

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1668

To establish a competitive grant program to support the development, implementation, and evaluation of successful educator and school leader professional development programs on family engagement that will increase the capacity of educators and school leaders to work with families to develop and support the social-emotional learning of children.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 18, 2021

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

A BILL

To establish a competitive grant program to support the development, implementation, and evaluation of successful educator and school leader professional development programs on family engagement that will increase the capacity of educators and school leaders to work with families to develop and support the social-emotional learning of children.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Social-Emotional
3 Learning for Families Act of 2021” or the “SELF Act
4 of 2021”.

5 **SEC. 2. GRANT PROGRAM.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—From amounts appropriated to
7 carry out this section, the Secretary shall award grants,
8 on a competitive basis, to local educational agencies to de-
9 velop, implement, and evaluate educator and school leader
10 professional development programs on social-emotional
11 learning and family engagement. Local educational agen-
12 cies may work in partnership with the entities described
13 in subsection (e)(3) to carry out such programs. The ob-
14 jective of such programs will be to increase the capacity
15 of educators and school leaders to work with families to
16 develop and support the social-emotional learning of chil-
17 dren.

18 (b) GRANT AWARDS.—

19 (1) MAXIMUM GRANT AMOUNT.—The total
20 amount of each grant awarded under this section
21 may not exceed \$1,200,000.

22 (2) GRANT PERIOD.—A grant awarded under
23 this section shall be for a period of 5 years, and may
24 be renewed.

25 (3) NUMBER OF GRANTS.—The Secretary shall
26 award not more than 100 grants under this section.

1 (4) RURAL SET ASIDE.—The Secretary shall re-
2 serve 10 percent of the funds appropriated to carry
3 out this section to award grants to rural local edu-
4 cational agencies that are eligible local educational
5 agencies under section 5211(b) of the Elementary
6 and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
7 7345(b)).

8 (c) APPLICATIONS.—An application submitted by a
9 local educational agency for a grant under this section
10 shall demonstrate through descriptions in the grant appli-
11 cation—

12 (1) the ability to provide instructional space for
13 proposed programming;

14 (2) a commitment to the development, imple-
15 mentation, and evaluation of successful educator and
16 school leader professional development programs on
17 family engagement that will increase the capacity of
18 educators and school leaders to work with families to
19 develop and support the social-emotional learning of
20 children;

21 (3) a plan to ensure that the proposed pro-
22 grams will serve diverse groups, such as Native
23 Americans and underrepresented or economically
24 disadvantaged families;

1 (4) a long-term commitment to the proposed
2 programs to be carried out with the grant, including
3 a plan to continue the actions described in para-
4 graphs (1) through (3) for a period of not less than
5 5 years;

6 (5) how the local educational agency intends to
7 measure outcomes related to the grant; and

8 (6) how the population to be served with grant
9 funds is experiencing youth trauma resulting from
10 recent natural disasters (such as hurricanes,
11 wildfires, or tornados), the opioid epidemic, or a
12 qualifying emergency.

13 (d) SELECTION.—In awarding grants under this sec-
14 tion, the Secretary shall—

15 (1) give priority to—

16 (A) high-need local educational agencies,
17 as defined in section 200 of the Higher Edu-
18 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1021); and

19 (B) local educational agencies that serve
20 populations that are likely to have an increased
21 likelihood of youth trauma resulting from recent
22 natural disasters (such as hurricanes, wildfires,
23 or tornados), the opioid epidemic, or a quali-
24 fying emergency; and

(2) ensure that, to the maximum extent practicable, the projects funded under this section are located in diverse geographic regions of the United States.

(e) USES OF FUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A local educational agency receiving a grant under this section shall use such funds to carry out programs at elementary schools and secondary schools served by the local educational agency that—

(A) involves instruction of evidence-based social-emotional learning through locally relevant materials for educators and school leaders and families;

(B) provides professional development for educators and school leaders to engage families and support the development of the social-emotional learning of families;

(C) provides direct instruction on social-emotional learning to families during times when families are available and in places that are safe, convenient, and easily accessible;

(D) encourages participation of families in the programs offered by the local educational agency under this section, including programs

1 supported by partner entities as described
 2 under paragraph (3); and

3 (E) is designed to result in improved meas-
 4 urable outcomes related to children, including
 5 positive social behavior and academic outcomes.

6 (2) STATE EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.—In the
 7 case of a local educational agency that is a State
 8 educational agency, such entity shall award sub-
 9 grants, on a competitive basis, to local educational
 10 agencies to carry out the program described in para-
 11 graph (1).

12 (3) PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS.—Each
 13 local educational agency awarded a grant under this
 14 section may carry out the program funded under the
 15 grant in partnership with one or more of the fol-
 16 lowing:

17 (A) Institutions of higher education, in-
 18 cluding Tribal Colleges and Universities.

19 (B) Nonprofit organizations.

20 (C) Community-based organizations.

21 (f) REPORTS.—

22 (1) REPORTS FROM GRANT RECIPIENTS.—A
 23 local educational agency that receives a grant under
 24 this section shall submit to the Secretary, not later
 25 than 1 year after the date of receipt of grant funds,

1 a report containing any relevant information, as re-
2 requested by the Secretary, in accordance with the in-
3 formation required of the Secretary under paragraph
4 (2).

5 (2) ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later
6 than 2 years after the first grant is awarded under
7 this section, and annually thereafter, the Secretary
8 shall submit to the Committee on Health, Edu-
9 cation, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the
10 Committee on Education and Labor of the House of
11 Representatives and make publicly available, a re-
12 port on activities and results under this section.
13 Such report shall describe—

14 (A) the total number of grant applications
15 received during the year preceding the report;

16 (B) the number and geographic distribu-
17 tion of the grants for such year and for all
18 grants awarded under this section;

19 (C) participation of minority-serving insti-
20 tutions, including Tribal Colleges and Univer-
21 sities;

22 (D) participation of underrepresented and
23 economically disadvantaged families;

24 (E) overall program outcomes and issues
25 of concern; and

1 (F) recommendations for program revi-
 2 sions to achieve the desired program outcome.

3 (g) DEFINITIONS.—

4 (1) ESEA TERMS.—The terms “elementary
 5 school”, “local educational agency”, “professional
 6 development”, “secondary school”, “specialized in-
 7 structional support personnel”, and “State edu-
 8 cational agency” have the meanings given the terms
 9 in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary
 10 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

11 (2) EDUCATOR AND SCHOOL LEADER PROFES-
 12 SIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS.—The term “edu-
 13 cator and school leader professional development
 14 programs” includes professional development pro-
 15 grams for educators, principals, school leaders, spe-
 16 cialized instructional support personnel, and other
 17 school-based personnel.

18 (3) EDUCATORS AND SCHOOL LEADERS.—The
 19 term “educators and school leaders” means edu-
 20 cators, principals, school leaders, specialized instruc-
 21 tional support personnel, and other school-based per-
 22 sonnel.

23 (4) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
 24 term “institution of higher education” has the

1 meaning given the term in section 101(a) of the
2 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

3 (5) INSTRUCTION.—The term “instruction”
4 means activities that—

5 (A) emphasize communication of knowl-
6 edge concerning social-emotional learning in
7 adults and children;

8 (B) provide opportunities to practice so-
9 cial-emotional learning through interactive ac-
10 tivities between families and their children; and

11 (C) are aligned with and integrated into
12 family involvement and engagement standards
13 that may exist in the applicable State or that
14 may be developed.

15 (6) MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTION.—The
16 term “minority-serving institution” means an insti-
17 tution of higher education described in section
18 371(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
19 U.S.C. 1067q(a)).

20 (7) QUALIFYING EMERGENCY.—The term
21 “qualifying emergency” means—

22 (A) a public health emergency related to
23 the coronavirus declared by the Secretary of
24 Health and Human Services pursuant to sec-

1 tion 319 of the Public Health Service Act (42
2 U.S.C. 247d);

3 (B) an event related to the coronavirus for
4 which the President declared a major disaster
5 or an emergency under section 401 or 501, re-
6 spectively, of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster
7 Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42
8 U.S.C. 5170 and 5191); or

9 (C) a national emergency related to the
10 coronavirus declared by the President under
11 section 201 of the National Emergencies Act
12 (50 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.).

13 (8) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
14 the Secretary of Education.

15 (9) SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING.—The term
16 “social-emotional learning” includes—

17 (A) self-awareness, or having a realistic
18 perception of one’s own values, interests, and
19 strengths, and being able to recognize one’s
20 own emotions;

21 (B) self-management, or how well one
22 manages emotions, impulses, and stress, and is
23 able to establish and achieve goals and exercise
24 self-discipline;

1 (C) social awareness, or the ability to take
2 the perspective of and empathize with someone
3 else and to appreciate and respect diversity;

4 (D) relationship skills, or the ability to
5 participate in healthy, cooperative, and caring
6 relationships, and effectively resolve conflicts;
7 and

8 (E) responsible decision making, or the
9 ability to recognize and generate good choices,
10 evaluate the likely consequences of actions, and
11 take responsibility for one's decisions.

12 (h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
13 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
14 \$130,000,000, of which not more than \$10,000,000 may
15 be used by the Secretary for reports and technical assist-
16 ance.

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