

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1710

To authorize a grant-matching program that strengthens and accelerates interventions in the lowest-performing elementary schools and secondary schools.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 7, 2015

Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. COONS, and Mr. CASEY) 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 authorize a grant-matching program that strengthens and accelerates interventions in the lowest-performing elementary schools and secondary schools.

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 “AmeriCorps School  
5 Turnaround Act of 2015”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

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

8 (1) Students are most successful when they  
9 have personal, attentive support.

1           (2) Turning schools around requires collabora-  
2           tion among teachers, administrators, counselors,  
3           business leaders, the philanthropic sector, and com-  
4           munity members.

5           (3) National service provides valuable support  
6           to elementary schools and secondary schools and has  
7           a record for improving student academic achieve-  
8           ment.

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

10           (1) strengthen and accelerate interventions in  
11           the lowest-performing elementary schools and sec-  
12           ondary schools;

13           (2) provide financial support to eligible entities  
14           that serve low-performing schools;

15           (3) significantly improve outcomes for students  
16           in persistently low-performing schools by—

17           (A) providing opportunities for academic  
18           enrichment;

19           (B) extending learning time; and

20           (C) providing individual support for stu-  
21           dents; and

22           (4) improve high school graduation rates and  
23           college readiness for the most disadvantaged stu-  
24           dents.

1 **SEC. 3. SCHOOL TURNAROUND PROGRAM.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER.**—The term  
 4 “Chief Executive Officer” means the Chief Executive  
 5 Officer of the Corporation for National and Commu-  
 6 nity Service appointed under section 193 of the Na-  
 7 tional and Community Service Act of 1990 (42  
 8 U.S.C. 12651c).

9 (2) **ELIGIBLE ENTITY.**—The term “eligible enti-  
 10 ty” means—

11 (A) an elementary school or secondary  
 12 school; or

13 (B) any of the following entities that serve  
 14 low-performing schools:

15 (i) Public or private nonprofit organi-  
 16 zations, including faith-based and other  
 17 community organizations.

18 (ii) Local educational agencies.

19 (iii) Institutions of higher education.

20 (iv) Government entities within  
 21 States.

22 (v) Indian Tribes.

23 (vi) Labor organizations.

24 (3) **LOW-PERFORMING SCHOOL.**—The term  
 25 “low-performing school” means an elementary school  
 26 or secondary school that is identified under section

1 1116 of the Elementary and Secondary Education  
2 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6316).

3 (4) NATIONAL SERVICE PARTICIPANT.—The  
4 term “national service participant” means an indi-  
5 vidual described under part III of the National and  
6 Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12591  
7 et seq.).

8 (5) SCHOOL TURNAROUND CORPS PROJECT.—  
9 The term “School Turnaround Corps project” means  
10 a project carried out by an eligible entity that is a  
11 permissible use of funds for a grant under this Act.

12 (6) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
13 the Secretary of Education.

14 **SEC. 4. INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT FOR SCHOOL TURN-**  
15 **AROUND GRANTS.**

16 (a) INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Chief Executive Officer  
18 shall enter into an interagency agreement with the  
19 Secretary similar to an interagency agreement de-  
20 scribed in section 121(b)(1) of the National and  
21 Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.  
22 12571(b)(1)) regarding the grant program described  
23 in section 5, except that funds appropriated under  
24 this Act may be used as if for the purposes for  
25 which funds may be provided through grants under

1 section 121(a) of the National and Community Serv-  
2 ice Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12571(a)).

3 (2) AMENDMENT TO THE NCSA.—Section  
4 121(b) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 12571(b)) is amend-  
5 ed by adding at the end the following:

6 “(6) SCHOOL TURNAROUND GRANT INTER-  
7 AGENCY AGREEMENT.—Notwithstanding paragraph  
8 (1), the Corporation shall enter into an interagency  
9 agreement similar to an interagency agreement de-  
10 scribed in paragraph (1) with the Secretary of Edu-  
11 cation under this subsection regarding the school  
12 turnaround grant program described in section 5 of  
13 the AmeriCorps School Turnaround Act of 2015.”.

14 (b) APPROVED NATIONAL SERVICE POSITIONS.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Chief Executive Officer  
16 shall approve positions for School Turnaround Corps  
17 projects as approved national service positions in ac-  
18 cordance with subtitle C of title I of the National  
19 and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.  
20 12571 et seq.).

21 (2) DISTRIBUTION OF ASSISTANCE AND AP-  
22 PROVED POSITIONS UNAFFECTED.—Nothing in this  
23 Act shall be construed to affect the distribution of  
24 assistance or approved national service positions

1 under section 129 of the National and Community  
2 Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12581).

3 (c) TREATMENT OF FUNDS APPROPRIATED.—

4 (1) NATIONAL SERVICE TRUST.—For purposes  
5 of section 145(a)(1) of the National and Community  
6 Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12601(a)(1)), a por-  
7 tion of the funds appropriated under this Act, as de-  
8 termined by the Chief Executive Officer based on  
9 the number of participants selected for School Turn-  
10 around Corps projects, shall be treated as funds  
11 made available to carry out subtitle D of title I of  
12 the National and Community Service Act of 1990  
13 (42 U.S.C. 12601 et seq.).

14 (2) INVESTMENT OF TRUST FUNDS.—For pur-  
15 poses of subsection (b) of section 145 of the Na-  
16 tional and Community Service Act of 1990 (42  
17 U.S.C. 12601), a portion of the funds appropriated  
18 under this Act, as determined by the Chief Execu-  
19 tive Officer based on the number of participants se-  
20 lected for School Turnaround Corps projects, shall  
21 be treated as if appropriated to the Trust estab-  
22 lished under such section.

23 (3) RESERVE ACCOUNT.—For purposes of sec-  
24 tion 149(b)(1)(B)(ii) of the National and Commu-  
25 nity Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.

1 12606(b)(1)(B)(ii)), a portion of the funds appro-  
2 priated under this Act, as determined by the Chief  
3 Executive Officer based on the number of partici-  
4 pants selected for School Turnaround Corps  
5 projects, shall be treated as funds appropriated for  
6 the fiscal year involved under section 501 of the Na-  
7 tional and Community Service Act of 1990 (42  
8 U.S.C. 12681) and made available to carry out sub-  
9 title C or D of title I of such Act (42 U.S.C. 12571  
10 et seq.; 42 U.S.C. 12601 et seq.).

11 (4) AUDITS.—For purposes of section 149(c) of  
12 the National and Community Service Act of 1990  
13 (42 U.S.C. 12606(c)), funds appropriated under this  
14 Act shall be treated as appropriated funds for ap-  
15 proved national service positions.

16 **SEC. 5. SCHOOL TURNAROUND GRANT PROGRAM.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—From amounts made available  
18 under this Act after the reservation described in sub-  
19 section (b), the Chief Executive Officer, in consultation  
20 with the Secretary, shall award grants, on a competitive  
21 basis, to eligible entities to enable such eligible entities—

22 (1) to improve the academic achievement of ele-  
23 mentary school and secondary school students; and

1           (2) to select national service participants and  
2           engage such participants' in School Turnaround  
3           Corps projects.

4           (b) AMOUNTS RESERVED.—The Chief Executive Of-  
5           ficer shall reserve not less than 1 percent, and not more  
6           than 2 percent, of the amount appropriated to carry out  
7           this Act for each fiscal year to award grants under this  
8           Act to Indian tribes and organizations serving tribal popu-  
9           lations.

10          (c) PRIORITY.—In making grants under this Act, the  
11          Chief Executive Officer, in consultation with the Sec-  
12          retary—

13                 (1) shall give priority to eligible entities that  
14                 will serve significant populations of low-income stu-  
15                 dents; and

16                 (2) may give priority to eligible entities that—

17                         (A) are located in low-income communities;

18                         (B) will serve communities with significant  
19                         populations of families with limited English  
20                         proficiency;

21                         (C) will place national service participants  
22                         in urban or rural areas; or

23                         (D) will increase the ability of educators to  
24                         provide appropriate services and coordinate ac-  
25                         tivities with State and local systems providing



1 services under part B of the Individuals with  
2 Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1411 et  
3 seq.) for children with developmental delays or  
4 disabilities, including such children in the child  
5 welfare system of the State.

6 (d) USE OF FUNDS.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity that re-  
8 ceives a grant under this section shall use the funds  
9 made available through the grant to carry out 1 or  
10 more of the activities described in paragraphs (2)  
11 through (6), and shall engage national service par-  
12 ticipants to carry out such activities.

13 (2) INCREASING HIGH-QUALITY, INDIVIDUAL-  
14 IZED LEARNING TIME.—Improving the quality and  
15 frequency of individualized learning time provided to  
16 elementary school and secondary school students by  
17 providing individualized support, which may include  
18 increasing postsecondary education enrollment rates  
19 through postsecondary education preparation coun-  
20 seling assistance, including assistance with com-  
21 pleting the Free Application for Federal Student Aid  
22 (FAFSA) and applications for institutions of higher  
23 education, and educating students and their families  
24 about financial literacy for postsecondary education.

1           (3) OUT-OF-SCHOOL AND EXTENDED LEARNING  
2 PROGRAMS.—Increasing personalized, out-of-school  
3 and extended learning programs provided to elemen-  
4 tary school and secondary school students by engag-  
5 ing national service participants to serve as—

6           (A) tutors who provide individualized, aca-  
7 demic support outside of the standard school  
8 day; and

9           (B) family resource mentors who connect  
10 the student, family, and school in an open con-  
11 versation about the student’s academic situa-  
12 tion.

13           (4) COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS AND  
14 GRADUATION COACHES.—The provision of individual  
15 graduation, postsecondary education, and career  
16 preparation guidance and assistance by college or  
17 career planing advisors.

18           (5) SCHOOLWIDE ACTIVITIES.—Carrying out  
19 schoolwide activities, including—

20           (A) establishing a school culture and envi-  
21 ronment that improves school safety, attend-  
22 ance, and discipline and addressing other non-  
23 academic factors that impact student achieve-  
24 ment, such as students’ social, emotional, and  
25 health needs; and

1 (B) carrying out activities to increase  
2 graduation rates, such as early warning sys-  
3 tems, credit-recovery programs, and re-engage-  
4 ment strategies.

5 (6) ACCELERATING READING AND MATHE-  
6 MATICS KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS.—The provision of  
7 activities to accelerate students' acquisition of read-  
8 ing and mathematics knowledge and skills.

9 **SEC. 6. ANNUAL REPORT.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—As a condition on receipt of any  
11 funds for a program under this Act, each grantee shall  
12 agree to submit an annual report at such time, in such  
13 manner, and containing such information as the Chief Ex-  
14 ecutive Officer, in consultation with the Secretary, may  
15 require.

16 (b) CONTENT.—At a minimum, each annual report  
17 under this subsection shall describe—

18 (1) the degree to which progress has been made  
19 toward meeting the annual benchmarks and long-  
20 term goals and objectives described in the grant re-  
21 cipient's application; and

22 (2) demographic data about low-performing  
23 schools, including the number of low-income and mi-  
24 nority students, served in each program.

1 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2       There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out  
3 this Act \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 2016, and such sums  
4 as may be necessary for each of the 5 succeeding fiscal  
5 years.

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