

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2528

To direct the Secretary of Education to award grants to States to pay the Federal share of carrying out full-day prekindergarten programs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 21, 2015

Mrs. DAVIS of California 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 to pay the Federal share of carrying out full-day prekindergarten programs.

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 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Expanded Access to Real Learning for our Young Act”
6 or the “EARLY Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. UNIVERSAL PREKINDERGARTEN AND EARLY**
8 **CHILDHOOD EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM.**

9 (a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION.—From amounts ap-
10 propriated under subsection (g), the Secretary of Edu-

1 cation is authorized to award grants, on a competitive
2 basis, to States to pay the Federal share of carrying out
3 full-day prekindergarten programs.

4 (b) STATE APPLICATION.—To receive a grant under
5 this Act, a State shall submit to the Secretary an applica-
6 tion at such time, in such manner, and containing such
7 information as the Secretary may require.

8 (c) USE OF FUNDS.—A State that receives a grant
9 under this Act shall use such grant funds to carry out
10 a prekindergarten program that, at a minimum—

11 (1) if practicable, is located at a public school
12 in the State or, if not practicable, is carried out by
13 a private or other community provider;

14 (2) permits each 4-year-old child in the State to
15 be voluntarily enrolled by the child’s parent in the
16 prekindergarten program, and which is made avail-
17 able at no cost to families who make a combined in-
18 come of up to 400 percent of the poverty line;

19 (3) is a full-day program that runs the length
20 of the regular school year;

21 (4) maintains a maximum class size of 20 chil-
22 dren, with at least 1 prekindergarten teacher per
23 classroom;

1 (5) ensures that the ratio of children to pre-
2 kindergarten teachers and teacher aides does not ex-
3 ceed 10 to 1;

4 (6) is taught by teachers who are paid a salary
5 comparable to teachers of kindergarten through
6 grade 12 at public schools in the State;

7 (7) requires the State in which the program is
8 located to determinate a minimum level of parental
9 engagement in their child's program; and

10 (8) meets any other criteria that the Secretary
11 may require.

12 (d) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this sec-
13 tion, the Secretary shall give priority to States that will
14 use the grants to carry out a prekindergarten program at
15 a public school.

16 (e) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of a grant
17 under this Act shall not exceed 75 percent of the costs
18 of carrying out the activities described in subsection (c).

19 (f) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—Grant funds re-
20 ceived under this Act shall be used to supplement and not
21 supplant other Federal early childhood education funds in
22 the State.

23 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
24 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act

1 such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years
2 2016 through 2020.

3 (h) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

4 (1) ESEA TERMS.—The terms “elementary
5 school”, “parent”, “poverty line”, “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. 9101).

9 (2) PUBLIC SCHOOL.—The term “public
10 school” means a public elementary school or public
11 secondary school.

12 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
13 the Secretary of Education.

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