

112TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1240

To support the establishment and operation of Teachers Professional  
Development Institutes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 21 (legislative day, JUNE 16), 2011

Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) introduced the following  
bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Edu-  
cation, Labor, and Pensions

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## A BILL

To support the establishment and operation of Teachers  
Professional Development Institutes.

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. TEACHERS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN-**  
4 **STITUTES.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Part A of title II of the Elemen-  
6 tary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
7 6601 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
8 lowing:

1     **“Subpart 6—Teachers Professional Development**  
2                                   **Institutes**

3     **“SEC. 2161. SHORT TITLE.**

4             “‘This subpart may be cited as the ‘Teachers Profes-  
5 sional Development Institutes Act’.

6     **“SEC. 2162. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

7             “(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-  
8 ings:

9                     “(1) Teaching is central to the educational  
10 process and the ongoing professional development of  
11 teachers in the subjects they teach is essential for  
12 improved student learning.

13                    “(2) Attaining the goal of the No Child Left  
14 Behind Act of 2001 (Public Law 107–110)—having  
15 a classroom teacher who is highly effective in every  
16 academic subject the teacher teaches—will require  
17 innovative approaches to improve the effectiveness of  
18 teachers in the classroom.

19                    “(3) The Teachers Institute Model focuses on  
20 the continuing academic preparation of school-  
21 teachers and the application of what the teachers  
22 study to their classrooms and potentially to the  
23 classrooms of other teachers.

24                    “(4) The Teachers Institute Model was devel-  
25 oped initially by the Yale-New Haven Teachers In-

1       stitute and has successfully operated in New Haven,  
2       Connecticut, for more than 30 years.

3               “(5) The Teachers Institute Model has also  
4       been successfully implemented in cities larger than  
5       New Haven.

6               “(6) In the spring of 2009, a report entitled  
7       ‘An Evaluation of Teachers Institute Experiences’  
8       concluded that—

9                       “(A) Teachers Institutes enhance precisely  
10       those teacher qualities known to improve stu-  
11       dent achievement;

12                      “(B) Teachers Institutes exemplify the  
13       crucial characteristics of high-quality teacher  
14       professional development; and

15                      “(C) Teachers Institute participation is  
16       strongly related to teacher retention in high-  
17       poverty schools.

18       “(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this subpart is to  
19       provide Federal assistance to support the establishment  
20       and operation of Teachers Institutes for local educational  
21       agencies that serve significant low-income student popu-  
22       lations in States throughout the Nation, in order to—

23                      “(1) improve student learning; and

24                      “(2) enhance the quality and effectiveness of  
25       teaching and strengthen the subject matter mastery

1 and the pedagogical skills of current teachers  
2 through continuing teacher preparation.

3 **“SEC. 2163. DEFINITIONS.**

4 “In this subpart:

5 “(1) SIGNIFICANT LOW-INCOME STUDENT POP-  
6 ULATION.—The term ‘significant low-income student  
7 population’ means a student population of which not  
8 less than 40 percent of the students included are eli-  
9 gible for free or reduced price lunches under the  
10 Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act.

11 “(2) TEACHERS INSTITUTE.—The term ‘Teach-  
12 ers Institute’ means a partnership or joint venture—

13 “(A) between or among—

14 “(i) 1 or more institutions of higher  
15 education; and

16 “(ii) 1 or more local educational agen-  
17 cies that serve 1 or more schools with sig-  
18 nificant low-income student populations;  
19 and

20 “(B) that improves the effectiveness of  
21 teachers in the classroom, and the quality of  
22 teaching and learning, through collaborative  
23 seminars designed to enhance both the subject  
24 matter and the pedagogical resources of the  
25 seminar participants.

1 **“SEC. 2164. PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.**

2       “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized to  
3 award grants under this subpart in order to encourage the  
4 establishment and operation of Teachers Institutes.

5       “(b) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may  
6 reserve not more than 50 percent of the funds appro-  
7 priated to carry out this subpart to provide technical as-  
8 sistance to facilitate the establishment and operation of  
9 Teachers Institutes. The Secretary may contract with the  
10 Yale-New Haven Teachers Institute to provide all or part  
11 of the technical assistance under this subsection.

12       “(c) SELECTION CRITERIA.—In selecting Teachers  
13 Institutes to support through grants under this subpart,  
14 the Secretary shall consider—

15               “(1) the extent to which a proposed Teachers  
16 Institute will serve schools that have significant low-  
17 income student populations;

18               “(2) the extent to which a proposed Teachers  
19 Institute will follow the understandings and nec-  
20 essary procedures described in section 2166;

21               “(3) the extent to which each local educational  
22 agency participating in the Teachers Institute has a  
23 high percentage of teachers who are unprepared or  
24 underprepared to teach the core academic subjects  
25 the teachers are assigned to teach; and

1           “(4) the extent to which a proposed Teachers  
2 Institute will receive a level of support from the  
3 community and other sources that will ensure the  
4 requisite long-term commitment for the success of a  
5 Teachers Institute.

6           “(d) CONSULTATION.—

7           “(1) IN GENERAL.—In evaluating applications  
8 using the criteria under subsection (c), the Secretary  
9 may request the advice and assistance of the Yale-  
10 New Haven Teachers Institute or other Teachers In-  
11 stitutes.

12           “(2) STATE AGENCIES.—If the Secretary re-  
13 ceives 2 or more applications for grants under this  
14 subpart from local educational agencies within the  
15 same State, the Secretary shall consult with the  
16 State educational agency regarding the applications.

17           “(e) FISCAL AGENT.—The fiscal agent for the receipt  
18 of grant funds under this subpart shall be an institution  
19 of higher education participating in the partnership or  
20 joint venture, as described in section 2163(2)(A), that is  
21 establishing or operating the Teachers Institute.

22           “(f) LIMITATIONS.—A grant under this subpart—

23           “(1) shall provide grant funds for a period of  
24 not more than 5 years; and

1           “(2) shall be in an amount that is not more  
2           than 50 percent of the total costs of the eligible ac-  
3           tivities supported under the grant, as determined by  
4           the Secretary.

5   **“SEC. 2165. ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.**

6           “Grant funds under this subpart may be used—

7           “(1) for the planning, development, establish-  
8           ment, and operation of a Teachers Institute;

9           “(2) for additional assistance to an established  
10          Teachers Institute for its further development and  
11          for its support of the planning, development, estab-  
12          lishment, and operation of a Teachers Institute  
13          under paragraph (1);

14          “(3) for the salary and necessary expenses of a  
15          full-time director for a Teachers Institute to plan  
16          and manage the Teachers Institute and to act as a  
17          liaison between all local educational agencies and in-  
18          stitutions of higher education participating in the  
19          Teachers Institute;

20          “(4) to provide suitable office space, staff,  
21          equipment, and supplies, and to pay other operating  
22          expenses, for the Teachers Institute;

23          “(5) to provide a stipend for teachers partici-  
24          pating in the collaborative seminars conducted by  
25          the Institute in the sciences and humanities and to

1 provide remuneration for members of the faculty of  
2 the participating institution of higher education  
3 leading the seminars; and

4 “(6) to provide for the dissemination, through  
5 print and electronic means, of curriculum units pre-  
6 pared in the seminars conducted by the Teachers In-  
7 stitute.

8 **“SEC. 2166. UNDERSTANDINGS AND PROCEDURES.**

9 “A grantee receiving a grant under this subpart shall  
10 abide by the following understandings and procedures:

11 “(1) PARTNERSHIP.—The essential relationship  
12 of a Teachers Institute is a partnership between a  
13 local educational agency and an institution of higher  
14 education. A grantee shall demonstrate a long-term  
15 commitment on behalf of the participating local edu-  
16 cational agency and institution of higher education  
17 to the support, including the financial support, of  
18 the work of the Teachers Institute.

19 “(2) SEMINARS.—A Teachers Institute spon-  
20 sors seminars led by faculty of the institution of  
21 higher education partner and attended by teachers  
22 from the local educational agency partner. A grantee  
23 shall provide participating teachers the ability to  
24 play an essential role in planning, organizing, con-



1 ducting, and evaluating the seminars and in encour-  
2 aging the future participation of other teachers.

3 “(3) CURRICULUM UNIT.—A seminar described  
4 in paragraph (2) uses a collaborative process, in a  
5 collegial environment, to develop a curriculum unit  
6 for use by participating teachers that sets forth the  
7 subject matter to be presented and the pedagogical  
8 strategies to be employed. A grantee shall enable  
9 participating teachers to develop a curriculum unit,  
10 based on the subject matter presented, for use in the  
11 teachers’ classrooms.

12 “(4) ELIGIBILITY AND REMUNERATION.—Semi-  
13 nars are open to all partnership teachers with teach-  
14 ing assignments relevant to the seminar topics. Sem-  
15 inar leaders receive remuneration for their work and  
16 participating teachers receive an honorarium or sti-  
17 pend upon the successful completion of the seminar.  
18 A grantee shall provide seminar leaders and partici-  
19 pating teachers with remuneration to allow them to  
20 participate in the Teachers Institute.

21 “(5) DIRECTION.—The operations of a Teach-  
22 ers Institute are managed by a full-time director  
23 who reports to both partners but is accountable to  
24 the institution of higher education partner. A grant-

1 ee shall appoint a director to manage and coordinate  
2 the work of the Teachers Institute.

3 “(6) EVALUATION.—A grantee shall annually  
4 review the activities of the Teachers Institute and  
5 disseminate the results to members of the Teachers  
6 Institute’s partnership community.

7 **“SEC. 2167. APPLICATION, APPROVAL, AND AGREEMENT.**

8 “(a) IN GENERAL.—To receive a grant under this  
9 subpart, a Teachers Institute, or a partnership or joint  
10 venture described in section 2163(2)(A) that is proposing  
11 to establish a Teachers Institute, shall submit an applica-  
12 tion to the Secretary that—

13 “(1) meets the requirement of this subpart and  
14 any regulations under this subpart;

15 “(2) includes a description of how the applicant  
16 intends to use funds provided under the grant;

17 “(3) includes such information as the Secretary  
18 may require to apply the criteria described in section  
19 2164(e);

20 “(4) includes measurable objectives for the use  
21 of the funds provided under the grant; and

22 “(5) contains such other information and assur-  
23 ances as the Secretary may require.

24 “(b) APPROVAL.—The Secretary shall—

1           “(1) promptly evaluate an application received  
2           for a grant under this subpart; and

3           “(2) notify the applicant, within 90 days of the  
4           receipt of a completed application, of the Secretary’s  
5           determination.

6           “(c) AGREEMENT.—Upon approval of an application,  
7           the Secretary and the applicant shall enter into a com-  
8           prehensive agreement covering the entire period of the  
9           grant.

10   **“SEC. 2168. REPORTS AND EVALUATIONS.**

11           “(a) REPORT.—Each grantee under this subpart  
12           shall report annually to the Secretary on the progress of  
13           the Teachers Institute in achieving the purpose of this  
14           subpart.

15           “(b) EVALUATION AND DISSEMINATION.—The Sec-  
16           retary shall evaluate the activities funded under this sub-  
17           part and submit an annual report regarding the activities  
18           assisted under this subpart to the Committee on Health,  
19           Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the  
20           Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House  
21           of Representatives. The Secretary shall broadly dissemi-  
22           nate successful practices developed by Teachers Institutes.

23           “(c) REVOCATION.—If the Secretary determines that  
24           a grantee is not making substantial progress in meeting  
25           the purposes of the grant by the end of the second year

1 of the grant under this subpart, the Secretary may take  
 2 appropriate action, including revocation of further pay-  
 3 ments under the grant, to ensure that the funds available  
 4 under this subpart are used in the most effective manner.

5 **“SEC. 2169. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

6 “There are authorized to be appropriated, for grants  
 7 (including planning grants) and technical assistance under  
 8 this subpart, such sums as may be necessary for fiscal  
 9 year 2012 and each of the 4 succeeding fiscal years.”.

10 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of  
 11 the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 is  
 12 amended by inserting after the item relating to section  
 13 2151 the following:

“SUBPART 6—TEACHERS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTES

- “Sec. 2161. Short title.
- “Sec. 2162. Findings and purpose.
- “Sec. 2163. Definitions.
- “Sec. 2164. Program authorized.
- “Sec. 2165. Eligible activities.
- “Sec. 2166. Understandings and procedures.
- “Sec. 2167. Application, approval, and agreement.
- “Sec. 2168. Reports and evaluations.”.

