

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4841

To amend the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 to establish a National Center for Advanced Development in Education at the Institute for Education Sciences, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 30, 2024

Mr. BENNET (for himself and Mr. CORNYN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To amend the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 to establish a National Center for Advanced Development in Education at the Institute for Education Sciences, 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 “New Essential Edu-
5 cation Discoveries Act of 2024”.

1 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL CENTER FOR ADVANCED DEVELOPMENT**
 2 **IN EDUCATION.**

3 (a) ORGANIZATION.—Section 111(c)(3) of the Edu-
 4 cation Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (20 U.S.C.
 5 9511(c)(3)) is amended—

6 (1) in subparagraph (C), by striking “and” at
 7 the end;

8 (2) in subparagraph (D), by striking the period
 9 at the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

11 “(E) the National Center for Advanced
 12 Development in Education (as described in part
 13 G).”.

14 (b) DEFINITIONS.—Section 102 of the Education
 15 Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (20 U.S.C. 9501) is amend-
 16 ed—

17 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (18) through
 18 (23) as paragraphs (19) through (24), respectively;
 19 and

20 (2) by inserting after paragraph (17) the fol-
 21 lowing:

22 “(18) SCIENCE OF LEARNING AND DEVELOP-
 23 MENT.—The term ‘science of learning and develop-
 24 ment’ means the body of peer-reviewed knowledge
 25 from a variety of academic fields and disciplines that
 26 demonstrates how students best learn and develop.”.

1 (c) ESTABLISHMENT.—Title I of the Education
2 Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (20 U.S.C. 9501 et seq.)
3 is amended by adding at the end the following:

4 **“PART G—NATIONAL CENTER FOR ADVANCED**
5 **DEVELOPMENT IN EDUCATION**

6 **“SEC. 195. ESTABLISHMENT.**

7 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the
8 Institute a National Center for Advanced Development in
9 Education (in this part referred to as the ‘Advanced De-
10 velopment Center’).

11 “(b) MISSION.—The mission of the Advanced Devel-
12 opment Center is to—

13 “(1) identify, develop, and promote advances in
14 and new solutions for teaching and learning, with an
15 emphasis on breakthrough technologies, new peda-
16 gogical approaches, innovative learning models, and
17 more efficient, reliable, and valid forms of assess-
18 ments;

19 “(2) identify, develop, and promote trans-
20 formative, community-informed solutions to address
21 disparities in achievement and opportunity for stu-
22 dents;

23 “(3) identify, develop, and promote community-
24 informed advances in teaching and learning that

1 have the potential to transform education practices
2 across—

3 “(A) early childhood education;

4 “(B) elementary and secondary education;

5 “(C) postsecondary education;

6 “(D) adult education;

7 “(E) special education and services for stu-
8 dents with disabilities; and

9 “(F) services for English learners;

10 “(4) identify, develop, test, and promote strate-
11 gies and interventions that support student relation-
12 ships and skill-building consistent with the science of
13 learning and development;

14 “(5) identify and provide community-informed
15 recommendations and solutions that address addi-
16 tional factors that can improve student outcomes, in-
17 cluding—

18 “(A) access to a diverse teaching work-
19 force; and

20 “(B) institutional barriers, including with
21 respect to students from underrepresented com-
22 munities; and

23 “(6) investigate transformative research oppor-
24 tunities, including—

1 “(A) technologies to analyze speech sam-
2 ples and identify speech and reading disorders;

3 “(B) identifying tools to support skill ac-
4 quisition outside of school (including tools for
5 parents); and

6 “(C) developing tools to provide feedback
7 directly to students on their competencies.

8 **“SEC. 196. COMMISSIONER FOR ADVANCED EDUCATION DE-**
9 **VELOPMENT.**

10 “The Advanced Development Center shall be headed
11 by a Commissioner for Advanced Education Development
12 (in this part referred to as the ‘Advanced Development
13 Commissioner’) who shall be highly qualified and have
14 substantial knowledge of the methodologies used and ac-
15 tivities undertaken by the Advanced Development Center.

16 **“SEC. 197. DUTIES.**

17 “(a) GENERAL DUTIES.—The Advanced Develop-
18 ment Center shall—

19 “(1) collect, report, analyze, and disseminate
20 data related to transforming education in the United
21 States;

22 “(2) approve and terminate projects in accord-
23 ance with subsection (f)(2)(B);

24 “(3) set priorities that align with the mission of
25 the Advanced Development Center, including by

1 identifying areas that can be furthered by research
2 and development, including—

3 “(A) interventions for learning recovery,
4 with a particular focus on students who score
5 below proficient on the academic assessments in
6 mathematics or reading or language arts de-
7 scribed in section 1111(b)(2) of the Elementary
8 and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
9 U.S.C. 6311(b)(2)), including specific chal-
10 lenges due to the COVID–19 public health
11 emergency declared pursuant to section 319 of
12 the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d)
13 and other disruptions to instruction;

14 “(B) pedagogy; and

15 “(C) assessments administered to students,
16 including such assessments that are summative,
17 formative, competency-based, performance-
18 based, administered throughout the school year
19 to produce a single summative assessment
20 score, or incorporated into an instructional se-
21 quence or lesson;

22 “(4) support the use of scientific discoveries
23 and inventions to improve teaching and learning;

24 “(5) carry out the evaluation and dissemination
25 requirements under subsection (e); and

1 “(6) convene and engage an advisory panel
2 under section 198.

3 “(b) PLAN.—Not later than 6 months after the date
4 of the enactment of this part, and every 3 years thereafter,
5 the Advanced Development Commissioner shall submit to
6 the Director a research plan that—

7 “(1) is consistent with the priorities and mis-
8 sion of the Institute and the mission of the Ad-
9 vanced Development Center; and

10 “(2) describes how the Advanced Development
11 Center will use the performance management system
12 described in section 185 to assess and improve the
13 activities of the Advanced Development Center.

14 “(c) TRAINING PROGRAM.—The Advanced Develop-
15 ment Commissioner may establish a program to train em-
16 ployees of public and private educational agencies, organi-
17 zations, and institutions and may establish a fellowship
18 program to appoint such employees as temporary fellows
19 at the Advanced Development Center in order to assist
20 the Advanced Development Center in carrying out its du-
21 ties.

22 “(d) COLLABORATION.—

23 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the duties
24 under this section, the Advanced Development Com-
25 missioner may award grants and cash prizes, enter

1 into contracts and cooperative agreements, and pro-
2 vide technical assistance.

3 “(2) ENTITIES.—In awarding grants and cash
4 prizes and entering into contracts and cooperative
5 agreements under paragraph (1), the Advanced De-
6 velopment Commissioner shall—

7 “(A) solicit applications from public and
8 private entities; and

9 “(B) build research collaborations between
10 a variety of stakeholders—

11 “(i) from the private and public sec-
12 tors; and

13 “(ii) with expertise in education prac-
14 tices, including teachers, principals and
15 other school leaders, and local and State
16 educational agency leaders.

17 “(3) APPLICABLE PROGRAMS.—For purposes of
18 carrying out an applicable program under subsection
19 (f)(2), a program manager may enter into contracts
20 and cooperative agreements in the manner described
21 in paragraph (2).

22 “(e) EVALUATION AND DISSEMINATION.—

23 “(1) EVALUATION.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Advanced Devel-
2 opment Commissioner shall obtain independent,
3 periodic, and rigorous evaluation of—

4 “(i) the effectiveness of the processes
5 that the Advanced Development Center is
6 using to achieve the mission described in
7 section 195(b);

8 “(ii) the relevance, accessibility, and
9 utility of the awards made and trans-
10 actions entered into under subsection (d)
11 to education practitioners; and

12 “(iii) the effectiveness of the projects
13 carried out through such awards and
14 transactions, using evidence standards de-
15 veloped in consultation with the Institute
16 of Education Sciences, and the suitability
17 of such projects for further investment or
18 increased scale.

19 “(B) BEST PRACTICES.—The Advanced
20 Development Commissioner shall assess the in-
21 formation obtained from the evaluation and
22 identify best practices for the Advanced Devel-
23 opment Center.

24 “(2) DISSEMINATION.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Advanced Devel-
2 opment Center shall disseminate, through the
3 entities listed in subparagraph (B), information
4 obtained from the evaluation under paragraph
5 (1) and any other information determined to be
6 relevant by the Advanced Development Commis-
7 sioner with respect to effective practices and
8 technologies developed under the Advanced De-
9 velopment Center, as appropriate, to—

10 “(i) education professionals, including
11 teachers, principals, and local and State
12 superintendents; and

13 “(ii) parents.

14 “(B) ENTITIES.—The Advanced Develop-
15 ment Center shall distribute the information de-
16 scribed in subparagraph (A) through—

17 “(i) the comprehensive centers estab-
18 lished under section 203 of the Edu-
19 cational Technical Assistance Act of 2002
20 (20 U.S.C. 9602);

21 “(ii) the regional laboratories system
22 established under section 174; and

23 “(iii) such other means as the Ad-
24 vanced Development Commissioner, in con-

1 sultation with the Director and the Sec-
2 retary, determines to be appropriate.

3 “(3) USE AND ADOPTION.—The Advanced De-
4 velopment Commissioner shall support the use and
5 adoption of the best practices identified in para-
6 graph (1)(B) at all levels of education and training.

7 “(f) HIRING.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section
9 188, the Advanced Development Commissioner, with
10 the approval of and in collaboration with the Direc-
11 tor, shall—

12 “(A) make appointments of scientific, engi-
13 neering, and professional personnel, which may
14 include temporary or time-limited appointments
15 as determined by the Director to be necessary
16 to carry out the mission described in section
17 195(b), without regard to the provisions of title
18 5, United States Code, governing appointment
19 in the competitive service and fix the compensa-
20 tion of such personnel at a rate to be deter-
21 mined by the Director;

22 “(B) hire staff with sufficient qualifica-
23 tions and expertise (as determined by the Com-
24 missioner in consultation with the Director) to
25 enable the Advanced Development Center to

1 carry out the duties described in subsection (a)
2 in conjunction with other operations of the In-
3 stitute, without regard to the provisions of title
4 5, United States Code, governing appointment
5 in the competitive service and fix the compensa-
6 tion of such staff at a rate to be determined by
7 the Director; and

8 “(C) use all existing authorities of the Di-
9 rector to hire administrative, financial, and cler-
10 ical staff as necessary to carry out this sub-
11 section and pay such staff in accordance with
12 the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III
13 of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, re-
14 lating to classification and General Schedule
15 pay rates.

16 “(2) PROGRAM MANAGERS.—

17 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Advanced Devel-
18 opment Commissioner, with the approval of and
19 in collaboration with the Director, shall des-
20 ignate staff appointed or hired under subpara-
21 graphs (A) or (B) of paragraph (1), respec-
22 tively, to serve as program managers for the
23 Advanced Development Center.

24 “(B) DUTIES.—A program manager shall
25 be responsible for—

- 1 “(i) establishing research and develop-
2 ment goals for an applicable program, in-
3 cluding by developing and hosting work-
4 shops and consulting with outside experts;
- 5 “(ii) publicizing such goals;
- 6 “(iii) soliciting applications from eligi-
7 ble entities for projects that advance such
8 goals and contribute to making rapid ad-
9 vances in teaching and learning, to be sub-
10 mitted by such entities at such time, in
11 such manner, and containing such infor-
12 mation as the program manager, in con-
13 junction with the Advanced Development
14 Commissioner, may require;
- 15 “(iv) selecting, on a competitive basis,
16 such projects to be supported under an ap-
17 plicable program, taking into consider-
18 ation—
- 19 “(I) the novelty and scientific
20 and technical merit of a proposed
21 project;
- 22 “(II) the demonstrated capabili-
23 ties of the eligible entity to success-
24 fully carry out such proposed project;

1 “(III) the extent to which the eli-
2 gible entity considered, as part of the
3 application submitted under clause
4 (iii), future commercial applications of
5 a proposed project to increase the
6 likelihood of scalability of such
7 project; and

8 “(IV) such other criteria as the
9 program manager, in conjunction with
10 the Advanced Development Commis-
11 sioner, may require;

12 “(v) terminating such projects, as ap-
13 plicable; and

14 “(vi) establishing the research collabo-
15 rations described in subsection (d)(3).

16 “(C) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

17 “(i) APPLICABLE PROGRAM.—The
18 term ‘applicable program’ means a pro-
19 gram—

20 “(I) for which a project manager
21 establishes research and development
22 goals;

23 “(II) that supports projects
24 aligned with such goals; and

1 “(III) that receives funds from
2 the Advanced Development Center.

3 “(ii) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term
4 ‘eligible entity’ means—

5 “(I) a State educational agency;

6 “(II) a local educational agency;

7 “(III) a public or private non-
8 profit institution of higher education;

9 “(IV) a nonprofit educational or-
10 ganization; and

11 “(V) a federally funded research
12 and development center.

13 **“SEC. 198. ADVISORY PANEL.**

14 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after
15 the date on which the Advanced Development Commis-
16 sioner is appointed, the Commissioner shall establish an
17 advisory panel to identify, evaluate, and make rec-
18 ommendations with respect to improving education re-
19 search in order to promote the mission of the Advanced
20 Development Center.

21 “(b) DUTIES.—

22 “(1) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the
23 date on which the advisory panel is established, the
24 advisory panel shall create and update on an annual
25 basis a report that—

1 “(A) identifies, analyzes, and evaluates the
2 state of—

3 “(i) education research and develop-
4 ment; and

5 “(ii) education research priorities at
6 the State and local levels;

7 “(B) identifies and promotes advances in
8 teaching and learning; and

9 “(C) highlights factors that can have an
10 impact on student learning outcomes, with par-
11 ticular attention to opportunity and achieve-
12 ment disparities for students, including the fac-
13 tors addressed in section 195(b)(6).

14 “(2) SUBMISSION AND PUBLICATION.—Not
15 later than 1 month after the date on which the re-
16 port described in paragraph (1) is created and not
17 later than 1 month after each subsequent update of
18 such report, the advisory panel shall—

19 “(A) submit such report to—

20 “(i) the Advanced Development Com-
21 missioner;

22 “(ii) the Director;

23 “(iii) the Secretary;

24 “(iv) the Committee on Appropria-
25 tions of the House of Representatives;

1 “(v) the Committee on Appropriations
2 of the Senate;

3 “(vi) the Committee on Education and
4 the Workforce of the House of Representa-
5 tives; and

6 “(vii) the Committee on Health, Edu-
7 cation, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate;
8 and

9 “(B) make such report publicly available
10 on the website of the Institute.

11 “(c) MEMBERSHIP.—The advisory panel shall be
12 composed of at least 8, but not more than 12, members
13 appointed by the Advanced Development Commissioner as
14 follows:

15 “(1) At least 1 but not more than 2 members
16 shall be parents.

17 “(2) At least 1 but not more than 2 members
18 shall be education professionals.

19 “(3) At least 1 but not more than 2 members
20 shall be experts in technology.

21 “(4) At least 1 but not more than 2 members
22 shall be specialists in rapid gains in student achieve-
23 ment and school improvement.

24 “(5) At least 1 but not more than 2 members
25 shall be specialists in personalized learning.

1 “(6) At least 1 but not more than 2 members
2 shall be education and social science researchers.

3 “(7) At least 1 but not more than 2 members
4 shall be representatives from the Department or Na-
5 tional Science Foundation.

6 “(8) At least 1 but not more than 2 members
7 shall be individuals with expertise in education
8 issues not otherwise represented who will contribute
9 to the overall rigor and quality of the Advanced De-
10 velopment Center.

11 “(d) **ADVISORY NATURE.**—The function of the advi-
12 sory panel shall be advisory in nature. Nothing in this sec-
13 tion shall be construed as giving the advisory panel au-
14 thority over the activities authorized under this part.

15 “(e) **TERMINATION.**—The advisory panel shall termi-
16 nate 5 years after the date of establishment of such panel.

17 **“SEC. 199. COMMUNITY-INFORMED DEFINED.**

18 “‘In this part, the term ‘community-informed’ means
19 to be informed by input from State educational agencies,
20 local educational agencies, parents, students, and edu-
21 cation practitioners, including teachers, principals, and
22 other school leaders within the community or regional area
23 where activities planned and carried out by the Advanced
24 Development Center will occur.

1 **“SEC. 200. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 “(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be ap-
3 propriated to carry out this part such sums as may be
4 necessary for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.

5 “(b) TIMING.—Amounts made available for a fiscal
6 year under subsection (a) shall remain available until ex-
7 pended.

8 “(c) RESERVATION.—The Secretary may reserve not
9 more than 5 percent of the funds appropriated for a fiscal
10 year under subsection (a) for administrative expenses and
11 technical assistance.”.

12 **SEC. 3. IMPROVING STATEWIDE LONGITUDINAL DATA SYS-**
13 **TEMS.**

14 Section 208 of the Education Sciences Reform Act
15 (20 U.S.C. 9607) is amended to read as follows:

16 **“SEC. 208. GRANT PROGRAM FOR STATEWIDE, LONGITU-**
17 **DINAL DATA SYSTEMS.**

18 “(a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary shall
19 award grants to eligible entities to design, develop, im-
20 prove, and implement statewide longitudinal data systems
21 (in this section referred to as ‘SLDS’) to—

22 “(1) produce more consistent and comprehen-
23 sive data of individuals and on the pathways of such
24 individuals from birth into the workforce; and

1 “(2) efficiently and accurately manage, analyze,
2 disaggregate, and use such data in a manner that
3 protects the privacy of such individuals.

4 “(b) APPLICATION.—An eligible entity seeking a
5 grant under this section shall submit to the Secretary an
6 application in such form, at such time, and containing
7 such information as the Secretary determines appropriate.

8 “(c) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity shall use a
9 grant awarded under this section to—

10 “(1) modernize data infrastructure and ana-
11 lytics capacity to—

12 “(A) use and integrate data across edu-
13 cation, workforce, nutrition, and other social
14 service systems into SLDS, including—

15 “(i) early childhood education;

16 “(ii) elementary and secondary edu-
17 cation;

18 “(iii) career and technical education;

19 “(iv) postsecondary education; and

20 “(v) workforce development programs
21 supported by the—

22 “(I) Department of Education;

23 “(II) Department of Labor;

24 “(III) Department of Health and
25 Human Services;

1 “(IV) Department of Agriculture;

2 “(V) Department of Defense; and

3 “(VI) Department of Commerce;

4 “(B) improve access to, and use of, data
5 integrated across the systems described in sub-
6 paragraph (A);

7 “(2) increase the capacity of staff at the eligible
8 entity to oversee, maintain, support, and operate
9 SLDS;

10 “(3) ensure the technical quality, including va-
11 lidity and reliability, of the data described in para-
12 graph (1);

13 “(4) promote linkages and use across States
14 and systems, including with respect to—

15 “(A) early childhood education;

16 “(B) elementary and secondary education;

17 “(C) postsecondary education; and

18 “(D) workforce, including—

19 “(i) employment;

20 “(ii) healthcare; and

21 “(iii) social services, including nutri-
22 tion;

23 “(5) meet Federal and State law requirements
24 with respect to protecting the privacy of individuals,
25 including student privacy rights guaranteed by sec-

1 tion 444 of the General Education Provisions Act
2 (20 U.S.C. 1232g) (commonly referred to as the
3 ‘Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of
4 1974’);

5 “(6) provide, prior to beginning employment
6 and on a regular basis thereafter, training to local
7 and State employees, including school leaders and
8 teachers, with respect to maintaining privacy of per-
9 sonally identifiable information and securely utilizing
10 data from SLDS to improve education and work-
11 force practice, policy, and outcomes;

12 “(7) promote the creation and management of
13 accurate data that are needed—

14 “(A) for State and local educational, labor,
15 workforce, health, social services, and other rel-
16 evant agencies to comply with Federal and
17 State laws and reporting requirements;

18 “(B) to better understand and address
19 achievement and opportunity gaps in education,
20 employment, health, and social services; and

21 “(C) to enable, facilitate, and participate
22 in research within a State and across States to
23 improve student academic achievement, close
24 education and employment gaps and gaps re-
25 lated to access to health care and social serv-

1 ices, and improve student, worker, and family
2 outcomes; and

3 “(8) support continual improvement of edu-
4 cation, workforce, health, and social services pro-
5 grams and systems, including by better under-
6 standing whether such programs and systems are—

7 “(A) serving students, workers, and fami-
8 lies, with a focus on underserved students,
9 workers, and families;

10 “(B) supporting the attainment of key
11 education, employment, health, social services,
12 and other relevant outcomes, including sus-
13 tained increases in wages;

14 “(C) making data available, in a way that
15 protects personally identifiable student informa-
16 tion, to researchers and encouraging partner-
17 ships to make information actionable;

18 “(D) achieving positive outcomes for the
19 students, workers, families, and other demo-
20 graphics that such programs and systems are
21 intended to serve; and

22 “(E) engaging with diverse stakeholders to
23 receive input and share information.

24 “(d) FUNDS.—

1 “(1) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—Funds
2 made available under this section shall be used to
3 supplement, and not supplant, other Federal, State,
4 or local funds used for developing statewide longitu-
5 dinal data systems.

6 “(2) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary
7 may reserve not more than 5 percent of the funds
8 made available under this section for program ad-
9 ministration and technical assistance.

10 “(e) REPORT.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consulta-
12 tion with the National Academies Committee on Na-
13 tional Statistics, shall make publicly available a re-
14 port on the implementation and effectiveness of the
15 activities carried out by eligible entities with grant
16 funds awarded under this section including by—

17 “(A) identifying and analyzing State prac-
18 tices regarding the development and use of
19 statewide longitudinal data systems;

20 “(B) evaluating the ability of such systems
21 to manage individual student data consistent
22 with the Elementary and Secondary Education
23 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.), promote
24 linkages across States, and protect student pri-
25 vacy consistent with section 183; and

1 “(C) identifying best practices and areas
2 for improvement.

3 “(2) TIMING.—The report required under para-
4 graph (1) shall be submitted—

5 “(A) not later than 1 year after the date
6 of the enactment of this section; and

7 “(B) not later than 4 years after the date
8 of the enactment of this section.

9 “(f) ELIGIBLE ENTITY DEFINED.—In this section,
10 the term ‘eligible entity’ means—

11 “(1) a State;

12 “(2) a State educational agency;

13 “(3) a State workforce development board es-
14 tablished under section 101 of the Workforce Inno-
15 vation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3111);

16 “(4) a State higher education agency as defined
17 under section 103 of the Higher Education Act (20
18 U.S.C. 1003); and

19 “(5) other statewide data governance bodies or
20 organizations managing or overseeing the SLDS of
21 a State, as determined and designated by the Gov-
22 ernor.

23 “(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
24 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this sec-
25 tion—

1 “(1) such sums as may be necessary for fiscal
2 year 2025; and

3 “(2) for each fiscal year thereafter, not less
4 than the amount appropriated for fiscal year 2024.”.

○