

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6174

To direct the Secretary of Education to award grants to eligible entities to establish or expand linked learning pathways and a system of pathways, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 22, 2010

Ms. CHU (for herself and Ms. LEE of California) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Education to award grants to eligible entities to establish or expand linked learning pathways and a system of pathways, 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 “Linked Learning Path-
5 ways Affording College and Career Success Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Sixty-nine percent of students who drop out
2 of high school say that they were not engaged in
3 their high school curriculum or experience.

4 (2) Too many high school graduates are not
5 prepared for the rigor of post-secondary education or
6 training and 40 percent of high school seniors who
7 enrolled in post-secondary education in 2006 had to
8 take remedial courses.

9 (3) High schools need to transform to better
10 serve the needs and interests of a diverse student
11 population.

12 (4) Linked learning is an educational reform
13 model that operates in smaller learning communities,
14 career academies, themed high schools, regional oc-
15 cupational partnerships, and other educational con-
16 texts.

17 (5) Linked learning pathways have been used
18 effectively to expose students, especially disadvan-
19 tagged students, to opportunities in a variety of high
20 pay, high growth, or high skill industries, including
21 healthcare, science, technology, engineering, mathe-
22 matics, the arts, law, and government.

23 (6) Research on career academies, one linked
24 learning approach, demonstrates an 11 percent de-
25 crease in student drop out rates.

1 (7) Research demonstrates that students ex-
2 posed to a combination of academic and career re-
3 lated curriculum that connects classroom learning to
4 relevant experiences earned 18 percent more over a
5 4-year period after high school graduation.

6 (8) Strong intermediaries help to create lasting
7 partnerships between schools and external stake-
8 holders, and these partnerships are crucial to stu-
9 dent success in a linked learning approach.

10 (9) Evidence on the effectiveness of career
11 academies indicates that benefits occur—

12 (A) when students are scheduled to take a
13 set of classes together each year, including at
14 least two core academic classes and a career
15 and technical education class related to the
16 academy theme; and

17 (B) when teachers work as a team to inte-
18 grate instruction across subjects and share re-
19 sponsibility for students for at least two years.

20 **SEC. 3. PURPOSES.**

21 The purposes of this Act are the following:

22 (1) To provide high school students with engag-
23 ing, challenging, and meaningful secondary school
24 pathways that integrate academic studies with prac-
25 tical career-focused opportunities.

1 (2) To increase the number of students who
2 graduate from high school who are well prepared to
3 pursue the full range of post-secondary education
4 choices, including 4-year college, 2-year college, ap-
5 prenticeship, military, technical training, and mean-
6 ingful careers.

7 (3) To provide students with high quality public
8 education options aligned with expectations in high
9 pay, high growth, or high skill industries through a
10 system of linked learning pathways.

11 (4) To turn low-performing schools around and
12 provide students at these schools with a well round-
13 ed education.

14 (5) To prepare students for life-long citizenship.

15 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

16 For purposes of this Act:

17 (a) **ELIGIBLE ENTITY.**—The term “eligible entity”
18 means a local educational agency partnered with a quali-
19 fied intermediary and at least one stakeholder from 3 of
20 the following categories, and may include other stake-
21 holders:

22 (1) A post-secondary education institution.

23 (2) A business or industry group in a high pay,
24 high growth, or high skill industry.

25 (3) A community based organization.

1 (4) A union or trade association.

2 (5) A parent organization.

3 (b) HIGH PAY, HIGH GROWTH, OR HIGH SKILL IN-
4 DUSTRY.—The term “high pay, high growth, or high skill
5 industry” means an industry identified by the eligible enti-
6 ty and approved by the Secretary in consultation with the
7 Secretary of Labor that—

8 (1) has a significant current or potential impact
9 on the regional economy;

10 (2) brings net dollars into a region or is critical
11 to attracting and sustaining businesses within the
12 region;

13 (3) stimulates the growth of other supporting
14 businesses, or the growth of other industries or eco-
15 nomic sectors within the region;

16 (4) provides workers with competitive and fam-
17 ily-supporting wages and benefits that increase the
18 strength and vitality of the entire regional economy;
19 and

20 (5) provides opportunities for career advance-
21 ment.

22 (c) LINKED LEARNING PATHWAYS.—The term
23 “linked learning pathways” means comprehensive, multi-
24 year high school programs of study that integrate—

1 (1) a rigorous academic core aligned with en-
2 trance requirements for public colleges and univer-
3 sities in the State;

4 (2) a career and technical education component
5 organized around themes in a high pay, high growth,
6 or high skill industry or industry sector;

7 (3) a work-based learning component; and

8 (4) supplemental services.

9 (d) SYSTEM OF PATHWAYS.—The term “system of
10 pathways” means a district-wide strategy that provides
11 students with a menu of options to participate in linked
12 learning pathways.

13 (e) QUALIFIED INTERMEDIARY.—The term “quali-
14 fied intermediary” means an entity that has demonstrated
15 expertise to build, sustain, and measure partnerships with
16 entities such as employers, schools, community-based or-
17 ganizations, post-secondary education institutions, social
18 service organizations, economic development organiza-
19 tions, and workforce systems, to broker services, re-
20 sources, and supports to youth and the organizations and
21 systems that are designed to serve them, including con-
22 necting employers to classrooms, designing and imple-
23 menting linked learning pathways, developing curricula,
24 delivering professional development, and connecting stu-

1 dents to internships and other work-based learning oppor-
2 tunities.

3 (f) GRADUATION RATE.—The term “graduation
4 rate” has the meaning given the term in section
5 1111(b)(2)(C)(vi) of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
6 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311(b)(2)(C)(vi)), as clari-
7 fied in section 200.19 of title 34, Code of Federal Regula-
8 tions.

9 (g) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the
10 Secretary of Education.

11 **SEC. 5. GRANTS AUTHORIZED.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation
13 with the Secretary of Labor, and if appropriate other Fed-
14 eral agencies, shall award competitive grants to eligible en-
15 tities to establish or expand linked learning pathways and
16 a system of pathways.

17 (b) DURATION.—Each grant awarded shall be for a
18 minimum of a 3-year period and a maximum of a 5-year
19 period and may be renewed based on performance and rel-
20 ative financial need as determined by the Secretary.

21 (c) PRIORITY.—The Secretary shall give priority to
22 applications from eligible entities with plans to accomplish
23 at least 3 of the following:

24 (1) Serve students who attend persistently low-
25 performing secondary schools with graduation rates

1 below 60 percent and high concentrations of eco-
2 nomically disadvantaged students.

3 (2) Offer multiple linked learning pathways.

4 (3) Encourage students to seek careers in fields
5 in which the student's gender, race, or ethnicity is
6 under-represented, including science, technology, en-
7 gineering, and mathematics fields.

8 (4) Increase high school completion levels and
9 post-secondary education enrollment levels for tradi-
10 tionally under-represented students.

11 (5) Reduce the academic achievement gap.

12 (6) Utilize research-based practices to imple-
13 ment linked learning pathways.

14 (d) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall require
16 each recipient of a grant under this Act to provide
17 matching funds from non-Federal sources, including
18 funding from the State, in an amount determined
19 under paragraph (2).

20 (2) DETERMINATION OF THE AMOUNT OF
21 MATCH.—

22 (A) SLIDING SCALE.—Subject to subpara-
23 graph (B), the Secretary shall determine the
24 amount of matching funds to require from a

1 grantee based on a sliding fee scale that takes
2 into account—

- 3 (i) the relative poverty of the popu-
4 lation that the grantee targets; and
5 (ii) the ability of the grantee to obtain
6 such matching funds.

7 (B) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The Secretary
8 may not require any grantee to provide match-
9 ing funds in an amount that exceeds the
10 amount of the grant award.

11 (3) IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS.—The Secretary
12 shall permit grantees to match funds in whole or in
13 part with in-kind contributions.

14 (4) CONSIDERATION.—Notwithstanding this
15 subsection, the Secretary shall not consider an appli-
16 cant's ability to match funds when determining
17 which applicants will receive grants under this Act.

18 (5) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive the
19 matching requirement under this subsection for eli-
20 gible entities demonstrating financial hardship.

21 **SEC. 6. APPLICATION.**

22 Each eligible entity that desires to receive a grant
23 under this Act shall submit an application to the Secretary
24 at such time, in such manner, and containing such infor-

1 mation as the Secretary may reasonably require, including
2 the following:

3 (1) The quantifiable goals that the eligible enti-
4 ty intends to achieve through the implementation of
5 linked learning pathways and a system of pathways,
6 and a description of the measures of performance
7 for those goals.

8 (2) A needs and resources assessment, includ-
9 ing—

10 (A) an assessment of relevant district and
11 school board policies;

12 (B) a demonstration of support from
13 stakeholders;

14 (C) the demographic makeup of the stu-
15 dent body to be served;

16 (D) student academic performance, grad-
17 uation, and college attendance data;

18 (E) information on high pay, high growth,
19 or high skill industries and job sectors in the
20 district and surrounding region; and

21 (F) the industry and community partner-
22 ship opportunities that can be leveraged to im-
23 plement the linked learning pathways and the
24 system of pathways to improve academic
25 achievement and graduation rates.

1 (3) A plan for how the eligible entity will imple-
2 ment the linked learning pathways and the system
3 of pathways, including the following:

4 (A) A description of the partnerships that
5 are in place or that the eligible entity will de-
6 velop to provide necessary support services to
7 students, including partnerships with—

8 (i) high pay, high growth, or high skill
9 industries and other business groups;

10 (ii) post-secondary education institu-
11 tions and apprenticeship programs;

12 (iii) partnerships with qualified inter-
13 mediaries;

14 (iv) community-based organizations
15 and educators who are equipped to provide
16 necessary support services to students; and

17 (v) other stakeholders, which may in-
18 clude stakeholders such as parent groups,
19 organized labor groups, workforce invest-
20 ment boards, and community-based organi-
21 zations.

22 (B) Information about the internal capac-
23 ity of the eligible entity and its specific plans to
24 implement linked learning pathways and a sys-
25 tem of pathways, including—

1 (i) a description of the capacity of fa-
2 cilities the eligible entity plans to use;

3 (ii) an outreach strategy to inform
4 parents, students, and community mem-
5 bers about the opportunities and activities
6 that will be available to students through
7 grants under this Act;

8 (iii) a plan to facilitate effective mid-
9 dle to high school transitions for partici-
10 pating students;

11 (iv) a plan to ensure rigorous aca-
12 demics, the career and technical education
13 theme of the Linked Learning pathway,
14 and subsequent work based learning oppor-
15 tunities are meaningfully and coherently
16 integrated as part of each participating
17 student's experience;

18 (v) a plan to ensure that students re-
19 ceive personalized and coherent learning
20 experiences through activities such as fa-
21 cilitating smaller learning communities, co-
22 hort scheduling, and professional learning
23 communities among staff that encourages
24 frequent and effective collaboration for
25 purposes of program coordination, cur-

1 ricular integration, and resolution of stu-
2 dent problems;

3 (vi) budgeting, governance, cur-
4 riculum, and scheduling autonomies that
5 the eligible entity will grant to partici-
6 pating schools to ensure that linked learn-
7 ing pathways will meet individual student
8 needs and reduce or eliminate barriers to
9 effective implementation;

10 (vii) a plan to assign students to a
11 high school with a career or thematic focus
12 that, if possible, matches the linked learn-
13 ing pathway of their choice;

14 (viii) the means by which the eligible
15 entity will encourage and support diverse
16 learners and students with disabilities, in-
17 cluding students with limited English pro-
18 ficiency, to participate in the opportunities
19 and activities funded under this Act;

20 (ix) a plan to ensure that the eligible
21 entity will not use the linked learning path-
22 ways and the system of pathways to track
23 students into specific career themes or job
24 placements and that various linked learn-

ing pathways that the eligible entity provides to students are of comparable rigor;

(x) a plan to address the staffing needs of the eligible entity, including a plan to hire teachers and staff with specialized skills, if needed, and to provide professional development and technical assistance;

(xi) a plan for sustainability, including plans to leverage non-Federal funding (including in-kind resources) to ensure continuing implementation of linked learning pathways and the system of pathways once the eligible entity exhausts federal funds;

(xii) a plan to create an advisory group or reconstitute an existing advisory group that meets not less than once per quarter and includes district personnel, members of teachers' unions, school staff, industry partners, community partners, post secondary partners, parents, students, and others identified by the Secretary; and

(xiii) a plan to measure the progress of students in each linked learning pathway and compare their progress with the

1 progress of other students using longitu-
2 dinal data on individual student outcomes.

3 (C) A description of how grants awarded
4 under this Act will compliment, reinforce, and
5 not duplicate existing efforts, including—

6 (i) a description of how the eligible
7 entity will leverage, coordinate, and inte-
8 grate Federal, State, and local private and
9 public funds to implement linked learning
10 pathways and the system of pathways; and

11 (ii) a description of how a grant under
12 this Act strengthens, leverages, does not
13 duplicate, and aligns with efforts in the
14 community that the eligible entity serves
15 that are funded under the Workforce In-
16 vestment Act of 1998, the Carl D. Perkins
17 Career and Technical Education Improve-
18 ment Act of 2006, and the No Child Left
19 Behind Act of 2001.

20 (D) A description of how funds will facili-
21 tate a systemic approach to meet the com-
22 prehensive needs of students in order to facili-
23 tate students' success in college, in their ca-
24 reers, and as citizens.

1 **SEC. 7. ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS.**

2 Any student who attends a secondary school served
3 by a local educational agency, including any student who
4 attends a charter school, is eligible to participate in the
5 linked learning pathways and the system of pathways
6 funded under this Act that are available in the student's
7 school district.

8 **SEC. 8. USES OF FUNDS.**

9 (a) REQUIRED ACTIVITIES.—The eligible entity shall
10 use grants awarded under this Act for the following:

11 (1) The eligible entity shall provide the plan-
12 ning time and resources necessary to design the
13 linked learning pathways and the system of path-
14 ways.

15 (2) To facilitate high quality teaching and
16 learning experiences to ensure that students have ac-
17 cess to linked learning pathways, the eligible entity
18 shall implement—

19 (A) a multidisciplinary and integrated cur-
20 riculum, curriculum mapping, and curriculum
21 alignment;

22 (B) professional development for teachers,
23 school leaders, and staff, such as project based
24 learning, interdisciplinary teaching and cur-
25 riculum development, integration of career and
26 technical education and thematic components

1 with rigorous academic curricula and instruc-
2 tion, master scheduling, and interacting with
3 and leveraging community and industry part-
4 nerships;

5 (C) technological support, including invest-
6 ments in data systems, performance based as-
7 sessments to monitor and evaluate student
8 progress, and investments in equipment and
9 technology either relevant to a specific pathway
10 or used to assign students to a pathway; and

11 (D) activities that support effective imple-
12 mentation of Linked Learning pathways, such
13 as common planning time, teacher release time,
14 induction, and externships.

15 (3) To connect students to quality work-based
16 learning opportunities, the eligible entity shall—

17 (A) develop coordinated, sequenced, and
18 scaled work-based learning opportunities for
19 students that are integrated with academic and
20 technical coursework, which may include oppor-
21 tunities such as semester-long service-learning
22 projects, mentorships, job shadowing, school en-
23 terprises, internships, and virtual apprentice-
24 ships;

1 (B) facilitate capacity building activities,
2 which may include activities such as hiring full
3 or part time district or school work-based learn-
4 ing coordinators to provide needed outreach to
5 industry and community partners in order to
6 encourage active community and business in-
7 volvement in school and work-based learning ac-
8 tivities or using funds to support such outreach
9 with existing staff and existing staff scheduling;
10 and

11 (C) provide technical assistance to employ-
12 ers to help them design work-based learning op-
13 portunities.

14 (4) To ensure students have access to supple-
15 mental support services as part of linked learning
16 pathways, the eligible entity shall facilitate the devel-
17 opment of—

18 (A) academic intervention;

19 (B) student supports, which may include
20 supports such as health services, mental health
21 services, child care, substance abuse treatment
22 and prevention, housing, and other services to
23 meet students' comprehensive needs;

24 (C) transportation to linked learning path-
25 way associated activities; and

1 (D) post-secondary education and career
2 counseling.

3 (b) ALLOWABLE ACTIVITIES.—The eligible entity
4 may use grants awarded under this Act for the following:

5 (1) Activities designed to begin and sustain re-
6 forms by—

7 (A) providing students, employers, commu-
8 nity based organizations, and other partners
9 with outreach and recruitment activities;

10 (B) building a broad based coalition; and

11 (C) facilitating online and distance learn-
12 ing.

13 (2) Activities designed to leverage innovative
14 ways to expand and enhance learning time, includ-
15 ing—

16 (A) after school programs;

17 (B) extended day;

18 (C) applied learning opportunities both in
19 and outside of school time;

20 (D) short-term service learning projects
21 and other project-based learning;

22 (E) paid year-round and summer work op-
23 portunities; and

1 (F) summertime opportunities that help
2 over-aged and under-credited students catch up
3 and re-engage in their education.

4 (3) Other activities that the Secretary approves
5 to implement the linked learning pathways and the
6 system of pathways.

7 **SEC. 9. REPORTS AND EVALUATION.**

8 (a) ANNUAL REPORT.—An eligible entity that re-
9 ceives a grant under this Act shall submit an annual re-
10 port to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and
11 providing such information as the Secretary may reason-
12 ably require, including—

13 (1) characteristics of the eligible entity;

14 (2) information about the system of pathways
15 created, including leveraging of existing dollars and
16 resources;

17 (3) the number of linked learning pathways cre-
18 ated;

19 (4) the services and supports provided;

20 (5) data about student participation in work-
21 based learning, service-learning, project-based learn-
22 ing, and other applied learning opportunities; and

23 (6) the educational and career related outcomes
24 resulting from the activities funded under this Act,
25 including—

- 1 (A) student academic achievement;
- 2 (B) student attendance;
- 3 (C) graduation rates;
- 4 (D) college attendance rates;
- 5 (E) success levels on performance-based
- 6 tasks that demonstrate preparation for careers
- 7 in high pay, high growth, or high skill indus-
- 8 tries; and
- 9 (F) progress of students in each linked
- 10 learning pathway compared to other students in
- 11 the district.

12 (b) EVALUATION.—The Secretary shall provide for
13 an independent evaluation of the grants awarded under
14 this Act that shall—

15 (1) include an analysis and documentation of
16 the strategies implemented and the key lessons
17 learned related to program design, systems coordina-
18 tion, and implementation;

19 (2) measure the outcomes and progress of the
20 strategies implemented, including student enrollment
21 in various school settings, academic gains (including
22 literacy and numeracy gains as well as results on
23 performance based assessments), academic and em-
24 ployment credentials earned, job and college place-

1 ment, wages, and job and college retention over 2
2 years; and

3 (3) document the incremental progress of stu-
4 dents over time based on the measures in paragraph
5 (2).

6 **SEC. 10. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**

7 The Secretary shall provide technical assistance to an
8 eligible entity that receives a grant under this Act if the
9 Secretary determines that such assistance is needed.

10 **SEC. 11. BEST PRACTICES AND INFORMATION DISSEMINA-**
11 **TION.**

12 The Secretary shall determine and disseminate best
13 practices that emerge to support linked learning pathways
14 to ensure that all high schools are aware of the program
15 and the opportunities it provides to students to gain the
16 knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in post-sec-
17 ondary education, careers, and as citizens.

18 **SEC. 12. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appro-
20 priated to carry out this Act—

21 (1) \$100,000,000 for fiscal year 2011; and

22 (2) such sums as may be necessary for each of
23 fiscal years 2012 through 2015.

1 (b) ALLOCATION.—Of the amounts appropriated to
2 carry out this Act for each fiscal year, the Secretary shall
3 use—

4 (1) 90 percent for grants to eligible entities;
5 and

6 (2) 10 percent for—

7 (A) the evaluation of grants described in
8 section 9(b);

9 (B) the technical assistance described in
10 section 10; and

11 (C) the evaluation and dissemination of
12 best practices described in section 11.

○