

112TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1279

To prepare disconnected youth for a competitive future.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 27, 2011

Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. FRANKEN, and Mr. BROWN of Ohio) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

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## A BILL

To prepare disconnected youth for a competitive future.

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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the  
5 “Reengaging Americans in Serious Education by Uniting  
6 Programs Act”.

7 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for  
8 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Findings and purposes.
- Sec. 3. Definitions.
- Sec. 4. Grants authorized.
- Sec. 5. Application.
- Sec. 6. Priority.

- Sec. 7. Selection criteria.
- Sec. 8. Use of funds.
- Sec. 9. Planning grants authorized.
- Sec. 10. Accountability, performance measures, and evaluation.
- Sec. 11. Technical assistance and best practices.
- Sec. 12. Authorization of appropriations.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

3 (1) In the United States today, millions of  
4 youth drop out of secondary school, fail to complete  
5 their studies, or do not graduate on time. While the  
6 United States has made slow progress in improving  
7 graduation rates, the dropout challenge remains a  
8 crisis that is impeding our ability to produce an edu-  
9 cated workforce and succeed in the 21st century  
10 global economy.

11 (2) Government data shows that more than 25  
12 percent of our students fail to complete secondary  
13 school in 4 years. In some of the Nation’s larger cit-  
14 ies and among urban minority youth, dropout rates  
15 of 40 percent are not uncommon.

16 (3) According to the Bureau of Labor Statis-  
17 tics, in 2007, nearly 6,200,000 youth were secondary  
18 school dropouts. The impact of this dropout crisis  
19 has been likened to “a permanent recession” for  
20 youth, and it has consequences for the economy of  
21 the United States. Disconnected youth are more  
22 likely than other youth to engage in criminal activi-

1 ties, become incarcerated, and rely on public systems  
2 of support.

3 (4) The Department of Education reports that  
4 the average secondary school dropout is associated  
5 with costs to the economy of approximately  
6 \$240,000 over the individual's lifetime in terms of  
7 lower tax contributions, higher reliance on govern-  
8 ment health programs and public assistance, and  
9 higher rates of criminal activity. Over their lifetimes,  
10 secondary school dropouts are estimated to earn  
11 \$400,000 less than secondary school graduates. Fur-  
12 ther, only 37 percent of secondary school dropouts  
13 are steadily employed, and they are more than twice  
14 as likely to live in high poverty.

15 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

16 (1) to prepare disconnected youth for a com-  
17 petitive future;

18 (2) to challenge and support young people who  
19 have dropped out of secondary school to—

20 (A) attain a secondary school diploma;

21 (B) attain a 2-year or 4-year credential  
22 from a recognized postsecondary educational in-  
23 stitution, an industry-recognized credential, or  
24 certification from a registered apprenticeship  
25 program; and

1 (C) secure and succeed in a family-sup-  
2 porting career; and

3 (3) to support local community partnerships in  
4 integrating existing, and often disparate, services  
5 into a comprehensive, cross-systems dropout recov-  
6 ery approach.

7 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

8 In this Act:

9 (1) **DISABILITY.**—The term “disability” has the  
10 meaning given the term in section 3 of the Ameri-  
11 cans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.  
12 12102).

13 (2) **DISCONNECTED YOUTH.**—The term “dis-  
14 connected youth” means a young person who—

15 (A) has left secondary school without ob-  
16 taining a secondary school diploma;

17 (B) is or was previously a homeless child  
18 or youth;

19 (C) is or was under the care and place-  
20 ment responsibility of the State agency respon-  
21 sible for administering a plan under parts B  
22 and E of title IV of the Social Security Act (42  
23 U.S.C. 621 et seq., 670 et seq.);

24 (D) was under the custody of a juvenile  
25 justice or criminal justice system;

1 (E) has a disability; or

2 (F) is a low-income individual and is preg-  
3 nant or parenting and not attending any school.

4 (3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-  
5 ty” means a partnership consisting of entities or in-  
6 dividuals qualified to represent the community as-  
7 sisted, or proposed to be assisted, by a grant under  
8 this Act, including not less than one partner from  
9 each of the following categories:

10 (A) A mayor, or other appropriate chief ex-  
11 ecutive officer, of a unit of general purpose  
12 local government in the community.

13 (B) A local educational agency (as defined  
14 in section 9101 of the Elementary and Sec-  
15 ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
16 7801)) serving the community.

17 (C) A local workforce system serving the  
18 community.

19 (D) An institution of higher education  
20 serving the community.

21 (E) A representative of a local or state sys-  
22 tem serving young people in the community, in-  
23 cluding—

24 (i) a juvenile justice system;

25 (ii) a criminal justice system;

1 (iii) a housing agency;

2 (iv) a mental health agency; and

3 (v) a child welfare agency.

4 (F) A representative of a community-based  
5 organization serving the community.

6 (G) A representative from business or in-  
7 dustry.

8 (H) A representative with expertise in  
9 labor management relations.

10 (I) A disconnected youth in the community  
11 and the parents or caregivers of such discon-  
12 nected youth.

13 (4) FEDERAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COUN-  
14 CIL.—The term “Federal Youth Development Coun-  
15 cil” means the Federal Youth Development Council  
16 established under the Tom Osborne Federal Youth  
17 Coordination Act (Public Law 109–365; 120 Stat.  
18 2594).

19 (5) HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTHS.—The  
20 term “homeless children and youths” has the mean-  
21 ing given the term in section 725 of the McKinney-  
22 Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a).

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

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

3 (7) ONE-STOP CENTER.—The term “one-stop  
4 center” means a one-stop center described in section  
5 134(c) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29  
6 U.S.C. 2864(c)).

7 (8) POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION.—The term  
8 “postsecondary education” means—

9 (A) a 4-year program of instruction, or not  
10 less than a 1-year program of instruction that  
11 is acceptable for credit toward a baccalaureate  
12 degree, offered by an institution of higher edu-  
13 cation; or

14 (B) a certificate or registered apprentice-  
15 ship program at the postsecondary level offered  
16 by an institution of higher education or a non-  
17 profit educational institution.

18 (9) REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM.—  
19 The term “registered apprenticeship program”  
20 means an industry skills training program at the  
21 postsecondary level that combines technical and the-  
22 oretical training through structured on-the-job learn-  
23 ing with related instruction (in a classroom or  
24 through distance learning) while an individual is em-  
25 ployed, working under the direction of qualified per-

1       sonnel or a mentor, and earning incremental wage  
2       increases aligned to enhanced job proficiency, result-  
3       ing in the acquisition of a nationally recognized and  
4       portable certificate, under a plan approved by the  
5       Office of Apprenticeship of the Department of Labor  
6       or by a State agency recognized by the Department  
7       of Labor.

8           (10) SECONDARY SCHOOL.—The term “sec-  
9       ondary school” has the meaning given the term in  
10       section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-  
11       cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

12           (11) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary”  
13       means the Secretary of Labor.

14           (12) YOUNG PEOPLE.—The term “young peo-  
15       ple” means individuals who are between the ages of  
16       16 and 24, inclusive, at the time of commencement  
17       of participation in services funded through a grant  
18       under section 4.

19   **SEC. 4. GRANTS AUTHORIZED.**

20       (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation  
21       with the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of Health  
22       and Human Services, the Secretary of Housing and Urban  
23       Development, the Attorney General of the United States,  
24       the Federal Youth Development Council, and leaders in  
25       the field of working with disconnected youth, shall award



1 grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible entities to enable  
2 the eligible entities to pay the costs of—

3 (1) developing and implementing a strategy to  
4 identify disconnected youth; and

5 (2) providing such disconnected youth with sup-  
6 port needed to—

7 (A) attain a secondary school diploma or  
8 its recognized equivalent;

9 (B) attain a postsecondary credential, in-  
10 cluding a 2-year or 4-year credential from an  
11 institution of higher education, an industry-rec-  
12 ognized credential, or certification from a reg-  
13 istered apprenticeship program; and

14 (C) secure and succeed in a family-sup-  
15 porting career.

16 (b) MINIMUM GRANT AMOUNT.—The Secretary shall  
17 award a grant under this section in an amount that—

18 (1) is appropriate to achieve the goals and im-  
19 plement the activities described in the application  
20 submitted under section 5; and

21 (2) is not less than \$1,000,000 per year.

22 (c) DURATION OF GRANT.—A grant under this sec-  
23 tion shall be awarded for a period of 5 years, and may  
24 be renewed at the discretion of the Secretary based on the  
25 effective performance of the eligible entity under the pre-

1 ceding grant in accordance with the levels of performance  
2 determined by the eligible entity and the Secretary pursu-  
3 ant to section 9(b).

4 (d) **EQUITABLE GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF**  
5 **FUNDS.**—The Secretary shall ensure an equitable and ap-  
6 propriate distribution of grants awarded under this section  
7 among eligible entities—

8 (1) serving urban, rural, and suburban areas;  
9 and

10 (2) with varying degrees of experience and ex-  
11 pertise in serving disconnected youth.

12 (e) **FISCAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE AGENTS.**—An eli-  
13 gible entity shall choose an entity to be the fiscal agent  
14 and an entity to be the administrative agent for the grant  
15 funds received under this section.

16 (f) **EXISTING PARTNERSHIP.**—An existing workforce,  
17 education, or youth development partnership, coalition, or  
18 organization may serve as the eligible entity for the pur-  
19 poses of grants under this section if the partnership, coal-  
20 ition, or organization includes, or modifies the members of  
21 the partnership, coalition, or organization to include, the  
22 individuals required to be included in the eligible entity  
23 under section 3(2).

1 **SEC. 5. APPLICATION.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity that desires a  
3 grant under section 4 shall submit an application to the  
4 Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing  
5 such information as the Secretary may require.

6 (b) CONTENTS.—An application submitted under this  
7 section shall include—

8 (1) a description of the eligible entity submit-  
9 ting the application, including a description of the  
10 fiscal agent and the administrative agent for the  
11 grant;

12 (2) a description of the strategy that the eligi-  
13 ble entity will use to carry out the purpose of this  
14 Act, which shall include—

15 (A) a well-developed education component  
16 with an emphasis on—

17 (i) multiple pathways and options to-  
18 wards secondary school diploma and post-  
19 secondary credential attainment, which  
20 may include recuperative strategies such as  
21 competency based instruction and credit  
22 retrieval as well as basic literacy; and

23 (ii) the skills needed in the fields of  
24 science, technology, engineering, and math-  
25 ematics;

1 (B) a work preparation component, which  
2 may include a hands-on internship, work experi-  
3 ence, or national or community service, that  
4 promotes the development of applied skills such  
5 as oral and written communication, teamwork,  
6 leadership, and critical thinking; and

7 (C) a youth support component, including  
8 the array of comprehensive support services  
9 that will—

10 (i) address the challenges that caused  
11 the disconnected youth to leave school  
12 without a secondary school diploma;

13 (ii) remove barriers to and support  
14 the attainment of—

15 (I) the graduation of such young  
16 people from secondary school;

17 (II) a postsecondary credential,  
18 including a 2-year or 4-year credential  
19 from an institution of higher edu-  
20 cation, an industry-recognized creden-  
21 tial, or certification from a registered  
22 apprenticeship program; and

23 (III) success in a family-sup-  
24 porting career; and

1 (iii) provide appropriate case manage-  
2 ment to ensure young people achieve the  
3 purposes described in section 2(b);

4 (3) a needs assessment of the community to be  
5 assisted under the grant, including—

6 (A) an estimate of the number of discon-  
7 nected youth in the community; and

8 (B) an assessment of resources available in  
9 the community that can help such disconnected  
10 youth—

11 (i) address the challenges that caused  
12 such disconnected youth to leave school  
13 without a secondary school diploma;

14 (ii) return to an appropriate edu-  
15 cational setting;

16 (iii) attain a secondary school di-  
17 ploma;

18 (iv) attain a postsecondary credential,  
19 including a 2-year or 4-year credential  
20 from an institution of higher education, an  
21 industry-recognized credential, or certifi-  
22 cation from a registered apprenticeship  
23 program; and

24 (v) secure and succeed in a family-  
25 supporting career;

1           (4) a plan for identifying and engaging discon-  
2           nected youth and connecting such disconnected  
3           youth with a continuum of comprehensive and co-  
4           ordinated resources that can help such disconnected  
5           youth attain a secondary school diploma, a recog-  
6           nized postsecondary credential, including a 2-year or  
7           4-year credential from an institution of higher edu-  
8           cation, an industry-recognized credential, or certifi-  
9           cation from a registered apprenticeship program,  
10          and secure and succeed in a family-supporting ca-  
11          reer, including a description of—

12                   (A) the needs of such disconnected youth  
13                   that will be met by the eligible entity through  
14                   the grant;

15                   (B) the identities, roles, and capacity of  
16                   the partners in the eligible entity to fulfill the  
17                   needs described in subparagraph (A), including  
18                   a description of the role to be played by—

19                           (i) secondary schools and institutions  
20                           of higher education in constructing edu-  
21                           cation programming;

22                           (ii) the local workforce system, includ-  
23                           ing one-stop career centers and businesses,  
24                           in developing and implementing the work-  
25                           force preparation activities; and

1 (iii) systems serving young people, in-  
2 cluding the juvenile justice system, and  
3 other community-based organizations in  
4 providing outreach, support, and direct  
5 service;

6 (C) a plan to leverage non-Federal (includ-  
7 ing in-kind) resources and a plan for sustain-  
8 ability beyond the grant period;

9 (D) the services to be provided through the  
10 grant to carry out the strategy described in  
11 paragraph (2) and a description of the process  
12 that will be used to award subgrants and con-  
13 tracts under section 8 for the provision of such  
14 services;

15 (E) the research and evidence base indi-  
16 cating why the selected strategy and selection of  
17 services will be effective in meeting the com-  
18 prehensive needs of the disconnected youth  
19 identified in the community;

20 (F) the goals, intended outcomes, and per-  
21 formance measures of the eligible entity's strat-  
22 egy in accordance with the performance meas-  
23 ures under section 10(b);

24 (G) a statement of concurrence on the ap-  
25 plication, signed by the partners in the eligible

1 entity, that outlines the specific roles and re-  
2 sponsibilities of the partners as the roles and  
3 responsibilities relate to the functioning of the  
4 eligible entity; and

5 (H) a plan to create, or include an exist-  
6 ing, youth advisory council, that is composed of  
7 disconnected youth from the community to be  
8 served, to make recommendations regarding the  
9 services to be provided under the grant;

10 (5) a description of the system that will be put  
11 in place to—

12 (A) provide case management, counseling,  
13 intensive placement and follow-up services,  
14 adult advocacy, or mentoring to help discon-  
15 nected youth and their families access the var-  
16 ious systems, resources, and supports necessary  
17 to ensure such young people's success; and

18 (B) ensure that young people receiving  
19 services through the grant will receive individ-  
20 ualized case management to ensure that the  
21 young people achieve the purposes described in  
22 section 2(b), including—

23 (i) an assessment of needs;

24 (ii) coordination of appropriate serv-  
25 ices; and



1 (iii) academic preparation and support  
2 for entry, persistence, and completion of  
3 postsecondary education;

4 (6) a description of how the eligible entity will  
5 ensure that every young person served under the  
6 grant receives comprehensive services, including  
7 services from each of the categories described in sec-  
8 tion 7(b)(1) through section 7(b)(3) until the young  
9 person—

10 (A) attains a secondary school diploma, a  
11 2-year or 4-year credential or occupational cer-  
12 tification from an institution of higher edu-  
13 cation, an industry-recognized credential, or  
14 certification from a registered apprenticeship  
15 program; and

16 (B) secures employment that can lead to  
17 economic self-sufficiency;

18 (7) a description of how the strategy to be im-  
19 plemented under the grant will identify, engage, and  
20 provide services to young people who—

21 (A) left school without a secondary school  
22 diploma and have reading, mathematics, or  
23 science skills at or below the grade 8 level; and

1 (B) are disconnected youth described in  
2 any of subparagraphs (C) through (E) of sec-  
3 tion 3(2);

4 (8) a description of how public and private serv-  
5 ices that exist on the date of submission of the ap-  
6 plication will be coordinated and integrated in order  
7 to implement and sustain the strategy under the  
8 grant;

9 (9) a description of how Federal, State, and  
10 local private and public funds will be leveraged, co-  
11 ordinated, and integrated in order to implement the  
12 strategy under the grant;

13 (10) a description of how the strategy to be im-  
14 plemented under the grant strengthens, and does not  
15 duplicate, efforts within the community to be served  
16 under the grant that are funded under chapter 4 of  
17 subtitle B of title I of the Workforce Investment Act  
18 of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2851 et seq.);

19 (11) a description of the process to be used to  
20 review or approve the industry-recognized credentials  
21 that may be attained by the young people receiving  
22 support under the grant; and

23 (12) a description of how the strategy to be im-  
24 plemented under the grant aligns with the efforts of  
25 the local educational agency serving the community

1 assisted under the grant to improve secondary  
2 schools, including efforts focused on—

3 (A) students who are off-track to an on-  
4 time graduation; and

5 (B) recuperative strategies.

6 (c) EXISTING PLANS, ASSESSMENTS, AND STRATE-  
7 GIES.—Plans, needs assessments, and strategies that have  
8 been developed by an eligible entity or the partners in the  
9 eligible entity may be used to satisfy the requirements of  
10 this section if such plans, needs assessments, or strate-  
11 gies—

12 (1) include the information required by this sec-  
13 tion, or can be modified to include the information  
14 required by this section; and

15 (2) are submitted to the Secretary with such  
16 modifications.

17 **SEC. 6. PRIORITY.**

18 In awarding grants to eligible entities under section  
19 4, the Secretary shall give priority to applications from  
20 eligible entities proposing—

21 (1) to serve areas with disproportionately high  
22 numbers or percentages of young people who have  
23 left secondary school without obtaining a secondary  
24 school diploma or its recognized equivalent;

1           (2) to serve areas with high concentrations of  
2 young people in families whose family income is not  
3 more than 200 percent of the poverty line (as deter-  
4 mined under section 673(2) of the Community Serv-  
5 ices Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9902(2))); and

6           (3) to serve areas with high numbers or per-  
7 centages of young people who are unemployed or un-  
8 deremployed.

9 **SEC. 7. SELECTION CRITERIA.**

10         The Secretary shall award grants to eligible entities  
11 under section 4 based on selection criteria that includes  
12 the following:

13           (1) **BEST PRACTICES OR RESEARCH.**—The ex-  
14 tent to which the application submitted by an eligi-  
15 ble entity under section 5 is rooted in documented  
16 best practices or research.

17           (2) **INTEGRATION.**—The extent to which the  
18 application demonstrates the integration of multiple  
19 services into a comprehensive, coordinated con-  
20 tinuum that meets the holistic needs of young peo-  
21 ple, including health services, mental health services,  
22 housing, civic opportunities, job readiness, work ex-  
23 perience, school readiness, reenrollment in school,  
24 and connections to family and community.

1           (3) LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY INVOLVE-  
2           MENT.—The extent to which the application dem-  
3           onstrates the leadership and substantive involvement  
4           of the business community, the mayor or appropriate  
5           chief executive officers of the general purpose local  
6           government of the community to be served by the  
7           grant, each local educational agency serving the  
8           community, the public and nonprofit sectors of the  
9           community, and other individuals and entities, de-  
10          scribed in section 3(2), of the community.

11          (4) LEVERAGING AND SUSTAINABILITY.—The  
12          extent to which the application demonstrates that re-  
13          sources from multiple sources will be leveraged to  
14          implement the grant, and the extent to which the  
15          application demonstrates a plan for sustainability  
16          beyond the grant period.

17 **SEC. 8. USE OF FUNDS.**

18          (a) SUBGRANTS.—

19               (1) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible entity receiving  
20               a grant under section 4 shall use the grant funds—

21                       (A) to award subgrants and contracts to  
22                       community-based organizations and other enti-  
23                       ties to enable the organizations and entities to  
24                       provide a comprehensive array of coordinated  
25                       activities that will—

1 (i) support the educational, career and  
2 technical, social, emotional, and civic needs  
3 of disconnected youth; and

4 (ii) allow disconnected youth to grad-  
5 uate from secondary school, attain a post-  
6 secondary credential, including a 2-year or  
7 4-year credential from an institution of  
8 higher education, an industry-recognized  
9 credential, or certification from a reg-  
10 istered apprenticeship program, and secure  
11 and succeed in a family-supporting career;

12 (B) for training, technical assistance, and  
13 professional development for the organizations  
14 and entities that is offered by local or national  
15 organizations;

16 (C) for coordinating the overall effort of  
17 the eligible entity; or

18 (D) for the reasonable costs associated  
19 with the administration and oversight of the  
20 grants under section 4.

21 (2) USE OF SUBGRANT FUNDS.—Each organi-  
22 zation or entity receiving a subgrant or contract  
23 under this section—

24 (A) shall use the subgrant or contract  
25 funds to carry out a workforce preparation

1 service, an education support service, or a youth  
2 support service, described in paragraphs (1),  
3 (2), and (3) of subsection (b), respectively; and

4 (B) may use the subgrant or contract  
5 funds to carry out an activity described in para-  
6 graph (4) or (5) of subsection (b).

7 (b) ALLOWABLE ACTIVITIES.—The services and ac-  
8 tivities referred to in subsection (a)(2) include the fol-  
9 lowing:

10 (1) WORK AND CAREER PREPARATION.—

11 (A) WORKFORCE PREPARATION.—Job  
12 training, youth entrepreneurship, technological  
13 and career and technical skill building, mean-  
14 ingful internship and apprenticeship opportuni-  
15 ties, and other workforce preparation activities  
16 developed in partnership with the business com-  
17 munity and other employers.

18 (B) EXPOSURE AND PREPARATION FOR  
19 CAREERS.—Strategies that will expose discon-  
20 nected youth to, and prepare such disconnected  
21 youth for, careers, including careers in high-  
22 growth, high-demand industries that require the  
23 use of science, technology, engineering, and  
24 mathematics skills.

1 (C) APPLIED SKILLS.—Strategies that pro-  
2 mote the development of applied skills in such  
3 young people, including oral and written com-  
4 munication, teamwork, leadership, critical  
5 thinking, and a commitment to social and civic  
6 responsibility, including service-learning activi-  
7 ties.

8 (D) COMPENSATION.—Compensation for  
9 employment opportunities for such young peo-  
10 ple, including summer and year-round employ-  
11 ment opportunities, national and community  
12 service, service-learning, and work experience.

13 (2) EDUCATION SUPPORT.—

14 (A) EDUCATION PROGRAMMING.—Edu-  
15 cation programming for such young people, in-  
16 cluding assessment, instruction, tutoring, and  
17 technology supports to academic instruction.

18 (B) CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDU-  
19 CATION.—Career and technical education.

20 (C) DUAL ENROLLMENT PROGRAMS AND  
21 EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOLS.—Participation  
22 in dual enrollment programs, early college high  
23 schools, and other proven models for supporting  
24 the educational achievement of disconnected  
25 youth.



1 (D) POSTSECONDARY CREDENTIALS.—Pro-  
2 grams that provide young people with a postsec-  
3 ondary credential from an institution of higher  
4 education, a non-profit postsecondary edu-  
5 cational institution that offers an industry rec-  
6 ognized credential, or a registered apprentice-  
7 ship program.

8 (E) TRANSITION SUPPORT.—Support for  
9 young people in their transition into and their  
10 successful completion of postsecondary edu-  
11 cation.

12 (F) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—Financial  
13 assistance for such young people for education  
14 support services and for higher education.

15 (3) YOUTH SUPPORT.—

16 (A) CASE MANAGEMENT.—Case manage-  
17 ment, including using subgrant or contract  
18 funds for youth centers to serve as points of ac-  
19 cess and continued support.

20 (B) HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH, OR DRUG  
21 TREATMENT SERVICES.—Health services, men-  
22 tal health services, or drug treatment services.

23 (C) HOUSING.—Housing.

24 (D) TRANSPORTATION.—Transportation.

1           (E) CHILDCARE OR FAMILY SUPPORT  
2 SERVICES.—Childcare services or family sup-  
3 port services.

4           (F) MENTORING ACTIVITIES.—Mentoring  
5 activities for such young people, including one-  
6 to-one relationship building and tutoring.

7           (4) CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT.—Curriculum  
8 development that promotes contextual learning.

9           (5) OTHER SERVICES OR OPPORTUNITIES.—  
10 Other services or opportunities that the Secretary or  
11 the eligible entity determine will help carry out the  
12 purposes of this Act.

13          (c) ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS.—An eligible entity re-  
14 ceiving a grant under section 4 shall ensure that, of the  
15 group of young people who receive the services and partici-  
16 pate in the activities described in subsections (a) and (b)  
17 under the grant, not less than 75 percent of the group  
18 shall be disconnected youth as defined in section 3(2).

19          (d) WAIVER OF MULTIPLE SERVICE REQUIRE-  
20 MENT.—The Secretary may waive the requirement of sub-  
21 section (a) regarding the provision of a comprehensive  
22 array of coordinated activities for an eligible entity receiv-  
23 ing a grant under section 4 to permit not more than 25  
24 percent of the young people served by the eligible entity  
25 under the grant to receive only 1 or more services among

1 the allowable activities described in subsection (b) if the  
2 eligible entity determines that such young people only need  
3 1 or more such services in order to—

4 (1) attain a secondary school diploma;

5 (2) attain a recognized postsecondary creden-  
6 tial, including a 2-year or 4-year credential from an  
7 institution of higher education, an industry-recog-  
8 nized credential, or certification from a registered  
9 apprenticeship program; and

10 (3) secure and succeed in a family-supporting  
11 career.

12 **SEC. 9. PLANNING GRANTS AUTHORIZED.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award plan-  
14 ning grants to eligible entities to develop the components  
15 of the application described in section 5, in order to allow  
16 eligible entities to become competitive for grants under  
17 section 4.

18 (b) DURATION; AMOUNT.—Planning grants under  
19 this section shall be—

20 (1) for a duration of not more than 6 months  
21 in an amount of not more than \$50,000; or

22 (2) for a duration of more than 6 months and  
23 not more than one year and in an amount of not  
24 more than \$100,000.

1 (c) RECIPIENTS.—Recipients of grants under this  
2 section shall include—

3 (1) eligible entities that applied for and did not  
4 receive a grant under section 4, and demonstrate the  
5 ability to submit a competitive application after ad-  
6 ditional local planning; and

7 (2) eligible entities that intend to apply for a  
8 grant under section 4 after undergoing a thorough  
9 planning process.

10 **SEC. 10. ACCOUNTABILITY, PERFORMANCE MEASURES,**  
11 **AND EVALUATION.**

12 (a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to es-  
13 tablish an accountability system, comprised of the activi-  
14 ties described in this section, in order to—

15 (1) assess the effectiveness of grants under sec-  
16 tion 4 in helping disconnected youth—

17 (A) attain a secondary school diploma;

18 (B) attain a 2-year or 4-year credential  
19 from an institution of higher education, an in-  
20 dustry recognized credential, or certification  
21 from a registered apprenticeship program; and

22 (C) secure and succeed in a family-sup-  
23 porting career;

24 (2) identify and disseminate effective practices  
25 to strengthen performance; and

1           (3) maximize the return on investment of Fed-  
2       eral funds in activities assisted pursuant to a grant  
3       under section 4.

4       (b) PERFORMANCE MEASURES.—

5           (1) IN GENERAL.—For each eligible entity, per-  
6       formance measures shall consist of the indicators of  
7       performance described in paragraph (2) and the  
8       level of performance described in paragraph (3).

9           (2) INDICATORS OF PERFORMANCE.—The indi-  
10      cators of performance referred to in paragraph (1)  
11      shall consist of the following:

12           (A) INTERIM INDICATORS.—

13           (i) YOUTH PARTICIPATION.—The par-  
14      ticipation of young people in activities  
15      funded under section 4.

16           (ii) YOUTH PROGRESS.—The progress  
17      of young people towards all of the fol-  
18      lowing:

19           (I) Attainment of a secondary  
20      school diploma or its recognized equiv-  
21      alent.

22           (II) Job readiness.

23           (iii) YOUTH ATTAINMENT.—The at-  
24      tainment by young people of a secondary  
25      school diploma or its recognized equivalent.

1 (B) TRANSITIONAL INDICATORS.—

2 (i) DIPLOMA, AND ENTRANCE INTO  
3 EDUCATION OR EMPLOYMENT.—The at-  
4 tainment by young people of a secondary  
5 school diploma, and entrance into postsec-  
6 ondary education or employment.

7 (ii) CREDENTIAL.—The attainment by  
8 young people of 1 or more recognized post-  
9 secondary credentials, which may include a  
10 certificate, a license, a journey-status card,  
11 or an associate degree or baccalaureate de-  
12 gree.

13 (C) LONG-TERM INDICATORS.—

14 (i) EMPLOYMENT, DIPLOMA, AND CRE-  
15 DENTIAL.—Employment of individuals who  
16 participated in activities funded under sec-  
17 tion 4, attained a secondary school di-  
18 ploma, and attained 1 or more recognized  
19 credentials, which may include a certifi-  
20 cate, license, journey-status card, or asso-  
21 ciate degree or baccalaureate degree.

22 (ii) INITIAL WAGE OR SALARY  
23 LEVEL.—The initial wage or salary level of  
24 individuals described in clause (i).

1           (3) LEVEL OF PERFORMANCE.—For each indi-  
2           cator of performance described in paragraph (2), the  
3           Secretary, in coordination with the eligible entity,  
4           shall determine a level of performance expressed in  
5           objective, quantifiable, and measurable form and in  
6           a way to show the progress of the eligible entity to-  
7           ward continuously improving performance.

8           (4) ELIGIBLE ENTITY MEASURES.—

9           (A) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible entity  
10          that receives a grant under section 4 shall reach  
11          agreement with the Secretary on the levels of  
12          performance for the years covered by the grant.  
13          The levels of performance shall take into ac-  
14          count the economic conditions of the area  
15          served, the characteristics of young people in  
16          the area, secondary school graduation rates,  
17          and the activities or services provided in the  
18          community served under the grant.

19          (B) ADJUSTMENTS.—If unanticipated cir-  
20          cumstances arise resulting in a significant  
21          change in the economic conditions of the area,  
22          the characteristics of young people in the area,  
23          secondary school graduation rates, or activities  
24          or services provided in the community served  
25          under the grant, then the eligible entity may re-

1           quest that the Secretary adjust the level of per-  
2           formance for the eligible entity.

3           (c) ASSURANCE.—Each eligible entity that receives a  
4 grant under section 4 shall provide an assurance to the  
5 Secretary, as part of the application submitted under sec-  
6 tion 5, that the eligible entity will—

7           (1) report progress toward achieving the indica-  
8           tors under subsection (b) beyond the grant period  
9           for young people served under the grant; and

10          (2) use funds provided under the grant for such  
11 progress reporting.

12          (d) REPORTS.—

13          (1) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible entity that re-  
14 ceives a grant under section 4 shall annually, for  
15 each year of the grant, provide a report to the Sec-  
16 retary that includes the progress of the eligible enti-  
17 ty in accomplishing the performance measures for  
18 the eligible entity. The annual report shall include—

19           (A) information on the progress each eligi-  
20           ble entity made in accomplishing its perform-  
21           ance measures, disaggregated by the categories  
22           described in section 1111(b)(2)(C)(v)(II) of the  
23           Elementary and Secondary Education Act of  
24           1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311(b)(2)(C)(v)(II));



1 (B) the costs of the activities supported  
2 under the grant under section 4, including—

3 (i) the type of cost, such as cash, per-  
4 sonnel, equipment, supplies, or materials,  
5 or other cost; and

6 (ii) the sources used to pay such  
7 costs, such as—

8 (I) funding from other Federal,  
9 State, or local public programs; or

10 (II) private sector or philan-  
11 thropic contributions; and

12 (iii) the dollar value of the resources  
13 leveraged to cover such costs and support  
14 the activities;

15 (C) any fiscal and management account-  
16 ability information required by the Secretary,  
17 which information shall use sound financial and  
18 management practices;

19 (D) the characteristics and number of dis-  
20 connected youth served by the services and ac-  
21 tivities provided under the grant; and

22 (E) the services and supports provided  
23 under the grant.

24 (2) VALID AND RELIABLE INFORMATION.—In  
25 preparing the reports under this subsection, each eli-

1       gible entity shall establish procedures, consistent  
2       with guidelines issued by the Secretary, to ensure  
3       that the information contained in the reports is valid  
4       and reliable.

5       (e) EVALUATION.—Not later than 90 days after the  
6       date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall award  
7       a grant or a contract to an entity outside the Department  
8       of Labor for an evaluation of the activities assisted under  
9       the grants awarded under section 4. Such evaluation  
10      shall—

11               (1) evaluate a subgroup of eligible entities that  
12      received a grant under section 4;

13               (2) include an analysis and documentation of  
14      the strategies implemented by the eligible entities as-  
15      sisted under the grants awarded under section 4 and  
16      the key lessons learned, as such lessons relate to  
17      program design, systems coordination, and imple-  
18      mentation;

19               (3) measure the outcomes, and progress toward  
20      the outcomes, of the strategies implemented under  
21      the grants under section 4 in terms of the interim  
22      and transitional indicators of performance under  
23      subsection (b)(2), and if feasible, the long-term indi-  
24      cators of performance under such subsection;

1 (4) document the incremental progress of such  
2 young people over time on the outcomes measured  
3 under paragraph (3);

4 (5) measure the return on investment resulting  
5 from the activities funded with grants under section  
6 4; and

7 (6) begin as soon as practicable after the  
8 awarding of the grant or contract under this section  
9 and continue throughout the duration of the periods  
10 of the grants under section 4 so that the plans in-  
11 cluded in the applications under section 5 may be in-  
12 formed by, and conducive to, the evaluation.

13 **SEC. 11. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND BEST PRACTICES.**

14 The Secretary shall—

15 (1) in consultation with the Federal Youth De-  
16 velopment Council, the Coordinating Council on Ju-  
17 venile Justice and Delinquency Prevention estab-  
18 lished under section 206 of the Juvenile Justice and  
19 Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C.  
20 5616), the Shared Youth Vision, and other related  
21 agencies, disseminate best practices that emerge  
22 from the programs assisted under this Act in identi-  
23 fying disconnected youth, and in implementing effec-  
24 tive public and private strategies for preparing such  
25 young people to be successful students, workers, and

1 citizens during and after implementation of the pro-  
2 gram; and

3 (2) provide, directly or through a grant or con-  
4 tract with 1 or more nonprofit organizations selected  
5 through a competitive process, training, technical as-  
6 sistance, and professional development for organiza-  
7 tions serving disconnected youth, including organiza-  
8 tions serving such disconnected youth that do not re-  
9 ceive funding under this Act.

10 **SEC. 12. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appro-  
12 priated to carry out this Act such sums as may be nec-  
13 essary for each of the fiscal years 2011 through 2015.

14 (b) ALLOCATION.—Of the amounts appropriated to  
15 carry out this section for each fiscal year, the Secretary  
16 shall use—

17 (1) not less than 90 percent of such amount for  
18 grants to eligible entities under section 4 and section  
19 9; and

20 (2) a total of not more than 10 percent of such  
21 amount for the evaluation under section 10(b) and  
22 the training, technical assistance, and dissemination  
23 of best practices under section 11.

○