

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 282

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to establish a new counseling program.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 12, 2013

Mr. BEGICH introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to establish a new counseling 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 “Counseling for Career
5 Choice Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) A career guidance and counseling program
9 develops an individual’s competencies in self-knowl-

1 edge, educational and occupational exploration, and
2 career planning.

3 (2) Career guidance and counseling programs
4 help individuals acquire the knowledge, skills, and
5 experience necessary to identify options, explore al-
6 ternatives, and succeed in a 21st century society.

7 (3) The American School Counselor Association
8 recommends a student-to-counselor ratio of 250 to
9 1. Forty-seven States do not meet this recommenda-
10 tion.

11 (4) Professional school counselors design and
12 implement comprehensive school counseling pro-
13 grams that include educational and career planning
14 activities for all students that are designed to assist
15 students in reaching academic, career, and personal
16 goals.

17 (5) 4 out of 5 graduates of secondary-level ca-
18 reer or technical education programs who pursued
19 postsecondary education after secondary school had
20 earned a credential or were still enrolled in postsec-
21 ondary education 2 years later.

22 (6) Students at schools with highly integrated
23 rigorous academic and career and technical edu-
24 cation programs have significantly higher achieve-

1 ment in reading, mathematics, and science than do
2 students at schools with less integrated programs.

3 **SEC. 3. COUNSELING FOR CAREER CHOICE.**

4 Title II of the Elementary and Secondary Education
5 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6601 et seq.) is amended by add-
6 ing at the end the following:

7 **“PART E—COUNSELING FOR CAREER CHOICE**

8 **“SEC. 2501. DEFINITIONS.**

9 “In this part:

10 “(1) COMMUNITY COLLEGE.—The term ‘com-
11 munity college’ means—

12 “(A) a junior or community college, as
13 such term is defined in section 312(f) of the
14 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
15 1058(f)); or

16 “(B) a 4-year public institution of higher
17 education (as defined in section 101 of the
18 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
19 1001)) that awards a significant number of de-
20 grees and certificates, as determined by the
21 Secretary, that are not—

22 “(i) baccalaureate degrees (or an
23 equivalent); or

24 “(ii) master’s, professional, or other
25 advanced degrees.

1 “(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-
2 tity’ means—

3 “(A) a local educational agency, including
4 an educational service agency; or

5 “(B) a consortium that may consist of any
6 combination of 2 or more local educational
7 agencies, educational service agencies, non-prof-
8 it organizations with demonstrated expertise in
9 counseling or career and technical education, or
10 tribal organizations.

11 “(3) INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED.—The term ‘in-
12 dustry-recognized’, when used with respect to a cre-
13 dential, means a credential that—

14 “(A) is sought or accepted by employers
15 within the industry or sector involved as a rec-
16 ognized, preferred, or required credential for re-
17 cruitment, screening, hiring, retention, or ad-
18 vancement purposes; and

19 “(B) where appropriate, is endorsed by a
20 nationally recognized trade association or orga-
21 nization representing a significant part of the
22 industry or sector.

23 “(4) LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT
24 BOARD.—The term ‘local workforce investment
25 board’ means a local workforce investment board es-

1 established under section 117 of the Workforce Invest-
2 ment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2832).

3 “(5) SCHOOL COUNSELOR.—The term ‘school
4 counselor’ has the meaning given the term in section
5 5421.

6 “(6) STAKEHOLDERS.—The term ‘stakeholders’
7 includes local educational agencies, school coun-
8 selors, secondary schools, institutions of higher edu-
9 cation (including community colleges), the State
10 workforce investment board, the State agency re-
11 sponsible for labor market information, other appli-
12 cable State agencies as determined by the Secretary,
13 local workforce investment boards, regional economic
14 development agencies, area career and technical edu-
15 cation schools (as defined in section 3 of the Carl D.
16 Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of
17 2006), local businesses and industries, organizations
18 offering apprenticeship programs, tribal organiza-
19 tions, labor organizations, programs leading to post-
20 secondary credentials, including industry-recognized
21 credentials, other career and technical educational
22 programs (as defined by the Secretary), and any
23 other individuals or persons that the Secretary de-
24 termines appropriate to carry out the purposes of
25 this part.

1 “(7) STATEWIDE COUNSELING FRAMEWORK.—

2 The term ‘statewide counseling framework’ means a
3 framework that encompasses grades 6 through 12
4 and postsecondary education and that includes infor-
5 mation on career awareness, skills assessment, skills
6 training, student interest surveys, postsecondary
7 education entrance requirements, secondary school
8 graduation requirements, financial aid, institutions
9 of higher education, community colleges, programs
10 leading to industry-recognized credentials, career
11 and technical education programs, internships, dual
12 enrollment programs, apprenticeships, and profes-
13 sional development opportunities for school coun-
14 selors.

15 “(8) STATE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT
16 BOARD.—The term ‘State workforce investment
17 board’ means a State workforce investment board
18 established under section 111 of the Workforce In-
19 vestment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2821).

20 “(9) TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—The term ‘tribal
21 organization’ has the meaning given the term in sec-
22 tion 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Edu-
23 cation Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b).

1 **“SEC. 2502. ESTABLISHMENT AND CAPACITY-BUILDING**
2 **GRANTS.**

3 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT GRANTS.—

4 “(1) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—From amounts
5 appropriated to carry out this part and not reserved
6 by the Secretary under subsection (b), the Secretary
7 shall award establishment grants, on a competitive
8 basis, to State educational agencies to enable the
9 State educational agencies to carry out the activities
10 described in section 2504.

11 “(2) DURATION; EXTENSION.—

12 “(A) DURATION.—Each establishment
13 grant under this subsection shall be for a period
14 of not more than 2 years.

15 “(B) EXTENSION.—The Secretary may ex-
16 tend a grant awarded under this subsection for
17 additional 3-year periods if the State edu-
18 cational agency—

19 “(i) is achieving the intended out-
20 comes of the grant;

21 “(ii) shows continued engagement
22 with stakeholders; and

23 “(iii) has established a statewide
24 counseling framework.

25 “(b) STATE CAPACITY-BUILDING GRANTS.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall reserve
2 not less than 10 percent and not more than 20 per-
3 cent of the amounts appropriated to carry out this
4 part for any fiscal year to award capacity-building
5 grants, on a competitive basis, to State educational
6 agencies that do not receive an establishment grant
7 under subsection (a) for such year.

8 “(2) ACTIVITIES.—A State educational agency
9 that receives a capacity-building grant under this
10 subsection shall use grant funds—

11 “(A) to carry out 1 or more of the activi-
12 ties from the State educational agency’s appli-
13 cation under section 2503 that the Secretary
14 determines is an acceptable use of funds; or

15 “(B) to improve the State educational
16 agency’s application for the next competition
17 for establishment grants under subsection (a).

18 “(c) SPECIAL RULE FOR ALTERNATE GRANTEES.—
19 Notwithstanding any other provision of this part, if a
20 State educational agency does not apply for a grant under
21 this section for an award year, a consortium of stake-
22 holders representing the State may apply for a grant
23 under this section for the subsequent award year by sub-
24 mitting to the Secretary an application that meets the re-
25 quirements of section 2503 and includes any additional

1 information that the Secretary may require. The Secretary
2 shall give such application the same consideration in the
3 grant award process as is given an application submitted
4 by a State educational agency, and may award one consor-
5 tium in the State an establishment grant under subsection
6 (a) or a capacity building grant under subsection (b) to
7 enable the consortium to carry out the activities described
8 in section 2504 or subsection (b), respectively, in the
9 State. The provisions in this part shall apply to a consor-
10 tium that receives an grant under this subsection in the
11 same manner as such provisions apply to a State edu-
12 cational agency.

13 **“SEC. 2503. APPLICATION.**

14 “A State educational agency desiring a grant under
15 this part shall submit an application at such time, in such
16 manner, and containing such information as the Secretary
17 may require. The application shall include—

18 “(1)(A) a description of a proposed statewide
19 counseling framework that is developed in consulta-
20 tion with not less than 5 stakeholders, of which at
21 least 1 stakeholder shall be a local business or indus-
22 try or statewide industry organization and 1 stake-
23 holder shall be a local educational agency or sec-
24 ondary school;

1 “(B) a detailed plan to implement a statewide
2 counseling framework that is developed in consulta-
3 tion with not less than 5 stakeholders, of which at
4 least 1 stakeholder shall be a local business or indus-
5 try or statewide industry organization and 1 shall be
6 a local educational agency or secondary school; or

7 “(C) evidence of an existing statewide coun-
8 seling framework and implementation plan sup-
9 ported by not less than 5 stakeholders, of which at
10 least 1 stakeholder shall be a local business or indus-
11 try or statewide industry organization and 1 shall be
12 a local educational agency or secondary school;

13 “(2) a description, if applicable, of any program
14 leading to an industry-recognized credential that—

15 “(A) will be included as one of the postsec-
16 ondary opportunities described in section
17 2504(a)(9);

18 “(B) serves as one of the stakeholders for
19 purposes of paragraph (1); or

20 “(C) will be described in the information
21 included in the statewide counseling framework
22 for the activities carried out under the grant;
23 and

1 “(3) a description of how the State educational
2 agency will award subgrants and ensure that the ac-
3 tivities described in section 2504 are carried out.

4 **“SEC. 2504. ACTIVITIES.**

5 “(a) IN GENERAL.—A State educational agency re-
6 ceiving an establishment grant under section 2502(a) shall
7 use grant funds to—

8 “(1) develop and implement comprehensive
9 school counseling programs that align with the state-
10 wide counseling framework proposed or described in
11 the State educational agency’s application;

12 “(2) identify and assess school counseling ac-
13 tivities and postsecondary options available within
14 the State, and outside the State as applicable;

15 “(3) hire additional school counselors to effec-
16 tively serve more students in postsecondary edu-
17 cation planning and career guidance activities, where
18 applicable;

19 “(4) identify regional workforce trends in col-
20 laboration with entities at the State and regional
21 level with expertise in identifying such trends, such
22 as State workforce investment boards, local work-
23 force investment boards, regional economic develop-
24 ment organizations, or State employment agencies;

1 “(5) train counselors to effectively provide stu-
2 dents with labor market information;

3 “(6) develop and implement a process for school
4 counselors and school counselor programs to access
5 the statewide counseling framework and information
6 regarding the regional workforce trends identified in
7 paragraph (4);

8 “(7) develop and implement professional devel-
9 opment programs for counselors and other educators
10 involved in preparing students for postsecondary op-
11 portunities;

12 “(8) develop a searchable method by which
13 counseling professional development opportunities
14 from around the State are collected, maintained, and
15 disseminated to school counselors;

16 “(9) establish, improve, or coordinate postsec-
17 ondary opportunities, which may include individual
18 career planning, personalized learning plans, reg-
19 istered apprenticeships, internships, dual enrollment
20 programs, programs leading to industry-recognized
21 credentials (including programs at a secondary
22 school), 2-year degree programs, 4-year degree pro-
23 grams, and other applicable postsecondary opportu-
24 nities;

1 “(10) provide recommendations to improve a
2 local educational agency’s curriculum to better align
3 with workforce trends and available postsecondary
4 opportunities; and

5 “(11) conduct other activities pertaining to the
6 administration of the statewide framework.

7 “(b) SUBGRANTS.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A State educational agency
9 that receives an establishment grant may carry out
10 the activities described in subsection (a) directly or
11 through awarding subgrants, on a competitive basis,
12 to eligible entities to enable the eligible entities to
13 carry out any of the activities.

14 “(2) APPLICATION.—An eligible entity that de-
15 sires a subgrant under this subsection shall submit
16 an application to the State educational agency at
17 such time, in such manner, and containing such in-
18 formation as the State educational agency may rea-
19 sonably require, including a description of the com-
20 prehensive counseling program for participating
21 schools and students that the eligible entity proposes
22 to develop and implement using subgrant funds.

23 “(c) HIRING OF PERSONNEL.—An eligible entity that
24 receives an establishment grant under section 2502(a)

1 may use grant funds to hire additional school personnel
2 to carry out the activities described in subsection (a).

3 **“SEC. 2505. SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.**

4 “Funds made available under this part shall be used
5 to supplement, and not supplant, other Federal, State,
6 and local funds available to carry out the activities sup-
7 ported under this part.

8 **“SEC. 2506. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**

9 “Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment
10 of the Counseling for Career Choice Act, and every 3 years
11 thereafter, the Secretary shall prepare and submit to the
12 appropriate committees of Congress a report on the
13 progress made by the eligible entities receiving grants
14 under this part in implementing grant activities.

15 **“SEC. 2507. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

16 “There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
17 this part such sums as may be necessary for fiscal year
18 2014 and each of the 4 succeeding fiscal years.”.

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