

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3293

To amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to establish the Food and Nutrition Education in Schools Pilot Program, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 13, 2020

Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. CORNYN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to establish the Food and Nutrition Education in Schools Pilot 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 “Food and Nutrition
5 Education in Schools Act of 2020”.

1 **SEC. 2. FOOD AND NUTRITION EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS**
2 **PILOT PROGRAM.**

3 Section 18 of the Richard B. Russell National School
4 Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769) is amended by adding at the
5 end the following:

6 “(1) FOOD AND NUTRITION EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS
7 PILOT PROGRAM.—

8 “(1) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this subsection
9 is to provide local educational agencies with human
10 resources dedicated to implementing integrated,
11 hands-on food and nutrition education in schools
12 with the goal of increasing acceptance and consump-
13 tion of healthy, high-quality meals and snacks by
14 students.

15 “(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180
16 days after the date of enactment of this subsection,
17 the Secretary shall establish a pilot program, to be
18 known as the ‘Food and Nutrition Education in
19 Schools Pilot Program’ (referred to in this sub-
20 section as the ‘pilot program’), under which the Sec-
21 retary shall award grants to local educational agen-
22 cies for—

23 “(A) projects that hire qualified, full-time
24 food and nutrition educators to carry out pro-
25 grams in schools that have the goal of improv-
26 ing student health and nutrition; and

1 “(B) projects that fund school gardens or
2 other evidence-based interventions relating to
3 student health and nutrition to create hands-on
4 learning opportunities for students.

5 “(3) JOINT PARTNERSHIPS.—The Secretary
6 shall encourage, to the maximum extent practicable,
7 joint partnership projects under the pilot program
8 among—

9 “(A) agencies;

10 “(B) nonprofit organizations;

11 “(C) postsecondary institutions that offer
12 programs on nutrition, food preparation, or ag-
13 ricultural science;

14 “(D) food-service businesses (such as local
15 farms, restaurants, and food distributors);

16 “(E) beginning farmers and ranchers (as
17 defined in section 2501(a) of the Food, Agri-
18 culture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990
19 (7 U.S.C. 2279(a)));

20 “(F) veteran farmers and ranchers (as de-
21 fined in that section);

22 “(G) socially disadvantaged farmers and
23 ranchers (as defined in section 355(e) of the
24 Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act
25 (7 U.S.C. 2003(e))); and

1 “(H) State and local government agencies.

2 “(4) COORDINATION.—In establishing the pilot
3 program, the Secretary shall consult and ensure co-
4 ordination with the heads of other appropriate Fed-
5 eral agencies and programs that deliver nutrition
6 education.

7 “(5) PROJECT PROPOSALS.—

8 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
9 annually solicit from local educational agencies
10 the submission of project proposals for grants
11 under the pilot program.

12 “(B) REQUIRED ELEMENTS FOR PROJECT
13 PROPOSAL.—A project proposal submitted
14 under subparagraph (A) shall include—

15 “(i) a statement of the purposes of
16 the project;

17 “(ii)(I) the name of the entity or indi-
18 vidual with overall responsibility for the
19 project; and

20 “(II) a description of the qualifica-
21 tions of that entity or individual;

22 “(iii) a description of—

23 “(I) staffing and stakeholder en-
24 gagement for the project;

1 “(II) the logistics of the project;

2 and

3 “(III) the methods to be used to

4 evaluate student learning, such as

5 through a project, presentation, or

6 other form of assessment;

7 “(iv) a proposed budget for the funds

8 and time required to carry out the project;

9 “(v) information regarding the source

10 and amount of any matching funding avail-

11 able for the project;

12 “(vi) an implementation plan, includ-

13 ing efforts by the school food authority as-

14 sociated with the local educational agency

15 to integrate activities carried out under the

16 project with other efforts by schools to pro-

17 mote student health and nutrition;

18 “(vii) information that demonstrates

19 the clear potential of the project to con-

20 tribute to implementing integrated, hands-

21 on food and nutrition education in schools

22 with the goal of increasing acceptance and

23 consumption of healthy, high-quality meals

24 and snacks; and

1 “(viii) any other information that the
2 Secretary considers necessary.

3 “(C) CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL.—The Sec-
4 retary may award a grant for a project proposal
5 submitted under subparagraph (A) if the
6 project—

7 “(i) incorporates evidence-based prac-
8 tices proven to increase healthy food con-
9 sumption by students;

10 “(ii) includes hands-on, experiential
11 learning;

12 “(iii) implements school gardens, taste
13 tests, student engagement, or other farm-
14 to-school practices;

15 “(iv) identifies the commitment of the
16 local educational agency—

17 “(I) to improve the nutritional
18 value of school meals;

19 “(II) to carry out innovative pro-
20 grams that improve the health and
21 wellness of schoolchildren, such as
22 farm-to-school programs; and

23 “(III) to evaluate the outcome of
24 the project; and

1 “(v) meets any other requirement es-
2 tablished by the Secretary.

3 “(D) PRIORITY.—To the maximum extent
4 practicable, in awarding grants under the pilot
5 program, the Secretary shall give priority to
6 projects that serve schools or districts—

7 “(i) in which not less than 40 percent
8 of students qualify for free or reduced-
9 price meals under this Act or the Child
10 Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1771 et
11 seq.); or

12 “(ii) that include neighborhoods with
13 high rates of childhood obesity or other
14 diet-related diseases.

15 “(6) ADMINISTRATION.—

16 “(A) DIVERSITY.—In awarding grants
17 under the pilot program, the Secretary shall en-
18 sure that projects are located in diverse demo-
19 graphic, geographic, rural, urban, and suburban
20 settings.

21 “(B) INDIAN TRIBES.—The Secretary shall
22 ensure that not fewer than 1 project receiving
23 a grant under the pilot program—

24 “(i) is located on an Indian reserva-
25 tion; or

1 “(ii) serves a school in which the ma-
2 jority of the students are members of an
3 Indian tribe.

4 “(7) REPORTS.—

5 “(A) REPORTS TO SECRETARY.—

6 “(i) IN GENERAL.—A local edu-
7 cational agency that receives a grant under
8 the pilot program shall periodically submit
9 to the Secretary a report that includes any
10 information that the Secretary determines
11 is necessary to evaluate the progress and
12 success of the project, including evidence
13 of student learning under the project, to
14 ensure positive results, assess problems,
15 and foster improvements.

16 “(ii) AVAILABILITY TO THE PUBLIC.—
17 Reports under clause (i), and any other
18 documents of the local educational agency
19 relating to a project carried out using a
20 grant awarded under the pilot program,
21 shall be made available to the public in a
22 timely manner.

23 “(B) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later
24 than 5 years after the date of enactment of this
25 subsection, and annually thereafter, the Sec-

retary shall submit to Congress a report that includes—

“(i) a description of the results and effectiveness of each project carried out under the pilot program;

“(ii) an examination of the impact of each project on—

“(I) student diet and dietary practices;

“(II) student performance and behavior;

“(III) food consumption;

“(IV) changes in cafeterias and the school food environment;

“(V) school meal participation by students; and

“(VI) other indicators as determined by the Secretary;

“(iii) demographic data on the schools and communities served by the pilot program;

“(iv) a summary of the activities conducted by each local educational agency after receiving a grant under the pilot program; and

1 “(v) recommendations on how the
2 pilot program may be improved and wheth-
3 er funding for the pilot program should be
4 continued.

5 “(8) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
6 There is authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
7 retary to carry out this subsection \$7,000,000 for
8 each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025.”.

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