

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 541

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to award grants to eligible entities to establish, expand, or support school-based mentoring programs to assist at-risk middle school students with the transition from middle school to high school.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 27, 2015

Mr. CARSON of Indiana (for himself, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. LOEBSACK, and Mr. POLIS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to award grants to eligible entities to establish, expand, or support school-based mentoring programs to assist at-risk middle school students with the transition from middle school to high school.

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 “Transition-to-Success
5 Mentoring Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. TRANSITION-TO-SUCCESS MENTORING PROGRAM.**

2 (a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section
3 1803 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of
4 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6553) is amended to read as follows:
5 “There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this
6 part \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2016 and such sums as
7 may be necessary for each succeeding fiscal year.”.

8 (b) TRANSITION-TO-SUCCESS MENTORING PRO-
9 GRAM.—Part H of title I of such Act (20 U.S.C. 6551
10 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

11 **“Subpart 3—Transition-to-Success Mentoring**
12 **Program**

13 **“SEC. 1831. TRANSITION-TO-SUCCESS MENTORING PRO-**
14 **GRAM.**

15 “(a) IN GENERAL.—From the amounts appropriated
16 to carry out this section, the Secretary shall award grants
17 to eligible entities to establish, expand, or support school-
18 based mentoring programs to assist eligible students with
19 the transition from middle school to high school.

20 “(b) APPLICATION.—To receive a grant under this
21 section, an eligible entity shall submit an application to
22 the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and con-
23 taining such information as the Secretary may require.

24 “(c) USES OF FUNDS.—

25 “(1) REQUIRED USES OF FUNDS.—An eligible
26 entity that receives a grant under this section shall

1 use the grant funds to establish a mentoring pro-
2 gram, or to expand or provide technical support to
3 an existing mentoring program, in all middle schools
4 served by the entity, under which each eligible stu-
5 dent is assigned to a success coach who—

6 “(A) creates a plan for success for the stu-
7 dent that—

8 “(i) is created with the student, teach-
9 ers, mentor, and parents of the student;

10 “(ii) includes, for each academic year,
11 the student’s academic, personal, and ca-
12 reer exploration goals, and a strategy on
13 how to accomplish such goals; and

14 “(iii) identifies the student’s
15 strengths, weaknesses, and academic
16 progress;

17 “(B) enters into a signed, written agree-
18 ment with the parents of the student that de-
19 scribes how the parents should assist the stu-
20 dent in carrying out the plan for success;

21 “(C) meets with the student at least once
22 per month to—

23 “(i) assist the student in achieving the
24 goals under the plan for success;

1 “(ii) identify the student’s academic
2 areas of weaknesses;

3 “(iii) provide the student with the
4 tools necessary to improve the student’s
5 potential for academic excellence, and en-
6 sure the student’s successful transition
7 from middle school to high school by iden-
8 tifying improved attitude, behavior,
9 coursework, and social involvement; and

10 “(iv) in the case of a student with be-
11 havioral issues, assist the student in behav-
12 ior management techniques;

13 “(D) at least monthly, meets with the stu-
14 dent and the parents, teachers, or counselors of
15 the student to—

16 “(i) evaluate the student’s progress in
17 achieving the goals under the plan for the
18 current academic year; and

19 “(ii) revise or establish new goals for
20 the next academic year; and

21 “(E) serves as the student’s advocate be-
22 tween the teachers and parents of the student
23 to ensure that the teachers and parents under-
24 stand the student’s plan.

1 “(2) AUTHORIZED USES OF FUNDS.—An eligi-
2 ble entity that receives a grant under this section
3 may use such funds to—

4 “(A) develop and carry out a training pro-
5 gram for success coaches, including providing
6 support to match success coaches with eligible
7 students;

8 “(B) cover the cost of any materials used
9 by success coaches under the mentoring pro-
10 gram; and

11 “(C) hire staff to perform or support the
12 program objectives.

13 “(d) GRANT DURATION.—A grant under this section
14 shall be awarded for a period of not more than 5 years.

15 “(e) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

16 “(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An eligible entity
17 receiving a grant under this section shall submit to
18 the Secretary, at the end of each academic year dur-
19 ing the grant period, a report that includes—

20 “(A) the number of students who partici-
21 pated in the school-based mentoring program
22 that was funded in whole or in part with the
23 grant funds under this section;

24 “(B) data on the academic achievement of
25 such students;

1 “(C) the number of contact hours between
2 such students and their success coaches; and

3 “(D) any other information that the Sec-
4 retary may require to evaluate the success of
5 the school-based mentoring program.

6 “(2) SECRETARY.—

7 “(A) INTERIM REPORT.—At the end of the
8 third fiscal year for which funds are made
9 available to carry out this section, the Secretary
10 shall submit to Congress an interim report on
11 the success of the school-based mentoring pro-
12 grams funded under this section that includes
13 the information received under paragraph (1).

14 “(B) FINAL REPORT.—At the end of the
15 fifth fiscal year for which funds are made avail-
16 able to carry out this section, the Secretary
17 shall submit to Congress a final report on the
18 success of the school-based mentoring programs
19 funded under this section that includes the in-
20 formation received under paragraph (1).

21 “(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

22 “(1) AT-RISK STUDENT.—The term ‘at-risk stu-
23 dent’ means a student who has been identified as a
24 student who has below a 2.0 grade point average or

1 the equivalent or who has been determined by par-
2 ents, teachers, or other school officials to—

3 “(A) be at-risk of academic failure;

4 “(B) have expressed interest in dropping
5 out of school;

6 “(C) show signs of a drug or alcohol prob-
7 lem;

8 “(D) be pregnant or a parent;

9 “(E) have come into contact with the juve-
10 nile justice system in the past;

11 “(F) have limited English proficiency;

12 “(G) be a gang member; or

13 “(H) have a high absenteeism rate at
14 school.

15 “(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-
16 tity’ means—

17 “(A) a local educational agency that—

18 “(i) receives, or is eligible to receive,
19 funds under part A of title I; or

20 “(ii) is a high-need local educational
21 agency; or

22 “(B) a partnership between a local edu-
23 cational agency described in subparagraph (A)
24 and a nonprofit, community-based organization.

1 “(3) ELIGIBLE STUDENT.—The term ‘eligible
2 student’ means a student who—

3 “(A) is enrolled in a middle school served
4 by an eligible entity; and

5 “(B) is an at-risk student.

6 “(4) HIGH-NEED LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGEN-
7 CY.—The term ‘high-need local educational agency’
8 has the meaning given to the term in section
9 2102(3)(A).

10 “(5) MIDDLE SCHOOL.—The term ‘middle
11 school’ means a nonprofit institutional day or resi-
12 dential school, including a public charter school, that
13 provides middle school education, as determined
14 under State law, except that the term does not in-
15 clude any education below grade 6 or beyond grade
16 9.

17 “(6) SCHOOL-BASED MENTORING.—The term
18 ‘school-based mentoring’ refers to mentoring activi-
19 ties that—

20 “(A) are closely coordinated with a school
21 by involving teachers, counselors, and other
22 school staff who may identify and refer stu-
23 dents for mentoring services; and

24 “(B) assist at-risk students in improving
25 academic achievement, reducing disciplinary re-

1 ferrals, and increasing positive regard for
2 school.

3 “(7) SUCCESS COACH.—The term ‘success
4 coach’ means an individual who—

5 “(A) is—

6 “(i) an employee or volunteer of a
7 local educational agency in which a men-
8 toring program receiving support under
9 this section is being carried out; or

10 “(ii) a volunteer or employee from a
11 nonprofit, community-based organization
12 that provides volunteers for mentoring pro-
13 grams in secondary schools; and

14 “(B) prior to becoming a success coach—

15 “(i) received training and support in
16 mentoring from an eligible entity, which, at
17 a minimum, was 2 hours in length and
18 covered the roles and responsibilities of a
19 success coach; and

20 “(ii) underwent a screening by an eli-
21 gible entity that included—

22 “(I) appropriate job reference
23 checks;

24 “(II) child and domestic abuse
25 record checks; and

1 “(III) criminal background
 2 checks.”.

3 **SEC. 3. TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 The table of contents in section 2 of the Elementary
 5 and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301
 6 et seq.) is amended by inserting after the item relating
 7 to section 1830 the following:

“SUBPART 3—TRANSITION-TO-SUCCESS MENTORING PROGRAM

“Sec. 1831. Transition to success mentoring program.”.

