

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 804

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to award grants to eligible entities to establish, expand, or support school-based mentoring programs to assist at-risk middle school students with the transition from middle school to high school.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 28, 2019

Mr. CARSON of Indiana (for himself, Mr. SOTO, Ms. MOORE, and Ms. NORTON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to award grants to eligible entities to establish, expand, or support school-based mentoring programs to assist at-risk middle school students with the transition from middle school to high school.

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 “Transition-to-Success
5 Mentoring Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. TRANSITION-TO-SUCCESS MENTORING PROGRAM.**

2 (a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section
3 1002(d) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act
4 of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6553) is amended to read as follows:

5 “(d) PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION PROGRAMS
6 FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH WHO ARE NEGLECTED, DE-
7 LINQUENT, OR AT-RISK.—There are authorized to be ap-
8 propriated to carry out the activities described in part D,
9 \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2020 and such sums as may
10 be necessary for each succeeding fiscal year.”.

11 (b) TRANSITION-TO-SUCCESS MENTORING PRO-
12 GRAM.—Part D of title I of such Act (20 U.S.C. 6421
13 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

14 **“Subpart 4—Transition-to-Success Mentoring**
15 **Program**

16 **“SEC. 1441. TRANSITION-TO-SUCCESS MENTORING PRO-**
17 **GRAM.**

18 “(a) IN GENERAL.—From the amounts appropriated
19 to carry out this section, the Secretary shall award grants
20 to eligible entities to establish, expand, or support school-
21 based mentoring programs to assist eligible students with
22 the transition from middle school to high school.

23 “(b) APPLICATION.—To receive a grant under this
24 section, an eligible entity shall submit an application to
25 the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and con-
26 taining such information as the Secretary may require.

1 “(c) USES OF FUNDS.—

2 “(1) REQUIRED USES OF FUNDS.—An eligible
3 entity that receives a grant under this section shall
4 use the grant funds to establish a mentoring pro-
5 gram, or to expand or provide technical support to
6 an existing mentoring program, in all middle schools
7 served by the entity, under which each eligible stu-
8 dent is assigned to a success coach who—

9 “(A) creates a plan for success for the stu-
10 dent that—

11 “(i) is created with the student, teach-
12 ers, mentor, and parents of the student;

13 “(ii) includes, for each academic year,
14 the student’s academic, personal, college,
15 and career exploration goals, and a strat-
16 egy on how to accomplish such goals;

17 “(iii) identifies the student’s
18 strengths, weaknesses, and academic
19 progress; and

20 “(iv) includes a plan to educate and
21 support the student’s college or career ex-
22 ploration goals;

23 “(B) enters into a signed, written agree-
24 ment with the parents of the student that de-

1 scribes how the parents should assist the stu-
2 dent in carrying out the plan for success;

3 “(C) meets with the student at least once
4 per month to—

5 “(i) assist the student in achieving the
6 goals under the plan for success;

7 “(ii) identify the student’s academic
8 areas of weaknesses;

9 “(iii) provide the student with the
10 tools necessary to improve the student’s
11 potential for academic excellence, and en-
12 sure the student’s successful transition
13 from middle school to high school by iden-
14 tifying improved attitude, behavior,
15 coursework, and social involvement; and

16 “(iv) in the case of a student with be-
17 havioral issues, assist the student in behav-
18 ior management techniques;

19 “(D) at least monthly, meets with the stu-
20 dent and the parents, teachers, or counselors of
21 the student to—

22 “(i) evaluate the student’s progress in
23 achieving the goals under the plan for the
24 current academic year; and

1 “(ii) revise or establish new goals for
2 the next academic year;

3 “(E) serves as the student’s advocate be-
4 tween the teachers and parents of the student
5 to ensure that the teachers and parents under-
6 stand the student’s plan; and

7 “(F) serves as the student’s advocate in
8 exploring higher education and career opportu-
9 nities.

10 “(2) AUTHORIZED USES OF FUNDS.—An eligi-
11 ble entity that receives a grant under this section
12 may use such funds to—

13 “(A) develop and carry out a training pro-
14 gram for success coaches, including providing
15 support to match success coaches with eligible
16 students;

17 “(B) cover the cost of any materials used
18 by success coaches under the mentoring pro-
19 gram; and

20 “(C) hire staff to perform or support the
21 program objectives.

22 “(d) GRANT DURATION.—A grant under this section
23 shall be awarded for a period of not more than 5 years.

24 “(e) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

1 “(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An eligible entity
2 receiving a grant under this section shall submit to
3 the Secretary, at the end of each academic year dur-
4 ing the grant period, a report that includes—

5 “(A) the number of students who partici-
6 pated in the school-based mentoring program
7 that was funded in whole or in part with the
8 grant funds under this section;

9 “(B) data on the academic achievement of
10 such students;

11 “(C) the number of contact hours between
12 such students and their success coaches; and

13 “(D) any other information that the Sec-
14 retary may require to evaluate the success of
15 the school-based mentoring program.

16 “(2) SECRETARY.—

17 “(A) INTERIM REPORT.—At the end of the
18 third fiscal year for which funds are made
19 available to carry out this section, the Secretary
20 shall submit to Congress an interim report on
21 the success of the school-based mentoring pro-
22 grams funded under this section that includes
23 the information received under paragraph (1).

24 “(B) FINAL REPORT.—At the end of the
25 fifth fiscal year for which funds are made avail-

1 able to carry out this section, the Secretary
2 shall submit to Congress a final report on the
3 success of the school-based mentoring programs
4 funded under this section that includes the in-
5 formation received under paragraph (1).

6 “(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 “(1) AT-RISK STUDENT.—The term ‘at-risk stu-
8 dent’ means a student who has been identified as a
9 student who has below a 2.0 grade point average or
10 the equivalent or who has been determined by par-
11 ents, teachers, or other school officials to—

12 “(A) be at-risk of academic failure;

13 “(B) have expressed interest in dropping
14 out of school;

15 “(C) show signs of a drug or alcohol prob-
16 lem;

17 “(D) be pregnant or a parent;

18 “(E) have come into contact with the juve-
19 nile justice system in the past;

20 “(F) have limited English proficiency;

21 “(G) be a gang member; or

22 “(H) have a high absenteeism rate at
23 school.

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

1 “(A) a local educational agency that—

2 “(i) receives, or is eligible to receive,
3 funds under part A of this title; or

4 “(ii) is a high-need local educational
5 agency; or

6 “(B) a partnership between a local edu-
7 cational agency described in subparagraph (A)
8 and a nonprofit, community-based organization.

9 “(3) ELIGIBLE STUDENT.—The term ‘eligible
10 student’ means a student who—

11 “(A) is enrolled in a middle school served
12 by an eligible entity; and

13 “(B) is an at-risk student.

14 “(4) HIGH-NEED LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGEN-
15 CY.—The term ‘high-need local educational agency’
16 means a local educational agency that serves at least
17 one high-need school.

18 “(5) HIGH-NEED SCHOOL.—The term ‘high-
19 need school’ has the meaning given the term in sec-
20 tion 2211(b)(2).

21 “(6) MIDDLE SCHOOL.—The term ‘middle
22 school’ means a nonprofit institutional day or resi-
23 dential school, including a public charter school, that
24 provides middle school education, as determined
25 under State law, except that the term does not in-

1 clude any education below grade 6 or beyond grade
2 9.

3 “(7) SCHOOL-BASED MENTORING.—The term
4 ‘school-based mentoring’ refers to mentoring activi-
5 ties that—

6 “(A) are closely coordinated with a school
7 by involving teachers, counselors, and other
8 school staff who may identify and refer stu-
9 dents for mentoring services; and

10 “(B) assist at-risk students in improving
11 academic achievement, reducing disciplinary re-
12 ferrals, and increasing positive regard for
13 school.

14 “(8) SUCCESS COACH.—The term ‘success
15 coach’ means an individual who—

16 “(A) is—

17 “(i) an employee or volunteer of a
18 local educational agency in which a men-
19 toring program receiving support under
20 this section is being carried out; or

21 “(ii) a volunteer or employee from a
22 nonprofit, community-based organization
23 that provides volunteers for mentoring pro-
24 grams in secondary schools; and

25 “(B) prior to becoming a success coach—

1 “(i) received training and support in
2 mentoring from an eligible entity, which, at
3 a minimum, was 2 hours in length and
4 covered the roles and responsibilities of a
5 success coach; and

6 “(ii) underwent a screening by an eli-
7 gible entity that included—

8 “(I) appropriate job reference
9 checks;

10 “(II) child and domestic abuse
11 record checks; and

12 “(III) criminal background
13 checks.”.

14 **SEC. 3. TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

15 The table of contents in section 2 of the Elementary
16 and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301
17 et seq.) is amended by inserting after the item relating
18 to section 1432 the following:

“SUBPART 4—TRANSITION-TO-SUCCESS MENTORING PROGRAM

“Sec. 1441. Transition-to-success mentoring program.”.

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