

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2443

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to establish a new career counseling program, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 15, 2018

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

A BILL

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to establish a new career counseling program, and for other purposes.

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 “Careers Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

6 Congress finds the following:

7 (1) A career guidance and counseling program
8 develops an individual’s competencies in self-knowl-

1 edge, educational and occupational exploration, and
 2 career planning.

3 (2) Career guidance and counseling programs
 4 help individuals acquire the knowledge, skills, and
 5 experience necessary to identify options, explore al-
 6 ternatives, and succeed in a 21st century society.

7 (3) The American School Counselor Association
 8 recommends a student-to-counselor ratio of two-hun-
 9 dred fifty to one. Forty-seven States do not meet
 10 this recommendation.

11 (4) School counselors design and implement
 12 comprehensive school counseling programs that in-
 13 clude educational and career planning activities for
 14 all students that are designed to assist students in
 15 reaching academic, career, and personal goals.

16 (5) Students at schools with highly integrated,
 17 rigorous, academic and career and technical edu-
 18 cation programs have significantly higher achieve-
 19 ment in reading, mathematics, and science than do
 20 students at schools with less integrated programs.

21 **SEC. 3. CAREER COUNSELING PROGRAM.**

22 (a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—Part B of title II of the
 23 Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
 24 U.S.C. 6621 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
 25 the following:

1 **“Subpart 5—Career Counseling Program**

2 **“SEC. 2251. DEFINITIONS.**

3 “In this subpart:

4 “(1) CAREER COUNSELOR.—The term ‘career
5 counselor’ means a school counselor licensed or cer-
6 tified by a State.

7 “(2) COMPREHENSIVE CAREER COUNSELING
8 PROGRAM.—The term ‘comprehensive career coun-
9 seling program’ means a program that—

10 “(A) provides access for students (and par-
11 ents, as appropriate) to information regarding
12 career awareness and planning with respect to
13 an individual’s occupational and academic fu-
14 ture;

15 “(B) provides information with respect to
16 career options, financial aid, and postsecondary
17 options, including baccalaureate degree pro-
18 grams, registered apprenticeship programs, and
19 professional trades; and

20 “(C) is implemented in a school by a ca-
21 reer counselor.

22 “(3) EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN.—The
23 term ‘educational development plan’ means an indi-
24 vidualized plan for a student that—

1 “(A) contains a series of steps to help the
2 student promote career awareness and explo-
3 ration; and

4 “(B) assists students in identifying—

5 “(i) career and technical programs of
6 study described in section 122(c)(1)(A) of
7 the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical
8 Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C.
9 2342(c)(1)(A));

10 “(ii) career pathways (as defined in
11 section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and
12 Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102)); and

13 “(iii) programs of training services
14 leading to a recognized postsecondary cre-
15 dential included on a State’s list under sec-
16 tion 122(d) of the Workforce Innovation
17 and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3152(d)).

18 “(4) REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PRO-
19 GRAM.—The term ‘registered apprenticeship pro-
20 gram’ means an apprenticeship program registered
21 under the Act of August 16, 1937 (commonly known
22 as the ‘National Apprenticeship Act’; 50 Stat. 664,
23 chapter 663; 29 U.S.C. 50 et seq.).

1 **“SEC. 2252. CAREER COUNSELING PROGRAM.**

2 “(a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—From amounts made
3 available to carry out this subpart, the Secretary shall
4 award grants, on a competitive basis, to State educational
5 agencies, to pay the Federal share of a program enabling
6 the State educational agencies to address the shortage of
7 career counselors and to expand effective career coun-
8 seling programs by awarding subgrants under section
9 2253.

10 “(b) APPLICATION.—A State that desires a grant
11 under this subpart shall submit an application to the Sec-
12 retary at such time, in such manner, and containing such
13 information as the Secretary may require, including a de-
14 scription of—

15 “(1) how the State will award subgrants with
16 an emphasis toward supporting local educational
17 agencies with disproportionately high student-to-coun-
18 selor ratios;

19 “(2) a professional development program ap-
20 proved by the State for all career counselors in the
21 State, which may include opportunities for extern-
22 ships, fellowships, and other activities to ensure that
23 career counselors are able to provide current and rel-
24 evant workforce information;

1 “(3) how the State will provide technical assist-
 2 ance to local educational agencies to enable the local
 3 educational agencies to qualify for subgrants;

4 “(4) the State-wide strategies to be imple-
 5 mented by the State to increase the number of high-
 6 quality career counselors;

7 “(5) how the State will disseminate, in a timely
 8 manner, information regarding—

9 “(A) national, regional, and local labor
 10 market trends; and

11 “(B) other career-relevant data; and

12 “(6) how the State will assist local educational
 13 agencies in the State in developing a comprehensive
 14 career counseling program.

15 “(c) SPECIAL CONSIDERATION.—In awarding grants
 16 under this program, the Secretary shall give special con-
 17 sideration to State educational agencies that have high
 18 student-to-counselor ratios.

19 “(d) FEDERAL SHARE; NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—

20 “(1) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of a
 21 grant under this subpart shall be 80 percent of the
 22 costs of the activities under the grant.

23 “(2) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—The non-Federal
 24 share of a grant under this subpart shall be 20 per-
 25 cent, and may be provided in cash or in-kind.

1 “(e) USE OF FUNDS.—Each State receiving a grant
2 under this subpart—

3 “(1) may use not more than 10 percent of the
4 total amounts available for the grant to support the
5 grant by carrying out the activities described in
6 paragraphs (2) through (6) of subsection (b), as pro-
7 posed by the State and approved by the Secretary in
8 the application submitted under subsection (b);

9 “(2) may use not more than 3 percent of such
10 total amounts for the administrative costs associated
11 with the grant; and

12 “(3) shall use not less than 87 percent of such
13 total amounts to carry out the subgrant program de-
14 scribed in section 2253.

15 **“SEC. 2253. CAREER COUNSELING SUBGRANTS.**

16 “(a) SUBGRANTS AUTHORIZED.—From amounts
17 made available under section 2252(e)(3), each State re-
18 ceiving a grant under this subpart shall award subgrants,
19 on a competitive basis, to local educational agencies to en-
20 able the local educational agencies to improve career coun-
21 seling programs.

22 “(b) APPLICATION.—A local educational agency de-
23 siring a subgrant under this subpart shall submit to the
24 State an application at such time, in such manner, and

1 containing such information as the State may require, in-
2 cluding the following:

3 “(1) A description of a comprehensive career
4 counseling program to be offered in the local edu-
5 cational agency that—

6 “(A) encompasses grades 6 through 12;

7 “(B) includes strategies to ensure that—

8 “(i) all students served by the local
9 educational agency start developing an
10 educational development plan beginning in
11 grade 7; and

12 “(ii) the educational development plan
13 of each student is regularly reviewed and
14 updated until the date that the student
15 graduates from secondary school or is no
16 longer enrolled in a school served by the
17 local educational agency; and

18 “(C) is developed in consultation with not
19 less than two of the following types of stake-
20 holders:

21 “(i) Institutions of higher education
22 or postsecondary vocational institutions (as
23 defined in section 102(c) of the Higher
24 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
25 1002(c))).

1 “(ii) Sponsors of registered appren-
2 ticeship programs.

3 “(iii) Local boards (as defined in sec-
4 tion 3 of the Workforce Innovation and
5 Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102)).

6 “(iv) Nonprofit organizations with ex-
7 pertise in career counseling.

8 “(v) Tribal organizations.

9 “(vi) Labor organizations.

10 “(vii) Trade associations.

11 “(2) In the case of a local educational agency
12 whose student-to-counselor ratio is higher than the
13 national average ratio (as determined by the Amer-
14 ican School Counselor Association, or a similar orga-
15 nization designated by the Secretary), a description
16 of the activities that will be offered under the pro-
17 gram described in paragraph (1) to reduce the local
18 educational agency’s ratio.

19 “(3) A description of activities to be offered
20 under the comprehensive career counseling program
21 to promote student engagement with registered ap-
22 prenticeship programs, internships, and other work-
23 based learning experiences.

24 “(4) A description of the strategies to be em-
25 ployed by the local educational agency—

1 “(A) to ensure the effective dissemination
2 of career and labor market information to par-
3 ents and students; and

4 “(B) to ensure students are aware of in-
5 school career development activities, including
6 career and technical education programs and
7 career and technical student organizations.

8 “(5) A description of how the local educational
9 agency will ensure that parents of students are rou-
10 tinely engaged in the development of the educational
11 development plans for their students.

12 “(6) A description of the strategies to be em-
13 ployed by the local educational agency—

14 “(A) for ensuring that the comprehensive
15 career counseling program described in para-
16 graph (1) is incorporated in the school cur-
17 rriculum; and

18 “(B) for bolstering career readiness among
19 out-of-school youth, economically disadvantaged
20 students, students who are children with dis-
21 abilities, and other at-risk populations.

22 “(c) USE OF SUBGRANT FUNDS.—A local edu-
23 cational agency receiving a subgrant under this section—

24 “(1) shall use subgrant funds to—

1 “(A) develop and implement the com-
2 prehensive career counseling program proposed
3 by the local educational agency in the applica-
4 tion submitted under subsection (b)(1); and

5 “(B) develop and carry out other activities
6 and strategies proposed in the application under
7 subsection (b); and

8 “(2) may use subgrant funds to—

9 “(A) purchase software or online platforms
10 to directly support the comprehensive career
11 counseling program of the local educational
12 agency; and

13 “(B) train school personnel to effectively
14 provide students with current and relevant
15 workforce information.

16 **“SEC. 2254. REPORTS.**

17 “Each State educational agency receiving a grant
18 under this subpart shall submit an annual report to the
19 Secretary regarding the progress of the grant.

20 **“SEC. 2255. SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.**

21 “Amounts made available under this subpart shall
22 supplement, and not supplant, other amounts available to
23 carry out the activities supported under this subpart.

1 **“SEC. 2256. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 “There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
3 this subpart \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2019 and each
4 of the 4 succeeding fiscal years.”.

5 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 2003(b) of
6 the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
7 U.S.C. 6603(b)) is amended by inserting “(except for sub-
8 part 5)” after “part B”.

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