

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5976

To direct the Secretary of Education to carry out a STEM grant program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 26, 2020

Mr. FOSTER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Education to carry out a STEM
grant program.

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 “Partnerships for
5 Progress and Prosperity Act” or the “P3 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) As part of their Blueprint for Action re-
9 searchers at Harvard Graduate School of Education
10 and the Pathways to Prosperity Network recommend
11 creating programs designed to “combine work and

1 academic learning in post-secondary career prepara-
2 tion”. In a follow-up study to the original “Path-
3 ways to Prosperity” published by Harvard’s Grad-
4 uate School of Education in 2011, the same re-
5 searchers released “A Blueprint for Action” in June
6 2014.

7 (2) The Executive Office of Science and Tech-
8 nology Policy have explicitly stated a goal of
9 strengthening America’s STEM workforce.

10 (3) According to a study by the Manufacturing
11 Institute, a national survey of United States manu-
12 facturing executives found that 83 percent of Amer-
13 ican manufacturers reported a moderate or severe
14 shortage of skilled workers.

15 (4) The American Enterprise Institute further
16 states that, “According to the U.S. Department of
17 Labor, the percentage of manufacturing workers
18 aged 55 to 64 and the share of workers older than
19 65 have both significantly increased since 2000.
20 Moreover, they also report that the median age of
21 the manufacturing workforce increased from 40.5 in
22 2000 to 44.1 in 2011. The Society of Manufacturing
23 Engineers predicts that the shortfall of skilled fac-
24 tory workers could increase to 3 million jobs by
25 2015 due to the aging manufacturing workforce and

1 the resulting retirements of older workers, at the
2 same time that an anticipated manufacturing re-
3 bound will increase demand for skilled workers.”.

4 (5) The 2012 Program for International Stu-
5 dent Assessment found the United States below the
6 average score of participating countries in mathe-
7 matics and science. Furthermore, the United States
8 has dropped in the rankings for mathematics
9 achievement from 25th in 2009 to 36th in 2012.

10 (6) NAE, along with other peer-reviewed publi-
11 cations and studies from universities around the
12 country have examined the benefits of partnerships
13 between schools and outside organizations. Partner-
14 ships for Progress and Prosperity Act programs as
15 well as experiential learning play an important role
16 in training students for the jobs of the future.

17 **SEC. 3. GRANT PROGRAM.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—From the amounts appropriated
19 under subsection (h), the Secretary of Education shall
20 award grants to eligible entities to improve the education
21 of students in science, technology, engineering, and mathe-
22 matics (in this section referred to as “STEM”) and pre-
23 pare such students to pursue undergraduate and graduate
24 degrees and careers in such fields.

1 (b) APPLICATION.—To receive a grant under this sec-
2 tion, an eligible entity shall submit an application to the
3 Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing
4 such information as the Secretary may require, which shall
5 include a description of—

6 (1) the local, regional, or national employer in
7 a STEM field with which the eligible entity will
8 partner or collaborate to carry out activities under
9 subsection (c)(2); and

10 (2) the activities the eligible entity will carry
11 out under subsection (c)(2) with the grant.

12 (c) USES OF FUNDS.—

13 (1) PARTNERSHIP OR COLLABORATION.—An el-
14 igible entity receiving a grant under this section
15 shall carry out at least one of the activities described
16 in paragraph (2) in partnership or collaboration
17 with—

18 (A) the local, regional, or national em-
19 ployer described in the agency's application
20 under subsection (b)(1); and

21 (B) an institution of higher education, in
22 the case of an eligible entity that is a local edu-
23 cational agency, or a local educational agency,
24 in the case of an eligible entity that is an insti-
25 tution of higher education.

1 (2) ACTIVITIES.—The activities referred to in
2 paragraph (1) are as follows:

3 (A) Assist students in being placed in in-
4 ternships or apprenticeships with the employers
5 with whom the eligible entity is partnering or
6 collaborating under paragraph (1)(A).

7 (B) Develop the curriculum and metrics of
8 STEM coursework.

9 (C) Carry out dual-credit courses that
10 offer both secondary school credit and college
11 credit, and incorporate STEM education and
12 STEM workplace training.

13 (D) Provide tutoring in STEM coursework
14 and mentoring programs for academic advice
15 and assistance in discussing future career op-
16 portunities in STEM fields.

17 (E) Enable students and their teachers to
18 attend STEM events outside the classroom.

19 (F) Provide after-school and summer
20 STEM programs for students.

21 (G) Purchase education materials or equip-
22 ment to facilitate STEM instruction.

23 (d) AWARDING OF GRANTS.—In awarding grants
24 under this section, the Secretary shall—

1 (1) carry out a rigorous evaluation of each eligi-
2 ble entity's application under subsection (b) being
3 considered for a grant under this section to deter-
4 mine whether the eligible entity demonstrates a ra-
5 tionale based on high-quality research findings or
6 positive evaluation that the activity proposed to be
7 funded with the grant is likely to improve student
8 outcomes or other relevant outcomes; and

9 (2) give special consideration to eligible entities
10 that—

11 (A) promote in-classroom engagement be-
12 tween STEM professionals and students, cre-
13 ating co-teaching and guest-teaching opportuni-
14 ties;

15 (B) use technology-based instructional ma-
16 terials and content;

17 (C) pair mentors and tutors with students
18 struggling to meet curriculum benchmarks;

19 (D) in the case of eligible entities that are
20 local educational agencies, serve schools in
21 which the majority of students are eligible to
22 receive free or reduced price lunch under the
23 Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act
24 (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.); and

1 (E) propose to use the grant to target
2 interventions for populations that are tradition-
3 ally underrepresented in STEM fields, including
4 women, minorities, and low-income students.

5 (e) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible entity that re-
7 ceives a grant under this section shall provide, from
8 non-Federal sources, an amount equal to 50 percent
9 of the grant. Such non-Federal contribution may be
10 provided in cash or in kind.

11 (2) PARTNERSHIP AUTHORIZED.—An eligible
12 entity may partner with a public and private entity
13 that may assist the eligible entity in meeting the
14 matching requirement under paragraph (1).

15 (3) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive all or
16 part of the matching requirement under paragraph
17 (1) for an eligible entity if the entity demonstrates
18 that such requirement would result in a serious fi-
19 nancial hardship or a financial inability to carry out
20 the goals of the grant.

21 (f) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—Grant funds
22 provided to an eligible entity under this section shall be
23 used to supplement, and not supplant, funds that would
24 otherwise be used for activities authorized under this sec-
25 tion.

1 (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

2 (1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
3 ty” means a local educational agency or an institu-
4 tion of higher education.

5 (2) ESEA TERMS.—The terms “local edu-
6 cational agency”, “poverty line”, “secondary
7 school”, “Secretary”, and “State” have the mean-
8 ings given the terms in section 8101 of the Elemen-
9 tary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
10 U.S.C. 7801).

11 (3) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
12 term “institution of higher education” has the
13 meaning given the term in section 102 of the Higher
14 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002).

15 (4) LOW-INCOME STUDENT.—The term “low-in-
16 come student” means a student whose family’s tax-
17 able income for the preceding year did not exceed
18 150 percent of the poverty line.

19 (h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
20 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be
21 necessary to carry out this section for fiscal year 2020
22 and each succeeding fiscal year.

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