

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 4282

To amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to establish the Food and Nutrition Education in Schools Pilot Program, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 30, 2021

Ms. PLASKETT (for herself, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. MFUME, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. MRVAN, and Mr. COURTNEY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

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## A BILL

To amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to establish the Food and Nutrition Education in Schools Pilot 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 “Food and Nutrition  
5 Education in Schools Act of 2021”.

1 **SEC. 2. FOOD AND NUTRITION EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS**  
2 **PILOT PROGRAM.**

3 Section 18 of the Richard B. Russell National School  
4 Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769) is amended by adding at the  
5 end the following:

6 “(1) **FOOD AND NUTRITION EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS**  
7 **PILOT PROGRAM.**—

8 “(1) **PURPOSE.**—The purpose of this subsection  
9 is to provide local educational agencies with per-  
10 sonnel dedicated to implementing integrated, hands-  
11 on food and nutrition education in schools with the  
12 goal of increasing acceptance and consumption of  
13 healthy, high-quality meals and snacks by students.

14 “(2) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—Not later than 180  
15 days after the date of enactment of this subsection,  
16 the Secretary shall establish a pilot program, to be  
17 known as the ‘Food and Nutrition Education in  
18 Schools Pilot Program’ (referred to in this sub-  
19 section as the ‘pilot program’), under which the Sec-  
20 retary shall award grants to local educational agen-  
21 cies for—

22 “(A) projects that hire qualified, full-time  
23 food and nutrition educators to carry out pro-  
24 grams in schools that have the goal of improv-  
25 ing student health and nutrition; and

1           “(B) projects that fund school gardens or  
2           other evidence-based interventions relating to  
3           student health and nutrition, aligned with the  
4           latest school nutrition standards, to create  
5           hands-on learning opportunities for students.

6           “(3) JOINT PARTNERSHIPS.—The Secretary  
7           shall encourage, to the maximum extent practicable,  
8           joint partnership projects under the pilot program  
9           among—

10                   “(A) local educational agencies;

11                   “(B) nonprofit organizations, including  
12                   out-of-school-time youth development providers;

13                   “(C) postsecondary institutions that offer  
14                   programs on nutrition, food preparation, or ag-  
15                   ricultural science;

16                   “(D) food-service businesses (such as local  
17                   farms, restaurants, and food distributors);

18                   “(E) beginning farmers and ranchers (as  
19                   defined in section 2501(a) of the Food, Agri-  
20                   culture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990  
21                   (7 U.S.C. 2279(a));

22                   “(F) veteran farmers and ranchers (as de-  
23                   fined in that section);

24                   “(G) socially disadvantaged farmers or  
25                   ranchers (as defined in section 355(e) of the

1 Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act  
2 (7 U.S.C. 2003(e)); and

3 “(H) State and local government agencies.

4 “(4) COORDINATION.—In establishing the pilot  
5 program, the Secretary shall consult and ensure co-  
6 ordination with the heads of other appropriate Fed-  
7 eral agencies and programs that deliver nutrition  
8 education.

9 “(5) PROJECT PROPOSALS.—

10 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall  
11 annually solicit from local educational agencies  
12 the submission of project proposals for grants  
13 under the pilot program.

14 “(B) REQUIRED ELEMENTS FOR PROJECT  
15 PROPOSAL.—A project proposal submitted  
16 under subparagraph (A) shall include—

17 “(i) a statement of the purposes of  
18 the project;

19 “(ii) a description of—

20 “(I) the entity or individual with  
21 overall responsibility for the project;

22 “(II) the qualifications of that  
23 entity or individual;

24 “(III) community stakeholder en-  
25 gagement for the project;

1 “(IV) the logistics of the project;

2 and

3 “(V) the methods to be used to  
4 evaluate student learning, such as  
5 through a project, presentation, or  
6 other form of assessment;

7 “(iii) a proposed budget for the funds  
8 and time required to carry out the project;

9 “(iv) information regarding the source  
10 and amount of any matching funding avail-  
11 able for the project;

12 “(v) an implementation plan, includ-  
13 ing efforts by the school food authority as-  
14 sociated with the local educational agency  
15 to integrate activities carried out under the  
16 project with other efforts by schools to pro-  
17 mote student health and nutrition;

18 “(vi) information that demonstrates  
19 the clear potential of the project to con-  
20 tribute to implementing integrated, hands-  
21 on food and nutrition education in schools,  
22 aligned with the latest school nutrition  
23 standards, with the goal of increasing ac-  
24 ceptance and consumption of healthy, high-  
25 quality meals and snacks;

1 “(vii) a description of a mechanism  
2 that will be used to broadly share project  
3 results and implementation strategies; and

4 “(viii) any other information that the  
5 Secretary considers necessary.

6 “(C) CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL.—The Sec-  
7 retary may award a grant for a project proposal  
8 submitted under subparagraph (A) if the  
9 project—

10 “(i) incorporates evidence-based prac-  
11 tices proven to increase healthy food con-  
12 sumption by students;

13 “(ii) includes hands-on, experiential  
14 learning;

15 “(iii) implements school gardens, taste  
16 tests, student engagement, or other farm-  
17 to-school practices;

18 “(iv) demonstrates the commitment of  
19 the local educational agency—

20 “(I) to improving the nutritional  
21 value of school meals;

22 “(II) to carrying out innovative  
23 programs that improve the health and  
24 wellness of schoolchildren, such as  
25 farm-to-school programs; and

1 “(III) to accounting for the cul-  
2 ture, input, and needs of the commu-  
3 nity;

4 “(v) provides for project oversight by  
5 a qualified nutrition professional; and

6 “(vi) meets any other requirement es-  
7 tablished by the Secretary.

8 “(D) PRIORITY.—To the maximum extent  
9 practicable, in awarding grants under the pilot  
10 program, the Secretary shall give priority to  
11 projects that—

12 “(i) serve schools or districts—

13 “(I) in which not less than 40  
14 percent of students qualify for free or  
15 reduced-price meals under this Act or  
16 the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42  
17 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.); or

18 “(II) that include neighborhoods  
19 with high rates of childhood obesity or  
20 other diet-related diseases;

21 “(ii) provide programming in summer  
22 months; and

23 “(iii) are joint partnership projects as  
24 described in paragraph (3).

25 “(6) ADMINISTRATION.—

1           “(A) DIVERSITY.—In awarding grants  
2 under the pilot program, the Secretary shall en-  
3 sure that projects are located in diverse demo-  
4 graphic, geographic, rural, urban, and suburban  
5 settings.

6           “(B) INDIAN TRIBES.—The Secretary shall  
7 ensure that not fewer than 1 project receiving  
8 a grant under the pilot program—

9                   “(i) is located on an Indian reserva-  
10                   tion; or

11                   “(ii) serves a school in which the ma-  
12                   jority of the students are members of an  
13                   Indian tribe.

14           “(7) REPORTS.—

15                   “(A) REPORTS TO SECRETARY.—

16                   “(i) IN GENERAL.—A local edu-  
17                   cational agency that receives a grant under  
18                   the pilot program shall periodically submit  
19                   to the Secretary a report that includes any  
20                   information that the Secretary determines  
21                   is necessary to evaluate the progress and  
22                   success of the project, including evidence  
23                   of student learning under the project, to  
24                   ensure positive results, assess problems,  
25                   and foster improvements.

1                   “(ii) AVAILABILITY TO THE PUBLIC.—  
2                   Reports under clause (i), and any other  
3                   documents of the local educational agency  
4                   relating to a project carried out using a  
5                   grant awarded under the pilot program,  
6                   shall be made available electronically to the  
7                   public in a timely manner.

8                   “(B) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later  
9                   than 5 years after the date of enactment of this  
10                  subsection, and annually thereafter, the Sec-  
11                  retary shall submit to Congress a report that  
12                  includes—

13                         “(i) a description of the results and  
14                         effectiveness of each project carried out  
15                         under the pilot program;

16                         “(ii) an examination of the impact of  
17                         each project on—

18                                 “(I) student diet and dietary  
19                                 practices;

20                                 “(II) student performance and  
21                                 behavior;

22                                 “(III) food consumption;

23                                 “(IV) changes in cafeterias and  
24                                 the school food environment;

1 “(V) school meal participation by  
2 students; and

3 “(VI) other indicators as deter-  
4 mined by the Secretary;

5 “(iii) demographic data on the schools  
6 and communities served by the pilot pro-  
7 gram;

8 “(iv) a summary of the activities con-  
9 ducted by each local educational agency  
10 after receiving a grant under the pilot pro-  
11 gram and the number of children served by  
12 that local educational agency; and

13 “(v) recommendations on how the  
14 pilot program may be improved and wheth-  
15 er funding for the pilot program should be  
16 continued.

17 “(8) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—  
18 There is authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-  
19 retary to carry out this subsection \$10,000,000 for  
20 each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025.”.

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