

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1025

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to clarify when certain academic assessments shall be administered.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 21, 2015

Mr. TESTER introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to clarify when certain academic assessments shall be administered.

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 “Student Testing Im-
5 provement and Accountability Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The Elementary and Secondary Education
9 Act of 1965 supports programs to level the playing
10 field for the most vulnerable, including children of

1 poverty, students with disabilities, and English lan-
2 guage learners.

3 (2) Prior to 2001, Federal law required States
4 only to test students once per grade span.

5 (3) Following the enactment of the No Child
6 Left Behind Act of 2001 (Public Law 107–110),
7 which amended the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
8 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.), Fed-
9 eral education policy has placed an increased empha-
10 sis on testing assessments, requiring students to un-
11 dergo standardized testing every year in grades 3
12 through 8.

13 (4) Reducing the frequency of federally required
14 testing will allow more time for student learning and
15 inspire their natural curiosity and creativity.

16 (5) Students will have more time to receive one-
17 on-one instruction and develop critical thinking and
18 problem-solving skills through a well-rounded edu-
19 cation and curriculum.

20 (6) Moving away from the practice of annually
21 “teaching to the test” will empower educators to
22 provide instruction in a way that best inspires and
23 prepares our Nation’s next generation of leaders.

24 (7) With grade span testing, our educators will
25 be more able to focus on those students who are

1 most in need but who also lose the most class time
2 preparing for annual tests.

3 (8) Grade span testing will allow States the
4 flexibility to develop more meaningful, tailored as-
5 sessment systems that provide valid, reliable data.

6 (9) The yearly testing currently required by
7 Federal law should be replaced with grade span test-
8 ing.

9 **SEC. 3. ACADEMIC ASSESSMENTS.**

10 Section 1111(b)(3)(C) of the Elementary and Sec-
11 ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311(b)(3)(C))
12 is amended—

13 (1) in clause (v)(I)—

14 (A) by striking “except as otherwise pro-
15 vided for grades 3 through 8 under clause vii,”;
16 and

17 (B) by inserting “and the achievement of
18 students against the challenging State academic
19 content and student academic achievement
20 standards” after “proficiency of students”;

21 (2) by striking clause (vii); and

22 (3) in clause (viii), by striking “, (vi), (vii)” and
23 inserting “and (vi)”.

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