

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 4108

To direct the Secretary of Education to make grants to support early college high schools and dual or concurrent enrollment programs.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 30, 2019

Mr. ESPAILLAT (for himself, Mr. KILDEE, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. MOORE, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. RUSH, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. HORSFORD) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Education to make grants to support early college high schools and dual or concurrent enrollment programs.

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 “Jumpstart on College  
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

2       The purpose of this Act is to increase the percentage  
3 of students who complete a recognized postsecondary cre-  
4 dential within 100 percent of the normal time for the com-  
5 pletion of such credential, including low-income students  
6 and students from other populations that are underrep-  
7 resented in higher education.

8 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

9       In this Act:

10           (1) **ELIGIBLE ENTITY.**—The term “eligible enti-  
11 ty” means an institution of higher education in part-  
12 nership with one or more local educational agencies  
13 (which may be an educational service agency). Such  
14 partnership may also include other entities such as  
15 nonprofit organizations or businesses.

16           (2) **INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.**—The  
17 term “institution of higher education” has the  
18 meaning given the term in section 101 of the Higher  
19 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

20           (3) **ESEA TERMS.**—The terms “dual or concur-  
21 rent enrollment program”, “early college high  
22 school”, “educational service agency”, “four-year ad-  
23 justed cohort graduation rate”, “local educational  
24 agency”, “secondary school”, and “State” have the  
25 meanings given the terms in section 8101 of the Ele-

1       mentary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20  
2       U.S.C. 7801).

3           (4) **LOW-INCOME STUDENT.**—The term “low-in-  
4       come student” means a student counted under sec-  
5       tion 1124(c) of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-  
6       cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6333(c)).

7           (5) **RECOGNIZED POSTSECONDARY CREDEN-**  
8       **TIAL.**—The term “recognized postsecondary creden-  
9       tial” has the meaning given the term in section 3 of  
10      the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29  
11      U.S.C. 3102).

12          (6) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means  
13      the Secretary of Education.

14 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS; RESERVA-**  
15 **TIONS.**

16      (a) **IN GENERAL.**—To carry out this Act, there are  
17      authorized to be appropriated \$250,000,000 for fiscal year  
18      2020 and each of the five succeeding fiscal years.

19      (b) **RESERVATIONS.**—From the funds appropriated  
20      under subsection (a) for each fiscal year, the Secretary  
21      shall reserve—

22          (1) not less than 40 percent for grants to eligi-  
23      ble entities under section 5;

24          (2) not less than 55 percent for grants to  
25      States under section 6; and

1           (3) not less than 5 percent for national activi-  
2           ties under section 8.

3 **SEC. 5. GRANTS TO ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.**

4           (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award grants  
5 to eligible entities, on a competitive basis, to assist such  
6 entities in establishing or supporting an early college high  
7 school or dual or concurrent enrollment program in ac-  
8 cordance with this section.

9           (b) DURATION.—Each grant under this section shall  
10 be awarded for a period of 6 years.

11          (c) GRANT AMOUNT.—The Secretary shall ensure  
12 that the amount of each grant under this section is suffi-  
13 cient to enable each grantee to carry out the activities de-  
14 scribed in subsection (h), except that a grant under this  
15 section may not exceed \$2,000,000.

16          (d) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—

17           (1) IN GENERAL.—For each year that an eligi-  
18 ble entity receives a grant under this section, the en-  
19 tity shall contribute matching funds, in the amounts  
20 described in paragraph (2), for the activities sup-  
21 ported by the grant.

22           (2) AMOUNTS DESCRIBED.—The amounts de-  
23 scribed in this paragraph are—

1 (A) for each of the first and second years  
2 of the grant period, 20 percent of the grant  
3 amount;

4 (B) for each of the third and fourth years  
5 of the grant period, 30 percent of the grant  
6 amount;

7 (C) for the fifth year of the grant period,  
8 40 percent of the grant amount; and

9 (D) for the sixth year of the grant period,  
10 50 percent of the grant amount.

11 (3) DETERMINATION OF AMOUNT CONTRIB-  
12 UTED.—

13 (A) IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS.—The Sec-  
14 retary shall allow an eligible entity to meet the  
15 requirements of this subsection through in-kind  
16 contributions.

17 (B) NON-FEDERAL SOURCES.—Not less  
18 than half of each amount described in para-  
19 graph (2) shall be provided by the eligible entity  
20 from non-Federal sources.

21 (e) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—An eligible enti-  
22 ty shall use a grant received under this section only to  
23 supplement funds that would, in the absence of such a  
24 grant, be made available from other Federal, State, or

1 local sources for activities supported by the grant, not to  
2 supplant such funds.

3 (f) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this sec-  
4 tion, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible entities  
5 that—

6 (1) propose to establish or support an early col-  
7 lege high school or other dual or concurrent enroll-  
8 ment program that will serve a student population  
9 of which not less than 51 percent are low-income  
10 students;

11 (2) include a local educational agency that  
12 serves a high school that is—

13 (A) identified for comprehensive support  
14 and improvement under section  
15 1111(c)(4)(D)(i) of the Elementary and Sec-  
16 ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
17 6311(c)(4)(D)(i)); or

18 (B) implementing a targeted support and  
19 improvement plan as described in section  
20 1111(d)(2) of the Elementary and Secondary  
21 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311(d)(2));

22 (3) are from States that provide assistance to  
23 early college high schools or other dual enrollment  
24 programs, such as assistance to defray the costs of

1 higher education (including costs of tuition, fees,  
2 and textbooks); and

3 (4) propose to establish or support an early col-  
4 lege high school or dual or concurrent enrollment  
5 program that meets quality standards established  
6 by—

7 (A) a nationally recognized accrediting  
8 agency or association that offers accreditation  
9 specifically for such programs; or

10 (B) a State process specifically for the re-  
11 view and approval of such programs.

12 (g) **EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION.**—The Secretary shall  
13 ensure, to the extent practicable, that eligible entities re-  
14 ceiving grants under this section—

15 (1) are from a representative cross section of—

16 (A) urban, suburban, and rural areas; and

17 (B) regions of the United States; and

18 (2) include both 2-year and 4-year institutions  
19 of higher education.

20 (h) **USES OF FUNDS.**—

21 (1) **MANDATORY ACTIVITIES.**—

22 (A) **IN GENERAL.**—An eligible entity shall  
23 use grant funds received under this section—

24 (i) to support the activities described  
25 in its application under subsection (i);

1 (ii) to create and maintain a coherent  
2 system of supports for students, teachers,  
3 principals, and faculty under the program,  
4 including—

5 (I) college and career readiness,  
6 academic, and social support services  
7 for students; and

8 (II) professional development for  
9 teachers, faculty, and principals from  
10 the secondary schools and faculty  
11 from the institution of higher edu-  
12 cation, including—

13 (aa) joint professional devel-  
14 opment activities; and

15 (bb) activities to assist such  
16 teachers, faculty, and principals  
17 in using effective parent and  
18 community engagement strate-  
19 gies and to help ensure the suc-  
20 cess of—

21 (AA) students academi-  
22 cally at risk of not enrolling  
23 in or completing postsec-  
24 ondary education;



1 (BB) first-generation  
2 college students; and

3 (CC) students described  
4 in section 1111(b)(2)(B)(xi)  
5 of the Elementary and Sec-  
6 ondary Education Act of  
7 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
8 6311(b)(2)(B)(xi));

9 (iii) to carry out liaison activities  
10 among the partners that comprise the eli-  
11 gible entity pursuant to an agreement or  
12 memorandum of understanding docu-  
13 menting commitments, resources, roles,  
14 and responsibilities of the partners con-  
15 sistent with the design of the program;

16 (iv) for outreach programs to ensure  
17 that secondary school students and their  
18 families, including students academically at  
19 risk of not enrolling in or completing post-  
20 secondary education, first-generation col-  
21 lege students, and students described in  
22 section 1111(b)(2)(B)(xi) of the Elemen-  
23 tary and Secondary Education Act of 1965  
24 (20 U.S.C. 6311(b)(2)(B)(xi)), are—

1 (I) aware of, and recruited into,  
2 the early college high school or dual  
3 or concurrent enrollment program;  
4 and

5 (II) assisted with the process of  
6 enrolling and succeeding in the early  
7 college high school or program, which  
8 may include providing academic sup-  
9 port;

10 (v) to collect, share, and use data (in  
11 compliance with section 444 of the General  
12 Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C.  
13 1232g)) for program improvement and  
14 program evaluation; and

15 (vi) to review and strengthen its pro-  
16 gram to maximize the potential that stu-  
17 dents participating in the program will  
18 eventually complete a recognized postsec-  
19 ondary credential, including by opti-  
20 mizing—

21 (I) the curriculum of the pro-  
22 gram;

23 (II) the use of high-quality as-  
24 sessments of student learning, such as  
25 performance-based, project-based, or

1 portfolio assessments that measure  
2 higher-order thinking skills;

3 (III) the sequence of courses of-  
4 fered by the program; and

5 (IV) the alignment of academic  
6 calendars between the secondary  
7 schools and the institution of higher  
8 education participating in the pro-  
9 gram.

10 (B) NEW PROGRAMS.—In the case of an  
11 eligible entity that uses a grant under this sec-  
12 tion to establish an early college high school or  
13 dual or concurrent enrollment program, the en-  
14 tity shall use such funds during the first year  
15 of the grant period—

16 (i) to design the curriculum and se-  
17 quence of courses in collaboration with, at  
18 a minimum—

19 (I) faculty from the institution of  
20 higher education;

21 (II) teachers and faculty from  
22 the local educational agency; and

23 (III) in the case of a career and  
24 technical education program, employ-  
25 ers or workforce development entities

1 to ensure that the program is aligned  
2 with labor market demand;

3 (ii) to develop and implement an ar-  
4 ticulation agreement between the institu-  
5 tion of higher education and the local edu-  
6 cational agency that governs how sec-  
7 ondary and postsecondary credits will be  
8 awarded under the program; and

9 (iii) to carry out the activities de-  
10 scribed in subparagraph (A).

11 (2) ALLOWABLE ACTIVITIES.—An eligible entity  
12 may use grant funds received under this section to  
13 support the activities described in its application  
14 under subsection (i), including by—

15 (A) purchasing textbooks and equipment  
16 that support the curriculum of the program;

17 (B) pursuant to the assurance provided by  
18 the eligible entity under subsection (i)(3)(A),  
19 paying tuition and fees for postsecondary  
20 courses taken by students under the program;

21 (C) incorporating work-based learning op-  
22 portunities into the program (which may in-  
23 clude partnering with entities that provide such  
24 opportunities), including—

25 (i) internships;

- 1 (ii) career-based capstone projects;
- 2 (iii) pre-apprenticeships and appren-  
3 ticeships provided by eligible providers of  
4 apprenticeship programs described in sec-  
5 tion 122(a)(2)(B) of the Workforce Inno-  
6 vation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C.  
7 3152(a)(2)(B)); and
- 8 (iv) work-based learning opportunities  
9 provided under chapters 1 and 2 of sub-  
10 part 2 of part A of title IV of the Higher  
11 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a–  
12 11 et seq.);
- 13 (D) providing students with transportation  
14 to and from the program;
- 15 (E) paying costs for—
- 16 (i) high school teachers to obtain the  
17 skills, credentials, or industry certifications  
18 necessary to teach for the institution of  
19 higher education participating in the pro-  
20 gram; or
- 21 (ii) postsecondary faculty to become  
22 certified to teach high school; or
- 23 (F) providing time during which secondary  
24 school teachers and faculty and faculty from an

1 institution of higher education can collaborate,  
2 which may include—

- 3 (i) professional development;  
4 (ii) the planning of team activities for  
5 such teachers and faculty; and  
6 (iii) curricular design and student as-  
7 sessment.

8 (i) APPLICATION.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a  
10 grant under this section, an eligible entity shall sub-  
11 mit to the Secretary an application at such time, in  
12 such manner, and containing such information as  
13 the Secretary may require.

14 (2) CONTENTS OF APPLICATION.—The applica-  
15 tion under paragraph (1) shall include, at minimum,  
16 a description of—

17 (A) the partnership that comprises the eli-  
18 gible entity, including documentation of partner  
19 commitments, resources and budget, roles, and  
20 responsibilities;

21 (B) how the partners that comprise the eli-  
22 gible entity will coordinate to carry out the  
23 mandatory activities described in subsection  
24 (h)(1);

1 (C) the number of students intended to be  
2 served by the program and demographic infor-  
3 mation relating to such students;

4 (D) how the eligible entity's curriculum  
5 and sequence of courses form a program of  
6 study leading to a recognized postsecondary cre-  
7 dential;

8 (E) how postsecondary credits earned will  
9 be transferable to institutions of higher edu-  
10 cation within the State, including—

11 (i) any applicable statewide transfer  
12 agreements; and

13 (ii) any provisions of such agreements  
14 that are specific to dual or concurrent en-  
15 rollment programs;

16 (F) how the eligible entity will ensure that  
17 students understand how credits earned by such  
18 students will transfer;

19 (G) outreach programs to provide sec-  
20 ondary school students, especially those in mid-  
21 dle grades, and their parents, teachers, school  
22 counselors, and principals information about,  
23 and academic preparation for, the early college  
24 high school or other dual enrollment program;

1 (H) how the eligible entity will determine  
2 the eligibility of students for postsecondary  
3 courses, including an explanation of the mul-  
4 tiple factors the entity will take into account to  
5 assess the readiness of students for such  
6 courses; and

7 (I) the sustainability plan for the early col-  
8 lege high school or other dual or concurrent en-  
9 rollment program.

10 (3) ASSURANCES.—The application under para-  
11 graph (1) shall include assurances from the eligible  
12 entity that—

13 (A) students participating in a program  
14 funded with a grant under this section will not  
15 be required to pay tuition or fees for postsec-  
16 ondary courses taken under the program;

17 (B) postsecondary credits earned by stu-  
18 dents under the program will be transcribed  
19 upon completion of the required course work;  
20 and

21 (C) instructors of postsecondary courses  
22 under the program will meet the same stand-  
23 ards applicable to other faculty at the institu-  
24 tion of higher education that is participating in  
25 the program.



1 **SEC. 6. GRANTS TO STATES.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award grants  
3 to States, on a competitive basis, to assist States in sup-  
4 porting or establishing early college high schools or dual  
5 or concurrent enrollment programs.

6 (b) DURATION.—Each grant under this section shall  
7 be awarded for a period of 6 years.

8 (c) GRANT AMOUNT.—The Secretary shall ensure  
9 that the amount of each grant under this section is suffi-  
10 cient to enable each grantee to carry out the activities de-  
11 scribed in subsection (f).

12 (d) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—For each year that  
13 a State receives a grant under this section, the State shall  
14 provide, from non-Federal sources, an amount equal to 50  
15 percent of the amount of the grant received by the State  
16 for such year to carry out the activities supported by the  
17 grant.

18 (e) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—A State shall  
19 use a grant received under this section only to supplement  
20 funds that would, in the absence of such grant, be made  
21 available from other Federal, State, or local sources for  
22 activities supported by the grant, not to supplant such  
23 funds.

24 (f) USES OF FUNDS.—

25 (1) MANDATORY ACTIVITIES.—A State shall use  
26 grant funds received under this section to—

1 (A) support the activities described in its  
2 application under subsection (g);

3 (B) plan and implement a statewide strat-  
4 egy for expanding access to early college high  
5 schools and dual or concurrent enrollment pro-  
6 grams for students who are underrepresented in  
7 higher education to raise statewide rates of sec-  
8 ondary school graduation, readiness for postsec-  
9 ondary education, and completion of recognized  
10 postsecondary credentials, with a focus on stu-  
11 dents academically at risk of not enrolling in or  
12 completing postsecondary education;

13 (C) identify any obstacles to such a strat-  
14 egy under State law or policy;

15 (D) provide technical assistance (either di-  
16 rectly or through a knowledgeable intermediary)  
17 to early college high schools and other dual or  
18 concurrent enrollment programs, which may in-  
19 clude—

20 (i) brokering relationships and agree-  
21 ments that forge a strong partnership be-  
22 tween elementary and secondary and post-  
23 secondary partners; and

24 (ii) offering statewide training, profes-  
25 sional development, and peer learning op-

1           portunities for school leaders, instructors,  
2           and counselors or advisors;

3           (E) identify and implement policies that  
4           will improve the effectiveness and ensure the  
5           quality of early college high schools and dual or  
6           concurrent enrollment programs, such as eligi-  
7           bility and access, funding, data and quality as-  
8           surance, governance, accountability, and align-  
9           ment policies;

10          (F) update the State's requirements for a  
11          student to receive a regular high school diploma  
12          to align with the challenging State academic  
13          standards and entrance requirements for credit-  
14          bearing coursework as described in subpara-  
15          graphs (A) and (D) of section 1111(b)(1) of the  
16          Elementary and Secondary Education Act of  
17          1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311(b)(1));

18          (G) incorporate indicators regarding stu-  
19          dent access to and completion of early college  
20          high schools and dual or concurrent enrollment  
21          programs into the school quality and student  
22          success indicators included in the State system  
23          of annual meaningful differentiation as de-  
24          scribed under section 1111(c)(4)(B)(v)(I) of the

1 Elementary and Secondary Education Act of  
2 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311(c)(4)(B)(v)(I));

3 (H) disseminate best practices for early  
4 college high schools and dual or concurrent en-  
5 rollment programs, which may include best  
6 practices from programs in the State or other  
7 States;

8 (I) facilitate statewide secondary and post-  
9 secondary data collection, research and evalua-  
10 tion, and reporting to policymakers and other  
11 stakeholders; and

12 (J) conduct outreach programs to ensure  
13 that secondary school students, their families,  
14 and community members are aware of early col-  
15 lege high schools and dual enrollment programs  
16 in the State.

17 (2) ALLOWABLE ACTIVITIES.—A State may use  
18 grant funds received under this section to—

19 (A) establish a mechanism to offset the  
20 costs of tuition, fees, and support services for  
21 low-income students enrolled in early college  
22 high schools or dual or concurrent enrollment  
23 programs;

24 (B) establish formal transfer systems with-  
25 in and across State higher education systems,

1 including 2-year and 4-year public and private  
2 institutions, to maximize the transferability of  
3 college courses;

4 (C) provide incentives to school districts  
5 that—

6 (i) assist high school teachers in get-  
7 ting the credentials needed to participate  
8 in early college high school and dual or  
9 concurrent enrollment programs; and

10 (ii) encourage the use of college in-  
11 structors to teach college courses in high  
12 schools; and

13 (D) support initiatives to improve the qual-  
14 ity of early college high school and dual or con-  
15 current enrollment programs at participating  
16 institutions, including by assisting such institu-  
17 tions in aligning programs with the quality  
18 standards described in section 5(f)(3).

19 (g) STATE APPLICATIONS.—

20 (1) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a  
21 grant under this section, a State shall submit to the  
22 Secretary an application at such time, in such man-  
23 ner, and containing such information as the Sec-  
24 retary may require.

1           (2) CONTENTS OF APPLICATION.—The applica-  
2           tion under paragraph (1) shall include, at minimum,  
3           a description of—

4                   (A) how the State will carry out the man-  
5                   datory State activities described subsection  
6                   (f)(1);

7                   (B) how the State will ensure that any  
8                   programs funded with a grant under this sec-  
9                   tion are coordinated with programs under—

10                           (i) the Carl D. Perkins Career and  
11                           Technical Education Act of 2006 (20  
12                           U.S.C. 2301 et seq.);

13                           (ii) the Workforce Innovation and Op-  
14                           portunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.);

15                           (iii) the Elementary and Secondary  
16                           Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et  
17                           seq.); and

18                           (iv) the Individuals with Disabilities  
19                           Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.);

20                   (C) how the State intends to use grant  
21                   funds to address achievement gaps for each cat-  
22                   egory of students described in section  
23                   1111(b)(2)(B)(xi) of the Elementary and Sec-  
24                   ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
25                   6311(b)(2)(B)(xi)) as identified by the State in

1 its accountability system under section 1111(c)  
2 of the Elementary and Secondary Education  
3 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311(c));

4 (D) how the State will access and leverage  
5 additional resources necessary to sustain early  
6 college high schools or other dual or concurrent  
7 enrollment programs;

8 (E) how the State will identify and elimi-  
9 nate barriers to implementing effective early  
10 college high schools and dual or concurrent en-  
11 rollment programs after the grant expires, in-  
12 cluding by engaging businesses and nonprofit  
13 organizations; and

14 (F) such other information as the Sec-  
15 retary determines to be appropriate.

16 **SEC. 7. REPORTING AND OVERSIGHT.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not less frequently than once an-  
18 nually, each State and eligible entity that receives a grant  
19 under this Act shall submit to the Secretary a report on  
20 the progress of the State or eligible entity in carrying out  
21 the programs supported by such grant.

22 (b) FORM OF REPORT.—The report under subsection  
23 (a) shall be submitted to the Secretary at such time, in  
24 such manner, and containing such information as the Sec-  
25 retary may require. The Secretary shall issue uniform

1 guidelines describing the information that shall be re-  
2 ported by grantees under such subsection.

3 (c) CONTENTS OF REPORT.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The report under subsection  
5 (a) shall include, at minimum, the following:

6 (A) The number of students enrolled in the  
7 early college high school or dual or concurrent  
8 enrollment program.

9 (B) The number and percentage of stu-  
10 dents enrolled in the early college high school or  
11 dual or concurrent enrollment program who  
12 earn a recognized postsecondary credential con-  
13 currently with a high school diploma.

14 (C) The number of postsecondary credits  
15 earned by eligible students while enrolled in the  
16 early college high school or dual or concurrent  
17 enrollment program that may be applied toward  
18 a recognized postsecondary credential.

19 (D) The number and percentage of stu-  
20 dents who earn a high school diploma.

21 (E) The total number and percentage of  
22 eligible students who enroll in and subsequently  
23 complete the early college high school or dual or  
24 concurrent enrollment program.



1 (F) The number and percentage of grad-  
2 uates who enroll in postsecondary education, in  
3 military service, and in employment.

4 (2) CATEGORIES OF STUDENTS.—The informa-  
5 tion described in each of subparagraphs (A) through  
6 (F) of paragraph (1) shall be set forth separately for  
7 each category of students described in section  
8 1111(b)(2)(B)(xi) of the Elementary and Secondary  
9 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
10 6311(b)(2)(B)(xi)).

11 **SEC. 8. NATIONAL ACTIVITIES.**

12 (a) REPORTING BY SECRETARY.—Not less frequently  
13 than once annually, the Secretary shall submit to Con-  
14 gress a report that includes—

15 (1) an analysis of the information received from  
16 States and eligible entities under section 7;

17 (2) an identification of best practices for car-  
18 rying out programs supported by grants under this  
19 Act; and

20 (3) the results of the evaluation under sub-  
21 section (b).

22 (b) NATIONAL EVALUATION.—Not later than 6  
23 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the  
24 Secretary shall seek to enter into a contract with an inde-  
25 pendent entity to perform an evaluation of the grants

1 awarded under this Act. Such evaluation shall apply rig-  
2 orous procedures to obtain valid and reliable data con-  
3 cerning student outcomes by social and academic charac-  
4 teristics and monitor the progress of students from sec-  
5 ondary school to and through postsecondary education.

6 (c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall  
7 provide technical assistance to States and eligible entities  
8 concerning best practices and quality improvement pro-  
9 grams in early college high schools and dual or concurrent  
10 enrollment programs and shall disseminate such best prac-  
11 tices among eligible entities, States, and local educational  
12 agencies.

13 (d) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—From amounts re-  
14 served to carry out this section under section 4(b)(3), the  
15 Secretary may reserve such sums as may be necessary for  
16 the direct administrative costs of carrying out the Sec-  
17 retary’s responsibilities under this Act.

18 **SEC. 9. RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.**

19 (a) EMPLOYEES.—Nothing in this Act shall be con-  
20 strued to alter or otherwise affect the rights, remedies,  
21 and procedures afforded to the employees of local edu-  
22 cational agencies (including schools) or institutions of  
23 higher education under Federal, State, or local laws (in-  
24 cluding applicable regulations or court orders) or under  
25 the terms of collective bargaining agreements, memoranda

1 of understanding, or other agreements between such em-  
2 ployees and their employers.

3 (b) GRADUATION RATE.—A student who graduates  
4 from an early college high school supported by a grant  
5 under section 5 within 100 percent of the normal time  
6 for completion described in the eligible entity’s application  
7 under such section shall be counted in the four-year ad-  
8 justed cohort graduation rate for such high school.

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