

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2371

To direct the Secretary of Education to award grants to States that enact State laws that will make school attendance compulsory through the age of 17.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 15, 2015

Ms. EDWARDS (for herself, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. VARGAS, and Mr. DELANEY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Education to award grants to States that enact State laws that will make school attendance compulsory through the age of 17.

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 “Broadening Opportuni-
5 ties Through Education Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. GRANT PROGRAM FOR STATES WITH COMPULSORY**
2 **SCHOOL ATTENDANCE THROUGH THE AGE**
3 **OF 17.**

4 (a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—From the amounts ap-
5 propriated to carry out this Act and not later than 90
6 days after such amounts are appropriated, the Secretary
7 of Education shall award grants, on a competitive basis,
8 to States with approved applications under subsection (b)
9 to assist such States in improving secondary school pro-
10 grams.

11 (b) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a grant
12 under this Act, a State shall submit to the Secretary an
13 application at such time, in such manner, and containing
14 such information as the Secretary may require, which shall
15 include—

16 (1) a description of the State law that the State
17 has enacted that makes school attendance in the
18 State compulsory through the age of 17 (except in
19 cases of individuals who complete the secondary
20 school graduation requirements of the State prior to
21 attaining such age or individuals that meet any
22 other exemptions to such State law), including a de-
23 scription of any exemptions to such State law; and

24 (2) a description of how the State will use the
25 grant to carry out or improve secondary school pro-
26 grams in the State.

1 (c) USES OF FUNDS.—A State that receives a grant
2 under this Act shall use such grant to improve secondary
3 school programs in the State, such as by—

4 (1) establishing or expanding work-based pro-
5 grams that integrate academic and career-based
6 skills through career and technical training, linked
7 learning pathways, school-registered apprenticeships,
8 and other career-training programs;

9 (2) implementing an early warning indicator
10 system to help high schools, and their feeder middle
11 schools, to identify struggling students and create a
12 system of evidence-based interventions;

13 (3) providing evidence-based grade and school
14 transition programs and supports, including through
15 curricula alignment;

16 (4) personalizing the school experience and in-
17 creasing student engagement by providing service-
18 learning, experiential, and work-based and other
19 learning opportunities;

20 (5) providing extended-learning opportunities,
21 by the school day, week, or year to increase the total
22 number of school hours to include additional time
23 for instruction in academic subjects and enrichment;
24 or

1 (6) increasing student supports through activi-
2 ties such as student advisories, school counseling op-
3 portunities, and one-to-one mentoring.

4 (d) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this Act:

5 (1) ESEA TERMS.—The terms “secondary
6 school” and “State” have the meanings given the
7 terms in section 9101 of the Elementary and Sec-
8 ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

9 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
10 the Secretary of Education.

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