

106TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 5573

To establish or expand prekindergarten early learning programs.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 26, 2000

Mr. KIND introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

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## A BILL

To establish or expand prekindergarten early learning programs.

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 “Providing Resources  
5 and Education for Kids Act (Pre-K)”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Kindergarten teachers estimate that 1 in 3  
9 children enters the classroom unprepared to meet  
10 the challenges of school.

1           (2) A 1998 report regarding the prevention of  
2 reading difficulties in young children found that—

3           (A) preschool children need high quality  
4 language and literacy environments in and out  
5 of their homes; and

6           (B) children need to arrive in the first  
7 grade with strong language and cognitive skills  
8 and the motivation to learn to read in order to  
9 benefit from classroom instruction.

10          (3) The first 5 years is a very critical time in  
11 a child's development, and a child's brain develop-  
12 ment is far more susceptible to adverse influences  
13 than had been previously realized.

14          (4) High quality prekindergarten programs can  
15 affect a child's long-term success in areas such as  
16 school achievement, higher earnings as adults, and  
17 decreased involvement with the criminal justice sys-  
18 tem.

19          (5) Studies of several State prekindergarten ini-  
20 tiatives offer convincing evidence of the benefits of  
21 early education for children at risk of school failure.  
22 These benefits include higher mathematics and read-  
23 ing achievement, stronger learning skills, increased  
24 creativity, better school attendance, improved health,

1 and greater involvement by parents in their chil-  
2 dren's education.

3 (6) Only 1 State, Georgia, currently has a pre-  
4 kindergarten initiative that is universally available to  
5 all children in the State.

6 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to improve  
7 school readiness for young children by providing grants  
8 to States to assist in the creation or expansion of early  
9 childhood education programs for children ages 5 and  
10 under.

11 **SEC. 2. PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation  
13 with the Secretary of the Department of Health and  
14 Human Services, is authorized to provide grants to State  
15 educational agencies, or their equivalent, to allow such  
16 agencies to establish or expand prekindergarten early  
17 learning programs.

18 (b) ELIGIBILITY.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a  
20 grant award under this Act, a State shall submit an  
21 application to the Secretary at such time and in  
22 such form and manner as the Secretary may reason-  
23 ably require and include the information described in  
24 paragraph (2).

1           (2) APPLICATION.—The application referred to  
2 in paragraph (1) shall include, at a minimum—

3           (A) a description of the prekindergarten  
4 early learning program that the State will es-  
5 tablish;

6           (B) a statement regarding how the State  
7 educational agency will administer funds to  
8 local educational agencies;

9           (C) a description of the methods to be used  
10 to reach out to local educational agencies to  
11 promote this new program and ensure that in-  
12 formation is distributed on an equitable basis to  
13 all local educational agencies;

14           (D) a description of the goals in imple-  
15 menting a prekindergarten early learning pro-  
16 gram and how such goals will be achieved;

17           (E) a description regarding how public  
18 schools and community partnerships may work  
19 together to reach the maximum number of chil-  
20 dren;

21           (F) a description regarding how the State  
22 educational agency will share information with  
23 other local educational agencies regarding suc-  
24 cessful and innovative programs; and

1 (G) a description of the long-term strate-  
2 gies for financing prekindergarten early learn-  
3 ing programs.

4 “(c) FEDERAL SHARE.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Federal share of the  
6 cost of projects funded under this Act shall not  
7 exceed—

8 “(A) 50 percent for the first fiscal year;

9 “(B) 45 percent for the second fiscal year;

10 “(C) 40 percent for the third fiscal year;

11 “(D) 30 percent for the fourth fiscal year;

12 and

13 “(E) 25 percent for the fifth fiscal year  
14 and each subsequent year.

15 “(2) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—A State  
16 educational agency or local educational agency shall  
17 use funds received under this Act only to supplement  
18 the amount of funds that would, in the absence of  
19 such Federal funds, be made available from non-  
20 Federal sources for the education of children partici-  
21 pating in programs assisted under this Act, and not  
22 to supplant such funds.

23 **SEC. 3. DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.**

24 (a) RESERVATION FOR OUTLYING AREAS.—From the  
25 amount made available under section 7 to carry out this

1 Act, the Secretary shall reserve a total of 1 percent to  
2 provide assistance to the outlying areas on the basis of  
3 their respective need for such assistance according to such  
4 criteria as the Secretary determines will best carry out the  
5 purpose of this Act.

6 (b) STATE DISTRIBUTION.—The Secretary shall allo-  
7 cate the remainder of the amount made available under  
8 section 7 (after the reservation in subsection (a)) among  
9 eligible State educational agencies as follows:

10 (1) 50 percent of such amount which bears the  
11 same ratio as the number of children ages 5 and  
12 under, inclusive, in the State bears to the number of  
13 such children in all States.

14 (2) 50 percent of such amount shall be distrib-  
15 uted according to each State's share of allocations  
16 under part A of title I of the Elementary and Sec-  
17 ondary Education Act of 1965.

18 (c) ADMINISTRATIVE FUNDS.—Of the amount made  
19 available to a State educational agency under subsection  
20 (b), such agency may use not more than 5 percent of such  
21 amount for administrative purposes.

22 **SEC. 4. LOCAL ACTIVITIES.**

23 (a) LOCAL APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive  
24 a grant award under this Act, a local educational agency

1 shall submit an application to the State educational agen-  
2 cy that includes—

3 (1) a description of its proposed prekinderg-  
4 arten early learning program;

5 (2) the goals and standards for such a pro-  
6 gram;

7 (3) a description of how the agency may work  
8 in conjunction with child care providers outside of  
9 the public schools to provide community-based kin-  
10 dergarten early learning programs; and

11 (4) any other information the State educational  
12 agency may reasonably require.

13 (b) GENERAL USES OF FUNDS.—A local education  
14 agency that receives a grant award under this Act shall  
15 use such funds to establish or expand a prekindergarten  
16 early learning program for children ages 5 and under in  
17 accordance with subsection (c).

18 (c) REQUIREMENTS.—Each local educational agency  
19 that receives funds under this Act for a prekindergarten  
20 early learning program shall—

21 (1) provide a full day and full year program  
22 that incorporates child care and education into one  
23 program;

24 (2) make available transportation for children  
25 to participate in such programs; and

1           (3) ensure that the ratio of children to staff for  
2           a prekindergarten early learning program does not  
3           exceed 18:2.

4           (d) PERMISSIBLE USES OF FUNDS.—A local edu-  
5           cational agency that receives funds under this Act may  
6           use such funds—

7           (1) for professional development for prekindergarten  
8           teachers and teacher assistants;

9           (2) to provide health care services, such as primary  
10          preventative health and safety programs and  
11          health screening programs, and to promote enrollment  
12          in health insurance programs;

13          (3) to work in conjunction with child care providers  
14          outside of the public schools to provide community-based  
15          prekindergarten early learning programs; and  
16          programs; and

17          (4) to increase salaries for child care providers  
18          who work in prekindergarten early learning programs;  
19          programs;

20          (5) to provide funds to community partnerships.

21 **SEC. 5. ACCOUNTABILITY.**

22          (a) LOCAL REPORTS.—Each local educational agency  
23          that receives a grant award under this Act shall submit  
24          a report to the State educational agency every 2 years  
25          that—

1 (1) describes the agency's activities;

2 (2) reports the number of children being served  
3 by new or expanded prekindergarten early learning  
4 programs;

5 (3) describes any improvements in student  
6 achievement and school readiness; and

7 (4) describes how the agency has reached the  
8 goals set forth in its application under section  
9 4(a)(1) in providing early learning programs for  
10 children ages 5 and under.

11 (b) STATE REPORTS.—Each State educational agen-  
12 cy that receives a grant award under this Act shall submit  
13 to the Secretary, not less than once every 2 years, a de-  
14 tailed summary of the information submitted under sub-  
15 section (a). Such report shall also include a description  
16 regarding—

17 (1) how the State educational agency adminis-  
18 tered funds to the local educational agency;

19 (2) the measures taken and the effectiveness of  
20 such efforts of the State educational agency in  
21 reaching out to local educational agencies to promote  
22 the program and ensuring information was distrib-  
23 uted on an equitable basis;

1           (3) how the State educational agency shared in-  
2           formation with other local educational agencies re-  
3           garding successful and innovative programs; and

4           (4) the status of the State educational agency  
5           in developing long-term strategies for financing pre-  
6           K early learning programs.

7 **SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.**

8           For purposes of this Act:

9           (1) The term “community partnership” means  
10          an alliance between a local educational agency and  
11          1 or more of the following entities:

12                   (A) Child care agency.

13                   (B) Special education provider.

14                   (C) Community-based organization.

15          (2) The term “outlying area” means the Com-  
16          monwealth of Puerto Rico and the United States  
17          Virgin Islands.

18          (3) The term “Secretary” means the Secretary  
19          of Education.

20          (4) The term “State” means each of the 50  
21          States and the District of Columbia.

22 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

23          There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out  
24          this Act—

25                   (1) \$500,000,000 for fiscal year 2002;

- 1           (2) \$750,000,000 for fiscal year 2003; and
- 2           (3) such sums as may be necessary for each of
- 3           fiscal years 2004 through 2006.

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