



# Key Pieces of Secondary School Legislation

## Introduced in the 112th U.S. Congress

### **Linked Learning: Education For Tomorrow’s Jobs Act (S. 1686<sup>1</sup> / H.R. 3154<sup>2</sup>)**

The Education for Tomorrow’s Jobs (EFTJ) Act would provide school districts with flexibility to leverage Title I funds in support of a more comprehensive system that prepares students for success in college and a career. Districts choosing to use Title I funds in this way would leverage resources to support a more comprehensive innovation strategy—Linked Learning—at the high school and district levels. The Linked Learning strategy facilitates a rigorous and relevant educational experience that prepares students for college and career success at the high school level and options with regards to different career themes at the district level. School districts in partnership with local stakeholders—like businesses, postsecondary partners, qualified intermediaries, parents, and others—would implement a system of pathway schools around career themes designated as high-skill, high-growth, and high-pay industries. Students at the school level would be exposed to four key integrated components: a rigorous academic core aligned with the state’s postsecondary requirements; career and technical education; work-based learning; and supplemental services.

### **Comprehensive Literacy Programs: Literacy Education for All, Results for the Nation (LEARN) Act (S. 929<sup>3</sup> / H.R. 2272<sup>4</sup>)**

The Literacy Education for All, Results for the Nation (LEARN) Act is a comprehensive literacy bill that would authorize \$2.35 billion to support state and local programs to ensure that children from birth through grade twelve have the reading and writing skills necessary for success in school and beyond. The grants would provide dedicated funds for early childhood, elementary, and adolescent literacy programs. The LEARN Act would also provide funds for high-quality professional development that would prepare teachers to improve literacy instruction; analyze data to improve student learning; use diagnostic, formative, and summative assessments to inform instruction; and effectively implement literacy intervention strategies.

### **High School Improvement: Graduation Promise Act (S.1177<sup>5</sup> / H.R. 778<sup>6</sup>)**

The Graduation Promise Act (GPA) is authorized at “such sums as may be necessary” in the Senate and \$2.5 billion in the House for 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 low-performing schools’ specific needs. Title I of the GPA would authorize the High School Improvement and Dropout Reduction Fund, which would support the development of statewide systems of differentiated high school improvement in every state. Title II would fund competitive grants for the development, implementation, and replication of effective secondary school models for struggling students and dropouts.

### **Graduation Rate Calculations: Every Student Counts Act (S. 767<sup>7</sup> / H.R. 1419<sup>8</sup>)**

The Every Student Counts Act (ESCA) 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. ESCA would give schools credit for graduating students who may take longer than the typical four years to graduate with a regular diploma. 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 are held accountable for graduating of all students, this requirement would apply to the overall graduation rate and the graduation rate of each subgroup of students.

### **Middle School Improvement: Success in the Middle Act (S. 833<sup>9</sup> / H.R. 1547<sup>10</sup>)**

The Success in the Middle Act is the first school improvement bill specifically directed at the middle grades. This legislation would authorize \$100 million a year in formula grants for states to improve low-performing schools that contain middle grades. It would require states that receive grants to develop early-warning data systems to identify students who are most at risk of dropping out and intervene to help them succeed. Interventions could include extended-learning time and personal graduation plans that enable all students to stay on the path to graduation.

### **Secondary Reform: Secondary School Reform Act (S. 1306<sup>11</sup>)**

The Secondary School Reform Act would foster innovation and reform in underperforming high schools and the middle schools that feed into them in order to ensure that students graduate with a high school diploma and the knowledge and skills needed to succeed. Specifically, the Secondary School Reform Act will create a grant program that allows a high-need school district in partnership with an external partner to implement effective secondary school reform strategies implementing district and school specific reform models. This is a \$300 million competitive grant program.

## **Introduced in the 111th U.S. Congress:** **Reintroduction Pending for the 112th Congress**

### **School Innovation: Secondary School Innovation Fund Act (S. 968<sup>12</sup> / H.R. 2239<sup>13</sup>)**

The Secondary School Innovation Fund Act would authorize \$500 million to support partnerships for creating innovative programs and models in secondary schools to increase student achievement and prepare students for success in postsecondary education and the workplace.

**For more information, visit [http://www.all4ed.org/federal\\_policy/legislative\\_updates](http://www.all4ed.org/federal_policy/legislative_updates).**

## Sponsor Information (as of 10/26/2011)

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- <sup>1</sup> Education for Tomorrow's Jobs Act (S. 1686) Sponsor: Casey (D-PA).
- <sup>2</sup> Education for Tomorrow's Jobs Act (H.R. 3154) Sponsor: G. Thompson (R-PA); Cosponsors: Chu (D-CA), Langevin (D-RI), Platts (R-PA).
- <sup>3</sup> Literacy Education for All, Results for the Nation (LEARN) Act (S. 929) Sponsor: Murray (D-WA); Cosponsors: Begich (D-AK), Brown (D-OH), Franken (D-MN), Gillibrand (D-NY), Reed (D-RI), Sanders (I-VT).
- <sup>4</sup> Literacy Education for All, Results for the Nation (LEARN) Act (H.R. 2272) Sponsor: Yarmuth (D-KY); Cosponsors: Berkley (D-NV), Berman (D-CA), Brady (D-PA), Cohen (D-TN), Connolly (D-VA), Grijalva (D-AZ), Hirono (D-HI), Loeb sack (D-IA), Norton (D-DC), Payne (D-NJ), Polis (D-CO), Rahall (D-WV), Sablan (D-MP).
- <sup>5</sup> Graduation Promise Act (S. 1177) Sponsor: Bingaman (D-NM); Cosponsors: Casey (D-PA)
- <sup>6</sup> Graduation Promise Act (H.R. 778) Sponsor: Hinojosa (D-TX); Cosponsors: Andrews (D-NJ), Baca (D-CA), Bishop (D-NY), Brown (D-FL), Chu (D-CA), Davis (D-IL), Davis (D-CA), Fattah (D-PA), Gonzalez (D-TX), Green (D-TX), Grijalva (D-AZ), Hirono (D-HI), Jackson-Lee (D-CA), Jackson (D-IL), Johnson, Bernice (D-TX), Larson (D-CT), Lewis (D-GA), Lujan (D-NM), McCarthy (D-NY), Meeks (D-NY), Napolitano (D-CA), Payne (D-NJ), Polis (D-CO), Reyes (D-TX), Richardson (D-CA), Roybal-Allard (D-CA), Scott (D-VA), Sires (D-NJ), Van Hollen (D-MD), Wu (D-OR).
- <sup>7</sup> Every Student Counts Act (S. 767) Sponsor: Harkin (D-IA).
- <sup>8</sup> Every Student Counts Act (H.R. 1419) Sponsor: Scott, Bobby (D-VA); Cosponsors: Clarke (D-MI), Clarke (D-NY), Davis (D-IL), Fattah (D-PA), Grijalva (D-AZ), Hinojosa (D-TX), Holt (D-NJ), Jackson-Lee (D-TX), Jackson (D-IL), Kucinich (D-OH), Meeks (D-NY), Moore (D-WI), Payne (D-NJ), Polis (D-CO), Sablan (MP), Towns (D-NY), Woolsey (D-CA).
- <sup>9</sup> Success in the Middle Act (S. 833) Sponsor: Whitehouse (D-RI); Cosponsors: Akaka (D-HI), Brown (D-OH), Franken (D-MN), Lautenberg (D-NJ), Reed (D-RI), Sanders (I-VT), Stabenow (D-MI).
- <sup>10</sup> Success in the Middle Act (H.R. 1547) Sponsor: Grijalva (D-AZ); Cosponsors: Berkley (D-NV), Cicilline (D-RI), Davis (D-IL), Fattah (D-PA), Hinojosa (D-TX), Holt (D-NJ), Jackson (D-IL), Langevin (D-RI), Lujan (D-NM), McCollum (D-MN), Payne (D-NJ), Polis (D-CO), Price (D-NC), Richardson (D-CA), Scott (D-VA), Tonko (D-NY)
- <sup>11</sup> Secondary School Reform Act (S. 1306) Sponsor: Hagan (D-NC); Cosponsors: Kohl (D-WI), Murray (D-WA), Whitehouse (D-RI).
- <sup>12</sup> Secondary School Innovation Fund Act (S. 968) Sponsor: Reid (D-NV); Cosponsors: Bayh (D-IN), Begich (D-AK), Bennet (D-CO), Franken (D-MN), Lautenberg (D-NJ), Lincoln (D-AR), Menendez (D-NJ), Murray (D-WA), Pryor (D-AR).
- <sup>13</sup> Secondary School Innovation Fund Act (H.R. 2239) Sponsor: Loeb sack (D-IA); Cosponsors: Berman (D-CA), Boswell (D-IA), Conyers (D-MI), Hare (D-IL), Johnson (D-GA), Massa (D-NY), Matsui (D-CA), Payne (D-NJ), Sestak (D-PA).