

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7731

To direct the Secretary of Education to award grants for new agricultural education programs in secondary schools.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 19, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. LANGWORTHY, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. ALFORD, and Ms. PORTER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Education to award grants for new agricultural education programs in secondary schools.

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 “Growing Opportunities
5 in Agriculture Act” or the “GO Ag Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. GRANT PROGRAM FOR NEW AGRICULTURAL EDU-**
7 **CATION PROGRAMS.**

8 (a) GRANT PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award,
2 on a competitive basis, grants to eligible entities to
3 support the creation of new agricultural education
4 programs in secondary schools.

5 (2) GRANT DURATION.—A grant awarded under
6 this section may not exceed a 5-year grant period.

7 (b) APPLICATION.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—To receive a grant under
9 this section, an eligible entity shall submit an appli-
10 cation to the Secretary at such time, in such man-
11 ner, and containing such information as the Sec-
12 retary may require, including—

13 (A) an identification and the role with re-
14 spect to each program to be funded under the
15 grant of any eligible partners of the eligible en-
16 tity, including an assurance the grant under
17 this section will not be used to prepare students
18 for employment with solely one or more of such
19 eligible partners;

20 (B) an assurance that each program that
21 will receive assistance under the grant is not
22 yet in operation and such grant will be used to
23 start such program;

24 (C) a description of the grant budget, how
25 each program will fund necessary expenses for

1 the program not covered by the grant (such as
2 any funds to be provided by State, local, or pri-
3 vate entities), and how the eligible entity will
4 continue each such program after the grant is
5 exhausted;

6 (D) a description of how grant will directly
7 benefit students, including special populations,
8 served by the eligible entity;

9 (E) a description of how each such pro-
10 gram will be coordinated with the activities car-
11 ried out under section 124 or 135 of the Carl
12 D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act
13 of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2344; 2355);

14 (F) a description of how each such pro-
15 gram reflects the needs of regional, State, or
16 local employers, as demonstrated by the com-
17 prehensive needs assessment under section
18 134(c) of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Tech-
19 nical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C.
20 2354(c)) carried out by the eligible entity; and

21 (G) an assurance that the eligible entity
22 will—

23 (i) provide information to the Sec-
24 retary, as requested, for the evaluation

1 under subsection (d) and any evaluations
2 that the Secretary may carry out; and

3 (ii) make data available to third par-
4 ties for validation, in accordance with ap-
5 plicable data privacy laws, including sec-
6 tion 444 of the General Education Provi-
7 sions Act (20 U.S.C. 1232g, commonly
8 known as the “Family Educational Rights
9 and Privacy Act of 1974”).

10 (2) PROCESS.—The Secretary shall create a
11 process for evaluating applications submitted under
12 paragraph (1) and determining the amount of each
13 grant for successful applications, except that in no
14 case may an eligible entity receive a grant exceeding
15 \$100,000.

16 (c) USES OF FUNDS.—Each eligible entity receiving
17 a grant under this section shall use such grant for the
18 creation of new agricultural education programs in sec-
19 ondary schools, which may include—

20 (1) curriculum development and delivery, in-
21 cluding classroom or laboratory instruction, work-
22 based learning, and leadership education delivered
23 through career and technical student organizations;

24 (2) the purchase of equipment, technology, and
25 course materials; and

1 (3) other costs the Secretary may determine to
2 be eligible.

3 (d) EVALUATION AND ANNUAL REPORT.—Each eligi-
4 ble entity receiving a grant under this section shall provide
5 for an independent evaluation of the activities carried out
6 using such grant and submit to the Secretary an annual
7 report that includes—

8 (1) a description of how the grant was used;

9 (2) the performance of each program assistance
10 with such grant with respect to, at a minimum, the
11 performance indicators described under section 113
12 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Edu-
13 cation Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2323), as applicable,
14 and disaggregated—

15 (A) by subgroups of students described in
16 section 1111(c)(2)(B) of the Elementary and
17 Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
18 6311(c)(2)(B)); and

19 (B) by each special population; and

20 (3) a quantitative analysis of the effectiveness
21 of each such program.

22 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

23 (1) AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION.—The term
24 “agricultural education” means career and technical
25 education that is focused on agriculture, including

1 classroom or laboratory instruction, work-based
2 learning, and leadership education delivered through
3 career and technical student organizations.

4 (2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
5 ty” has the meaning given the term “eligible recipi-
6 ent” in section 3(21)(A) of the Carl D. Perkins Ca-
7 reer and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20
8 U.S.C. 2302(21)(A)).

9 (3) ELIGIBLE PARTNER.—The term “eligible
10 partner” means—

11 (A) an institution of higher education or a
12 consortium of such institutions; or

13 (B) a community stakeholder relevant to a
14 program to be funded under this section, in-
15 cluding a labor organization, a local or regional
16 business or industry, or a local workforce devel-
17 opment board.

18 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
19 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
20 \$5,000,000, to remain available through fiscal year 2027.

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