

S.2014

A bill to provide for statewide longitudinal data systems to improve elementary and secondary education, and for other purposes.

Our nation's schools must perform better at higher levels than ever before to prepare every student to graduate with the skills and knowledge necessary for success in postsecondary education and the modern workplace. Educators and policymakers increasingly recognize that better information is paramount in improving policy, practice, and student achievement.

Longitudinal data – data that shows how students and teachers perform over time – provides a depth of information that is crucial for collecting meaningful results and improving educational processes and outcomes. Establishing robust, longitudinal data systems to gather this type of data is integral to the success of many vital policy solutions currently on the table, including, but not limited to calculating accurate graduation rates, implanting growth models, measuring teacher effectiveness, and leveraging data-driven decision making. However, significant investment and support is needed to help policymakers at every level overcome the challenges of building and using such systems. In an effort to fulfill this need, the data bill seeks to:

Purposes:

- Support the design, implementation, and augmentation of aligned longitudinal statewide data systems in every state by 2012.
- Increase alignment, training, and capacity at the state and local levels for effective data use to enhance instruction and improve student achievement.
- Leverage the use of common definitions and compatible data systems to ensure data is comparable and transferable across districts and states and with higher education and other related systems.

Section I requires States to include, as part of the State plan required by No Child Left Behind, a description of state progress towards implementing a longitudinal data system and a plan to fully establish such a system by 2012 that includes the ten essential elements and key structures identified by the Data Quality Campaign.

Section II reauthorizes and expands the existing Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems Grants program by authorizing, as part of the reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act, \$100 million in competitive 5-year grants to State educational agencies to build and upgrade statewide longitudinal data systems that include the elements and capabilities described in Section I. The grant requires a state match that increases over time to help build state and political will to invest in the building and maintenance of these systems.

Section III authorizes \$100 million in formula grants to State educational agencies to build capacity for educators and policymakers to effectively use data and data systems. This includes providing data integrity training to state and local education officials, aligning local systems to state systems, and providing professional development for teachers and administrators to effectively use data for improved instruction. There are number of allowable uses of funds, including awarding subgrants to districts or consortia of districts for local efforts to improve data-driven instruction. There is a required 25% state funding match.

Section IV authorizes such sums as may be necessary for contracts or grants as part of a jointly funded project to help support a state education data center and state educational data coordinator to improve data collection, reporting, and compliance processes.