

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6617

To strengthen communities through English literacy, civics, education, and immigrant integration programs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 24, 2008

Mr. HONDA (for himself, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Ms. MATSUI, and Mr. BECERRA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To strengthen communities through English literacy, civics, education, and immigrant integration programs.

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 “Strengthening Commu-
5 nities Through Education and Integration Act of 2008”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) According to the United States Census, over
2 23,000,000 United States residents do not speak
3 English well.

4 (2) According to the National Assessment of
5 Adult Literacy, 93,000,000 adults in the United
6 States have limited reading, writing, and mathe-
7 matics skills, and 14 percent of adults in the United
8 States have below basic proficiency in prose literacy.

9 (3) Only three percent of the 93,000,000 adults
10 who could benefit from adult education services,
11 English literacy, and civics education programs actu-
12 ally participate in such services and programs.

13 (4) There is a growing and urgent need for ad-
14 ditional English literacy and civics education pro-
15 grams for adults in the United States.

16 (5) It is beneficial to new immigrants, host
17 communities, States, and the Nation for immigrants
18 to timely adjust to life in the United States, learn
19 English, become citizens, buy homes, start busi-
20 nesses, send their children to college, and thrive eco-
21 nomicallly.

22 (6) A proactive policy for new Americans at the
23 State and local levels will maximize the benefits im-
24 migrants bring to States and municipalities, while
25 helping immigrants integrate as quickly as possible.

1 **TITLE I—EXPANDING ENGLISH**
2 **LITERACY AND CIVICS EDU-**
3 **CATION**

4 **SEC. 101. INCREASED INVESTMENT IN ENGLISH ACQUI-**
5 **SITION UNDER THE ADULT EDUCATION AND**
6 **FAMILY LITERACY ACT.**

7 (a) INTEGRATED ENGLISH LITERACY AND CIVICS
8 EDUCATION PROGRAM.—Section 203 of the Adult Edu-
9 cation and Family Literacy Act (20 U.S.C. 9202) is
10 amended by adding at the end the following new para-
11 graph:

12 “(19) INTEGRATED ENGLISH LITERACY AND
13 CIVICS EDUCATION PROGRAM.—The term ‘integrated
14 English literacy and civics education program’
15 means a program of instruction designed to help an
16 English language learner achieve competence in
17 English through contextualized instruction on the
18 rights and responsibilities of citizenship, naturaliza-
19 tion procedures, civic participation, and United
20 States history and government to help such learner
21 acquire the skills and knowledge to become an active
22 and informed parent, worker, and community mem-
23 ber.”.

1 (b) STATE LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES.—Section
2 223(a) of the such Act (20 U.S.C. 9223(a)) is amended
3 by inserting after paragraph (11) the following:

4 “(12) Technical assistance for grant applica-
5 tions of faith and community-based organizations.

6 “(13) The study of the effectiveness of distance
7 learning or self-study programs to assist the English
8 language learner population acquire English.”.

9 (c) NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR LITERACY.—Section
10 242(c)(1) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 9252(c)(1)) is amend-
11 ed—

12 (1) in subparagraph (A)—

13 (A) by redesignating clauses (ii), (iii), and
14 (iv) as clauses (iii), (iv), and (v), respectively;
15 and

16 (B) by inserting after clause (i) the fol-
17 lowing new clause:

18 “(ii) effective practices in the provi-
19 sion of integrated English literacy and
20 civics education programs;”;

21 (2) by redesignating subparagraphs (G), (H),
22 and (I) as subparagraphs (H), (I), and (J), respec-
23 tively; and

24 (3) by inserting after subparagraph (F) the fol-
25 lowing new subparagraph:

1 “(G) to coordinate and share information
2 with national organizations and associations
3 that are interested in integrated English lit-
4 eracy and civics education programs;”.

5 (d) REPORT.—Section 242(k) of such Act (20 U.S.C.
6 9252(k)) is amended—

7 (1) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” at the
8 end;

9 (2) by redesignating paragraph (3) as para-
10 graph (4); and

11 (3) by inserting after paragraph (2) the fol-
12 lowing new paragraph:

13 “(3) a separate analysis of—

14 “(A) national and State adult English in-
15 struction needs;

16 “(B) data on the composition of recent im-
17 migration flows and immigration settlement
18 patterns across the United States; and

19 “(C) estimated instructional needs based
20 on the English ability and educational attain-
21 ment of English language learners under recent
22 migration patterns; and”.

23 (e) NATIONAL LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES.—Section
24 243 of such Act (20 U.S.C. 9253) is amended—

25 (1) in paragraph (1)—

1 (A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting
2 “and integrated English literacy and civics edu-
3 cation programs” before the semicolon at the
4 end; and

5 (B) in subparagraph (B), by inserting
6 “and integrated English literacy and civics edu-
7 cation programs” before “, based on scientific
8 evidence”; and

9 (2) in paragraph (2)—

10 (A) in subparagraph (B), by inserting
11 “and integrated English literacy and civics edu-
12 cation programs” before the semicolon at the
13 end;

14 (B) in subparagraph (D)(ii), by inserting
15 “integrated English literacy and civics edu-
16 cation programs,” before “and workplace lit-
17 eracy programs”; and

18 (C) in subparagraph (E)—

19 (i) in clause (i), by inserting “and in-
20 tegrated English literacy and civics edu-
21 cation programs” before the semicolon at
22 the end;

23 (ii) in clause (iii), by striking “and”
24 at the end;

25 (iii) in clause (iv)—

1 (I) by striking “section 231” and
2 inserting “sections 231 and 244”; and

3 (II) by inserting “and” after the
4 semicolon; and

5 (iv) by adding at the end the following
6 new clause:

7 “(v) the extent to which integrated
8 English literacy and civics education pro-
9 grams carried out under section 244 lead
10 participants in such programs to increase
11 their civic participation and, if applicable,
12 lead such participants to become United
13 States citizens.”.

14 (f) INTEGRATED ENGLISH LITERACY AND CIVICS
15 EDUCATION.—Chapter 4 of subtitle A of such Act (20
16 U.S.C. 9251 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
17 the following new section:

18 **“SEC. 244. INTEGRATED ENGLISH LITERACY AND CIVICS**
19 **EDUCATION PROGRAMS.**

20 “(a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—From funds appropriated
22 to carry out this section, the Secretary shall award
23 grants to States, from allocations under subsection
24 (b), for integrated English literacy and civics edu-
25 cation programs.

1 “(2) DEFINITION OF STATE.—In this section
2 the term ‘State’ means each of the several States of
3 the United States and the District of Columbia.

4 “(b) ALLOCATIONS.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2)
6 and with respect to funds described in subsection
7 (a), the Secretary shall allocate—

8 “(A) 65 percent to States on the basis of
9 a State’s need for integrated English and civics
10 education programs, as determined by calcu-
11 lating each State’s share of a ten-year average
12 of the data compiled by the Office of Immigra-
13 tion Statistics of the Department of Homeland
14 Security, for immigrants admitted for lawful
15 permanent residence for the ten most recent
16 years; and

17 “(B) 35 percent to the States on the basis
18 of whether the State experienced growth, as
19 measured by the average of the three most re-
20 cent years for which data compiled by the Of-
21 fice of Immigration Statistics of the Depart-
22 ment of Homeland Security are available, for
23 immigrants admitted for lawful permanent resi-
24 dence.

1 eracy shall design a plan (approved by the Secretary) to
2 carry out, through a grant or contract, research into the
3 components of successful family literacy services to inform
4 the field and improve practice and increase program qual-
5 ity, in order to—

6 “(1) improve the quality of existing programs
7 assisted under this subpart or other family literacy
8 programs; and

9 “(2) develop models for new programs to be
10 carried out under this subpart.

11 “(b) CONSULTATION.—In conducting the research
12 described in subsection (a), the entity with which the Di-
13 rector of the National Institute for Literacy contracts or
14 awards a grant shall consult with—

15 “(1) Even Start coordinators and practitioners,
16 including individuals from migrant or tribal Even
17 Start programs;

18 “(2) individuals who are researchers and ex-
19 perts in family literacy, including early childhood
20 and adult literacy;

21 “(3) individuals who are experts in literacy
22 services for English language learners and the learn-
23 ers’ families; and

1 “(4) individuals who are representatives from
2 other national organizations involved in family lit-
3 eracy.

4 “(c) SCIENTIFICALLY BASED RESEARCH ON FAMILY
5 LITERACY.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Na-
7 tional Institute for Literacy, in consultation with the
8 Secretary, shall carry out research that—

9 “(A) is scientifically based reading re-
10 search; and

11 “(B) determines—

12 “(i) the most effective ways of improv-
13 ing the literacy skills of adults with read-
14 ing difficulties; and

15 “(ii) how family literacy services can
16 best provide parents with the knowledge
17 and skills the parents need to support the
18 parents’ children’s literacy development.

19 “(2) USE OF EXPERT ENTITY.—The Director of
20 the National Institute for Literacy, in consultation
21 with the Secretary, shall carry out the research
22 under paragraph (1) through an entity, including a
23 Federal agency, that has expertise in carrying out
24 longitudinal studies of the development of literacy
25 skills in children and adults and has developed effec-

1 tive interventions to help children with reading dif-
2 ficulties.

3 “(d) DISSEMINATION.—The Director of the National
4 Institute for Literacy shall disseminate, pursuant to sec-
5 tion 1207, the results of research described in subsections
6 (a) and (b) to State educational agencies and recipients
7 of subgrants under this subpart.

8 “(e) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 6
9 months after the date of completion of research under this
10 section, the Director of the National Institute for Literacy
11 shall—

12 “(1) submit a report on the research to the Sec-
13 retary, the Committee on Education and Labor of
14 the House of Representatives, and the Committee on
15 Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Sen-
16 ate; and

17 “(2) make such report publicly available.

18 **“SEC. 1244. LONGITUDINAL EVALUATION.**

19 “(a) NATIONAL WILLIAM F. GOODLING EVEN START
20 EVALUATION.—The Director of the National Institute for
21 Literacy shall review, make recommendations on, design,
22 and plan for a longitudinal evaluation of the Even Start
23 program under this subpart, as approved by the Secretary.

1 “(b) CONSIDERATIONS.—In conducting the evalua-
2 tion described in subsection (a), the Director of the Na-
3 tional Institute for Literacy shall consider—

4 “(1) the extent to which programs under this
5 subpart—

6 “(A) provide family literacy services to
7 adults and children not otherwise available or
8 accessible to such children or adults, or that
9 supplement child development or adult edu-
10 cation services provided by other programs;

11 “(B) strengthen parents’ knowledge and
12 skills that support parent-child relationships,
13 parental involvement in schools, and family lit-
14 eracy and other educational activities in the
15 home;

16 “(C) improve adult participants’ basic skill
17 levels in reading, writing, speaking the English
18 language, and basic mathematics; and

19 “(D) increase adult participants’ ability to
20 maintain and retain employment; and

21 “(2) the extent to which programs under this
22 subpart link families to needed community services
23 and how differences in the type, length, mix, and in-
24 tensity of services affect the desired program
25 goals.”.

1 **SEC. 103. EXPANDED LEARNING TIME FOR MIDDLE AND**
2 **SECONDARY SCHOOL ENGLISH LANGUAGE**
3 **LEARNERS.**

4 (a) DEFINITIONS.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Unless otherwise specified,
6 the terms used in this section have the meanings
7 given the terms in section 9101 of the Elementary
8 and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
9 7801).

10 (2) OTHER DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

11 (A) EXPANDED LEARNING TIME PRO-
12 GRAM.—The term “expanded learning time pro-
13 gram” means—

14 (i) a summer learning semester at a
15 school served by a local educational agen-
16 cy;

17 (ii) a consolidated school district pro-
18 gram;

19 (iii) an extended day program that
20 adds not less than one hour to the school
21 day, if the additional learning time—

22 (I) focuses on English language
23 acquisition and core academics; and

24 (II) allows for enrichment oppor-
25 tunities that support learning; or

1 (iv) a semester or program described
2 in clause (i), (ii), or (iii) that is operated
3 by—

4 (I) a local educational agency or
5 a public school; or

6 (II) a local educational agency or
7 a public school in a partnership
8 with—

9 (aa) a nonprofit organiza-
10 tion;

11 (bb) a faith-based organiza-
12 tion; or

13 (cc) any other entity that
14 meets State quality assurance
15 guidelines.

16 (B) STATE.—The term “State” means
17 each of the several States of the United States
18 and the District of Columbia.

19 (b) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—From amounts appro-
20 priated under subsection (h), the Secretary of Education
21 shall award grants under this section to each State edu-
22 cational agency served by a State to enable the State edu-
23 cational agency to provide subgrants, on a competitive
24 basis, to local educational agencies to enable the local edu-
25 cational agencies to provide high quality expanded learn-

1 ing time programs for middle and secondary school stu-
2 dents who are English language learners.

3 (c) GRANT REQUIREMENTS.—

4 (1) APPROVED APPLICATIONS.—The Secretary
5 shall only award a grant under this section to a
6 State educational agency for which the Secretary
7 has approved an application under this section.

8 (2) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—To be eligible
9 to receive a grant under this section, a State edu-
10 cational agency shall provide matching funds, from
11 non-Federal sources, in an amount that is not less
12 than 25 percent of the total amount of funds re-
13 ceived under the grant.

14 (3) IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS.—In-kind con-
15 tributions from private funding sources may be used
16 to meet the matching requirement described in para-
17 graph (2).

18 (4) STATE APPLICATION.—

19 (A) IN GENERAL.—In order to receive a
20 grant under this section, a State educational
21 agency shall submit an application, that was de-
22 veloped collaboratively with community-based
23 organizations that serve English language
24 learner communities, teachers, a statewide orga-
25 nization of teachers, a representative from pub-

1 lic libraries, and other educators, to the Sec-
2 retary at such time and in such form as the
3 Secretary may require.

4 (B) CONTENTS.—The application shall in-
5 clude a State plan for providing high quality ex-
6 panded learning time programs for middle and
7 secondary school students who are English lan-
8 guage learners. The State plan shall include—

9 (i) a description of the State needs re-
10 garding the English language learner stu-
11 dent population;

12 (ii) an outline for an accountability
13 standard to ensure the use of high quality
14 expanded learning time programs;

15 (iii) any other requirement determined
16 to be necessary by the Secretary; and

17 (iv) guidelines on—

18 (I) which expanded learning time
19 programs are determined to be high
20 quality; and

21 (II) how the State educational
22 agency will ensure that the State edu-
23 cational agency will meet the require-
24 ments of subsection (e).

25 (d) COMPETITIVE SUBGRANTS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—A State educational agency
2 receiving a grant under this section shall use the
3 grant funds to award subgrants, on a competitive
4 basis, to local educational agencies to enable the
5 local educational agencies to provide expanded learn-
6 ing time programs to middle and secondary school
7 students who are English language learners in order
8 to provide such students with additional language
9 and civics education.

10 (2) PRIORITY.—A State educational agency re-
11 ceiving a grant under this section shall give priority
12 in awarding subgrants under this section to local
13 educational agencies that demonstrate a need for ex-
14 panded learning time programs for English language
15 learner middle and secondary school students.

16 (3) NEED DETERMINATION.—A State edu-
17 cational agency shall determine a local educational
18 agency's need under paragraph (2) on the basis of—

19 (A) increases in the number of students
20 who are English language learners and served
21 by the local educational agency;

22 (B) substantial increases in the local immi-
23 grant population served by the local educational
24 agency; and

1 (C) evidence that expanded learning time
2 programs are necessary to ensure that schools
3 served by the local educational agency will
4 reach accountability standards under the Ele-
5 mentary and Secondary Education Act of 1965
6 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.).

7 (4) APPLICATION.—In order to receive a
8 subgrant under this section, a local educational
9 agency shall submit an application to the State edu-
10 cational agency at such time and in such form as
11 the State educational agency may require. The appli-
12 cation shall—

13 (A) describe the needs of the middle and
14 secondary school English language learner stu-
15 dent population served by the local educational
16 agency;

17 (B) describe the types of expanded learn-
18 ing time programs to be offered to middle and
19 secondary school students who are English lan-
20 guage learners;

21 (C) describe how the subgrant will be used;

22 (D) include guidelines on—

23 (i) which expanded learning time pro-
24 grams are considered to be high quality;
25 and

1 (ii) how the local educational agency
2 will meet the requirements of subsection
3 (e);

4 (E) contain an assurance that the local
5 educational agency will meet the requirements
6 of subsection (e);

7 (F) include an outline for an accountability
8 standard to ensure high quality expanded learn-
9 ing time programs;

10 (G) contain evidence of an agreement, be-
11 tween the governing body of the local edu-
12 cational agency and the employees of the local
13 educational agency, including teachers, at par-
14 ticipating schools or their recognized represent-
15 atives, to work the expanded schedule;

16 (H) describe the process by which the local
17 educational agency will ensure the meaningful
18 involvement of teachers, union representatives,
19 parents, public libraries, and school partners in
20 the planning and implementation of the ex-
21 panded learning time program; and

22 (I) contain any other requirement deter-
23 mined necessary by the State educational agen-
24 cy.

1 (5) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—To be eligible
2 to receive a subgrant under this section, a local edu-
3 cational agency shall provide matching funds, from
4 non-Federal sources, in an amount that is not less
5 than 15 percent of the total amount of funds re-
6 ceived under the subgrant.

7 (e) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—A State edu-
8 cational agency and a local educational agency shall use
9 Federal funds received under this section only to supple-
10 ment the funds that would, in the absence of such Federal
11 funds, be made available from non-Federal sources for the
12 education of students participating in expanded learning
13 time programs assisted under this section, and not to sup-
14 plant such funds.

15 (f) DURATION AND RENEWAL.—

16 (1) DURATION OF GRANTS AND SUBGRANTS.—
17 Grants and subgrants under this section shall be
18 awarded for a period that does not exceed 3 years
19 in duration.

20 (2) RENEWAL OF GRANTS AND SUBGRANTS.—

21 (A) IN GENERAL.—Grants and subgrants
22 under this section may be renewed in 2-year in-
23 crements.

24 (B) CONDITIONS FOR RENEWAL.—In order
25 to be eligible to renew a grant or subgrant

1 under this paragraph, the State educational
2 agency or local educational agency shall dem-
3 onstrate to the satisfaction of the Secretary or
4 State educational agency, respectively, that the
5 State educational agency or local educational
6 agency, respectively, has complied with the
7 terms of the grant or subgrant, respectively.

8 (g) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
9 tion shall be construed to alter or otherwise affect the
10 rights, remedies, and procedures afforded to the employees
11 of local educational agencies under Federal, State, or local
12 laws (including applicable regulations or court orders) or
13 under the terms of collective bargaining agreements,
14 memoranda of understanding, or other agreements be-
15 tween such employees and their employers, including the
16 right of employees of local educational agencies to engage
17 in good faith collective bargaining with their employers re-
18 garding their terms and conditions of employment, and
19 the procedures used to determine such terms and condi-
20 tions.

21 (h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For the
22 purpose of carrying out this section, there are authorized
23 to be appropriated \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2009 and
24 each of the 5 succeeding fiscal years.

1 **SEC. 104. DEFINITIONS OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER.**

2 (a) ADULT EDUCATION AND FAMILY LITERACY
3 ACT.—The Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (20
4 U.S.C. 9201 et seq.) is amended—

5 (1) in section 203(6) (20 U.S.C. 9202(6)), by
6 striking “individuals of limited English proficiency”
7 and inserting “English language learners”;

8 (2) in section 203(10) (20 U.S.C. 9202(10))—

9 (A) in the paragraph heading, by striking
10 “INDIVIDUAL OF LIMITED ENGLISH PRO-
11 FICIENCY” and inserting “ENGLISH LANGUAGE
12 LEARNER”; and

13 (B) in the matter preceding subparagraph
14 (A), by striking “individual of limited English
15 proficiency” and inserting “English language
16 learner”;

17 (3) in section 224(b)(10)(D) (20 U.S.C.
18 9224(b)(10)(D)), by striking “individuals with lim-
19 ited English proficiency” and inserting “English lan-
20 guage learners”; and

21 (4) in section 243(2)(D)(ii) (as amended by sec-
22 tion 101(e)(2)(B)) (20 U.S.C. 9253(2)(D)(ii)), by
23 striking “individuals with limited English proficiency
24 who are adults” and inserting “adult English lan-
25 guage learners”.

1 (b) ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT
2 OF 1965.—

3 (1) AMENDMENT.—Section 9101(25) of the El-
4 elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
5 U.S.C. 7801(25)) is amended by striking the matter
6 preceding subparagraph (A) and inserting the fol-
7 lowing:

8 “(25) ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER.—The
9 term ‘English language learner’ means an indi-
10 vidual—”.

11 (2) REFERENCES.—Any reference in the Ele-
12 mentary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
13 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) to an individual who is limited
14 English proficient shall be construed to refer to an
15 English language learner.

16 **SEC. 105. CREDITS FOR TEACHERS OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE**
17 **LEARNERS.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subpart A of part IV of sub-
19 chapter A of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of
20 1986 (relating to nonrefundable personal credits) is
21 amended by inserting after section 25D the following new
22 section:

1 **“SEC. 25E. TEACHERS OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS.**

2 “(a) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an eligible teacher,
3 there shall be allowed a credit against the tax imposed
4 by this chapter for the taxable year an amount equal to—

5 “(1) \$1,500, for each of the first 5 taxable
6 years for which the taxpayer is allowed a credit
7 under this section, and

8 “(2) \$1,000, for any other taxable year.

9 “(b) CREDIT ALLOWED ONLY FOR 10 TAXABLE
10 YEARS.—No credit shall be allowed under this section
11 with respect to a taxpayer for any taxable year after the
12 10th taxable year for which such taxpayer is allowed a
13 credit under this section.

14 “(c) ELIGIBLE TEACHER.—For purposes of this sec-
15 tion—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘eligible teacher’
17 means, with respect to a taxable year, any individual
18 who is a full-time teacher in an academic subject,
19 has received training in delivering academic instruc-
20 tion to English language learner students, and is
21 employed in any English language learner school for
22 the academic year ending in such taxable year.

23 “(2) ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER SCHOOL.—
24 The term ‘English language learner school’ means
25 any school—

1 “(A) which provides elementary education
2 or secondary education, as determined under
3 State law, and

4 “(B) in which 10 percent or more of the
5 students enrolled are limited English proficient
6 (as defined in section 9901 of the Elementary
7 and Secondary Education Act of 1965).”.

8 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
9 for such subpart is amended by inserting after the item
10 relating to section 25D the following new item:

 “Sec. 25E. Teachers in English language learner schools.”.

11 (c) TEACHER CERTIFICATION EXPENSES.—Part VII
12 of subchapter B of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code
13 of 1986 (relating to additional itemized deductions for in-
14 dividuals) is amended by redesignating section 224 as sec-
15 tion 225 and by inserting after section 223 the following
16 new section:

17 **“SEC. 224. TEACHER CERTIFICATION EXPENSES.**

18 “(a) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an individual,
19 there shall be allowed as a deduction for teacher certifi-
20 cation expenses paid or incurred by the taxpayer for the
21 taxable year.

22 “(b) TEACHER CERTIFICATION EXPENSES.—

23 “(1) TESL CERTIFICATION EXPENSES.—For
24 purposes of this section, the term ‘TESL certifi-
25 cation expenses’ means tuition and fees required for

1 the enrollment or attendance of the taxpayer or the
2 taxpayer's spouse at an eligible educational institu-
3 tion (as defined in section 25A) for a course which
4 is required for certification of such individual as
5 qualified to teach English to elementary or sec-
6 ondary school students who are limited English pro-
7 ficient (as defined in section 9901 of the Elementary
8 and Secondary Education Act of 1965).

9 “(2) STATE BILINGUAL EDUCATION CERTIFI-
10 CATION EXPENSES.—For purposes of this section,
11 the term ‘State bilingual education certification ex-
12 penses’ means tuition and fees required for the en-
13 rollment or attendance of the taxpayer or the tax-
14 payer's spouse at an eligible educational institution
15 (as defined in section 25A) for a course which is re-
16 quired for certification of such individual as quali-
17 fied to teach bilingual courses to elementary or sec-
18 ondary school students who are limited English pro-
19 ficient (as defined in section 9901 of the Elementary
20 and Secondary Education Act of 1965).

21 “(3) EXCEPTIONS.—Such term shall not in-
22 clude any amounts to the extent such amounts—

23 “(A) are for a course that is part of the
24 individual's degree program, or

1 “(B) are funded by another person (or any
2 governmental entity).

3 “(c) DENIAL OF DOUBLE BENEFIT.—No deduction
4 shall be allowed under this section for any expense for
5 which a deduction or credit is allowed under any other
6 provision of this chapter.”.

7 (d) CERTIFICATION DEDUCTION ALLOWED WHETH-
8 ER OR NOT TAXPAYER ITEMIZES OTHER DEDUCTIONS.—
9 Subsection (a) of section 62 of such Code is amended by
10 adding at the end the following new paragraph:

11 “(22) TEACHER CERTIFICATION EXPENSES.—
12 The deduction allowed by section 224.”.

13 (e) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
14 for part VII of subchapter B of chapter 1 of such Code
15 is amended by striking the last item and inserting the fol-
16 lowing new items:

 “Sec. 224. Teacher certification expenses.
 “Sec. 225. Cross reference.”.

17 (f) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
18 this section shall apply to amounts paid or incurred in tax-
19 able years beginning after December 31, 2008.

20 **SEC. 106. RESEARCH IN ADULT EDUCATION.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 133(c)(A) of the Edu-
22 cation Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (20 U.S.C.
23 9533(c)(A)) is amended by inserting “education and” be-
24 fore “literacy”.

1 (b) NATIONAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CEN-
2 TER.—

3 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Education
4 shall direct the Commissioner for Education Re-
5 search of the National Center for Education Re-
6 search established pursuant to section 131 of the
7 Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (20 U.S.C.
8 9531) to establish a national research and develop-
9 ment center for adult education and literacy as de-
10 scribed in section 133(c)(A) of such Act (22 U.S.C.
11 9533(c)(A)) (as amended by subsection (a)).

12 (2) PROVISION FOR EXPANSION OF RE-
13 SEARCH.—If, as of the date of the enactment of this
14 Act, the Commissioner has established a center for
15 adult literacy in accordance with section 133(c)(A)
16 of the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002, the
17 Commissioner shall expand the topic of research of
18 such center to include adult education, in accordance
19 with the amendment made by subsection (a).

1 **TITLE II—SUPPORTING ENGLISH**
2 **LANGUAGE ACQUISITION AND**
3 **ADULT EDUCATION IN THE**
4 **WORKFORCE**

5 **SEC. 201. CREDIT FOR EMPLOYER PROVIDED ADULT**
6 **ENGLISH LITERACY AND BASIC EDUCATION**
7 **PROGRAMS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subpart D of part IV of sub-
9 chapter A of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of
10 1986 (relating to business related credits) is amended by
11 adding at the end the following:

12 **“SEC. 45Q. EMPLOYER-PROVIDED ADULT ENGLISH LIT-**
13 **ERACY AND BASIC EDUCATION PROGRAMS.**

14 “(a) IN GENERAL.—For the purposes of section 38,
15 the credit determined under this section with respect to
16 any employer for the taxable year is an amount equal to
17 20 percent of qualified education program expenses, or no
18 more than \$1,000 per full-time employee participating in
19 the qualified education program.

20 “(b) QUALIFIED EDUCATION PROGRAM EX-
21 PENSES.—For purposes of this section—

22 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘qualified edu-
23 cation program expenses’ means expenses paid or in-
24 curred by an employer to make available qualified
25 education to employees of the employer, who are

1 English language learners or have not received a
2 secondary school diploma, or its recognized equiva-
3 lent, or who lack sufficient mastery of basic edu-
4 cational skills to enable the individuals to function
5 effectively in society.

6 “(2) QUALIFIED EDUCATION.—The term ‘quali-
7 fied education’ means adult education and literacy
8 activities provided—

9 “(A) by an eligible provider which for the
10 fiscal year ending during the employer’s taxable
11 year receives Federal funds under section 231
12 of the Adult Education and Family Literacy
13 Act for adult education and literacy activities,
14 or

15 “(B) in curriculum approved by the De-
16 partment of Education, the Employment and
17 Training Administration of the Department of
18 Labor, or in current use by a Federal agency.

19 “(3) ELIGIBLE PROVIDER; ADULT EDUCATION
20 AND LITERACY ACTIVITIES.—The terms ‘eligible pro-
21 vider’, and ‘adult education and literacy activities’
22 shall have the respective meanings given to such
23 terms in section 203 of the Adult Education and
24 Family Literacy Act.

1 “(4) ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER.—The term
2 ‘English language learner’ shall have the same
3 meaning given to such term in section 9101(25) of
4 the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of
5 1965.

6 “(c) SPECIAL RULES.—For purposes of this sec-
7 tion—

8 “(1) FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT.—An employee
9 shall be considered full-time if such employee is em-
10 ployed at least 30 hours per week for 25 or more
11 calendar weeks in the taxable year.

12 “(2) AGGREGATION RULE.—All persons treated
13 as a single employer under subsection (a) or (b) or
14 section 52, or subsection (m) or (o) of section 414,
15 shall be treated as one person.

16 “(d) DENIAL OF DOUBLE BENEFIT.—No deduction
17 or credit shall be allowed under any other provision of this
18 chapter for any amount taken into account in determining
19 the credit under this section.

20 “(e) ELECTION TO HAVE CREDIT NOT APPLY.—A
21 taxpayer may elect (at such time and in such manner as
22 the Secretary may by regulations prescribe) to have this
23 section not apply for any taxable year.”.

24 (b) CREDIT TO BE PART OF GENERAL BUSINESS
25 CREDIT.—Subsection (b) of section 38 of such Code (re-

1 lating to current year business credit) is amended by strik-
 2 ing “plus” at the end of paragraph (32), by striking the
 3 period at the end of paragraph (33) and inserting “, plus”,
 4 and by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

5 “(34) the adult English literacy and basic edu-
 6 cation programs credit determined under section
 7 45Q.”.

8 (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
 9 for subpart D of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1
 10 of the such Code is amended by adding at the end the
 11 following new item:

“45O. Employer-provided adult English literacy and basic education programs.”.

12 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
 13 this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after
 14 December 31, 2008.

15 **TITLE III—INTEGRATING AND**
 16 **BUILDING STRONGER COM-**
 17 **MUNITIES**

18 **SEC. 301. OFFICE OF CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRANT INTE-**
 19 **GRATION.**

20 (a) RENAMING OF THE OFFICE OF CITIZENSHIP AND
 21 IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Office of Citizenship
 23 within U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
 24 of the Department of Homeland Security shall be re-

1 named the “Office of Citizenship and Immigrant In-
2 tegration”.

3 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subsection (f)
4 of section 451 of the Homeland Security Act of
5 2002 (6 U.S.C. 271) is amended—

6 (A) in the heading, by striking “CITIZEN-
7 SHIP.” and inserting “CITIZENSHIP AND IMMI-
8 GRANT INTEGRATION.”;

9 (B) in paragraph (1), by inserting “and
10 Immigrant Integration” after “Office of Citi-
11 zenship”; and

12 (C) in paragraph (2), by inserting “and
13 Immigrant Integration” after “Office of Citi-
14 zenship”.

15 (3) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, reg-
16 ulation, document, paper, or other record of the
17 United States to the Office of Citizenship within
18 U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement of the
19 Department of Homeland Security shall be deemed
20 to be a reference to the “Office of Citizenship and
21 Immigrant Integration”.

22 (b) FUNCTIONS.—Paragraph (2) of section 451(f) of
23 the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 271(f)), as
24 amended by subsection (a)(2)(C), is further amended by

1 striking “for promoting” and all that follows through the
2 end and inserting “for—

3 “(A) establishing national goals for inte-
4 grating new communities into the United States
5 and measuring the degree to which such goals
6 are met;

7 “(B) assessing and coordinating Federal
8 policies, regulations, task forces, and commis-
9 sions related to integration of immigrants into
10 the United States;

11 “(C) serving as a liaison and intermediary
12 with State and local governments and other en-
13 tities to assist in establishing local integration
14 goals, task forces, and integration councils to
15 assist immigrants to the United States;

16 “(D) providing research on, and policy
17 analysis of, the demand for English acquisition
18 programs carried out by the Federal Govern-
19 ment and for other services for aliens who have
20 recently arrived in the United States;

21 “(E) assisting States in coordinating alien
22 integration and refugee resettlement programs
23 with the grant program carried out under title
24 III of the Strengthening Communities Through
25 English and Integration Act of 2008; and

1 “(F) promoting instruction and training on
2 citizenship responsibilities for aliens interested
3 in becoming naturalized citizens of the United
4 States, including the development of edu-
5 cational materials for such aliens.”.

6 **SEC. 302. GRANTS TO STATES.**

7 (a) **AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE GRANTS.**—Subject to
8 subsections (c) and (d), the Chief of the Office of Citizen-
9 ship and Immigrant Integration is authorized to provide
10 grants to States to form State New American Councils
11 as described in subsection (b) to carry out activities de-
12 scribed in section 303.

13 (b) **STATE NEW AMERICAN COUNCILS.**—A State
14 New American Council shall consist of not less than 15
15 and not more than 19 individuals from the State and shall
16 include, to the extent practicable, representatives from the
17 following sectors:

18 (1) Business.

19 (2) Faith-based organizations.

20 (3) Civic organizations.

21 (4) Philanthropic leaders.

22 (5) Nonprofit organizations with experience
23 working with immigrant communities.

24 (6) Education organizations, including organi-
25 zations representing teachers and other employees.

1 (7) Representatives of State adult education of-
2 fices.

3 (8) Representatives of State or local public li-
4 braries.

5 (9) Representatives of statewide or local elected
6 office holders.

7 (c) WAIVER OF REQUIREMENT.—

8 (1) AUTHORITY TO GRANT.—The Chief of the
9 Office of Citizenship and Immigrant Integration
10 may award a grant under subsection (a) to a State
11 without requiring the State to form a State New
12 American Council if the Chief determines that the
13 State is carrying out statewide initiatives to inte-
14 grate immigrants into the State and into the United
15 States.

16 (2) GUIDELINES.—The Chief shall establish
17 guidelines for awarding grants to States described in
18 paragraph (1).

19 (d) GRANTS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.—The Chief
20 of the Office of Citizenship and Immigrant Integration
21 may provide a grant under subsection (a) to a local gov-
22 ernment if the Chief determines that the State in which
23 the local government is located is unable or unwilling to
24 apply for such a grant.

1 (e) APPLICATION.—An applicant for a grant under
2 subsection (a) shall submit an application to the Chief of
3 the Office of Citizenship and Immigrant Integration. Such
4 application shall include—

5 (1) if the applicant is a State seeking to form
6 a State New American Council, an assurance that
7 such State New American Council will meet the re-
8 quirements of subsection (b);

9 (2) the number of immigrants in the State in
10 which the applicant is located;

11 (3) a description of the challenges immigrants
12 face in effectively integrating into such State and
13 local communities; and

14 (4) any other information that the Chief may
15 reasonably require.

16 (f) DURATION.—A grant awarded under subsection
17 (a) shall be for a period of 5 years.

18 (g) GRANT AMOUNT.—The amount of a grant award-
19 ed under subsection (a) shall be not less than \$500,000
20 and not more than \$5,000,000 for each fiscal year.

21 (h) RESERVATIONS.—

22 (1) NATIONAL.—The Chief of the Office of Citi-
23 zenship and Immigrant Integration shall reserve not
24 more than 1 percent of the amount appropriated to

1 carry out this title for such Office, including the
2 evaluation of funds distributed.

3 (2) STATES.—A State awarded a grant under
4 subsection (a) may reserve not more than 10 percent
5 of such grant amount for the creation and operation
6 of the State New American Council.

7 **SEC. 303. AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.**

8 (a) MANDATORY ACTIVITIES.—A grant awarded
9 under section 302(a) shall be used—

10 (1) to develop, implement, expand, or enhance
11 a comprehensive integration plan;

12 (2) to provide subgrants to local communities
13 as described in subsection (c);

14 (3) if the grant is awarded to a State to form
15 a State New American Council, to convene meetings
16 of the State New American Council not less fre-
17 quently than once each quarter; and

18 (4) to convene public hearings not less fre-
19 quently than once each year to report on the activi-
20 ties carried out by with such grant.

21 (b) PERMISSIBLE ACTIVITIES.—A grant awarded
22 under section 302(a) may be used—

23 (1) to examine the status of immigrants in the
24 State or municipality which was awarded the grant;

1 (2) to provide technical assistance or training
2 for State or local agencies to improve services to im-
3 migrants;

4 (3) to review and develop strategies to expand
5 distance learning as a method of instruction for lan-
6 guage and civics education and available techno-
7 logical programs that may supplement or supplant
8 quality classroom instruction; and

9 (4) to coordinate with entities of other States
10 engaged in immigrant integration or refugee reset-
11 tlement activities.

12 (c) SUBGRANTS TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES.—

13 (1) REQUIREMENT TO AWARD.—A grant under
14 section 302(a) shall be used to award subgrants to
15 entities of local governments to assist communities
16 with local efforts to integrate populations of immi-
17 grants and address community concerns related to
18 such populations.

19 (2) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—Subgrants shall
20 be awarded under paragraph (1) to entities of local
21 governments for use to carry out activities in accord-
22 ance with—

23 (A) a comprehensive integration plan de-
24 scribed in subsection (a)(1); and

1 (B) any guidance provided by the Chief of
2 the Office of Citizenship and Immigrant Inte-
3 gration.

4 (3) SUBGRANT AMOUNT.—The amount of a
5 subgrant awarded under this subsection shall be not
6 less than \$100,000 and not more than \$600,000 for
7 a fiscal year.

8 **SEC. 304. ACCOUNTABILITY AND EVALUATION.**

9 (a) ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM.—Each entity awarded
10 a grant under section 302(a) or a subgrant under section
11 303(c) shall establish an accountability system to measure
12 the outcomes of the activities carried out with such grant
13 or subgrant and assess the effectiveness of such entity in
14 achieving the integration goals of—

15 (1) the Chief of the Office of Citizenship and
16 Immigrant Integration; and

17 (2) any applicable comprehensive integration
18 plan described in subsection 303(a)(1).

19 (b) SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS.—The accountability
20 system required by subsection (a) shall consist of methods
21 to measure the success of activities carried out with a
22 grant awarded under section 302(a) or a subgrant award-
23 ed under section 303(c) in producing—

24 (1) gains in the integration of immigrants into
25 the United States, including increases—

1 (A) in the understanding of the history
2 and form of government of the United States
3 and of the responsibilities of United States citi-
4 zenship;

5 (B) in obtaining the skills needed to meet
6 the requirements of section 312(a) of the Immi-
7 gration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1423(a));

8 (C) in the participation of such immigrants
9 in volunteer or other community involvement
10 activities; and

11 (D) in the participation of such immi-
12 grants who are parents in education of their
13 children;

14 (2) gains in the education levels of immigrants
15 to the United States, including increases in—

16 (A) the English language proficiency of
17 such immigrants;

18 (B) the literacy skills of such immigrants;
19 and

20 (C) the rates of such immigrants in obtain-
21 ing a high school diploma or its recognized
22 equivalent; or

23 (3) gains in the employment status of immi-
24 grants to the United States, including increases in—

1 (A) the level of job skills of such immi-
2 grants, including workplace English; and

3 (B) the ability of such immigrants to ob-
4 tain and retain full-time employment.

5 (c) ANNUAL EVALUATION.—The Chief of the Office
6 of Citizenship and Immigrant Integration shall conduct an
7 annual evaluation of the grant program established under
8 this title. Such evaluation shall be used by the Chief—

9 (1) to improve the effectiveness of programs
10 carried out by the Chief;

11 (2) to assess future needs of immigrants and of
12 State and local governments related to immigrants;
13 and

14 (3) to determine the effectiveness of such grant
15 program.

16 **SEC. 305. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

17 There are authorized to be appropriated
18 \$100,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2014
19 to carry out this title.

○