

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3078

To support after-school programs in rural areas of the United States by establishing a pilot program to assist communities establish, enhance, or expand rural after-school programs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 26, 2009

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

A BILL

To support after-school programs in rural areas of the United States by establishing a pilot program to assist communities establish, enhance, or expand rural after-school 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 “Investment in Rural
5 After-School Programs Act of 2009”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDING.**

7 Congress finds that—

1 (1) 21 percent of the children in the United
2 States attend public schools in rural areas;

3 (2) more than 14,000,000 school-age children
4 (25 percent of all school-age children) are left alone
5 after school, including more than 40,000 kinder-
6 gartners;

7 (3) only 6,500,000 (11 percent) of children in
8 kindergarten through twelfth grade participate in
9 after-school programs, although an additional
10 15,000,000 would participate if a quality program
11 were available in the communities of the children;

12 (4) in rural areas of the United States,
13 2,500,000 children live in deep and persistent pov-
14 erty;

15 (5) among children living in rural areas, 19
16 percent live in poverty, compared to 15 percent
17 among non-rural children;

18 (6) rural schools have fewer financial resources
19 than non-rural schools, largely as a result of dimin-
20 ished local property tax bases and inequitable dis-
21 tributions of State funds;

22 (7) low literacy rates among parents in poor
23 rural communities affect the early language develop-
24 ment and educational aspirations of children;

1 (8) children living in poverty experience less
2 cognitive stimulation and enrichment than children
3 living in middle-income households;

4 (9) the poorer and more diverse the rural popu-
5 lation, the lower the scores of the students of the
6 population are on the National Assessment of Edu-
7 cational Progress;

8 (10) academic outcomes that are linked to
9 after-school programs include—

10 (A) better performance in school as meas-
11 ured by achievement test scores and grades;

12 (B) better attitudes toward school and
13 higher educational aspirations;

14 (C) higher school attendance; and

15 (D) less disciplinary action;

16 (11) investing in after-school programs helps
17 children in rural communities break out of the cycle
18 of poverty and creates opportunities for at-risk
19 youth;

20 (12) in areas in which resources are limited,
21 after-school programs are often the only source of
22 supplemental enrichment in literacy, nutrition edu-
23 cation, technology, and preparation for college en-
24 trance exams;

1 (13) children attending rural schools have the
2 lowest median per-student funding for after-school
3 programs under the 21st century community learn-
4 ing center program under part B of title IV of the
5 Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965
6 (20 U.S.C. 7171 et seq.), as compared to children
7 attending urban and suburban schools;

8 (14) after-school program providers in rural
9 communities face unique barriers that include—

10 (A) higher transportation costs;

11 (B) fewer economies of scale, because of
12 the smaller population base, which results in
13 less funding per child; and

14 (C) fewer trained staff and community-
15 based organizations with whom to partner;

16 (15) in the 30 years before the date of enact-
17 ment of this Act—

18 (A) the percentage of children in the
19 United States who are overweight has more
20 than doubled; and

21 (B) the number of teenagers who are over-
22 weight has nearly tripled;

23 (16) rural, low-income children represent the
24 highest obesity group among all children in the
25 United States; and

1 (17) after-school programs provide—

2 (A) much-needed opportunities to promote
3 and support healthy lifestyles in youth in addi-
4 tion to constructive learning environments; and

5 (B) effective venues for improving nutri-
6 tion, nutrition education, and physical activity.

7 **SEC. 3. AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS.**

8 Subtitle D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural De-
9 velopment Act is amended by inserting after section 365
10 (7 U.S.C. 2008) the following:

11 **“SEC. 366. AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS.**

12 “(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to en-
13 hance after-school programs in rural areas by helping
14 communities—

15 “(1) to establish after-school programs; and

16 “(2) to improve existing programs by over-
17 coming barriers to service.

18 “(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

19 “(1) AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM.—The term
20 ‘after-school program’ means a program that carries
21 out a broad array of activities during periods when
22 school is not in session (such as before school, after
23 school, or during summer recess and other vacation
24 periods) that advance student academic achievement
25 and promote positive youth development.

1 “(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-
2 tity’ means a local educational agency (as such term
3 is defined in section 9101 of the Elementary and
4 Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
5 7801)), educational service agency, community-based
6 organization, another public or private entity, or a
7 consortium of 2 or more such agencies, organiza-
8 tions, or entities.

9 “(3) RURAL AREA.—The term ‘rural area’
10 means an area that is served by an elementary or
11 secondary school that is designated with a school lo-
12 cale code of Distant Town, Remote Town, Fringe
13 Rural, Distant Rural, or Remote Rural, as deter-
14 mined by the Secretary of Education.

15 “(c) GRANTS.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make
17 grants to eligible entities to improve, expand, or es-
18 tablish after-school programs in rural areas.

19 “(2) REQUIREMENT.—Each grant under this
20 section shall be in an amount of not less than
21 \$25,000.

22 “(d) DURATION.—

23 “(1) TERM OF GRANT.—The term of a grant
24 under this section may not be for less than 3 years.

1 “(2) RENEWAL.—The Secretary may renew a
2 grant under this section for a period of not less than
3 3 years, based on the performance of the eligible en-
4 tity during the previous grant term.

5 “(e) USES.—As a condition of the receipt of a grant
6 under this section, an eligible entity shall use the grant
7 to fund projects and activities described in subsection (c),
8 including transportation, professional development, train-
9 ing, recruitment and retention of staff, increasing access
10 to technology, and planning.

11 “(f) EVALUATION.—The Secretary may use not more
12 than 1 percent of the funds under this section—

13 “(1) to conduct evaluations of the effectiveness
14 of programs and activities assisted under subsection
15 (c); and

16 “(2) to disseminate the results of those evalua-
17 tions for the purpose of refining, improving, and
18 strengthening programs.

19 “(g) OUTREACH, TRAINING, AND TECHNICAL AS-
20 SISTANCE.—The Secretary may use not more than 3 per-
21 cent of the funds made available to carry out this sec-
22 tion—

23 “(1) to conduct outreach, including bidders’
24 conferences, to ensure widespread knowledge of the
25 availability of resources described in subsection (c);

1 “(2) to disseminate information on best prac-
2 tices and successful program models for serving chil-
3 dren and youth in rural areas; and

4 “(3) to provide capacity building, training, and
5 technical assistance to after-school programs and
6 providers in rural areas.

7 “(h) APPLICATION.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—To be considered for a
9 grant under this section, each eligible entity shall
10 submit to the Secretary an application at such time,
11 in such manner, and accompanied by such informa-
12 tion as the Secretary may require.

13 “(2) CONTENTS.—An application submitted
14 pursuant to paragraph (1) shall include—

15 “(A) a description of the after-school pro-
16 gram to be funded, including—

17 “(i) an assurance that the program
18 will take place in a safe and easily acces-
19 sible facility;

20 “(ii) a description of how children and
21 youth participating in the program will
22 travel safely between the program site and
23 home;

24 “(iii) a description of how the eligible
25 entity will disseminate information about

1 the program, including the location of the
2 program, to the community in a manner
3 that is understandable and accessible;

4 “(iv)(I) a description of the services to
5 be provided to children and youth, which
6 may include a broad array of activities,
7 such as—

8 “(aa) academic enrichment and
9 youth development activities;

10 “(bb) drug and violence preven-
11 tion programs;

12 “(cc) counseling programs;

13 “(dd) art, music, physical fitness,
14 and recreational programs;

15 “(ee) technology education pro-
16 grams;

17 “(ff) character education pro-
18 grams; and

19 “(gg) service-learning programs;

20 “(II) the roles and responsibilities of
21 the partners in providing the services; and

22 “(III) how the services enhance an ex-
23 isting after-school program; and

24 “(v) an assurance that the program
25 will provide a nutritious snack or meal that

1 meets nutrition standards established by
2 the Secretary;

3 “(B) an assurance that the proposed pro-
4 gram was developed, and will be carried out, in
5 active collaboration with the schools the stu-
6 dents attend;

7 “(C) an assurance that funds provided
8 under this section will be used to increase the
9 level of State, local, and other non-Federal
10 funds that would, in the absence of funds under
11 this section, be made available for programs
12 and activities authorized under this section, and
13 in no case supplant Federal, State, local, or
14 non-Federal funds;

15 “(D) a description of the partnership be-
16 tween a local educational agency, a community-
17 based organization, or another public entity or
18 private entity, if applicable; and

19 “(E) such additional assurances as the
20 Secretary determines to be necessary to ensure
21 compliance with this section.

22 “(i) PRIORITY.—The Secretary shall give priority to
23 applications that—

24 “(1) propose partnerships between 2 or more el-
25 igible entities; or

1 “(2) propose that a majority of the students
2 participating in the after-school program are eligible
3 for free or reduced price school meals under the
4 Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42
5 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.) and section 4 of the Child Nu-
6 trition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773).

7 “(j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
8 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this sec-
9 tion—

10 “(1) \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 2010;

11 “(2) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2011; and

12 “(3) such sums as are necessary for each of fis-
13 cal years 2012 through 2014.”.

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