

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 853

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to award grants to eligible entities to establish, expand, or support school-based mentoring programs to assist at-risk middle school students with the transition from middle school to high school.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 1, 2011

Mr. CARSON of Indiana introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to award grants to eligible entities to establish, expand, or support school-based mentoring programs to assist at-risk middle school students with the transition from middle school to high school.

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 “Transition-to-Success
5 Mentoring Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. TRANSITION-TO-SUCCESS MENTORING PROGRAM.**

2 (a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section
3 1803 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of
4 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6553) is amended to read as follows:
5 “There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this
6 part \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2012 and such sums as
7 may be necessary for each succeeding fiscal year.”.

8 (b) TRANSITION-TO-SUCCESS MENTORING PRO-
9 GRAM.—Part H of title I of such Act (20 U.S.C. 6551
10 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

11 **“Subpart 3—Transition-to-Success Mentoring**
12 **Program**

13 **“SEC. 1831. TRANSITION-TO-SUCCESS MENTORING PRO-**
14 **GRAM.**

15 “(a) IN GENERAL.—From the amounts appropriated
16 to carry out this section, the Secretary shall award grants
17 to eligible entities to establish, expand, or support school-
18 based mentoring programs to assist eligible students with
19 the transition from middle school to high school.

20 “(b) APPLICATION.—To receive a grant under this
21 section, an eligible entity shall submit an application to
22 the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and con-
23 taining such information as the Secretary may require.

24 “(c) USES OF FUNDS.—

25 “(1) REQUIRED USES OF FUNDS.—An eligible
26 entity that receives a grant under this section shall

1 use the grant funds to establish a mentoring pro-
2 gram, or expand or support an existing mentoring
3 program, in all middle schools served by the entity,
4 under which each eligible student enrolled in such
5 schools is assigned to a success coach who—

6 “(A) creates a plan for success for the stu-
7 dent that—

8 “(i) is reviewed with the student and
9 teachers and parents of the student;

10 “(ii) includes, for each academic year,
11 the student’s academic, personal, and ca-
12 reer exploration goals, and a strategy on
13 how to accomplish such goals; and

14 “(iii) identifies the student’s
15 strengths, weaknesses, and academic
16 progress;

17 “(B) enters into a signed, written agree-
18 ment with the parents of the student that de-
19 scribes how the parents should assist the stu-
20 dent in carrying out the plan for success;

21 “(C) meets with the student at least once
22 per month to—

23 “(i) assist the student in achieving the
24 goals under the plan for success;

1 “(ii) identify the student’s academic
2 areas of weaknesses, provide the student
3 with the tools necessary to develop the stu-
4 dent’s potential for academic excellence,
5 and ensure the student’s successful transi-
6 tion from middle school to high school; and

7 “(iii) in the case of a student with be-
8 havioral issues, assist the student in behav-
9 ior management techniques;

10 “(D) at least quarterly, meets with the stu-
11 dent and the parents, teachers, or counselors of
12 the student to—

13 “(i) evaluate the student’s progress in
14 achieving the goals under the plan for the
15 current academic year; and

16 “(ii) revise or establish new goals for
17 the next academic year; and

18 “(E) serves as the student’s advocate be-
19 tween the teachers and parents of the student
20 to ensure that the teachers and parents under-
21 stand the student’s plan.

22 “(2) AUTHORIZED USES OF FUNDS.—An eligi-
23 ble entity that receives a grant under this section
24 may use such funds to—

1 “(A) develop and carry out a training pro-
2 gram for success coaches; and

3 “(B) cover the cost of any materials used
4 by success coaches under the mentoring pro-
5 gram.

6 “(d) GRANT DURATION.—A grant under this section
7 shall be awarded for a period of 5 years.

8 “(e) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

9 “(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An eligible entity
10 receiving a grant under this section shall submit to
11 the Secretary, at the end of each academic year dur-
12 ing the grant period, a report that includes—

13 “(A) the number of students who partici-
14 pated in the school-based mentoring program
15 that was funded in whole or in part with the
16 grant funds under this section;

17 “(B) data on the academic achievement of
18 such students;

19 “(C) the number of contact hours between
20 such students and their success coaches; and

21 “(D) any other information that the Sec-
22 retary may require to evaluate the success of
23 the school-based mentoring program.

24 “(2) SECRETARY.—

1 “(A) INTERIM REPORT.—At the end of the
2 third fiscal year for which funds are made
3 available to carry out this section, the Secretary
4 shall submit to Congress an interim report on
5 the success of the school-based mentoring pro-
6 grams funded under this section that includes
7 the information received under paragraph (1).

8 “(B) FINAL REPORT.—At the end of the
9 fifth fiscal year for which funds are made avail-
10 able to carry out this section, the Secretary
11 shall submit to Congress a final report on the
12 success of the school-based mentoring programs
13 funded under this section that includes the in-
14 formation received under paragraph (1).

15 “(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

16 “(1) AT-RISK STUDENT.—The term ‘at-risk stu-
17 dent’ means a student who has been identified as a
18 student who has below a 2.0 grade point average or
19 the equivalent and who may—

20 “(A) be at-risk of academic failure;

21 “(B) be dropping out of school;

22 “(C) have a drug or alcohol problem;

23 “(D) be pregnant or a parent;

24 “(E) have come into contact with the juve-
25 nile justice system in the past;

1 “(F) have limited English proficiency;

2 “(G) be a gang member;

3 “(H) have dropped out of school in the
4 past; or

5 “(I) have a high absenteeism rate at
6 school.

7 “(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-
8 tity’ means—

9 “(A) a local educational agency that—

10 “(i) receives, or is eligible to receive,
11 funds under part A of title I; or

12 “(ii) is a high-need local educational
13 agency; or

14 “(B) a partnership between a local edu-
15 cational agency described in subparagraph (A)
16 and a nonprofit, community-based organization.

17 “(3) ELIGIBLE STUDENT.—The term ‘eligible
18 student’ means a student who—

19 “(A) is enrolled in a middle school served
20 by an eligible entity; and

21 “(B) is an at-risk student.

22 “(4) HIGH-NEED LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGEN-
23 CY.—The term ‘high-need local educational agency’
24 has the meaning given to the term in section
25 2102(3)(A).

1 “(5) MIDDLE SCHOOL.—The term ‘middle
2 school’ means a nonprofit institutional day or resi-
3 dential school, including a public charter school, that
4 provides middle school education, as determined
5 under State law, except that the term does not in-
6 clude any education below grade 6 or beyond grade
7 9.

8 “(6) SCHOOL-BASED MENTORING.—The term
9 ‘school-based mentoring’ refers to mentoring activi-
10 ties that—

11 “(A) are closely coordinated with a school
12 by involving teachers, counselors, and other
13 school staff who may identify and refer stu-
14 dents for mentoring services; and

15 “(B) assist at-risk students in improving
16 academic achievement, reducing disciplinary re-
17 ferrals, and increasing positive regard for
18 school.

19 “(7) SUCCESS COACH.—The term ‘success
20 coach’ means an individual who—

21 “(A) is—

22 “(i) an employee of a local educational
23 agency in which a mentoring program re-
24 ceiving support under this section is being
25 carried out; or

1 “(ii) a volunteer from a nonprofit,
2 community-based organization that pro-
3 vides volunteers for mentoring programs in
4 secondary schools; and

5 “(B) prior to becoming a success coach—

6 “(i) received training and support in
7 mentoring from an eligible entity; and

8 “(ii) underwent a screening by an eli-
9 gible entity that included—

10 “(I) appropriate job reference
11 checks;

12 “(II) child and domestic abuse
13 record checks; and

14 “(III) criminal background
15 checks.”.

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