

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 754

To amend the weighted child count used to determine targeted grant amounts and education finance incentive grant amounts for local educational agencies under title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 5, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania (for himself and Ms. SLAUGHTER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To amend the weighted child count used to determine targeted grant amounts and education finance incentive grant amounts for local educational agencies under title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

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 “All Children are Equal
5 Act” or the “ACE Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Section 1125AA of the Elementary and Secondary
3 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6336) is amended—

4 (1) by amending the heading to read as follows:

5 **“SEC. 1125AA. INCREASE GRANTS PER FORMULA STUDENT**
6 **AS THE PERCENTAGE OF ECONOMICALLY**
7 **DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN IN A LOCAL**
8 **EDUCATIONAL AGENCY INCREASES.”;**

9 and

10 (2) by amending subsection (a) to read as fol-
11 lows:

12 “(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
13 ings:

14 “(1) The current Basic Grant Formula for the
15 distribution of funds under this part does not ade-
16 quately target funds for schools with the highest
17 concentrations of economically disadvantaged stu-
18 dents.

19 “(2) The poverty of a child’s family is much
20 more likely to be associated with educational dis-
21 advantage if the family lives in an area with high
22 proportions of poor families.

23 “(3) The current formulas for distributing Tar-
24 geted and Education Finance Incentive Grants is in-
25 tended to allocate more funds per formula student to

1 local educational agencies with higher concentrations
2 of such students.

3 “(4) These formula use two weighting systems,
4 one based on the percentage of the aged 5–17 popu-
5 lation in a local education agency that is eligible to
6 receive funds under this title (percentage weighting),
7 and another based on the absolute number of such
8 students (number weighting). Whichever of these
9 weighting systems results in the highest total
10 weighted formula student count for a local edu-
11 cational agency is the weighting system used for
12 that agency in the final allocation of Targeted and
13 Education Finance Incentive Grant funds.

14 “(5) Since the amount available to be distrib-
15 uted through these formulas is fixed by congres-
16 sional appropriation, any gain in allocation share by
17 one local educational agency causes a loss to other
18 local educational agencies.

19 “(6) The number weighting alternative is often
20 favorable to very large local educational agencies,
21 even if the agency’s formula student percentage is
22 low. But because smaller local educational agencies
23 simply do not have enough students to gain from
24 number weighting, they are rarely better off under
25 the number weighting alternative.

1 “(7) The Congressional Research Service has
2 compared the funding allocations of each local edu-
3 cational agency for school year 2008–2009 under
4 the current dual weighting system with the funding
5 allocation it would have that year if all local edu-
6 cational agencies had their student count weighted
7 only by percentage weighting.

8 “(8) This data shows that the use of number
9 weighting in these formulas has shifted funding
10 from smaller to larger local educational agencies not-
11 withstanding the level of poverty in either. This is
12 contrary to the intent of Congress, which is to direct
13 more funding per formula student to local edu-
14 cational agencies with high concentrations of pov-
15 erty, as measured by the number of formula stu-
16 dents as a percentage of the aged 5–17 population
17 of the local educational agency.

18 “(9) As a result of this unintended consequence
19 of the number weighting system, 338 of the 340
20 local educational agencies that have over 38.25 per-
21 cent formula students gain nothing from number
22 weighting under the Targeted Grant program, 281
23 of them actually lose funding because of number
24 weighting, and 83 of those 340 highest poverty local
25 educational agencies would actually be better off if

1 Targeted Grant funds were allocated using the Basic
 2 Grant formula with no weighting system at all.

3 “(10) Congress has a responsibility to correct
 4 this unintended inequity by reducing the power of
 5 the number weighting system relative to the percent-
 6 age weighting system so that local educational agen-
 7 cies with high percentages of poverty but low num-
 8 bers of students are not disadvantaged under the
 9 formulas used for grants under this part.”.

10 **SEC. 3. TARGETED GRANTS TO LOCAL EDUCATIONAL**
 11 **AGENCIES.**

12 Section 1125(c)(2) of the Elementary and Secondary
 13 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6335(c)(2)) is amend-
 14 ed—

15 (1) in subparagraph (C), by striking “The
 16 amount” and inserting “Except as otherwise pro-
 17 vided in subparagraph (D), the amount”;

18 (2) by redesignating subparagraph (D) as sub-
 19 paragraph (E); and

20 (3) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the fol-
 21 lowing:

22 “(D) FISCAL YEAR 2016 AND EACH SUC-
 23 CEEDING FISCAL YEAR.—Notwithstanding sub-
 24 paragraph (C) or any other provision of this
 25 paragraph—

1 “(i) for fiscal year 2016, subpara-
2 graph (C) shall be applied—

3 “(I) in clause (ii), by substituting
4 ‘1.35’ for ‘1.5’;

5 “(II) in clause (iii), by sub-
6 stituting ‘1.8’ for ‘2.0’;

7 “(III) in clause (iv), by sub-
8 stituting ‘2.25’ for ‘2.5’; and

9 “(IV) in clause (v), by sub-
10 stituting ‘2.7’ for ‘3.0’;

11 “(ii) for fiscal year 2017, subpara-
12 graph (C) shall be applied—

13 “(I) in clause (ii), by substituting
14 ‘1.2’ for ‘1.5’;

15 “(II) in clause (iii), by sub-
16 stituting ‘1.6’ for ‘2.0’;

17 “(III) in clause (iv), by sub-
18 stituting ‘2.0’ for ‘2.5’; and

19 “(IV) in clause (v), by sub-
20 stituting ‘2.4’ for ‘3.0’;

21 “(iii) for fiscal year 2018, subpara-
22 graph (C) shall be applied—

23 “(I) in clause (ii), by substituting
24 ‘1.05’ for ‘1.5’;

1 “(II) in clause (iii), by sub-
 2 stituting ‘1.4’ for ‘2.0’;

3 “(III) in clause (iv), by sub-
 4 stituting ‘1.75’ for ‘2.5’; and

5 “(IV) in clause (v), by sub-
 6 stituting ‘2.1’ for ‘3.0’; and

7 “(iv) for fiscal year 2019 and each
 8 succeeding fiscal year, subparagraph (C)
 9 shall be applied—

10 “(I) in clause (i), by substituting
 11 ‘2,262’ for ‘691’;

12 “(II) by striking clause (ii);

13 “(III) in clause (iii), by sub-
 14 stituting ‘1.2’ for ‘2.0’;

15 “(IV) in clause (iv), by sub-
 16 stituting ‘1.5’ for ‘2.5’; and

17 “(V) in clause (v), by sub-
 18 stituting ‘1.8’ for ‘3.0’.”.

19 **SEC. 4. EDUCATION FINANCE INCENTIVE GRANT PROGRAM.**

20 (a) STATES WITH AN EQUITY FACTOR LESS THAN
 21 0.10.—Section 1125A(d)(1)(B) of the Elementary and
 22 Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
 23 6337(d)(1)(B)) is amended—

1 (1) in clause (iii), by striking “The amount”
2 and inserting “Except as otherwise provided in
3 clause (iv), the amount”; and

4 (2) by adding at the end the following:

5 “(iv) FISCAL YEAR 2016 AND EACH
6 SUCCEEDING FISCAL YEAR.—Notwith-
7 standing clause (iii) or any other provision
8 of this subparagraph—

9 “(I) for fiscal year 2016, clause
10 (iii) shall be applied—

11 “(aa) in subclause (II), by
12 substituting ‘1.35’ for ‘1.5’;

13 “(bb) in subclause (III), by
14 substituting ‘1.8’ for ‘2.0’;

15 “(cc) in subclause (IV), by
16 substituting ‘2.25’ for ‘2.5’; and

17 “(dd) in subclause (V), by
18 substituting ‘2.7’ for ‘3.0’;

19 “(II) for fiscal year 2017, clause
20 (iii) shall be applied—

21 “(aa) in subclause (II), by
22 substituting ‘1.2’ for ‘1.5’;

23 “(bb) in subclause (III), by
24 substituting ‘1.6’ for ‘2.0’;

1 “(cc) in subclause (IV), by
2 substituting ‘2.0’ for ‘2.5’; and

3 “(dd) in subclause (V), by
4 substituting ‘2.4’ for ‘3.0’;

5 “(III) for fiscal year 2018, clause
6 (iii) shall be applied—

7 “(aa) in subclause (II), by
8 substituting ‘1.05’ for ‘1.5’;

9 “(bb) in subclause (III), by
10 substituting ‘1.4’ for ‘2.0’;

11 “(cc) in subclause (IV), by
12 substituting ‘1.75’ for ‘2.5’; and

13 “(dd) in subclause (V), by
14 substituting ‘2.1’ for ‘3.0’; and

15 “(IV) for fiscal year 2019 and
16 each succeeding fiscal year, clause (iii)
17 shall be applied—

18 “(aa) in subclause (II), by
19 substituting ‘1.0’ for ‘1.5’;

20 “(bb) in subclause (III), by
21 substituting ‘1.2’ for ‘2.0’;

22 “(cc) in subclause (IV), by
23 substituting ‘1.5’ for ‘2.5’; and

24 “(dd) in subclause (V), by
25 substituting ‘1.8’ for ‘3.0’.”.

1 (b) STATES WITH AN EQUITY FACTOR GREATER
2 THAN OR EQUAL TO 0.10 AND LESS THAN 0.20.—Section
3 1125A(d)(2)(B) of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
4 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6337(d)(2)(B)) is amend-
5 ed—

6 (1) in clause (iii), by striking “The amount”
7 and inserting “Except as otherwise provided in
8 clause (iv), the amount”; and

9 (2) by adding at the end the following:

10 “(iv) FISCAL YEAR 2016 AND EACH
11 SUCCEEDING FISCAL YEAR.—Notwith-
12 standing clause (iii) or any other provision
13 of this subparagraph—

14 “(I) for fiscal year 2016, clause
15 (iii) shall be applied—

16 “(aa) in subclause (II), by
17 substituting ‘1.35’ for ‘1.5’;

18 “(bb) in subclause (III), by
19 substituting ‘2.025’ for ‘2.25’;

20 “(cc) in subclause (IV), by
21 substituting ‘3.038’ for ‘3.375’;
22 and

23 “(dd) in subclause (V), by
24 substituting ‘4.05’ for ‘4.5’;

1 “(II) for fiscal year 2017, clause
2 (iii) shall be applied—

3 “(aa) in subclause (II), by
4 substituting ‘1.2’ for ‘1.5’;

5 “(bb) in subclause (III), by
6 substituting ‘1.8’ for ‘2.25’;

7 “(cc) in subclause (IV), by
8 substituting ‘2.7’ for ‘3.375’; and

9 “(dd) in subclause (V), by
10 substituting ‘3.6’ for ‘4.5’;

11 “(III) for fiscal year 2018, clause
12 (iii) shall be applied—

13 “(aa) in subclause (II), by
14 substituting ‘1.05’ for ‘1.5’;

15 “(bb) in subclause (III), by
16 substituting ‘1.575’ for ‘2.25’;

17 “(cc) in subclause (IV), by
18 substituting ‘2.363’ for ‘3.375’;

19 and

20 “(dd) in subclause (V), by
21 substituting ‘3.15’ for ‘4.5’; and

22 “(IV) for fiscal year 2019 and
23 each succeeding fiscal year, clause (iii)
24 shall be applied—

1 “(aa) in subclause (II), by
2 substituting ‘1.0’ for ‘1.5’;

3 “(bb) in subclause (III), by
4 substituting ‘1.35’ for ‘2.25’;

5 “(cc) in subclause (IV), by
6 substituting ‘2.025’ for ‘3.375’;

7 and

8 “(dd) in subclause (V), by
9 substituting ‘2.70’ for ‘4.5’.”.

10 (c) STATES WITH AN EQUITY FACTOR GREATER
11 THAN OR EQUAL TO 0.20.—Section 1125A(d)(3)(B) of
12 the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
13 U.S.C. 6337(d)(3)(B)) is amended—

14 (1) in clause (iii), by striking “The amount”
15 and inserting “Except as otherwise provided in
16 clause (iv), the amount”; and

17 (2) by adding at the end the following:

18 “(iv) FISCAL YEAR 2016 AND EACH
19 SUCCEEDING FISCAL YEAR.—Notwith-
20 standing clause (iii) or any other provision
21 of this subparagraph—

22 “(I) for fiscal year 2016, clause
23 (iii) shall be applied—

24 “(aa) in subclause (II), by
25 substituting ‘1.80’ for ‘2.0’;

1 “(bb) in subclause (III), by
2 substituting ‘2.70’ for ‘3.0’;

3 “(cc) in subclause (IV), by
4 substituting ‘4.05’ for ‘4.5’; and

5 “(dd) in subclause (V), by
6 substituting ‘5.4’ for ‘6.0’;

7 “(II) for fiscal year 2017, clause
8 (iii) shall be applied—

9 “(aa) in subclause (II), by
10 substituting ‘1.6’ for ‘2.0’;

11 “(bb) in subclause (III), by
12 substituting ‘2.4’ for ‘3.0’;

13 “(cc) in subclause (IV), by
14 substituting ‘3.6’ for ‘4.5’; and

15 “(dd) in subclause (V), by
16 substituting ‘4.8’ for ‘6.0’;

17 “(III) for fiscal year 2018, clause
18 (iii) shall be applied—

19 “(aa) in subclause (II), by
20 substituting ‘1.4’ for ‘2.0’;

21 “(bb) in subclause (III), by
22 substituting ‘2.1’ for ‘3.0’;

23 “(cc) in subclause (IV), by
24 substituting ‘3.15’ for ‘4.5’; and

1 “(dd) in subclause (V), by
2 substituting ‘4.2’ for ‘6.0’; and

3 “(IV) for fiscal year 2019 and
4 each succeeding fiscal year, clause (iii)
5 shall be applied—

6 “(aa) in subclause (II), by
7 substituting ‘1.2’ for ‘2.0’;

8 “(bb) in subclause (III), by
9 substituting ‘1.8’ for ‘3.0’;

10 “(cc) in subclause (IV), by
11 substituting ‘2.7’ for ‘4.5’; and

12 “(dd) in subclause (V), by
13 substituting ‘3.6’ for ‘6.0’.”.

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