

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4838

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to direct the Secretary of Education to award institutions of higher education grants for teaching English learners.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 18, 2018

Mr. LANGEVIN (for himself, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. ESPALLAT, and Mr. GRIJALVA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to direct the Secretary of Education to award institutions of higher education grants for teaching English learners.

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 “Reaching English
5 Learners Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. TEACHING ENGLISH LEARNERS GRANT.**

7 Part B of title II of the Higher Education Act of
8 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1031 et seq.) is amended by adding at
9 the end the following:

1 **“Subpart 6—Teaching English Learners Grant**

2 **“SEC. 259. TEACHING ENGLISH LEARNERS GRANT.**

3 “(a) AUTHORIZATION OF PROGRAM.—The Secretary
4 shall award grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible part-
5 nerships to improve the preparation of teacher candidates
6 to ensure that such teacher candidates possess the knowl-
7 edge and skills necessary to effectively instruct English
8 learners.

9 “(b) DURATION OF GRANTS.—A grant under this
10 section shall be awarded for a period of not more than
11 5 years.

12 “(c) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—An eligible partnership
13 that receives a grant under this section shall provide not
14 less than 25 percent of the cost of the activities carried
15 out with such grant from non-Federal sources, which may
16 be provided in cash or in kind.

17 “(d) USES OF FUNDS.—An eligible partnership that
18 receives a grant under this section shall use the grant to—

19 “(1) develop or strengthen an undergraduate,
20 postbaccalaureate, or master’s teacher preparation
21 program by integrating strategies for teaching
22 English learners into the education curriculum and
23 academic content;

24 “(2) provide teacher candidates participating in
25 a program under paragraph (1) with skills related
26 to—

1 “(A) helping English learners—

2 “(i) achieve at high levels in pre-
3 kindergarten programs, and elementary
4 schools and secondary schools so such
5 English learners can meet the challenging
6 State academic standards adopted under
7 section 1111(b)(1) of the Elementary and
8 Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
9 U.S.C. 6311(b)(1)) by the State of the
10 school attended by the English learners,
11 which all children in the State are expected
12 to meet; and

13 “(ii) attain English proficiency;

14 “(B) appropriately identifying and meeting
15 the specific learning needs of children with dis-
16 abilities who are English learners;

17 “(C) recognizing and addressing the social
18 and emotional needs of English learners; and

19 “(D) promoting parental, family, and com-
20 munity engagement in educational programs
21 that serve English learners;

22 “(3) provide work-based learning opportunities
23 for teacher candidates participating in the program;
24 and

1 “(4) provide teacher candidates with the re-
2 quired coursework to qualify for an English-as-a-sec-
3 ond-language endorsement or initial teaching creden-
4 tial, as recognized by the State of the eligible part-
5 nership.

6 “(e) APPLICATION.—An eligible partnership seeking
7 a grant under this section shall submit an application to
8 the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and con-
9 taining such information as the Secretary may require.
10 Such application shall include—

11 “(1) a self-assessment by the eligible partner-
12 ship of the existing teacher preparation program at
13 the institution of higher education and the needs re-
14 lated to preparing teacher candidates to instruct
15 English learners in the manner described in sub-
16 section (d)(2); and

17 “(2) a self-assessment by the eligible partner-
18 ship of the personnel needs for teachers who instruct
19 English learners at local, public prekindergarten
20 programs, and elementary schools and secondary
21 schools.

22 “(f) EVALUATIONS.—

23 “(1) REPORT FROM ELIGIBLE PARTNER-
24 SHIPS.—An eligible partnership receiving a grant
25 under this section shall submit to the Secretary the

1 results of an evaluation conducted by the partner-
2 ship at the end of the grant period to determine—

3 “(A) the effectiveness of teachers who com-
4 pleted a program under subsection (d)(1) with
5 respect to instruction of English learners; and

6 “(B) the systemic impact of the activities
7 carried out by such grant on how such partner-
8 ship prepares teachers to provide instruction in
9 prekindergarten programs, and elementary
10 schools and secondary schools.

11 “(2) REPORT FROM THE SECRETARY.—Not
12 later than 180 days after the last day of the grant
13 period under this section, the Secretary shall make
14 available to the authorizing committees and the pub-
15 lic—

16 “(A) the findings of the evaluations sub-
17 mitted under paragraph (1); and

18 “(B) information on best practices related
19 to effective instruction of English learners.

20 “(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

21 “(1) CHILD WITH A DISABILITY.—The term
22 ‘child with a disability’ has the meaning given the
23 term in section 602 of the Individuals with Disabil-
24 ities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1401).

1 “(2) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDU-
2 CATION.—The term ‘eligible institution of higher
3 education’ means an institution of higher education
4 that has a program of study—

5 “(A) that leads to an undergraduate de-
6 gree, a master’s degree, or completion of a
7 postbaccalaureate program required for teacher
8 certification; and

9 “(B) the graduates of which meet the ap-
10 plicable State certification and licensure re-
11 quirements, including any requirements for cer-
12 tification obtained through alternative routes to
13 certification.

14 “(3) ELIGIBLE PARTNERSHIP.—The term ‘eligi-
15 ble partnership’ means an eligible institution of
16 higher education in partnership with a high-need
17 local educational agency.

18 “(4) ENGLISH LEARNER.—The term ‘English
19 learner’ has the meaning given the term in section
20 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education
21 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

22 “(5) WORK-BASED LEARNING.—The term
23 ‘work-based learning’ means learning involving sus-
24 tained interactions with teachers and English learn-
25 ers at public prekindergarten programs, or elemen-

1 tary schools or secondary schools, to the extent prac-
2 ticable, or simulated environments at the eligible in-
3 stitution of higher education involved, that foster in-
4 depth, first-hand engagement with tasks required of
5 a teacher providing instruction to English learners.”.

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