

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 695

To provide parents, taxpayers, and educators with useful, understandable school report cards.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 4, 2001

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

A BILL

To provide parents, taxpayers, and educators with useful, understandable school report cards.

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 “Standardized School
5 Report Card Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

8 (1) According to the report “Quality Counts
9 99”, by Education Week, 36 States require the pub-

1 lishing of annual report cards on individual schools,
2 but the content of the report cards varies widely.

3 (2) The content of most of the report cards de-
4 scribed in paragraph (1) does not provide parents
5 with the information the parents need to measure
6 how their school or State is doing compared with
7 other schools and States.

8 (3) Ninety percent of taxpayers believe that
9 published information about individual schools would
10 motivate educators to work harder to improve the
11 schools' performance.

12 (4) More than 60 percent of parents and 70
13 percent of taxpayers have not seen an individual re-
14 port card for their area school.

15 (5) Dissemination of understandable informa-
16 tion about schools can be an important tool for par-
17 ents and taxpayers to measure the quality of the
18 schools and to hold the schools accountable for im-
19 proving performance.

20 **SEC. 3. PURPOSE.**

21 The purpose of this Act is to provide parents, tax-
22 payers, and educators with useful, understandable school
23 report cards.

1 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

2 The terms used in this Act have the meanings given
3 the terms under section 14101 of the Elementary and Sec-
4 ondary Education Act of 1965.

5 **SEC. 5. REPORT CARDS.**

6 (a) STATE REPORT CARDS.—Each State educational
7 agency receiving assistance under the Elementary and
8 Secondary Education Act of 1965 shall produce and wide-
9 ly disseminate an annual report card for parents, the gen-
10 eral public, teachers and the Secretary of Education, in
11 easily understandable language, with respect to elemen-
12 tary schools and secondary schools in the State. The re-
13 port card shall contain information regarding—

14 (1) student performance on statewide assess-
15 ments in language arts, mathematics and history,
16 plus any other subject areas in which the State re-
17 quires assessments, including—

18 (A) comparisons with students from dif-
19 ferent school districts within the State, and, to
20 the extent possible, comparisons with students
21 throughout the Nation;

22 (B) a statement on the 3-year trend in the
23 percentage of students performing at the basic,
24 proficient, and advanced levels; and

1 (C) a statement of the percentage of stu-
2 dents not tested and a listing of categories of
3 the reasons why such students were not tested;

4 (2) attendance and 4-year graduation rates, the
5 number of students completing advanced placement
6 courses, and the annual school dropout rate, as cal-
7 culated by procedures conforming with the National
8 Center for Education Statistics Common Core of
9 Data;

10 (3) professional qualifications of teachers in the
11 State, including the percentage of class sections
12 taught by teachers who are not certified to teach in
13 that subject, and the percentage of teachers with
14 emergency or provisional certification;

15 (4) average class size in the State broken down
16 by school level;

17 (5) school safety, including the safety of school
18 facilities, incidents of school violence and drug and
19 alcohol abuse, and the number of instances in which
20 a student was determined to have brought a firearm
21 to school under the State law described in the Gun-
22 Free Schools Act of 1994 and the incidence of stu-
23 dent suspensions and expulsions;

24 (6) to the extent practicable, parental involve-
25 ment, as measured by the extent of parental partici-

1 pation in school parental involvement policies de-
2 scribed in section 1118(b) of the Elementary and
3 Secondary Education Act of 1965;

4 (7) student access to technology, including the
5 number of computers for educational purposes, the
6 number of computers per classroom, and the number
7 of computers connected to the Internet;

8 (8) information regarding the schools identified
9 by the State for school improvement; and

10 (9) other indicators of school performance and
11 quality.

12 (b) SCHOOL REPORT CARDS.—Each school receiving
13 assistance under the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
14 cation Act of 1965, or the local educational agency serving
15 that school, shall produce and widely disseminate an an-
16 nual report card for parents, the general public, teachers
17 and the State educational agency, in easily understandable
18 language, with respect to elementary or secondary edu-
19 cation, as appropriate, in the school. The report card shall
20 contain information regarding—

21 (1) student performance in the school on state-
22 wide assessments in language arts, mathematics,
23 and history, plus any other subject areas in which
24 the State requires assessments, including—

1 (A) comparisons with other students within
2 the school district, in the State, and, to the ex-
3 tent possible, in the Nation;

4 (B) a statement on the 3-year trend in the
5 percentage of students performing at the basic,
6 proficient, and advanced levels; and

7 (C) a statement of the percentage of stu-
8 dents not tested and a listing of categories of
9 the reasons why such students were not tested;

10 (2) attendance and 4-year graduation rates, the
11 number of students completing advanced placement
12 courses, and the annual school dropout rate, as cal-
13 culated by procedures conforming with the National
14 Center for Education Statistics Common Core of
15 Data;

16 (3) professional qualifications of the school's
17 teachers, including the percentage of class sections
18 taught by teachers not certified to teach in that sub-
19 ject, and the percentage of teachers with emergency
20 or provisional certification;

21 (4) average class size in the school broken down
22 by school level, and the enrollment of students com-
23 pared to the rated capacity of the school;

24 (5) school safety, including the safety of the
25 school facility, incidents of school violence and drug

1 and alcohol abuse, the number of instances in which
2 a student was determined to have brought a firearm
3 to school under the State law described in the Gun-
4 Free Schools Act of 1994, and the incidence of stu-
5 dent suspensions and expulsions;

6 (6) parental involvement, as measured by the
7 extent of parental participation in school parental in-
8 volvement policies described in section 1118(b) of
9 the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of
10 1965;

11 (7) student access to technology, including the
12 number of computers for educational purposes, the
13 number of computers per classroom, and the number
14 of computers connected to the Internet;

15 (8) information regarding whether the school
16 has been identified for school improvement; and

17 (9) other indicators of school performance and
18 quality.

19 (c) MODEL SCHOOL REPORT CARDS.—The Secretary
20 of Education shall use funds made available to the Office
21 of Educational Research and Improvement to develop a
22 model school report card for dissemination, upon request,
23 to a school, local educational agency, or State educational
24 agency.

1 (d) DISAGGREGATION OF DATA.—Each State edu-
2 cational agency or school producing an annual report card
3 under this section shall disaggregate the student data re-
4 ported under subsection (a) or (b), as appropriate, in the
5 same manner as results are disaggregated under section
6 1111(b)(3)(I) of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
7 cation Act of 1965.

8 (e) DISSEMINATION AND ACCESSIBILITY OF REPORT
9 CARDS.—

10 (1) STATE REPORT CARDS.—State annual re-
11 port cards under subsection (a) shall be dissemi-
12 nated to all elementary schools, secondary schools,
13 and local educational agencies in the State, and
14 made broadly available to the public through means
15 such as posting such reports on the Internet and
16 distribution to the media, and through public agen-
17 cies.

18 (2) LOCAL AND SCHOOL REPORT CARDS.—
19 Local educational agency report cards and elemen-
20 tary school and secondary school report cards under
21 subsection (b) shall be disseminated to all elemen-
22 tary schools and secondary schools served by the
23 local educational agency and to all parents of stu-
24 dents attending such schools, and shall be made
25 broadly available to the public through means such

1 as posting such report on the Internet and distribu-
 2 tion to the media, and through public agencies.

3 (f) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of Edu-
 4 cation shall award a grant to each State having a State
 5 report card that meets the requirements of subsection (a)
 6 to enable the State to annually publish report cards for
 7 each elementary and secondary school that receives fund-
 8 ing under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act
 9 of 1965 and is served by the State. The amount of a State
 10 grant under this section shall be equal to the State's allot-
 11 ment under subsection (g)(2).

12 (g) RESERVATIONS AND ALLOTMENTS.—

13 (1) RESERVATIONS.—From the amount appro-
 14 priated under subsection (j) to carry out this Act for
 15 each fiscal year the Secretary of Education shall re-
 16 serve—

17 (A) $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1 percent of such amount for
 18 payments to the Secretary of the Interior for
 19 activities approved by the Secretary of Edu-
 20 cation consistent with this Act, in schools oper-
 21 ated or supported by the Bureau of Indian Af-
 22 fairs on the basis of their respective needs for
 23 assistance under this Act; and

24 (B) $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1 percent of such amount for
 25 payments to outlying areas, to be allotted in ac-

1 cordance with their respective needs for assist-
2 ance under this Act, as determined by the Sec-
3 retary of Education, for activities approved by
4 the Secretary of Education that are consistent
5 with this Act.

6 (2) STATE ALLOTMENTS.—From the amount
7 appropriated under subsection (j) for a fiscal year
8 and remaining after amounts are reserved under
9 paragraph (1), the Secretary of Education shall allot
10 to each State having a State report card meeting the
11 requirements of subsection (a) an amount that bears
12 the same relationship to such remainder as the num-
13 ber of public school students enrolled in elementary
14 schools and secondary schools in the State bears to
15 the total number of such students so enrolled in all
16 States.

17 (h) WITHIN-STATE ALLOCATIONS.—Each State edu-
18 cational agency receiving a grant under subsection (f)
19 shall allocate the grant funds that remain after carrying
20 out the activities required under subsection (e)(1) to local
21 educational agencies in the State.

22 (i) STATE RESERVATION OF FUNDS.—Each State
23 educational agency receiving a grant under subsection (f)
24 may reserve —

1 (1) not more than 10 percent of the grant
2 funds to carry out activities described in subsections
3 (a) and (b), and subsection (e)(1), for fiscal year
4 2002; and

5 (2) not more than 5 percent of the grant funds
6 to carry out activities described in sections (a) and
7 (b), and subsection (e)(1), for fiscal year 2003 and
8 each of the 3 succeeding fiscal years.

9 (j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
10 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act,
11 \$5,000,0000 for fiscal year 2002, and such sums as may
12 be necessary for each of the 4 succeeding fiscal years.

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