

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 647

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 24, 2017

Mr. CARSON of Indiana (for himself, Mr. COHEN, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. LEE, Mr. LOEBSACK, Ms. MOORE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PAYNE, and Mr. RYAN of Ohio) 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 1002(d) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act
 4 of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6553) is amended to read as follows:
 5 “There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out the
 6 activities described in part D, \$50,000,000 for fiscal year
 7 2018 and such sums as may be necessary for each suc-
 8 ceeding fiscal year.”.

9 (b) TRANSITION-TO-SUCCESS MENTORING PRO-
 10 GRAM.—Part D of title I of such Act (20 U.S.C. 6421
 11 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

12 **“Subpart 4—Transition-to-Success Mentoring**
 13 **Program**

14 **“SEC. 1441. TRANSITION-TO-SUCCESS MENTORING PRO-**
 15 **GRAM.**

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

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

25 “(c) USES OF FUNDS.—

1 “(1) REQUIRED USES OF FUNDS.—An eligible
2 entity that receives a grant under this section shall
3 use the grant funds to establish a mentoring pro-
4 gram, or to expand or provide technical support to
5 an existing mentoring program, in all middle schools
6 served by the entity, under which each eligible stu-
7 dent is assigned to a success coach who—

8 “(A) creates a plan for success for the stu-
9 dent that—

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

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

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

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

23 “(C) meets with the student at least once
24 per month to—

1 “(i) assist the student in achieving the
2 goals under the plan for success;

3 “(ii) identify the student’s academic
4 areas of weaknesses;

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

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

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

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

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

23 “(E) serves as the student’s advocate be-
24 tween the teachers and parents of the student

1 to ensure that the teachers and parents under-
2 stand the student's plan.

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

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

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

13 “(C) hire staff to perform or support the
14 program objectives.

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

17 “(e) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

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

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

1 “(B) data on the academic achievement of
2 such students;

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

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

8 “(2) SECRETARY.—

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

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

23 “(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

24 “(1) AT-RISK STUDENT.—The term ‘at-risk stu-
25 dent’ means a student who has been identified as a

1 student who has below a 2.0 grade point average or
2 the equivalent or who has been determined by par-
3 ents, teachers, or other school officials to—

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

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

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

9 “(D) be pregnant or a parent;

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

12 “(F) have limited English proficiency;

13 “(G) be a gang member; or

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

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

18 “(A) a local educational agency that—

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

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

23 “(B) a partnership between a local edu-
24 cational agency described in subparagraph (A)
25 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 means a local educational agency that serves at least
9 one high-need school.

10 “(5) HIGH-NEED SCHOOL.—The term ‘high-
11 need school’ has the meaning given the term in sec-
12 tion 2211(b)(2).

13 “(6) MIDDLE SCHOOL.—The term ‘middle
14 school’ means a nonprofit institutional day or resi-
15 dential school, including a public charter school, that
16 provides middle school education, as determined
17 under State law, except that the term does not in-
18 clude any education below grade 6 or beyond grade
19 9.

20 “(7) SCHOOL-BASED MENTORING.—The term
21 ‘school-based mentoring’ refers to mentoring activi-
22 ties that—

23 “(A) are closely coordinated with a school
24 by involving teachers, counselors, and other

1 school staff who may identify and refer stu-
2 dents for mentoring services; and

3 “(B) assist at-risk students in improving
4 academic achievement, reducing disciplinary re-
5 ferrals, and increasing positive regard for
6 school.

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

9 “(A) is—

10 “(i) an employee or volunteer of a
11 local educational agency in which a men-
12 toring program receiving support under
13 this section is being carried out; or

14 “(ii) a volunteer or employee from a
15 nonprofit, community-based organization
16 that provides volunteers for mentoring pro-
17 grams in secondary schools; and

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

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

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

1 “(I) appropriate job reference
2 checks;
3 “(II) child and domestic abuse
4 record checks; and
5 “(III) criminal background
6 checks.”.

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

8 The table of contents in section 2 of the Elementary
9 and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301
10 et seq.) is amended by inserting after the item relating
11 to section 1432 the following:

“SUBPART 4—TRANSITION-TO-SUCCESS MENTORING PROGRAM

“Sec. 1441. Transition to success mentoring program.”.

○