

in the State to become more competitive for regular Administration funding;

(3) the potential for the grant to improve the environment for science, mathematics, and engineering education in the State; and

(4) the need to ensure the maximum distribution of grants among eligible States, consistent with merit.

(c) SUPPLEMENTAL GRANTS.—The Administrator shall endeavor, where appropriate, to supplement grants made under subsection (b) with such grants for fellowships, traineeships, equipment, or instrumentation as are available.

(d) INFORMATION IN ANNUAL BUDGET SUBMISSION.—In order to ensure that research expertise and talent throughout the Nation is developed and engaged in Administration research and education activities, the Administration shall, as part of its annual budget submission, detail additional steps that can be taken to further integrate the participating eligible States in both existing and new or emerging Administration research programs and center activities.

(Pub. L. 111-314, § 3, Dec. 18, 2010, 124 Stat. 3392.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
40903(a)	42 U.S.C. 2467b(c).	Pub. L. 102-588, title III, § 304, Nov. 4, 1992, 106 Stat. 5120.
40903(b)	42 U.S.C. 2467b(a).	
40903(c)	42 U.S.C. 2467b(b).	
40903(d)	42 U.S.C. 17781(b).	Pub. L. 110-422, title VII, § 704(b), Oct. 15, 2008, 122 Stat. 4802.

In subsection (d) the words “eligible States” are substituted for “EPSCoR States” for clarity and consistency in the section.

CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS AND POLICY

Pub. L. 102-588, title III, §§ 301-303, Nov. 4, 1992, 106 Stat. 5119, provided that:

“SEC. 301. SHORT TITLE.

“This title [see Tables for classification] may be cited as the ‘Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research on Space and Aeronautics Act’.

“SEC. 302. FINDINGS.

“Congress finds that—

“(1) the report of the Advisory Committee on the Future of the United States Space Program has provided a framework within which a consensus on the goals of the space program can be developed;

“(2) the National Aeronautics and Space Administration’s space science and applications, aeronautical research and technology, and space research and technology programs will serve as the fulcrum for future initiatives by the United States in civil space and aviation;

“(3) colleges and universities in many States are currently not able to compete successfully for research grants awarded by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration through its space science and applications, aeronautical research and technology, and space research and technology programs;

“(4) balanced programs of space science and applications, aeronautical research and technology, and space research and technology should include initiatives designed to foster competitive research capacity in all geographic areas of the Nation; and

“(5) by strengthening the competitive research capacity in those geographic areas of the Nation which are not currently fully competitive, the education and training of scientists and engineers important to

the future of the United States civil space and aviation programs will be fostered.

“SEC. 303. POLICY.

“It is the policy of the United States that—

“(1) the Administrator [of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration], in planning for national programs in space science and applications, aeronautical research, space flight, and exploration, should ensure the resilience of the space and aeronautics research infrastructure;

“(2) a stable and balanced program of space science and applications, aeronautical research and technology, and space research and technology should include programs to assure that geographic areas of the United States that currently do not successfully participate in competitive space and aeronautical research activities are enabled to become more competitive; and

“(3) programs to improve competitive capabilities should be a part of the research and the educational activities of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.”

§ 40904. Microgravity research

The Administrator shall—

(1) ensure the capacity to support ground-based research leading to space-based basic and applied scientific research in a variety of disciplines with potential direct national benefits and applications that can be advanced significantly from the uniqueness of microgravity and the space environment; and

(2) carry out, to the maximum extent practicable, basic, applied, and commercial International Space Station research in fields such as molecular crystal growth, animal research, basic fluid physics, combustion research, cellular biotechnology, low-temperature physics, and cellular research at a level that will sustain the existing United States scientific expertise and research capability in microgravity research.

(Pub. L. 111-314, § 3, Dec. 18, 2010, 124 Stat. 3393.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
40904(1)	42 U.S.C. 16655(2).	Pub. L. 109-155, title III, § 305(2), (3), Dec. 30, 2005, 119 Stat. 2918.
40904(2)	42 U.S.C. 16655(3).	

§ 40905. Program to expand distance learning in rural underserved areas

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall develop or expand programs to extend science and space educational outreach to rural communities and schools through video conferencing, interpretive exhibits, teacher education, classroom presentations, and student field trips.

(b) PRIORITIES.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Administrator shall give priority to existing programs, including Challenger Learning Centers—

(1) that utilize community-based partnerships in the field;

(2) that build and maintain video conference and exhibit capacity;

(3) that travel directly to rural communities and serve low-income populations; and

(4) with a special emphasis on increasing the number of women and minorities in the science and engineering professions.