

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1874

To amend the provisions of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 regarding school library media specialists, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 16, 2015

Mr. GRIJALVA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

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## A BILL

To amend the provisions of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 regarding school library media specialists, 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 “Strengthening Kids’  
5 Interest in Learning and Libraries Act” or the “SKILLs  
6 Act”.

1 **TITLE I—SCHOOL LIBRARY**  
2 **MEDIA SPECIALIST REQUIRE-**  
3 **MENTS**

4 **SEC. 101. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

5 Section 1002(b)(4) of the Elementary and Secondary  
6 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6302) is amended by  
7 striking “2002” and inserting “2016”.

8 **SEC. 102. STATE PLANS.**

9 (a) **ACADEMIC STANDARDS, ACADEMIC ASSESS-**  
10 **MENTS, AND ACCOUNTABILITY.**—Section 1111(b)(8) of  
11 the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20  
12 U.S.C. 6311(b)(8)) is amended—

13 (1) in subparagraph (D), by striking “and”  
14 after the semicolon;

15 (2) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as sub-  
16 paragraph (F); and

17 (3) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the fol-  
18 lowing:

19 “(E) how the State educational agency will  
20 meet the goal of ensuring that there is not less  
21 than 1 highly qualified school library media spe-  
22 cialist in each school receiving funds under this  
23 part, as described in section 1119(h)(2); and”.

24 (b) **OTHER PROVISIONS TO SUPPORT TEACHING AND**  
25 **LEARNING.**—Section 1111(c) of the Elementary and Sec-

1 onday Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311(c)) is  
2 amended—

3 (1) in paragraph (13), by striking “and” after  
4 the semicolon;

5 (2) in paragraph (14), by striking the period  
6 and inserting “; and”; and

7 (3) by inserting after paragraph (14) the fol-  
8 lowing:

9 “(15) the State educational agency will estab-  
10 lish a goal of having not less than 1 State-certified  
11 school library media specialist in each public school  
12 that receives funds under this part.”.

13 **SEC. 103. LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY PLANS.**

14 (a) PLAN PROVISIONS.—Section 1112(b)(1)(N) of  
15 the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20  
16 U.S.C. 6312(b)(1)(N)) is amended by inserting “, includ-  
17 ing ensuring that there is not less than 1 highly qualified  
18 school library media specialist in each school” before the  
19 semicolon.

20 (b) ASSURANCES.—Section 1112(c)(1) of the Ele-  
21 mentary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
22 6312(c)(1)) is amended—

23 (1) in subparagraph (N), by striking “and”  
24 after the semicolon;

1           (2) in subparagraph (O), by striking the period  
2           and inserting “; and”; and

3           (3) by inserting after subparagraph (O) the fol-  
4           lowing:

5                     “(P) ensure, to the extent feasible, that  
6                     each school served by the local educational  
7                     agency and receiving funds under this part em-  
8                     ploys not less than 1 State-certified school li-  
9                     brary media specialist.”.

10 **SEC. 104. SCHOOLWIDE PROGRAMS.**

11           Section 1114(b)(1)(D) of the Elementary and Sec-  
12           ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6314(b)(1)(D))  
13           is amended by inserting “school library media specialists,”  
14           after “teachers,”.

15 **SEC. 105. TARGETED ASSISTANCE SCHOOLS.**

16           Section 1115(c)(1)(F) of the Elementary and Sec-  
17           ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6315(c)(1)(F))  
18           is amended by inserting “school library media specialists,”  
19           after “teachers,”.

20 **SEC. 106. QUALIFICATIONS FOR TEACHERS, PARAPROFES-**  
21 **SIONALS, AND SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA SPE-**  
22 **CIALISTS.**

23           (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1119 of the Elementary  
24           and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6319)  
25           is amended—

1 (1) in the section heading, by striking “**TEACH-**  
2 **ERS AND PARAPROFESSIONALS**” and inserting  
3 “**TEACHERS, PARAPROFESSIONALS, AND**  
4 **SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA SPECIALISTS**”;

5 (2) by redesignating subsections (h) through (l)  
6 as subsections (i) through (m), respectively;

7 (3) by inserting after subsection (g) the fol-  
8 lowing:

9 “(h) SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA SPECIALISTS.—

10 “(1) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY REQUIRE-  
11 MENT.—Each local educational agency receiving as-  
12 sistance under this part shall ensure, to the extent  
13 feasible, that each school that is served by the local  
14 educational agency and receives funds under this  
15 part employs not less than 1 highly qualified school  
16 library media specialist.

17 “(2) STATE GOAL.—Each State educational  
18 agency receiving assistance under this part shall—

19 “(A) establish a goal of having not less  
20 than 1 highly qualified school library media spe-  
21 cialist in each public school that is served by  
22 the State educational agency and receives funds  
23 under this part; and

24 “(B) specify a date by which the State will  
25 reach this goal, which date shall be not later

1 than the beginning of the 2016–2017 school  
2 year.”; and

3 (4) in subsection (i) (as redesignated by sub-  
4 section (a)(2)), by striking “and paraprofessionals”  
5 and inserting “, paraprofessionals, and school library  
6 and media specialists”.

7 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1119(l) of  
8 the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (as  
9 redesignated by subsection (a)(2)) (20 U.S.C. 6319(l)) is  
10 amended by striking “subsection (1)” and inserting “sub-  
11 section (m)”.

12 **SEC. 107. IMPROVING LITERACY THROUGH SCHOOL LI-**  
13 **BRARIES.**

14 Section 1251 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-  
15 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6383) is amended—

16 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “well-trained,  
17 professionally certified” and inserting “highly quali-  
18 fied”;

19 (2) in subsection (e)(3)—

20 (A) by striking “DISTRIBUTION.—The”  
21 and inserting the following: “DISTRIBUTION.—

22 “(A) GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION.—The”;

23 and

24 (B) by adding at the end the following:

1           “(B) BALANCE AMONG TYPES OF  
2 SCHOOLS.—In awarding grants under this sub-  
3 section, the Secretary shall take into consider-  
4 ation whether funding is proportionally distrib-  
5 uted among projects serving students in ele-  
6 mentary, middle, and high schools.”;

7 (3) in subsection (f)(2)—

8           (A) in subparagraph (A)—

9           (i) by inserting “the need for student  
10 literacy improvement at all grade levels,”  
11 before “the need for”; and

12           (ii) by striking “well-trained, profes-  
13 sionally certified” and inserting “highly  
14 qualified”;

15 (4) by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting  
16 the following:

17           “(B) a needs assessment of which grade  
18 spans are served, ensuring funding is propor-  
19 tionally distributed to serve students in elemen-  
20 tary, middle, and high schools;”; and

21 (5) in subsection (g)—

22           (A) in paragraph (1), by striking the semi-  
23 colon at the end and inserting “and reading  
24 materials, such as books and materials that—

1           “(A) are appropriate for students in all  
2           grade levels to be served and for students with  
3           special learning needs, including students who  
4           are limited English proficient; and

5           “(B) engage the interest of readers at all  
6           reading levels;” and

7           (B) in paragraph (4), by striking “profes-  
8           sional development described in section  
9           1222(d)(2)” and inserting “professional devel-  
10          opment in information literacy instruction that  
11          is appropriate for all grades, including the as-  
12          sessment of student literacy needs, the coordi-  
13          nation of reading and writing instruction across  
14          content areas, and training in literacy strategies  
15          in all content areas”.

16 **TITLE II—PREPARING, TEACH-**  
17 **ING, AND RECRUITING HIGH**  
18 **QUALITY TEACHERS, SCHOOL**  
19 **LIBRARY MEDIA SPECIAL-**  
20 **ISTS, AND PRINCIPALS**

21 **SEC. 201. TEACHER, SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA SPECIALIST,**  
22 **AND PRINCIPAL TRAINING AND RECRUITING**  
23 **FUND.**

24           Title II of the Elementary and Secondary Education  
25 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6601 et seq.) is amended—



1 (1) in the title heading, by striking “**HIGH**  
 2 **QUALITY TEACHERS AND PRIN-**  
 3 **CIPALS**” and inserting “**HIGH QUALITY**  
 4 **TEACHERS, SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA**  
 5 **SPECIALISTS, AND PRINCIPALS**”; and

6 (2) in the part heading, by striking “**TEACHER**  
 7 **AND PRINCIPAL**” and inserting “**TEACHER,**  
 8 **SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA SPECIALIST, AND**  
 9 **PRINCIPAL**”.

10 **SEC. 202. PURPOSE.**

11 Section 2101(1) of the Elementary and Secondary  
 12 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6601(1)) is amended  
 13 to read as follows:

14 “(1) increase student academic achievement  
 15 through strategies such as—

16 “(A) improving teacher, school library  
 17 media specialist, and principal quality; and

18 “(B) increasing the number of highly  
 19 qualified teachers in the classroom, highly  
 20 qualified school library media specialists in the  
 21 library, and highly qualified principals and as-  
 22 sistant principals in schools; and”.

23 **SEC. 203. STATE APPLICATIONS.**

24 Section 2112(b) of the Elementary and Secondary  
 25 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6612(b)) is amended—

1 (1) in paragraph (4), by inserting “, school li-  
2 brary media specialists,” before “and principals”;  
3 and

4 (2) in paragraph (10), by inserting “, school li-  
5 brary media specialist,” before “and paraprofes-  
6 sional”.

7 **SEC. 204. STATE USE OF FUNDS.**

8 Section 2113(c) of the Elementary and Secondary  
9 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6613(c)) is amended—

10 (1) in paragraph (4)—

11 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph  
12 (A), by inserting “highly qualified school library  
13 media specialists,” before “principals”; and

14 (B) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “,  
15 highly qualified school library media special-  
16 ists,” before “and principals”; and

17 (2) in paragraph (6), by striking “teachers and  
18 principals” each place the term appears and insert-  
19 ing “teachers, school library media specialists, and  
20 principals”.

21 **SEC. 205. LOCAL USES OF FUNDS.**

22 Section 2123(a) of the Elementary and Secondary  
23 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6623(a)) is amended  
24 by inserting after paragraph (8) the following:

1           “(9)(A) Developing and implementing strategies  
2           to assist in recruiting and retaining highly qualified  
3           school library media specialists.

4           “(B) Providing appropriate professional devel-  
5           opment for such specialists, particularly related to  
6           skills necessary to assist students to improve the  
7           students’ academic achievement, including skills re-  
8           lated to information literacy.”.

9                           **TITLE III—GENERAL**  
10                           **PROVISIONS**

11   **SEC. 301. DEFINITIONS.**

12           Section 9101(23) of the Elementary and Secondary  
13   Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801(23)) is amend-  
14   ed—

15           (1) in subparagraph (B)(ii)(II), by striking  
16           “and” after the semicolon;

17           (2) in subparagraph (C)(ii)(VII), by striking  
18           the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

19           (3) by adding at the end the following:

20                           “(D) when used with respect to a school li-  
21           brary media specialist employed in an elemen-  
22           tary school or secondary school in a State,  
23           means that the school library media specialist—

24                           “(i) holds at least a bachelor’s degree;

1           “(ii) has obtained full State certifi-  
2           cation as a school library media specialist  
3           or passed the State teacher licensing exam-  
4           ination, with State certification in library  
5           media, in such State, except that when  
6           used with respect to any school library  
7           media specialist teaching in a public char-  
8           ter school, the term means that the school  
9           library media specialist meets the require-  
10          ments set forth in the State’s public char-  
11          ter school law; and

12           “(iii) has not had certification or li-  
13          censure requirements waived on an emer-  
14          gency, temporary, or provisional basis.”.

15 **SEC. 302. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**

16          (a) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents in  
17 section 2 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act  
18 of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 note) is amended—

19           (1) by striking the item relating to section 1119  
20          and inserting the following:

“Sec. 1119. Qualifications for teachers, paraprofessionals, and school library  
media specialists.”;

1           (2) by striking the item relating to title II and  
2           inserting the following:

“TITLE II—PREPARING, TRAINING, AND RECRUITING HIGH QUALITY TEACHERS, SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA SPECIALISTS, AND PRINCIPALS”;

3           and

4           (3) by striking the item relating to part A of  
5           title II and inserting the following:

“PART A—TEACHER, SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA SPECIALIST, AND PRINCIPAL TRAINING AND RECRUITING FUND”.

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