

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9824

To direct the Secretary of Education to carry out a grant program for skills-for-success courses for all first-year students enrolled at certain institutions of higher education.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 25, 2024

Mrs. FOUSHEE (for herself, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Ms. ROSS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Education to carry out a grant program for skills-for-success courses for all first-year students enrolled at certain institutions of higher education.

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 “College Thriving Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. GRANT PROGRAM AUTHORIZED; APPLICATION RE-**
6 **QUIREMENTS.**

7 (a) GRANT PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary
8 of Education shall award grants, on a competitive basis,

1 to eligible institutions to carry out skills-for-success
2 courses for all first-year students enrolled at such institu-
3 tions.

4 (b) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this sec-
5 tion, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible institu-
6 tions that are historically Black colleges and universities.

7 (c) GRANT PERIOD; MINIMUM GRANT AMOUNT.—

8 (1) GRANT PERIOD.—A grant awarded to an el-
9 igible institution under this Act shall be for a 5-year
10 grant period.

11 (2) MINIMUM GRANT AMOUNT.—

12 (A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-
13 graph (B), a grant under this Act shall be
14 awarded in an amount of \$1,000,000 for the 5-
15 year grant period for such grant.

16 (B) RATABLE INCREASES OR DE-
17 CREASES.—The amount specified in subpara-
18 graph (A) shall be ratably increased or de-
19 creased to the extent that funds available under
20 section 5 exceed or are less than (respectively)
21 the amount required to provide the amounts
22 specified in subparagraph (A).

23 (d) APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.—To be eligible to
24 receive a grant under this Act, an eligible institution shall
25 submit an application at such time, and in such manner,

1 and containing such information as the Secretary may re-
2 quire, which shall include a description of—

- 3 (1) the skills-for-success course that the institu-
4 tion will develop and implement with the grant; and
- 5 (2) the activities the institution will carry out
6 under each phase described in section 3(b).

7 **SEC. 3. USES OF FUNDS; REPORT.**

8 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Each eligible institution receiving
9 a grant under this section shall develop and implement
10 a skills-for-success course by carrying out the activities
11 listed in each of the 4 phases described in subsection (b).

12 (b) **PHASES FOR USES OF FUNDS.**—

13 (1) **PREPARATION PHASE.**—During the first
14 year of the grant period, the eligible institution shall
15 use such grant to develop the skills-for-success
16 course and carry out the necessary preparation ac-
17 tivities, which may include—

18 (A) identifying and training instructional
19 staff;

20 (B) obtaining support from faculty, staff,
21 or institution administration for the curricular
22 adaptation;

23 (C) developing infrastructure for imple-
24 mentation, including obtaining necessary course
25 and syllabus approvals;

1 (D) determining how student registration
2 will be handled;

3 (E) establishing a course evaluation model;
4 and

5 (F) designating appropriate classroom
6 space.

7 (2) PILOT PHASE.—During the second year of
8 the grant period, the eligible institution shall use
9 such grant to implement a pilot skills-for-success
10 course, which shall include the piloting of methods
11 for evaluating the course, such as observation and
12 solicitation of feedback from course instructors, stu-
13 dents, and identified campus community leaders.

14 (3) IMPLEMENTATION.—During the third,
15 fourth, and fifth years of the grant program, the eli-
16 gible institution shall use such grant to fully imple-
17 ment the skills-for-success course, which—

18 (A) incorporates the improvements identi-
19 fied during the pilot skills-for-success course
20 during the second year of the grant period; and

21 (B) is made available for each first-year
22 student enrolled at the institution, at the begin-
23 ning of such students' first term of enrollment
24 at such institution, to the extent practicable.

1 (c) REPORT.—Each eligible institution that receives
2 a grant under this Act shall submit to the Secretary a
3 report upon the completion of the 5-year grant period,
4 which shall include—

5 (1) an evaluation of the pilot skills-for-success
6 course, and the skills-for-success course implemented
7 during the third through fifth years of the grant pe-
8 riod; and

9 (2) a description of how such grant was used
10 during each year of the grant period.

11 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

12 In this Act:

13 (1) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.—The term “eligi-
14 ble institution” has the meaning given the term “in-
15 stitution of higher education” in section 101(a) of
16 the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
17 1001(a)) and section 102(a)(1)(B) of such Act (20
18 U.S.C.1002(a)(1)(B)).

19 (2) HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNI-
20 VERSITIES.—The term “historically Black colleges
21 and universities” has the meaning given the term
22 “part B institution” in section 322 of the Higher
23 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061)).

24 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
25 the Secretary of Education.

1 (4) SKILLS-FOR-SUCCESS COURSE.—The term
2 “skills-for-success course” means a course offered by
3 an eligible institution for first-year students (includ-
4 ing transfer students) at the beginning of such stu-
5 dents’ first term of enrollment at such institution
6 that—

7 (A) has a low student-to-teacher ratio;

8 (B) is not graded or is pass-fail; and

9 (C) provides skills for success in college,

10 and includes each of the following topics:

11 (i) Development of connections with
12 campus partners (academic advisors) or
13 engagement with campus resources (cam-
14 pus mental health counselors).

15 (ii) Mental well-being.

16 (iii) Time management skills.

17 (iv) Planning and organization skills.

18 (v) Coping with stress and setbacks.

19 (vi) Managing conflict and difference.

20 (vii) Goal setting.

21 (viii) Building and maintaining
22 healthy interpersonal relationships.

23 (ix) Self-care and compassion.

1 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 There are authorized to be appropriated 50,000,000
3 to carry out this Act, which shall remain available until
4 expended.

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