

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1658

To amend the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 to give the Department of Education the authority to award competitive grants to eligible entities to establish, expand, or support school-based mentoring programs to assist at-risk students in middle school and high school in developing cognitive and social-emotional skills to prepare them for success in high school, postsecondary education, and the workforce.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 27, 2017

Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Ms. DUCKWORTH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

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## A BILL

To amend the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 to give the Department of Education the authority to award competitive grants to eligible entities to establish, expand, or support school-based mentoring programs to assist at-risk students in middle school and high school in developing cognitive and social-emotional skills to prepare them for success in high school, postsecondary education, and the workforce.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Mentoring to Succeed  
3 Act of 2017”.

4 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

5 The purpose of this Act is to make assistance avail-  
6 able for school-based mentoring programs for at-risk stu-  
7 dents in order to—

8 (1) establish, expand, or support school-based  
9 mentoring programs;

10 (2) assist at-risk students in middle school and  
11 high school in developing cognitive and social-emo-  
12 tional skills; and

13 (3) prepare such at-risk students for success in  
14 high school, postsecondary education, and the work-  
15 force.

16 **SEC. 3. SCHOOL-BASED MENTORING PROGRAM.**

17 Part C of title I of the Carl D. Perkins Career and  
18 Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2351 et seq.)  
19 is amended by adding at the end the following:

20 **“SEC. 136. DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS FOR SCHOOL-BASED**  
21 **MENTORING PROGRAMS.**

22 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

23 “(1) AT-RISK STUDENT.—The term ‘at-risk stu-  
24 dent’ means a student who—

25 “(A) is failing academically or at risk of  
26 dropping out of school;

1 “(B) is pregnant or a parent;

2 “(C) is a gang member;

3 “(D) is a child or youth in foster care or  
4 a youth who has been emancipated from foster  
5 care but is still enrolled in high school;

6 “(E) is or has recently been a homeless  
7 child or youth;

8 “(F) is chronically absent;

9 “(G) has changed schools three or more  
10 times in the past 6 months;

11 “(H) has come in contact with the juvenile  
12 justice system in the past;

13 “(I) has a history of multiple suspensions  
14 or disciplinary actions;

15 “(J) is an English learner;

16 “(K) has one or both parents incarcerated;

17 “(L) has experienced one or more adverse  
18 childhood experiences, traumatic events, or  
19 toxic stressors, as assessed through an evi-  
20 dence-based screening; or

21 “(M) lives in a high-poverty area with a  
22 high rate of community violence.

23 “(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-  
24 tity’—

1           “(A) means a high-need local educational  
2           agency, high-need school, or local government  
3           entity; and

4           “(B) may include a partnership between  
5           an entity described in subparagraph (A) and a  
6           nonprofit, community-based, or faith-based or-  
7           ganization, or institution of higher education  
8           (as defined in section 101 of the Higher Edu-  
9           cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)).

10          “(3) ENGLISH LEARNER.—The term ‘English  
11          learner’ has the meaning given the term in section  
12          8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education  
13          Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

14          “(4) FOSTER CARE.—The term ‘foster care’ has  
15          the meaning given the term in section 1355.20 of  
16          title 45, Code of Federal Regulations.

17          “(5) HIGH-NEED LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGEN-  
18          CY.—The term ‘high-need local educational agency’  
19          means a local educational agency that serves at least  
20          1 high-need school.

21          “(6) HIGH-NEED SCHOOL.—The term ‘high-  
22          need school’ has the meaning given the term in sec-  
23          tion 2211 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-  
24          cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6631).

1           “(7) HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTHS.—The  
2           term ‘homeless children and youths’ has the mean-  
3           ing given the term in section 725 of the McKinney-  
4           Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a).

5           “(8) SCHOOL-BASED MENTORING.—The term  
6           ‘school-based mentoring’ means a structured, man-  
7           aged, evidenced-based program conducted in part-  
8           nership with teachers, administrators, school psy-  
9           chologists, school social workers or counselors, and  
10          other school staff, in which at-risk students are ap-  
11          propriately matched with screened and trained pro-  
12          fessional or volunteer mentors who provide guidance,  
13          support, and encouragement, involving meetings,  
14          group-based sessions, and educational and work-  
15          force-related activities on a regular basis to prepare  
16          at-risk students for success in high school, postsec-  
17          ondary education, and the workforce.

18          “(b) SCHOOL-BASED MENTORING COMPETITIVE  
19 GRANT PROGRAM.—

20               “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award  
21               grants on a competitive basis to eligible entities to  
22               establish, expand, or support school-based mentoring  
23               programs that—

24                       “(A) are designed to assist at-risk students  
25                       in high-need schools in developing cognitive

skills and promoting social-emotional learning to prepare them for success in high school, postsecondary education, and the workforce by linking them with mentors who—

“(i) have received mentor training, including on trauma-informed practices and youth engagement; and

“(ii) have been screened using appropriate reference checks and criminal background checks;

“(B) provide coaching and technical assistance to mentors in such mentoring program;

“(C) provide at-risk students with a positive relationship with a skilled adult offering support and guidance;

“(D) improve the academic achievement of at-risk students;

“(E) foster positive relationships between at-risk students and their peers, teachers, other adults, and family members;

“(F) reduce dropout rates and absenteeism and improve school engagement of at-risk students and their families;

“(G) reduce juvenile justice involvement of at-risk students;

1 “(H) develop the cognitive and social-emo-  
2 tional skills of at-risk students;

3 “(I) develop the workforce readiness skills  
4 of at-risk students;

5 “(J) encourage at-risk students to partici-  
6 pate in community service activities; and

7 “(K) encourage at-risk students to set  
8 goals and plan for their futures, including en-  
9 couraging such students to make plans for post-  
10 secondary education and the workforce.

11 “(2) DURATION.—The Secretary shall award  
12 grants under this section for a period not to exceed  
13 5 years.

14 “(3) APPLICATION.—To receive a grant under  
15 this section, an eligible entity shall submit to the  
16 Secretary an application that includes—

17 “(A) a needs assessment that includes  
18 baseline data on the measures described in  
19 paragraph (6)(A)(ii); and

20 “(B) a plan to meet the requirements of  
21 paragraph (1).

22 “(4) PRIORITY.—In selecting grant recipients,  
23 the Secretary shall give priority to applicants that—

24 “(A) serve children and youth with the  
25 greatest need living in high-poverty, high-crime

1 areas, rural areas, or who attend schools with  
 2 high rates of community violence;

3 “(B) provide at-risk students with opportu-  
 4 nities for job training, professional development,  
 5 work shadowing, internships, networking, re-  
 6 sume writing and review, interview preparation,  
 7 college application assistance, college visits, and  
 8 leadership development through community  
 9 service, including through partnerships with the  
 10 private sector and local businesses to provide  
 11 internship and career exploration activities and  
 12 resources; and

13 “(C) seek to provide match lengths be-  
 14 tween at-risk students and mentors of not less  
 15 than 8 months.

16 “(5) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity that  
 17 receives a grant under this section may use such  
 18 funds to—

19 “(A) develop and carry out regular train-  
 20 ing for mentors, including on—

21 “(i) the impact of adverse childhood  
 22 experiences;

23 “(ii) trauma-informed practices and  
 24 interventions;



1                   “(iii) supporting homeless children  
2                   and youths;

3                   “(iv) supporting children and youth in  
4                   foster care or youth who have been emanci-  
5                   pated from foster care but are still enrolled  
6                   in high school;

7                   “(v) cultural competency;

8                   “(vi) confidentiality requirements for  
9                   working with children and youth in foster  
10                  care; and

11                  “(vii) working in coordination with a  
12                  public school system;

13                  “(B) recruit, screen, match, and train  
14                  mentors;

15                  “(C) hire staff to perform or support the  
16                  objectives of the school-based mentoring pro-  
17                  gram;

18                  “(D) provide youth engagement activities,  
19                  such as—

20                         “(i) enrichment field trips to cultural  
21                         destinations; and

22                         “(ii) career or academic exploration  
23                         activities; and

1           “(E) conduct program evaluation, includ-  
2           ing by acquiring and analyzing the data de-  
3           scribed under paragraph (6).

4           “(6) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

5           “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6  
6           months after the end of each academic year  
7           during the grant period, an eligible entity re-  
8           ceiving a grant under this section shall submit  
9           to the Secretary a report that includes—

10           “(i) the number of students who par-  
11           ticipated in the school-based mentoring  
12           program that was funded in whole or in  
13           part with the grant funds;

14           “(ii) data on the academic achieve-  
15           ment, dropout rates, truancy, absenteeism,  
16           outcomes of arrests for violent crime, sum-  
17           mer employment, and college enrollment of  
18           students in the program;

19           “(iii) the number of group sessions  
20           and number of one-to-one contacts between  
21           students in the program and their men-  
22           tors;

23           “(iv) the average attendance of stu-  
24           dents enrolled in the program;

1 “(v) data on social emotional develop-  
 2 ment of students as assessed with a vali-  
 3 dated social emotional assessment tool; and

4 “(vi) any other information that the  
 5 Secretary may require to evaluate the suc-  
 6 cess of the school-based mentoring pro-  
 7 gram.

8 “(B) STUDENT PRIVACY.—An eligible enti-  
 9 ty shall ensure that the report submitted under  
 10 subparagraph (A) is prepared in a manner that  
 11 protects the privacy rights of each student in  
 12 accordance with section 444 of the General  
 13 Education Provisions Act (commonly referred  
 14 to as the ‘Family Educational Rights and Pri-  
 15 vacy Act of 1974’) (20 U.S.C. 1232g).

16 “(7) MENTORING RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY  
 17 SERVICE COORDINATION.—

18 “(A) BEST PRACTICES.—The Secretary  
 19 shall work with the Office of Juvenile Justice  
 20 and Delinquency Prevention to—

21 “(i) refer grantees under this section  
 22 to the National Mentoring Resource Center  
 23 to obtain resources on best practices and  
 24 research related to mentoring and to re-

quest no-cost training and technical assistance; and

“(ii) provide grantees under this section with information to promote positive youth development, including transitional services for at-risk students returning from correctional facilities.

“(B) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall coordinate with the Corporation for National and Community Service, including through entering into an interagency agreement or a memorandum of understanding, to provide technical assistance and other resources to support grantees under this section as they provide mentoring and community service-related activities for at-risk students.

“(c) AUTHORIZATION OF FUNDS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2018 through 2023.”.

**SEC. 4. INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION SCIENCES STUDY ON SCHOOL-BASED MENTORING PROGRAMS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Education, acting through the Director of the Institute of Education Sciences, shall conduct a study to—

1           (1) identify successful school-based mentoring  
2       programs and effective strategies for administering  
3       and monitoring such programs;

4           (2) evaluate the role of mentors in promoting  
5       cognitive development and social-emotional learning  
6       to enhance academic achievement and to improve  
7       workforce readiness; and

8           (3) evaluate the effectiveness of the grant pro-  
9       gram under section 136 of the Carl D. Perkins Ca-  
10      reer and Technical Education Act of 2006, as added  
11      by section 3, on student academic outcomes and  
12      youth career development.

13       (b) TIMING.—Not later than 3 years after the date  
14      of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Education, act-  
15      ing through the Director of the Institute of Education  
16      Sciences, shall submit the results of the study to the ap-  
17      propriate Congressional committees.

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