

# 115TH CONGRESS 2D SESSION H. R. 5119

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

### IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 27, 2018

Mr. Foster (for himself, Mr. Ryan of Ohio, Mr. David Scott of Georgia, and Mr. Polis) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

## 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
- and the Pathways to Prosperity Network recommend

- creating programs designed to "combine work and academic learning in post-secondary career preparation". In a follow-up study to the original "Pathways to Prosperity" published by Harvard's Graduate School of Education in 2011, the same researchers released "A Blueprint for Action" in June 2014.
  - (2) The Executive Office of Science and Technology Policy have explicitly stated a goal of strengthening America's STEM workforce.
  - (3) According to a study by the Manufacturing Institute, a national survey of United States manufacturing executives found that 83 percent of American manufacturers reported a moderate or severe shortage of skilled workers.
  - (4) The American Enterprise Institute further states that, "According to the U.S. Department of Labor, the percentage of manufacturing workers aged 55 to 64 and the share of workers older than 65 have both significantly increased since 2000. Moreover, they also report that the median age of the manufacturing workforce increased from 40.5 in 2000 to 44.1 in 2011. The Society of Manufacturing Engineers predicts that the shortfall of skilled factory workers could increase to 3 million jobs by

- 2 2015 due to the aging manufacturing workforce and the resulting retirements of older workers, at the same time that an anticipated manufacturing rebound will increase demand for skilled workers.".
  - (5) The 2012 Program for International Student Assessment found the United States below the average score of participating countries in mathematics and science. Furthermore, the United States has dropped in the rankings for mathematics achievement from 25th in 2009 to 36th in 2012.
  - (6) NAE, along with other peer reviewed publications and studies from universities around the country have examined the benefits of partnerships between schools and outside organizations. Partnerships for Progress and Prosperity Act programs as well as experiential learning play an important role in training students for the jobs of the future.

#### 18 SEC. 3. GRANT PROGRAM.

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19 (a) IN GENERAL.—From the amounts appropriated 20 under subsection (h), the Secretary of Education shall 21 award grants to eligible entities to improve the education 22 of students in science, technology, engineering, and mathe-23 matics (in this section referred to as "STEM") and pre-24 pare such students to pursue undergraduate and graduate 25 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 tradition3 ally underrepresented in STEM fields, including
4 women, minorities, and low-income students.

### (e) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—

- (1) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible entity that receives a grant under this section shall provide, from non-Federal sources, an amount equal to 50 percent of the grant. Such non-Federal contribution may be provided in cash or in kind.
- (2) Partnership authorized.—An eligible entity may partner with a public and private entity that may assist the eligible entity in meeting the matching requirement under paragraph (1).
- (3) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive all or part of the matching requirement under paragraph (1) for an eligible entity if the entity demonstrates that such requirement would result in a serious financial hardship or a financial inability to carry out 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
- term "institution of higher education" has the
- 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-
- come student" means a student whose family's tax-
- 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 2018
- 22 and each succeeding fiscal year.