

HR 5587 - Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act

SEC. 113. NATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

Section 114 (20 U.S.C. 2324) is amended—
(4) in subsection (d)—
(C) by striking paragraphs (3) and (4) and inserting the following:

(3) INNOVATION.—

(A) GRANT PROGRAM.— To identify and support innovative strategies and activities to improve career and technical education and align workforce skills with labor market needs as part of the plan developed under subsection (c) and the requirements of this subsection, the Secretary may award grants to eligible entities to—

- (i) create, develop, implement, or take to scale evidence-based, field initiated innovations, including through a pay for success initiative to improve student outcomes in career and technical education; and
- (ii) rigorously evaluate such innovations.

(B) ELIGIBLE ENTITY DEFINED.— In this paragraph, the term 'eligible entity' means a consortium that—

- (i) shall include at least two of the following—
 - (I) a local educational agency;
 - (II) an educational service agency;
 - (III) a postsecondary educational institution;
 - (IV) an area career and technical education school;
 - (V) a State educational agency; or
 - (VI) the Bureau of Indian Education;
- (ii) may include a regional, State, or local public or private organization, including a community-based organization; and
- (iii) is led by an entity or partnership of entities described in clause (i) and identified as the leader of the eligible entity in its application under subparagraph (D).

(C) MATCHING FUNDS.—

(i) MATCHING FUNDS REQUIRED.— Except as provided under clause (ii), to receive a grant under this paragraph, an eligible entity shall, through cash or in-kind contributions, provide matching funds from public or private sources in an amount equal to at least 50 percent of the funds provided under such grant.

(ii) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary may waive the matching fund requirement under clause (i) if the eligible entity demonstrates exceptional circumstances.

(D) APPLICATION. — To receive a grant under this paragraph, an eligible entity shall submit to the Secretary at such a time as the Secretary may require, an application that—

(i) identifies and designates the agency, institution, or school responsible for the administration and supervision of the program assisted under this paragraph;

(ii) identifies the source and amount of the matching funds required under subparagraph (C) (i);

(iii) describes how the eligible entity will use the grant funds, including how such funds will directly benefit students, including special populations, served by the eligible entity;

(iv) describes how the program assisted under this paragraph will be coordinated with the activities carried out under section 124 or 135;

(v) describes how the program assisted under this paragraph aligns with the single plan described in subsection (c); and

(vi) describes how the program assisted under this paragraph will be evaluated and how that evaluation may inform the report described in subsection (d) (2) (C).

(E) GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—In awarding grants under this paragraph, the Secretary shall award no less than 25 percent of the total available funds for any fiscal year to eligible entities proposing to fund career and technical education activities that serve—

(I) a local educational agency with an urban-centric district locale code of 32, 33, 41, 42, or 43, as determined by the Secretary;

(II) an institution of higher education primarily serving the one or more areas served by such a local educational agency;

(III) a consortium of such local educational agencies or such institutions of higher education;

(IV) a partnership between—

(aa) an educational service agency or a nonprofit organization; and

(bb) such a local educational agency or such an institution of higher education; or

(V) a partnership between—

(aa) a grant recipient described in subclause (I) or (II); and

(bb) a State educational agency.

(F) USES OF FUNDS.— An eligible entity that is awarded a grant under this paragraph shall use the grant funds, in a manner consistent with subparagraph (A) (i), to—

- (i) improve career and technical education outcomes of students served by eligible entities under this title;
- (ii) improve career and technical education teacher effectiveness;
- (iii) improve the transition of students from secondary education to postsecondary education;
- (iv) improve the incorporation of comprehensive work-based learning into career and technical education;
- (v) increase the effective use of technology within career and technical education programs;
- (vi) support new models for integrating academic content and career and technical education content in such programs;
- (vii) support the development and enhancement of innovative delivery models for career and technical education;
- (viii) work with industry to design and implement courses or programs of study aligned to labor market needs in new or emerging fields;
- (ix) integrate science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields, including computer science education, with career and technical education;
- (x) support innovative approaches to career and technical education by redesigning the high school experience for students, which may include evidence-based transitional support strategies for students who have not met postsecondary education eligibility requirements;
- (xi) improve CTE concentrator employment outcomes in nontraditional fields; or
- (xii) support the use of career and technical education programs and programs of study in a coordinated strategy to address identified employer needs and workforce shortages, such as shortages in the early childhood, elementary school, and secondary school education workforce.

(G) EVALUATION.— Each eligible entity receiving a grant under this paragraph shall provide for an independent evaluation of the activities carried out using such grant and submit to the Secretary an annual report that includes—

- (i) a description of how funds received under this paragraph were used;
- (ii) the performance of the eligible entity with respect to, at a minimum, the performance indicators described under section 113, as applicable, and disaggregated by—
 - (I) subgroups of students described in section 1111(c) (2) (B) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311(c) (2) (B));
 - (II) special populations; and

(III) as appropriate, each career and technical education program and program of study; and

(iii) a quantitative analysis of the effectiveness of the project carried out under this paragraph.

and

(5) by striking subsection (e) and inserting the following:

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.— There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section—

- (1) \$7,523,285 for fiscal year 2017;
- (2) \$7,626,980 for fiscal year 2018;
- (3) \$7,732,104 for fiscal year 2019;
- (4) \$7,838,677 for fiscal year 2020;
- (5) \$7,946,719 for fiscal year 2021; and
- (6) \$8,056,251 for fiscal year 2022.