

113TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1127

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 regarding school libraries, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 10, 2013

Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. COCHRAN, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

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## A BILL

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 regarding school libraries, 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 “Strengthening Kids’  
5 Interest in Learning and Libraries Act” or the “SKILLS  
6 Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. REFERENCES.**

8 Except as otherwise expressly provided, wherever in  
9 this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms  
10 of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provi-

1 sion, the reference shall be considered to be made to a  
 2 section or other provision of the Elementary and Sec-  
 3 ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.).

4 **TITLE I—IMPROVING EDU-**  
 5 **CATION THROUGH SCHOOL**  
 6 **LIBRARIES**

7 **SEC. 101. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

8 Section 1002(b)(4) (20 U.S.C. 6302(b)(4)) is amend-  
 9 ed to read as follows:

10 “(4) IMPROVING LITERACY THROUGH SCHOOL  
 11 LIBRARIES.—For the purpose of carrying out sub-  
 12 part 4 of part B, there are authorized to be appro-  
 13 priated such sums as may be necessary for fiscal  
 14 year 2014 and for each of the 5 succeeding fiscal  
 15 years.”.

16 **SEC. 102. STATE PLANS.**

17 Section 1111(b)(8) (20 U.S.C. 6311(b)(8)) is amend-  
 18 ed—

19 (1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A),  
 20 by inserting “or include” after “describe”;

21 (2) in subparagraph (D), by striking “and”  
 22 after the semicolon;

23 (3) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as sub-  
 24 paragraph (F); and

1 (4) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the fol-  
2 lowing:

3 “(E) an assurance that the State edu-  
4 cational agency will assist local educational  
5 agencies in developing effective school library  
6 programs to provide students an opportunity to  
7 develop digital literacy skills and the knowledge  
8 and skills described in the challenging academic  
9 content standards adopted by the State; and”.

10 **SEC. 103. LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY PLANS.**

11 Section 1112(c)(1) (20 U.S.C. 6312(c)(1)) is amend-  
12 ed—

13 (1) in subparagraph (N), by striking “and”  
14 after the semicolon;

15 (2) in subparagraph (O), by striking the period  
16 and inserting “; and”; and

17 (3) by adding at the end the following:

18 “(P) assist each school served by the agen-  
19 cy and assisted under this part in developing ef-  
20 fective school library programs consistent with  
21 section 1111(b)(8)(E).”.

22 **SEC. 104. SCHOOLWIDE PROGRAMS.**

23 Section 1114(b)(1)(D) (20 U.S.C. 6314(b)(1)(D)) is  
24 amended by inserting “school librarians,” after “teach-  
25 ers,”.

1 **SEC. 105. TARGETED ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.**

2 Section 1115(c)(1)(F) (20 U.S.C. 6315(c)(1)(F)) is  
3 amended by inserting “school librarians,” after “teach-  
4 ers,”.

5 **SEC. 106. IMPROVING LITERACY AND COLLEGE AND CA-**  
6 **REER READINESS THROUGH EFFECTIVE**  
7 **SCHOOL LIBRARY PROGRAMS.**

8 Subpart 4 of part B of title I (20 U.S.C. 6383) is  
9 amended to read as follows:

10 **“Subpart 4—Improving Literacy and College and Ca-**  
11 **reer Readiness Through Effective School Li-**  
12 **brary Programs**

13 **“SEC. 1251. IMPROVING LITERACY AND COLLEGE AND CA-**  
14 **REER READINESS THROUGH EFFECTIVE**  
15 **SCHOOL LIBRARY PROGRAMS.**

16 “(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this subpart is to  
17 improve students’ literacy skills and readiness for higher  
18 education and careers, by providing students with effective  
19 school library programs.

20 “(b) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—In this sec-  
21 tion, the term ‘eligible entity’ means—

22 “(1) a local educational agency in which 20 per-  
23 cent of the students served by the local educational  
24 agency are from families with incomes below the  
25 poverty line; or

1           “(2) a consortia of such local educational agen-  
2           cies.

3           “(c) RESERVATION.—From the funds appropriated  
4 under section 1002(b)(4) for a fiscal year, the Secretary  
5 shall reserve—

6           “(1) one-half of 1 percent to award assistance  
7 under this section to the Bureau of Indian Edu-  
8 cation to carry out activities consistent with the pur-  
9 pose of this subpart; and

10           “(2) one-half of 1 percent to award assistance  
11 under this section to the outlying areas according to  
12 their respective needs for assistance under this sub-  
13 part.

14           “(d) GRANTS TO LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.—

15           “(1) IN GENERAL.—From amounts appro-  
16 priated under section 1002(b)(4) and not reserved  
17 under subsection (c), the Secretary shall award  
18 grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible entities to  
19 enable such entities to carry out the authorized ac-  
20 tivities described in subsection (e).

21           “(2) SUFFICIENT SIZE AND SCOPE.—The Sec-  
22 retary shall award grants under this section of suffi-  
23 cient size and scope to allow the eligible entities to  
24 carry out effective school library programs for which  
25 the grant funds are provided.

1           “(3) DISTRIBUTION.—The Secretary shall en-  
2           sure that grants under this section are equitably dis-  
3           tributed among the different geographic regions of  
4           the United States, and among eligible entities serv-  
5           ing urban and rural areas.

6           “(4) DURATION.—The Secretary shall award  
7           grants under this section for a period of 3 years.

8           “(5) LOCAL APPLICATIONS.—An eligible entity  
9           desiring to receive a grant under this section shall  
10          submit an application to the Secretary at such time,  
11          in such manner, and containing such information as  
12          the Secretary may require. Such application shall in-  
13          clude, for each school that the eligible entity identi-  
14          fies as participating in a grant program under this  
15          section, the following information:

16                 “(A) a needs assessment relating to the  
17                 need for literacy improvement at all grade levels  
18                 and the need for effective school library pro-  
19                 grams, based on the age and condition of school  
20                 library resources, including—

21                         “(i) book collections;

22                         “(ii) access to advanced technology;

23                         “(iii) the availability of well-trained,  
24                         State certified or licensed school librarians;

25                         and

1                   “(iv) the current level of coordination  
2                   and shared planning time among school li-  
3                   brarians and classroom teachers;

4                   “(B) a description of which grade spans  
5                   will be served, and an assurance that funding  
6                   will be distributed to serve students in elemen-  
7                   tary, middle, and high schools;

8                   “(C) how the eligible entity will extensively  
9                   involve school librarians, teachers, administra-  
10                  tors, and parents in the activities assisted under  
11                  this section, and the manner in which the eligi-  
12                  ble entity will carry out the activities described  
13                  in subsection (e) using programs and materials  
14                  that are grounded in scientifically valid re-  
15                  search;

16                  “(D) the manner in which the eligible enti-  
17                  ty will effectively coordinate the funds and ac-  
18                  tivities provided under this section with Fed-  
19                  eral, State, and local funds and activities under  
20                  this subpart and other literacy, library, tech-  
21                  nology, and professional development funds and  
22                  activities, including those funded through the  
23                  Institute of Museum and Library Services; and

24                  “(E) the manner in which the eligible enti-  
25                  ty will collect and analyze data on the quality

1           and impact of activities carried out under this  
2           section by schools served by the eligible entity.

3           “(e) LOCAL ACTIVITIES.—Funds under this section  
4 may be used to develop and enhance effective school li-  
5 brary programs, which may include activities to—

6           “(1) acquire up-to-date school library resources,  
7 including books and reading materials that—

8           “(A) are appropriate for students in all  
9 grade levels to be served and for students with  
10 special learning needs, including students who  
11 are limited English proficient; and

12           “(B) engage the interest of readers at all  
13 reading levels;

14           “(2) acquire and use advanced technology, in-  
15 corporated into the curricula of the school, to de-  
16 velop and enhance the digital literacy skills of stu-  
17 dents;

18           “(3) facilitate Internet links and other resource-  
19 sharing networks among schools and school libraries,  
20 and public and academic libraries, where possible;

21           “(4) provide—

22           “(A) professional development in the ac-  
23 quisition of digital literacy skills and literacy in-  
24 struction that is appropriate for all grades, in-  
25 cluding the assessment of student literacy



1 needs, the coordination of reading and writing  
2 instruction across content areas, and training in  
3 literacy strategies in all content areas for school  
4 librarians; and

5 “(B) activities that foster increased col-  
6 laboration among school librarians, teachers,  
7 and administrators; and

8 “(5) provide students with access to school li-  
9 braries during nonschool hours, including the hours  
10 before and after school, during weekends, and dur-  
11 ing summer vacation periods.

12 “(f) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—Funds made  
13 available under this section shall be used to supplement,  
14 and not supplant, other Federal, State, and local funds  
15 expended to carry out activities relating to library, tech-  
16 nology, or professional development activities.

17 “(g) ACCOUNTABILITY AND REPORTING.—Each eligi-  
18 ble entity that receives funds under this section for a fiscal  
19 year shall prepare and submit a report to the Secretary  
20 regarding how the funding was used and the extent to  
21 which the availability of, the access to, and the use of,  
22 up-to-date school library resources in the elementary  
23 schools and secondary schools served by the eligible entity  
24 was increased.”.

1 **TITLE II—PREPARING, TRAIN-**  
 2 **ING, AND RECRUITING HIGH-**  
 3 **LY EFFECTIVE TEACHERS,**  
 4 **SCHOOL LIBRARIANS, AND**  
 5 **PRINCIPALS**

6 **SEC. 201. TEACHER, SCHOOL LIBRARIAN, AND PRINCIPAL**  
 7 **TRAINING AND RECRUITING FUND.**

8 Title II (20 U.S.C. 6601 et seq.) is amended—

9 (1) in the title heading, by striking “**HIGH**  
 10 **QUALITY TEACHERS AND PRIN-**  
 11 **CIPALS**” and inserting “**HIGHLY EFFEC-**  
 12 **TIVE TEACHERS, SCHOOL LIBRAR-**  
 13 **ANS, AND PRINCIPALS**”; and

14 (2) in the part heading for part A, by striking  
 15 “**TEACHER AND PRINCIPAL**” and inserting  
 16 “**TEACHER, SCHOOL LIBRARIAN, AND PRIN-**  
 17 **CIPAL**”.

18 **SEC. 202. PURPOSE.**

19 Section 2101(1) (20 U.S.C. 6601(1)) is amended to  
 20 read as follows:

21 “(1) increase student achievement through  
 22 strategies such as—

23 “(A) improving teacher, school librarian,  
 24 and principal quality; and

1           “(B) increasing the number of highly effec-  
 2           tive teachers in the classroom, highly effective  
 3           school librarians in the library, and highly effec-  
 4           tive principals and assistant principals in the  
 5           school; and”.

6 **SEC. 203. STATE APPLICATIONS.**

7           Section 2112(b)(4) (20 U.S.C. 6612(b)(4)) is amend-  
 8           ed by inserting “, school librarians,” before “and prin-  
 9           cipals”.

10 **SEC. 204. STATE USE OF FUNDS.**

11           Section 2113(c) (20 U.S.C. 6613(c)) is amended—

12           (1) in paragraph (4)—

13                   (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph  
 14                   (A), by striking “principals,” and inserting  
 15                   “highly effective school librarians, and highly  
 16                   qualified principals and”; and

17                   (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “,  
 18                   principals,” and inserting “, highly effective  
 19                   school librarians, and highly qualified prin-  
 20                   cipals”; and

21           (2) in paragraph (6), by striking “teachers and  
 22           principals” each place the term appears and insert-  
 23           ing “teachers, school librarians, and principals”.

1 **SEC. 205. LOCAL USE OF FUNDS.**

2 Section 2123(a) (20 U.S.C. 6623(a)) is amended by  
3 inserting after paragraph (8) the following:

4 “(9)(A) Developing and implementing strategies  
5 to assist in recruiting and retaining highly effective  
6 school librarians; and

7 “(B) providing appropriate professional devel-  
8 opment for school librarians, particularly related to  
9 skills necessary to assist students to improve the  
10 students’ academic achievement, including digital lit-  
11 eracy skills and preparation for higher education  
12 and careers.”.

13 **TITLE III—GENERAL**  
14 **PROVISIONS**

15 **SEC. 301. DEFINITIONS.**

16 Section 9101 (20 U.S.C. 7801) is amended—

17 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (16), (17), and  
18 (18) through (43) as paragraphs (17), (18), and  
19 (20) through (45), respectively;

20 (2) by inserting after paragraph (15) the fol-  
21 lowing:

22 “(15) **DIGITAL LITERACY SKILLS.**—The term  
23 ‘digital literacy skills’ has the meaning given the  
24 term in section 202 of the Museum and Library  
25 Services Act.”; and

1           (3) by inserting after paragraph (18) (as redesi-  
2           gnated by paragraph (1)) the following:

3           “(19) **EFFECTIVE SCHOOL LIBRARY PRO-**  
4           **GRAM.**—The term ‘effective school library program’  
5           means a school library program that—

6                   “(A) is staffed by a State certified or li-  
7                   censed school librarian;

8                   “(B) has up-to-date books, materials,  
9                   equipment, and technology (including broad-  
10                  band);

11                  “(C) includes regular collaboration between  
12                  classroom teachers and school librarians to as-  
13                  sist with development and implementation of  
14                  the curriculum and other school reform efforts;  
15                  and

16                  “(D) supports the development of digital  
17                  literacy skills.”.

18 **SEC. 302. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**

19           (a) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents in  
20           section 2 of the Act is amended—

21                   (1) by striking the items relating to subpart 4  
22                   of part B of title I and inserting the following:

“SUBPART 4—IMPROVING LITERACY AND COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS  
THROUGH EFFECTIVE SCHOOL LIBRARY PROGRAMS

“Sec. 1251. Improving literacy and college and career readiness through effec-  
tive school library programs.”;

1           (2) by striking the item relating to title II and  
2           inserting the following:

          “TITLE II—PREPARING, TRAINING, AND RECRUITING HIGHLY  
EFFECTIVE TEACHERS, SCHOOL LIBRARIANS, AND PRINCIPALS”;

3           and

4           (3) by striking the item relating to part A of  
5           title II and inserting the following:

          “PART A—TEACHER, SCHOOL LIBRARIAN, AND PRINCIPAL TRAINING AND  
RECRUITING FUND.”.

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