

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3152

To establish a pilot grant program to support career and technical education exploration programs in middle schools and high schools.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 27, 2018

Mr. MERKLEY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To establish a pilot grant program to support career and technical education exploration programs in middle schools and high schools.

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 “Building Under-
5 standing, Investment, Learning, and Direction Career and
6 Technical Education Act of 2018” or the “BUILD Career
7 and Technical Education Act of 2018”.

8 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

9 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The average high school graduation rate for
2 students concentrating in career and technical edu-
3 cation programs is 93 percent, compared to the na-
4 tional graduation rate of 80 percent.

5 (2) High school students who participate in ca-
6 reer and technical education programs have higher
7 academic motivation, academic engagement, grades,
8 career self-efficacy, college aspirations, and employ-
9 ability skills.

10 (3) Eighty-eight percent of high school students
11 who participate in career and technical education
12 continue on to postsecondary education.

13 (4) Eighty percent of high school students tak-
14 ing college preparatory classes with rigorous career
15 and technical education programs met college and
16 career readiness goals, compared to only 63 percent
17 of students taking the same academic core who did
18 not experience rigorous career and technical edu-
19 cation programs.

20 **SEC. 3. PILOT GRANT PROGRAM TO SUPPORT CAREER AND**
21 **TECHNICAL EDUCATION EXPLORATION PRO-**
22 **GRAM IN MIDDLE SCHOOLS AND HIGH**
23 **SCHOOLS.**

24 (a) **PURPOSES.**—The purposes of this Act are the fol-
25 lowing:

1 (1) To provide students with opportunities to
 2 participate in career and technical education explo-
 3 ration programs and to provide information on avail-
 4 able career and technical education programs and
 5 their impact on college and career readiness.

6 (2) To expand professional growth of, and ca-
 7 reer opportunities for, students through career and
 8 technical education exploration programs.

9 (3) To enhance collaboration between education
 10 providers and employers.

11 (4) To develop or enhance career and technical
 12 education exploration programs with ties to a career
 13 and technical education program of study.

14 (5) To evaluate students' participation in co-
 15 ordinated middle school and high school career and
 16 technical education exploration programs.

17 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

18 (1) CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION EX-
 19 PLORATION PROGRAM.—The term “career and tech-
 20 nical education exploration program” means a
 21 course or series of courses that—

22 (A) provides experiential learning opportu-
 23 nities in one or more programs of study (includ-
 24 ing after school and during the summer), as ap-
 25 propriate and the opportunity to connect experi-

1 ential learning to education and career path-
2 ways; and

3 (B) is offered to middle school students or
4 high school students, or both.

5 (2) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The term
6 “local educational agency” has the meaning given
7 the term in section 8101 of the Elementary and Sec-
8 ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

9 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
10 the Secretary of Education.

11 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF GRANT PROGRAM.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award
13 grants to local educational agencies to support ca-
14 reer and technical education exploration programs.

15 (2) GRANT DURATION.—Grants awarded under
16 this Act shall be 2 years in duration.

17 (3) DISTRICT CAPACITY TAKEN INTO AC-
18 COUNT.—In awarding grants under paragraph (1),
19 the Secretary shall take into account the resources
20 and capacity of each local educational agency that
21 applies for a grant.

22 (d) APPLICATIONS.—A local educational agency that
23 desires to receive a grant under this Act shall submit an
24 application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner,

1 and accompanied by such information as the Secretary
2 may require.

3 (e) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this Act,
4 the Secretary shall give priority to grant proposals that—

5 (1) demonstrate—

6 (A) that a partnership among the local
7 educational agency and business, industry,
8 labor, or institutions of higher education, where
9 appropriate to the grant project, exists and will
10 participate in carrying out grant activities
11 under this Act;

12 (B) innovative and sustainable design;

13 (C) a curriculum aligned with State di-
14 ploma requirements;

15 (D) a focus on preparing students, includ-
16 ing special populations and nontraditional stu-
17 dents, with opportunities to explore careers and
18 skills required for jobs in their State and that
19 provide high wages and are in demand;

20 (E) a method of evaluating success; and

21 (F) that the programs to be assisted with
22 grant funds are not receiving assistance under
23 the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Edu-
24 cation Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.);
25 and

1 (2) include an assurance that—

2 (A) the local educational agency will fund
3 the operational costs of the activities described
4 in this Act after the grant period expires; and

5 (B) if the local educational agency charges
6 a fee to participate in the after school and sum-
7 mer components of the career and technical
8 education exploration program to be carried out
9 by the agency, the agency will implement such
10 fee on a sliding scale according to income and
11 established in a manner that makes participa-
12 tion financially feasible for all students.

13 (f) USES OF FUNDS.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—A local educational agency
15 that receives a grant under this Act shall use the
16 grant funds to carry out any of the following:

17 (A) Leasing, purchasing, upgrading, or
18 adapting equipment related to the content of
19 career and technical education exploration pro-
20 gram activities.

21 (B) Program director, instructor, or other
22 staff expenses to coordinate or implement pro-
23 gram activities.

24 (C) Consultation services with a direct
25 alignment to the program goals.

1 (D) Support of professional development
2 programs aligned to the program goals.

3 (E) Minor remodeling, if any, necessary to
4 accommodate new equipment obtained pursuant
5 to subparagraph (A).

6 (F) Evaluating the access to career and
7 technical education exploration programs and
8 the impact such programs have on the transi-
9 tion to career and technical programs of study
10 (as described in section 122(c)(1)(A) of the
11 Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Edu-
12 cation Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2342(c)(1)(A))),
13 or other postsecondary programs of study, high
14 school completion, and the number of students
15 who earn an industry-recognized credential, as-
16 sociate's degree, bachelor's degree, or other ca-
17 reer and technical education related postsec-
18 ondary credit in addition to a high school di-
19 ploma.

20 (2) USE AND OWNERSHIP OF MATERIALS OR
21 EQUIPMENT.—Any materials or equipment pur-
22 chased with grant funds awarded under this Act
23 shall be the property of the local educational agency.

24 (3) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—A local edu-
25 cational agency that receives a grant under this Act

1 may use not more than 5 percent of the grant funds
2 for administrative costs associated with carrying out
3 activities under this Act.

4 (g) EVALUATIONS.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—A local educational agency
6 that receives a grant under this Act shall develop an
7 evaluation plan of grant activities that shall include
8 an evaluation of specific outcomes, described in
9 paragraph (2), and progress toward meeting such
10 outcomes within the timeline of the grant that shall
11 be measurable through collection of appropriate data
12 or documented through other records. Such evalua-
13 tion shall reflect the resources and capacity of the
14 local educational agency.

15 (2) OUTCOMES.—The specific outcomes shall
16 clearly address the following areas:

17 (A) The extent of student participation in
18 career and technical education exploration pro-
19 grams.

20 (B) Improved rigor in technical or aca-
21 demic content aligned to diploma requirements
22 and industry recognized technical standards.

23 (C) Improved alignment between career
24 and technical education and other courses, in-
25 cluding core academic subjects.

1 (D) The impact such programs have on the
2 transition to career and technical programs of
3 study (as described in section 122(c)(1)(A) of
4 the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Edu-
5 cation Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2342(c)(1)(A)))
6 and other postsecondary programs of study.

7 (3) SUBMISSION TO THE DEPARTMENT.—A
8 local educational agency that receives a grant under
9 this Act shall submit evaluations conducted under
10 this subsection to the Secretary.

11 (h) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—Funds received
12 under this Act shall be used to supplement, and not sup-
13 plant, funds that would otherwise be used for activities
14 authorized under this Act.

15 (i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
16 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act
17 \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 and 2020.

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