in ele-
6 mentary, middle, and high schools.”;

7 (3) in subsection (f)(2)—

8 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

9 (i) by inserting “the need for student
10 literacy improvement at all grade levels,”
11 before “the need for”; and

12 (ii) by striking “well-trained, profes-
13 sionally certified” and inserting “highly
14 qualified”;

15 (4) by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting
16 the following:

17 “(B) a needs assessment of which grade
18 spans are served, ensuring funding is propor-
19 tionally distributed to serve students in elemen-
20 tary, middle, and high schools;”; and

21 (5) in subsection (g)—

22 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking the semi-
23 colon at the end and inserting “and reading
24 materials, such as books and materials that—

“(A) are appropriate for students in all grade levels to be served and for students with special learning needs, including students who are limited English proficient; and

“(B) engage the interest of readers at all reading levels;”; and

(B) in paragraph (4), by striking “professional development described in section 1222(d)(2)” and inserting “professional development in information literacy instruction that is appropriate for all grades, including the assessment of student literacy needs, the coordination of reading and writing instruction across content areas, and training in literacy strategies in all content areas”.

TITLE II—PREPARING, TEACHING, AND RECRUITING HIGH QUALITY TEACHERS, SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA SPECIALISTS, AND PRINCIPALS

SEC. 201. TEACHER, SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA SPECIALIST, AND PRINCIPAL TRAINING AND RECRUITING FUND.

Title II of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6601 et seq.) is amended—

1 (1) in the title heading, by striking “**HIGH**
 2 **QUALITY TEACHERS AND PRIN-**
 3 **CIPALS**” and inserting “**HIGH QUALITY**
 4 **TEACHERS, SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA**
 5 **SPECIALISTS, AND PRINCIPALS**”; and

6 (2) in the part heading, by striking “**TEACHER**
 7 **AND PRINCIPAL**” and inserting “**TEACHER,**
 8 **SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA SPECIALIST, AND**
 9 **PRINCIPAL**”.

10 **SEC. 202. PURPOSE.**

11 Section 2101(1) of the Elementary and Secondary
 12 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6601(1)) is amended
 13 to read as follows:

14 “(1) increase student academic achievement
 15 through strategies such as—

16 “(A) improving teacher, school library
 17 media specialist, and principal quality; and

18 “(B) increasing the number of highly
 19 qualified teachers in the classroom, highly
 20 qualified school library media specialists in the
 21 library, and highly qualified principals and as-
 22 sistant principals in schools; and”.

23 **SEC. 203. STATE APPLICATIONS.**

24 Section 2112(b) of the Elementary and Secondary
 25 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6612(b)) is amended—

1 (1) in paragraph (4), by inserting “, school li-
 2 brary media specialists,” before “and principals”;
 3 and

4 (2) in paragraph (10), by inserting “, school li-
 5 brary media specialist,” before “and paraprofes-
 6 sional”.

7 **SEC. 204. STATE USE OF FUNDS.**

8 Section 2113(c) of the Elementary and Secondary
 9 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6613(c)) is amended—
 10 (1) in paragraph (4)—

11 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph
 12 (A), by inserting “highly qualified school library
 13 media specialists,” before “principals”; and

14 (B) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “,
 15 highly qualified school library media special-
 16 ists,” before “and principals”; and

17 (2) in paragraph (6), by striking “teachers and
 18 principals” each place the term appears and insert-
 19 ing “teachers, school library media specialists, and
 20 principals”.

21 **SEC. 205. LOCAL USES OF FUNDS.**

22 Section 2123(a) of the Elementary and Secondary
 23 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6623(a)) is amended
 24 by inserting after paragraph (8) the following:

1 “(9)(A) Developing and implementing strategies
2 to assist in recruiting and retaining highly qualified
3 school library media specialists.

4 “(B) Providing appropriate professional devel-
5 opment for such specialists, particularly related to
6 skills necessary to assist students to improve the
7 students’ academic achievement, including skills re-
8 lated to information literacy.”.

9 **TITLE III—GENERAL** 10 **PROVISIONS**

11 **SEC. 301. DEFINITIONS.**

12 Section 9101(23) of the Elementary and Secondary
13 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801(23)) is amend-
14 ed—

15 (1) in subparagraph (B)(ii)(II), by striking
16 “and” after the semicolon;

17 (2) in subparagraph (C)(ii)(VII), by striking
18 the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

20 “(D) when used with respect to a school li-
21 brary media specialist employed in an elemen-
22 tary school or secondary school in a State,
23 means that the school library media specialist—

24 “(i) holds at least a bachelor’s degree;

1 “(ii) has obtained full State certifi-
 2 cation as a school library media specialist
 3 or passed the State teacher licensing exam-
 4 ination, with State certification in library
 5 media, in such State, except that when
 6 used with respect to any school library
 7 media specialist teaching in a public char-
 8 ter school, the term means that the school
 9 library media specialist meets the require-
 10 ments set forth in the State’s public char-
 11 ter school law; and

12 “(iii) has not had certification or li-
 13 censure requirements waived on an emer-
 14 gency, temporary, or provisional basis.”.

15 **SEC. 302. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**

16 (a) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents in
 17 section 2 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act
 18 of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 note) is amended—

19 (1) by striking the item relating to section 1119
 20 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 1119. Qualifications for teachers, paraprofessionals, and school library
 media specialists.”;

1 (2) by striking the item relating to title II and
2 inserting the following:

“TITLE II—PREPARING, TRAINING, AND RECRUITING HIGH QUAL-
ITY TEACHERS, SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA SPECIALISTS, AND
PRINCIPALS”;

3 and

4 (3) by striking the item relating to part A of
5 title II and inserting the following:

“PART A—TEACHER, SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA SPECIALIST, AND PRINCIPAL
TRAINING AND RECRUITING FUND”.

