

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1265

To develop a demonstration project through the National Science Foundation to encourage interest in the fields of mathematics, science, and information technology.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 24, 1999

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (for herself, Mr. BROWN of California, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. SCOTT, Mrs. MEEK of Florida, Ms. LEE, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Ms. CARSON, Mr. OWENS, Mr. JEFFERSON, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. HILLIARD, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. WATT of North Carolina, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. FORD, Mr. RUSH, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Ms. WATERS, Mr. WYNN, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. TRAFICANT, Ms. MCKINNEY, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. GORDON, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. LARSON, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. LAMPSON, Mr. FROST, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. WEINER, Mr. TURNER, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. BENTSEN, Mr. SANDLIN, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. CLAY, Mr. BISHOP, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mrs. CLAYTON, Mr. DIXON, Mr. FATTAH, and Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To develop a demonstration project through the National Science Foundation to encourage interest in the fields of mathematics, science, and information technology.

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 “Mathematics and
5 Science Proficiency Partnership Act of 1999”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Mathematics and science education is a vital
9 link to connect today’s students with the information
10 age and to the workplace of tomorrow.

11 (2) American students consistently place below
12 their international peers when it comes to dem-
13 onstrating their skills in mathematics and science.

14 (3) Proficiency in mathematics, science, and in-
15 formation technology is necessary to prepare Amer-
16 ican students for participation in the 21st Century
17 and to guarantee that the United States economy re-
18 mains vibrant and competitive.

19 (4) Students in urban and rural America share
20 a common need to receive a quality education, but
21 often their schools lack the needed resources to lift
22 these students into the information age.

23 (5) The schools and businesses serving these
24 communities are strategically positioned to form a
25 unique partnership with urban and rural students

1 that will increase their mathematics, science, and in-
2 formation technology proficiency for the benefit of
3 the Nation.

4 **SEC. 3. DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.**

5 (a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—

7 (A) GRANT PROGRAM.—The Director shall,
8 subject to appropriations, carry out a dem-
9 onstration project under which the Director
10 awards grants in accordance with this Act to 5
11 eligible local educational agencies in urban
12 areas and 5 eligible local educational agencies
13 in rural areas.

14 (B) USES OF FUNDS.—A local educational
15 agency that receives a grant under this Act may
16 use such grant funds to develop an information
17 technology program that builds or expands
18 mathematics, science, and information tech-
19 nology curricula, to purchase equipment nec-
20 essary to establish such program, and to pro-
21 vide teacher training in such fields.

22 (2) PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—The program
23 described in paragraph (1) shall—

24 (A) train teachers specifically in informa-
25 tion technology, mathematics, and science; and

1 (B) provide students with specialized train-
2 ing in mathematics, science, and information
3 technology.

4 (b) ELIGIBLE LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—For
5 purposes of this Act, a local educational agency is eligible
6 to receive a grant under this Act if the agency—

7 (1) is located in one of the localities which has
8 received an award from the National Science Foun-
9 dation under the Urban Systemic Initiative or the
10 Rural Systemic Initiative program;

11 (2) provides assurances that it has executed
12 conditional agreements with representatives of the
13 private sector to provide services and funds de-
14 scribed in subsection (c); and

15 (3) agrees to enter into an agreement with the
16 Director to comply with the requirements of this
17 Act.

18 (c) PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION.—The condi-
19 tional agreement referred to in subsection (b)(2) shall de-
20 scribe participation by the private sector, including—

21 (1) the donation of computer hardware and
22 software;

23 (2) the establishment of internship and men-
24 toring opportunities for students who participate in
25 the information technology program; and

1 (3) the donation of scholarship funds for eligi-
2 ble students who have participated in the informa-
3 tion technology program.

4 (d) APPLICATION.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible local edu-
6 cational agency desiring a grant under this section
7 shall submit an application to the Director in ac-
8 cordance with guidelines established by the Director
9 pursuant to paragraph (2).

10 (2) GUIDELINES.—

11 (A) REQUIREMENTS.—The guidelines re-
12 ferred to in paragraph (1) shall require, at a
13 minimum, that the application include—

14 (i) a description of proposed activities
15 consistent with the uses of funds and pro-
16 gram requirements under subsection
17 (a)(1)(B) and (a)(2);

18 (ii) a description of the scholarship
19 program, including criteria for selection,
20 duration of scholarship, number of scholar-
21 ships to be awarded each year, and fund-
22 ing levels for scholarships; and

23 (iii) evidence of private sector partici-
24 pation and financial support to establish

1 an internship, mentoring, and scholarship
2 program.

3 (B) GUIDELINE PUBLICATION.—The Di-
4 rector shall issue and publish such guidelines
5 not later than 6 months after the date of the
6 enactment of this Act.

7 (3) SELECTION.—The Director shall select a
8 local educational agency to receive an award under
9 this Act in accordance with subsection (e) and on
10 the basis of merit to be determined after conducting
11 a comprehensive review.

12 (e) PRIORITY.—The Director shall give special pri-
13 ority in awarding grants under this Act to eligible local
14 educational agencies that demonstrate the greatest ability
15 to obtain commitments from representatives of the private
16 sector to provide services and funds described under sub-
17 section (c).

18 **SEC. 4. ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING.**

19 (a) ASSESSMENT.—The Director shall assess the ef-
20 fectiveness of activities carried out under this Act. Such
21 assessment shall be included as part of the assessment and
22 reporting process used for the Urban and Rural Systemic
23 Initiatives programs.

24 (b) STUDY.—The Director shall initiate a longitu-
25 dinal study of eligible students selected for scholarships

1 pursuant to this Act and shall report such findings to Con-
2 gress not later than 4 years after the award of the first
3 scholarship. Such report shall include the number of stu-
4 dents graduating from an institution of higher education
5 with a major in mathematics, science, or information tech-
6 nology and the number of students who find employment
7 in such fields.

8 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

9 Except as otherwise provided, for purposes of this
10 Act—

11 (1) the term “Director” means the Director of
12 the National Science Foundation;

13 (2) the term “eligible student” means a student
14 enrolled in the 12th grade who—

15 (A) would be a first-generation college stu-
16 dent;

17 (B) has participated in an information
18 technology program established pursuant to this
19 Act;

20 (C) has demonstrated a commitment to
21 pursue a career in information technology,
22 mathematics, science, or engineering; and

23 (D) has attained high academic standing
24 and maintains a grade point average of not less

1 than 3.0 on a 4.0 scale for the last 2 years of
2 secondary school (11th and 12th grades); and

3 (3) the term “local educational agency” has the
4 same meaning given such term in section 14101 of
5 the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of
6 1965 (20 U.S.C. 8801);

7 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

8 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—There are authorized to be appro-
9 priated to the National Science Foundation to carry out
10 this Act, \$3,000,000.

11 (b) **MAXIMUM GRANT AWARD.**—An award made to
12 an eligible local educational agency under this Act may
13 not exceed \$300,000.

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