117TH CONGRESS 2D SESSION

H. R. 7122

To direct the Secretary of Education to award grants to eligible entities to carry out teacher leadership programs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 17, 2022

Mr. Gallego introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Education to award grants to eligible entities to carry out teacher leadership programs, and for other purposes.

- 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 "Teachers Leading,
- 5 Educating, Advancing, and Designing Act of 2022" or the
- 6 "Teachers LEAD Act of 2022".
- 7 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.
- 8 Congress finds the following:
- 9 (1) Decades of research have shown that teach-
- 10 ers are the single most important school-based factor

- in student achievement, and an analysis by the
 Brookings Institution indicates that a high level of
 teacher turnover is negatively associated with student achievement, and is higher in urban schools
 and schools with more economically disadvantaged
 students.
 - (2) A report by the National Commission on Teaching and America's Future estimated that districts spend between \$10,000 and \$17,000 for each teacher who leaves the district, making teacher turnover and attrition a costly issue for school systems.
 - (3) The United States education system is experiencing an ongoing teacher recruitment, retention, and shortage crisis. According to a National Education Association survey in January of 2022, 55 percent of all teachers, 62 percent of Black teachers, and 59 percent of Hispanic or Latino educators said they were more likely to retire early or leave the profession.
 - (4) In the same survey, 74 percent of teachers report having to fill in for colleagues or take on other duties due to staff shortages, while 90 percent of respondents pointed out that teacher burnout is becoming a very serious issue. As a Nation, we face

- the possibilities of vacancies and educator burnout being exacerbated by educator shortages.
 - (5) An analysis by the Economic Policy Institute of teacher turnover data suggests that low salaries, lack of professional development opportunities, and a difficult school climate, including lack of teacher input into school policy, are common factors behind teachers leaving the workforce.
 - (6) According to a report by Teach Plus and the Education Trust, teachers of color, who, on average experience higher turnover rates, report that they have considered leaving the profession because they lack agency, autonomy in decision making, and opportunities for leadership.
 - (7) Studies show that all students benefit from having racially diverse teachers. These benefits are magnified for students of color, who experience improved academic performance, higher graduation rates, and increased interest in pursuing higher education.
 - (8) Teachers of color are underrepresented in schools, with only 20 percent of the teacher workforce identifying as people of color versus over 50 percent of public school students. Teachers of color are also more likely to teach in schools that serve a

- high proportion of students of color, in schools that
 are underresourced, and in schools that have higher
 overall teacher turnover rates.
 - (9) Studies show that there is a positive link between professional leadership opportunities, job satisfaction, and retention of classroom teachers, and that compensation for teachers' added leadership responsibilities increases teacher retention.
 - (10) In a Gates Foundation Survey, only 12 percent of all teachers surveyed reported receiving consistent job-embedded mentorship and professional development from veteran teachers, despite multiple studies showing that consistent mentorship improves student learning.
 - (11) The New Teacher Project found that only 26 percent of high-performing teachers agreed that their school leadership identified opportunities or clear paths for teacher leadership roles.
 - (12) According to a report by Teach Plus and the Education Trust, teachers' investment in their schools and their likelihood of retention is greater where opportunities exist to innovate and advocate on behalf of students, especially when a teacher acts in partnership with school and district administration to address student and teacher needs.

- 1 (13) Structured leadership programs are an ef-2 fective way to help combat the nationwide teacher 3 shortage and improve teacher retention by empowering teachers and establishing formal peer 5 mentorships between effective and experienced teach-6 ers and those just entering the profession, which 7 also leads to academic and socio-emotional benefits 8 for students.
- 9 (14) Federal policies are needed to encourage 10 and fund the establishment of structured leadership 11 programs at public schools, especially in high-need 12 schools and school districts.

13 SEC. 3. TEACHER LEADERSHIP GRANT PROGRAM.

- 14 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:
- 15 (1) ESEA TERMS.—The terms "educational service agency", "elementary school", "local educational agency", "paraprofessional", "school leader", "secondary school", and "Secretary" have the meanings given such terms in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).
 - (2) DISTRIBUTED LEADERSHIP.—The term "distributed leadership" means a range of approaches wherein the school leadership shares aspects of the traditional set of school decisions, organization.

22

23

24

1	nization, management, and operations with teachers
2	in a manner that is coordinated, agreed to, and led
3	by the teachers and school leadership.
4	(3) Eligible enti-
5	ty" means—
6	(A) a local educational agency or edu-
7	cational service agency;
8	(B) a consortium of local educational agen-
9	cies or educational service agencies; or
10	(C) a partnership between a local edu-
11	cational agency or educational service agency
12	and—
13	(i) a nonprofit organization with dem-
14	onstrated expertise in teacher leadership
15	programs, as determined by the Secretary;
16	(ii) a State educational agency in the
17	same State as the local educational agency
18	or educational service agency with dem-
19	onstrated capacity in supporting teacher
20	leadership programs, as determined by the
21	Secretary;
22	(iii) an institution of higher education
23	(as defined in section 101 of the Higher
24	Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001))
25	that awards postsecondary teacher certifi-

- cates or degrees and has a demonstrated
 capacity in supporting teacher leadership
 programs or teacher diversity, as determined by the Secretary; or
- (iv) a Minority-Serving Institution,
 Tribal College or University, or Histori cally Black College or University.
 - (4) High-need educational service agency or consortium of high-need educational service agency or consortium of high-need educational service agencies" means an educational service agencies in which each educational service agency or consortium of educational service agency in which each educational service agency has a census poverty rate of not less than 20 percent.
 - (5) High-need local educational agency or consortium of high-need local educational agency or consortium of high-need local educational agencies" means a local educational agency or consortium of local educational agencies in which each local educational agency has a census poverty rate of not less than 20 percent.

1	(6) Minority-serving institution.—The
2	term "Minority-Serving Institution" means any of
3	the following:
4	(A) An Alaska Native-serving institution,
5	as that term is defined in section 317(b) of the
6	Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
7	1059d(b)).
8	(B) A Native Hawaiian-serving institution,
9	as that term is defined in section 317(b) of the
10	Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
11	1059d(b)).
12	(C) A Hispanic-serving institution, as that
13	term is defined in section 502(a) of the Higher
14	Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1101a(a)).
15	(D) A Predominantly Black institution, as
16	that term is defined in section 371(c) of the
17	Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
18	1067q(e)).
19	(E) An Asian American and Native Amer-
20	ican Pacific Islander-serving institution, as that
21	term is defined in section 320(b) of the Higher
22	Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059g(b)).
23	(F) A Native American-serving, nontribal
24	institution as that term is defined in section

1	319(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965
2	(20 U.S.C. 1059f(b)).
3	(7) Tribal college or university.—The
4	term "Tribal College or University" has the meaning
5	given the term as defined in section 316(b)(3) of the
6	Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
7	1059e(b)(3)).
8	(8) HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGE OR UNI-
9	VERSITY.—The term "Historically Black College or
10	University" has the meaning given the term "part B
11	institution" in section 322 of the Higher Education
12	Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061).
13	(9) TEACHER LEADER.—The term "teacher
14	leader" means a teacher who is selected to partici-
15	pate in the teacher leadership program under this
16	section.
17	(b) Program Authorized.—
18	(1) In General.—The Secretary shall award
19	grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible entities to
20	carry out teacher leadership programs.
21	(2) Reservations.—From the total amount
22	appropriated to carry out this section for a fiscal
23	year, the Secretary—
24	(A) shall reserve not less than 5 percent to
25	carry out subsection (h);

1	(B) may reserve not more than—
2	(i) 3 percent to provide technical as-
3	sistance to, and support the capacity build-
4	ing of, the programs assisted under this
5	section; and
6	(ii) 0.5 percent to complete required
7	reporting under this section; and
8	(C) may reserve not more than 3.5 percent
9	to award planning grants to eligible entities in
10	order to assist those eligible entities in devel-
11	oping a program proposal in accordance with
12	subsection (i).
13	(3) Grant Period.—The Secretary shall make
14	grant awards for not more than 3 years and may ex-
15	tend grant awards for not more than 2 additional
16	years if the grantee is making progress in achieving
17	program objectives.
18	(c) Application.—
19	(1) In general.—An eligible entity desiring a
20	grant under this section shall submit an application
21	to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and
22	containing such information as the Secretary may
23	require, including—
24	(A) the program proposal described in
25	paragraph (2); and

1	(B) the data reporting requirement agree-
2	ment described in paragraph (3).
3	(2) Program proposal.—The program pro-
4	posal required under this subsection shall include the
5	following:
6	(A) Program Plan.—A plan to establish
7	a teacher leadership program that includes not
8	less than 1 of the following:
9	(i) A description of how the eligible
10	entity will ensure that the program offers
11	time and structures for shared decision
12	making, distributed leadership, common
13	planning, and collaboration between teach-
14	er leaders and school leaders.
15	(ii) A description of how the eligible
16	entity will ensure that the program in-
17	cludes the participation of teacher leaders
18	in goal setting, professional learning, or
19	collaboration with content experts, school
20	leadership, colleagues, or leadership of an
21	eligible entity, with respect to—
22	(I) strategic planning or develop-
23	ment at the school level and the level
24	of the eligible entity, including plan-
25	ning and development relating to

1 school climate, community engage
2 ment, teacher professional develop
ment and mentorship, and student
4 growth; or
5 (II) implementing practices to
6 support children's social, emotional
7 and cognitive learning, such as—
8 (aa) planning the design of
9 and organizing the physica
space, organizational structure
11 wraparound services, and culture
of schools to support positive
healthy, and developmentally ap
propriate relationships among
members of the school and com
16 munity;
17 (bb) creating multi-tiered
and integrated systems of sup
port to address student academic
and non-academic needs; or
21 (cc) creating and fostering
safe and inclusive learning envi
ronments that enable authentic
24 culturally and linguistically re

1	sponsive learning in identity-safe
2	settings.
3	(iii) A description of how the eligible
4	entity will ensure that teacher leaders re-
5	ceive training and support to improve skills
6	related to acting as instructional leaders,
7	coaches, mentors, or facilitators of profes-
8	sional learning.
9	(B) Program requirements.—A de-
10	scription of how the eligible entity will meet
11	each of the following program requirements:
12	(i) Ensuring all teachers with at least
13	3 years of full-time teaching experience
14	that maintain their roles as classroom in-
15	structors and are employed by the partici-
16	pating schools served by the eligible entity
17	may apply to participate in such program
18	as teacher leaders.
19	(ii) Providing the selection criteria for
20	program participation to all eligible teach-
21	ers described in clause (i), which will in-
22	clude selection based on an eligible teach-
23	er's demonstrated ability in carrying out
24	five of the eight criteria in subsection
25	(c)(2)(B)(ii)(I–VIII) and a commitment to

growth in other criteria where they do not
2 have a demonstrated ability—
3 (I) carrying out leadership re-
4 sponsibilities while maintaining a role
5 as a classroom instructor;
6 (II) focusing on improving or ad-
7 vancing the vision, goals, and prior-
8 ities of the eligible entity that employs
9 such teacher using evidence-, re-
0 search-, and practice-based data;
1 (III) collecting and analyzing
2 data of student academic and social-
3 emotional outcomes or teacher profes-
4 sional outcomes and taking actions to
5 improve student outcomes, teacher
6 outcomes or professional learning in-
7 formed by such data;
8 (IV) facilitating collaborative, evi-
9 dence-, research-, and practice-based,
and sustained professional learning
with peers, including mentorship and
instruction leadership, that lead to im-
provements in teaching efficacy, pro-
4 fessional outcomes or student aca-

1	demic achievement and social-emo-
2	tional learning;
3	(V) analyzing socioeconomic, cul-
4	tural, and historical contexts of stu-
5	dents, their communities, and the eli-
6	gible entity, including existing peda-
7	gogy, school policies, and school-based
8	outreach to families and community
9	organizations to create learning envi-
10	ronments that are more inclusive of
11	and responsive to student and teacher
12	needs, cultures, ethnicities, languages,
13	gender and sexual orientations, and
14	socioeconomic statuses;
15	(VI) implementing and evalu-
16	ating strategies aimed at addressing
17	areas of demonstrated need in the
18	school at which the teacher is em-
19	ployed, including increasing wrap-
20	around services, academic supports,
21	family engagement, and community-
22	based services;
23	(VII) supporting teachers to ef-
24	fectively serve students with disabil-
25	ities, English learners, and students

1	who are linguistically, racially, and
2	culturally diverse, economically dis-
3	advantaged, or historically underrep-
4	resented to increase their academic
5	achievement or social-emotional learn-
6	ing; and
7	(VIII) using, customizing, or de-
8	veloping lesson materials and instruc-
9	tional resources to meet the unique
10	needs of students and the eligible enti-
11	ty to further students' academic
12	achievement and social-emotional
13	learning.
14	(iii) Ensuring that all teachers and
15	paraprofessionals employed by the partici-
16	pating schools served by the eligible entity
17	are eligible to participate in programming
18	led by a teacher leader, when applicable.
19	(iv) Providing monetary compensation
20	to teacher leaders who participate in such
21	program for the additional responsibilities
22	that are directly related to the teacher
23	leadership program.
24	(v) Allowing the monetary compensa-
25	tion described in clause (iv) to be sub-

1	stituted for paid time off or satisfaction of
2	a contract requirement—
3	(I) at the request of the teacher
4	leader receiving such compensation;
5	and
6	(II) with the authorization and
7	agreement of the eligible entity that
8	serves the elementary or secondary
9	school at which such teacher leader is
10	employed.
11	(vi) Requiring teacher leaders to sup-
12	port their own development and profes-
13	sional growth by evaluating themselves and
14	each other using evidence-, research-, and
15	practice-based rubrics.
16	(vii) Consulting with other teachers
17	when developing and implementing the
18	program as described in $(e)(2)(B)$.
19	(C) Supplemental materials.—A de-
20	scription of the following:
21	(i) How the eligible entity will develop
22	and implement the use of evidence-, re-
23	search-, or practice-based rubrics that
24	teacher leaders will be using for the self-

1	evaluations described in subparagraph
2	(B)(vi).
3	(ii) How grant funds will be spent, in-
4	cluding if and how other Federal, State,
5	Tribal, and local funding sources may be
6	used to supplement grant funds in order to
7	meet the requirements of the teacher lead-
8	ership program.
9	(iii) How the eligible entity will con-
10	tinue the teacher leadership activities as-
11	sisted under the grant after the grant pe-
12	riod ends.
13	(3) Data reporting requirement.—Each el-
14	igible entity applying for a grant under this section
15	shall include in such application an assurance that
16	the eligible entity will comply with reporting require-
17	ments of the Institute of Education Sciences relating
18	to the reports required under this section.
19	(d) Priority.—In awarding grants under this sec-
20	tion, the Secretary shall give priority to—
21	(1) eligible entities that are or that include—
22	(A) a high-need educational service agency
23	or consortium of high-need educational service
24	agencies;

1	(B) a high-need local educational agency or
2	consortium of high-need local educational agen-
3	cies;
4	(C) local educational agencies that receive
5	basic support payments under section
6	7003(b)(1) of the Elementary and Secondary
7	Education Act (20 U.S.C. 7703(b)(1));
8	(D) Indian Tribes, Tribal educational de-
9	partments or agencies, or Tribal educational or-
10	ganizations with a successful track record in
11	supporting teacher leadership programs or ad-
12	vancing teacher diversity; or
13	(E) Native Hawaiian community-based or-
14	ganizations or Native Hawaiian educational or-
15	ganizations (as those terms are defined in sec-
16	tion 6207 of the Elementary and Secondary
17	Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7517)) or
18	Alaska Native organizations (as defined in sec-
19	tion 6306 of such Act (20 U.S.C. 7546));
20	(2) eligible entities that are or that include local
21	educational agencies or educational service agencies
22	with a teacher turnover rate that is above the na-
23	tional average;
24	(3) eligible entities that are or that include local
25	educational agencies or educational service agencies

1	that demonstrate in their program proposal under
2	subsection (b)(2) a plan to recruit, retain, and train
3	teacher leaders who are individuals from underrep-
4	resented populations in the teaching profession; and
5	(4) eligible entities described in subsection
6	(a)(3)(C) that include a partner who has a success-
7	ful track record in supporting teacher leadership
8	programs and advancing teacher diversity, such as a
9	Historically Black College or University, a Tribal
10	College or University, or a Minority-Serving Institu-
11	tion.
12	(e) Uses of Funds.—
13	(1) In general.—An eligible entity awarded a
14	grant under this section shall use—
15	(A) not more than 5 percent of such grant
16	funds for administrative expenses; and
17	(B) not less than 95 percent of such grant
18	funds to implement the program proposal de-
19	scribed in subsection (c)(2) and, at the eligible
20	entity's option, carry out activities described in
21	paragraph (2).
22	(2) Permissive uses of funds.—In addition
23	to implementing the program proposal under sub-

section (c)(2), an eligible entity awarded a grant

1	under this section may use such grant funds to fa-
2	cilitate—
3	(A) collaboration between program partici-
4	pants;
5	(B) instructional materials development; or
6	(C) the reallocation of work hours for
7	teacher leaders between classroom responsibil-
8	ities and responsibilities as a teacher leader.
9	(f) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall prescribe
10	such regulations as may be necessary to carry out this
11	section, including with respect to the evidence-, research-
12	, and practice-based rubrics and standards described in
13	subsection $(e)(2)(B)(vi)$.
14	(g) Reports and Evaluation.—
15	(1) Reports to the secretary.—Not later
16	than 1 year after receiving a grant under this sec-
17	tion, and annually thereafter for the duration of the
18	grant period, an eligible entity shall submit to the
19	Secretary all information necessary for the evalua-
20	tion described in paragraph (2).
21	(2) Evaluation.—Using the information re-
22	ported by eligible entities, the Secretary, acting
23	through the Director of the Institute of Education
24	Sciences shall carry out an independent evaluation
25	measuring the effectiveness of the activities carried

1	out under grants awarded under this section, includ-
2	ing information about whether participating eligible
3	entities experience greater teacher retention than
4	non-participants. The evaluation shall include the
5	following information, disaggregated by race, eth-
6	nicity, and gender:
7	(A) With respect to all teachers employed
8	by a local educational agency or educational
9	service agency that is, or is part of, an eligible
10	entity—
11	(i) the 3-year retention rate,
12	disaggregated by—
13	(I) teachers who are in their first
14	year of teaching; and
15	(II) teachers who were hired by
16	such eligible entity in the same school
17	year as one another;
18	(ii) the 5-year retention rate,
19	disaggregated by—
20	(I) teachers who are in their first
21	year of teaching; and
22	(II) teachers who were hired by
23	such eligible entity in the same school
24	year as one another; and

1	(iii) the employment status of teach-
2	ers who were hired by such eligible entity,
3	in the same school year in which such eligi-
4	ble entity received a grant under this sec-
5	tion.
6	(B) With respect to each teacher leader
7	participating in a program established using
8	such grant funds, the following:
9	(i) The number of years of teaching
10	experience such teacher leader had at the
11	time of program participation.
12	(ii) Whether such teacher leader is
13	employed by such eligible entity at the
14	time of the report.
15	(iii) If such teacher leader is not em-
16	ployed by such eligible entity, the reason
17	for leaving.
18	(iv) The year in which such teacher
19	leader was first employed as a teacher.
20	(3) Publication.—The aggregated data sub-
21	mitted under paragraph (1) and the results of the
22	evaluation under paragraph (2) shall be made pub-
23	licly available on the website of the Department of
24	Education, except that such publicly available data

1	and results shall not reveal personally identifiable in-
2	formation.
3	(4) Reports to congress.—Not later than 3
4	years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
5	Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Health,
6	Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, the
7	Committee on Education and Labor of the House of
8	Representatives, and the Committee on Indian Af-
9	fairs of the Senate a summary report of the prelimi-
10	nary results and impact of the teacher leadership
11	program. The Secretary shall submit to such com-
12	mittees an annual report of the results and impact
13	of the teacher leadership program for each year of
14	the grant thereafter.
15	(h) Bureau of Indian Education Teacher
16	Leadership Programs.—
17	(1) In General.—The Secretary, in coordina-
18	tion with the Secretary of the Interior, shall—
19	(A) develop and implement a teacher lead-
20	ership program plan for Bureau schools (as de-
21	fined in section 1141 of the Education Amend-
22	ments of 1978 (25 U.S.C. 2021)); and
23	(B) award grants to Bureau-funded
24	schools described in subparagraphs (B) and (C)

- of section 1141(3) of the Education Amendments of 1978 (25 U.S.C. 2021(3)).
- 3 (2) Special Rule.—The Secretary, in con-4 sultation with the Secretary of the Interior and In-5 dian Tribes, may waive any requirement under this 6 section or prescribe an alternative or substantially 7 similar requirement if the Secretary finds that the 8 waiver or alternative requirement is necessary for 9 the effective delivery and administration of activities 10 under this section.

(i) Planning Proposal Grants.—

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

- (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award planning grants to eligible entities to enable those eligible entities to develop a program proposal under subsection (c)(2).
- (2) APPLICATION.—Each eligible entity that desires a planning grant under this subsection shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.
- 21 (3) DURATION.—A planning grant under this 22 subsection shall be for a period of not more than 1 23 year.
- 24 (j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There 25 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section,

- $1\ \$400,\!000,\!000,$ for fiscal year 2023, and each of the 4 suc-
- 2 ceeding fiscal years.

 \bigcirc