

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6926

To authorize the Secretary of Education to make grants to support early college high schools and other dual enrollment programs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 17, 2008

Mr. KILDEE (for himself and Mr. EMANUEL) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Education to make grants to support early college high schools and other dual enrollment 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 “Fast Track to College
5 Act of 2008”.

6 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

7 The purpose of this Act is to increase high school
8 graduation rates and the percentage of students who com-
9 plete a recognized postsecondary credential by the age of
10 26, including among low-income students and students

1 from other populations underrepresented in higher edu-
2 cation.

3 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

4 For purposes of this Act:

5 (1) DUAL ENROLLMENT PROGRAM.—The term
6 “dual enrollment program” means an academic pro-
7 gram through which a high school student is able si-
8 multaneously to earn credit toward a high school di-
9 ploma and a postsecondary degree or certificate.

10 (2) EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL.—The term
11 “early college high school” means a high school that
12 provides a course of study that enables a student to
13 earn a high school diploma and either an associate’s
14 degree or one to two years of college credit toward
15 a postsecondary degree or credential.

16 (3) EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AGENCY.—The
17 term “educational service agency” means an edu-
18 cational service agency as defined by section
19 9101(17) of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
20 cation Act of 1965.

21 (4) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
22 ty” means a local educational agency, which may be
23 an educational service agency, in a collaborative
24 partnership with an institution of higher education.
25 Such partnership also may include other entities,

1 such as a nonprofit organization with experience in
2 youth development.

3 (5) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
4 term “institution of higher education” means an in-
5 stitution of higher education as defined by section
6 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965.

7 (6) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The term
8 “local educational agency” means a local educational
9 agency as defined by section 9101(26) of the Ele-
10 mentary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

11 (7) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
12 the Secretary of Education.

13 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

14 (a) EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOLS.—To support
15 early college high schools under this Act, there are author-
16 ized to be appropriated \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2009
17 and such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years
18 2010 through 2014.

19 (b) OTHER DUAL ENROLLMENT PROGRAMS.—To
20 support other dual enrollment programs under this Act,
21 there are authorized to be appropriated \$50,000,000 for
22 fiscal year 2009 and such sums as may be necessary for
23 each of fiscal years 2010 through 2014.

1 (c) FUNDS RESERVED.—The Secretary shall reserve
2 3 percent of funds appropriated pursuant to subsection
3 (b) for grants to States under section 9.

4 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZED PROGRAM.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized to
6 award six-year grants to eligible entities seeking to estab-
7 lish a new or support an existing early college high school
8 or other dual enrollment program.

9 (b) GRANT AMOUNT.—A grant under this Act shall
10 not exceed \$2,000,000.

11 (c) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity shall con-
13 tribute matching funds toward the costs of the early
14 college high school or other dual enrollment program
15 to be supported under this Act, of which not less
16 than half shall be from non-Federal sources, which
17 funds shall represent not less than the following:

18 (A) 20 percent of the grant amount in the
19 first and second years of the grant.

20 (B) 30 percent in the third and fourth
21 years.

22 (C) 40 percent in the fifth year.

23 (D) 50 percent in the sixth year.

24 (2) DETERMINATION OF AMOUNT CONTRIB-
25 UTED.—The Secretary shall allow an eligible entity

1 to satisfy the requirement of this subsection through
2 in-kind contributions.

3 (d) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—An eligible enti-
4 ty shall use a grant received under this Act only to supple-
5 ment funds that would, in the absence of such grant, be
6 made available from non-Federal funds for support of the
7 activities described in the eligible entity’s application
8 under section 7, and not to supplant such funds.

9 (e) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this Act,
10 the Secretary shall give priority to applicants—

11 (1) that propose to establish or support an
12 early college high school or other dual enrollment
13 program that will serve a student population of
14 which 40 percent or more are students counted
15 under section 1113(a)(5) of the Elementary and
16 Secondary Education Act of 1965; and

17 (2) from States that provide assistance to early
18 college high schools or other dual enrollment pro-
19 grams, such as assistance to defray the costs of
20 higher education, such as tuition, fees, and text-
21 books.

22 (f) GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION.—The Secretary
23 shall, to the maximum extent practicable, ensure that
24 grantees are from a representative cross-section of urban,
25 suburban, and rural areas.

1 **SEC. 6. USES OF FUNDS.**

2 (a) **MANDATORY ACTIVITIES.**—An eligible entity
3 shall use grant funds received under section 7 to support
4 the activities described in its application, including for the
5 following:

6 (1) **PLANNING YEAR.**—In the case of a new
7 early college high school or dual enrollment program,
8 during the first year of the grant—

9 (A) hiring a principal and staff, as appro-
10 priate;

11 (B) designing the curriculum and sequence
12 of courses in collaboration with at a minimum,
13 teachers from the local educational agency and
14 faculty from the partner institution of higher
15 education;

16 (C) educating parents and the community
17 about the school;

18 (D) recruiting students;

19 (E) liaison activities among partners in the
20 eligible entity; and

21 (F) coordinating secondary and postsec-
22 ondary support services, academic calendars,
23 and transportation.

24 (2) **IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD.**—During the re-
25 mainder of the grant period—

1 (A) academic and social support services,
2 including counseling;

3 (B) student recruitment and community
4 education and engagement;

5 (C) professional development, including
6 joint professional development for secondary
7 school and faculty from the institution of higher
8 education; and

9 (D) school design and planning team ac-
10 tivities, including curriculum development.

11 (b) ALLOWABLE ACTIVITIES.—An eligible entity may
12 also use grant funds received under this Act to otherwise
13 support the activities described in its application, includ-
14 ing, but not limited to—

15 (1) purchasing textbooks and equipment that
16 support academic programs;

17 (2) learning opportunities for students that
18 complement classroom experiences, such as intern-
19 ships, career-based capstone projects, and opportuni-
20 ties provided under title IV, part A, subpart 2, and
21 chapters 1 and 2 of the Higher Education Act of
22 1965;

23 (3) transportation;

24 (4) planning time for high school and college
25 educators to collaborate; and

1 (5) data collection, sharing, reporting, and eval-
2 uation.

3 **SEC. 7. APPLICATION.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—To receive a grant under section
5 4(a) or (b), an eligible entity shall submit to the Secretary
6 an application at such time, in such manner, and including
7 such information as the Secretary determines to be appro-
8 priate.

9 (b) CONTENTS OF APPLICATION.—At a minimum,
10 the application described in subsection (a) shall include
11 a description of—

12 (1) the early college high school’s or other dual
13 enrollment program’s budget;

14 (2) each partner in the eligible entity and its
15 experience with early college high schools or other
16 dual enrollment programs, key personnel from each
17 partner and their responsibilities for the early col-
18 lege high school or dual enrollment program, and
19 how the eligible entity will work with secondary and
20 postsecondary teachers, other public and private en-
21 tities, community-based organizations, businesses,
22 and labor organizations to ensure that students will
23 be prepared to succeed in postsecondary education
24 and employment, which may include the development
25 of an advisory board;

1 (3) how the eligible entity will target and re-
2 cruit at-risk youth, including those at risk of drop-
3 ping out of school, first generation college students,
4 and students from populations described in section
5 1111(b)(2)(C)(v)(II) of the Elementary and Sec-
6 ondary Education Act of 1965;

7 (4) a system of student supports including, but
8 not limited to, small group activities, tutoring, lit-
9 eracy and numeracy skill development in all aca-
10 ademic disciplines, parental outreach, extended learn-
11 ing time, and college readiness activities, such as
12 early college academic seminars and counseling;

13 (5) in the case of an early college high school,
14 how a graduation and career plan will be developed,
15 consistent with State graduation requirements, for
16 each student and reviewed each semester;

17 (6) how parents or guardians of dually enrolled
18 students will be informed of their academic perform-
19 ance and progress and, subject to paragraph (5), in-
20 volved in the development of their career and grad-
21 uation plan;

22 (7) coordination between the institution of high-
23 er education and the local educational agency, in-
24 cluding regarding academic calendars, provision of

1 student services, curriculum development, and pro-
2 fessional development;

3 (8) how the eligible entity will ensure that
4 teachers in the early college high school or other
5 dual enrollment program receive appropriate profes-
6 sional development and other supports, including to
7 enable them to help English-language learners, stu-
8 dents with disabilities, and students from diverse
9 cultural backgrounds to succeed;

10 (9) learning opportunities for students that
11 complement classroom experiences, such as intern-
12 ships, career-based capstone projects, and opportuni-
13 ties provided under title IV, part A, subpart 2, and
14 chapters 1 and 2 of the Higher Education Act of
15 1965;

16 (10) a plan to ensure that postsecondary credits
17 earned will be transferable to, at a minimum, public
18 institutions of higher education within the State,
19 consistent with existing statewide articulation agree-
20 ment;

21 (11) student assessments and other measure-
22 ments of students achievement including bench-
23 marks for student achievement;

24 (12) outreach programs to provide elementary
25 and secondary school students, especially those in

1 middle grades, and their parents, teachers, school
2 counselors, and principals information about and
3 academic preparation for the early college high
4 school or other dual enrollment program;

5 (13) how the eligible entity will help students
6 meet eligibility criteria for postsecondary courses;
7 and

8 (14) how the eligible entity will sustain the
9 early college high school or other dual enrollment
10 program after the grant expires.

11 (c) ASSURANCES.—An eligible entity’s application
12 under subsection (a) shall include assurances that—

13 (1) in the case of an early college high school,
14 the majority of courses offered, including of postsec-
15 ondary courses, will be offered at facilities of the in-
16 stitution of higher education;

17 (2) students will not be required to pay tuition
18 or fees for postsecondary courses;

19 (3) postsecondary credits earned will be tran-
20 scribed upon completion of the requisite coursework;
21 and

22 (4) faculty teaching postsecondary courses meet
23 the normal standards for faculty established by the
24 institution of higher education.

1 (d) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive the require-
2 ment of subsection (c)(1) upon a showing that it is im-
3 practical to apply due to geographic considerations.

4 **SEC. 8. PEER REVIEW.**

5 (a) PEER REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS.—The Sec-
6 retary shall establish peer review panels to review applica-
7 tions submitted pursuant to section 7 to advise the Sec-
8 retary regarding such applications.

9 (b) COMPOSITION OF PEER REVIEW PANELS.—The
10 Secretary shall ensure that each peer review panel is not
11 comprised wholly of full-time officers or employees of the
12 Federal Government and includes, at a minimum—

13 (1) experts in the establishment and adminis-
14 tration of early college high schools or other dual en-
15 rollment programs from the high school and college
16 perspective;

17 (2) faculty at institutions of higher education
18 and secondary school teachers with expertise in dual
19 enrollment; and

20 (3) experts in the education of at-risk students.

21 **SEC. 9. GRANTS TO STATES.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized to
23 award six-year grants to State agencies responsible for
24 secondary or postsecondary education for efforts to sup-
25 port or establish statewide dual enrollment programs.

1 (b) APPLICATION.—To receive a grant under this sec-
2 tion, a State agency shall submit to the Secretary an appli-
3 cation at such time, in such manner, and including such
4 information as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

5 (c) CONTENTS OF APPLICATION.—At a minimum,
6 the application described in subsection (b) shall include—

7 (1) how the State will create outreach programs
8 to ensure that middle and high school students and
9 their families are aware of dual enrollment programs
10 in the State;

11 (2) how the State will provide technical assist-
12 ance to local dual enrollment programs as appro-
13 priate;

14 (3) how the State will ensure the quality of
15 state and local dual enrollment programs; and

16 (4) such other information as the Secretary de-
17 termines to be appropriate.

18 (d) STATE ACTIVITIES.—A State receiving a grant
19 under this section shall use such funds for—

20 (1) planning and implementing a statewide
21 strategy for expanding access to dual enrollment
22 programs for students who are underrepresented in
23 higher education; and

24 (2) providing technical assistance to local dual
25 enrollment programs.

1 **SEC. 10. REPORTING AND OVERSIGHT.**

2 (a) REPORTING BY GRANTEES.—

3 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish
4 uniform guidelines for all grantees concerning infor-
5 mation such grantees annually shall report to the
6 Secretary to demonstrate a grantee's progress to-
7 ward achieving the goals of this Act.

8 (2) CONTENTS OF REPORT.—At a minimum,
9 the report described in paragraph (1) shall include,
10 for eligible entities receiving funds under section 7,
11 for each category of students described in section
12 1111(h)(1)(C)(i) of the Elementary and Secondary
13 Education Act of 1965:

14 (A) The number of students.

15 (B) The percentage of students scoring ad-
16 vanced, proficient, basic, and below basic on the
17 assessments described in section 1111(b)(3) of
18 the Elementary and Secondary Education Act
19 of 1965.

20 (C) The performance of students on other
21 assessments or measurements of achievement.

22 (D) The number of secondary school cred-
23 its earned.

24 (E) The number of postsecondary credits
25 earned.

26 (F) Attendance rate.

1 (G) Graduation rate.

2 (H) Placement in postsecondary education
3 or advanced training, in military service, and in
4 employment.

5 (b) REPORTING BY THE SECRETARY.—The Secretary
6 annually shall compile and analyze the information de-
7 scribed in subsection (a) and report it to the Committee
8 on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate
9 and the Committee on Education and Labor of the House
10 of Representatives, which report shall include identifica-
11 tion of best practices for achieving the goals of this Act.

12 (c) MONITORING VISITS.—The Secretary’s designee
13 shall visit each grantee at least once for the purpose of
14 helping the grantee achieve the goals of this Act and to
15 monitor the grantee’s progress toward achieving such
16 goals.

17 (d) NATIONAL EVALUATION.—Within six months of
18 the appropriation of funds for this Act, the Secretary shall
19 enter into a contract with an independent organization to
20 perform an evaluation of the grants awarded under this
21 Act. Such evaluation shall apply rigorous procedures to
22 obtain valid and reliable data concerning participants’ out-
23 comes by social and academic characteristics and monitor
24 the progress of students from high school to and through
25 postsecondary education.

1 (e) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall
2 provide technical assistance to eligible entities concerning
3 best practices in early college high schools and dual enroll-
4 ment programs and shall disseminate such best practices
5 among eligible entities and State and local educational
6 agencies.

7 **SEC. 11. RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.**

8 (a) EMPLOYEES.—Nothing in this Act shall be con-
9 strued to alter or otherwise affect the rights, remedies,
10 and procedures afforded to the employees of local edu-
11 cational agencies (including schools) or institutions of
12 higher education under Federal, State, or local laws (in-
13 cluding applicable regulations or court orders) or under
14 the terms of collective bargaining agreements, memoranda
15 of understanding, or other agreements between such em-
16 ployees and their employers.

17 (b) GRADUATION RATE.—A student who graduates
18 from an early college high school supported under this Act
19 in the standard number of years for graduation described
20 in the eligible entity's application shall be considered to
21 have graduated on time for purposes of section
22 1111(b)(2)(C)(6) of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
23 cation Act of 1965.

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