

107TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2500

To authorize the use of certain funds to compensate New York City public schools for operating and education-related expenses (including expenses relating to the provision of mental health and trauma counseling and other appropriate support services) resulting from the terrorist attack on that city on September 11, 2001.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 9, 2002

Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mrs. CLINTON) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

A BILL

To authorize the use of certain funds to compensate New York City public schools for operating and education-related expenses (including expenses relating to the provision of mental health and trauma counseling and other appropriate support services) resulting from the terrorist attack on that city on September 11, 2001.

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. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

4 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

1 (1) the September 11, 2001, attack on the
2 World Trade Center represented the single greatest
3 act of terrorism perpetrated against the United
4 States;

5 (2) the Federal Government has responded
6 quickly and provided many of the necessary re-
7 sources to begin the rebuilding process in New York
8 City, New York;

9 (3) September 11, 2001, had a damaging im-
10 pact on the 1,100,000 students, 137,000 staff mem-
11 bers (consisting of superintendents, principals,
12 teachers, administrators, and staff), and millions of
13 members of families serving or served by the New
14 York City public schools (referred to in this sub-
15 section as the “NYCPS”) community;

16 (4) more than 1,500 students and 800 staff
17 members lost a family member or loved one as a re-
18 sult of the disaster;

19 (5)(A) faculty and staff of the NYCPS reacted
20 with extraordinary calm, grace, and bravery to evac-
21 uate all children and ensure that each child in their
22 care was safe; and

23 (B) their diligence prevented even a single in-
24 jury from occurring in the midst of unprecedented
25 mayhem;

1 (6) the Chancellor of the New York City Board
2 of Education, members of school boards, principals,
3 assistant principals, teachers, and counselors—

4 (A) worked tirelessly after the event to en-
5 sure that schools resumed classes and returned
6 to their regular school schedule as soon as pos-
7 sible; and

8 (B) worked aggressively to restore a safe,
9 supportive school environment and to regain
10 normalcy and stability throughout the entire
11 school system;

12 (7) the closure of certain bridges and tunnels to
13 Manhattan, New York City, New York, in the after-
14 math of the disaster, affected not only Manhattan-
15 resident students but also approximately 50,000 stu-
16 dents (a population that exceeds the citywide stu-
17 dent enrollments of the school districts of each of
18 the cities of Atlanta, Georgia, Oakland, California,
19 Minneapolis, Minnesota, and Seattle, Washington)
20 from other boroughs who attend school in Manhat-
21 tan and were affected by travel disruptions and lost
22 instructional time;

23 (8)(A) extended classroom instruction is needed
24 for all students who lost valuable lesson time as a
25 result of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attack;

1 (B) without that extra help, student perform-
2 ance on high-stakes standardized tests may suffer;
3 and

4 (C) failure to prepare students adequately for
5 State and city examinations will—

6 (i) increase the risk that those students
7 will have to repeat a grade; and

8 (ii) further strain the already limited re-
9 sources of the school system;

10 (9) a recent study commissioned by the New
11 York City Board of Education and conducted by Ap-
12 plied Research and Consulting and the Columbia
13 University School of Public Health—

14 (A) found profound effects since Sep-
15 tember 11, 2001, on the mental health of
16 schoolchildren across New York City, New
17 York, not just those in close proximity to
18 Ground Zero; and

19 (B) found that—

20 (i) more than a fourth of New York
21 City schoolchildren surveyed in the 4th
22 through 12th grades are suffering from at
23 least 1 trauma-related disorder in the wake
24 of the attack on the World Trade Center;
25 and

1 (ii) those disorders include major de-
2 pression (8.4 percent), post-traumatic
3 stress (10.5 percent), agoraphobia (15 per-
4 cent), separation anxiety (12.3 percent),
5 acting out (10.9 percent), general anxiety
6 (10.3 percent), and panic anxiety (9.3 per-
7 cent);

8 (10) based on the findings of that study, the
9 NYCPS need additional resources for mental health
10 and trauma counseling and other appropriate sup-
11 port services to meet the mental health needs of stu-
12 dents affected by the single worst terrorist attack in
13 United States history;

14 (11)(A) the NYCPS system incurred significant
15 costs as a result of the terrorist attack, including—

16 (i) cleanup and repair costs;

17 (ii) costs relating to loss of textbooks and
18 classroom supplies; and

19 (iii) costs relating to transportation and
20 food revenue losses; and

21 (B) the Federal Emergency Management Agen-
22 cy and other Federal agencies have yet to provide
23 adequate resources to address those significant
24 costs;

1 (12)(A) the Federal Government provided re-
2 sources to the school systems of Miami-Dade, Flor-
3 ida, Los Angeles, California, and Columbine, Colo-
4 rado, after those systems incurred extraordinary ex-
5 penses resulting from a traumatic event or disaster;
6 and

7 (B) the Federal Government needs to partner
8 with the NYCPS system to ensure that the system
9 receives similar Federal assistance in the wake of
10 the September 11 tragedy; and

11 (13)(A) on September 11, 2001, the President
12 instructed the Federal Emergency Management
13 Agency to do whatever it takes to help those affected
14 by the terrorist attack; and

15 (B) the Federal Emergency Management Agen-
16 cy needs to commit to ensuring that the President's
17 instruction is carried out.

18 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to ensure
19 that the Federal Emergency Management Agency has the
20 authority and direction to provide necessary resources to
21 the New York City public school system—

22 (1) to meet any extraordinary expenses result-
23 ing from the terrorist attack of September 11, 2001;
24 and

1 (2) to prevent any of the resulting financial
2 losses from infringing on the ability of the system to
3 provide all public elementary school and secondary
4 school students of New York City, New York, with
5 a fair and equal opportunity to obtain a high-quality
6 education.

7 **SEC. 2. USE OF FUNDS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—From the amounts appropriated
9 to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for fiscal
10 year 2002, \$161,000,000 may be used to compensate the
11 New York City Board of Education for additional oper-
12 ating and education-related expenses that—

13 (1) were incurred for the provision of services
14 to public elementary school and secondary school
15 students;

16 (2) were incurred for the period beginning Sep-
17 tember 11, 2001, and ending December 31, 2002;
18 and

19 (3) resulted from the terrorist attack on New
20 York City, New York, on September 11, 2001.

21 (b) EXPENSES.—Expenses that may be compensated
22 under subsection (a) include, at a minimum, the costs of—

23 (1) providing additional classroom instruction
24 time and related activities to students who lost in-
25 structional time as a result of the terrorist attack;

1 (2) providing mental health and trauma coun-
2 seling and other appropriate support services to stu-
3 dents suffering from trauma-related disorders result-
4 ing from the terrorist attack on New York City on
5 September 11, 2001;

6 (3) providing guidance, grief counseling, and
7 mental health services for students and school staff
8 members, including providing overtime payments for
9 counselors and mental health professionals;

10 (4) providing cleanup and structural inspections
11 and repairs of school facilities;

12 (5) reimbursement for textbooks and other
13 school supplies and equipment used to support the
14 relocation of students from schools in the Lower
15 Manhattan area of New York City, New York;

16 (6) relocating students, including—

17 (A) transportation of students relocated
18 from the schools that the students attended at
19 the beginning of the 2002–2003 school year to
20 temporary school facilities; and

21 (B) reimbursement for the amount ex-
22 pended for the daily rate of bus service paid by
23 the New York City Board of Education for that
24 transportation; and

25 (7) reimbursement for—

- 1 (A) loss of perishable food stock; and
- 2 (B) revenue lost from food services.

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