

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2253

To establish a competitive grant program to support the development, implementation, and evaluation of successful teacher and school leader training programs on family engagement that will increase the capacity of teachers and school leaders to work with families to develop and support the social and emotional skills, habits, and mindsets of children.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 26, 2021

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

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## A BILL

To establish a competitive grant program to support the development, implementation, and evaluation of successful teacher and school leader training programs on family engagement that will increase the capacity of teachers and school leaders to work with families to develop and support the social and emotional skills, habits, and mindsets of children.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Social Emotional  
3 Learning for Families Act of 2021” or the “SELF Act  
4 of 2021”.

5 **SEC. 2. GRANT PROGRAM.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—From amounts appropriated to  
7 carry out this section, the Secretary of Education shall  
8 award grants, on a competitive basis, to local educational  
9 agencies to develop, implement, and evaluate teacher and  
10 school leader training programs on family engagement.  
11 Local educational agencies may work in partnership with  
12 the entities described in subsection (e)(3) to carry out  
13 such programs. The objective of such programs will be to  
14 increase the capacity of teacher and school leaders to work  
15 with families to develop and support the social and emo-  
16 tional skills, habits, and mindsets of children.

17 (b) GRANT AWARDS.—

18 (1) MAXIMUM GRANT AMOUNT.—The total  
19 amount of each grant awarded under this section  
20 may not exceed \$1,200,000.

21 (2) GRANT PERIOD.—A grant awarded under  
22 this section shall be for a period of 5 years, and may  
23 be renewed.

24 (3) NUMBER OF GRANTS.—The Secretary shall  
25 award not more than 100 grants under this section.

1 (c) APPLICATIONS.—An application submitted by a  
2 local educational agency for a grant under this section  
3 shall demonstrate—

4 (1) the ability to provide laboratory and in-  
5 structional space for proposed programming;

6 (2) a commitment to the development, imple-  
7 mentation, and evaluation of successful teacher and  
8 school leader training programs on family engage-  
9 ment that will increase the capacity of teachers and  
10 school leaders to work with families to develop and  
11 support the social and emotional skills, habits, and  
12 mindsets of children;

13 (3) a plan to ensure that the proposed pro-  
14 grams will serve diverse groups, such as underrep-  
15 resented or economically disadvantaged families; and

16 (4) a long-term commitment to the proposed  
17 programs to be carried out with the grant, including  
18 a plan to continue the actions described in para-  
19 graphs (1) through (3) for a period of not less than  
20 5 years.

21 (d) SELECTION.—In awarding grants under this sec-  
22 tion, the Secretary shall—

23 (1) give priority to high-need local educational  
24 agencies, as defined in section 200 of the Higher  
25 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1021); and

1           (2) ensure that, to the maximum extent prac-  
2           ticable, the projects funded under this section are lo-  
3           cated in diverse geographic regions of the United  
4           States.

5           (e) USES OF FUNDS.—

6           (1) IN GENERAL.—A local educational agency  
7           receiving a grant under this section shall use such  
8           funds to carry out programs at elementary schools  
9           and secondary schools served by the local edu-  
10          cational agency that—

11           (A) involve instruction of research-based  
12           social and emotional skills, habits, and mindsets  
13           through locally relevant materials for teachers  
14           and school leaders and families;

15           (B) provide professional development for  
16           teachers and school leaders to engage families  
17           and support the development of the social and  
18           emotional skills, habits, and mindsets of fami-  
19           lies;

20           (C) provide direct instruction on social  
21           emotional learning to families during times  
22           when families are available and in places that  
23           are convenient and easily accessible;

24           (D) encourage participation of families in  
25           the programs offered by the local education

1           agency under this section, including programs  
2           supported by partner agencies as described  
3           under paragraph (3);

4           (E) are designed to result in improved  
5           measurable outcomes related to children, in-  
6           cluding positive social behavior and academic  
7           outcomes; and

8           (F) may be provided virtually or online.

9           (2) STATE EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.—In the  
10          case of a local educational agency that is a State  
11          educational agency, such entity shall award sub-  
12          grants, on a competitive basis, to local educational  
13          agencies to carry out the program described in para-  
14          graph (1).

15          (3) PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS.—Each  
16          local educational agency awarded a grant under this  
17          section may carry out the program funded under the  
18          grant in partnership with one or more of the fol-  
19          lowing:

20                  (A) Institutions of higher education.

21                  (B) Nonprofit organizations.

22                  (C) Community-based organizations.

23          (f) ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than  
24          4 years after the first grant is awarded under this section,  
25          and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to

1 Congress and make publicly available, a report on activi-  
2 ties and results under this section. Such report shall de-  
3 scribe—

4 (1) the total number of grant applications re-  
5 ceived during the year preceding the report;

6 (2) the number and geographic distribution of  
7 the grants for such year and for all grants awarded  
8 under this section;

9 (3) participation of minority-serving institu-  
10 tions;

11 (4) participation of underrepresented and eco-  
12 nomically disadvantaged families;

13 (5) overall program outcomes and issues of con-  
14 cern; and

15 (6) recommendations for program revisions to  
16 achieve the desired program outcome.

17 (g) DEFINITIONS.—

18 (1) ESEA TERMS.—The terms “elementary  
19 school”, “local educational agency”, “parent”, “pro-  
20 fessional development”, “secondary school”, and  
21 “State educational agency” have the meanings given  
22 the terms in section 8101 of the Elementary and  
23 Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

24 (2) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The  
25 term “institution of higher education” has the

1 meaning given the term in section 101(a) of the  
2 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

3 (3) INSTRUCTION.—The term “instruction”  
4 means activities that—

5 (A) emphasize communication of knowl-  
6 edge concerning social emotional learning in  
7 adults and children;

8 (B) provide opportunities to practice social  
9 emotional learning through interactive activities  
10 between families and their children; and

11 (C) are aligned with and integrated into  
12 family involvement and engagement standards  
13 that may exist in the applicable State or that  
14 may be developed.

15 (4) MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTION.—The  
16 term “minority-serving institution” means an insti-  
17 tution of higher education described in section  
18 371(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20  
19 U.S.C. 1067q).

20 (5) TEACHER AND SCHOOL LEADER TRAINING  
21 PROGRAMS.—The term “teacher and school leader  
22 training programs” includes training programs for  
23 teachers, principals, school leaders, and other school-  
24 based personnel.

1           (6) TEACHERS AND SCHOOL LEADERS.—The  
2       term “teachers and school leaders” means teachers,  
3       principals, school leaders, and other school-based  
4       personnel.

5           (7) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
6       the Secretary of Education.

7           (8) SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING.—The term  
8       “social emotional learning” includes—

9           (A) self-awareness, or having a realistic  
10       perception of one’s own values, interests, and  
11       strengths, and being able to recognize one’s  
12       own emotions;

13          (B) self-management, or how well one  
14       manages emotions, impulses, and stress, and is  
15       able to establish and achieve goals and exercise  
16       self-discipline;

17          (C) social awareness, or the ability to take  
18       the perspective of and empathize with someone  
19       else and to appreciate and respect diversity;

20          (D) relationship skills, or the ability to  
21       participate in healthy, cooperative, and caring  
22       relationships, and effectively resolve conflicts;  
23       and

24          (E) responsible decision making, or the  
25       ability to recognize and generate good choices,



1           evaluate the likely consequences of actions, and  
2           take responsibility for one's decisions.

3       (h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
4 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
5 \$130,000,000, of which not more than \$10,000,000 may  
6 be used by the Secretary for reports and technical assist-  
7 ance.

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