

103^D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 634

To establish a program to empower parents with the knowledge and opportunities they may need to help their children enter school ready to learn, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 23 (legislative day, MARCH 3), 1993

Mr. GLENN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources

A BILL

To establish a program to empower parents with the knowledge and opportunities they may need to help their children enter school ready to learn, 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 “A Better Chance to
5 Learn Act of 1993”.

6 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

7 It is the purpose of this Act to encourage and assist
8 local school districts and communities to develop, expand,

1 or operate innovative home-based parent and early child-
2 hood education programs in an effort to—

3 (1) empower parents to be the primary edu-
4 cators of their children;

5 (2) provide children with school-readiness skills;

6 (3) develop positive attitudes toward education
7 on the part of parents and children; and

8 (4) enhance the role of parents in the transition
9 of their children from preschool to kindergarten.

10 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

11 As used in this Act:

12 (1) **COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS.**—The
13 term “community-based organizations” means pri-
14 vate nonprofit organizations that are located within
15 a community and that are not affiliated with any
16 specific religion.

17 (2) **DEVELOPMENTALLY APPROPRIATE.**—The
18 term “developmentally appropriate” as applied to a
19 home-based program implemented by parents means
20 those activities for the general population of 3- to 5-
21 year-old children that are meaningful to parents and
22 that will result in successful parent-child inter-
23 actions.

24 (3) **HOME-BASED.**—The term “home-based”
25 means that the program provides parent and early

1 childhood education services in the private residence
2 of the child receiving such services.

3 (4) LIMITED OR UNSUCCESSFUL FORMAL
4 SCHOOLING.—The term “limited or unsuccessful for-
5 mal schooling” means the—

6 (A) completion of high school with low
7 achievement during enrollment;

8 (B) noncompletion of high school with low
9 achievement during enrollment; or

10 (C) lack of a general education degree.

11 (5) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.—The
12 term “local educational agencies” has the meaning
13 given to the term “local educational agency” by sec-
14 tion 1471(12) of the Elementary and Secondary
15 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 2891).

16 (6) NEAR POOR FAMILIES.—The term “near
17 poor families” means families that have an income
18 that is approximately 130 percent of the poverty line
19 (as defined by the Office of Management and Budg-
20 et, and revised annually in accordance with section
21 673(2) of the Community Services Block Grant Act
22 (42 U.S.C. 9902(2)).

23 (7) PARENT EDUCATION.—The term “parent
24 education” includes parent support activities, the
25 provision of resource materials on child development

1 and parent and child learning activities, private and
2 group educational guidance, individual and group
3 learning experiences for the parent and child, and
4 other activities that enable the parent to improve
5 learning in the home.

6 (8) WORKING POOR FAMILIES.—The term
7 “working poor families” means families that—

8 (A) have family members—

9 (i) who are working; or

10 (ii) who were looking for work during
11 at least the last 6 months of the year prior
12 to the year in which a grantee determines
13 such families’ eligibility for services under
14 this Act; and

15 (B) earn an income not in excess of 150
16 percent of the poverty line as described in para-
17 graph (5).

18 (9) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
19 the Secretary of Education.

20 **SEC. 4. PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized to
22 award grants to local educational agencies and commu-
23 nity-based organizations to pay the Federal share of the
24 cost of the activities described in section 5.

1 (b) GRANT ALLOCATIONS.—The Secretary shall
2 award—

3 (1) 50 percent of the total grants awarded
4 under this section to applicants that are establishing
5 new home-based parent and early childhood edu-
6 cation programs; and

7 (2) 50 percent of the total grants awarded
8 under this section to applicants that are operating or
9 expanding existing home-based parent and early
10 childhood education programs.

11 (c) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this sec-
12 tion, the Secretary shall give priority to an applicant that
13 describes in an application submitted under section 6 that
14 such applicant’s program targets—

15 (1) working poor families or near poor families
16 that do not qualify for assistance under the early
17 childhood programs under the Head Start Act (42
18 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.) or chapter 1 of title I of the
19 Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965
20 (20 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.);

21 (2) families that qualify for assistance under
22 the Federal programs described in paragraph (1),
23 but that are not served by such programs; or

24 (3) parents who have limited or unsuccessful
25 formal schooling.

1 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.**

2 A grantee may use funds received under this Act for
3 establishing, operating or expanding home-based parent
4 and early childhood education programs.

5 **SEC. 6. ELIGIBILITY.**

6 To be eligible for a grant under this Act, an entity,
7 as described in section 4(a), shall prepare and submit an
8 application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner,
9 and accompanied by such information as the Secretary
10 may reasonably require.

11 **SEC. 7. PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.**

12 A grantee under this Act shall conduct a home-based
13 parent and early childhood education program that—

14 (1) enhances parents' awareness of their
15 strengths and potential as the primary educators of
16 their children;

17 (2) provides support, training and developmen-
18 tally appropriate educational materials that are nec-
19 essary for parents to implement a school-readiness,
20 home instruction program for their children;

21 (3) conducts group meetings with parents to
22 provide support activities related to parenting skills
23 and other topics of interest to participating parents;
24 and

1 (4) to the maximum extent possible, provides
2 opportunities for field trips to local sites of edu-
3 cational and cultural benefit.

4 **SEC. 8. ELIGIBLE PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to participate in a
6 parent and early childhood service program conducted
7 under this Act, an individual shall be a parent with one
8 or more children who are age 3, 4, or 5.

9 (b) SPECIAL RULES.—

10 (1) PARTICIPATION.—No school system or par-
11 ents shall be required to participate in programs
12 funded under this Act.

13 (2) PROGRAM ACTIONS.—A program receiving
14 grant funds under this Act may not take action that
15 infringes on the right of parents to direct the edu-
16 cation of their children.

17 **SEC. 9. PAYMENTS AND FEDERAL SHARE.**

18 (a) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share described
19 in section 4(a) shall be 80 percent.

20 (b) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—A grantee under this Act
22 shall make available non-Federal contributions to-
23 ward the cost of carrying out the program estab-
24 lished, operated, or expanded with amounts received
25 under the grant in an amount equal to at least 20

1 percent of the amount of funds provided under the
2 grant.

3 (2) IN KIND CONTRIBUTIONS.—The non-Fed-
4 eral contributions described in paragraph (1) may be
5 in cash or in kind fairly evaluated, including planned
6 equipment or services.

7 **SEC. 10. SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.**

8 Funds appropriated pursuant to the authority of this
9 Act shall be used to supplement and not supplant other
10 local public funds expended to provide services for individ-
11 uals eligible to participate in a program under this Act.

12 **SEC. 11. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

13 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
14 this Act \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 1994 and such sums
15 as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1995
16 through 1998.

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