

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2736

To increase rates of college completion and reduce college costs by accelerating time to degree, aligning secondary and postsecondary education, and improving postsecondary credit transfer.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 30, 2019

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

A BILL

To increase rates of college completion and reduce college costs by accelerating time to degree, aligning secondary and postsecondary education, and improving postsecondary credit transfer.

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 “Fast Track To and
5 Through College Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. ACCELERATING TIME TO DEGREE.**

7 Part A of title IV of the Higher Education Act of
8 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.) is amended—

1 (1) by redesignating subparts 5, 6, and 7, as
 2 subparts 6, 7, and 8, respectively; and

3 (2) by inserting after subpart 4 the following:

4 **“Subpart 5—Accelerating Time to Degree**

5 **“SEC. 416A. PURPOSE.**

6 “The purpose of this subpart is to increase rates of
 7 college completion and reduce college costs by accelerating
 8 time to degree, aligning secondary and postsecondary edu-
 9 cation, and improving postsecondary credit transfer.

10 **“SEC. 416B. DEFINITIONS.**

11 “In this subpart:

12 “(1) **ADVANCED COURSEWORK.**—The term ‘ad-
 13 vanced coursework’ means coursework designed for
 14 students to earn postsecondary credit upon its suc-
 15 cessful completion while still in high school, such as
 16 that associated with Advanced Placement, Inter-
 17 national Baccalaureate, a dual or concurrent enroll-
 18 ment program, and early college high school pro-
 19 grams.

20 “(2) **CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION.**—

21 The term ‘career and technical education’ has the
 22 meaning given the term in section 3 of the Carl D.
 23 Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of
 24 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302).

1 “(3) DUAL OR CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT
2 PROGRAM.—The term ‘dual or concurrent enrollment
3 program’ has the meaning given the term in section
4 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education
5 Act of 1965.

6 “(4) EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL.—The
7 term ‘early college high school’ has the meaning
8 given the term in section 8101 of the Elementary
9 and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

10 “(5) EARLY COLLEGE FAST TRACK PATHWAY.—
11 The term ‘early college fast track pathway’ means a
12 sequence of dual or concurrent enrollment program
13 courses, Advanced Placement courses, International
14 Baccalaureate courses, or other advanced
15 coursework or assessments approved by the eligible
16 entity taken at any point during high school that—

17 “(A) when taken together, constitute a
18 typical first year of study toward an associate
19 degree or baccalaureate degree, or, in the case
20 of postsecondary credit in career and technical
21 education earned through dual or concurrent
22 enrollment program course sequences, the first
23 year of study toward a recognized postsec-
24 ondary credential for a high-skill, high-wage, or
25 in-demand industry sector or occupation; and

1 “(B) if completed successfully, results in
2 credit that—

3 “(i) is equivalent to the academic
4 workload of not less than 2 semesters of
5 full-time postsecondary enrollment;

6 “(ii) satisfies requirements for the
7 State’s regular high school diploma; and

8 “(iii) is a part of the statewide articu-
9 lation agreements described in clauses (iv)
10 and (v) of section 416C(f)(2)(C), except
11 that a pathway designed for earning post-
12 secondary credit in career and technical
13 education through a dual or concurrent en-
14 rollment program leading to a recognized
15 postsecondary credential may be part of an
16 articulation agreement that includes some,
17 but not all, public institutions of higher
18 education in the State.

19 “(6) EARLY HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION FAST
20 TRACK PATHWAY.—The term ‘early high school
21 graduation fast track pathway’ means a scholarship
22 provided to a student who—

23 “(A) graduates high school early consistent
24 with a State’s early high school graduation pol-
25 icy;

1 “(B) does not require remedial coursework
 2 in postsecondary education consistent with a
 3 State’s postsecondary course placement stand-
 4 ards described in section 416C(f)(2)(C)(iii); and

5 “(C) attends any public 2-year or 4-year
 6 institution of higher education that is a part of
 7 the eligible entity.

8 “(7) EARLY HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION POL-
 9 ICY.—The term ‘early high school graduation policy’
 10 means a statewide policy adopted by all local edu-
 11 cational agencies in the State that—

12 “(A) allows students the opportunity to
 13 earn a regular high school diploma in not more
 14 than 3 years;

15 “(B) is based in whole or in part on stu-
 16 dent performance on valid and reliable assess-
 17 ments aligned with the challenging State aca-
 18 demic standards required under section
 19 1111(b)(1) of the Elementary and Secondary
 20 Education Act of 1965, which may include a
 21 nationally recognized high school academic as-
 22 sessment; and

23 “(C) may permit students to earn required
 24 credit hours for a regular high school diploma
 25 through a demonstration of competency.

1 “(8) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-
2 tity’ means a partnership that, with respect to a
3 State—

4 “(A) shall include—

5 “(i) the State educational agency;

6 “(ii) either—

7 “(I) the State public higher edu-
8 cation system inclusive of all 2-year
9 and 4-year public institutions of high-
10 er education in the State; or

11 “(II) a consortium of the State’s
12 public higher education institutions or
13 systems that, together, is inclusive of
14 all 2-year and 4-year public institu-
15 tions of higher education in the State;
16 and

17 “(iii) 1 or more local educational
18 agencies, including at least 1 high-need
19 local educational agency located in the
20 State; and

21 “(B) may include—

22 “(i) a consortium of entities described
23 in subparagraph (A) from different States;

1 “(ii) 1 or more public or nonprofit
 2 private institutions of higher education;
 3 and

4 “(iii) 1 or more businesses, nonprofit
 5 organizations, a State workforce agency, or
 6 a State workforce development board es-
 7 tablished under section 101 of the Work-
 8 force Innovation and Opportunity Act.

9 “(9) EVIDENCE-BASED.—The term ‘evidence-
 10 based’ has the meaning given the term in section
 11 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education
 12 Act of 1965.

13 “(10) FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE STU-
 14 DENT.—The term ‘first-generation college student’
 15 means—

16 “(A) an individual both of whose parents
 17 did not complete a baccalaureate degree; or

18 “(B) in the case of any individual who reg-
 19 ularly resided with and received support from
 20 only 1 parent, an individual whose only such
 21 parent did not complete a baccalaureate degree.

22 “(11) GOVERNOR.—The term ‘Governor’ means
 23 the chief executive officer of a State.

1 “(12) HIGH-NEED LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGEN-
 2 CY.—The term ‘high-need local educational agency’
 3 means a local educational agency—

4 “(A) that serves not fewer than 10,000
 5 children from families with incomes below the
 6 poverty line;

7 “(B) for which not less than 20 percent of
 8 the children served by the agency are from fam-
 9 ilies with incomes below the poverty line;

10 “(C) that is in the highest quartile of local
 11 educational agencies in the State, based on stu-
 12 dent poverty; or

13 “(D) for which not less than 75 percent of
 14 the children served by the agency are histori-
 15 cally underrepresented students.

16 “(13) HIGH SCHOOL.—The term ‘high school’
 17 has the meaning given the term in section 8101 of
 18 the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of
 19 1965.

20 “(14) HISTORICALLY UNDERREPRESENTED
 21 STUDENT.—The term ‘historically underrepresented
 22 student’ means—

23 “(A) a student, or prospective student, at
 24 an institution of higher education who is at risk

1 of educational failure or otherwise in need of
2 special assistance and support; and

3 “(B) may include an adult learner, work-
4 ing student, part-time student, student from a
5 low-income background, student of color, Native
6 youth, single parent (including a single preg-
7 nant woman), student who is a homeless child
8 or youth, youth who is in, or has aged out of,
9 the foster care system, first-generation college
10 student, and student with a disability.

11 “(15) IN-DEMAND INDUSTRY SECTOR OR OCCU-
12 PATION.—The term ‘in-demand industry sector or
13 occupation’ has the meaning given the term in sec-
14 tion 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity
15 Act.

16 “(16) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—
17 The term ‘institution of higher education’ has the
18 meaning given the term in section 101(a).

19 “(17) MIDDLE GRADES.—The term ‘middle
20 grades’ has the meaning given the term in section
21 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education
22 Act of 1965.

23 “(18) NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED HIGH SCHOOL
24 ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT.—The term ‘nationally rec-
25 ognized high school academic assessment’ means an

1 assessment of high school students’ knowledge and
 2 skills that is administered in multiple States and is
 3 recognized by institutions of higher education in
 4 those or other States for the purposes of entrance or
 5 placement into courses in postsecondary education
 6 or training programs.

7 “(19) PARENT.—The term ‘parent’ has the
 8 meaning given the term in section 8101 of the Ele-
 9 mentary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

10 “(20) RECOGNIZED POSTSECONDARY CREDEN-
 11 TIAL.—The term ‘recognized postsecondary creden-
 12 tial’ has the meaning given the term in section 3 of
 13 the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

14 “(21) REGULAR HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA.—The
 15 term ‘regular high school diploma’ has the meaning
 16 given the term in section 8101 of the Elementary
 17 and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

18 “(22) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means each of
 19 the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the
 20 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

21 “(23) SUBGROUP OF STUDENTS.—The term
 22 ‘subgroup of students’ means—

23 “(A) economically disadvantaged students;

24 “(B) students from each major racial and
 25 ethnic group;

1 “(C) children with disabilities, as defined
2 in section 602 of the Individuals with Disabil-
3 ities Education Act;

4 “(D) English learners, as defined in sec-
5 tion 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary
6 Education Act of 1965;

7 “(E) students disaggregated by gender;

8 “(F) migratory children, as described in
9 section 1309(3) of the Elementary and Sec-
10 ondary Education Act of 1965;

11 “(G) homeless children and youths, as de-
12 fined in section 725 of the McKinney-Vento
13 Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a);

14 “(H) students who are in foster care or are
15 aging out of the foster care system; and

16 “(I) students with a parent who is a mem-
17 ber of the Armed Forces (as defined in section
18 101(a)(4) of title 10, United States Code) on
19 active duty (as defined in section 101(d) of
20 such title).

21 “(24) WORK-BASED LEARNING.—The term
22 ‘work-based learning’ has the meaning given the
23 term in section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and
24 Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302).

1 **“SEC. 416C. COMPETITIVE GRANTS TO STATES.**

2 “(a) RESERVATIONS.—From the total amount appro-
3 priated under section 416I for a fiscal year, the Secretary
4 shall reserve—

5 “(1) 2 percent to conduct the evaluation de-
6 scribed under section 416F; and

7 “(2) 2 percent for technical assistance and dis-
8 semination, which may include—

9 “(A) providing, directly or through grants,
10 contracts, or cooperative agreements, technical
11 assistance on using evidence-based practices to
12 improve the outcomes of activities funded under
13 this subpart; and

14 “(B) disseminating information on evi-
15 dence-based practices that are successful in im-
16 proving the quality of activities funded under
17 this subpart.

18 “(b) GRANTS.—

19 “(1) AWARDS.—From the total amount of
20 funds available under section 416I for a fiscal year
21 and not reserved under subsection (a), the Secretary
22 shall award grants on a competitive basis to eligible
23 entities to implement activities described under sec-
24 tion 416D.

1 “(2) LIMITATION.—A State may not receive
 2 (whether individually or as part of a consortium) a
 3 grant under this subpart more than once.

4 “(c) GRANT DURATION.—Grants awarded under this
 5 subpart shall be for a period of 5 years.

6 “(d) DIVERSITY OF PROJECTS.—In awarding grants
 7 under this subpart, the Secretary shall ensure that, to the
 8 extent practicable, grants are distributed among eligible
 9 entities that will serve geographically diverse areas, includ-
 10 ing urban, suburban, and rural areas.

11 “(e) PRIORITIES.—In awarding grants under this
 12 subpart, the Secretary shall give priority to applications
 13 that—

14 “(1) demonstrate experience in the successful
 15 adoption or implementation of policies and programs
 16 described within the application requirements under
 17 subparagraphs (B) and (C) of subsection (f)(2) and
 18 uses of funds for evidence-based practices under sec-
 19 tion 416D;

20 “(2) prioritize implementation of at least 1
 21 early college fast track pathway in multiple high-
 22 need local educational agencies at the beginning of
 23 the grant period;

24 “(3) propose to develop multiple early college
 25 fast track pathways, including an early college fast

1 track pathway that includes career and technical
 2 education and work-based learning aligned with
 3 high-skill, high-wage, or in-demand industry sectors
 4 or occupations;

5 “(4) propose to provide a larger award size in
 6 its early high school graduation fast track pathway
 7 relative to the size of the maximum Federal Pell
 8 Grant award under subpart 1;

9 “(5) propose to expand access to advanced
 10 coursework for students who are not eligible for the
 11 early college fast track pathway or early high school
 12 graduation fast track pathway; and

13 “(6) use school quality or student success indi-
 14 cators to hold high schools accountable, consistent
 15 with section 1111(c)(4)(b)(v) of the Elementary and
 16 Secondary Education Act of 1965, that measure ac-
 17 cess to and completion of advanced coursework, dual
 18 or concurrent enrollment programs, and early college
 19 high school programs or postsecondary enrollment,
 20 remediation, or first-year credit attainment.

21 “(f) APPLICATION.—

22 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In order to receive a grant
 23 under subsection (b) for any fiscal year, the Gov-
 24 ernor of a State shall submit an application to the
 25 Secretary, at such time, in such manner, and con-

1 taining such information as the Secretary may rea-
2 sonably require.

3 “(2) CONTENTS.—Each application submitted
4 by a Governor under this section shall include the
5 following:

6 “(A) Signatures from the Governor, chief
7 State school officer, and State higher education
8 executive officer.

9 “(B) Evidence for each State in the eligi-
10 ble entity demonstrating adoption of—

11 “(i) an early high school graduation
12 policy; and

13 “(ii) uniform statewide criteria for the
14 receipt of postsecondary, nonelective credit
15 at all public institutions of higher edu-
16 cation in the eligible entity based on per-
17 formance on Advanced Placement and
18 International Baccalaureate course exami-
19 nations, and, at the discretion of the eligi-
20 ble entity, other assessments.

21 “(C) A description of how the eligible enti-
22 ty will, not later than 2 years after the date of
23 the initial receipt of funds under this section,
24 implement policies and activities to align high
25 school education with postsecondary education

1 in each State within the eligible entity, which
2 shall include—

3 “(i) updating State requirements for a
4 student to receive a regular high school di-
5 ploma, including students who graduate
6 high school early consistent with subpara-
7 graph (B), to align with the challenging
8 State academic standards and entrance re-
9 quirements for credit-bearing coursework
10 as described in section 1111(b)(1)(D) of
11 the Elementary and Secondary Education
12 Act of 1965, which may include alignment
13 with entrance requirements for credit-bear-
14 ing coursework at the State’s system of 4-
15 year institutions of higher education;

16 “(ii) verification of the alignment de-
17 scribed in clause (i) that is signified by the
18 signature of the Governor of the State,
19 chief State school officer, and State higher
20 education executive officer;

21 “(iii) developing statewide standards
22 for placement in postsecondary remedial
23 coursework based on multiple indicators,
24 which may include grade point average,

college preparatory high school courses
completed, and performance assessments;

“(iv) developing a formal, universal
statewide articulation agreement among all
public institutions of higher education or
systems in each State within the eligible
entity in which all local educational agen-
cies within each State within the eligible
entity may participate that guarantees—

“(I) students who earn postsec-
ondary credit as part of an early col-
lege fast track pathway are able to
transfer such credit to—

“(aa) any public institution
of higher education in the State,
and that such credits will count
toward meeting specific degree or
certificate requirements; and

“(bb) any private nonprofit
institution of higher education or
public institution of higher edu-
cation located in another State
that chooses to participate in the
articulation agreement;

1 “(II) all relevant credits are rec-
2 ognized throughout the public system
3 of higher education in the State and
4 count as credits earned for both a reg-
5 ular high school diploma and for a de-
6 gree or certificate program at a public
7 institution of higher education in the
8 State and at any private nonprofit in-
9 stitution of higher education or public
10 institution of higher education located
11 in another State that chooses to par-
12 ticipate; and

13 “(III) if a student earns an asso-
14 ciate’s degree as part of an early col-
15 lege fast track pathway, such associ-
16 ate’s degree, awarded by the partici-
17 pating institution of higher education
18 in the State, shall be fully acceptable
19 in transfer and credited as the first 2
20 years of a related baccalaureate pro-
21 gram at a public institution of higher
22 education in such State; and

23 “(v) developing a formal, universal
24 statewide articulation agreement among all
25 public institutions of higher education in

each State within the eligible entity to facilitate the seamless transfer of credit earned in the early college fast track pathway among such institutions of higher education, including between 2-year and 4-year public institutions of higher education and private nonprofit institutions of higher education if such private nonprofit institutions of higher education choose to participate, which may include—

“(I) common course numbering;

“(II) a general education core curriculum; and

“(III) management systems regarding course equivalency, transfer of credit, and articulation.

“(D) A description of how the eligible entity will provide students with the opportunity to choose an early college fast track pathway or an early high school graduation fast track pathway, including—

“(i) the criteria that will be used to designate students as eligible to participate in the early college fast track pathway

1 prior to the conclusion of the 11th grade,
2 which shall—

3 “(I) be based in part on student
4 performance on valid and reliable as-
5 sessments aligned with the challenging
6 State academic standards required
7 under section 1111(b)(1) of the Ele-
8 mentary and Secondary Education
9 Act of 1965, which may include a na-
10 tionally recognized high school aca-
11 demic assessment, and in part on
12 other indicators consistent with the
13 statewide standards for placement in
14 postsecondary remedial coursework
15 under subparagraph (C)(iii);

16 “(II) if met, signify that the stu-
17 dent will not require remedial
18 coursework consistent with the place-
19 ment standards developed under sub-
20 paragraph (C)(iii); and

21 “(III) include students who meet
22 the requirements of the State’s early
23 high school graduation policy;

24 “(ii) how the eligible entity will dis-
25 seminate information to all students and

1 particularly subgroups of students, stu-
2 dents who would be first-generation college
3 students, and, as applicable, other histori-
4 cally underrepresented students in the mid-
5 dle grades and in grades 9, 10, and 11,
6 served by the eligible entity, including their
7 parents, about the opportunity to partici-
8 pate in an early college fast track pathway
9 or an early high school graduation fast
10 track pathway, including—

11 “(I) the requirements students
12 must meet to participate in each fast
13 track pathway consistent with the
14 State’s early high school graduation
15 policy and eligibility criteria described
16 in clause (i);

17 “(II) information regarding the
18 transferability of credits from ad-
19 vanced coursework offered in the early
20 college fast track pathway, including
21 the State’s criteria for the receipt of
22 postsecondary credit based on per-
23 formance on Advanced Placement and
24 International Baccalaureate course ex-
25 aminations described in subparagraph

1 (B)(ii), which institutions of higher
2 education participate in the articula-
3 tion agreements described under
4 clauses (iv) and (v) of subparagraph
5 (C), and the performance standards
6 students must meet in order for credit
7 from advanced coursework to transfer
8 successfully;

9 “(III) information on the scholar-
10 ships included within the early high
11 school graduation fast track pathway,
12 including the size of the scholarship
13 and the institutions of higher edu-
14 cation at which the scholarships may
15 be used; and

16 “(IV) information regarding re-
17 sources and supports available to stu-
18 dents to prepare them to participate
19 and succeed in a fast track pathway;

20 “(iii) how the eligible entity will pro-
21 vide each student served by the eligible en-
22 tity with the opportunity to be assessed
23 prior to the conclusion of the 11th grade
24 to determine whether the student meets—

1 “(I) the eligibility criteria de-
2 scribed in clause (i) to participate in
3 an early college fast track pathway;
4 and

5 “(II) the requirements of the
6 State’s early high school graduation
7 policy so that a student may partici-
8 pate in an early high school gradua-
9 tion fast track pathway; and

10 “(iv) how the eligible entity will notify
11 each student, including the student’s par-
12 ents, who—

13 “(I) meets the eligibility criteria
14 described under clause (i) no later
15 than the beginning of the 12th grade
16 about the opportunity for the student
17 to participate in an early college fast
18 track pathway for the remainder of
19 the student’s enrollment in high
20 school; and

21 “(II) meets the requirements of
22 the early high school graduation policy
23 about the opportunity to graduate
24 high school early and receive a schol-

1 arship as part of an early high school
2 graduation fast track pathway.

3 “(E) A description of how the eligible enti-
4 ty will implement the early college fast track
5 pathway and early high school graduation fast
6 track pathway in all local educational agencies
7 within each State in the eligible entity, includ-
8 ing—

9 “(i) the timeline and plan to provide,
10 by the end of the grant period, all students
11 in the State who meet the eligibility cri-
12 teria described under subparagraph (D)(i)
13 the opportunity to participate in an early
14 college fast track pathway, which may in-
15 clude online coursework coordinated by the
16 State;

17 “(ii) the timeline and plan to provide
18 all students in the State who meet the re-
19 quirements for its early high school grad-
20 uation policy the opportunity to receive a
21 scholarship through an early high school
22 graduation fast track pathway; and

23 “(iii) annual goals for participation in
24 fast track pathways among subgroups of
25 students such that, if the goals are met—

1 “(I) significant progress will be
2 made toward improving equity in stu-
3 dent eligibility and participation in
4 the early high school graduation path-
5 way across the local educational agen-
6 cies within each State in the eligible
7 entity;

8 “(II) significant progress will be
9 made toward improving equity in ac-
10 cess to advanced coursework and early
11 college fast track pathways across the
12 local educational agencies within each
13 State in the eligible entity; and

14 “(III) the composition of stu-
15 dents participating in fast track path-
16 ways will be demographically similar
17 to each State, as a whole, within the
18 eligible entity by the end of the grant
19 period.

20 “(F) A description of how the eligible enti-
21 ty consulted with stakeholders in development
22 of its application and how the eligible entity will
23 continue to engage, collaborate, and solicit feed-
24 back with stakeholders to improve implementa-
25 tion of the application requirements described

1 in this subsection and uses of funds described
2 in section 416D, including—

3 “(i) members of the State legislature
4 and State board of education (if the State
5 has a State board of education);

6 “(ii) the State higher education gov-
7 erning or coordinating entity (if the State
8 has such an entity);

9 “(iii) the State entity that coordinates
10 early-childhood, elementary, secondary, and
11 postsecondary education (if the State has
12 such an entity);

13 “(iv) local educational agencies, in-
14 cluding those located in rural areas and
15 high-need local education agencies;

16 “(v) representatives of Indian Tribes
17 located in the State;

18 “(vi) charter school leaders (if the
19 State has charter schools);

20 “(vii) civil rights organizations in the
21 State;

22 “(viii) business leaders or their rep-
23 resentatives in the State;

24 “(ix) teachers, principals, and other
25 school leaders; and

1 “(x) parents and students.

2 “(G) Assurances that the eligible entity
3 will—

4 “(i) allow students who choose to par-
5 ticipate in an early college fast track path-
6 way the opportunity to do so at no cost to
7 students and parents, including that such
8 students and their parents shall not be re-
9 quired to pay the cost of related tuition,
10 fees (including examination fees), books,
11 and supplies necessary to successfully com-
12 plete the early college fast track pathway;

13 “(ii) comply with the supplement, not
14 supplant and maintenance of effort re-
15 quirements described under sections 416G
16 and 416H; and

17 “(iii) use not less than half of grant
18 funds for purposes described under sub-
19 sections (a)(2) and (b) of section 416D to
20 support subgroups of students, students
21 who would be first-generation college stu-
22 dents, and, as applicable, other historically
23 underrepresented students.

24 “(g) REPORTING.—Each eligible entity receiving a
25 grant under this section shall submit to the Secretary a

1 report on an annual basis that includes, for each State
2 in the eligible entity—

3 “(1) information on the progress of the eligible
4 entity in establishing the policies and completing the
5 required activities as specified in subparagraphs (B)
6 and (C) of subsection (f)(2) to align high school edu-
7 cation with postsecondary education;

8 “(2) the number and percentage of local edu-
9 cational agencies and schools in the State offering
10 an early high school graduation fast track pathway
11 and each early college fast track pathway consistent
12 with its timeline and plan as specified in clauses (i)
13 and (ii) of subsection (f)(2)(E), progress against the
14 goals established by the eligible entity for demo-
15 graphically diverse student participation in fast
16 track pathways specified in subsection (f)(2)(E)(iii),
17 and evidence demonstrating how the eligible entity
18 certified each such pathway meets all requirements
19 of this subpart;

20 “(3) the number and percentage of students in
21 the State, including for each subgroup of students,
22 who—

23 “(A) are eligible to participate in an early
24 college fast track pathway;

1 “(B) participate in an early college fast
2 track pathway; and

3 “(C) successfully complete an early college
4 fast track pathway;

5 “(4) the number and percentage of students in
6 the State, including for each subgroup of students,
7 who—

8 “(A) are eligible to participate in an early
9 high school graduation fast track pathway; and

10 “(B) participate in an early high school
11 graduation fast track pathway;

12 “(5) the average scholarship award amount for
13 students, including for each subgroup of students, in
14 the State who participate in an early high school
15 graduation fast track pathway; and

16 “(6) any additional information as the Sec-
17 retary may reasonably require to ensure compliance
18 with the requirements of this subpart and to effec-
19 tively evaluate, monitor, and improve grant imple-
20 mentation.

21 **“SEC. 416D. USE OF FUNDS.**

22 “(a) REQUIRED ACTIVITIES.—Each eligible entity
23 that receives a grant under section 416C(b) for a fiscal
24 year shall—

1 “(1) use funds for activities to implement the
2 alignment requirements pursuant to section
3 416C(f)(2)(C) for a period of time not to exceed the
4 first 2 fiscal years for which the grant is provided;
5 and

6 “(2) use funds to support statewide implemen-
7 tation of early college fast track pathways and early
8 high school graduation fast track pathways con-
9 sistent with the timeline, plan, and goals specified in
10 section 416C(f)(2)(E), including—

11 “(A) expanding advanced coursework to in-
12 crease the availability of early college fast track
13 pathways, which may include—

14 “(i) tuition, fees (including exam fees
15 associated with Advanced Placement,
16 International Baccalaureate, and similar
17 examinations), books, and supplies for eli-
18 gible students;

19 “(ii) creating or expanding statewide
20 systems to provide each of the advanced
21 courses in the early college fast track path-
22 ways online; and

23 “(iii) establishing or expanding early
24 college high schools;

“(B) programs and activities to improve student preparation for, and participation in, an early college fast track pathway or early high school graduation fast track pathway, especially among subgroups of students, students who would be first-generation college students, and, as applicable, other historically underrepresented students, which may include—

“(i) use of data from evidence-based early assessment programs or evidence-based early warning indicator systems;

“(ii) enhanced advising or counseling activities, such as providing course-taking and financial aid guidance as early as the middle grades; and

“(iii) other evidence-based services as described by the eligible entity; and

“(C) outreach and communications with students and parents, particularly historically underrepresented students, to build awareness of early college fast track pathways and early high school graduation fast track pathways.

“(b) ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES.—To support effective statewide implementation of fast track pathways consistent with the timeline, plan, and goals specified in sec-

1 tion 416C(f)(2)(E), each eligible entity that receives a
 2 grant under section 416C(b) for a fiscal year may use
 3 funds to—

4 “(1) offer students who graduate high school
 5 early scholarships as part of an early high school
 6 graduation fast track pathway;

7 “(2) provide training, professional development,
 8 or recruitment for faculty who teach courses that
 9 are included in an early college fast track pathway;

10 “(3) provide students with transportation to
 11 and from advanced courses in an early college fast
 12 track pathway;

13 “(4) convene secondary and postsecondary edu-
 14 cation and workforce leaders in the State and other
 15 stakeholders to coordinate and monitor grant imple-
 16 mentation; and

17 “(5) provide incentives for local educational
 18 agencies and institutions of higher education to en-
 19 courage student participation in early college fast
 20 track pathways and early high school graduation
 21 fast track pathways.

22 **“SEC. 416E. PELL GRANT AWARDS.**

23 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the require-
 24 ment under section 484(a)(1) and section 484(d) that a
 25 student not be enrolled in an elementary school or sec-

1 secondary school to be eligible to receive a Federal Pell Grant
2 under subpart 1, for the award years beginning on July
3 1, 2020, the Secretary shall, in a State issued a grant
4 under this subpart, award high school students who meet
5 the eligibility requirements described in section
6 416C(f)(2)(D) and participate in an early college fast
7 track pathway, a Federal Pell Grant based on the deter-
8 mination of the expected family contribution for such stu-
9 dent.

10 “(b) TWO SEMESTER CAP WAIVER.—For a period
11 not to exceed 2 semesters (or the equivalent of 2 semesters
12 for students who are not enrolled full time, consistent with
13 regulations promulgated by the Secretary described under
14 section 401(c)(5)), Federal Pell Grants awarded to eligible
15 students under subsection (a) shall not count toward the
16 12-semester eligibility period for Federal Pell Grants de-
17 scribed under section 401(c)(5).

18 “(c) AMOUNT OF PELL GRANT.—Notwithstanding
19 section 401(b)(2)(A), the amount of the Federal Pell
20 Grant received under subsection (b) shall not exceed the
21 cost of tuition, fees (excluding fees associated with Ad-
22 vanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and simi-
23 lar examinations), books, and supplies.

24 “(d) APPLICABILITY.—The Secretary shall continue
25 awarding Federal Pell Grants to students pursuant to this

1 section in a State whose grant under this subpart has ex-
2 pired based upon the eligible entity’s continued compliance
3 with the requirements of this subpart as determined by
4 the Secretary.

5 **“SEC. 416F. EVALUATION.**

6 “The Secretary, in partnership with the Director of
7 the Institute of Education Sciences, shall contract with a
8 third party to conduct an independent evaluation not later
9 than September 30, 2026, and preceded by interim re-
10 ports, of the policies and services provided under this sub-
11 part, including at a minimum, the impact of such policies
12 and services on outcomes for all students and subgroups
13 of students with regard to each of the following:

14 “(1) Enrollment in and completion of advanced
15 coursework during high school, including the number
16 of courses students take and the number of credits
17 students earn.

18 “(2) Postsecondary enrollment, remediation,
19 first-year credit attainment, and persistence.

20 “(3) The rate at which credits transfer from
21 advanced coursework in high school, including dual
22 or concurrent enrollment programs, and public insti-
23 tutions of higher education and between such insti-
24 tutions.

1 “(4) Postsecondary degree attainment, includ-
 2 ing completion of an associate’s degree, bacca-
 3 laureate degree, or recognized postsecondary creden-
 4 tial, and the time it takes students to earn a degree.

5 “(5) The cost of a postsecondary degree, by de-
 6 gree type, for participating students in an early col-
 7 lege fast track pathway or an early high school grad-
 8 uation fast track pathway.

9 **“SEC. 416G. SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.**

10 “Funds made available under this subpart shall be
 11 used to supplement, and not supplant, non-Federal funds
 12 that would otherwise be used for activities authorized
 13 under this subpart.

14 **“SEC. 416H. MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT.**

15 “(a) MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT REQUIRED.—A
 16 State that receives assistance under this subpart shall pro-
 17 vide for institutions of higher education and local edu-
 18 cational agencies in such State for any academic year be-
 19 ginning on or after July 1, 2020, an amount that is equal
 20 to or greater than the average amount provided for ad-
 21 vanced coursework by such State to such institutions of
 22 higher education and local educational agencies for ad-
 23 vanced coursework during the 2 most recent preceding
 24 academic years for which satisfactory data are available.

1 “(b) ADJUSTMENTS FOR BIENNIAL APPROPRIA-
 2 TIONS.—The Secretary shall take into consideration any
 3 adjustments to the calculations under subsection (a) that
 4 may be required to accurately reflect funding levels in
 5 States with biennial appropriation cycles.

6 “(c) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive the require-
 7 ments of subsection (a) for not more than 2 consecutive
 8 years, if the Secretary determines that such a waiver
 9 would be equitable due to exceptional or uncontrollable cir-
 10 cumstances, such as a natural disaster or a precipitous
 11 and unforeseen decline in the financial resources of a
 12 State or State educational agency, as appropriate.

13 “(d) VIOLATION OF MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT.—
 14 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary
 15 shall withhold from any State that violates subsection (a)
 16 and does not receive a waiver pursuant to subsection (c)
 17 any amount that would otherwise be available to the State
 18 under this subpart until such State has made significant
 19 efforts to correct such violation.

20 **“SEC. 416I. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

21 “There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
 22 this subpart such sums as may be necessary for fiscal year
 23 2020 and each of the 4 succeeding fiscal years.”.

