

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2561

To provide grants to States to establish, expand, or enhance prekindergarten programs for children who are not yet enrolled in kindergarten.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 23, 2003

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

A BILL

To provide grants to States to establish, expand, or enhance prekindergarten programs for children who are not yet enrolled in kindergarten.

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 “Prekindergarten Ac-
5 cess Act of 2003”.

6 **SEC. 2. PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAM.**

7 Title V of the Elementary and Secondary Education
8 Act of 1965 is amended by adding at the end the fol-
9 lowing:

1 **“PART E—PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS**

2 **“SEC. 5701. FINDINGS.**

3 “Congress finds the following:

4 “(1) Countless studies have shown what every
5 parent already knows: High-quality preschool edu-
6 cation programs work. They prepare children to
7 learn when they go to school, and the programs in-
8 crease the success of students throughout their lives.

9 “(2) Children who get a high-quality prekind-
10 ergarten education are less likely to repeat a grade
11 level and have less need for special education in-
12 struction than those with no prekindergarten experi-
13 ence.

14 “(3) Prekindergarten programs make a signifi-
15 cant difference in the lives of children from low-in-
16 come families. A recent study found that children in
17 high-quality child care programs had better thinking
18 and attention skills, better mathematics and pre-
19 reading skills, and fewer behavioral problems.

20 “(4) In a study following children to age 21
21 who received high-quality early children education,
22 such children were more likely to have enrolled in
23 college, been employed, and delayed parenthood.

24 **“SEC. 5702. DEFINITIONS.**

25 “For purposes of this part, the following definitions
26 shall apply:

1 “(1) PREKINDERGARTEN.—The term ‘pre-
2 kindergarten’ means a program serving children
3 ages 3, 4, and 5 years old that supports children’s
4 cognitive, social, emotional, and physical develop-
5 ment and helps prepare children for the transition to
6 kindergarten.

7 “(2) ELIGIBLE PREKINDERGARTEN PRO-
8 VIDERS.—The term ‘eligible prekindergarten pro-
9 viders’ includes child care programs, Head Start
10 agencies, and schools that—

11 “(A) have met applicable State licensing
12 requirements and have obtained accreditation
13 by a national accrediting body with dem-
14 onstrated experience in accrediting child care,
15 prekindergarten programs, or schools; or

16 “(B) agree to obtain such accreditation not
17 later than 3 years after receipt of a grant under
18 this part.

19 “(3) PREKINDERGARTEN TEACHER.—The term
20 ‘prekindergarten teacher’ means an individual who
21 has or is working toward a bachelor of arts degree
22 in early childhood development.

23 **“SEC. 5703. PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.**

24 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized to
25 provide grants to a State with an approved application

1 under subsection (b) to allow such State to establish or
2 expand prekindergarten early learning programs by eligi-
3 ble prekindergarten providers and local educational agen-
4 cies in partnership with early childhood programs, organi-
5 zations, or agencies that serve prekindergarten school chil-
6 dren.

7 “(b) STATE APPLICATION.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The State shall designate a
9 State agency to administer, including the receipt and
10 administration of funds and the evaluation of the
11 program, the State-funded prekindergarten program
12 funded under this part.

13 “(2) STATE APPLICATION.—The appropriate
14 agency shall submit an application to the Secretary
15 that includes—

16 “(A) an assurance that the State will pro-
17 vide non-Federal matching funds equal to not
18 less than 20 percent of the award; and

19 “(B) a description of—

20 “(i) how grant funds will be used to
21 expand or enhance existing efforts across
22 the State in providing access to high qual-
23 ity prekindergarten programs;

24 “(ii) how the State will collaborate
25 with local child care agencies and councils,

1 including local child care resource and re-
2 ferral agencies;

3 “(iii) how grant funds will be used to
4 supplement and not supplant existing Fed-
5 eral, State, local and private funds used
6 for prekindergarten programs;

7 “(iv) how the State will ensure that
8 grant funds are provided to a range of
9 types of eligible prekindergarten providers;

10 “(v) how the State will help eligible
11 prekindergarten providers attract and re-
12 tain qualified prekindergarten teachers;

13 “(vi) how the State will identify the
14 eligible children and eligible prekinde-
15 rgarten providers; and

16 “(vii) how the State will give priority
17 to full-time prekindergarten programs, in-
18 cluding the expansion of existing part-time
19 programs into full-time programs.

20 **“SEC. 5704. LOCAL APPLICATIONS.**

21 “(a) IN GENERAL.—A local educational agency or eli-
22 gible prekindergarten provider, as the case may be, that
23 desires to receive a grant under this part shall submit an
24 application to the State agency designated under section

1 5703(b) at such time, in such manner, and containing
2 such information as such agency may reasonably require.

3 “(b) SPECIAL RULE.—If the State prekindergarten
4 program is not operated through the local educational
5 agency, then the State shall award subgrants to eligible
6 prekindergarten providers that currently administer pre-
7 kindergarten programs at the local level.

8 “(c) CONTENT.—An application referred to in sub-
9 section (a), at a minimum, shall—

10 “(1) demonstrate a need for the establishment,
11 enhancement, or expansion of a prekindergarten pro-
12 gram;

13 “(2) describe how the local educational agency
14 or eligible prekindergarten provider collaborates with
15 local early childhood councils and agencies;

16 “(3) provide an assurance that each individual
17 hired is qualified to teach children at the prekinde-
18 rgarten level;

19 “(4) provide an assurance that the ratio of
20 teachers or child development specialists to children
21 shall not exceed 1–10;

22 “(5) provide a description of how funds will be
23 used to coordinate with and enhance, but not dupli-
24 cate or supplant, early childhood programs serving
25 eligible children that exist in the community;

1 “(6) describe how the agency or eligible pre-
2 kindergarten provider will use a collaborative process
3 with organizations and members of the community
4 that have an interest and experience in early child-
5 hood development and education to establish, ex-
6 pand, or enhance prekindergarten programs;

7 “(7) describe how the program will meet the di-
8 verse needs of children, ages 3 through 5, in the
9 community who are not enrolled in kindergarten, in-
10 cluding children with disabilities or whose native lan-
11 guage is other than English;

12 “(8) describe how the agency or eligible pre-
13 kindergarten provider will collaborate with local
14 schools to ensure a smooth transition for partici-
15 pating students from early childhood education to
16 kindergarten and early elementary education;

17 “(9) describe the results the programs are in-
18 tended to achieve, and what tools will be used to
19 measure the progress in attaining those results; and

20 “(10) provide an assurance that none of the
21 funds received under this part may be used for the
22 construction or renovation of existing or new facili-
23 ties (except for minor remodeling needed to accom-
24 plish the purposes of this part).

1 **“SEC. 5705. USES OF FUNDS.**

2 “(a) IN GENERAL.—An agency or eligible prekindergarten provider that receives a grant award under this part shall use funds received to establish, enhance, or expand prekindergarten programs for children, ages 3 through 5, who are not enrolled in kindergarten, including—

8 “(1) providing a program that focuses on the developmental needs of participating children, including their social, cognitive, physical, and language-development needs, and using research-based approaches that build on competencies that lead to school success, particularly in language and literacy development and in reading;

15 “(2) paying the costs of purchasing educational equipment, including educational materials, necessary to provide a high quality program;

18 “(3) pursuing accreditation by a national accreditation body with demonstrated experience in accreditation of prekindergarten programs, to be obtained not later than 3 years after the date of receipt of funds under this part;

23 “(4) helping prekindergarten teachers pursue and attain the credential and degree requirements established by the State and provide a stipend for

1 attaining educational or professional development;
2 and

3 “(5) meeting the needs of working parents.

4 “(b) PERMISSIBLE USES OF FUNDS.—A prekinde-
5 garten program established under this part may use funds
6 received under this part to pay for transporting students
7 to and from a prekindergarten program.

8 **“SEC. 5706. REPORTING.**

9 “(a) LOCAL REPORTS.—Each local educational agen-
10 cy or eligible prekindergarten provider that receives a
11 grant award under this part shall submit an annual report
12 to the designated State agency that reviews the effective-
13 ness of the prekindergarten program established with
14 funds provided under this part on—

15 “(1) number and ages of children served, in-
16 cluding information (disaggregated by family in-
17 come, race, disability, native language);

18 “(2) number of hours of service per day and
19 number of months;

20 “(3) number of prekindergarten teachers; and

21 “(4) other sources of Federal, State, local, and
22 private funds used to operate a program.

23 “(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary shall
24 submit an annual report to Congress that evaluates the
25 prekindergarten programs established under this part.

1 **“SEC. 5707. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 “There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
3 this part \$2,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2003,
4 \$4,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2004, \$5,000,000,000 for
5 fiscal year 2005, \$8,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2006, and
6 \$10,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2007.”.

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