

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9428

To authorize the Secretary of Education to make grants to local educational agencies to assist certain individuals in reentering a secondary school or a general educational development program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 5, 2022

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

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Education to make grants to local educational agencies to assist certain individuals in reentering a secondary school or a general educational development program, 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 “Graduate on Your Own
5 Schedule Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. SECONDARY SCHOOL DROPOUT REENGAGEMENT**
2 **GRANT PROGRAM.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall make
4 grants, on a competitive basis, to local educational agen-
5 cies to—

6 (1) assist eligible secondary school dropouts in
7 reentering a secondary school or entering a general
8 educational development program;

9 (2) provide life and career workshops for such
10 dropouts, including—

11 (A) résumé support services; and

12 (B) interview assistance; and

13 (3) provide support services for such dropouts,
14 including—

15 (A) childcare;

16 (B) unemployment assistance;

17 (C) housing assistance; and

18 (D) transit assistance.

19 (b) APPLICATION.—To receive a grant under this sec-
20 tion, the local educational agency shall submit to the Sec-
21 retary an application at such time, in such manner, and
22 containing such information as the Secretary may require.

23 (c) PREFERENCE.—In awarding grants under sub-
24 section (a), the Secretary shall give preference to local
25 educational agencies operating in a low-income commu-
26 nity.

1 (d) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
2 on which a grant is awarded under subsection (a) and an-
3 nually thereafter for 10 years, the Secretary shall submit
4 to Congress a report on the implementation of this section.

5 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

6 (1) ELIGIBLE SECONDARY SCHOOL DROPOUT.—

7 The term “eligible secondary school dropout” means
8 an individual who is—

9 (A) between the ages of 16 and 24; and

10 (B) not enrolled in a secondary school or
11 general educational development program.

12 (2) ESEA TERMS.—The terms “local edu-
13 cational agency” and “secondary school” have the
14 meanings given such terms in section 8101 of the
15 Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965
16 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

17 (3) LOW-INCOME COMMUNITY.—The term “low-
18 income community” means any census block group
19 in which 30 percent or more of the population are
20 individuals with an annual household equal to, or
21 less than, the greater of—

22 (A) an amount equal to 80 percent of the
23 median income of the area in which the house-
24 hold is located, as reported by the Department
25 of Housing and Urban Development; and

1 (B) an amount equal to 200 percent of the
2 Federal poverty line.

3 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
4 the Secretary of Education.

5 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry
6 out this section, there is authorized to be appropriated
7 \$5,520,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2034.

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