

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1107

To reauthorize the Head Start Act, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 23, 2005

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

A BILL

To reauthorize the Head Start Act, 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 “Head Start Improve-
5 ments for School Readiness Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE.**

7 Section 636 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831)
8 is amended by inserting “educational instruction in
9 prereading skills, premathematics skills, and language and
10 through” after “low-income children through”.

1 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

2 Section 637 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9832)
3 is amended—

4 (1) in paragraph (2), by inserting “(including a
5 community-based organization)” after “nonprofit”;

6 (2) in paragraph (3)(C), by inserting “, includ-
7 ing financial literacy,” after “Parent literacy”;

8 (3) in paragraph (17), by striking “Mariana Is-
9 lands,” and all that follows and inserting “Mariana
10 Islands.”; and

11 (4) by adding at the end the following:

12 “(18) The term ‘homeless child’ means a child
13 described in section 725(2) of the McKinney-Vento
14 Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a(2)).

15 “(19) The term ‘limited English proficient’,
16 used with respect to a child, means a child—

17 “(A) who is enrolled or preparing to enroll
18 in a Head Start program, Early Head Start
19 program, or other early care and education pro-
20 gram;

21 “(B)(i) who was not born in the United
22 States or whose native language is a language
23 other than English;

24 “(ii)(I) who is a Native American, Alaska
25 Native, or a native resident of a United States
26 territory; and

1 “(II) who comes from an environment
2 where a language other than English has had
3 a significant impact on the child’s level of
4 English language proficiency; or

5 “(iii) who is migratory, whose native lan-
6 guage is a language other than English, and
7 who comes from an environment where a lan-
8 guage other than English is dominant; and

9 “(C) whose difficulty in speaking or under-
10 standing the English language may be sufficient
11 to deny such child—

12 “(i) the ability to successfully achieve
13 in a classroom in which the language of in-
14 struction is English; or

15 “(ii) the opportunity to participate
16 fully in society.

17 “(20) The term ‘deficiency’ means—

18 “(A) a systemic or substantial failure of an
19 agency in an area of performance that the Sec-
20 retary determines involves—

21 “(i) a threat to the health, safety, or
22 civil rights of children or staff;

23 “(ii) a denial to parents of the exer-
24 cise of their full roles and responsibilities
25 related to program operations;

1 “(iii) a failure to comply with stand-
2 ards related to early childhood development
3 and health services, family and community
4 partnerships, or program design and man-
5 agement;

6 “(iv) the misuse of funds under this
7 subchapter;

8 “(v) loss of legal status or financial
9 viability, loss of permits, debarment from
10 receiving Federal grants or contracts, or
11 the improper use of Federal funds; or

12 “(vi) failure to meet any other Fed-
13 eral or State requirement that the agency
14 has shown an unwillingness or inability to
15 correct, after notice from the Secretary,
16 within the period specified;

17 “(B) systemic failure of the board of direc-
18 tors of an agency to fully exercise its legal and
19 fiduciary responsibilities;

20 “(C) substantial failure of an agency to
21 meet the administrative requirements of section
22 644(b);

23 “(D) failure of an agency to demonstrate
24 that the agency attempted to meet the coordi-

1 nation and collaboration requirements with enti-
2 ties described in section 640(a)(5)(D)(iii)(I); or

3 “(E) having an unresolved area of non-
4 compliance.

5 “(21) The term ‘unresolved area of noncompli-
6 ance’ means failure to correct a noncompliance item
7 within 120 days, or within such additional time (if
8 any) authorized by the Secretary, after receiving
9 from the Secretary notice of such noncompliance
10 item, pursuant to section 641A(d).”.

11 **SEC. 4. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR HEAD START PRO-**
12 **GRAMS.**

13 Section 638 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9833)
14 is amended by inserting “for a period of 5 years” after
15 “provide financial assistance to such agency”.

16 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

17 Section 639 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9834)
18 is amended to read as follows:

19 **“SEC. 639. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

20 “(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be ap-
21 propriated for carrying out the provisions of this sub-
22 chapter \$7,215,000,000 for fiscal year 2006,
23 \$7,515,000,000 for fiscal year 2007, \$7,815,000,000 for
24 fiscal year 2008, and such sums as may be necessary for
25 each of fiscal years 2009 and 2010.

1 “(b) SPECIFIC PROGRAMS.—From the amount ap-
2 propriated under subsection (a), the Secretary shall make
3 available to carry out research, demonstration, and evalua-
4 tion activities, including longitudinal studies under section
5 649, not more than \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2006, and
6 such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years
7 2007 through 2010, of which not more than \$7,000,000
8 for each of fiscal years 2006 through 2010 shall be avail-
9 able to carry out impact studies under section 649(g).”.

10 **SEC. 6. ALLOTMENT OF FUNDS.**

11 (a) ALLOTMENT.—Section 640(a) of the Head Start
12 Act (42 U.S.C. 9835(a)) is amended—

13 (1) in paragraph (2)—

14 (A) by striking subparagraph (A) and in-
15 serting the following:

16 “(A) Indian Head Start programs, services for
17 children with disabilities, and migrant and seasonal
18 Head Start programs, except that—

19 “(i) subject to the availability of appropria-
20 tions, the Secretary shall reserve for each fiscal
21 year for use by Indian Head Start and migrant
22 and seasonal Head Start programs (referred to
23 in this subparagraph as ‘covered programs’), on
24 a nationwide basis, a sum that is the total of
25 not less than 4 percent of the amount appro-

1 priedated under section 639 for that fiscal year
2 (for Indian Head Start programs), and not less
3 than 5 percent of that appropriated amount
4 (for migrant and seasonal Head Start pro-
5 grams), except that—

6 “(I) if reserving the specified percent-
7 ages for Indian Head Start programs and
8 migrant and seasonal Head Start pro-
9 grams would reduce the number of chil-
10 dren served by Head Start programs, rel-
11 ative to the number of children served on
12 the date of enactment of the Head Start
13 Improvements for School Readiness Act,
14 taking into consideration an appropriate
15 adjustment for inflation, the Secretary
16 shall reserve percentages that approach, as
17 closely as practicable, the specified percent-
18 ages and that do not cause such a reduc-
19 tion; and

20 “(II) notwithstanding any other provi-
21 sion of this subparagraph, the Secretary
22 shall reserve for each fiscal year for use by
23 Indian Head Start programs and by mi-
24 grant and seasonal Head Start programs,
25 on a nationwide basis, not less than the

1 amount that was obligated for use by In-
2 dian Head Start programs and by migrant
3 and seasonal Head Start programs for the
4 previous fiscal year;

5 “(ii) after ensuring that each grant recipi-
6 ent for a covered program has received an
7 amount sufficient to enable the grant recipient
8 to serve the same number of children in Head
9 Start programs as were served by such grant
10 recipient on the date of enactment of the Head
11 Start Improvements for School Readiness Act,
12 taking into consideration an appropriate adjust-
13 ment for inflation, and after allotting the funds
14 reserved under paragraph (3)(A) as specified in
15 paragraph (3)(D), the Secretary shall distribute
16 the remaining funds available under this sub-
17 paragraph for covered programs, by—

18 “(I) distributing 65 percent of the re-
19 mainder by giving priority to grant recipi-
20 ents in the States serving the smallest per-
21 centages of eligible children (as determined
22 by the Secretary); and

23 “(II) distributing 35 percent of the
24 remainder on a competitive basis;”;

1 (B) by striking subparagraph (C) and in-
2 serting the following:

3 “(C) training and technical assistance activities
4 that are sufficient to meet the needs associated with
5 program expansion and to foster program and man-
6 agement improvement activities as described in sec-
7 tion 648, in an amount for each fiscal year that is
8 equal to 2 percent of the amount appropriated under
9 section 639 for such fiscal year, of which—

10 “(i) 50 percent shall be made available to
11 Head Start agencies to use directly, or by es-
12 tablishing local or regional agreements with
13 community experts, colleges and universities, or
14 private consultants, for any of the following
15 training and technical assistance activities, in-
16 cluding—

17 “(I) activities that ensure that Head
18 Start programs meet or exceed the pro-
19 gram performance standards described in
20 section 641A(a)(1);

21 “(II) activities that ensure that Head
22 Start programs have adequate numbers of
23 trained, qualified staff who have skills in
24 working with children and families, includ-
25 ing children and families who are limited

1 English proficient and children with dis-
2 abilities;

3 “(III) activities to pay expenses, in-
4 cluding direct training for expert consult-
5 ants working with any staff, to improve the
6 management and implementation of Head
7 Start services and systems;

8 “(IV) activities that help ensure that
9 Head Start programs have qualified staff
10 who can promote language skills and lit-
11 eracy growth of children and who can pro-
12 vide children with a variety of skills that
13 have been identified as predictive of later
14 reading achievement, school success, and
15 other educational skills described in section
16 641A;

17 “(V) activities to improve staff quali-
18 fications and to assist with the implemen-
19 tation of career development programs and
20 to encourage the staff to continually im-
21 prove their skills and expertise, including
22 developing partnerships with programs
23 that recruit, train, place, and support col-
24 lege students in Head Start centers to de-

1 liver an innovative early learning program
2 to preschool children;

3 “(VI) activities that help local pro-
4 grams ensure that the arrangement, condi-
5 tion, and implementation of the learning
6 environments in Head Start programs are
7 conducive to providing effective program
8 services to children and families;

9 “(VII) activities to provide training
10 necessary to improve the qualifications of
11 Head Start staff and to support staff
12 training, child counseling, health services,
13 and other services necessary to address the
14 needs of children enrolled in Head Start
15 programs, including children from families
16 in crises, children who experience chronic
17 violence or homelessness, and children who
18 experience substance abuse in their fami-
19 lies, and children under 3 years of age,
20 where applicable;

21 “(VIII) activities to provide classes or
22 in-service-type programs to improve or en-
23 hance parenting skills, job skills, adult and
24 family literacy, including financial literacy,

1 or training to become a classroom aide or
2 bus driver in a Head Start program;

3 “(IX) additional activities deemed ap-
4 propriate to the improvement of Head
5 Start agencies’ programs, as determined by
6 the agencies’ technical assistance and
7 training plans; or

8 “(X) any other activities regarding
9 the use of funds as determined by the Sec-
10 retary;

11 “(ii) 50 percent shall be made available to
12 the Secretary to support a regional or State
13 system of early childhood education training
14 and technical assistance, and to assist local pro-
15 grams (including Indian Head Start programs
16 and migrant and seasonal Head Start pro-
17 grams) in meeting the standards described in
18 section 641A(a)(1); and

19 “(iii) not less than \$3,000,000 of the
20 amount in clause (ii) appropriated for such fis-
21 cal year shall be made available to carry out ac-
22 tivities described in section 648(d)(4);”;

23 (C) in subparagraph (D), by striking
24 “agencies;” and inserting “agencies);”; and

1 (D) by adding at the end of the flush mat-
2 ter at the end the following: “The Secretary
3 shall require each Head Start agency to report
4 at the end of each budget year on how funds
5 provided to carry out subparagraph (C)(i) were
6 used.”;

7 (2) in paragraph (3)—

8 (A) in subparagraph (A)(i)(I)—

9 (i) by striking “60 percent of such ex-
10 cess amount for fiscal year 1999” and all
11 that follows through “2002, and”; and

12 (ii) by inserting before the semicolon
13 the following: “, 30 percent of such excess
14 amount for fiscal year 2006, and 40 per-
15 cent of such excess amount for each of fis-
16 cal years 2007 through 2010”;

17 (B) in subparagraph (B)—

18 (i) in clause (i), by striking “perform-
19 ance standards” and all that follows and
20 inserting “standards and measures pursu-
21 ant to section 641A.”;

22 (ii) by striking clause (ii) and insert-
23 ing the following:

24 “(ii) Ensuring that such programs have ade-
25 quate numbers of qualified staff, and that such staff

1 is furnished adequate training, including training to
2 promote the development of language skills,
3 premathematics skills, and prereading in young chil-
4 dren and in working with limited English proficient
5 children, children in foster care, children referred by
6 child welfare services, and children with disabilities,
7 when appropriate.”;

8 (iii) by striking clause (iii) and insert-
9 ing the following:

10 “(iii) Developing and financing the salary scales
11 and benefits standards under section 644(a) and
12 section 653, in order to ensure that salary levels and
13 benefits are adequate to attract and retain qualified
14 staff for such programs.”;

15 (iv) by striking clause (iv) and insert-
16 ing the following:

17 “(iv) Using salary increases to—

18 “(I) assist with the implementation of
19 quality programs and improve staff qualifica-
20 tions;

21 “(II) ensure that staff can promote the
22 language skills and literacy growth of children
23 and can provide children with a variety of skills
24 that have been identified, through scientifically
25 based early reading research, as predictive of

1 later reading achievement, as well as additional
2 skills identified in section 641A(a)(1)(B)(ii);
3 and

4 “(III) encourage the staff to continually
5 improve their skills and expertise by informing
6 the staff of the availability of Federal and State
7 incentive and loan forgiveness programs for
8 professional development.”;

9 (v) in clause (v), by inserting “, in-
10 cluding collaborations to increase program
11 participation by underserved populations of
12 eligible children” before the period; and

13 (vi) by striking clauses (vii) and (viii)
14 and inserting the following:

15 “(vii) Providing assistance to complete postsec-
16 ondary coursework including scholarships or other fi-
17 nancial incentives, such as differential and merit
18 pay, to enable Head Start teachers to improve com-
19 petencies and the resulting child outcomes.

20 “(viii) Promoting the regular attendance and
21 stability of all Head Start children with particular
22 attention to highly mobile children, including chil-
23 dren from migrant and seasonal farmworking fami-
24 lies (where appropriate), homeless children, and chil-
25 dren in foster care.

1 “(ix) Making such other improvements in the
2 quality of such programs as the Secretary may des-
3 ignate.”; and

4 (C) in subparagraph (C)—

5 (i) in clause (i)(I), by striking the last
6 sentence and inserting “Salary increases,
7 in excess of cost-of-living allowances, pro-
8 vided with such funds shall be subject to
9 the specific standards governing salaries
10 and salary increases established pursuant
11 to section 644(a).”;

12 (ii) in clause (ii)—

13 (I) in the matter preceding sub-
14 clause (I), by striking “education per-
15 formance” and inserting “additional
16 educational”;

17 (II) in subclause (I), by inserting
18 “, prereading,” after “language”;

19 (III) by striking subclause (II)
20 and inserting the following:

21 “(II) to help limited English proficient
22 children attain the knowledge, skills, and devel-
23 opment specified in section 641A(a)(1)(B)(ii)
24 and to promote the acquisition of the English
25 language by such children and families;”;

1 (IV) by striking subclause (IV)
2 and inserting the following:

3 “(IV) to provide education and training
4 necessary to improve the qualifications of Head
5 Start staff, particularly assistance to enable
6 more instructors to be fully competent and to
7 meet the degree requirements under section
8 648A(a)(2)(A), and to support staff training,
9 child counseling, and other services necessary to
10 address the challenges of children participating
11 in Head Start programs, including children
12 from immigrant, refugee, and asylee families,
13 children from families in crisis, homeless chil-
14 dren, children in foster care, children referred
15 to Head Start programs by child welfare agen-
16 cies, and children who are exposed to chronic
17 violence or substance abuse.”;

18 (iii) in clause (iii), by inserting “, edu-
19 cational staff who have the qualifications
20 described in section 648A(a),” after
21 “ratio”;

22 (iv) in clause (v), by striking “pro-
23 grams, including” and all that follows and
24 inserting “programs.”;

1 (v) by redesignating clause (vi) as
2 clause (x); and

3 (vi) by inserting after clause (v) the
4 following:

5 “(vi) To conduct outreach to homeless families
6 in an effort to increase the program participation of
7 eligible homeless children.

8 “(vii) To conduct outreach to migrant and sea-
9 sonal farmworking families and families with limited
10 English proficient children.

11 “(viii) To partner with institutions of higher
12 education and nonprofit organizations, including
13 community-based organizations, that recruit, train,
14 place, and support college students to serve as men-
15 tors and reading coaches to preschool children in
16 Head Start programs.

17 “(ix) To upgrade the qualifications and skills of
18 educational personnel to meet the professional
19 standards described in section 648A(a)(1), including
20 certification and licensure as bilingual education
21 teachers and for other educational personnel who
22 serve limited English proficient students.”;

23 (3) in paragraph (4)—

24 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking
25 “1998” and inserting “2005”; and

1 (B) by striking subparagraph (B) and in-
2 serting the following:

3 “(B) any amount available after all allotments
4 are made under subparagraph (A) for such fiscal
5 year shall be distributed as follows:

6 (i) Each State shall receive an amount
7 sufficient to serve the same number of children
8 in Head Start programs in each State as were
9 served on the date of enactment of the Head
10 Start Improvements for School Readiness Act,
11 taking into consideration an appropriate adjust-
12 ment for inflation.

13 (ii) After ensuring that each State has re-
14 ceived the amount described in clause (i) and
15 after allotting the funds reserved under para-
16 graph (3)(A) as specified in paragraph (3)(D),
17 the Secretary shall distribute the remaining bal-
18 ance, by—

19 (I) distributing 65 percent of the
20 balance by giving priority to States serving
21 the smallest percentages of eligible children
22 (as determined by the Secretary); and

23 (II) distributing 35 percent of the
24 balance on a competitive basis.”;

25 (4) in paragraph (5)—

1 (A) by redesignating subparagraphs (E)
2 and (F) as subparagraphs (F) and (G), respec-
3 tively; and

4 (B) by striking subparagraphs (B), (C),
5 and (D) and inserting the following:

6 “(B)(i) From the reserved sums, the Secretary shall
7 award a collaboration grant to each State to facilitate col-
8 laboration between Head Start agencies and entities (in-
9 cluding the State) that carry out other activities designed
10 to benefit low-income families and children from birth to
11 school entry.

12 “(ii) Grants described in clause (i) shall be used to—

13 “(I) encourage Head Start agencies to collabo-
14 rate with entities involved in State and local plan-
15 ning processes to better meet the needs of low-in-
16 come families and children from birth to school
17 entry;

18 “(II) encourage Head Start agencies to coordi-
19 nate activities with the State agency responsible for
20 administering the State program carried out under
21 the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of
22 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858 et seq.) and entities providing
23 resources and referral services in the State to make
24 full-working-day and full calendar year services
25 available to children;

1 “(III) promote alignment of Head Start serv-
2 ices with State early learning and school readiness
3 goals and standards, including the Head Start child
4 outcome framework;

5 “(IV) promote better linkages between Head
6 Start agencies and other child and family agencies,
7 including agencies that provide health, mental
8 health, or family services, or other child or family
9 supportive services; and

10 “(V) carry out the activities of the State Direc-
11 tor of Head Start Collaboration authorized in sub-
12 paragraph (D).

13 “(C) In order to improve coordination and delivery
14 of early education services to children in the State, a State
15 that receives a grant under subparagraph (B) shall—

16 “(i) appoint an individual to serve as the State
17 Director of Head Start Collaboration;

18 “(ii) ensure that the State Director of Head
19 Start Collaboration holds a position with sufficient
20 authority and access to ensure that the collaboration
21 described in subparagraph (B) is effective and in-
22 volves a range of State agencies; and

23 “(iii) involve the State Head Start Association
24 in the selection of the Director and involve the Asso-

1 ciation in determinations relating to the ongoing di-
2 rection of the collaboration office.

3 “(D) The State Director of Head Start Collaboration,
4 after consultation with the State Advisory Council de-
5 scribed in subparagraph (E), shall—

6 “(i) not later than 1 year after the date of en-
7 actment of the Head Start Improvements for School
8 Readiness Act, conduct an assessment that—

9 “(I) addresses the needs of Head Start
10 agencies in the State with respect to collabo-
11 rating, coordinating services, and implementing
12 State early learning and school readiness goals
13 and standards to better serve children enrolled
14 in Head Start programs in the State;

15 “(II) shall be updated on an annual basis;
16 and

17 “(III) shall be made available to the gen-
18 eral public within the State;

19 “(ii) assess the availability of high quality pre-
20 kindergarten services for low-income children in the
21 State;

22 “(iii) develop a strategic plan that is based on
23 the assessment described in clause (i) that will—

24 “(I) enhance collaboration and coordina-
25 tion of Head Start services with other entities

1 providing early childhood programs and services
2 (such as child care and services offered by mu-
3 seums), health care, mental health care, wel-
4 fare, child protective services, education and
5 community service activities, family literacy
6 services, reading readiness programs (including
7 such programs offered by public and school li-
8 braries), services relating to children with dis-
9 abilities, other early childhood programs and
10 services for limited English proficient children
11 and homeless children, and services provided for
12 children in foster care and children referred to
13 Head Start programs by child welfare agencies,
14 including agencies and State officials respon-
15 sible for such services;

16 “(II) assist Head Start agencies to develop
17 a plan for the provision of full-working-day, full
18 calendar year services for children enrolled in
19 Head Start programs who need such care;

20 “(III) assist Head Start agencies to align
21 services with State early learning and school
22 readiness goals and standards and to facilitate
23 collaborative efforts to develop local school
24 readiness standards; and

1 “(IV) enable agencies in the State to bet-
2 ter coordinate professional development oppor-
3 tunities for Head Start staff, such as by—

4 “(aa) assisting 2- and 4-year public
5 and private institutions of higher education
6 to develop articulation agreements;

7 “(bb) awarding grants to institutions
8 of higher education to develop model early
9 childhood education programs, including
10 practica or internships for students to
11 spend time in a Head Start or prekindergarten
12 program;

13 “(cc) working with local Head Start
14 agencies to meet the degree requirements
15 described in section 648A(a)(2)(A), includ-
16 ing providing distance learning opportuni-
17 ties for Head Start staff, where needed to
18 make higher education more accessible to
19 Head Start staff; and

20 “(dd) enabling the State Head Start
21 agencies to better coordinate outreach to
22 eligible families;

23 “(iv) promote partnerships between Head Start
24 agencies, State governments, and the private sector
25 to help ensure that preschool children from low-in-

1 come families are receiving comprehensive services to
2 prepare the children to enter school ready to learn;

3 “(v) consult with the chief State school officer,
4 local educational agencies, and providers of early
5 childhood education and care to conduct unified
6 planning regarding early care and education services
7 at both the State and local levels, including under-
8 taking collaborative efforts to develop and make im-
9 provements in school readiness standards;

10 “(vi) promote partnerships (such as the part-
11 nerships involved with the Free to Grow initiative)
12 between Head Start agencies, schools, law enforce-
13 ment, and substance abuse and mental health treat-
14 ment agencies to strengthen family and community
15 environments and to reduce the impact on child de-
16 velopment of substance abuse, child abuse, domestic
17 violence, and other high risk behaviors that com-
18 promise healthy development;

19 “(vii) promote partnerships between Head Start
20 agencies and other organizations in order to enhance
21 the Head Start curriculum, including partnerships
22 to promote inclusion of more books in Head Start
23 classrooms and partnerships to promote coordination
24 of activities with the Ready-to-Learn Television pro-
25 gram carried out under subpart 3 of part D of title

1 II of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act
2 of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6775 et seq.); and

3 “(viii) identify other resources and organiza-
4 tions (both public and private) for the provision of
5 in-kind services to Head Start agencies in the State.

6 “(E)(i) The Governor of the State shall designate or
7 establish a council to serve as the State advisory council
8 on collaboration on early care and education activities for
9 children from birth to school entry (in this subchapter re-
10 ferred to as the ‘State Advisory Council’).

11 “(ii) The Governor may designate an existing entity
12 to serve as the State Advisory Council, if the entity in-
13 cludes representatives described in subclauses (I) through
14 (XXIV) of clause (iii).

15 “(iii) Members of the State Advisory Council shall in-
16 clude, to the maximum extent possible—

17 “(I) the State Director of Head Start Collabo-
18 ration;

19 “(II) a representative of the appropriate re-
20 gional office of the Administration for Children and
21 Families;

22 “(III) a representative of the State educational
23 agency and local educational agencies;

24 “(IV) a representative of institutions of higher
25 education;

1 “(V) a representative (or representatives) of the
2 State agency (or agencies) responsible for health or
3 mental health care;

4 “(VI) a representative of the State agency re-
5 sponsible for teacher professional standards, certifi-
6 cation, and licensing, including prekindergarten
7 teacher professional standards, certification stand-
8 ards, certification, and licensing, where applicable;

9 “(VII) a representative of the State agency re-
10 sponsible for child care;

11 “(VIII) early childhood education professionals,
12 including professionals with expertise in second lan-
13 guage acquisition and instructional strategies in
14 teaching limited English proficient children;

15 “(IX) kindergarten teachers and teachers in
16 grades 1 through 3;

17 “(X) health care professionals;

18 “(XI) child development specialists, including
19 specialists in prenatal, infant, and toddler develop-
20 ment;

21 “(XII) a representative of the State agency re-
22 sponsible for assisting children with developmental
23 disabilities;

24 “(XIII) a representative of the State agency re-
25 sponsible for programs under part C of the Individ-

1 uals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C.
2 1431 et seq.);

3 “(XIV) a representative of the State inter-
4 agency coordinating councils established under sec-
5 tion 641 of the Individuals with Disabilities Edu-
6 cation Act (20 U.S.C. 1441);

7 “(XV) a representative of the State Head Start
8 Association (where appropriate), and other rep-
9 resentatives of Head Start programs in the State;

10 “(XVI) a representative of the State network of
11 child care resource and referral agencies;

12 “(XVII) a representative of community-based
13 organizations;

14 “(XVIII) a representative of State and local
15 providers of early childhood education and child
16 care;

17 “(XIX) a representative of migrant and sea-
18 sonal Head Start programs and Indian Head Start
19 programs (where appropriate);

20 “(XX) parents;

21 “(XXI) religious and business leaders;

22 “(XXII) the head of the State library adminis-
23 trative agency;

24 “(XXIII) representatives of State and local or-
25 ganizations and other entities providing professional

1 development to early care and education providers;
2 and

3 “(XXIV) a representative of other entities de-
4 termined to be relevant by the chief executive officer
5 of the State.

6 “(iv)(I) The State Advisory Council shall be respon-
7 sible for, in addition to responsibilities assigned to the
8 council by the chief executive officer of the State—

9 “(aa) conducting a periodic statewide needs as-
10 sessment concerning early care and education pro-
11 grams for children from birth to school entry;

12 “(bb) identifying barriers to, and opportunities
13 for, collaboration and coordination between entities
14 carrying out Federal and State child development,
15 child care, and early childhood education programs;

16 “(cc) developing recommendations regarding
17 means of establishing a unified data collection sys-
18 tem for early care and education programs through-
19 out the State;

20 “(dd) developing a statewide professional devel-
21 opment and career ladder plan for early care and
22 education in the State; and

23 “(ee) reviewing and approving the strategic
24 plan, regarding collaborating and coordinating serv-
25 ices to better serve children enrolled in Head Start

1 programs, developed by the State Director of Head
2 Start Collaboration under subparagraph (D)(iii).

3 “(II) The State Advisory Council shall hold public
4 hearings and provide an opportunity for public comment
5 on the needs assessment and recommendations described
6 in subclause (I). The State Advisory Council shall submit
7 a statewide strategic report containing the needs assess-
8 ment and recommendations described in subclause (I) to
9 the State Director of Head Start Collaboration and the
10 chief executive officer of the State.

11 “(III) After submission of a statewide strategic re-
12 port under subclause (II), the State Advisory Council shall
13 meet periodically to review any implementation of the rec-
14 ommendations in such report and any changes in State
15 and local needs.”; and

16 (5) in paragraph (6)—

17 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “7.5
18 percent” and all that follows and inserting “11
19 percent for fiscal year 2006, 13 percent for fis-
20 cal year 2007, 15 percent for fiscal year 2008,
21 17 percent for fiscal year 2009, and 18 percent
22 for fiscal year 2010, of the amount appro-
23 priated pursuant to section 639(a).”;

24 (B) by striking subparagraph (B);

1 (C) in subparagraph (C)(i), by striking
2 “required to be”; and

3 (D) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as
4 subparagraph (B).

5 (b) SERVICE DELIVERY MODELS.—Section 640(f) of
6 the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9835(f)) is amended by
7 striking “needs.” and inserting “needs, including—

8 “(1) models that leverage the capacity and ca-
9 pabilities of the delivery system of early childhood
10 education and child care; and

11 “(2) procedures to provide for the conversion of
12 part-day programs to full-day programs or part-day
13 slots to full-day slots.”.

14 (c) ADDITIONAL FUNDS.—Section 640(g)(2) of the
15 Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9835(g)(2)) is amended—

16 (1) by striking subparagraph (C) and inserting
17 the following:

18 “(C) the extent to which the applicant has un-
19 dertaken communitywide strategic planning and
20 needs assessments involving other community orga-
21 nizations and Federal, State, and local public agen-
22 cies serving children and families (including organi-
23 zations and agencies providing family support serv-
24 ices and protective services to children and families
25 and organizations serving families in whose homes

1 English is not the language customarily spoken),
2 and individuals, organizations, and public entities
3 serving children with disabilities, children in foster
4 care, and homeless children including the local edu-
5 cational agency liaison designated under section
6 722(g)(1)(J)(ii) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless
7 Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11432(g)(1)(J)(ii));”;

8 (2) in subparagraph (D), by striking “other
9 local” and inserting “the State and local”;

10 (3) in subparagraph (E), by inserting “would
11 like to participate but” after “community who”;

12 (4) in subparagraph (G), by inserting “leverage
13 the existing delivery systems of such services and”
14 after “manner that will”; and

15 (5) in subparagraph (H), by inserting “, includ-
16 ing the local educational agency liaison designated
17 under section 722(g)(1)(J)(ii) of the McKinney-
18 Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
19 11432(g)(1)(J)(ii)),” after “community involved”.

20 (d) REGULATIONS.—Section 640(i) of the Head Start
21 Act (42 U.S.C. 9835(i)) is amended by inserting “and re-
22 quirements to ensure the appropriate supervision and
23 background checks of individuals with whom the agencies
24 contract to transport those children” before the period.

1 (e) MIGRANT AND SEASONAL HEAD START PRO-
2 GRAMS.—Section 640(l) of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C.
3 9835(l)) is amended by striking paragraph (3) and insert-
4 ing the following:

5 “(3) In carrying out this subchapter, the Secretary
6 shall continue the administrative arrangement at the na-
7 tional or regional level for meeting the needs of Indian
8 children and children of migrant and seasonal farm-
9 workers and shall ensure that appropriate funding is pro-
10 vided to meet such needs, including training and technical
11 assistance and the appointment of a national migrant and
12 seasonal Head Start collaboration director and a national
13 Indian Head Start collaboration director.

14 “(4)(A) For the purposes of paragraph (3), the Sec-
15 retary shall conduct an annual consultation in each af-
16 fected Head Start region, with tribal governments oper-
17 ating Head Start and Early Head Start programs.

18 “(B) The consultations shall be for the purpose of
19 better meeting the needs of American Indian and Alaska
20 Native children and families pertinent to subsections (a),
21 (b), and (c) of section 641, taking into consideration fund-
22 ing allocations, distribution formulas, and other issues af-
23 fecting the delivery of Head Start services within tribal
24 communities.

1 “(C) The Secretary shall publish a notification of the
2 consultations in the Federal Register prior to conducting
3 the consultations.

4 “(D) A detailed report of each consultation shall be
5 prepared and made available, on a timely basis, to all trib-
6 al governments receiving funds under this subchapter.”.

7 (f) HOMELESS CHILDREN.—Section 640 of the Head
8 Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9835) is amended by adding at the
9 end the following:

10 “(m) ENROLLMENT OF HOMELESS CHILDREN.—The
11 Secretary shall issue regulations to remove barriers to the
12 enrollment and participation of homeless children in Head
13 Start programs. Such regulations shall require Head Start
14 agencies to—

15 “(1) implement policies and procedures to en-
16 sure that homeless children are identified and re-
17 ceive appropriate priority for enrollment;

18 “(2) allow homeless children to apply to, enroll
19 in, and attend Head Start programs while required
20 documents, such as proof of residency, proof of im-
21 munization, and other medical records, birth certifi-
22 cates, and other documents, are obtained within a
23 reasonable timeframe (consistent with State law);
24 and

1 “(3) coordinate individual Head Start programs
2 with efforts to implement subtitle B of title VII of
3 the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42
4 U.S.C. 11431 et seq.).

5 “(n) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sub-
6 chapter shall be construed to require a State to establish
7 a program of early education for children in the State,
8 to require any child to participate in a program of early
9 education in order to attend preschool, or to participate
10 in any initial screening prior to participation in such pro-
11 gram, except as provided under section 612(a)(3) of the
12 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C.
13 1412(a)(3)) and consistent with section 614(a)(1)(C) of
14 such Act (20 U.S.C. 1414(a)(1)(C)).

15 “(o) MATERIALS.—All curricula funded under this
16 subchapter shall be scientifically based and age appro-
17 priate. Parents shall have the opportunity to examine any
18 such curricula or instructional materials funded under this
19 subchapter.”.

20 **SEC. 7. DESIGNATION OF HEAD START AGENCIES.**

21 Section 641 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9836)
22 is amended to read as follows:

23 **“SEC. 641. DESIGNATION OF HEAD START AGENCIES.**

24 “(a) DESIGNATION.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized
2 to designate as a Head Start agency any local public
3 or private nonprofit or for-profit agency, within a
4 community, including a community-based organiza-
5 tion that—

6 “(A) has power and authority to carry out
7 the purpose of this subchapter and perform the
8 functions set forth in section 642 within a com-
9 munity; and

10 “(B) is determined to be capable of plan-
11 ning, conducting, administering, and evaluating,
12 either directly or by other arrangements, a
13 Head Start program.

14 “(2) REQUIRED GOALS FOR DESIGNATION.—In
15 order to be designated as a Head Start agency, an
16 entity described in paragraph (1) shall establish pro-
17 gram goals for improving the school readiness of
18 children participating in a program under this sub-
19 chapter, including goals for meeting the performance
20 standards and additional educational standards de-
21 scribed in section 641A and shall establish results-
22 based school readiness goals that are aligned with
23 State early learning standards, if applicable, and re-
24 quirements and expectations for local public schools.

1 “(3) ELIGIBILITY FOR SUBSEQUENT GRANTS.—
2 In order to receive a grant under this subchapter
3 subsequent to the initial grant provided following the
4 date of enactment of the Head Start Improvements
5 for School Readiness Act, an entity described in
6 paragraph (1) shall demonstrate that the entity has
7 met or is making progress toward meeting the goals
8 described in paragraph (2).

9 “(4) GOVERNING BODY.—

10 “(A) IN GENERAL.—

11 “(i) ENSURING HIGH QUALITY PRO-
12 GRAMS.—In order to be designated as a
13 Head Start agency, an entity described in
14 paragraph (1) shall have a governing
15 body—

16 “(I) with legal and fiscal respon-
17 sibility for administering and over-
18 seeing programs under this sub-
19 chapter; and

20 “(II) that fully participates in
21 the development, planning, implemen-
22 tation, and evaluation of the programs
23 to ensure the operation of programs
24 of high quality.

1 “(ii) ENSURING COMPLIANCE WITH
2 LAWS.—The governing body shall be re-
3 sponsible for ensuring compliance with
4 Federal laws and regulations, including the
5 performance standards described in section
6 641A, as well as applicable State, Tribal,
7 and local laws and regulations, including
8 laws defining the nature and operations of
9 the governing body.

10 “(B) COMPOSITION OF GOVERNING
11 BODY.—

12 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The governing
13 body shall be composed as follows:

14 “(I) Not less than 1 member of
15 the governing body shall have a back-
16 ground in fiscal management.

17 “(II) Not less than 1 member of
18 the governing body shall have a back-
19 ground in early childhood develop-
20 ment.

21 “(III) Not less than 1 member of
22 the governing body shall live in the
23 local community to be served by the
24 entity.

1 “(ii) CONFLICT OF INTEREST.—Mem-
2 bers of the governing body shall—

3 “(I) not have a conflict of inter-
4 est with the Head Start agency or del-
5 egate agencies; and

6 “(II) not receive compensation
7 for service to the Head Start agency.

8 “(C) RESPONSIBILITIES.—

9 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The governing
10 body shall be responsible, in consultation
11 with the policy council or the policy com-
12 mittee of the Head Start agency, for—

13 “(I) the selection of delegate
14 agencies and such agencies’ service
15 areas;

16 “(II) establishing criteria for de-
17 fining recruitment, selection, and en-
18 rollment priorities;

19 “(III) all funding applications
20 and amendments to funding applica-
21 tions for programs under this sub-
22 chapter;

23 “(IV) the annual self-assessment
24 of the Head Start agency or delegate
25 agency’s progress in carrying out the

1 programmatic and fiscal intent of
2 such agency's grant application, in-
3 cluding planning or other actions that
4 may result from the review of the an-
5 nual audit, self-assessment, and find-
6 ings from the Federal monitoring re-
7 view;

8 “(V) the composition of the pol-
9 icy council or the policy committee of
10 the Head Start agency and the proce-
11 dures by which group members are
12 chosen;

13 “(VI) audits, accounting, and re-
14 porting;

15 “(VII) personnel policies and
16 procedures including decisions with
17 regard to salary scales (and changes
18 made to the scale), salaries of the Ex-
19 ecutive Director, Head Start Director,
20 the Director of Human Resources,
21 and the Chief Fiscal Officer, and deci-
22 sions to hire and terminate program
23 staff; and

1 “(VIII) the community assess-
2 ment, including any updates to such
3 assessment.

4 “(ii) CONDUCT OF RESPONSIBIL-
5 ITIES.—The governing body shall develop
6 an internal control structure to facilitate
7 these responsibilities in order to—

8 “(I) safeguard Federal funds;

9 “(II) comply with laws and regu-
10 lations that have an impact on finan-
11 cial statements;

12 “(III) detect or prevent non-
13 compliance with this subchapter; and

14 “(IV) receive audit reports and
15 direct and monitor staff implementa-
16 tion of corrective actions.

17 “(D) RECEIPT OF INFORMATION.—To fa-
18 cilitate oversight and Head Start agency ac-
19 countability, the governing body shall receive
20 regular and accurate information about pro-
21 gram planning, policies, and Head Start agency
22 operations, including—

23 “(i) monthly financial statements (in-
24 cluding detailed credit card account ex-
25 penditures for any employee with a Head

1 Start agency credit card or who seeks re-
2 imbursement for charged expenses);

3 “(ii) monthly program information
4 summaries;

5 “(iii) program enrollment reports, in-
6 cluding attendance reports for children
7 whose care is partially subsidized by an-
8 other public agency;

9 “(iv) monthly report of meals and
10 snacks through programs of the Depart-
11 ment of Agriculture;

12 “(v) the annual financial audit;

13 “(vi) the annual self-assessment, in-
14 cluding any findings related to the annual
15 self-assessment;

16 “(vii) the community assessment of
17 the Head Start agency’s service area and
18 any applicable updates; and

19 “(viii) the program information re-
20 ports.

21 “(E) TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSIST-
22 ANCE.—Appropriate training and technical as-
23 sistance shall be provided to the members of the
24 governing body to ensure that the members un-
25 derstand the information the members receive

1 and can effectively oversee and participate in
2 the programs of the Head Start agency.

3 “(b) COMMUNITIES.—For purposes of this sub-
4 chapter, a community may be a city, county, or multicounty
5 or multicounty unit within a State, an Indian reservation
6 (including Indians in any off-reservation area designated
7 by an appropriate tribal government in consultation with
8 the Secretary), or a neighborhood or other area (irrespec-
9 tive of boundaries or political subdivisions) that provides
10 a suitable organizational base and possesses the com-
11 monality of interest needed to operate a Head Start pro-
12 gram.

13 “(c) PRIORITY IN DESIGNATION.—In administering
14 the provisions of this section, the Secretary shall, in con-
15 sultation with the chief executive officer of the State in-
16 volved, give priority in the designation (including redesignig-
17 nation) of Head Start agencies to any high-performing
18 Head Start agency or delegate agency that—

19 “(1) is receiving assistance under this sub-
20 chapter;

21 “(2) meets or exceeds program and financial
22 management requirements or standards described in
23 section 641A(a)(1);

1 “(3) has no unresolved deficiencies and has not
2 had findings of deficiencies during the last triennial
3 review under section 641A(c); and

4 “(4) can demonstrate, through agreements such
5 as memoranda of understanding, active collaboration
6 with the State or local community in the provision
7 of services for children (such as the provision of ex-
8 tended day services, education, professional develop-
9 ment and training for staff, and other types of coop-
10 erative endeavors).

11 “(d) DESIGNATION WHEN ENTITY HAS PRIORITY.—
12 If no entity in a community is entitled to the priority spec-
13 ified in subsection (c), the Secretary shall, after con-
14 ducting an open competition, designate a Head Start
15 agency from among qualified applicants in such commu-
16 nity.

17 “(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Notwithstanding
18 any other provision of law, under no condition may a non-
19 Indian Head Start agency receive a grant to carry out an
20 Indian Head Start program.

21 “(f) EFFECTIVENESS.—In selecting from among
22 qualified applicants for designation as a Head Start agen-
23 cy, the Secretary shall consider the effectiveness of each
24 such applicant to provide Head Start services, based on—

1 “(1) any past performance of such applicant in
2 providing services comparable to Head Start serv-
3 ices, including how effectively such applicant pro-
4 vided such comparable services;

5 “(2) the plan of such applicant to provide com-
6 prehensive health, educational, nutritional, social,
7 and other services needed to aid participating chil-
8 dren in attaining their full potential, and to prepare
9 children to succeed in school;

10 “(3) the capacity of such applicant to serve eli-
11 gible children with programs that use scientifically
12 based research that promote school readiness of chil-
13 dren participating in the program;

14 “(4) the plan of such applicant to meet stand-
15 ards set forth in section 641A(a)(1), with particular
16 attention to the standards set forth in subpara-
17 graphs (A) and (B) of such section;

18 “(5) the plan of such applicant to coordinate
19 the Head Start program the applicant proposes to
20 carry out with other preschool programs, includ-
21 ing—

22 “(A) the Early Reading First and Even
23 Start programs under subparts 2 and 3 of part
24 B of title I of the Elementary and Secondary

1 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6371 et seq.,
2 6381 et seq.);

3 “(B) programs under section 619 and part
4 C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education
5 Act (20 U.S.C. 1419, 1431 et seq.);

6 “(C) State prekindergarten programs;

7 “(D) child care programs;

8 “(E) the educational programs that the
9 children in the Head Start program involved
10 will enter at the age of compulsory school at-
11 tendance; and

12 “(F) reading readiness programs such as
13 those conducted by public and school libraries;

14 “(6) the plan of such applicant to coordinate
15 the Head Start program that the applicant proposes
16 to carry out with public and private entities who are
17 willing to commit resources to assist the Head Start
18 program in meeting its program needs;

19 “(7) the plan of such applicant to collaborate
20 with a local library, where available, that is inter-
21 ested in that collaboration, to—

22 “(A) develop innovative programs to excite
23 children about the world of books, such as pro-
24 grams that involve—

1 “(i) taking children to the library for
2 a story hour;

3 “(ii) promoting the use of library
4 cards;

5 “(iii) developing a lending library or
6 using a mobile library van; and

7 “(iv) providing fresh books in the
8 Head Start classroom on a regular basis;

9 “(B) assist in literacy training for Head
10 Start teachers; and

11 “(C) support parents and other caregivers
12 in literacy efforts;

13 “(8) the plan of such applicant—

14 “(A) to seek the involvement of parents of
15 participating children in activities (at home and
16 in the center involved where practicable) de-
17 signed to help such parents become full part-
18 ners in the education of their children;

19 “(B) to afford such parents the oppor-
20 tunity to participate in the development and
21 overall conduct of the program at the local
22 level, including through providing transpor-
23 tation costs;

24 “(C) to offer (directly or through referral
25 to local entities, such as entities carrying out

1 Even Start programs under subpart 3 of part
2 B of title I of the Elementary and Secondary
3 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6381 et
4 seq.), public and school libraries, and entities
5 carrying out family support programs) to such
6 parents—

7 “(i) family literacy services; and

8 “(ii) parenting skills training;

9 “(D) to offer to parents of participating
10 children substance abuse counseling (either di-
11 rectly or through referral to local entities), in-
12 cluding information on the effect of drug expo-
13 sure on infants and fetal alcohol syndrome;

14 “(E) at the option of such applicant, to
15 offer (directly or through referral to local enti-
16 ties) to such parents—

17 “(i) training in basic child develop-
18 ment (including cognitive development);

19 “(ii) assistance in developing literacy
20 and communication skills;

21 “(iii) opportunities to share experi-
22 ences with other parents (including parent
23 mentor relationships);

24 “(iv) regular in-home visitation; or

1 “(v) any other activity designed to
2 help such parents become full partners in
3 the education of their children;

4 “(F) to provide, with respect to each par-
5 ticipating family, a family needs assessment
6 that includes consultation with such parents
7 about the benefits of parent involvement and
8 about the activities described in subparagraphs
9 (C), (D), and (E) in which such parents may
10 choose to become involved (taking into consider-
11 ation their specific family needs, work sched-
12 ules, and other responsibilities); and

13 “(G) to extend outreach to fathers, in ap-
14 propriate cases, in order to strengthen the role
15 of fathers in families, in the education of their
16 young children, and in the Head Start program,
17 by working directly with fathers and father fig-
18 ures through activities such as—

19 “(i) in appropriate cases, including fa-
20 thers in home visits and providing opportu-
21 nities for direct father-child interactions;
22 and

23 “(ii) targeting increased male partici-
24 pation in the conduct of the program;

1 “(9) the ability of such applicant to carry out
2 the plans described in paragraphs (2), (4), and (5);

3 “(10) other factors related to the requirements
4 of this subchapter;

5 “(11) the plan of such applicant to meet the
6 needs of limited English proficient children and their
7 families, including procedures to identify such chil-
8 dren, plans to provide trained personnel, and plans
9 to provide services to assist the children in making
10 progress toward the acquisition of the English lan-
11 guage;

12 “(12) the plan of such applicant to meet the
13 needs of children with disabilities;

14 “(13) the plan of such applicant who chooses to
15 assist younger siblings of children who will partici-
16 pate in the Head Start program, to obtain health
17 services from other sources;

18 “(14) the plan of such applicant to collaborate
19 with other entities carrying out early childhood edu-
20 cation and child care programs in the community;

21 “(15) the plan of such applicant to meet the
22 needs of homeless children and children in foster
23 care, including the transportation needs of such chil-
24 dren; and

1 “(16) the plan of such applicant to recruit and
2 retain qualified staff.

3 “(g) INTERIM BASIS.—If there is not a qualified ap-
4 plicant in a community for designation as a Head Start
5 agency, the Secretary shall designate a qualified agency
6 to carry out the Head Start program in the community
7 on an interim basis until a qualified applicant from the
8 community is so designated.

9 “(h) INVOLVEMENT OF PARENTS AND AREA RESI-
10 DENTS.—The Secretary shall continue the practice of in-
11 volving parents and area residents who are affected by
12 programs under this subchapter in the selection of quali-
13 fied applicants for designation as Head Start agencies.

14 “(i) PRIORITY.—In selecting from among qualified
15 applicants for designation as a Head Start agency, the
16 Secretary shall give priority to applicants that have dem-
17 onstrated capacity in providing effective, comprehensive,
18 and well-coordinated early childhood services to children
19 and their families.”.

20 **SEC. 8. QUALITY STANDARDS; MONITORING OF HEAD**
21 **START AGENCIES AND PROGRAMS.**

22 Section 641A of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C.
23 9836a) is amended—

24 (1) in subsection (a)—

1 (A) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking
2 “642(d)” and inserting “642(c)”;

3 (B) in paragraph (1)(B)—

4 (i) in clause (i), by striking “edu-
5 cation performance standards” and insert-
6 ing “educational performance standards”;
7 and

8 (ii) by striking clause (ii) and insert-
9 ing the following:

10 “(ii) additional educational standards
11 based on the recommendations of the National
12 Academy of Sciences panel described in section
13 649(h) and other experts in the field, to ensure
14 that the curriculum involved addresses, and
15 that the children participating in the program
16 show appropriate progress toward developing
17 and applying, the recommended educational
18 outcomes, after the panel considers the appro-
19 priateness of additional educational standards
20 relating to—

21 “(I) language skills related to listen-
22 ing, understanding, speaking, and commu-
23 nicating, including—

24 “(aa) understanding and use of a
25 diverse vocabulary (including knowing

1 the names of colors) and knowledge of
2 how to use oral language to commu-
3 nicate for various purposes;

4 “(bb) narrative abilities used, for
5 example, to comprehend, tell, and re-
6 spond to a story, or to comprehend in-
7 structions;

8 “(cc) ability to detect and
9 produce sounds of the language the
10 child speaks or is learning; and

11 “(dd) clarity of pronunciation
12 and speaking in syntactically and
13 grammatically correct sentences;

14 “(II) prereading knowledge and skills,
15 including—

16 “(aa) alphabet knowledge includ-
17 ing knowing the letter names and as-
18 sociating letters with their shapes and
19 sounds in the language the child
20 speaks or is learning;

21 “(bb) phonological awareness and
22 processes that support reading, for ex-
23 ample, rhyming, recognizing speech
24 sounds and separate syllables in spo-

1 ken words, and putting speech sounds
2 together to make words;

3 “(cc) knowledge, interest in, and
4 appreciation of books, reading, and
5 writing (either alone or with others),
6 and knowledge that books have parts
7 such as the front, back, and title
8 page;

9 “(dd) early writing, including the
10 ability to write one’s own name and
11 other words and phrases; and

12 “(ee) print awareness and con-
13 cepts, including recognizing different
14 forms of print and understanding the
15 association between spoken and writ-
16 ten words;

17 “(III) premathematics knowledge and
18 skills, including—

19 “(aa) number recognition;

20 “(bb) use of early number con-
21 cepts and operations, including count-
22 ing, simple adding and subtracting,
23 and knowledge of quantitative rela-
24 tionships, such as part versus whole
25 and comparison of numbers of objects;

1 “(cc) use of early space and loca-
2 tion concepts, including recognizing
3 shapes, classification, striation, and
4 understanding directionality; and

5 “(dd) early pattern skills and
6 measurement, including recognizing
7 and extending simple patterns and
8 measuring length, weight, and time;

9 “(IV) scientific abilities, including—

10 “(aa) building awareness about
11 scientific skills and methods, such as
12 gathering, describing, and recording
13 information, making observations, and
14 making explanations and predictions;
15 and

16 “(bb) expanding scientific knowl-
17 edge of the environment, time, tem-
18 perature, and cause-and-effect rela-
19 tionships;

20 “(V) general cognitive abilities related
21 to academic achievement and child develop-
22 ment, including—

23 “(aa) reasoning, planning, and
24 problem-solving skills;

1 “(bb) ability to engage, sustain
2 attention, and persist on challenging
3 tasks;

4 “(cc) intellectual curiosity, initia-
5 tive, and task engagement; and

6 “(dd) motivation to achieve and
7 master concepts and skills;

8 “(VI) social and emotional develop-
9 ment related to early learning and school
10 success, including developing—

11 “(aa) the ability to develop social
12 relationships, demonstrate cooperative
13 behaviors, and relate to teachers and
14 peers in positive and respectful ways;

15 “(bb) an understanding of the
16 consequences of actions, following
17 rules, and appropriately expressing
18 feelings;

19 “(cc) a sense of self, such as self-
20 awareness, independence, and con-
21 fidence;

22 “(dd) the ability to control nega-
23 tive behaviors with teachers and peers
24 that include impulsiveness, aggression,
25 and noncompliance; and

1 “(ee) knowledge of civic society
2 and surrounding communities;

3 “(VII) physical development, including
4 developing—

5 “(aa) fine motor skills, such as
6 strength, manual dexterity, and hand-
7 eye coordination; and

8 “(bb) gross motor skills, such as
9 balance and coordinated movements;
10 and

11 “(VIII) in the case of limited English
12 proficient children, progress toward acqui-
13 sition of the English language while mak-
14 ing meaningful progress in attaining the
15 knowledge, skills, abilities, and develop-
16 ment described in subclauses (I) through
17 (VII);”;

18 (C) in paragraph (1)(D), by striking
19 “projects; and” and inserting “projects, includ-
20 ing regulations that require that the facilities
21 used by Head Start agencies (including Early
22 Head Start agencies) and delegate agencies for
23 regularly scheduled center-based and combina-
24 tion program option classroom activities—

1 “(i) shall be in compliance with State
2 and local requirements concerning licensing
3 for such facilities; and

4 “(ii) shall be accessible by State and
5 local authorities for purposes of monitoring
6 and ensuring compliance.”;

7 (D) in paragraph (2)—

8 (i) in subparagraph (B)—

9 (I) in clause (i), by striking “the
10 date of enactment of this section” and
11 inserting “the date of enactment of
12 the Head Start Improvements for
13 School Readiness Act”;

14 (II) in clause (ii), by striking
15 “the date of enactment of this Act”
16 and inserting “the date of enactment
17 of the Head Start Improvements for
18 School Readiness Act”;

19 (III) in clause (vi), by striking “;
20 and” and inserting a semicolon;

21 (IV) in clause (vii), by striking
22 “public schools” and inserting “the
23 schools that the children will be at-
24 tending”;

1 (V) by adding at the end the fol-
2 lowing:

3 “(viii) the unique challenges faced by
4 individual programs, including those pro-
5 grams that are seasonal or short term and
6 those programs that serve rural popu-
7 lations; and”;

8 (ii) in subparagraph (C)(ii), by strik-
9 ing “the date of enactment of the Coats
10 Human Services Reauthorization Act of
11 1998” and inserting “the date of enact-
12 ment of the Head Start Improvements for
13 School Readiness Act”; and

14 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
15 lowing:

16 “(D) consult with Indian tribes, American
17 Indian and Alaska Native experts in early child-
18 hood development, linguists, and the National
19 Indian Head Start Directors Association on the
20 review and promulgation of program standards
21 and measures (including standards and meas-
22 ures for language acquisition and school readi-
23 ness).”;

24 (E) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(4) EVALUATIONS AND CORRECTIVE ACTIONS
2 FOR DELEGATE AGENCIES.—

3 “(A) PROCEDURES.—

4 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause
5 (ii), the Head Start agency shall establish
6 procedures relating to its delegate agen-
7 cies, including—

8 “(I) procedures for evaluating
9 delegate agencies;

10 “(II) procedures for defunding
11 delegate agencies; and

12 “(III) procedures for appealing a
13 defunding decision relating to a dele-
14 gate agency.

15 “(ii) TERMINATION.—The Head Start
16 agency may not terminate a delegate agen-
17 cy’s contract or reduce a delegate agency’s
18 service area without showing cause or dem-
19 onstrating the cost-effectiveness of such a
20 decision.

21 “(B) EVALUATIONS.—Each Head Start
22 agency—

23 “(i) shall evaluate its delegate agen-
24 cies using the procedures established pur-

1 suant to this section, including subpara-
2 graph (A); and

3 “(ii) shall inform the delegate agen-
4 cies of the deficiencies identified through
5 the evaluation that shall be corrected.

6 “(C) REMEDIES TO ENSURE CORRECTIVE
7 ACTIONS.—In the event that the Head Start
8 agency identifies a deficiency for a delegate
9 agency through the evaluation, the Head Start
10 agency may—

11 “(i) initiate procedures to terminate
12 the designation of the agency unless the
13 agency corrects the deficiency;

14 “(ii) conduct monthly monitoring vis-
15 its to such delegate agency until all defi-
16 ciencies are corrected or the Head Start
17 agency decides to defund such delegate
18 agency; and

19 “(iii) release funds to such delegate
20 agency only as reimbursements until all de-
21 ficiencies are corrected or the Head Start
22 agency decides to defund such delegate
23 agency.

24 “(D) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing
25 in this paragraph shall be construed to impact

1 or obviate the responsibilities of the Secretary
2 with respect to Head Start agencies or delegate
3 agencies receiving funding under this sub-
4 chapter.”;

5 (2) in subsection (b)—

6 (A) in paragraph (2)—

7 (i) by striking the paragraph heading
8 and inserting the following:

9 “(2) CHARACTERISTICS AND USE OF MEAS-
10 URES.—”;

11 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
12 “, not later than July 1, 1999; and” and
13 inserting a semicolon;

14 (iii) in subparagraph (C), by striking
15 the period and inserting a semicolon;

16 (iv) by striking the flush matter fol-
17 lowing subparagraph (C); and

18 (v) by adding at the end the following:

19 “(D) measure characteristics that are
20 strongly predictive (as determined on a sci-
21 entific basis) of a child’s school readiness and
22 later performance in school;

23 “(E) be appropriate for the population
24 served; and

1 “(F) be reviewed not less than every 4
2 years, based on advances in the science of early
3 childhood development.

4 The performance measures shall include the per-
5 formance standards and additional educational
6 standards described in subparagraphs (A) and (B)
7 of subsection (a)(1).”;

8 (B) in paragraph (3)—

9 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “;
10 and” and inserting a semicolon;

11 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
12 the period and inserting “; and”; and

13 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
14 lowing:

15 “(C) to enable Head Start agencies to indi-
16 vidualize programs of instruction to better meet
17 the needs of the child involved.”;

18 (C) by striking paragraph (4) and insert-
19 ing the following:

20 “(4) RESULTS-BASED OUTCOME MEASURES.—

21 Results-based outcome measures shall be designed
22 for the purpose of promoting the knowledge, skills,
23 abilities, and development, described in subsection
24 (a)(1)(B)(ii), of children participating in Head Start
25 programs that are strongly predictive (as determined

1 on a scientific basis) of a child’s school readiness
2 and later performance in school.”; and

3 (D) by striking paragraph (5) and insert-
4 ing the following:

5 “(5) ADDITIONAL LOCAL RESULTS-BASED EDU-
6 CATIONAL MEASURES AND GOALS.—Head Start
7 agencies may establish and implement additional
8 local results-based educational measures and goals.”;

9 (3) in subsection (c)—

10 (A) in paragraph (1)—

11 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
12 graph (A), by inserting “and Head Start
13 centers” after “Head Start programs”;

14 (ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking
15 “such agency” and inserting “Head Start
16 center”;

17 (iii) by striking subparagraph (C) and
18 inserting the following:

19 “(C) Unannounced site inspections of
20 Head Start centers for health and safety rea-
21 sons, as appropriate.”;

22 (iv) by redesignating subparagraph
23 (D) as subparagraph (E); and

24 (v) by inserting after subparagraph
25 (C) the following:

1 “(D) Notwithstanding subparagraph (C),
2 followup reviews, including—

3 “(i) prompt return visits to agencies,
4 programs, and centers that fail to meet 1
5 or more of the performance measures de-
6 veloped by the Secretary under subsection
7 (b); and

8 “(ii) a review of programs with cita-
9 tions that include findings of deficiencies
10 not later than 6 months after the date of
11 such citation.”; and

12 (B) by striking paragraph (2) and insert-
13 ing the following:

14 “(2) CONDUCT OF REVIEWS.—The Secretary
15 shall ensure that reviews described in paragraph
16 (1)—

17 “(A) that incorporate a monitoring visit,
18 may incorporate the visit without prior notice of
19 the visit to the agency involved or with such
20 limited prior notice as is necessary to ensure
21 the participation of parents and key staff mem-
22 bers;

23 “(B) are conducted by review teams that
24 shall include individuals who are knowledgeable
25 about Head Start and other early childhood

1 education programs and, to the maximum ex-
2 tent practicable, the diverse (including linguistic
3 and cultural) needs of eligible children (includ-
4 ing children with disabilities, homeless children,
5 and children in foster care) and limited English
6 proficient children and their families;

7 “(C) include as part of the reviews of the
8 programs, a review and assessment of program
9 effectiveness, as measured in accordance with
10 the results-based performance measures devel-
11 oped by the Secretary pursuant to subsection
12 (b) and with the standards established pursuant
13 to subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection
14 (a)(1);

15 “(D) seek information from the commu-
16 nities and States where Head Start programs
17 exist about innovative or effective collaborative
18 efforts, barriers to collaboration, and the efforts
19 of the Head Start agencies to collaborate with
20 the entities carrying out early childhood edu-
21 cation and child care programs in the commu-
22 nity;

23 “(E) include as part of the reviews of the
24 programs, a review and assessment of whether
25 the programs are in conformity with the income

1 eligibility requirements under section 645 and
2 regulations promulgated under such section;

3 “(F) include as part of the reviews of the
4 programs, a review and assessment of whether
5 programs have adequately addressed the popu-
6 lation and community needs (including needs of
7 populations of limited English proficient chil-
8 dren and children of migrant and seasonal
9 farmworking families); and

10 “(G) include as part of the reviews of the
11 programs, data from the results of periodic
12 child assessments, and a review and assessment
13 of child outcomes and performance as they re-
14 late to State, local, and agency-determined
15 school readiness goals.”;

16 (4) in subsection (d)(1)—

17 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph
18 (A), by inserting “or fails to address the com-
19 munity needs and strategic plan identified in
20 section 640(g)(2)(C),” after “subsection (b),”;
21 and

22 (B) in subparagraph (A), by inserting
23 “and identify the technical assistance to be pro-
24 vided consistent with paragraph (3)” after “cor-
25 rected”;

1 (5) in subsection (e), by striking the last sen-
2 tence and inserting “The information contained in
3 such report shall be made available to all parents
4 with children receiving assistance under this sub-
5 chapter in an understandable and uniform format,
6 and to the extent practicable, provided in a language
7 that the parents can understand. Such information
8 shall be made widely available through public means
9 such as distribution through public agencies, and, at
10 a minimum, by posting such information on the
11 Internet immediately upon publication.”; and

12 (6) by adding at the end the following:

13 “(f) SELF-ASSESSMENTS.—

14 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not less frequently than
15 once each program year, with the consultation and
16 participation of policy groups and, as appropriate,
17 other community members, each agency receiving
18 funds under this subchapter shall conduct a self-as-
19 sessment of the effectiveness and progress in meet-
20 ing programs goals and objectives and in imple-
21 menting and complying with Head Start program
22 performance standards.

23 “(2) REPORT AND IMPROVEMENT PLANS.—

24 “(A) REPORT.—An agency conducting a
25 self-assessment shall report the findings of the

1 self-assessment to the relevant policy council,
2 policy committee, governing body, and regional
3 office of the Department of Health and Human
4 Services. Each self-assessment shall identify
5 areas of strength and weakness.

6 “(B) IMPROVEMENT PLAN.—The agency
7 shall develop an improvement plan approved by
8 the governing body of the agency to strengthen
9 any areas identified in the self-assessment as
10 weaknesses or in need of improvement.

11 “(3) ONGOING MONITORING.—Each Head Start
12 agency, Early Head Start agency, and delegate
13 agency shall establish and implement procedures for
14 the ongoing monitoring of their Head Start and
15 Early Head Start programs, to ensure that the oper-
16 ations of the programs work toward meeting pro-
17 gram goals and objectives and Head Start perform-
18 ance standards.

19 “(4) TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—
20 Funds may be made available, through section
21 648(d)(13), for training and technical assistance to
22 assist agencies in conducting self-assessments.

23 “(g) REDUCTION OF GRANTS AND REDISTRIBUTION
24 OF FUNDS IN CASES OF UNDER-ENROLLMENT.—

25 “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

1 “(A) ACTUAL ENROLLMENT.—The term
2 ‘actual enrollment’ means, with respect to the
3 program of a Head Start agency, the actual
4 number of children enrolled in such program
5 and reported by the agency (as required in
6 paragraph (2)) in a given month.

7 “(B) BASE GRANT.—The term ‘base grant’
8 means, with respect to a Head Start agency for
9 a fiscal year, that portion of the grant de-
10 rived—

11 “(i) from amounts reserved for use in
12 accordance with section 640(a)(2)(A), for a
13 Head Start agency administering an In-
14 dian Head Start program or migrant and
15 seasonal Head Start program;

16 “(ii) from amounts reserved for pay-
17 ments under section 640(a)(2)(B); or

18 “(iii) from amounts available under
19 section 640(a)(2)(D) or allotted among
20 States under section 640(a)(4).

21 “(C) FUNDED ENROLLMENT.—The term
22 ‘funded enrollment’ means, with respect to the
23 program of a Head Start agency in a fiscal
24 year, the number of children that the agency is
25 funded to serve through a grant for the pro-

1 gram during such fiscal year, as indicated in
2 the grant agreement.

3 “(2) ENROLLMENT REPORTING REQUIREMENT
4 FOR CURRENT FISCAL YEAR.—Each entity carrying
5 out a Head Start program shall report on a monthly
6 basis to the Secretary and the relevant Head Start
7 agency—

8 “(A) the actual enrollment in such pro-
9 gram; and

10 “(B) if such actual enrollment is less than
11 the funded enrollment, any apparent reason for
12 such enrollment shortfall.

13 “(3) SECRETARIAL REVIEW AND PLAN.—The
14 Secretary shall—

15 “(A) on a semiannual basis, determine
16 which Head Start agencies are operating with
17 an actual enrollment that is less than the fund-
18 ed enrollment based on not less than 4 consecu-
19 tive months of data;

20 “(B) for each such Head Start agency op-
21 erating a program with an actual enrollment
22 that is less than 95 percent of its funded enroll-
23 ment, as determined under subparagraph (A),
24 develop, in collaboration with such agency, a

1 plan and timetable for reducing or eliminating
2 under-enrollment taking into consideration—

3 “(i) the quality and extent of the out-
4 reach, recruitment, and community needs
5 assessment conducted by such agency;

6 “(ii) changing demographics, mobility
7 of populations, and the identification of
8 new underserved low-income populations;

9 “(iii) facilities-related issues that may
10 impact enrollment;

11 “(iv) the ability to provide full-day
12 programs, where needed, through Head
13 Start funds or through collaboration with
14 entities carrying out other preschool or
15 child care programs, or programs with
16 other funding sources (where available);

17 “(v) the availability and use by fami-
18 lies of other preschool and child care op-
19 tions (including parental care) in the local
20 catchment area; and

21 “(vi) agency management procedures
22 that may impact enrollment; and

23 “(C) provide timely and ongoing technical
24 assistance to each agency described in subpara-

1 graph (B) for the purpose of implementing the
2 plan described in such subparagraph.

3 “(4) IMPLEMENTATION.—Upon receipt of the
4 technical assistance described in paragraph (3)(C), a
5 Head Start agency shall immediately implement the
6 plan described in paragraph (3)(B).

7 “(5) SECRETARIAL ACTION FOR CONTINUED
8 UNDER-ENROLLMENT.—If, 1 year after the date of
9 implementation of the plan described in paragraph
10 (3)(B), the Head Start agency continues to operate
11 a program at less than full enrollment, the Secretary
12 shall, where determined appropriate, continue to
13 provide technical assistance to such agency.

14 “(6) SECRETARIAL REVIEW AND ADJUSTMENT
15 FOR CHRONIC UNDER-ENROLLMENT.—

16 “(A) IN GENERAL.—If, after receiving
17 technical assistance and developing and imple-
18 menting a plan to the extent described in para-
19 graphs (3), (4), and (5) for 9 months, a Head
20 Start agency is still operating a program with
21 an actual enrollment that is less than 95 per-
22 cent of its funded enrollment, the Secretary
23 may—

24 “(i) designate such agency as chron-
25 ically under-enrolled; and

1 “(ii) recapture, withhold, or reduce
2 the base grant for the program by a per-
3 centage equal to the percentage difference
4 between funded enrollment and actual en-
5 rollment for the program for the most re-
6 cent year in which the agency is deter-
7 mined to be under-enrolled under para-
8 graph (2)(B).

9 “(B) WAIVER OR LIMITATION OF REDUC-
10 TIONS.—If the Secretary, after the implementa-
11 tion of the plan described in paragraph (3)(B),
12 finds that—

13 “(i) the causes of the enrollment
14 shortfall, or a portion of the shortfall, are
15 beyond the agency’s control (such as serv-
16 ing significant numbers of migrant or sea-
17 sonal farmworker, homeless, foster, or
18 other highly mobile children);

19 “(ii) the shortfall can reasonably be
20 expected to be temporary; or

21 “(iii) the number of slots allotted to
22 the agency is small enough that under-en-
23 rollment does not constitute a significant
24 shortfall, the Secretary may, as appro-
25 priate, waive or reduce the percentage re-

1 capturing, withholding, or reduction other-
2 wise required by subparagraph (A).

3 “(C) PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS; EF-
4 FECTIVE DATE.—The actions taken by the Sec-
5 retary under this paragraph with respect to a
6 Head Start agency shall take effect 1 day after
7 the date on which—

8 “(i) the time allowed for appeal under
9 section 646(a) expires without an appeal
10 by the agency; or

11 “(ii) the action is upheld in an admin-
12 istrative hearing under section 646.

13 “(7) REDISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.—

14 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
15 use amounts recovered from a Head Start agen-
16 cy through recapturing, withholding, or reduc-
17 tion under paragraph (6) in a fiscal year—

18 “(i) in the case of a Head Start agen-
19 cy administering an Indian Head Start
20 program or a migrant and seasonal Head
21 Start program, whose base grant is derived
22 from amounts specified in paragraph
23 (1)(C)(i), to redirect funds to 1 or more
24 agencies that—

1 “(I) are administering Head
2 Start programs serving the same spe-
3 cial population; and

4 “(II) demonstrate that the agen-
5 cies will use such redirected funds to
6 increase enrollment in their Head
7 Start programs in such fiscal year; or

8 “(ii) in the case of a Head Start agen-
9 cy in a State, whose base grant is derived
10 from amounts specified in clause (ii) or
11 (iii) of paragraph (1)(C), to redirect funds
12 to 1 or more agencies that—

13 “(I) are administering Head
14 Start programs in the same State;
15 and

16 “(II) make the demonstration de-
17 scribed in clause (i)(II).

18 “(B) SPECIAL RULE.—If there is no agen-
19 cy located in a State that meets the require-
20 ments of subclauses (I) and (II) of subpara-
21 graph (A)(ii), the Secretary shall use amounts
22 described in subparagraph (A) to redirect funds
23 to Head Start agencies located in other States
24 that make the demonstration described in sub-
25 paragraph (A)(i)(II).

1 “(C) ADJUSTMENT TO FUNDED ENROLL-
2 MENT.—The Secretary shall adjust as necessary
3 the requirements relating to funded enrollment
4 indicated in the grant agreement of a Head
5 Start agency receiving redistributed amounts
6 under this paragraph.”.

7 **SEC. 9. CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD.**

8 The Head Start Act is amended by inserting after
9 section 641A (42 U.S.C. 9836a) the following:

10 **“SEC. 641B. CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE IN EARLY CHILD-**
11 **HOOD.**

12 “(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ‘center
13 of excellence’ means a Center of Excellence in Early Child-
14 hood designated under subsection (b).

15 “(b) DESIGNATION AND BONUS GRANTS.—The Sec-
16 retary shall, subject to the availability of funds under this
17 subchapter, including under subsection (f), establish a
18 program under which the Secretary shall—

19 “(1) designate not more than 200 exemplary
20 Head Start agencies (including Early Head Start
21 agencies, Indian Head Start agencies, and migrant
22 and seasonal Head Start agencies) as Centers of Ex-
23 cellence in Early Childhood; and

1 “(2) make bonus grants to the centers of excel-
2 lence to carry out the activities described in sub-
3 section (d).

4 “(c) APPLICATION AND DESIGNATION.—

5 “(1) APPLICATION.—

6 “(A) NOMINATION AND SUBMISSION.—

7 “(i) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to
8 receive a designation as a center of excel-
9 lence under subsection (b), except as pro-
10 vided in clause (ii), a Head Start agency in
11 a State shall be nominated by the Gov-
12 ernor of the State and shall submit an ap-
13 plication to the Secretary at such time, in
14 such manner, and containing such infor-
15 mation as the Secretary may require.

16 “(ii) INDIAN AND MIGRANT AND SEA-
17 SONAL HEAD START PROGRAMS.—In the
18 case of an Indian Head Start agency or a
19 migrant or seasonal Head Start agency, to
20 be eligible to receive a designation as a
21 center of excellence under subsection (b),
22 such an agency shall be nominated by the
23 head of the appropriate regional office of
24 the Department and Health and Human

1 Services and shall submit an application to
2 the Secretary in accordance with clause (i).

3 “(B) CONTENTS.—At a minimum, the ap-
4 plication shall include—

5 “(i) evidence that the Head Start pro-
6 gram carried out by the agency has signifi-
7 cantly improved the school readiness of,
8 and enhanced academic outcomes for, chil-
9 dren who have participated in the program;

10 “(ii) evidence that the program meets
11 or exceeds standards and performance
12 measures described in subsections (a) and
13 (b) of section 641A, as evidenced by suc-
14 cessful completion of programmatic and
15 monitoring reviews, and has no findings of
16 deficiencies with respect to the standards
17 and measures;

18 “(iii) evidence that the program is
19 making progress toward meeting the re-
20 quirements described in section 648A;

21 “(iv) evidence demonstrating the ex-
22 istence of a collaborative partnership
23 among the Head Start agency, the State
24 (or a State agency), and other early care

1 and education providers in the local com-
2 munity involved;

3 “(v) a nomination letter from the
4 Governor, or appropriate regional office,
5 demonstrating the agency’s ability to carry
6 out the coordination, transition, and train-
7 ing services of the program to be carried
8 out under the bonus grant involved, includ-
9 ing coordination of activities with State
10 and local agencies that provide early child-
11 hood services to children and families in
12 the community served by the agency;

13 “(vi) information demonstrating the
14 existence of a local council for excellence in
15 early childhood, which shall include rep-
16 resentatives of all the institutions, agen-
17 cies, and groups involved in the work of
18 the center for, and the local provision of
19 services to, eligible children and other at-
20 risk children, and their families; and

21 “(vii) a description of how the Center,
22 in order to expand accessibility and con-
23 tinuity of quality early care and education,
24 will coordinate the early care and edu-

1 cation activities assisted under this section
2 with—

3 “(I) programs carried out under
4 the Child Care and Development
5 Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.
6 9858 et seq.);

7 “(II) other programs carried out
8 under this subchapter, including the
9 Early Head Start programs carried
10 out under section 645A;

11 “(III)(aa) Early Reading First
12 and Even Start programs carried out
13 under subparts 2 and 3 of part B of
14 title I of the Elementary and Sec-
15 ondary Education Act of 1965 (20
16 U.S.C. 6371 et seq., 6381 et seq.);

17 “(bb) other preschool programs
18 carried out under title I of that Act
19 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.); and

20 “(cc) the Ready-to-Learn Tele-
21 vision program carried out under sub-
22 part 3 of part D of title II of that Act
23 (20 U.S.C. 6775 et seq.);

24 “(IV) programs carried out
25 under part C of the Individuals with

1 Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C.
2 1431 et seq.);

3 “(V) State prekindergarten pro-
4 grams; and

5 “(VI) other early care and edu-
6 cation programs.

7 “(2) SELECTION.—In selecting agencies to des-
8 ignate as centers of excellence under subsection (b),
9 the Secretary shall designate not less than 1 from
10 each of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, an
11 Indian Head Start program, a migrant and seasonal
12 Head Start program, and the Commonwealth of
13 Puerto Rico.

14 “(3) TERM OF DESIGNATION.—

15 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-
16 graph (B), the Secretary shall designate a Head
17 Start agency as a center of excellence for a 5-
18 year term. During the period of that designa-
19 tion, subject to the availability of appropria-
20 tions, the agency shall be eligible to receive a
21 bonus grant under subsection (b).

22 “(B) REVOCATION.—The Secretary may
23 revoke an agency’s designation under subsection
24 (b) if the Secretary determines that the agency
25 is not demonstrating adequate performance or

1 has had findings of deficiencies described in
2 paragraph (1)(B)(ii).

3 “(4) AMOUNT OF BONUS GRANT.—The Sec-
4 retary shall base the amount of funding provided
5 through a bonus grant made under subsection (b) to
6 a center of excellence on the number of children eli-
7 gible for Head Start services in the community in-
8 volved. The Secretary shall, subject to the avail-
9 ability of funding, make such a bonus grant in an
10 amount of not less than \$200,000 per year.

11 “(d) USE OF FUNDS.—

12 “(1) ACTIVITIES.—A center of excellence that
13 receives a bonus grant under subsection (b) may use
14 the funds made available through the bonus grant—

15 “(A) to provide Head Start services to ad-
16 ditional eligible children;

17 “(B) to better meet the needs of working
18 families in the community served by the center
19 by serving more children in existing Early Head
20 Start programs (existing as of the date the cen-
21 ter is designated under this section) or in full-
22 working-day, full calendar year Head Start pro-
23 grams;

24 “(C) to model and disseminate best prac-
25 tices for achieving early academic success, in-

1 including achieving school readiness and devel-
2 oping prereading and premathematics skills for
3 at-risk children and achieving the acquisition of
4 the English language for limited English pro-
5 ficient children, and to provide seamless service
6 delivery for eligible children and their families;

7 “(D) to further coordinate early childhood
8 and social services available in the community
9 served by the center for at-risk children (birth
10 through age 8), their families, and pregnant
11 women;

12 “(E) to provide training and cross training
13 for Head Start teachers and staff, child care
14 providers, public and private preschool and ele-
15 mentary school teachers, and other providers of
16 early childhood services, and training and cross
17 training to develop agency leaders;

18 “(F) to provide effective transitions be-
19 tween Head Start programs and elementary
20 school, to facilitate ongoing communication be-
21 tween Head Start and elementary school teach-
22 ers concerning children receiving Head Start
23 services, and to provide training and technical
24 assistance to providers who are public elemen-
25 tary school teachers and other staff of local

1 educational agencies, child care providers, fam-
2 ily service providers, and other providers of
3 early childhood services, to help the providers
4 described in this subparagraph increase their
5 ability to work with low-income, at-risk children
6 and their families;

7 “(G) to develop or maintain partnerships
8 with institutions of higher education and non-
9 profit organizations, including community-based
10 organizations, that recruit, train, place, and
11 support college students to serve as mentors
12 and reading coaches to preschool children in
13 Head Start programs; and

14 “(H) to carry out other activities deter-
15 mined by the center to improve the overall qual-
16 ity of the Head Start program carried out by
17 the agency and the program carried out under
18 the bonus grant involved.

19 “(2) INVOLVEMENT OF OTHER HEAD START
20 AGENCIES AND PROVIDERS.—A center that receives
21 a bonus grant under subsection (b), in carrying out
22 activities under this subsection, shall work with the
23 center’s delegate agencies, several additional Head
24 Start agencies, and other providers of early child-
25 hood services in the community involved, to encour-

1 age the agencies and providers described in this sen-
2 tence to carry out model programs.

3 “(e) RESEARCH AND REPORTS.—

4 “(1) RESEARCH.—The Secretary shall, subject
5 to the availability of funds to carry out this sub-
6 section, make a grant to an independent organiza-
7 tion to conduct research on the ability of the centers
8 of excellence to improve the school readiness of chil-
9 dren receiving Head Start services, and to positively
10 impact school results in the earliest grades. The or-
11 ganization shall also conduct research to measure
12 the success of the centers of excellence at encour-
13 aging the center’s delegate agencies, additional Head
14 Start agencies, and other providers of early child-
15 hood services in the communities involved to meet
16 measurable improvement goals, particularly in the
17 area of school readiness.

18 “(2) REPORT.—Not later than 48 months after
19 the date of enactment of the Head Start Improve-
20 ments for School Readiness Act, the organization
21 shall prepare and submit to the Secretary and Con-
22 gress a report containing the results of the research
23 described in paragraph (1).

1 “(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
 2 are authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2006 and
 3 each subsequent fiscal year—

4 “(1) \$90,000,000 to make bonus grants to cen-
 5 ters of excellence under subsection (b) to carry out
 6 activities described in subsection (d);

7 “(2) \$2,500,000 to pay for the administrative
 8 costs of the Secretary in carrying out this section,
 9 including the cost of a conference of centers of excel-
 10 lence; and

11 “(3) \$2,000,000 for research activities de-
 12 scribed in subsection (e).”.

13 **SEC. 10. POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF HEAD START AGEN-**
 14 **CIES.**

15 Section 642 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9837)
 16 is amended to read as follows:

17 **“SEC. 642. POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF HEAD START AGEN-**
 18 **CIES.**

19 “(a) IN GENERAL.—In order to be designated as a
 20 Head Start agency under this subchapter, an agency shall
 21 have authority under its charter or applicable law to re-
 22 ceive and administer funds provided under this sub-
 23 chapter, funds and contributions from private or local
 24 public sources that may be used in support of a Head
 25 Start program, and funds provided under any Federal or

1 State assistance program pursuant to which a public or
2 private nonprofit or for-profit agency (as the case may be)
3 organized in accordance with this subchapter, could act
4 as a grantee, contractor, or sponsor of projects appro-
5 priate for inclusion in a Head Start program. Such an
6 agency shall also be empowered to transfer funds so re-
7 ceived, and to delegate powers to other agencies, subject
8 to the powers of its governing board and its overall pro-
9 gram responsibilities. The power to transfer funds and del-
10 egate powers shall include the power to make transfers
11 and delegations covering component projects in all cases
12 in which that power will contribute to efficiency and effec-
13 tiveness or otherwise further program objectives.

14 “(b) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—In order to be
15 designated as a Head Start agency under this subchapter,
16 a Head Start agency shall also—

17 “(1) establish a program with all standards set
18 forth in section 641A(a)(1), with particular atten-
19 tion to the standards set forth in subparagraphs (A)
20 and (B) of such section;

21 “(2) demonstrate the capacity to serve eligible
22 children with scientifically based curricula and other
23 interventions and support services that help promote
24 the school readiness of children participating in the
25 program;

1 “(3) establish effective procedures and provide
2 for the regular assessment of Head Start children,
3 including observational and direct formal assess-
4 ment, where appropriate;

5 “(4) seek the involvement of parents, area resi-
6 dents, and local business in the design and imple-
7 mentation of the program;

8 “(5) provide for the regular participation of
9 parents and area residents in the implementation of
10 the program;

11 “(6) provide technical and other support needed
12 to enable such parents and area residents to secure,
13 on their own behalf, available assistance from public
14 and private sources;

15 “(7) establish effective procedures to facilitate
16 the involvement of parents of participating children
17 in activities designed to help such parents become
18 full partners in the education of their children, and
19 to afford such parents the opportunity to participate
20 in the development and overall conduct of the pro-
21 gram at the local level;

22 “(8) conduct outreach to schools in which Head
23 Start children will enroll, local educational agencies,
24 the local business community, community-based or-
25 ganizations, faith-based organizations, museums,

1 and libraries to generate support and leverage the
2 resources of the entire local community in order to
3 improve school readiness;

4 “(9) offer (directly or through referral to local
5 entities, such as entities carrying out Even Start
6 programs under subpart 3 of part B of title I of the
7 Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965
8 (20 U.S.C. 6381 et seq.)), to parents of partici-
9 pating children, family literacy services, and par-
10 enting skills training;

11 “(10) offer to parents of participating children
12 substance abuse and other counseling (either directly
13 or through referral to local entities), if needed, in-
14 cluding information on the effect of drug exposure
15 on infants and fetal alcohol syndrome;

16 “(11) at the option of such agency, offer (di-
17 rectly or through referral to local entities), to such
18 parents—

19 “(A) training in basic child development
20 (including cognitive development);

21 “(B) assistance in developing literacy and
22 communication skills;

23 “(C) opportunities to share experiences
24 with other parents (including parent mentor re-
25 lationships);

1 “(D) regular in-home visitation; or

2 “(E) any other activity designed to help
3 such parents become full partners in the edu-
4 cation of their children;

5 “(12) provide, with respect to each partici-
6 pating family, a family needs assessment that in-
7 cludes consultation with such parents (including fos-
8 ter parents and grandparents, where applicable)
9 about the benefits of parent involvement and about
10 the activities described in this subsection in which
11 such parents may choose to be involved (taking into
12 consideration their specific family needs, work sched-
13 ules, and other responsibilities);

14 “(13) consider providing services to assist
15 younger siblings of children participating in its Head
16 Start program, to obtain health services from other
17 sources;

18 “(14) perform community outreach to encour-
19 age individuals previously unaffiliated with Head
20 Start programs to participate in its Head Start pro-
21 gram as volunteers;

22 “(15)(A) inform custodial parents in single-par-
23 ent families that participate in programs, activities,
24 or services carried out or provided under this sub-
25 chapter about the availability of child support serv-

1 ices for purposes of establishing paternity and ac-
2 quiring child support; and

3 “(B) refer eligible parents to the child support
4 offices of State and local governments;

5 “(16) provide parents of limited English pro-
6 ficient children outreach and information in an un-
7 derstandable and uniform format and, to the extent
8 practicable, in a language that the parents can un-
9 derstand; and

10 “(17) at the option of such agency, partner
11 with an institution of higher education and a non-
12 profit organization to provide college students with
13 the opportunity to serve as mentors or reading
14 coaches to Head Start participants.

15 “(c) PROGRESS.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each Head Start agency
17 shall take steps to ensure, to the maximum extent
18 possible, that children maintain the developmental
19 and educational gains achieved in Head Start pro-
20 grams and build upon such gains in further school-
21 ing.

22 “(2) COORDINATION.—

23 “(A) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—In
24 communities where both public prekindergarten
25 programs and Head Start programs operate, a

1 Head Start agency shall collaborate and coordi-
2 nate activities with the local educational agency
3 or other public agency responsible for the oper-
4 ation of the prekindergarten program and pro-
5 viders of prekindergarten, including outreach
6 activities to identify eligible children.

7 “(B) ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.—Head Start
8 staff shall, with the permission of the parents
9 of children enrolled in Head Start programs,
10 regularly communicate with the elementary
11 schools such children will be attending to—

12 “(i) share information about such
13 children;

14 “(ii) get advice and support from the
15 teachers in such elementary schools re-
16 garding teaching strategies and options;
17 and

18 “(iii) ensure a smooth transition to el-
19 ementary school for such children.

20 “(C) OTHER PROGRAMS.—The head of
21 each Head Start agency shall coordinate activi-
22 ties and collaborate with the State agency re-
23 sponsible for administering the State program
24 carried out under the Child Care and Develop-
25 ment Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858

1 et seq.), other entities carrying out early child-
2 hood education and development programs, and
3 the agencies responsible for administering sec-
4 tion 106 of the Child Abuse Prevention and
5 Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106a), parts B and
6 E of title IV of the Social Security Act (42
7 U.S.C. 620 et seq. and 670 et seq.), programs
8 under subtitle B of title VII of the McKinney-
9 Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
10 11431 et seq.), Even Start programs under
11 subpart 3 of part B of title I of the Elementary
12 and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
13 U.S.C. 6381 et seq.), and programs under sec-
14 tion 619 and part C of the Individuals with
15 Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1419,
16 1431 et seq.), serving the children and families
17 served by the Head Start agency.

18 “(3) COLLABORATION.—A Head Start agency
19 shall take steps to coordinate activities with the local
20 educational agency serving the community involved
21 and with schools in which children participating in
22 a Head Start program operated by such agency will
23 enroll following such program, including—

24 “(A) collaborating on the shared use of
25 transportation and facilities;

1 “(B) collaborating to reduce the duplica-
2 tion of services while increasing the program
3 participation of underserved populations of eli-
4 gible children; and

5 “(C) exchanging information on the provi-
6 sion of noneducational services to such children.

7 “(4) PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT.—In order to
8 promote the continued involvement of the parents of
9 children that participate in Head Start programs in
10 the education of their children upon transition to
11 school, the Head Start agency shall—

12 “(A) provide training to the parents—

13 “(i) to inform the parents about their
14 rights and responsibilities concerning the
15 education of their children; and

16 “(ii) to enable the parents—

17 “(I) to understand and work with
18 schools in order to communicate with
19 teachers and other school personnel;

20 “(II) to support the schoolwork
21 of their children; and

22 “(III) to participate as appro-
23 priate in decisions relating to the edu-
24 cation of their children; and

1 “(B) take other actions, as appropriate
2 and feasible, to support the active involvement
3 of the parents with schools, school personnel,
4 and school-related organizations.

5 “(d) ASSESSMENT.—Each Head Start agency shall
6 adopt, in consultation with experts in child development
7 and with classroom teachers, an assessment to be used
8 when hiring or evaluating any classroom teacher in a cen-
9 ter-based Head Start program. Such assessment shall
10 measure whether such teacher has mastered the functions
11 described in section 648A(a)(1) and attained a level of lit-
12 eracy appropriate to implement Head Start curricula.

13 “(e) FUNDED ENROLLMENT; WAITING LIST.—Each
14 Head Start agency shall enroll 100 percent of its funded
15 enrollment and maintain an active waiting list at all times
16 with ongoing outreach to the community and activities to
17 identify underserved populations.

18 “(f) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING
19 PLAN.—In order to receive funds under this subchapter,
20 a Head Start agency shall develop an annual technical as-
21 sistance and training plan. Such plan shall be based on
22 the agency’s self-assessment, the community needs assess-
23 ment, and the needs of parents to be served by such agen-
24 cy.”.

1 **SEC. 11. HEAD START TRANSITION.**

2 Section 642A of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C.
3 9837a) is amended to read as follows:

4 **“SEC. 642A. HEAD START TRANSITION AND ALIGNMENT**
5 **WITH K-12 EDUCATION.**

6 “Each Head Start agency shall take steps to coordi-
7 nate activities with the local educational agency serving
8 the community involved and with schools in which children
9 participating in a Head Start program operated by such
10 agency will enroll following such program, including—

11 “(1) developing and implementing a systematic
12 procedure for transferring, with parental consent,
13 Head Start program records for each participating
14 child to the school in which such child will enroll;

15 “(2) establishing ongoing channels of commu-
16 nication between Head Start staff and their counter-
17 parts in the schools (including teachers, social work-
18 ers, health staff, and local educational agency liai-
19 sons designated under section 722(g)(1)(J)(ii) of the
20 McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42
21 U.S.C. 11432(g)(1)(J)(ii))) to facilitate coordination
22 of programs;

23 “(3) developing continuity of developmentally
24 appropriate curricula and practice between the Head
25 Start agency and local educational agency to ensure
26 an effective transition and appropriate shared expect-

1 tations for children’s learning and development as
2 the children make the transition to school;

3 “(4) conducting meetings involving parents,
4 kindergarten or elementary school teachers, and
5 Head Start teachers to discuss the educational, de-
6 velopmental, and other needs of individual children;

7 “(5) organizing and participating in joint train-
8 ing, including transition-related training of school
9 staff and Head Start staff;

10 “(6) developing and implementing a family out-
11 reach and support program, in cooperation with en-
12 tities carrying out parental involvement efforts
13 under title I of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
14 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.), and
15 family outreach and support efforts under subtitle B
16 of title VII of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assist-
17 ance Act (42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq.), taking into con-
18 sideration the language needs of limited English pro-
19 ficient parents;

20 “(7) assisting families, administrators, and
21 teachers in enhancing educational and developmental
22 continuity and continuity of parental involvement in
23 activities between Head Start services and elemen-
24 tary school classes;

1 “(8) linking the services provided in such Head
2 Start program with the education services, including
3 services relating to language, literacy, and
4 numeracy, provided by such local educational agen-
5 cy;

6 “(9) helping parents understand the importance
7 of parental involvement in a child’s academic success
8 while teaching the parents strategies for maintaining
9 parental involvement as their child moves from the
10 Head Start program to elementary school;

11 “(10) developing and implementing a system to
12 increase program participation of underserved popu-
13 lations of eligible children, including children with
14 disabilities, homeless children, children in foster
15 care, and limited English proficient children; and

16 “(11) coordinating activities and collaborating
17 to ensure that curricula used in the Head Start pro-
18 gram is aligned with State early learning standards
19 with regard to cognitive, social, emotional, and phys-
20 ical competencies that children entering kinder-
21 garten are expected to demonstrate.”.

22 **SEC. 12. SUBMISSION OF PLANS TO GOVERNORS.**

23 Section 643 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9838)
24 is amended—

25 (1) in the first sentence—

1 (A) by inserting “for approval” after “sub-
2 mitted to the chief executive officer of the
3 State”; and

4 (B) by striking “45” and inserting “30”;
5 and

6 (2) in the last sentence, by inserting “to Indian
7 and migrant and seasonal Head Start programs in
8 existence on the date of enactment of the Head
9 Start Improvements for School Readiness Act, or”
10 after “other assistance”.

11 **SEC. 13. PARTICIPATION IN HEAD START PROGRAMS.**

12 Section 645(a) of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C.
13 9840(a)) is amended—

14 (1) in paragraph (1)(A), by inserting “130 per-
15 cent of” after “below”; and

16 (2) by adding at the end the following:

17 “(3)(A) In this paragraph:

18 “(i) The term ‘dependent’ has the meaning
19 given the term in paragraphs (2)(A) and (4)(A)(i) of
20 section 401(a) of title 37, United States Code.

21 “(ii) The terms ‘member’ and ‘uniformed serv-
22 ices’ have the meanings given the terms in para-
23 graphs (23) and (3), respectively, of section 101 of
24 title 37, United States Code.

1 “(B) The following amounts of pay and allowance of
2 a member of the uniformed services shall not be consid-
3 ered to be income for purposes of determining the eligi-
4 bility of a dependent of such member for programs funded
5 under this subchapter:

6 “(i) The amount of any special pay payable
7 under section 310 if title 37, United States Code, re-
8 lating to duty subject to hostile fire or imminent
9 danger.

10 “(ii) The amount of basic allowance payable
11 under section 403 of such title, including any such
12 amount that is provided on behalf of the member for
13 housing that is acquired or constructed under the al-
14 ternative authority for the acquisition and improve-
15 ment of military housing under subchapter IV of
16 chapter 169 of title 10, United States Code, or any
17 other related provision of law.

18 “(4) After demonstrating a need through a commu-
19 nity needs assessment, a Head Start agency may apply
20 to the Secretary to convert part-day sessions, particularly
21 consecutive part-day sessions, into full-day sessions.”.

22 **SEC. 14. EARLY HEAD START PROGRAMS.**

23 Section 645A of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C.
24 9840a) is amended—

1 (1) by striking the section heading and insert-
2 ing the following:

3 **“SEC. 645A. EARLY HEAD START PROGRAMS.”;**

4 (2) in subsection (b)—

5 (A) in paragraph (4), by striking “provide
6 services to parents to support their role as par-
7 ents” and inserting “provide additional services
8 to parents to support their role as parents (in-
9 cluding parenting skills training and training in
10 basic child development)”;

11 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (5), (6),
12 (7), (8), and (9) as paragraphs (6), (7), (10),
13 (11), and (12), respectively;

14 (C) by inserting after paragraph (4) the
15 following:

16 “(5) where appropriate and in conjunction with
17 services provided under this section to the children’s
18 immediate families (or as approved by the Sec-
19 retary), provide home-based services to family child
20 care homes and kin caregivers caring for infants and
21 toddlers who also participate in Early Head Start
22 programs, to provide continuity in supporting the
23 children’s physical, social, emotional, and intellectual
24 development;”;

1 (D) in paragraph (6), as redesignated by
2 subparagraph (B)—

3 (i) by inserting “(including home-
4 based services)” after “with services”; and

5 (ii) by inserting “, and family support
6 services” after “health services”;

7 (E) by inserting after paragraph (7), as re-
8 designated by subparagraph (B), the following:

9 “(8) develop and implement a systematic proce-
10 dure for transitioning children and parents from an
11 Early Head Start program into a Head Start pro-
12 gram or another local early childhood education pro-
13 gram;

14 “(9) establish channels of communication be-
15 tween staff of Early Head Start programs and staff
16 of Head Start programs or other local early child-
17 hood education programs, to facilitate the coordina-
18 tion of programs;” and

19 (F) in paragraph (11), as redesignated by
20 subparagraph (B)—

21 (i) by striking “and providers” and in-
22 serting “, providers”; and

23 (ii) by inserting “, and the agencies
24 responsible for administering section 106
25 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treat-

1 ment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106a) and parts B
2 and E of title IV of the Social Security Act
3 (42 U.S.C. 620 et seq. and 670 et seq.)”
4 after “(20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.)”;

5 (3) in subsection (d)—

6 (A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “, in-
7 cluding tribal governments and entities oper-
8 ating migrant and seasonal Head Start pro-
9 grams” after “subchapter”; and

10 (B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “, in-
11 cluding community-based organizations” after
12 “private entities”;

13 (4) in subsection (g)(2)(B), by striking clause
14 (iv) and inserting the following:

15 “(iv) providing professional develop-
16 ment and personnel enhancement activi-
17 ties, including the provision of funds to re-
18 cipients of grants under subsection (a), re-
19 lating to—

20 “(I) effective methods of con-
21 ducting parent education, home vis-
22 iting, and promoting quality early
23 childhood development;

24 “(II) recruiting and retaining
25 qualified staff; and

1 “(III) increasing program partici-
2 pation for underserved populations of
3 eligible children.”;

4 (5) by adding at the end the following:

5 “(h) STAFF QUALIFICATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT.—

6 “(1) CENTER-BASED STAFF.—The Secretary
7 shall ensure that, not later than September 30,
8 2010, all teachers providing direct services to Early
9 Head Start children and families in Early Head
10 Start centers have a minimum of a child develop-
11 ment associate credential or an associate degree, and
12 have been trained (or have equivalent course work)
13 in early childhood development.

14 “(2) HOME VISITOR STAFF.—

15 “(A) STANDARDS.—In order to further en-
16 hance the quality of home visiting services pro-
17 vided to families of children participating in
18 home-based, center-based, or combination pro-
19 gram options under this subchapter, the Sec-
20 retary shall establish standards for training,
21 qualifications, and the conduct of home visits
22 for home visitor staff in Early Head Start pro-
23 grams.

1 “(B) CONTENTS.—The standards for
2 training, qualifications, and the conduct of
3 home visits shall include content related to—

4 “(i) structured child-focused home vis-
5 iting that promotes parents’ ability to sup-
6 port the child’s cognitive, social, emotional,
7 and physical development;

8 “(ii) effective strengths-based parent
9 education, including methods to encourage
10 parents as their child’s first teachers;

11 “(iii) early childhood development
12 with respect to children from birth through
13 age 3;

14 “(iv) methods to help parents promote
15 emergent literacy in their children from
16 birth through age 3, including use of re-
17 search-based strategies to support the de-
18 velopment of literacy and language skills
19 for children who are limited English pro-
20 ficient;

21 “(v) health, vision, hearing, and devel-
22 opmental screenings;

23 “(vi) strategies for helping families
24 coping with crisis; and

1 “(vii) the relationship of health and
2 well-being of pregnant women to prenatal
3 and early child development.”.

4 **SEC. 15. APPEALS, NOTICE, AND HEARING AND RECORDS**
5 **AND AUDITS.**

6 (a) APPEALS.—Section 646(a) of the Head Start Act
7 (42 U.S.C. 9841(a)) is amended by striking paragraphs
8 (3) and (4) and inserting the following:

9 “(3) financial assistance under this subchapter
10 may be terminated or reduced, and an application
11 for funding may be denied, after the recipient has
12 been afforded reasonable notice and opportunity for
13 a full and fair hearing, including—

14 “(A) a right to file a notice of appeal of a
15 decision within 30 days of notice of the decision
16 from the Secretary; and

17 “(B) access to a full and fair hearing of
18 the appeal, not later than 120 days from receipt
19 by the Secretary of the notice of appeal;

20 “(4) the Secretary shall develop and publish
21 procedures (including mediation procedures) to be
22 used in order to—

23 “(A) resolve in a timely manner conflicts
24 potentially leading to an adverse action be-
25 tween—

1 “(i) recipients of financial assistance
2 under this subchapter; and

3 “(ii) delegate agencies or Head Start
4 Parent Policy Councils;

5 “(B) avoid the need for an administrative
6 hearing on an adverse action; and

7 “(C) prohibit a Head Start agency from
8 expending financial assistance awarded under
9 this subchapter for the purpose of paying legal
10 fees pursuant to an appeal under paragraph
11 (3), except that such fees shall be reimbursed
12 by the Secretary if the agency prevails in such
13 decision; and

14 “(5) the Secretary may suspend funds to a
15 grantee for not more than 30 days.”.

16 (b) RECIPIENTS.—Section 647(a) of the Head Start
17 Act (42 U.S.C. 9842(a)) is amended by striking “Each
18 recipient of” and inserting “Each Head Start agency,
19 Head Start center, or Early Head Start center receiving”.

20 (c) ACCOUNTING.—Section 647 of the Head Start
21 Act (42 U.S.C. 9842) is amended by adding at the end
22 the following:

23 “(c) Each Head Start agency, Head Start center, or
24 Early Head Start center receiving financial assistance
25 under this subchapter shall maintain, and annually submit

1 to the Secretary, a complete accounting of its administra-
2 tive expenses, including expenses for salaries and com-
3 pensation funded under this subchapter and provide such
4 additional documentation as the Secretary may require.”.

5 **SEC. 16. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING.**

6 Section 648 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9843)
7 is amended—

8 (1) in subsection (a)(2), by striking “(b) and
9 (c)” and inserting “(b), (c), and (d)”;

10 (2) by redesignating subsections (b) through (e)
11 as subsections (c) through (f), respectively;

12 (3) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-
13 lowing:

14 “(b) The Secretary shall make available funds set
15 aside in section 640(a)(2)(C)(ii) to support a regional or
16 State system of early childhood education training and
17 technical assistance that improves the capacity of Head
18 Start programs to deliver services in accordance with the
19 standards described in section 641A(a)(1), with particular
20 attention to the standards described in subparagraphs (A)
21 and (B) of such section. The Secretary shall—

22 “(1) ensure that agencies with demonstrated
23 expertise in providing high-quality training and tech-
24 nical assistance to improve the delivery of Head
25 Start services, including the State Head Start Asso-

1 ciations, State agencies, migrant and seasonal Head
2 Start programs, and other entities providing training
3 and technical assistance in early education, for the
4 region or State are included in the planning and co-
5 ordination of the system; and

6 “(2) encourage States to supplement the funds
7 authorized in section 640(a)(2)(C)(ii) with Federal,
8 State, or local funds other than Head Start funds,
9 to expand training and technical assistance activities
10 beyond Head Start agencies to include other pro-
11 viders of other early childhood services within a re-
12 gion or State.”;

13 (4) in subsection (d), as so redesignated—

14 (A) in paragraph (1)(B)(ii), by striking
15 “educational performance measures” and in-
16 serting “measures”;

17 (B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “and
18 for activities described in section 1221(b)(3) of
19 the Elementary and Secondary Education Act
20 of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6371(b)(3))” after “chil-
21 dren with disabilities”;

22 (C) in paragraph (5), by inserting “, in-
23 cluding assessing the needs of homeless children
24 and their families” after “needs assessment”;

1 (D) in paragraph (10), by striking “; and”
2 and inserting a semicolon;

3 (E) in paragraph (11), by striking the pe-
4 riod and inserting a semicolon; and

5 (F) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(12) assist Head Start agencies and programs
7 in increasing the program participation of homeless
8 children;

9 “(13) provide training and technical assistance
10 to members of governing bodies to ensure that the
11 members can fulfill the functions described in sec-
12 tion 641(a)(4);

13 “(14) provide training and technical assistance
14 to Head Start agencies to assist such agencies in
15 conducting self-assessments; and

16 “(15) assist Head Start agencies and Head
17 Start programs in improving outreach to, and qual-
18 ity of services available to, limited English proficient
19 children and their families, including such services
20 to help such families learn English, particularly in
21 communities that have experienced a large percent-
22 age increase in the population of limited English
23 proficient individuals, as measured by the Bureau of
24 the Census.”;

1 (5) in subsection (e), as so redesignated, by in-
2 serting “including community-based organizations,”
3 after “nonprofit entities”;

4 (6) in subsection (f), as so redesignated, by in-
5 serting “or providing services to children determined
6 to be abused or neglected, training for personnel
7 providing services to children referred by entities
8 providing child welfare services or receiving child
9 welfare services,” after “English language,”; and

10 (7) by adding at the end the following:

11 “(g) The Secretary shall provide, either directly or
12 through grants or other arrangements, funds for training
13 of Head Start personnel in addressing the unique needs
14 of migrant and seasonal farmworking families, families
15 with limited English proficiency, and homeless families.

16 “(h) Funds used under this section shall be used to
17 provide high quality, sustained, and intensive, training
18 and technical assistance in order to have a positive and
19 lasting impact on classroom instruction. Funds shall be
20 used to carry out activities related to 1 or more of the
21 following:

22 “(1) Education and early childhood develop-
23 ment.

24 “(2) Child health, nutrition, and safety.

25 “(3) Family and community partnerships.

1 “(4) Other areas that impact the quality or
2 overall effectiveness of Head Start programs.

3 “(i) Funds used under this section for training shall
4 be used for needs identified annually by a grant applicant
5 or delegate agency in its program improvement plan, ex-
6 cept that funds shall not be used for long-distance travel
7 expenses for training activities—

8 “(1) available locally or regionally; or

9 “(2) substantially similar to locally or regionally
10 available training activities.

11 “(j)(1) To support local efforts to enhance early lan-
12 guage and preliteracy development of children in Head
13 Start programs, and to provide the children with high-
14 quality oral language skills, and environments that are
15 rich in literature, in which to acquire language and
16 preliteracy skills, each Head Start agency, in coordination
17 with the appropriate State office and the relevant State
18 Head Start collaboration office, shall ensure that all of
19 the agency’s Head Start teachers receive ongoing training
20 in language and emergent literacy (referred to in this sub-
21 section as ‘literacy training’), including appropriate cur-
22 ricula and assessments to improve instruction and learn-
23 ing. Such training shall include training in methods to
24 promote phonological and phonemic awareness and vocab-

1 ulary development in an age-appropriate and culturally
2 and linguistically appropriate manner.

3 “(2) The literacy training shall be provided at the
4 local level in order—

5 “(A) to be provided, to the extent feasible, in
6 the context of the Head Start programs of the State
7 involved and the children the program serves; and

8 “(B) to be tailored to the early childhood lit-
9 eracy background and experience of the teachers in-
10 volved.

11 “(3) The literacy training shall be culturally and lin-
12 guistically appropriate and support children’s development
13 in their home language.

14 “(4) The literacy training shall include training in
15 how to work with parents to enhance positive language
16 and early literacy development at home.

17 “(5) The literacy training shall include specific meth-
18 ods to best address the needs of children who are English
19 language learners or are limited English proficient.

20 “(6) The literacy training shall include specific meth-
21 ods to best address the needs of children who have speech
22 and language delays, including problems with articulation,
23 or have other disabilities.”.

1 **SEC. 17. STAFF QUALIFICATION AND DEVELOPMENT.**

2 Section 648A of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C.
3 9843a) is amended—

4 (1) in subsection (a)—

5 (A) by striking paragraph (2) and insert-
6 ing the following:

7 “(2) DEGREE REQUIREMENTS.—

8 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
9 ensure that—

10 “(i) not later than September 30,
11 2010, all Head Start teachers in center-
12 based programs have at least—

13 “(I)(aa) an associate degree (or
14 equivalent coursework) relating to
15 early childhood; or

16 “(bb) an associate degree in a re-
17 lated educational area and, to the ex-
18 tent practicable, coursework relating
19 to early childhood; and

20 “(II) demonstrated teaching com-
21 petencies, as determined by the pro-
22 gram director involved (including, at a
23 minimum, an appropriate level of lit-
24 eracy, a demonstrated capacity to be
25 highly engaged with children, and a
26 demonstrated ability to effectively im-

1 plement an early childhood cur-
2 riculum); and

3 “(ii) not later than September 30,
4 2008, all Head Start curriculum specialists
5 and education coordinators in center-based
6 programs have—

7 “(I) the capacity to offer assist-
8 ance to other teachers in the imple-
9 mentation and adaptation of curricula
10 to the group and individual needs of a
11 class; and

12 “(II)(aa) a baccalaureate or ad-
13 vanced degree relating to early child-
14 hood; or

15 “(bb) a baccalaureate or ad-
16 vanced degree and coursework equiva-
17 lent to a major relating to early child-
18 hood;

19 “(iii) not later than September 30,
20 2008, all Head Start teaching assistants in
21 center-based programs have—

22 “(I) at least a child development
23 associate credential;

1 “(II) enrolled in a program lead-
2 ing to an associate or baccalaureate
3 degree; or

4 “(III) enrolled in a child develop-
5 ment associate credential program to
6 be completed within 2 years; and

7 “(iv) not later than September 30,
8 2011—

9 “(I) in States that have estab-
10 lished teacher requirements for State
11 prekindergarten programs, all Head
12 Start teachers in center-based pro-
13 grams—

14 “(aa) if such requirements
15 are not less than those require-
16 ments described in subclause
17 (II), meet such teacher require-
18 ments for State prekindergarten
19 programs; and

20 “(bb) if such requirements
21 are less than those requirements
22 described in subclause (II), meet
23 the requirements described in
24 subclause (II); and

1 “(II) in States that do not have
2 teacher requirements for their State
3 prekindergarten programs, 50 percent
4 of all Head Start teachers in each
5 center-based program have a bacca-
6 laureate degree relating to early child-
7 hood (or a related educational area or
8 a baccalaureate degree that meets
9 State specialized training require-
10 ments for prekindergarten teachers,
11 such as State licensure, endorsement,
12 or certification for prekindergarten or
13 other early childhood area), and dem-
14 onstrated teaching competencies, as
15 determined by the program director
16 involved (including, at a minimum, an
17 appropriate level of literacy, a dem-
18 onstrated capacity to be highly en-
19 gaged with children, and a dem-
20 onstrated ability to effectively imple-
21 ment an early childhood curriculum).

22 “(B) TEACHER IN-SERVICE REQUIRE-
23 MENT.—Each Head Start teacher shall attend
24 an average of not less than 15 clock hours of
25 professional development per year. Such profes-

1 sional development shall be high quality, sus-
2 tained, intensive, and classroom-focused in
3 order to have a positive and lasting impact on
4 classroom instruction and the teacher’s per-
5 formance in the classroom, and regularly evalu-
6 ated for effectiveness.

7 “(C) PROGRESS.—

8 “(i) REPORT.—The Secretary shall—

9 “(I) require Head Start agencies

10 to—

11 “(aa) demonstrate con-
12 tinuing progress each year to
13 reach the result described in sub-
14 paragraph (A); and

15 “(bb) submit to the Sec-
16 retary a report indicating the
17 number and percentage of class-
18 room instructors in center-based
19 programs with child development
20 associate credentials or associate,
21 baccalaureate, or graduate de-
22 grees; and

23 “(II) compile and submit a sum-
24 mary of all program reports described
25 in subclause (I)(bb) to the Committee

1 on Education and the Workforce of
2 the House of Representatives and the
3 Committee on Health, Education,
4 Labor, and Pensions of the Senate.

5 “(ii) DEMONSTRATE PROGRESS.—A
6 Head Start agency may demonstrate
7 progress by partnering with institutions of
8 higher education or other programs that
9 recruit, train, place, and support college
10 students to deliver an innovative early
11 learning program to preschool children.

12 “(D) SERVICE REQUIREMENTS.—The Sec-
13 retary shall establish requirements to ensure
14 that, in order to enable Head Start agencies to
15 comply with the requirements of subparagraph
16 (A), individuals who receive financial assistance
17 under this subchapter to pursue a degree de-
18 scribed in subparagraph (A) shall—

19 “(i) teach or work in a Head Start
20 program for a minimum of 3 years after
21 receiving the degree; or

22 “(ii) repay the total or a prorated
23 amount of the financial assistance received
24 based on the length of service completed
25 after receiving the degree.”; and

1 (B) by striking paragraphs (3) and (4) and
2 inserting the following:

3 “(3) WAIVER.—

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—On request, the Sec-
5 retary may grant a waiver of the postsecondary
6 degree requirements of paragraph (2) for 1 or
7 more Head Start agencies, either individually,
8 statewide, or throughout a region, that can
9 demonstrate—

10 “(i) that continuing aggressive state-
11 wide and national efforts have been unsuc-
12 cessful at recruiting an individual to serve
13 as a Head Start teacher or curriculum spe-
14 cialist or education coordinator who meets
15 the requirements of paragraph (2)(A);

16 “(ii) limited access to degree pro-
17 grams (including quality distance learning
18 programs), due to the remote location of
19 the program involved; or

20 “(iii) that Head Start staff members
21 are, as of the day the waiver is granted,
22 enrolled in a program that—

23 “(I) grants the required degree;
24 and

1 “(II) will be completed within 1
2 year.

3 “(B) LIMITATION.—An agency that re-
4 ceives a waiver under subparagraph (A) shall
5 ensure that Head Start teachers for the agency,
6 as of the day the waiver is granted, who have
7 not met the postsecondary degree requirements
8 of paragraph (2) but are otherwise highly quali-
9 fied and competent shall be directly and appro-
10 priately supervised by a teacher who has met or
11 exceeded the requirements of this subchapter.

12 “(C) DURATION.—The Secretary may not
13 grant a waiver under subparagraph (A) for a
14 period that exceeds 1 year.”;

15 (2) in subsection (c)—

16 (A) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” at
17 the end;

18 (B) in paragraph (3), by striking the pe-
19 riod and inserting “; and”; and

20 (C) by adding at the end the following:

21 “(4) promote the use of appropriate strategies
22 to meet the needs of special populations (including
23 limited English proficient populations).”;

24 (3) in subsection (d)(3)(C) by inserting “, in-
25 cluding a center,” after “any agency”; and

1 (4) by adding at the end the following:

2 “(f) PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS.—Every
3 Head Start agency and center shall create, in consultation
4 with employees of the agency or center (including family
5 service workers), a professional development plan for em-
6 ployees who provide direct services to children, including
7 a plan for classroom teachers, curriculum specialists, and
8 education coordinators to meet the requirements set forth
9 in subsection (a).”.

10 **SEC. 18. TRIBAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES HEAD**
11 **START PARTNERSHIP.**

12 The Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.) is
13 amended by inserting after section 648A the following:

14 **“SEC. 648B. TRIBAL COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY HEAD START**
15 **PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM.**

16 “(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to
17 promote social competencies and school readiness in In-
18 dian children.

19 “(b) TRIBAL COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY HEAD START
20 PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM.—

21 “(1) GRANTS.—The Secretary is authorized to
22 award grants, for periods of not less than 5 years,
23 to Tribal Colleges and Universities to—

24 “(A) implement education programs that
25 include education concerning tribal culture and

1 language and increase the number of associate,
2 baccalaureate, and graduate degrees in early
3 childhood education and related fields that are
4 earned by Indian Head Start agency staff mem-
5 bers, parents of children served by such an
6 agency, and members of the tribal community
7 involved;

8 “(B) develop and implement the programs
9 under subparagraph (A) in technology-mediated
10 formats, including providing the programs
11 through such means as distance learning and
12 use of advanced technology, as appropriate; and

13 “(C) provide technology literacy programs
14 for Indian Head Start agency staff members
15 and children and families of children served by
16 such an agency.

17 “(2) STAFFING.—The Secretary shall ensure
18 that the American Indian Programs Branch of the
19 Head Start Bureau of the Department of Health
20 and Human Services shall have staffing sufficient to
21 administer the programs under this section and to
22 provide appropriate technical assistance to Tribal
23 Colleges and Universities receiving grants under this
24 section.

1 “(c) APPLICATION.—Each Tribal College or Univer-
2 sity desiring a grant under this section shall submit an
3 application to the Secretary, at such time, in such manner,
4 and containing such information as the Secretary may re-
5 quire, including a certification that the Tribal College or
6 University has established a partnership with 1 or more
7 Indian Head Start agencies for the purpose of conducting
8 the activities described in subsection (b).

9 “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
10 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section,
11 \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2006 and such sums as may
12 be necessary for each of fiscal years 2007 through 2010.

13 “(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

14 “(1) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—
15 The term ‘institution of higher education’ has the
16 meaning given such term in section 101(a) of the
17 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

18 “(2) TRIBAL COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.—The
19 term ‘Tribal College or University’—

20 “(A) has the meaning given such term in
21 section 316 of the Higher Education Act of
22 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059c); and

23 “(B) means an institution determined to
24 be accredited or a candidate for accreditation

1 by a nationally recognized accrediting agency or
2 association.”.

3 **SEC. 19. RESEARCH, DEMONSTRATIONS, AND EVALUATION.**

4 Section 649 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9844)
5 is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (a)(1)(B), by inserting “and
7 children determined to be abused or neglected” after
8 “children with disabilities”;

9 (2) in subsection (d)—

10 (A) in paragraph (8), by adding “and”
11 after the semicolon;

12 (B) by striking paragraph (9);

13 (C) by redesignating paragraph (10) as
14 paragraph (9); and

15 (D) by striking the last sentence;

16 (3) in subsection (g)—

17 (A) in paragraph (1)(A)—

18 (i) by striking clause (i); and

19 (ii) by redesignating clauses (ii) and

20 (iii) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively;

21 and

22 (B) in paragraph (7)(C)—

23 (i) in clause (i)(I), by striking “2003”

24 and inserting “2007”; and

1 (ii) in clause (ii), by striking “Labor
2 and Human Resources” and inserting
3 “Health, Education, Labor, and Pen-
4 sions”; and

5 (4) by striking subsection (h) and inserting the
6 following:

7 “(h) NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES STUDY.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall enter
9 into a contract with the Board on Children, Youth,
10 and Families of the National Research Council, the
11 Board on Testing and Assessments, and the Insti-
12 tute of Medicine, of the National Academy of
13 Sciences to establish an independent panel of experts
14 to review and synthesize research and theories in the
15 social, behavioral, and biological sciences regarding
16 early childhood, and make recommendations with re-
17 gard to each of the following:

18 “(A) Age- and developmentally appropriate
19 Head Start academic requirements and out-
20 comes, including the standards described in sec-
21 tion 641A(a)(1)(B)(ii).

22 “(B) Differences in the type, length, mix,
23 and intensity of services that are necessary to
24 ensure that children from challenging family or
25 social backgrounds (including low-income chil-

1 dren, children with disabilities, and limited
2 English proficient children) enter kindergarten
3 ready to succeed.

4 “(C) Appropriate assessments of young
5 children for the purposes of improving instruc-
6 tion, services, and program quality, including—

7 “(i) formal and systematic observa-
8 tional assessments in a child’s natural en-
9 vironment;

10 “(ii) assessments of children’s devel-
11 opment through parent and provider inter-
12 views;

13 “(iii) appropriate accommodations for
14 children with disabilities and limited
15 English proficient children;

16 “(iv) appropriate assessments for chil-
17 dren with disabilities, limited English pro-
18 ficient children, and children from different
19 cultural backgrounds; and

20 “(v) other assessments used in Head
21 Start programs.

22 “(D) Identification of existing, or rec-
23 ommendations for the development of, scientif-
24 ically based, valid and reliable assessments that
25 are capable of measuring child outcomes in the

1 domains important to school readiness, includ-
2 ing language skills, prereading ability,
3 premathematics ability, cognitive ability, sci-
4 entific ability, social and emotional develop-
5 ment, and physical development;

6 “(E) Appropriate use and application of
7 valid and reliable assessments for Head Start
8 programs identified in accordance with subpara-
9 graph (D).

10 “(2) COMPOSITION.—

11 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The panel described
12 in paragraph (1) shall consist of multiple ex-
13 perts in each of the following areas:

14 “(i) Child development (including cog-
15 nitive, social, emotional, and physical de-
16 velopment) and child education (including
17 approaches to learning).

18 “(ii) Professional development, includ-
19 ing preparation of individuals who teach
20 young children.

21 “(iii) Assessment of young children
22 (including children with disabilities and
23 limited English proficient children), includ-
24 ing screening, diagnostic, and classroom-
25 based instructional assessment.

1 “(B) REPRESENTATIVES.—The panel de-
2 scribed in paragraph (1) shall be selected and
3 appointed by the National Academy of Sciences,
4 after consultation with the Secretary of Health
5 and Human Services.

6 “(3) TIMING.—

7 “(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90
8 days after the date of enactment of the Head
9 Start Improvements for School Readiness Act,
10 the Board on Children, Youth, and Families of
11 the National Research Council, the Board on
12 Testing and Assessments, and the Institute of
13 Medicine, of the National Academy of Sciences
14 shall establish the panel described in paragraph
15 (1), including selecting and appointing the
16 members of the panel. Representatives de-
17 scribed in paragraph (2) shall be selected and
18 appointed after consultation with the Secretary.

19 “(B) RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than
20 1 year after the panel described in paragraph
21 (1) is established, the panel shall complete, and
22 submit to the Secretary a report containing, the
23 recommendations described in paragraph (1).
24 The Secretary shall not implement the amend-
25 ments made to section 641A(a)(1)(B)(ii) by the

1 Head Start Improvements for School Readiness
2 Act until the panel submits the report.

3 “(4) APPLICATION OF PANEL REPORT.—The
4 Secretary shall use the results of the review and rec-
5 ommendations described in paragraph (1) to (where
6 appropriate) develop, inform, and revise—

7 “(A) the educational standards, and the
8 performance measures, described in section
9 641A; and

10 “(B) the assessments utilized in the Head
11 Start programs.

12 “(i) SERVICES TO LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENT
13 CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.—

14 “(1) STUDY.—The Secretary shall conduct a
15 study on the status of limited English proficient
16 children and their families in Head Start or Early
17 Head Start programs.

18 “(2) REPORT.—The Secretary shall prepare
19 and submit to Congress, not later than September
20 2009, a report containing the results of the study,
21 including information on—

22 “(A) the demographics of limited English
23 proficient children from birth through age 5, in-
24 cluding the number of such children receiving
25 Head Start or Early Head Start services and

1 the geographic distribution of children described
2 in this subparagraph;

3 “(B) the nature of Head Start or Early
4 Head Start services provided to limited English
5 proficient children and their families, including
6 the types, content, duration, intensity, and costs
7 of family services, language assistance, and
8 educational services;

9 “(C) procedures in Head Start programs
10 for the assessment of language needs and the
11 transition of limited English proficient children
12 to kindergarten, including the extent to which
13 Head Start programs meet the requirements of
14 section 642A for limited English proficient chil-
15 dren;

16 “(D) the qualifications and training pro-
17 vided to Head Start and Early Head Start
18 teachers serving limited English proficient chil-
19 dren and their families;

20 “(E) the rate of progress made by limited
21 English proficient children and their families in
22 Head Start programs and Early Head Start
23 programs, including—

24 “(i) the rate of progress of the limited
25 English proficient children toward meeting

1 the additional educational standards de-
2 scribed in section 641A(a)(1)(B)(ii) while
3 enrolled in Head Start programs, meas-
4 ured between 1990 and 2004;

5 “(ii) the correlation between such
6 progress and the type of instruction and
7 educational program provided to the lim-
8 ited English proficient children; and

9 “(iii) the correlation between such
10 progress and the health and family services
11 provided by Head Start programs to lim-
12 ited English proficient children and their
13 families; and

14 “(F) the extent to which Head Start pro-
15 grams make use of funds under section
16 640(a)(3) to improve the quality of Head Start
17 services provided to limited English proficient
18 children and their families.”.

19 **SEC. 20. REPORTS.**

20 Section 650 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9846)
21 is amended—

22 (1) in subsection (a)—

23 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
24 by striking “Labor and Human Resources” and

1 inserting “Health, Education, Labor, and Pen-
2 sions”;

3 (B) in paragraph (8), by inserting “home-
4 lessness, children in foster care, children who
5 are abused or neglected,” after “ethnic back-
6 ground,”; and

7 (C) in the flush matter at the end by strik-
8 ing “Labor and Human Resources” and insert-
9 ing “Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions”;
10 and

11 (2) in subsection (b), by striking “Labor and
12 Human Resources” and inserting “Health, Edu-
13 cation, Labor, and Pensions”.

14 **SEC. 21. COMPARABILITY OF WAGES.**

15 Section 653 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9848)
16 is amended—

17 (1) by striking “The Secretary shall take” and
18 inserting “(a) The Secretary shall take”;

19 (2) in the first sentence of subsection (a), by
20 striking “or (2)” and inserting “(2) in excess of the
21 salary of the Secretary, in the case of an individual
22 compensated with funds awarded under this sub-
23 chapter or the Community Services Block Grant Act
24 (42 U.S.C. 9901 et seq.); or (3)”;

25 (3) by adding at the end the following:

1 chapter (during the hours in which such individual
 2 is working on behalf of such program), shall not en-
 3 gage in—

4 “(A) any partisan or nonpartisan political
 5 activity or any other political activity associated
 6 with a candidate, or contending faction or
 7 group, in an election for public or party office;

8 “(B) any activity to provide voters or pro-
 9 spective voters with transportation to the polls
 10 or similar assistance in connection with any
 11 such election; or

12 “(C) any voter registration activity.

13 “(2) RULES AND REGULATIONS.—The Sec-
 14 retary, after consultation with the Director of the
 15 Office of Personnel Management, may issue rules
 16 and regulations to provide for the enforcement of
 17 this section, which may include provisions for sum-
 18 mary suspension of assistance or other action nec-
 19 essary to permit enforcement on an emergency
 20 basis.”.

21 **SEC. 24. PARENTAL CONSENT REQUIREMENT FOR HEALTH**
 22 **SERVICES.**

23 The Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.) is
 24 amended by adding at the end the following new section:

1 **“SEC. 657A. PARENTAL CONSENT REQUIREMENT FOR NON-**
2 **EMERGENCY INTRUSIVE PHYSICAL EXAMINA-**
3 **TIONS.**

4 “(a) DEFINITION.—The term ‘nonemergency intru-
5 sive physical examination’ means, with respect to a child,
6 a physical examination that—

7 “(1) is not immediately necessary to protect the
8 health or safety of the child or the health or safety
9 of another individual; and

10 “(2) requires incision or is otherwise invasive,
11 or involves exposure of private body parts.

12 “(b) REQUIREMENT.—A Head Start agency shall ob-
13 tain written parental consent before administration of, or
14 referral for, any health care service provided or arranged
15 to be provided, including any nonemergency intrusive
16 physical examination of a child in connection with partici-
17 pation in a program under this subchapter.

18 “(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
19 tion shall be construed to prohibit agencies from using es-
20 tablished methods, for handling cases of suspected or
21 known child abuse and neglect, that are in compliance
22 with applicable Federal, State, or tribal law.”.

○