

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3250

To create a grant program to support the development of innovative learning models, and for other purposes.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 7, 2025

Mr. MORELLE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Workforce

---

## A BILL

To create a grant program to support the development of innovative learning models, 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 “Developing and Ad-  
5 vancing Innovative Learning Models”.

**6 SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE.**

7       The purposes of this Act are to—

8              (1) ensure that the Institute for Education  
9              Sciences—

(A) supports the sustained development to expand knowledge and understanding of innovative learning models;

(B) promotes the adoption and continued growth of innovative learning models;

(C) studies and conducts research on the impact of innovative learning models;

(D) collects, reports, analyzes, and disseminates data related to innovative learning model development, research, and implementation in the United States; and

(E) identifies and makes recommendations concerning Federal and State policies that may present barriers to the adoption and successful implementation of innovative learning models;

22 SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

23 For the purposes of this Act:

(1) DEPARTMENT.—The term “Department” means the Department of Education.

1                             (2) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means  
2                             the Director of the Institute of Education Sciences.

3                             (3) ESEA TERMS.—The terms “elementary  
4                             school”, “high school”, “local educational agency”,  
5                             “outlying area”, “poverty line”, “secondary school”,  
6                             “State”, and “State educational agency” have the  
7                             meanings given such terms in section 8101 of the  
8                             Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965  
9                             (20 U.S.C. 7801).

10                           (4) EVIDENCE-BASED.—The term “evidence-based”, when used with respect to an innovative learning model, means an innovative learning model that—

14                           (A) demonstrates a statistically significant  
15                             effect on improving student outcomes or other  
16                             relevant outcomes based on—

17                           (i) strong evidence from at least 1  
18                             well-designed and well-implemented experimental study;

20                           (ii) moderate evidence from at least 1  
21                             well-designed and well-implemented quasi-experimental study; or

23                           (iii) promising evidence from at least 1 well-designed and well-implemented cor-

1                    relational study with statistical controls for  
2                    selection bias;

3                    (B) demonstrates a rationale based on  
4                    high-quality research findings or positive eval-  
5                    uation that such innovative learning model—

6                    (i) is likely to improve student out-  
7                    comes or other relevant outcomes; and

8                    (ii) includes ongoing efforts to exam-  
9                    ine the effects of such innovative learning  
10                  model; or

11                  (C) is consistent with theoretical and em-  
12                  pirical findings from research and will continue  
13                  to be reviewed.

14                  (5) INNOVATIVE LEARNING MODEL.—The term  
15                  “innovative learning model” means a comprehensive  
16                  program which elementary schools, secondary  
17                  schools, and high schools can adopt that—

18                  (A) bundles together an interconnected set  
19                  of tools, resources, systems, and instructional  
20                  practices in order to shape student learning ex-  
21                  periences toward clear objectives;

22                  (B) integrates and includes—

23                  (i) an instructional design that incor-  
24                  porates components such as content, as-

1           essment, research, and student engage-  
2           ment;

3               (ii) an aligned set of pedagogical prac-  
4               tices that is sustainable for teachers;

5               (iii) an operational design that re-  
6               imagines teacher workflow, the use of time,  
7               and classroom design; and

8               (iv) a technological design that in-  
9               cludes the use of student-level data and  
10              relevant technological tools;

11              (C) is not simply a technological platform  
12              or point solutions;

13              (D) comprehensively integrates the con-  
14              cepts identified in subparagraph (B);

15              (E) is created and implemented with input  
16              from school communities; and

17              (F) may be designed as a model for the op-  
18              eration of an entire school or focus on a specific  
19              academic subject or function, such as social-  
20              emotional support.

21              (6) INNOVATIVE LEARNING MODEL PRO-  
22              VIDER.—The term “innovative learning model pro-  
23              vider” means an organization that—

24               (A) designs innovative learning models;  
25               and

(B) partners with schools and school communities to support the implementation of such models (directly or in collaboration with a third party), while sharing accountability for student outcomes as measured by the State in accordance with section 1111(c) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6331(c)).

**9 TITLE I—INVESTING IN THE DE-**  
**10 VELOPMENT AND RESEARCH**  
**11 OF INNOVATIVE LEARNING**  
**12 MODELS**

## **13 SEC. 101. PURPOSE.**

14 The purpose of this title is to authorize a program  
15 of competitive grants that enable eligible entities to sup-  
16 port the development and research of innovative learning  
17 models.

**18 SEC. 102. GRANTS FOR INNOVATIVE LEARNING MODEL DE-  
19 VELOPMENT AND RESEARCH.**

**20 (a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—**

21 (1) DEVELOPMENT GRANTS.—

22 (A) IN GENERAL.—

served by the Director under section 104(c)(1),  
the Director shall award, on a competitive  
basis, grants to eligible entities having applica-

1           tions approved under subsection (c) to enable  
2           such entities to create, develop, implement, rep-  
3           licate, or take to scale entrepreneurial and evi-  
4           dence-based innovative learning models to im-  
5           prove student outcomes.

(B) DESCRIPTION OF GRANTS.—The grants described in subparagraph (A) shall include—

cost effectiveness, if possible, using existing administrative data; and

(iii) expansion grants to fund implementation and a rigorous replication evaluation of an innovative learning model that has been found to produce sizable, important impacts under a mid-phase grant described in clause (ii) or other effort meeting similar criteria, for the purposes of—

(I) determining whether such impacts can be successfully reproduced and sustained over time; and

(II) identifying the conditions, including subgroups of students (as described in section 1111(c) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801)), in which the program is most effective.

(A) conduct high-quality research on existing innovative learning models; or

1 (B) evaluate innovative learning models de-  
2 veloped with grants awarded under paragraph  
3 (1).

8                   (4) STANDARDS.—The Director shall ensure  
9                   that activities supported with grants under this sec-  
10                  tion—

(A) conform to high standards of quality, integrity, accuracy, validity, and reliability;

17 (C) are objective, secular, neutral and non-  
18 ideological, and are free of partisan political in-  
19 fluence or any implicit or explicit bias.

(6) DURATION.—Grants under this title may be awarded for not more than 6 years.

1       (b) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—In this title, the term eligible  
2 entity means an innovative learning model provider, as de-  
3 fined in section 3.

4       (c) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a grant  
5 under this title, an eligible entity shall submit to the Di-  
6 rector an application at such time, in such manner, and  
7 containing such information as the Director may reason-  
8 ably require.

9       (d) PEER REVIEW.—The Director shall—

10           (1) implement a peer review process to assist  
11 the Director in the review of applications under this  
12 title and to make recommendations to the Director  
13 on awarding grants under this title;

14           (2) develop and maintain published peer review  
15 standards for the conduct and evaluation of all de-  
16 velopment and research carried out under this title;  
17 and

18           (3) ensure that the peer-review teams consist of  
19 practitioners and experts who are knowledgeable  
20 about innovative learning models, including—

21                  (A) individuals with experience researching  
22 and developing innovative learning models for  
23 all types of students, including English learn-  
24 ers, children with disabilities, and disadvan-  
25 taged students; and

(B) individuals with experience implementing innovative learning models.

3       (e) TRAINING PROGRAM.—From funds otherwise re-  
4     served for technical assistance under this title, the Direc-  
5     tor may establish a program to train employees of public  
6     and private educational agencies, organizations, and insti-  
7     tutions, and may establish a fellowship program to appoint  
8     such employees as temporary fellows that may assist in  
9     carrying out this section.

10       (f) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—Grant funds  
11 provided under this title shall be used to supplement, not  
12 supplant, other Federal or State funds made available to  
13 carry out activities described in this title.

(g) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, nothing in this title shall be construed as requiring an eligible entity who is awarded a grant under subsection (a) to measure or evaluate the impact or success of an innovative learning model through the use of a randomized control trial.

## 20 SEC. 103. REPORTING AND EVALUATION.

21 (a) ACTIVITIES SUMMARY.—Not later than two years  
22 after the date that an eligible entity receives a grant under  
23 this title, and on an annual basis thereafter, the eligible  
24 entity shall submit to the Director a summary of the ac-  
25 tivities assisted under the grant.

1       (b) REPORT.—The Director shall provide to Con-  
2 gress, and make publicly available, an annual report on  
3 the implementation of the program carried out under this  
4 title, including—

5                     (1) information on eligible entities that received  
6 grant funds under this title, including—

7                         (A) information provided by eligible enti-  
8 ties to the Director in the applications sub-  
9 mitted under section 103(c);

10                         (B) the summaries received under sub-  
11 section (a); and

12                         (C) grant award amounts;

13                         (2) student outcomes and other relevant im-  
14 pacts on students, including comprehensive learning  
15 growth, from schools that implement an innovative  
16 learning model that was developed or implemented  
17 under this title; or

18                         (3) information and recommendations con-  
19 cerning any Federal policies that have been identi-  
20 fied as presenting barriers to the adoption and im-  
21 plementation of innovative learning models.

22       (c) EVALUATION.—From amounts reserved by the  
23 Director under section 104(b)(1), the Director shall—

1                         (1) carry out an independent evaluation to  
2                         measure the effectiveness of the program assisted  
3                         under this title; and

4                         (2) make the results of such evaluation publicly  
5                         available.

6                         (d) AVAILABILITY.—The reports and evaluation pro-  
7                         vided under subsections (b) and (c) shall be made readily  
8                         available to the public.

9                         (e) PRIVACY PROTECTIONS.—The reports and eval-  
10                         uation provided under subsections (b) and (c) shall not  
11                         reveal personally identifiable information about any indi-  
12                         vidual.

**13 SEC. 104. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

14                         (a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appro-  
15                         priated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this  
16                         title in each of the fiscal years 2026 through 2035.

17                         (b) RESERVATIONS.—From the amounts appro-  
18                         priated under subsection (a) for such fiscal year, the Di-  
19                         rector may reserve—

20                         (1) not more than 1 percent to conduct the  
21                         evaluation required under section 204(c); and

22                         (2) not more than 1 percent to—

23                                 (A) provide technical assistance for eligible  
24                         entities, which may include pre-application

1           workshops, web-based seminars, and evaluation  
2           support; and

3               (B) disseminate best practices concerning  
4           the successful development and implementation  
5           of innovative learning models.

6       (c) FUNDING ALLOTMENT.—From the amount made  
7   available under subsection (a) and not reserved under sub-  
8   section (b) for a fiscal year, the Director shall—

9               (1) reserve not less than 93 percent to award  
10          grants to eligible entities under section 103(a)(1);  
11          and

12               (2) reserve not less than 5 percent to award  
13          grants to eligible entities under section 103(a)(2).

14 **TITLE II—INVESTING IN THE  
15      EARLY ADOPTION OF INNO-  
16      VATIVE LEARNING MODELS**

17 **SEC. 201. PURPOSE.**

18       The purpose of this title is to provide grants to State  
19   educational agencies and to provide subgrants to local edu-  
20   cational agencies to increase the adoption and expansion  
21   of innovative learning models in elementary and secondary  
22   schools.

## 1 SEC. 202. FORMULA GRANTS TO STATES.

2 (a) RESERVATION OF FUNDS.—From the total  
3 amount appropriated under section 205 for a fiscal year,  
4 the Secretary shall reserve—

5 (1) one-half of 1 percent for allotments for the  
6 outlying areas, to be distributed among those out-  
7 lying areas on the basis of their relative need, as de-  
8 termined by the Secretary, in accordance with the  
9 purpose of this title; and

10 (2) one-half of 1 percent for the Secretary of  
11 the Interior for programs under this part in schools  
12 operated or funded by the Bureau of Indian Edu-  
13 cation.

14 (b) STATE ALLOTMENTS.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—From funds made available  
16 under section 205 for a fiscal year and not reserved  
17 under subsection (a), the Secretary shall allot to  
18 each State the sum of—

19 (A) an amount that bears the same rela-  
20 tionship to 20 percent of such funds for such  
21 fiscal year as the number of individuals aged 5  
22 through 17 in the State, as determined by the  
23 Secretary on the basis of the most recent satis-  
24 factory data, bears to the number of such indi-  
25 viduals in all such States, as so determined;  
26 and

21                         (4) REALLOTMENT.—If a State does not receive  
22                         an allotment, the Secretary shall reallot the amount  
23                         of the allotment for such State to the remaining  
24                         States in accordance with this subsection.

**25 (c) STATE PLAN.—**

1                     (1) IN GENERAL.—In order to receive an allot-  
2         ment under this section for any fiscal year, a State  
3         shall submit a plan to the Secretary, at such time  
4         and in such manner as the Secretary may reason-  
5         ably require.

6                     (2) CONTENTS.—Each plan described under  
7         paragraph (1) shall include, at a minimum, the fol-  
8         lowing:

9                         (A) A description of how the State edu-  
10         cational agency will use funds received under  
11         this title for State-level activities.

12                         (B) A description of how the activities car-  
13         ried out with funds under this title are expected  
14         to improve student achievement.

15                         (C) A description of how the State edu-  
16         cational agency will work with local educational  
17         agencies and the communities of such agencies  
18         to develop, adopt, and implement innovative  
19         learning models.

20                         (D) Assurances that the State educational  
21         agency will—

22                                 (i) review existing resources and pro-  
23         grams across the State and coordinate any  
24         new plans and resources under this title  
25         with such resources and programs;

5 (iii) provide for equitable access for all  
6 students to the activities supported under  
7 this title, including compliance with the re-  
8 quirements of all applicable Federal civil  
9 rights laws.

**10 (d) STATE USE OF FUNDS.—**

(3) STATE ACTIVITIES.—The State educational agency for a State that receives an allotment under subsection (b) may use funds not reserved under

1       paragraphs (1) and (2) for activities and programs  
2       designed to meet the purposes of this title, which  
3       may include—

12 (C) supporting local educational agencies  
13 in adopting and implementing innovative learn-  
14 ing models in schools.

15           (e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-  
16 tion shall be construed to authorize the Secretary or any  
17 other officer or employee of the Federal Government to—

(1) mandate, direct, or control the development, adoption, or implementation of any learning model by any State, local educational agency, or school; or

21                         (2) influence or incentivize the receipt of any  
22 grant, contract, or cooperative agreement the receipt  
23 of any priority or preference under such grant, con-  
24 tract, or cooperative agreement upon a State, local  
25 educational agency, or school's adoption or imple-

1       mentation of any specific learning model, instructional content, curricula, or any program of instruction.

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

9 **SEC. 203. SUBGRANTS TO LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.**

10      (a) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS TO LOCAL EDUCATIONAL  
11 AGENCIES.—

12       (1) ALLOCATION FORMULA.—From funds reserved by a State under section 202(d)(1) for a fiscal year, the State educational agency shall allot to each of the eligible local educational agencies in the State for a fiscal year the sum of—

17           (A) an amount that bears the same relationship to 20 percent of such funds for such  
18 fiscal year as the number of individuals aged 5 through 17 in the geographic area served by the  
19 local educational agency, as determined by the  
20 Secretary on the basis of the most recent satisfactory data, bears to the number of such individuals in the geographic areas served by all eli-

1 gible local educational agencies in the State, as  
2 so determined; and

3 (B) an amount that bears the same rela-  
4 tionship to 80 percent of such funds for such  
5 fiscal year as the number of individuals aged 5  
6 through 17 from families with incomes below  
7 the poverty line in the geographic area served  
8 by the local educational agency, as determined  
9 by the Secretary on the basis of the most recent  
10 satisfactory data, bears to the number of such  
11 individuals in the geographic areas served by all  
12 eligible local educational agencies in the State,  
13 as so determined.

14 (2) MINIMUM LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY AL-  
15 LOCATION.—No allocation to a local educational  
16 agency under this subsection may be made in an  
17 amount that is less than \$10,000.

18 (3) RATABLE REDUCTION.—If the amount re-  
19 served by the State under section 202(d)(1) is insuf-  
20 ficient to make allocations to local educational agen-  
21 cies in an amount equal to the minimum allocation  
22 described in subsection (a)(3), such allocations shall  
23 be ratably reduced.

24 (4) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—From the  
25 amount allotted under paragraph (1), a local edu-

1       cational agency may reserve not more than 1 percent  
2       of such amount for the direct administrative costs of  
3       carrying out the local educational agency's respon-  
4       sibilities under this section.

5       (b) LOCAL APPLICATIONS.—

6           (1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive an  
7       allotment under this subsection (a), a local edu-  
8       cational agency shall submit an application to the  
9       State educational agency at such time, in such man-  
10      ner, and containing such information as the State  
11      educational agency may reasonably require.

12       (2) CONTENTS OF APPLICATION.—Each appli-  
13      cation submitted under paragraph (1) shall in-  
14      clude—

15           (A) a description of the activities to be car-  
16       ried out by the local educational agency under  
17       this section;

18           (B) a description of how the local edu-  
19       cational agency will prioritize funds to schools  
20       served by the agency that are implementing  
21       comprehensive support and improvement activi-  
22       ties and targeted support and improvement ac-  
23       tivities under section 1111(d) of the Elemen-  
24       tary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20  
25       U.S.C. 6311(d));

(D) a description of how the local educational agency will meaningfully collaborate with teachers, principals, other school leaders, paraprofessionals (including organizations representing such individuals), and other relevant stakeholders in school communities; and

(E) any other information that the State educational agency may require.

### 14 (c) LOCAL USES OF FUNDS.—

(A) through a grant or contract with a for-profit or non-profit entity; or

(B) in partnership with an institution of higher education or an Indian Tribe or Tribal organization (as such terms are defined under section 4 of the Indian Self Determination

1           and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C.  
2           450b)).

3           (2) TYPES OF ACTIVITIES.—The innovative  
4           learning models developed and implemented under  
5           this section shall be in accordance with the purpose  
6           of this title and shall address the learning needs of  
7           all students, including children with disabilities,  
8           English learners, gifted and talented students, and  
9           students who are otherwise at-risk.

10          (d) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—Grant funds  
11         provided under this section shall be used to supplement,  
12         not supplant, other Federal or State funds available to  
13         carry out activities related to the activities described in  
14         this section.

15 **SEC. 204. REPORTING AND EVALUATION.**

16          (a) STATE AND LOCAL REPORTS.—

17           (1) STATE REPORT.—Each State educational  
18         agency receiving funds under this title shall annually  
19         submit to the Secretary a report that provides—

20               (A) a description of how the State is using  
21               grant funds to meet the purpose of this title;  
22               and

23               (B) any other information that the Sec-  
24               retary determines are necessary and appro-  
25               priate.

## 1                   (2) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY REPORT.—

2     Each local educational agency receiving funds under  
3     this part shall annually submit to the appropriate  
4     State educational agency such information as the  
5     State may require, which shall include how the local  
6     educational agency is using grant funds to meet the  
7     purposes of this title.

8                   (3) AVAILABILITY.—The reports and informa-  
9     tion provided under paragraphs (1) and (2) shall be  
10    made readily available to the public.

11                  (4) PRIVACY PROTECTION.—The reports and  
12     evaluation provided under subsections (b) and (c)  
13     shall not reveal personally identifiable information  
14     about any individual.

15                  (b) SECRETARY'S REPORT.—The Secretary shall pro-  
16     vide to Congress an annual report on the implementation  
17     of the program carried out under this title, including—

18                      (1) information provided by States to the Sec-  
19     retary in the applications submitted under section  
20     204(1);

21                      (2) the amount allotted to each State and out-  
22     lying area; and

23                      (3) student academic and, as applicable, growth  
24     data from the schools participating in the programs  
25     supported under this title.

## 1           (c) EVALUATION AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

2               (1) RESERVATION OF FUNDS.—Of the total  
3               amount made available for this title for a fiscal year,  
4               the Secretary may reserve for such fiscal year not  
5               more than 1 percent for the cost of the evaluation  
6               under paragraph (2) and for technical assistance in  
7               carrying out this title.

## 8               (2) EVALUATION.—

9                   (A) IN GENERAL.—From amounts reserved  
10               under paragraph (1), the Secretary, acting  
11               through the Director, shall carry out an inde-  
12               pendent evaluation to measure the effectiveness  
13               of the program assisted under this title.

14                   (B) CONTENTS.—The evaluation under  
15               subparagraph (A) shall measure—

16                       (i) the effectiveness of each program  
17               assisted under this title in improving stu-  
18               dent academic achievement and growth;

19                       (ii) the effectiveness of individual  
20               learning models in improving student aca-  
21               demic achievement and growth; and

22                       (iii) any other information that the  
23               Director may require.

**1 SEC. 205. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2       For the purposes of carrying out this title, there are  
3 authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be nec-  
4 essary to carry out this title in each fiscal years 2027  
5 through 2036.

