

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7219

To direct the Secretary of Education to award grants to eligible partnerships to increase access to specialized instructional support personnel, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 24, 2022

Ms. NEWMAN (for herself, Ms. WILD, and Mr. FITZPATRICK) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Education to award grants to eligible partnerships to increase access to specialized instructional support personnel, 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 “Growing, Recruiting,
5 and Obtaining Workers in Specialized Instructional Sup-
6 port Personnel Services Act” or the “GROW SISPS Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. GROW YOUR OWN PROGRAM GRANT.**

8 (a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—From the amounts ap-
9 propriated to carry out this Act, the Secretary of Edu-

1 cation shall award grants, on a competitive basis, to eligi-
2 ble partnerships to expand, or establish and implement,
3 A Grow Your Own Program to increase access to special-
4 ized instructional support personnel.

5 (b) GRANT PERIOD; PRIORITY.—

6 (1) GRANT PERIOD.—A grant under this sec-
7 tion shall be awarded for a 6-year period.

8 (2) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this
9 Act, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible part-
10 nerships in which a high-need local educational
11 agency is in the partnership or that seeks to use the
12 grant to serve a community with a high-need local
13 educational agency.

14 (c) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a grant
15 under this section, an eligible partnership shall submit to
16 the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner,
17 and containing such information as the Secretary may re-
18 quire, which shall include the following with respect to the
19 local educational agency, the consortium of local edu-
20 cational agencies, or the State educational agency in such
21 eligible partnership, and disaggregated by the specific oc-
22 cupation:

23 (1) The number of specialized instructional sup-
24 port personnel employed as of the date of applica-
25 tion.

1 (2) The number of specialized instructional sup-
2 port personnel who are so employed and who have
3 an emergency or temporary credential.

4 (3) The ratio of specialized instructional sup-
5 port personnel to students.

6 (d) USES OF FUNDS.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible partnership that
8 receives a grant under this section shall use such
9 grant to expand, or establish and implement, a Grow
10 Your Own Program that meets the requirements of
11 paragraph (2) to increase, through respecialization
12 or re-training—

13 (A) access to specialized instructional sup-
14 port personnel in the schools served by the local
15 educational agency or the consortium of local
16 educational agencies in such eligible partner-
17 ship, or the local educational agencies under the
18 jurisdiction of the State educational agency in
19 such eligible partnership; or

20 (B) the diversity of specialized instruc-
21 tional support personnel in such schools.

22 (2) GROW YOUR OWN PROGRAM REQUIRE-
23 MENTS.—An eligible partnership shall ensure that a
24 Grow Your Own Program expanded, or established

1 and implemented, under paragraph (1) provides the
2 following to each participant of the program:

3 (A) The skills needed to complete a rel-
4 evant degree or training—

5 (i) to be credentialed by the State
6 educational agency, or relevant regulatory
7 body; or

8 (ii) in the case of a profession for
9 which there is no State credential, to meet
10 the professional standards as articulated
11 by the relevant national organization for
12 such profession.

13 (B) Relevant clinical experience, during the
14 period in which the participant completes and
15 earns the credential provided under the pro-
16 gram, that is—

17 (i) connected to the coursework pro-
18 vided under the program; and

19 (ii) located in elementary schools or
20 secondary schools in such community, with
21 priority given to elementary schools or sec-
22 ondary schools in the eligible partnership.

23 (C) A high-quality mentoring program
24 that—

1 (i) provides mentoring by a fully
2 credentialed professional of the occupation
3 for which the participant is pursuing a cre-
4 dential; and

5 (ii) continues through the period that
6 is 2 years after the participant receives a
7 credential under the program.

8 (D) Supportive services (which may include
9 housing subsidies, stipends, and tuition assist-
10 ance and other financial assistance).

11 (E) Academic, counseling, and pro-
12 grammatic supports.

13 (3) *ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.*—In expand-
14 ing, or establishing and implementing A Grow Your
15 Own Program under paragraph (1), an eligible part-
16 nership shall carry out each of the following:

17 (A) Identify the needs for specialized in-
18 structional support personnel in the local edu-
19 cational agency, the consortium of local edu-
20 cational agencies, or the State educational
21 agency in the eligible partnership.

22 (B) Recruit and incentivize individuals to
23 enter, and to pursue training to enter, a spe-
24 cialized instructional support personnel profes-
25 sion that meets the needs identified in subpara-

1 graph (A), especially for the purpose of serving
2 in high-need local educational agencies.

3 (e) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

4 (1) REPORTS BY ELIGIBLE PARTNERSHIPS.—

5 Each eligible partnership that receives a grant under
6 this section shall submit, for each of the third
7 through sixth years of the grant period, a report to
8 the Secretary that includes—

9 (A) the number of participants of the pro-
10 gram funded by such grant who are working in
11 a high-need local educational agency during
12 such year and the preceding year, disaggregated
13 by specific occupation; and

14 (B) in a year in which the number of such
15 participants who are working in a high-need
16 local educational agency decreases from the pre-
17 ceding year by more than 50 percent, an im-
18 provement plan for increasing such number as
19 soon as practicable.

20 (2) REPORTS BY THE SECRETARY.—Not later
21 than 1 year after the first grant is awarded under
22 this section, and on an annual basis thereafter, the
23 Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on—

24 (A) the impact of grants awarded under
25 this section in increasing specialized instruc-

1 tional support personnel, and lowering the ratio
2 of specialized instructional support personnel to
3 students, in the local educational agencies, the
4 consortium of local educational agencies, and
5 the State educational agencies in the eligible
6 partnerships that were awarded such grants;

7 (B) best practices for expanding, or estab-
8 lishing and implementing eligible partnerships
9 and Grow Your Own Programs that meet the
10 requirements of subsection (d)(2); and

11 (C) recommendations for strengthening the
12 eligible partnerships and Grow Your Own Pro-
13 grams served the grants awarding under this
14 Act, such as improving recruitment and reten-
15 tion of participants and increasing the number
16 of specialized instructional support personnel in
17 the community, especially in high-need schools.

18 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

19 (1) ELIGIBLE PARTNERSHIP.—The term “eligi-
20 ble partnership” means a partnership among each of
21 the following:

22 (A) A school, department, or program of
23 education (including a graduate level program)
24 within an institution of higher education that is
25 State-accredited and is eligible to receive Fed-

1 eral funds under title IV of the Higher Edu-
2 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.),
3 which may include a program that provides the
4 training or credentials required for specialized
5 instructional support personnel.

6 (B) A local educational agency, a consor-
7 tium of local educational agencies, or a State
8 educational agency.

9 (C) A State-accredited nonprofit edu-
10 cational organization or professional licensure
11 organization that provides alternative routes to
12 State certification or licensure, or credentialing
13 for specialized instructional support personnel.

14 (2) ESEA TERMS.—The terms “local edu-
15 cational agency”, “State educational agency”, and
16 “specialized instructional support personnel” have
17 the meanings given such terms in section 8101 of
18 the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of
19 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

20 (3) HIGH-NEED LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGEN-
21 CY.—The term “high-need local educational agency”
22 has the meaning given the term in section 200 of the
23 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1021).

24 (4) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
25 term “institution of higher education” has the

1 meaning given the term in section 101 of the Higher
2 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

3 (5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
4 the Secretary of Education.

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