

105TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 4779

To provide block grant options for certain education funding.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 9, 1998

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

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## A BILL

To provide block grant options for certain education funding.

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. BLOCK GRANT OPTIONS.**

4       (a) STATE OPTIONS.—Notwithstanding any other  
5 provision of law, each State shall notify the Secretary re-  
6 garding the State's election to receive the State's portion  
7 of the applicable funding described in subsection (b) ac-  
8 cording to one of the following options:

9           (1) STATE BLOCK GRANT OPTION.—The State  
10       may receive the funding pursuant to a State allot-  
11       ment described in section 2(a)(1).

1           (2) LOCAL BLOCK GRANT OPTION.—The State  
2           may direct the Secretary to send the funding directly  
3           to local educational agencies in the State pursuant  
4           to a local allotment described in section 2(a)(2).

5           (3) FEDERAL STATUTE OPTION.—The State  
6           may receive the funding according to the provisions  
7           of law described in subsection (b).

8           (b) APPLICABLE FUNDING.—In this section, the term  
9           “applicable funding” means all funds that are appro-  
10          priated for the Department of Education for fiscal year  
11          2000 or any succeeding fiscal year to carry out programs  
12          or activities under the following provisions of law:

13           (1) The Goals 2000: Educate America Act (20  
14           U.S.C. 5801 et seq.), other than titles I and X of  
15           such Act (20 U.S.C. 5811 et seq. and 6061 et seq.).

16           (2) The Elementary and Secondary Education  
17           Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.), other than ti-  
18           tles VIII, IX, and XIV of such Act (20 U.S.C. 7701  
19           et seq., 7801 et seq., and 8801 et seq.).

20           (3) The School-to-Work Opportunities Act of  
21           1994 (20 U.S.C. 6101 et seq.).

22           (4) The Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied  
23           Technology Education Act (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.).

24 **SEC. 2. BLOCK GRANTS.**

25           (a) ALLOTMENTS.—

1           (1) STATES.—From the total applicable funding  
2           available for a fiscal year, the Secretary may make  
3           allotments to each State selecting the option de-  
4           scribed in section 1(a)(1) in an amount that bears  
5           the same relation to such total applicable funding as  
6           the number of individuals in the State who are aged  
7           5 through 17 bears to the total number of such indi-  
8           viduals in all States.

9           (2) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.—From  
10          the total applicable funding available for a fiscal  
11          year, the Secretary may make allotments to each  
12          local educational agency in a State selecting the op-  
13          tion described in section 1(a)(2) in an amount that  
14          bears the same relation to such total applicable  
15          funding as the number of individuals in the school  
16          district served by the local educational agency who  
17          are aged 5 through 17 bears to the total number of  
18          such individuals in all school districts served by all  
19          local educational agencies in all States.

20          (3) ENROLLMENT DETERMINATION.—The Sec-  
21          retary shall determine the number of children de-  
22          scribed in paragraphs (1) and (2)—

23                 (A) for the academic year for which the de-  
24                 termination is made, after the beginning of the  
25                 academic year; and

1 (B) on the basis of the most recent data  
2 available to the Secretary.

3 (b) DISTRIBUTION OF ALLOTTED FUNDS.—

4 (1) RESERVATIONS.—

5 (A) STATES.—Each State that receives  
6 funds allotted under subsection (a) may reserve  
7 not more than 1 percent of the funds for the  
8 cost of administration, evaluation, reporting,  
9 and other activities related to activities assisted  
10 under this Act.

11 (B) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.—  
12 Each local educational agency that receives  
13 funds allotted under subsection (a) may reserve  
14 not more than 2 percent of the funds for the  
15 costs of administration, overhead costs, or indi-  
16 rect costs.

17 (2) AWARDS.—In States selecting the State  
18 block grant option described in section 1(a)(1), all  
19 funds allotted under subsection (a)(1) that are not  
20 reserved under paragraph (1)(A) shall be made  
21 available, in accordance with paragraph (3), on be-  
22 half of each student who resides in the State and is  
23 enrolled in a public elementary school or secondary  
24 school, or in a private or home elementary school or  
25 secondary school, located in the State. In States se-

1 lecting the local block grant option described in sec-  
2 tion 1(a)(2), all funds allotted under subsection  
3 (a)(2) that are not reserved under paragraph (1)(B)  
4 shall be made available, in accordance with para-  
5 graph (3), on behalf of each student who resides in  
6 the school district served by a local educational  
7 agency and is enrolled in a public elementary school  
8 or secondary school, or in a private or home elemen-  
9 tary school or secondary school, in the school dis-  
10 trict. In States selecting the State block grant option  
11 or the local block grant option, the amount allotted  
12 on behalf of each student shall be adjusted in ac-  
13 cordance with paragraph (5).

14 (3) RECIPIENTS.—Funds awarded under para-  
15 graph (2)—

16 (A) in the case of a public school student,  
17 including a charter school student, shall be  
18 made available to the public school or charter  
19 school, respectively; and

20 (B) in the case of a private school or home  
21 school student, shall be made available to the  
22 parent or legal guardian of the student.

23 (4) USES.—

24 (A) PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS.—Each  
25 public school that receives assistance under this

1 Act shall use the assistance for any qualified el-  
2 elementary and secondary education expenses.

3 (B) PRIVATE SCHOOL STUDENTS.—Each  
4 parent or guardian of a private school student  
5 that receives assistance under this Act shall use  
6 the assistance to pay the costs of attendance at  
7 the private school.

8 (C) HOME SCHOOL STUDENTS.—Each par-  
9 ent or guardian of a home school student that  
10 receives assistance under this Act shall use the  
11 assistance for any qualified elementary and sec-  
12 ondary education expenses.

13 (5) ADJUSTMENTS.—A State or local edu-  
14 cational agency shall adjust the amount awarded for  
15 students under paragraph (2) to account for—

16 (A) high need students, such as students  
17 from poor families; or

18 (B) different costs of living in urban and  
19 rural areas.

20 **SEC. 3. FEDERAL STATUTE OPTION.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—From the applicable funding that  
22 remains after making the allotments under paragraphs (1)  
23 and (2) of section 2(a) for a fiscal year, the Secretary may  
24 make awards according to the provisions of law described

1 in section 1(b), to State and local recipients, in States se-  
2 lecting the option described in section 1(a)(3).

3 (b) PERCENTAGE REDUCTIONS.—The Secretary,  
4 after making the allotments under paragraphs (1) and (2)  
5 of section 2(a) for a fiscal year, shall reduce the total  
6 amount of applicable funding available to carry out the  
7 provisions of law described in section 1(b) for the fiscal  
8 year, for any State selecting the option described in sec-  
9 tion 2(a)(3), by an equal percentage for each such provi-  
10 sion.

11 **SEC. 4. ACCOUNTABILITY.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—Each entity receiving assistance  
13 under this Act shall—

14 (1) use the funds to supplement and not sup-  
15 plant State and local funds; and

16 (2) involve parents and members of the public  
17 in planning for the use of funds provided under this  
18 Act, such as through a representative advisory com-  
19 mittee.

20 (b) REPORTS.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—Each local educational agen-  
22 cy receiving an allotment under this Act shall pre-  
23 pare and submit to the State, and each State receiv-  
24 ing an allotment under this Act shall prepare and  
25 submit to Congress, a report regarding the distribu-

1       tion and use of the allotted funds, and how the use  
2       of the funds effects student achievement.

3           (2) AVAILABILITY.—Each State and local edu-  
4       cational agency submitting a report under paragraph  
5       (1) shall make copies of the report available to par-  
6       ents and other members of the public.

7           (3) SPECIAL RULE.—Each State or local edu-  
8       cational agency receiving an allotment under this  
9       Act that has developed or established challenging  
10      content or student performance standards shall in-  
11      clude in the report submitted under paragraph (1)  
12      information regarding student achievement with re-  
13      spect to the standards.

14 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

15       In this title:

16           (1) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The term  
17       “local educational agency” has the meaning given  
18       the term in section 14101 of the Elementary and  
19       Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 8801).

20           (2) QUALIFIED ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY  
21       EDUCATION EXPENSES.—

22           (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “qualified el-  
23       ementary and secondary education expenses”  
24       means—

1 (i) expenses for tuition, fees, academic  
2 tutoring, special needs services, books, sup-  
3 plies, computer equipment (including relat-  
4 ed software and services), and other equip-  
5 ment which are incurred in connection with  
6 the enrollment or attendance of a student  
7 at a school; or

8 (ii) expenses for room and board, uni-  
9 forms, transportation, and supplementary  
10 items and services (including extended day  
11 programs) which are required or provided  
12 by a school in connection with such enroll-  
13 ment or attendance.

14 (B) SPECIAL RULE FOR  
15 HOMESCHOOLING.—Such term shall include ex-  
16 penses described in subparagraph (A)(i) in con-  
17 nection with education provided by  
18 homeschooling if the requirements of any appli-  
19 cable State or local law are met with respect to  
20 such education.

21 (2) SCHOOL.—The term “school” means any  
22 school that provides kindergarten education, elemen-  
23 tary education or secondary education, as deter-  
24 mined under State law.

1           (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
2 the Secretary of Education.

3           (4) STATE.—The term “State” means each of  
4 the several States of the United States, the District  
5 of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico,  
6 Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the  
7 Northern Mariana Islands, the United States Virgin  
8 Islands, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the  
9 Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of  
10 Palau.

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