

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7261

To authorize the Secretary of Education to award grants to eligible entities to carry out professional development for arts educators and creative arts therapists to learn how to best accommodate children with disabilities, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 6, 2024

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia (for himself, Mr. COHEN, Mrs. MCBATH, Ms. BALINT, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Ms. ROSS, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. FROST, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Education to award grants to eligible entities to carry out professional development for arts educators and creative arts therapists to learn how to best accommodate children with disabilities, 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 “Reimagining Inclusive
5 Arts Education Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. INCLUSIVE ARTS EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the
3 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall
4 award, on a competitive basis, grants to eligible entities
5 to carry out the activities described in subsection (d).

6 (b) APPLICATIONS.—To be considered for a grant
7 under this section, an eligible entity shall submit an appli-
8 cation to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and
9 containing such information as the Secretary may require.

10 (c) LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall not award a
11 grant to—

12 (1) a local educational agency that is served by
13 a State educational agency that is awarded a grant
14 under this section; or

15 (2) a partnership that includes an entity de-
16 scribed in clause (i), (ii), or (iii) of subsection
17 (f)(2)(c) if such entity is a member of a partnership
18 that is awarded a grant under this section.

19 (d) GRANT USES.—An eligible entity that receives a
20 grant under this section shall use such funds to promote
21 curricula, best practices, professional development for arts
22 educators and creative arts therapists, and innovative ap-
23 proaches, including creative arts therapies in elementary
24 schools and secondary schools, that—

1 (1) increase access for, and improve inclusion
2 of, children with disabilities in such arts education;
3 and

4 (2) adapt classroom materials and lessons to
5 accommodate children with disabilities.

6 (e) PROGRAM PERIODS AND DIVERSITY OF
7 PROJECTS.—

8 (1) GRANT PERIOD.—A grant awarded under
9 this section shall be for a period of not more than
10 3 years.

11 (2) REAPPLICATION.—In a case in which an eli-
12 gible entity submits an application under subsection
13 (b) and is not awarded a grant under this section—

14 (A) the Secretary shall provide to such eli-
15 gible entity—

16 (i) the reasons for denial of such ap-
17 plication, including a list of any selection
18 criteria that the eligible entity did not
19 meet; and

20 (ii) a list of recommended changes to
21 be made by the eligible entity to such ap-
22 plication before resubmission in order to
23 meet such selection criteria; and

24 (B) the eligible entity may resubmit such
25 application in accordance with subsection (b)

1 not earlier than 1 year after such entity re-
2 ceives the information required under subpara-
3 graph (A).

4 (3) RENEWAL.—The Secretary may renew a
5 grant awarded under this section for one 2-year pe-
6 riod for an eligible entity that demonstrates to the
7 Secretary the success of the program funded under
8 the grant, such as through student, parent, or teach-
9 er satisfaction, or program efficacy.

10 (4) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this
11 section, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible
12 entities that serve elementary schools or secondary
13 schools that receive funds under title I of the Ele-
14 mentary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
15 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.).

16 (5) DIVERSITY OF PROJECTS.—In awarding
17 grants under this section, the Secretary shall ensure
18 that, to the extent practicable, grants are distributed
19 among eligible entities that serve—

20 (A) geographically diverse areas, including
21 urban, suburban, and rural areas;

22 (B) Indian tribes or tribal organizations;
23 and

24 (C) elementary schools and secondary
25 schools in varying socioeconomic areas.

1 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

2 (1) CHILD WITH A DISABILITY.—The term
3 “child with a disability” has the meaning given the
4 term in section 602 of the Individuals with Disabil-
5 ities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1401(3)).

6 (2) CREATIVE ARTS THERAPIST.—The term
7 “creative arts therapist” means a therapist who uses
8 creative arts therapy.

9 (3) CREATIVE ARTS THERAPY.—The term “cre-
10 ative arts therapy” means a therapeutic intervention
11 that uses artistic endeavors or mediums (such as
12 music, poetry, dance, or drama) to facilitate commu-
13 nication and emotional expression, enhance self-
14 awareness, and foster health and change.

15 (4) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
16 ty” means—

17 (A) a local educational agency;

18 (B) a State educational agency; and

19 (C) a partnership between an entity de-
20 scribed in subparagraph (A) or (B) and—

21 (i) an institution of higher education;

22 or

23 (ii) a nonprofit organization with ex-
24 pertise relevant to the activities or prac-
25 tices described in subsection (d).

1 (5) ESEA TERMS.—The terms “elementary
2 school”, “professional development”, “secondary
3 school”, and “Secretary” have the meaning given
4 the terms, respectively, in section 8101 of the Ele-
5 mentary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
6 U.S.C. 7801).

7 (6) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
8 term “institution of higher education” has the
9 meaning given the term in section 102 of the Higher
10 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002).

11 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
12 are authorized to be appropriated, in the aggregate, for
13 fiscal years 2025 through 2029, \$15,000,000 to the Sec-
14 retary to carry out this Act.

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