

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to authorize a connecting education and emerging professions demonstration grant program.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

_____ introduced the following bill; which was read twice
and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to authorize a connecting education and emerging professions demonstration 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 “Connecting Education
5 and Emerging Professions Act of 2008”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The majority of secondary school students
9 in the United States receive some career-related in-

1 struction before graduation, and about half of sec-
2 ondary school students have a strong career-related
3 component to their educational programs.

4 (2) A gap still remains between what students
5 are learning in school and the knowledge required to
6 succeed in the current labor market.

7 (3) Employers in various economic sectors, in-
8 cluding technology, manufacturing, healthcare, con-
9 struction, and others, report difficulty in identifying
10 qualified candidates for skilled positions.

11 (4) A survey of more than 400 employers na-
12 tionwide found that nearly half were dissatisfied
13 with the overall preparation of secondary school
14 graduates.

15 (5) Almost 40 percent of secondary school grad-
16 uates report feeling unprepared for the workplace or
17 postsecondary education.

18 (6) In order for companies in the United States
19 to be competitive in a global economy, the United
20 States must have a highly skilled workforce.

21 (7) Adequate preparation on the secondary
22 school level can help prepare students to enter high-
23 demand fields in need of skilled workers.

1 (8) Collaboration between businesses, indus-
2 tries, and education leaders can help determine how
3 best to prepare students for workforce success.

4 (9) Career-related experiences, such as appren-
5 ticeships during secondary education are associated
6 with positive labor market outcomes for students.

7 (10) The United States has a secondary school
8 graduation rate of 70 percent, and approximately
9 one-third of students entering secondary school will
10 not graduate on time.

11 (11) Minority and low socioeconomic status stu-
12 dents have significantly lower graduation rates.

13 (12) Disengagement from classroom instruction
14 contributes to student decisions to drop out of
15 school.

16 (13) Studies indicate a link between career-ori-
17 ented models of secondary education, dropout rate
18 reduction, and higher earning potential for grad-
19 uates.

20 (14) Studies suggest that academic lessons
21 taught in a work context or an applied manner can
22 improve some students' ability to comprehend and
23 retain information.

24 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are to—

1 (1) foster improved collaboration among sec-
2 ondary schools, State, regional, and local businesses,
3 institutions of higher education, industry, or work-
4 force development organizations, labor organizations,
5 and other nonprofit community organizations to
6 identify emerging industry pathways, as well as the
7 academic skills necessary to improve student success
8 in the workforce or postsecondary education;

9 (2) address industry and postsecondary edu-
10 cation needs for a prepared and skilled workforce;

11 (3) improve the potential for economic and em-
12 ployment growth in covered communities; and

13 (4) help address the dropout crisis in the
14 United States by involving students in a collabo-
15 rative curriculum or program development process
16 related to emerging industry pathways to improve
17 student engagement and attendance in secondary
18 school.

19 **SEC. 3. CONNECTING EDUCATION AND EMERGING PROFES-**
20 **SIONS DEMONSTRATION GRANT PROGRAM.**

21 (a) **AUTHORIZATION.**—Part D of title V of the Ele-
22 mentary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
23 7241 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
24 lowing:

1 **“Subpart 22—Connecting Education and Emerging**
2 **Professions Demonstration Grant Program**

3 **“SEC. 5621. DEFINITIONS.**

4 “In this subpart:

5 “(1) COVERED COMMUNITY.—The term ‘cov-
6 ered community’ means a town, city, community, re-
7 gion, or State that has—

8 “(A) experienced a significant percentage
9 job loss in the 5 years prior to the date of en-
10 actment of this subpart or is projected to expe-
11 rience a significant percentage job loss within 5
12 years after the date of enactment of this sub-
13 part; or

14 “(B) an unemployment rate that has in-
15 creased in the 12 months prior to the date of
16 enactment of this subpart.

17 “(2) ELIGIBLE PARTNERSHIP.—The term ‘eligi-
18 ble partnership’ means a State educational agency,
19 a consortium of local educational agencies, a local
20 educational agency that collaborates with State, re-
21 gional, or local businesses, including small busi-
22 nesses, that serve a covered community in which
23 qualifying schools are located, or a regional work-
24 force investment board that serves a covered commu-
25 nity in which qualifying schools are located, and at
26 least 1 of the following entities:

1 “(A) An institution of higher education
2 that provides a 4-year program of instruction.

3 “(B) An accredited community college.

4 “(C) An accredited career or technical
5 school or college.

6 “(D) A tribal college or university.

7 “(E) A nonprofit community organization.

8 “(F) A labor organization.

9 “(3) EMERGING INDUSTRY PATHWAYS.—The
10 term ‘emerging industry pathways’ means industry
11 careers that—

12 “(A) are estimated to increase in the num-
13 ber of job opportunities in a covered community
14 within the 5 to 7 years after the date of enact-
15 ment of this subpart;

16 “(B) require new academic skill sets be-
17 cause of new technology or innovation in the
18 field;

19 “(C) are important to the growth of the
20 State, region, or local area’s economy; and

21 “(D) may include—

22 “(i) green industries;

23 “(ii) health care industries;

24 “(iii) advanced manufacturing indus-
25 tries; and

1 “(iv) programs of study, as described
2 in section 122(c)(1)(A) of the Carl D. Per-
3 kins Career and Technical Education Act
4 of 2006.

5 “(4) QUALIFYING SCHOOL.—The term ‘quali-
6 fying school’ means a secondary school that—

7 “(A) serves students not less than 30 per-
8 cent of whom are eligible for the school lunch
9 program under the Richard B. Russell National
10 School Lunch Act or an equivalent indicator of
11 poverty established by the Secretary;

12 “(B) has a graduation rate that is lower
13 than the State average; and

14 “(C) is located in a covered community.

15 “(5) SCHOOL- AND WORK-BASED CURRICULUM
16 OR PROGRAM.—The term ‘school- and work-based
17 curriculum or program’ means a curriculum or pro-
18 gram that incorporates a combination of school-
19 based instruction and work-based learning opportu-
20 nities, including internships, work experience pro-
21 grams, apprenticeships, service learning programs,
22 mentorship opportunities, job shadowing, and other
23 career and technical education programs, in an
24 emerging industry pathway.

1 **“SEC. 5622. PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.**

2 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish
3 and carry out an emerging professions and educational im-
4 provement demonstration project, by awarding grants, on
5 a competitive basis, to eligible partnerships.

6 “(b) PROGRAM PERIODS.—

7 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award
8 grants under this subpart for periods of not more
9 than 5 years, of which the eligible partnership shall
10 use—

11 “(A) not more than 18 months for assess-
12 ing emerging industry pathways, assessing the
13 academic skills needed for success in such path-
14 ways, and developing a school- and work-based
15 curriculum or program to teach such academic
16 skills necessary for success in an emerging in-
17 dustry pathway;

18 “(B) not more than 48 months for imple-
19 menting the new emerging industry pathways
20 school- and work-based curriculum or program
21 in qualifying schools; and

22 “(C) not more than 12 months to dissemi-
23 nate best practices to other State educational
24 agencies, local educational agencies, or schools.

25 “(2) OVERLAP.—The Secretary may award
26 grant periods under this subpart that overlap.

1 “(c) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this sub-
2 part, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible partner-
3 ships that—

4 “(1) serve qualifying schools in which 50 per-
5 cent or more of the students are eligible for the
6 school lunch program under the Richard B. Russell
7 National School Lunch Act or an equivalent indi-
8 cator of poverty established by the Secretary;

9 “(2) serve qualifying schools the majority of
10 which have dropout rates in the top 25 percent
11 statewide;

12 “(3) pledge to serve the students most at-risk
13 of dropping out within qualifying schools;

14 “(4) develop school- and work-based curricula
15 and programs serving green industries, health care
16 industries, and advanced manufacturing industries;
17 or

18 “(5) have a demonstrated record of success in
19 forming collaborative partnerships with businesses,
20 workforce development boards, institutions of higher
21 education, local community and technical colleges,
22 tribal colleges, labor organizations, and other non-
23 profit community organizations.

1 **“SEC. 5623. APPLICATIONS.**

2 “An eligible partnership that desires to receive a
3 grant under this subpart shall submit to the Secretary an
4 application at such time, in such manner, and containing
5 such information as the Secretary may require, includ-
6 ing—

7 “(1) a description of the eligible partnership,
8 including the responsibilities of each partner and
9 how each partner will meet its responsibilities;

10 “(2) a description of the statewide, regional, or
11 local emerging industry pathways and labor market
12 needs to be filled;

13 “(3) a description of how members of the eligi-
14 ble partnership will collaborate with each other and
15 interested community stakeholders to assess the
16 emerging industry pathways in the State, region, or
17 local area;

18 “(4) a description of how the eligible partner-
19 ship will engage students from qualifying schools to
20 be served in the design and implementation of the
21 school- and work-based curriculum or program;

22 “(5) a description of how the eligible partner-
23 ship will use the assessment of emerging industry
24 pathways to establish a school- and work-based cur-
25 riculum or program to teach academic and industry
26 skills needed for success in such emerging industries

1 and how these skills will be aligned with existing
2 challenging State academic content standards;

3 “(6) a description of how teachers, parents or
4 guardians, and school guidance counselors will be
5 consulted by the eligible partnership in the develop-
6 ment of the school- and work-based curriculum or
7 program developed under this subpart;

8 “(7) a description of how the eligible partner-
9 ship will ensure that teachers and instructors have
10 the necessary training and preparation to teach the
11 school- and work-based curriculum or program de-
12 veloped under this subpart;

13 “(8) a description of how the school- and work-
14 based curriculum or program developed under this
15 subpart will improve the academic achievement, stu-
16 dent attendance, and secondary school completion of
17 at-risk students and such students’ readiness to
18 enter into a career in an emerging industry or pur-
19 sue postsecondary education;

20 “(9) a description of how the eligible partner-
21 ship will design a school- and work-based curriculum
22 or program that meets the unique academic and ca-
23 reer development needs of students to be served by
24 the curriculum or program;

1 “(10) a description of how the school- and
2 work-based curriculum or program will support
3 statewide, regional, or local emerging industries;

4 “(11) a description of how the eligible partner-
5 ship will measure and report improvement in aca-
6 demic and student engagement outcomes among stu-
7 dents who participate in the school- and work-based
8 curriculum or program developed under this subpart;

9 “(12) a description of how the eligible partner-
10 ship will seek to leverage other sources of Federal,
11 State, and local funding to support the development
12 and implementation of the school- and work-based
13 curriculum or program;

14 “(13) a description of how the eligible partner-
15 ship will work to create, use, and evaluate individual
16 learning plans and career portfolios for students
17 served under this subpart;

18 “(14) a description of how the eligible partner-
19 ship will coordinate such curriculum or program
20 with programs funded under the Carl D. Perkins
21 Career and Technical Education Act of 2006; and

22 “(15) a description of how the eligible partner-
23 ship plans to sustain and expand such school- and
24 work-based curriculum or program after the Federal
25 grant period ends.

1 **“SEC. 5624. PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION.**

2 “(a) SELECTION.—In awarding grants under this
3 subpart, the Secretary shall—

4 “(1) consider the information submitted by the
5 eligible partnerships under section 5623;

6 “(2) prioritize applications in accordance with
7 section 5622(c); and

8 “(3) select eligible partnerships that submit ap-
9 plications in compliance with section 5623.

10 “(b) AWARD AMOUNTS.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (c),
12 the Secretary shall award each grant in an amount
13 of not more than \$5,000,000 for a period of not
14 more than 5 years.

15 “(2) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible partnership
16 that receives a grant under this subpart shall use—

17 “(A) not more than 35 percent of the
18 grant funds for designing the emerging industry
19 pathways school- and work-based curriculum or
20 program; and

21 “(B) not less than 65 percent of the grant
22 funds for implementing the emerging industry
23 pathways school- and work-based curriculum or
24 program in qualifying schools.

25 “(c) FUNDING TO IMPLEMENT CURRICULA OR PRO-
26 GRAMS.—The Secretary may not award grant funds under

1 subsection (b)(2)(B) to implement the emerging industry
2 pathways school- and work-based curriculum or program
3 until the Secretary certifies that the eligible partnership
4 is in compliance with the following:

5 “(1) The eligible partnership has engaged in a
6 collaborative process involving educators and school
7 administrators, including curriculum experts, as well
8 as representatives from local businesses and industry
9 to assess emerging industry demands and the aca-
10 demic knowledge and skills needed to meet those de-
11 mands.

12 “(2) The school- and work-based curriculum or
13 program developed by the eligible partnership is
14 aligned with challenging State academic content
15 standards.

16 “(3) The eligible partnership has consulted with
17 and involved students in qualifying schools in the
18 collaboration process and design of the school- and
19 work-based curriculum or program.

20 “(4) The eligible partnership has received a
21 commitment from at least 1 qualifying school agree-
22 ing to implement the school- and work-based cur-
23 riculum or program in the qualifying school.

24 “(5) The school- and work-based curriculum or
25 program will help prepare students for both direct

1 entry into a career in emerging industries and suc-
2 cess in postsecondary education.

3 “(6) The eligible partnership has established a
4 plan to promote the school- and work-based cur-
5 riculum or program among qualifying schools, busi-
6 nesses, parental groups, and community organiza-
7 tions.

8 “(d) ELIGIBLE USES OF FUNDS.—

9 “(1) PLANNING PHASE.—An eligible partner-
10 ship that receives a grant under this subpart shall
11 use the grant funds in the planning phase for the
12 following:

13 “(A) Establishing collaborative working
14 groups consisting of educators, school adminis-
15 trators, representatives of local or regional busi-
16 nesses, postsecondary education representatives,
17 representatives from labor organizations, and
18 representatives from nonprofit organizations.

19 “(B) Identifying emerging industry path-
20 ways at the State, regional, or local level.

21 “(C) Identifying the academic and skill
22 gaps that need to be addressed to promote suc-
23 cess in the emerging industry pathways identi-
24 fied in subparagraph (B).

1 “(D) Developing a school- and work-based
2 curriculum or program to teach and integrate
3 the academic and work-based skills, including
4 soft skills, that are needed for success in emerg-
5 ing industry pathways and postsecondary edu-
6 cation.

7 “(E) Creating a comprehensive set of aca-
8 demic and industry skills to be taught across
9 multiple emerging industry pathways.

10 “(F) Aligning the school- and work-based
11 curriculum or program with challenging State
12 academic content standards.

13 “(G) Establishing professional development
14 opportunities for educators, business partners,
15 school counselors, and others who will be imple-
16 menting the school- and work-based curriculum
17 or program.

18 “(H) Collaborating with multistate regions
19 to develop and identify a school- and work-
20 based curriculum or program that addresses re-
21 gional emerging industry pathways.

22 “(2) IMPLEMENTING PHASE.—An eligible part-
23 nership that receives a grant under this subpart
24 shall use the grant funds in the implementing phase
25 for the following:

1 “(A) Integrating the emerging industry
2 pathways school- and work-based curriculum or
3 program into classroom- or work-based instruc-
4 tion.

5 “(B) Providing professional development
6 opportunities designed around the school- and
7 work-based curriculum or program for edu-
8 cators, business partners, and others.

9 “(C) Identifying and creating school- and
10 work-based learning curricula or programs for
11 students in such emerging industry pathways.

12 “(D) Promoting the school- and work-
13 based curriculum or program among school
14 guidance counselors.

15 “(E) Working with pupil services staff to
16 develop opportunities for career exploration
17 among emerging industry pathways business
18 partners.

19 “(F) Conducting ongoing evaluations of
20 the school- and work-based curriculum or pro-
21 gram, including assessing whether participating
22 students report increased engagement in learn-
23 ing, increased school attendance, and improved
24 success upon entry into the workforce or post-
25 secondary education.

1 “(G) Purchasing resources, including text-
2 books, reference materials, assessments, labs,
3 computers, and software, for use in the school-
4 and work-based curriculum or program.

5 “(3) DISSEMINATION PHASE.—An eligible part-
6 nership that receives a grant under this subpart
7 shall use the grant funds in the dissemination phase
8 for the following:

9 “(A) Evaluating, cataloging, and dissemi-
10 nating best practices from the school- and
11 work-based curriculum or program.

12 “(B) Disseminating the school- and work-
13 based curriculum or program to—

14 “(i) the National Research Center for
15 Career and Technical Education;

16 “(ii) State, regional, and local profes-
17 sional education organizations; and

18 “(iii) institutions of higher education.

19 “(e) MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS.—An eligible part-
20 nership that receives a grant under this subpart shall pro-
21 vide, from non-Federal sources, matching funds, which
22 may be provided in cash or in-kind, to carry out the activi-
23 ties supported by the grant, in an amount for which the—

1 “(1) first year of the grant award shall be equal
2 to 5 percent of the amount of the grant for such
3 year;

4 “(2) second such year shall be equal to 10 per-
5 cent of the amount of the grant for such year;

6 “(3) third such year shall be equal to 15 per-
7 cent of the amount of the grant for such year;

8 “(4) fourth such year shall be equal to 20 per-
9 cent of the amount of the grant for such year; and

10 “(5) fifth such year shall be equal to 25 percent
11 of the amount of the grant for such year.

12 “(f) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—Grant funds
13 awarded under this subpart shall be used to supplement
14 and not supplant other Federal, State, and local funds
15 available to implement secondary school education pro-
16 grams or career and technical education programs.

17 **“SEC. 5625. EVALUATION AND REPORTS.**

18 “(a) ANNUAL REPORTS.—An eligible partnership
19 that receives a grant under this subpart shall submit an
20 annual report to the Secretary during the grant period de-
21 tailing how the eligible partnership is using the grant
22 funds under this subpart, including—

23 “(1) how the State educational agency or local
24 educational agency that is a member of the partner-
25 ship collaborated with local businesses, workforce

1 boards, institutions of higher education, and commu-
2 nity organizations to assess emerging industry path-
3 ways;

4 “(2) how the eligible partnership has consulted
5 with and involved students in qualifying schools in
6 the design and implementation of the emerging in-
7 dustry pathways school- and work-based curriculum
8 or program;

9 “(3) the effectiveness of the school- and work-
10 based curriculum or program on improving student
11 engagement, attendance, graduation rates, and prep-
12 aration for and placement in a career in an emerg-
13 ing industry or in postsecondary education;

14 “(4) how the eligible partnership has improved
15 its capacity to respond to new workforce develop-
16 ment priorities and create educational opportunities
17 that address such new workforce development prior-
18 ities; and

19 “(5) any other information the Secretary may
20 reasonably require.

21 “(b) FINAL REPORTS.—

22 “(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible partnership that
23 receives a grant under this subpart shall, at the end
24 of the grant period, collect and prepare a report on
25 the following information:

1 “(A) The number and percentage of stu-
2 dents served by the eligible partnership who—

3 “(i) graduated from secondary school
4 with a regular high school diploma in the
5 standard number of years;

6 “(ii) entered into a job in an emerging
7 industry; and

8 “(iii) enrolled in a postsecondary in-
9 stitution.

10 “(B) The emerging industry pathways
11 school- and work-based curriculum or program
12 and the—

13 “(i) successes of such curriculum or
14 program, including placement rates of stu-
15 dents in work or postsecondary education
16 and trends in graduation rates in quali-
17 fying schools utilizing the school- and
18 work-based curriculum;

19 “(ii) areas of improvement for the
20 school- and work-based curriculum or pro-
21 gram;

22 “(iii) lessons learned from the imple-
23 mentation of the school- and work-based
24 curriculum or program in secondary
25 schools; and

1 “(iv) plans to replicate the school- and
2 work-based curriculum or program in other
3 schools or examples of successful replica-
4 tion of the curriculum or program.

5 “(2) SUBMISSION OF REPORTS.—A report pre-
6 pared under paragraph (1) shall be submitted to the
7 Secretary of Education and the National Research
8 Center for Career and Technical Education.

9 “(c) FEDERAL EVALUATION AND REPORT.—Not
10 later than 6 years after the date of enactment of this sub-
11 part, the Secretary shall—

12 “(1) develop and execute a plan for evaluating
13 the emerging industry pathways school- and work-
14 based curricula or programs assisted under this sub-
15 part; and

16 “(2) submit a report to Congress—

17 “(A) detailing aggregate data on—

18 “(i) the categories of activities for
19 which eligible partnerships used grant
20 funds under this subpart;

21 “(ii) the impact of the grants on—

22 “(I) student engagement, attend-
23 ance, and completion of secondary
24 school; and

1 “(II) the postsecondary place-
2 ment of students in high-quality
3 emerging industry careers or postsec-
4 ondary education; and

5 “(iii) promising strategies for improv-
6 ing student engagement, attendance, and
7 completion of secondary school through en-
8 gaging curricula or programs; and

9 “(B) that includes any recommendations
10 for improvements that can be made to the
11 grant program under this subpart.

12 **“SEC. 5626. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

13 “(a) IN GENERAL.—From the amounts appropriated
14 to and available for Program Administration with the De-
15 partmental Management account in the Department of
16 Education for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2012,
17 there are authorized to be appropriated \$25,000,000 for
18 each of fiscal years 2009 through 2012, respectively, to
19 carry out this subpart.

20 “(b) SET ASIDE FOR EVALUATION.—Of the amounts
21 appropriated under subsection (a) for a fiscal year, 2 per-
22 cent shall be set aside for such fiscal year for the Federal
23 evaluation required under section 5625(c).”.

24 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents in
25 section 2 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act

1 of 1965 is amended by inserting after the item relating
2 to section 5618 the following:

“SUBPART 22—CONNECTING EDUCATION AND EMERGING PROFESSIONS
DEMONSTRATION GRANT PROGRAM

- “Sec. 5621. Definitions.
- “Sec. 5622. Program authorized.
- “Sec. 5623. Applications.
- “Sec. 5624. Program administration.
- “Sec. 5625. Evaluation and reports.
- “Sec. 5626. Authorization of appropriations.”.