



Key Pieces of Secondary School Legislation Pending Before Congress

Graduation Promise Act - S. 1185ⁱ and H.R.2928ⁱⁱ

The Graduation Promise Act (GPA) would authorize \$2.5 billion in new funding to turn around low-performing high schools. The GPA would provide money to districts and states in order to implement effective, research-based reforms tailored to a low-performing school's specific needs. Title I of the GPA would authorize a \$2.4 billion High School Improvement and Dropout Reduction Fund to support the development of statewide systems of differentiated high school improvement in every state. Title II would authorize \$60 million in competitive grants for the development, implementation, and replication of effective secondary school models for struggling students and dropouts. Title III would authorize \$40 million in competitive grants to states to remove barriers and create innovative incentives to improve student outcomes for every young person in the state.

Every Student Counts Act -H.R. 2955ⁱⁱⁱ

The Every Student Counts Act would seek to hold high schools responsible for graduating students by improving the calculation of and accountability for high school graduation rates. Specifically, the bill would require states, schools, and districts to use a common, accurate, graduation rate calculation. It would also require high schools with graduation rates of less than 90 percent to make aggressive but attainable increases in their graduation rates as part of the annual accountability requirements under the No Child Left Behind Act. To ensure that schools were held accountable for the graduation of all students, this requirement would apply to both the overall graduation rate and the graduation rate of each subgroup of students.

Getting Retention and Diplomas Up Among Today's Enrolled Students Act (GRADUATES Act) - S. 1920^{iv}

The GRADUATES Act would create a \$500 million Secondary School Innovation Fund to support partnerships to create models of innovation in secondary schools to increase student achievement and prepare students for success in postsecondary education and the workforce. The partnerships would consist of state education agencies or local education agencies with institutes of higher education, community-based organizations, nonprofits, business, or school development organizations to create innovative models of reform in our nation's secondary schools.

Striving Readers Act of 2007- S. 958^v and H.R. 2289^{vi}

The Striving Readers Act would seek to improve student achievement and high school graduation rates by ensuring that older students who struggle to read at grade level would receive the literacy interventions needed to succeed in school. Specifically, the bill would provide funding to states to support their efforts to create statewide literacy initiatives for students in grades 4–12, share data on student progress with parents and the public, and improve teacher training and professional development in literacy so that all students receive high-quality instruction. The Striving Readers Act would also provide funding to districts to create plans to improve literacy, develop top-notch assessments, train teachers in every subject area in literacy strategies, and use regular data to improve teaching and learning.

A bill to provide for statewide longitudinal data systems to improve elementary and secondary education, and for other purposes - S. 2014^{vii}

This bill would provide \$100 million in competitive grants for states for the development and implementation of statewide longitudinal data systems that include all ten essential elements recommended by the Data Quality Campaign and \$100 million in formula grants to states for alignment, professional development, and other efforts to improve the use of data. The bill would also authorize funding to support a state education data center and state educational data coordinators to improve data collection, reporting, and compliance processes.

Measuring and Evaluating Trends for Reliability, Integrity, and Continued Success Act (METRICS Act) - H.R. 3253^{viii}

The Measuring and Evaluating Trends for Reliability, Integrity, and Continued Success Act (METRICS) would authorize \$150 million in formula grants to states for the development and implementation of statewide longitudinal data systems. The bill would include a set-aside of up to \$2 million for a state education data center, which would support states in developing these systems. The center would also disseminate best practices and serve as a central repository for education- and school-safety-related data.

Success in the Middle Act - H.R. 3406^{ix}

The Success in the Middle Act is the first school improvement bill of its kind directed specifically at the middle grades. The bill targets the schools that have middle level grades that feed into the nearly 2,000 “dropout factories” that are spread throughout the country. Dropout factories are high schools in which 60 percent (or fewer) of freshmen will have become seniors three years after finishing their ninth-grade year. These schools account for approximately half of the nation’s dropouts.

For more information visit: http://www.all4ed.org/federal_policy/legislative_updates.

SPONSOR INFORMATION (As of 09/18/07)

ⁱ **Graduation Promise Act (S. 1185) sponsors:** Bingaman (D-NM), Burr (R-NC), Kennedy (D-MA) **Co-sponsors:** Clinton (D-NY), Mikulski (D-MD), Murray (D-WA), Reid (D-NV)

ⁱⁱ **Graduation Promise Act (H.R. 2928) sponsor:** Hinojosa (D-TX) **Co-sponsors:** Baca (D-CA), Becerra (D-CA), Christensen (D-VI), Conyers (D-MI), Cummings (D-MD), Davis (D-IL), Fattah (D-PA), Gonzalez (D-TX), Grijalva (D-AZ), Gutierrez (D-IL), Hastings (D-FL), Kilpatrick (D-MI), Lee (D-CA), Lewis (D-GA), McGovern (D-MA), Moore (D-KS), Napolitano (D-CA), Ortiz (D-TX), Payne (D-NJ), Rangel (D-NY), Reyes (D-TX), Rodriguez (D-TX), Roybal-Allard (D-CA), Rush (D-IL), Salazar (D-CO), Linda Sanchez (D-CA), Scott (D-VA), Serrano (D-NY), Solis (D-CA), Velázquez (D-NY), Weiner (D-NY)

ⁱⁱⁱ **Every Student Counts Act (H.R. 2955) sponsor:** Scott (D-VA) **Co-sponsors:** Brown (D-FL), Carson (D-IN), Clarke (D-NY), Conyers (D-MI), Cummings (D-MD), Davis (D-IL), Ellison (D-MN), Fattah (D-PA), A. Green (D-TX), Grijalva (D-AZ), Hare (D-IL), Hinojosa (D-TX), Jackson-Lee (D-TX), Jefferson (D-LA), Kilpatrick (D-MI), Lee (D-CA), Payne (D-NJ), Linda Sanchez (D-CA), Loretta Sanchez (D-CA), Thompson (D-MS), Towns (D-NY)

^{iv} **GRADUATES Act (S. 1920) sponsors:** Murray (D-WA), Pryor (D-AR), and Reid (D-NV) **Co-sponsors:** Bayh (D-IN), Menendez (D-NJ)

^v **Striving Readers Act of 2007 (S. 958) sponsors:** Murray (D-WA) and Sessions (R-AL) **Co-sponsors:** Akaka (D-HI), Bayh (D-IN), Bingaman (D-NM), Brown (D-OH), Burr (R-NC), Cantwell (D-WA), Cochran (R-MS), Dodd (D-CT), Domenici (R-NM), Durbin (D-IL), Harkin (D-IA), Isakson (R-GA), Kerry (D-MA), Lincoln (D-AR), Lott (R-MS), Mikulski (D-MD), Murkowski (R-AK), Tester (D-MT)

^{vi} **Striving Readers Act of 2007 (H.R. 2289) sponsors:** Platts (R-PA) and Yarmuth (D-KY) **Co-sponsors:** Alexander (R-LA), Altmire (D-PA), Bonner (R-AL), Boucher (D-VA), Boyd (D-FL), Brady (D-PA), Carney (D-PA), Chandler (D-KY), Clarke (D-NY), Cohen (D-TN), Cramer (D-AL), Davis (D-CA), Davis (D-IL), Everett (R-AL), Frank (D-MA), Grijalva (D-AZ), Hare (D-IL), Hinojosa (D-TX), Hirono (D-HI), Jackson-Lee (D-TX), Kucinich (D-OH), Lee (D-CA), Lewis (R-KY), McGovern (D-MA), Moore (D-KS), Payne (D-NJ), Petri (R-WI), Regula (R-OH), Rogers (R-KY), Rogers (R-AL), Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), Ross (D-AR), Linda Sanchez (D-CA), Scott (D-VA), Schakowsky (D-IL), Sutton (D-OH), Weiner (D-NY), Welch (D-VT), Woolsey (D-CA)

^{vii} **S. 2014 sponsors:** Brown (D-OH) **Co-sponsor(s):** Clinton (D-NY), Sanders (I-VT)

^{viii} **METRICS Act (H.R. 3253) sponsors:** Holt (D-NJ) and McCarthy (D-NY) **Co-sponsors:** Davis (D-IL), Hare (D-IL), Hinojosa (D-TX), Sestak (D-PA)

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