

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 155

To improve the financial literacy of secondary school students.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 16, 2019

Mr. JONES (for himself, Ms. HASSAN, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To improve the financial literacy of secondary school students.

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 “Youth Financial
5 Learning Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. STATEWIDE INCENTIVE GRANTS FOR FINANCIAL**
7 **LITERACY EDUCATION.**

8 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act, the terms “commu-
9 nity-based organization”, “local educational agency”,
10 “professional development”, “secondary school”, “Sec-

1 retary”, “State educational agency”, and “well-rounded
2 education” have the meanings given those terms in section
3 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of
4 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

5 (b) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—From amounts appropriated
7 under subsection (f), the Secretary shall award
8 grants, on a competitive basis, to State educational
9 agencies to enable those State educational agencies
10 to integrate financial literacy education into public
11 secondary schools by carrying out the activities de-
12 scribed in paragraph (4).

13 (2) DURATION.—A grant awarded under this
14 section shall be for a period of not more than 4
15 years.

16 (3) APPLICATION.—Each State educational
17 agency desiring a grant under this section shall sub-
18 mit an application to the Secretary at such time and
19 in such manner as the Secretary may require, in-
20 cluding—

21 (A) a description of how the State edu-
22 cational agency will award subgrants to local
23 educational agencies;

1 (B) a description of how the State edu-
 2 cational agency will ensure sustainability of the
 3 grant activities after the grant program;

4 (C) an assertion that teachers, principals,
 5 parents, and students have been consulted in
 6 the process of developing the application; and

7 (D) a description of how the State edu-
 8 cational agency will ensure geographic diversity
 9 so that grant activities benefit students in
 10 urban, rural, and suburban locations.

11 (4) USES OF STATE FUNDS.—

12 (A) STATE ACTIVITIES.—Each State edu-
 13 cational agency receiving grant funds under this
 14 section may use not more than 10 percent of
 15 such grant funds—

16 (i) for technical assistance;

17 (ii) for curriculum development;

18 (iii) to provide guidance to local edu-
 19 cational agencies; or

20 (iv) to conduct an evaluation of the
 21 impact of financial literacy or personal fi-
 22 nance education on students' under-
 23 standing of financial literacy concepts.

24 (B) SUBGRANTS.—

1 (i) IN GENERAL.—Each State edu-
2 cational agency receiving grant funds
3 under this section shall use the remainder
4 of such grant funds to award subgrants to
5 local educational agencies in the State.

6 (ii) PRIORITY.—In awarding such
7 subgrants, a State educational agency shall
8 give priority to local educational agencies
9 that—

10 (I) serve high numbers, or a high
11 percentage of, elementary schools and
12 secondary schools implementing plans
13 under paragraphs (1) and (2) of sec-
14 tion 1111(d) of the Elementary and
15 Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
16 U.S.C. 6311(d));

17 (II) demonstrate the greatest
18 need for such funds, as determined by
19 the State educational agency; and

20 (III) demonstrate the strongest
21 commitment to using funds under this
22 section to enable the lowest-per-
23 forming schools to improve students'
24 financial literacy and student out-
25 comes.

1 (c) USES OF SUBGRANT FUNDS.—Each local edu-
2 cational agency receiving a subgrant under this section
3 shall use the subgrant funds—

4 (1) to implement, expand, or sustain, in one or
5 more secondary schools, school-based financial lit-
6 eracy activities and curriculum that is a substantial
7 portion of any class, in order to enhance student un-
8 derstanding of and experimental learning with con-
9 sumer, economic, entrepreneurship, and personal fi-
10 nance concepts, including personal credit, student
11 loans, and financial aid;

12 (2) to promote partnerships between the local
13 educational agency and community based organiza-
14 tions that provide innovative, evidence-based finan-
15 cial literacy activities to secondary school students,
16 which may include after school activities; and

17 (3) to promote professional development pro-
18 grams to embed financial literacy or personal finance
19 or entrepreneurship education into a well-rounded
20 education in secondary schools.

21 (d) MATCHING FUNDS.—A State educational agency
22 that receives a grant under this section shall provide
23 matching funds, from non-Federal sources, in an amount
24 equal to 25 percent of the amount of grant funds provided

1 to the State educational agency to carry out the activities
2 supported by the grant.

3 (e) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—Grant funds
4 provided under this section shall be used to supplement,
5 not supplant, other Federal or State funds available to
6 carry out activities described in this section.

7 (f) APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be
8 appropriated to carry out this section such sums as may
9 be necessary for fiscal year 2019 and each of the 4 suc-
10 ceeding fiscal years.

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