

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3259

To establish the Grants for College Access and Completion Program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 20, 2009

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

A BILL

To establish the Grants for College Access and Completion
Program.

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 “Establishing Grants
5 for College Access and Completion Act of 2009”.

6 **SEC. 2. GRANTS FOR COLLEGE SUCCESS.**

7 (a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to author-
8 ize grants to eligible entities to—

9 (1) build and sustain an understanding among
10 secondary school students from disadvantaged popu-

1 lations of the need for higher levels of educational
2 attainment and lifelong learning; and

3 (2) increase the number of low-income students
4 from underserved populations and disadvantaged
5 backgrounds who enter and complete college.

6 (b) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—Subject to the avail-
7 ability of amounts appropriated to carry out this Act, the
8 Secretary of Education shall award 5-year grants, on a
9 competitive basis, to eligible entities to carry out the pur-
10 pose of this Act through the activities and services de-
11 scribed in subsection (d).

12 (c) FEDERAL SHARE; NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—

13 (1) FEDERAL SHARE.—The amount of the Fed-
14 eral share under this section for a fiscal year shall
15 be not be more than 85 percent of the costs of the
16 activities and services described in subsection (d)
17 that are carried out under the grant.

18 (2) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—The amount of the
19 non-Federal share under this section shall be not
20 less than 15 percent of the costs of the activities and
21 services described in subsection (d). Such non-Fed-
22 eral share may be provided in cash or in-kind, or
23 both.

24 (d) USES OF FUNDS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Grants awarded under this
2 Act shall be used to—

3 (A) provide mentoring, academic support,
4 and supportive services to prepare low-income
5 students to attend institutions of higher edu-
6 cation;

7 (B) conduct outreach programs to encour-
8 age low-income students to pursue higher edu-
9 cation, including providing information about
10 Federal and State financial aid options; and

11 (C) provide other activities to ensure that
12 an increasing number of low-income students
13 attend institutions of higher education.

14 (2) PRIORITY.—In carrying out the activities
15 and services described in paragraph (1), an eligible
16 entity receiving a grant under this Act shall give pri-
17 ority to students who are from families with incomes
18 below the poverty line.

19 (e) ANNUAL REPORT.—Each eligible entity receiving
20 a grant under this Act shall prepare and submit an annual
21 report to the Secretary of Education on the activities and
22 services provided with such grant funds, including—

23 (1) each activity and service that was provided
24 to low-income students over the course of the year;

1 (2) the cost of providing each such activity and
2 service;

3 (3) the number of low-income students who re-
4 ceived mentoring and outreach services from the en-
5 tity; and

6 (4) the outcomes for students who participated
7 in an activity or received services provided with such
8 grant funds, including high school graduation rates
9 and enrollment rates at institutions of higher edu-
10 cation.

11 (f) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this Act:

12 (1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
13 ty” means a nonprofit organization that—

14 (A) has as its primary purpose to provide
15 scholarships and support services to students
16 from underserved and disadvantaged popu-
17 lations to increase the number of such students
18 who enter and complete a program of study at
19 institutions of higher education;

20 (B) has been in operation for not less than
21 6 years and serves secondary school students;

22 (C) is actively collaborating with the State
23 in which it is headquartered;

24 (D) has received financial support from
25 such State;

1 (E) has raised not less than \$75,000,000
2 from private or other nongovernmental sources
3 for scholarship aid and support programs for
4 low-income students;

5 (F) has a business plan in place to expand
6 into additional States;

7 (G) provides scholarships and support pro-
8 grams to students in more than one State;

9 (H) during the 3-year period before apply-
10 ing for a grant under this Act, has served a sig-
11 nificant number of students and awarded a sig-
12 nificant number of scholarships through all of
13 its programs, as determined by the Secretary;
14 and

15 (I) has provided scholarships and men-
16 toring services for a significant number of bac-
17 calaureate degree graduates, as determined by
18 the Secretary, since the entity was established.

19 (2) LOW-INCOME STUDENT.—The term “low-in-
20 come student” means a student who is determined
21 by a local educational agency to be from a low-in-
22 come family using the measures described in section
23 1113(a)(5) of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
24 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6313(a)(5)).

1 (3) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
2 term “institution of higher education” has the
3 meaning given such term in section 102 of the High-
4 er Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002), except
5 that such term does not include an institution de-
6 scribed in subsection (a)(1)(C) of that section.

7 (4) POVERTY LINE.—The term “poverty line”
8 means the poverty line (as defined by the Office of
9 Management and Budget and revised annually in ac-
10 cordance with section 673(2) of the Community
11 Services Block Grant Act) applicable to a family of
12 the size involved.

13 (5) STATE.—The term “State” means each of
14 the several States and the District of Columbia.

15 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATION.—There are
16 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act such
17 sums as may be necessary for fiscal year 2010 and each
18 of the 5 succeeding fiscal years.

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