

114TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 6464

To direct the Secretary of Education to award grants for teacher-led projects to improve academic growth in elementary school and secondary school, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 7, 2016

Mrs. DAVIS 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 award grants for teacher-led projects to improve academic growth in elementary school and secondary school, 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 “Teach to Lead Act  
5 of 2016”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       Congress finds as follows:

1           (1) Teachers, because of their position in the  
2           classroom, often see important opportunities to im-  
3           prove student learning most directly and thus have  
4           a unique perspective from which to create practical  
5           solutions to help students succeed.

6           (2) According to a Scholastic and Bill &  
7           Melinda Gates Foundation poll, 69 percent of teach-  
8           ers feel that their voices are heard in their school,  
9           but only one-third feel heard in their district, five  
10          percent in their State, and two percent at the na-  
11          tional level.

12          (3) The failure to leverage teachers' expertise  
13          has a negative impact on teacher engagement in  
14          education reforms and misses a critical opportunity  
15          for administrators and policymakers to draw on  
16          knowledge and expertise from the classroom that can  
17          help address critical education needs and challenges.

18          (4) Empowering teachers to lead beyond the  
19          classroom, without necessarily leaving the classroom,  
20          will demonstrate the trust and respect for teachers,  
21          as professionals, that they deserve and will help im-  
22          prove teaching and student outcomes.

23 **SEC. 3. PURPOSE.**

24          The purpose of this Act is to empower teachers to  
25          develop and implement projects with the potential to have

1 a wider impact on developing the knowledge, pedagogical  
2 skills, and conditions needed to improve teaching and stu-  
3 dent outcomes, particularly academic growth, by bringing  
4 their classroom knowledge and expertise directly to bear  
5 on the many challenges confronting our education system.

6 **SEC. 4. GRANT PROGRAM.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—

8 (1) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—From the funds  
9 made available under section 7, the Secretary of  
10 Education may make grants, on a competitive basis,  
11 to one or more nonprofit organizations to award  
12 subgrants to eligible entities to develop and imple-  
13 ment teacher-led projects to improve teaching and  
14 student outcomes in elementary school and sec-  
15 ondary school, particularly academic growth.

16 (2) GRANT PERIOD.—A grant made to a non-  
17 profit organization under paragraph (1) shall be for  
18 a period of not more than five years.

19 (3) USE OF GRANT FUNDS.—A nonprofit orga-  
20 nization that receives a grant under paragraph (1)—

21 (A) shall reserve not less than 90 percent  
22 of the grant to award subgrants, on a competi-  
23 tive basis, to eligible entities under subsection  
24 (c); and

1 (B) may use not more than 10 percent of  
2 the grant for administrative purposes.

3 (b) APPLICATIONS.—A nonprofit organization that  
4 desires a grant under this section shall submit an applica-  
5 tion to the Secretary at such time and in such manner,  
6 and containing such information as the Secretary may re-  
7 quire. The application shall—

8 (1) demonstrate the entity’s ability to—

9 (A) operate a national program, a multi-  
10 State program, or a program that reaches not  
11 less than 100,000 students; and

12 (B) manage the administrative and fiscal  
13 aspects of the subgrant program described in  
14 this section; and

15 (2) describe how the nonprofit organization  
16 will—

17 (A) provide outreach and solicit subgrant  
18 applications nationwide, particularly in urban,  
19 rural, and tribal areas with significant numbers  
20 or concentration of high-need schools;

21 (B) conduct a subgrant competition and  
22 ensure that selected projects will be designed  
23 and led by teachers, teams of teachers, or  
24 teachers and school leaders;

1 (C) conduct a peer review of all eligible  
2 project applications that selects high-quality  
3 projects likely to have the greatest impact on  
4 teaching or student outcomes;

5 (D) provide technical assistance to help  
6 subgrantees ensure effective project implemen-  
7 tation;

8 (E) monitor project implementation and  
9 collect data on projects;

10 (F) facilitate collaboration and interaction  
11 of subgrantees with each other and with experts  
12 in the field to solve ongoing problems of in-  
13 structional practice and leadership, such as  
14 through the creation of communities of practice  
15 where teachers share best practices and work  
16 together to achieve similar goals;

17 (G) evaluate projects and nationally dis-  
18 seminate the results of effective projects; and

19 (H) provide accountability for the use of  
20 the grant.

21 (c) SUBGRANTS.—

22 (1) SUBGRANT PRIORITY.—A nonprofit organi-  
23 zation receiving a grant under this section shall use  
24 such grant to award subgrants to eligible entities  
25 under this subsection, and in awarding such sub-

1 grants the nonprofit organization shall give priority  
2 to eligible entities that will use the subgrants to  
3 carry out projects that—

4 (A) are designed to improve teaching and  
5 learning outcomes for all students in high-need  
6 schools or that target the educational needs of  
7 low-income or minority students;

8 (B) are supported by evidence of effective-  
9 ness or, at a minimum, is supported by a logic  
10 model;

11 (C) are supported by evidence of teacher  
12 involvement in the development of such projects  
13 as demonstrated by research or survey data;  
14 and

15 (D) have the potential to be scaled up in  
16 their school, local educational agencies, or State  
17 in order to have a wider impact on improving  
18 teaching and learning outcomes, particularly  
19 academic growth for all students.

20 (2) SUBGRANT APPLICATIONS.—An eligible en-  
21 tity that desires a subgrant under this section shall  
22 submit an application to the applicable nonprofit or-  
23 ganization awarded a grant under this section at  
24 such time and in such manner, and containing such  
25 information as the nonprofit organization may rea-

1 sonably require. Each application shall, at a min-  
2 imum, describe—

3 (A) the project proposed, including  
4 timelines, resources needed, and any measur-  
5 able objectives to be used in determining how  
6 the project will improve teaching and student  
7 outcomes, particularly academic growth;

8 (B) any partnerships entered into with  
9 school and local educational agency leaders,  
10 nonprofit organizations, community organiza-  
11 tions, teacher preparation providers, in-service  
12 support providers, and other stakeholders, in-  
13 cluding teachers, to develop and implement the  
14 proposed project; and

15 (C) the potential to scale up the proposed  
16 project in the school, local educational agency,  
17 Tribal or Bureau of Indian Affairs educational  
18 system, and State, of the eligible entity.

19 (3) USE OF SUBGRANT FUNDS.—

20 (A) USE OF SUBGRANT FUNDS.—An eligi-  
21 ble entity shall use the subgrant received under  
22 this section to develop and implement an inno-  
23 vative project designed and led by teachers,  
24 teams of teachers, or teachers and school lead-  
25 ers to improve teaching and learning at the ele-

1 elementary school and secondary school level, such  
2 as—

3 (i) increasing student engagement  
4 through personalized learning, including  
5 technology-enabled instruction;

6 (ii) strengthening support for edu-  
7 cators, including support for implementa-  
8 tion of challenging, academic standards to  
9 prepare students to be ready for college  
10 and careers;

11 (iii) improving community engage-  
12 ment, school climate, and student services;

13 (iv) improving data collection and  
14 analysis for data-driven instruction and  
15 continuous improvement;

16 (v) expanding students' access to ef-  
17 fective educators, particularly low-income  
18 and minority students; or

19 (vi) increasing retention of effective  
20 educators who demonstrate academic  
21 growth for students, particularly low-in-  
22 come and minority students.

23 (B) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—A part-  
24 ner local educational agency or nonprofit orga-  
25 nization that serves as the fiscal agent for an



1 eligible entity, may use not more than two per-  
2 cent of the subgrant for direct administrative  
3 expenses incurred in carrying out its respon-  
4 sibilities under the subgrant.

5 **SEC. 5. PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT.**

6 The Secretary shall establish goals and performance  
7 indicators to measure and assess the impact of the activi-  
8 ties carried out under this Act.

9 **SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.**

10 In this Act:

11 (1) **ELIGIBLE ENTITY.**—The term “eligible enti-  
12 ty” means an individual teacher, a team of teachers,  
13 or teachers and school leaders, in partnership with  
14 a local educational agency or a nonprofit organiza-  
15 tion that serves as the fiscal agent with respect to  
16 funds awarded under this Act.

17 (2) **ESEA TERMS.**—The terms “elementary  
18 school”, “secondary school”, “local educational agen-  
19 cy”, and “Secretary” have the meanings given the  
20 terms in section 8101 of the Elementary and Sec-  
21 ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

22 (3) **HIGH-NEED SCHOOL.**—The term “high-need  
23 school” has the meaning given that term in section  
24 2243(f)(2) of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-  
25 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6673(f)(2)).

1           (4) NONPROFIT ENTITY.—The term “nonprofit  
2           organization” means a nonprofit organization that  
3           works in education at the elementary school or sec-  
4           ondary school level.

5 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

6           There are authorized to be appropriated \$10,000,000  
7           for each of the fiscal years 2017 through 2021 to carry  
8           out this Act.

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