

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3450

To provide grants to universities and colleges for the development of student success services that will improve college persistence and prepare students for the workplace.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 3, 2007

Mr. YARMUTH (for himself, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. COHEN, Mr. HOLT, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. HARE, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

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## A BILL

To provide grants to universities and colleges for the development of student success services that will improve college persistence and prepare students for the workplace.

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 “College Student Suc-  
5 cess Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. STUDENT SUCCESS GRANTS.**

2 Part A of title IV of the Higher Education Act of  
3 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1057 et seq.) is amended by adding at  
4 the end the following:

5 **“Subpart 9—Student Success Grants**

6 **“SEC. 420K. STUDENT SUCCESS GRANTS.**

7 “(a) AUTHORIZATION OF PILOT PROGRAM.—The  
8 Secretary is authorized to award grants on a competitive  
9 basis, subject to the availability of appropriations, to eligi-  
10 ble institutions for the purposes of helping low-income stu-  
11 dents succeed in persisting in and completing postsec-  
12 ondary education and training programs.

13 “(b) DEFINITIONS.—

14 “(1) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.—In this section,  
15 the term ‘eligible institution’ means an institution of  
16 higher education (as defined in section 101(a)) in  
17 which, during the three-year period preceding the  
18 year in which the institution is applying for a grant  
19 under this section, an average of not less than 50  
20 percent of the institution’s entering first-year stu-  
21 dents are enrolled in developmental courses to bring  
22 reading, writing, or mathematics skills up to college-  
23 level.

24 “(2) ELIGIBLE STUDENT.—In this section, the  
25 term ‘eligible student’ means a student who—

1           “(A) is eligible to receive assistance under  
2 section 401;

3           “(B) is a first-year student at the time of  
4 entering the pilot; and

5           “(C) is selected by an eligible institution to  
6 participate in the pilot.

7           “(c) APPLICATION.—An eligible institution seeking a  
8 grant under this section shall submit an application to the  
9 Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing  
10 such information as the Secretary may require.

11          “(d) GRANT AMOUNTS.—

12           “(1) INSTITUTIONAL GRANTS.—For a given  
13 year, each institution selected to participate in this  
14 pilot program shall receive an amount equal to the  
15 amount of a Student Success Grant multiplied by  
16 the number of students the institution selects to par-  
17 ticipate in the pilot program in such year. An insti-  
18 tution shall not select more than 200 students to  
19 participate in the pilot program under this section  
20 during any academic year.

21           “(2) GRANTS TO STUDENTS.—The amount of a  
22 Student Success Grant provided to an eligible insti-  
23 tution on behalf of an eligible student under this  
24 section shall be \$1,500 per student for each award  
25 year.

1       “(e) PRIORITY FOR REPLICATION OF EVIDENCE-  
2 BASED POLICIES AND PRACTICES.—The Secretary shall  
3 give priority to applications submitted by eligible institu-  
4 tions that propose to replicate policies and practices that  
5 have proven effective in increasing persistence and comple-  
6 tion by low-income students or students in need of devel-  
7 opmental education.

8       “(f) PEER REVIEW.—The Secretary shall convene a  
9 peer review process to review applications for grants under  
10 this section and to make recommendations to the Sec-  
11 retary regarding the selection of grantees. Members of the  
12 peer review committee shall be a mix of researchers and  
13 practitioners who are recognized experts on services and  
14 policies to increase low income student success in postsec-  
15 ondary education and training. No member of the com-  
16 mittee shall be in a position to benefit financially from  
17 the grants to eligible institutions under subsection (d)(1).

18       “(g) MANDATORY USES.—An eligible institution that  
19 receives a grant under this section shall use the grant  
20 funds to assign a Student Success Coach to every first-  
21 year student participating in the pilot to provide intensive  
22 career and academic advising, ongoing personal help in  
23 navigating college services such as financial aid and reg-  
24 istration, and assistance in connecting to community re-

1 sources that can help students overcome family and per-  
2 sonal challenges to success. Student Success Coaches—

3 “(1) shall work with not more than 50 new stu-  
4 dents during any academic period;

5 “(2) may be employees of academic depart-  
6 ments, student services offices, community-based or-  
7 ganizations, or other entities as deemed appropriate  
8 by the institution; and

9 “(3) shall meet with each eligible student se-  
10 lected for the pilot before registration for courses.

11 “(h) PERMISSIBLE USES.—An eligible institution  
12 that receives a grant under this section may use the grant  
13 funds to provide services and program innovations for stu-  
14 dents participating in the pilot, including the following:

15 “(1) College and career success courses, with  
16 tuition and fees for the course covered by the Stu-  
17 dent Success Grant. These courses should cover col-  
18 lege success topics, such as how to take notes, how  
19 to study, how to take tests, and how to budget time,  
20 and should also include a substantial career explo-  
21 ration component. Institutions are encouraged to use  
22 such courses to help students develop a College and  
23 Career Success Plan so that by the end of the first  
24 semester the students have a clear sense of their ca-

1 reer goals and what classes to take to achieve such  
2 goals.

3 “(2) Work-study jobs with private employers in  
4 the students’ fields of study.

5 “(3) Learning communities that ensure that  
6 students participating in the pilot are clustered to-  
7 gether for at least two courses beginning in the first  
8 semester after enrolling and have other opportunities  
9 to create and maintain bonds that allow them to  
10 provide academic and social support to each other.

11 “(4) Curricular redesign, which may include  
12 such innovations as ‘blended’ or accelerated remedi-  
13 ation classes that help Student Success Grant recipi-  
14 ents to attain college-level reading, writing, math  
15 skills (or a combination thereof) more rapidly than  
16 traditional remediation formats allow, and intensive  
17 skills refresher classes, offered prior to each semes-  
18 ter, to help students who have tested into remedial  
19 coursework to reach entry level assessment scores  
20 for the postsecondary programs they wish to enter.

21 “(5) Instructional support, such as learning  
22 labs, supplemental instruction, and tutoring.

23 “(6) Assistance with support services, such as  
24 child care and transportation.

1       “(i) GRANT PERIOD; ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL AS-  
2       SISTANCE.—

3               “(1) GRANT PERIOD.—Grants made under this  
4       section shall be for a period of not less than 60  
5       months.

6               “(2) ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—  
7       After 36 months, the Secretary shall review the per-  
8       formance of the Student Success Grant pilot stu-  
9       dents at each institution, and if no significant im-  
10      provements have been made by Student Success  
11      Grant pilot students in persistence and completion  
12      at an institution, then the Secretary shall provide  
13      additional technical assistance to help the institution  
14      improve outcomes.

15      “(j) REQUIRED NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—

16              “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each institution partici-  
17      pating in the pilot program under this section shall  
18      provide a non-Federal match of 25 percent of the  
19      grant. The non-Federal share under this section may  
20      be provided in cash or in kind.

21              “(2) EFFECT ON NEED ANALYSIS.—For the  
22      purpose of calculating a student’s need in accord-  
23      ance with part F of this title, services or benefits  
24      under this section shall not be considered an asset  
25      or income.

1       “(k) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall  
2 enter into contracts with private entities to provide such  
3 technical assistance to grantees under this section as the  
4 Secretary determines appropriate.

5       “(l) EVALUATION.—

6               “(1) OUTCOME EVALUATIONS.—The Secretary  
7 shall conduct an evaluation of program outcomes  
8 under the pilot program, and shall disseminate to  
9 the public the findings from the evaluation and in-  
10 formation on best practices. The Secretary is en-  
11 couraged to partner with other providers of funds,  
12 such as private foundations, to allow for use of an  
13 experimental or quasi-experimental evaluation in at  
14 least one of the pilot sites.

15               “(2) INSTITUTIONAL PARTICIPATION.—As a  
16 condition of receiving grants under this section, par-  
17 ticipating institutions shall work with the evaluator  
18 to track persistence and completion outcomes for  
19 students in the pilot program, specifically the pro-  
20 portion of these students who take and complete de-  
21 velopmental education courses, the proportion who  
22 take and complete college-level coursework, and the  
23 proportion who complete certificates and degrees.  
24 This data shall be broken down by race, ethnicity,  
25 and age and the evaluator shall assist institutions in

1 analyzing this data to compare Student Success  
2 Grant pilot participants to comparable nonpartici-  
3 pants, using statistical techniques to control for dif-  
4 ferences in the groups.

5 “(3) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Participating institu-  
6 tions shall report on the data specified in paragraph  
7 (2) annually and the Secretary shall make this data  
8 publicly available.

9 “(m) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
10 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
11 \$35,000,000 for the period beginning with fiscal year  
12 2008 and ending with fiscal year 2012, of which not more  
13 than \$5,000,000 may be used to carry out subsections (k)  
14 and (l).”.

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