

114TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 6203

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

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 28, 2016

Mr. FOSTER (for himself, Ms. EDWARDS, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. POLIS, Mr. HONDA, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. SWALWELL of California) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

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## 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

1 creating programs designed to “combine work and  
2 academic learning in post-secondary career prepara-  
3 tion”. In a followup study to the original “Pathways  
4 to Prosperity” published by Harvard’s Graduate  
5 School of Education in 2011, the same researchers  
6 released “A Blueprint for Action” in June 2014.

7 (2) The Executive Office of Science and Tech-  
8 nology Policy has explicitly stated a goal of strength-  
9 ening 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 2017  
22 and each succeeding fiscal year.

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