
IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 22, 2020

Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. PLURIBUS, Mr. MILLER, Mr.
GRAVES, Mr. CULTURE, Mr. McKENNA, Mr. AARON)
introduced the following bill;

A BILL

To order the Secretary of Education to establish a grant program to better educate students on internet safety including cyberbullying, cell phone use, texting, blogging, gaming, and identity theft.

Be it enacted by the House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress Assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This bill may be cited as the “Internet Safety Education Act of 2020”.

SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act—

- (1) “The Secretary” - refers to the United States Secretary of Education;
- (2) “Internet Safety Courses” - refer to courses relating to cyberbullying, cell phone use, texting, blogging, gaming, and identity theft; and
- (3) “State” - refers to any State, territory of the United States, and the District of Columbia.

SECTION 3. FINDINGS.

This Congress finds that—

- (1) Today’s youth are spending more time than ever using digital media for education, research, socializing, and fun;
- (2) 95% of teens now report they have a smartphone or access to one. These mobile connections are in turn fueling more-persistent online activities: 45% of teens now say they are online on a near-constant basis;

- (3) 59% of U.S. teens have been bullied or harassed online; and
- (4) 43% of children aged 8-13 are speaking to strangers online, with a third of them speaking to strangers every day or at least once a week.

SECTION 4. ESTABLISHING A GRANT PROGRAM FOR CIVICS EDUCATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—

The Secretary shall establish a program to award grants, in amounts determined under subsection (b), on a competitive basis, to State educational institutions to establish internet safety curriculum in public schools.

(2) DURATION.—

Grants awarded under this subsection shall be for a five-year period, and can be renewed for additional five-year periods upon an adequate showing of progress in providing internet safety education, as determined by the Secretary.

(3) MATCHING FUNDS.—

If a State educational agency is to receive a grant under this section, they shall agree to provide matching funds, in an amount not less than one-half of the amount of the grant provided under this section to internet safety education in their state.

(b) AMOUNTS OF GRANTS.—

(1) BASE AMOUNT.—

If the Secretary is to approve an application as described in subsection (c), then they shall award a State educational agency, depending on the size of said agency a grant, to be no less than \$300,000.

(2) ADDITIONAL GRANTS.—

If the Secretary has approved or denied all applications, and awarded the grants authorized under this subsection in the appropriate manner, and has any funds left over, the Secretary is to award the remainder of the money appropriated for that fiscal year on a competitive basis, giving preference to State educational agencies who, in their application, as described under paragraph (c), described a total lack of internet safety education in their public schools. The additional grants described under this subsection shall total no more than three-times the amount of the highest base amount given for any State educational agency.

(c) APPLICATION.—

Any State educational agency desiring a grant under this section shall submit an application to the Secretary, containing such information as the Secretary may require.

Each application shall include—

- (1) How they plan on using the funds to begin properly teaching internet safety in public schools;
- (2) Their current level of internet safety education in public schools;
- (3) How they plan to distribute the subgrants as lined out in subsection (e); and
- (4) A summary of what types of internet safety education they would include in the curriculum.

(d) USE OF GRANTS.—

(1) CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT FUNDS.—

Any State educational agency that receives a grant under this section shall use more than one-half of the funds given to begin developing an internet safety curriculum, and if they currently have an internet safety curriculum, they shall use no more than one-fourth of the funds given to—

- (a) Integrate an internet safety curriculum into existing courses required for students; and
- (b) Review the current internet safety curriculum to ensure it is teaching students the information they deem necessary to succeed in the course.

(2) SUBGRANTS FOR LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.—

Any additional funds that a state receives in a grant shall be used in a subgrant program, to be given to Local educational agencies for the following purposes—

- (a) Hire any necessary teachers or other staff;
- (b) Adjust salary and benefits for any currently hired teachers and staff, where it may be necessary;
- (c) Purchase any necessary resources to carry out proper internet safety education and fulfill the curriculum the state may prescribe;
- (d) Provide interactive learning, such as educational games, videos, projects and other participatory activities; and

- (e) Provide students with any out-of-school activities related to the course where it may be necessary, such as field trips or other activities.

(e) REPORTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—

A State educational agency that receives a grant under this section shall annually prepare and submit a report to the Secretary, which shall include—

- (a) An evaluation of progress made so far when it comes to expanding internet safety education in their State;
- (b) An evaluation of the internet safety curriculum in their state currently;
- (c) A description or estimate of how many students they have taught the internet safety curriculum so far;
- (d) An evaluation of the use of the funds they received through the grant; and
- (e) Any other information the Secretary may require.

SECTION 5. APPROPRIATIONS.

(1) IN GENERAL.—

In order to carry out the grant program as described in section (4), the Department of Education will be appropriated—

- (a) \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2021; and
- (b) \$15,000,000 for each subsequent fiscal year.

SECTION 6. ENACTMENT.

This Act shall be enacted immediately after it's passing.