

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9503

To direct the Secretary of Education to carry out a pilot program to assist local educational agencies with the acquisition of school supplies, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 13, 2022

Ms. BUSH (for herself, Mr. BOWMAN, and Mrs. HAYES) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Education to carry out a pilot program to assist local educational agencies with the acquisition of school supplies, 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 “Access to School Sup-
5 plies Act of 2022”.

6 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE AND DEFINITIONS.**

7 (a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to dem-
8 onstrate the feasibility of providing grants to local edu-
9 cational agencies to enable such agencies—

1 (1) to provide school supplies at no cost to stu-
2 dents and instructional staff;

3 (2) to increase the number of students who
4 have access to the school supplies needed to main-
5 tain a stable learning environment; and

6 (3) to improve student academic achievement in
7 schools, particularly for low-income students.

8 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

9 (1) INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF.—The term “in-
10 structional staff” includes, at a minimum, teachers,
11 paraprofessionals, librarians, and other staff deemed
12 necessary to provide classroom instruction (including
13 virtual and in-person instruction), as determined by
14 the Secretary.

15 (2) ESEA TERMS.—The terms “elementary
16 school”, “local educational agency”, and “secondary
17 school” have the meanings given those terms in sec-
18 tion 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
19 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

20 (3) HIGH-POVERTY SCHOOL.—The term “high-
21 poverty school” means a public school that is in the
22 highest 2 quartiles of schools in a State, based on
23 the percentage of enrolled students from low-income
24 families.

1 (4) OUTLYING AREA.—The term “outlying
2 area” means American Samoa, the Commonwealth
3 of Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the United
4 States Virgin Islands.

5 (5) QUALIFIED LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGEN-
6 CY.—The term “qualified local educational agency”
7 means a local educational agency that—

8 (A) serves one or more high-poverty
9 schools; and

10 (B) provides an assurance to the Secretary
11 that the agency will use any funds received
12 under this Act only to serve such schools.

13 (6) SCHOOL SUPPLIES.—The term “school sup-
14 plies” refers to books, supplies, and supplementary
15 materials used by students and instructional staff in
16 the classroom, as determined by the Secretary.

17 (7) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
18 the Secretary of Education.

19 (8) STATE.—The term “State” means each of
20 the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the
21 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

1 **SEC. 3. RESERVATIONS FOR OUTLYING AREAS AND BIE**
2 **SCHOOLS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—From the total amount appro-
4 priated under section 8 for a fiscal year, the Secretary
5 of Education shall reserve—

6 (1) one-half of 1 percent for allotments to the
7 outlying areas, to be distributed among those out-
8 lying areas on the basis of their relative need; and

9 (2) one-half of 1 percent for the Secretary of
10 the Interior for activities funded under this Act in
11 schools operated or funded by the Bureau of Indian
12 Education.

13 (b) APPLICABILITY.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
15 graph (2), the provisions of this Act shall apply to
16 a recipient of funds under subsection (a) in the same
17 manner that such provisions apply to a qualified
18 local educational agency that receives funds under
19 section 4(a).

20 (2) EXCEPTION.—An outlying area or school
21 operated or funded by the Bureau of Indian Edu-
22 cation shall not be required to submit an application
23 under section 4(b) as a precondition to receiving
24 funds under subsection (a).

1 **SEC. 4. PILOT PROGRAM TO SUPPORT THE ACQUISITION**
2 **OF SCHOOL SUPPLIES.**

3 (a) PILOT PROGRAM.—Using amounts appropriated
4 under section 8 and not reserved under section 3, the Sec-
5 retary of Education shall carry out a pilot program under
6 which the Secretary makes grants, annually and on a com-
7 petitive basis, to not more than 10 qualified local edu-
8 cational agencies to assist such agencies in acquiring
9 school supplies as described in subsection (c).

10 (b) QUALIFIED LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY AP-
11 PPLICATIONS.—

12 (1) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a
13 grant under subsection (a), a qualified local edu-
14 cational agency shall submit an application to the
15 Secretary at such time, in such manner, and con-
16 taining such information as the Secretary may rea-
17 sonably require. At a minimum, each such applica-
18 tion shall include the information described in para-
19 graph (2).

20 (2) CONTENTS OF APPLICATION.—Each appli-
21 cation submitted under paragraph (1) shall include
22 assurances that the qualified local educational agen-
23 cy will—

24 (A) prioritize the distribution of funds to
25 schools served by the qualified local educational

1 agency that are among the schools with the
2 greatest needs, as determined by such agency;

3 (B) comply with the reporting requirement
4 under section 6; and

5 (C) provide a description of how the agen-
6 cy will determine the needs of individual
7 schools, in coordination with each school.

8 (3) REAPPLICATION.—A qualified local edu-
9 cational agency that receives a grant under sub-
10 section (a) may reapply for a grant under such sub-
11 section for one or more additional award periods.

12 (4) PRIORITY.—In making grants under sub-
13 section (a), the Secretary shall prioritize the award
14 of grants to qualified local educational agencies that
15 demonstrate the highest level of need for such
16 grants, as determined by the Secretary.

17 (c) USE OF FUNDS.—A qualified local educational
18 agency that receives a grant under subsection (a) shall use
19 the grant to purchase school supplies—

20 (1) for students to participate in classroom ac-
21 tivities; and

22 (2) for instructional staff to provide such activi-
23 ties.

24 (d) CONTRACTS WITH OUTSIDE ENTITIES.—A quali-
25 fied local educational agency may contract with outside

1 entities for purposes of carrying out the activities author-
2 ized under subsection (c).

3 (e) LIMITATIONS.—A qualified local educational
4 agency that receives a grant under subsection (a) for a
5 fiscal year may reserve not more than 2 percent of the
6 amount of the grant for the administrative costs of car-
7 rying out its responsibilities, including the preparation of
8 the annual reports required under section 6.

9 (f) GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY.—In awarding grants
10 under this section, the Secretary shall ensure that, to the
11 extent practicable, grants are distributed among qualified
12 local educational agencies that will serve geographically di-
13 verse areas, including urban, suburban, and rural areas.

14 **SEC. 5. SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.**

15 Funds made available to a qualified local educational
16 agency under this Act shall be used to supplement, and
17 not supplant, non-Federal funds that would otherwise be
18 used for the activities supported with the funds made
19 available under this Act.

20 **SEC. 6. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**

21 On an annual basis, each qualified local educational
22 agency that receives a grant under section 4 shall submit
23 to the Secretary of Education a report that includes—

24 (1) a list of schools that received school sup-
25 plies;

1 (2) the amount of grant funds expended at each
2 school to provide school supplies;

3 (3) a description on a school-by-school basis of
4 the school supplies provided;

5 (4) the number of students in each school pro-
6 vided directly with school supplies;

7 (5) the number of instructional staff in each
8 school provided directly with school supplies; and

9 (6) a list of any outside entities used by the
10 agency to carry out the activities described in section
11 4(c).

12 **SEC. 7. SUNSET.**

13 No grants may be awarded under this Act after Sep-
14 tember 30, 2027.

15 **SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

16 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
17 this Act \$100,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2023
18 through 2027.

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