

AMENDMENT NO. _____ Calendar No. _____

Purpose: In the nature of a substitute.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—114th Cong., 1st Sess.

S. 227

To strengthen the Federal education research system to make research and evaluations more timely and relevant to State and local needs in order to increase student achievement.

Referred to the Committee on _____ and
ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE intended
to be proposed by _____

Viz:

1 Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the fol-
2 lowing:

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Strengthening Edu-
5 cation through Research Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

7 The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title.
- Sec. 2. Table of contents.
- Sec. 3. Nonduplication.

TITLE I—EDUCATION SCIENCES REFORM

- Sec. 101. References.
- Sec. 102. Definitions.

2

PART A—THE INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION SCIENCES

- Sec. 111. Establishment.
- Sec. 112. Functions.
- Sec. 113. Delegation.
- Sec. 114. Office of the Director.
- Sec. 115. Priorities.
- Sec. 116. National Board for Education Sciences.
- Sec. 117. Commissioners of the National Education Centers.
- Sec. 118. Transparency.
- Sec. 119. Competitive awards.

PART B—NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION RESEARCH

- Sec. 131. Establishment.
- Sec. 132. Duties.
- Sec. 133. Standards for conduct and evaluation of research.

PART C—NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS

- Sec. 151. Establishment.
- Sec. 152. Duties.
- Sec. 153. Performance of duties.
- Sec. 154. Reports.
- Sec. 155. Dissemination.
- Sec. 156. Cooperative education statistics partnerships.

PART D—NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION EVALUATION AND REGIONAL ASSISTANCE

- Sec. 171. Establishment.
- Sec. 172. Commissioner for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance.
- Sec. 173. Evaluations.
- Sec. 174. Regional educational laboratories for research, development, dissemination, and evaluation.

PART E—NATIONAL CENTER FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION RESEARCH

- Sec. 175. Establishment.
- Sec. 176. Commissioner for Special Education Research.
- Sec. 177. Duties.

PART F—GENERAL PROVISIONS

- Sec. 181. Prohibitions.
- Sec. 182. Confidentiality.
- Sec. 183. Availability of data.
- Sec. 184. Performance management.
- Sec. 185. Authority to publish.
- Sec. 186. Repeals.
- Sec. 187. Fellowships.
- Sec. 188. Authorization of appropriations.

PART G—TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS

- Sec. 191. Technical and conforming amendments to other laws.

TITLE II—EDUCATIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- Sec. 201. References.
- Sec. 202. Definitions.
- Sec. 203. Comprehensive centers.
- Sec. 204. Evaluations.
- Sec. 205. Existing technical assistance providers.
- Sec. 206. Regional advisory committees.
- Sec. 207. Priorities.
- Sec. 208. Grant program for statewide, longitudinal data systems.
- Sec. 209. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE III—NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS

- Sec. 301. References.
- Sec. 302. National Assessment Governing Board.
- Sec. 303. National Assessment of Educational Progress.
- Sec. 304. Definitions.
- Sec. 305. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE IV—EVALUATION PLAN

- Sec. 401. Research and evaluation.

1 **SEC. 3. NONDUPLICATION.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Act of November 5, 2002
 3 (Public Law 107–279; 116 Stat. 1940), is amended by
 4 inserting after section 1 the following:

5 **“SEC. 2. NONDUPLICATION.**

6 “In collecting information and data under this Act,
 7 including requiring the reporting of information and data,
 8 the Secretary of Education shall, to the extent appro-
 9 priate, not duplicate other requirements and shall use in-
 10 formation and data that are available from existing Fed-
 11 eral, State, and local sources, in order to reduce burden
 12 and cost to the Department of Education, States, local
 13 educational agencies (as defined in section 9101 of the El-
 14 ementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
 15 U.S.C. 7801)), and other entities.”.

1 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of con-
2 tents in section 1 of the Act of November 5, 2002 (Public
3 Law 107–279; 116 Stat. 1940), is amended by inserting
4 after the item relating to section 1 the following:

“Sec. 2. Nonduplication.”.

5 **TITLE I—EDUCATION SCIENCES**
6 **REFORM**

7 **SEC. 101. REFERENCES.**

8 Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in
9 this title an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms
10 of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provi-
11 sion, the reference shall be considered to be made to a
12 section or other provision of the Education Sciences Re-
13 form Act of 2002 (20 U.S.C. 9501 et seq.).

14 **SEC. 102. DEFINITIONS.**

15 Section 102 (20 U.S.C. 9501) is amended—

16 (1) by striking paragraphs (13) and (18);

17 (2) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through
18 (11), (12), (14), (15), (16), (17), and (19) through
19 (23), as paragraphs (3) through (12), (14), (15),
20 (16), (18), (20), and (22) through (26), respectively;

21 (3) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-
22 lowing:

23 “(2) ADULT EDUCATION; ADULT EDUCATION
24 AND LITERACY ACTIVITIES.—The terms ‘adult edu-
25 cation’ and ‘adult education and literacy activities’

1 have the meanings given the terms in section 203 of
2 the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act.”;

3 (4) in paragraph (6), as redesignated by para-
4 graph (2), by striking “Affairs” and inserting “Edu-
5 cation”;

6 (5) in paragraph (11), as redesignated by para-
7 graph (2)—

8 (A) by inserting “or other information, in
9 a timely manner and” after “evaluations,”; and

10 (B) by inserting “school leaders,” after
11 “teachers,”;

12 (6) by inserting after paragraph (12), as redesi-
13 gnated by paragraph (2), the following:

14 “(13) ENGLISH LEARNER.—The term ‘English
15 learner’ means an individual who is limited English
16 proficient, as defined in section 9101 of the Elemen-
17 tary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
18 U.S.C. 7801) or section 637 of the Head Start Act
19 (42 U.S.C. 9832).”;

20 (7) in paragraph (14), as redesignated by para-
21 graph (2), by inserting “, school leaders,” after
22 “teachers”;

23 (8) by inserting after paragraph (16), as redesi-
24 gnated by paragraph (2), the following:

1 “(17) MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTION.—The
2 term ‘minority-serving institution’ means an institu-
3 tion of higher education described in section 371(a)
4 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
5 1067q(a)).”;

6 (9) in paragraph (18), as redesignated by para-
7 graph (2), by striking “section 133(c)” and inserting
8 “section 133(d)”;

9 (10) by inserting after paragraph (18), as re-
10 designated by paragraph (2), the following:

11 “(19) PRINCIPLES OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH.—
12 The term ‘principles of scientific research’ means
13 principles of research that—

14 “(A) apply rigorous, systematic, and objec-
15 tive methodology to obtain reliable and valid
16 knowledge relevant to education activities and
17 programs;

18 “(B) present findings and make claims
19 that are appropriate to, and supported by, the
20 methods that have been employed; and

21 “(C) include, appropriate to the research
22 being conducted—

23 “(i) use of systematic, empirical meth-
24 ods that draw on observation or experi-
25 ment;

1 “(ii) use of data analyses that are
2 adequate to support the general findings;

3 “(iii) reliance on measurements or ob-
4 servational methods that provide reliable
5 and generalizable findings;

6 “(iv) strong claims of causal relation-
7 ships, only with research designs that
8 eliminate plausible competing explanations
9 for observed results, such as, but not lim-
10 ited to, random-assignment experiments;

11 “(v) presentation of studies and meth-
12 ods in sufficient detail and clarity to allow
13 for replication or, at a minimum, to offer
14 the opportunity to build systematically on
15 the findings of the research;

16 “(vi) acceptance by a peer-reviewed
17 journal or critique by a panel of inde-
18 pendent experts through a comparably rig-
19 orous, objective, and scientific review; and

20 “(vii) consistency of findings across
21 multiple studies or sites to support the
22 generality of results and conclusions.”;

23 (11) by inserting after paragraph (20), as re-
24 designated by paragraph (2), the following:

1 (2) in paragraph (2)—

2 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph

3 (A)—

4 (i) by striking “and wide dissemina-
5 tion activities” and inserting “and, con-
6 sistent with section 114(j), wide dissemina-
7 tion and utilization activities”; and

8 (ii) by striking “(including in tech-
9 nology areas)”; and

10 (B) in subparagraph (B), by inserting
11 “disability,” after “gender,”.

12 **SEC. 112. FUNCTIONS.**

13 Section 112 (20 U.S.C. 9512) is amended—

14 (1) in paragraph (1)—

15 (A) by inserting “(including evaluations of
16 impact and implementation)” after “education
17 evaluation”; and

18 (B) by inserting “and utilization” before
19 the semicolon; and

20 (2) in paragraph (2)—

21 (A) by inserting “, consistent with section
22 114(j),” after “disseminate”; and

23 (B) by inserting “and scientifically valid
24 education evaluations carried out under this
25 title” before the semicolon.

1 **SEC. 113. DELEGATION.**

2 Section 113 (20 U.S.C. 9513) is amended—

3 (1) in subsection (a)—

4 (A) by striking paragraph (1); and

5 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (2)
6 through (5) as paragraphs (1) through (4), re-
7 spectively;

8 (2) in subsection (b), by striking “Secretary
9 may assign the Institute responsibility for admin-
10 istering” and inserting “Director may accept re-
11 quests from the Secretary for the Institute to admin-
12 ister”; and

13 (3) by adding at the end the following:

14 “(c) CONTRACT ACQUISITION.—With respect to any
15 contract entered into under this title, the Director shall
16 be consulted—

17 “(1) during the procurement process; and

18 “(2) in the management of such contract’s per-
19 formance, which shall be consistent with the require-
20 ments of the performance management system de-
21 scribed in section 185.”.

22 **SEC. 114. OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR.**

23 Section 114 (20 U.S.C. 9514) is amended—

24 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “Except as
25 provided in subsection (b)(2), the” and inserting
26 “The”;

1 (2) in subsection (b)—

2 (A) in paragraph (1), by inserting before
3 the period the following: “, except that if a suc-
4 cessor to the Director has not been appointed
5 as of the date of expiration of the Director’s
6 term, the Director may serve for an additional
7 1-year period, beginning on the day after the
8 date of expiration of the Director’s term, or
9 until a successor has been appointed under sub-
10 section (a), whichever occurs first”;

11 (B) by striking paragraph (2) and insert-
12 ing the following:

13 “(2) REAPPOINTMENT.—A Director may be re-
14 appointed under subsection (a) for one additional
15 term.”; and

16 (C) in paragraph (3)—

17 (i) in the heading, by striking “SUB-
18 SEQUENT DIRECTORS” and inserting
19 “RECOMMENDATIONS”; and

20 (ii) by striking “, other than a Direc-
21 tor appointed under paragraph (2)”;

22 (3) in subsection (f)—

23 (A) in paragraph (3), by inserting before
24 the period the following: “, and, as appropriate,
25 with such research and activities carried out by

1 public and private entities, to avoid duplicative
2 or overlapping efforts”;

3 (B) in paragraph (4), by inserting “, and
4 the use of evidence” after “statistics activities”;

5 (C) in paragraph (5)—

6 (i) by inserting “and maintain” after
7 “establish”; and

8 (ii) by inserting “and subsection (h)”
9 after “section 116(b)(3)”;

10 (D) in paragraph (7), by inserting “dis-
11 ability,” after “gender,”;

12 (E) in paragraph (8), by striking “histori-
13 cally Black colleges or universities” and insert-
14 ing “minority-serving institutions”;

15 (F) by striking paragraph (9) and insert-
16 ing the following:

17 “(9) To coordinate with the Secretary to ensure
18 that the results of the Institute’s work are coordi-
19 nated with, and utilized by, the Department’s tech-
20 nical assistance providers and dissemination net-
21 works.”;

22 (G) by striking paragraphs (10) and (11);
23 and

24 (H) by redesignating paragraph (12) as
25 paragraph (10);

1 (4) by redesignating subsection (h) as sub-
2 section (i);

3 (5) by inserting after subsection (g), the fol-
4 lowing:

5 “(h) PEER-REVIEW SYSTEM.—The Director shall es-
6 tablish and maintain a peer-review system involving highly
7 qualified individuals, including practitioners, as appro-
8 priate, with an in-depth knowledge of the subject to be
9 investigated, including, in the case of special education re-
10 search, an understanding of special education, for—

11 “(1) reviewing and evaluating each application
12 for a grant or cooperative agreement under this title
13 that exceeds \$100,000; and

14 “(2) evaluating and assessing all reports and
15 other products that exceed \$100,000 to be published
16 and publicly released by the Institute.”;

17 (6) in subsection (i), as redesignated by para-
18 graph (4)—

19 (A) by striking “the products and”; and

20 (B) by striking “certify that evidence-
21 based claims about those products and” and in-
22 serting “determine whether evidence-based
23 claims in those”; and

24 (7) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(j) RELEVANCE, DISSEMINATION, AND UTILIZA-
2 TION.—To ensure all activities authorized under this title
3 are rigorous, relevant, and useful for researchers, policy-
4 makers, practitioners, and the public, the Director shall—

5 “(1) ensure such activities address significant
6 challenges faced by practitioners, and increase
7 knowledge in the field of education;

8 “(2) ensure that the information, products, and
9 publications of the Institute are—

10 “(A) prepared and widely disseminated—

11 “(i) in a timely fashion; and

12 “(ii) in forms that are understand-
13 able, easily accessible, and usable, or
14 adaptable for use in, the improvement of
15 educational practice; and

16 “(B) widely disseminated through elec-
17 tronic transfer, and other means, such as post-
18 ing to the Institute’s website or other relevant
19 place;

20 “(3) promote the utilization of the information,
21 products, and publications of the Institute, including
22 through the use of dissemination networks and tech-
23 nical assistance providers, within the Institute and
24 the Department; and

1 “(4) monitor and manage the performance of
2 all activities authorized under this title in accord-
3 ance with section 185.”.

4 **SEC. 115. PRIORITIES.**

5 Section 115 (20 U.S.C. 9515) is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (a)—

7 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph

8 (1)—

9 (i) by striking “(taking into consider-
10 ation long-term research and development
11 on core issues conducted through the na-
12 tional research and development centers)”
13 and inserting “at least once every 6
14 years”; and

15 (ii) by striking “such as” and insert-
16 ing “including”;

17 (B) in paragraph (1)—

18 (i) by inserting “ensuring that all stu-
19 dents have the ability to obtain a high-
20 quality education, particularly by” before
21 “closing”;

22 (ii) by striking “low-performing chil-
23 dren” and inserting “low-performing stu-
24 dents”;

1 (iii) by striking “especially achieve-
2 ment gaps between”;

3 (iv) by striking “nonminority chil-
4 dren” and inserting “nonminority stu-
5 dents, students with disabilities and stu-
6 dents without disabilities,”;

7 (v) by striking “and between dis-
8 advantaged children and such children’s”
9 and inserting “and disadvantaged students
10 and such students’”; and

11 (vi) by striking “and” after the semi-
12 colon;

13 (C) by striking paragraph (2); and

14 (D) by adding at the end the following:

15 “(2) improving access to and the quality of
16 early childhood education;

17 “(3) improving education in elementary schools
18 and secondary schools, particularly among low-per-
19 forming students and schools; and

20 “(4) improving access to, opportunities for, and
21 completion of postsecondary education and adult
22 education.”; and

23 (2) in subsection (d)(1), by striking “by means
24 of the Internet” and inserting “by electronic means

1 such as posting in an easily accessible manner on
2 the Institute’s website”.

3 **SEC. 116. NATIONAL BOARD FOR EDUCATION SCIENCES.**

4 Section 116 (20 U.S.C. 9516) is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (b)—

6 (A) in paragraph (2), by striking “to guide
7 the work of the Institute” and inserting “, and
8 to advise, and provide input to, the Director on
9 the activities of the Institute on an ongoing
10 basis”;

11 (B) in paragraph (3), by inserting “under
12 section 114(h)” after “procedures”;

13 (C) in paragraph (8), by inserting “dis-
14 ability,” after “gender,”;

15 (D) in paragraph (9)—

16 (i) by striking “To solicit” and insert-
17 ing “To ensure all activities of the Insti-
18 tute are relevant to education policy and
19 practice by soliciting, on an ongoing
20 basis,”; and

21 (ii) by striking “consistent with” and
22 inserting “consistent with section 114(j)
23 and”;

24 (E) in paragraph (11)—

1 (i) by inserting “the Institute’s” after
2 “enhance”; and

3 (ii) by striking “among other Federal
4 and State research agencies” and inserting
5 “with public and private entities to im-
6 prove the work of the Institute”; and

7 (F) by adding at the end the following:

8 “(13) To conduct the evaluations required
9 under subsection (d).”;

10 (2) in subsection (c)—

11 (A) in paragraph (2)—

12 (i) by inserting “Board,” before “Na-
13 tional Academy”; and

14 (ii) by striking “and the National
15 Science Advisor” and inserting “the Na-
16 tional Science Advisor, and other entities
17 and organizations that have knowledge of
18 individuals who are highly qualified to ap-
19 praise education research, statistics, eval-
20 uations, or development”;

21 (B) in paragraph (4)—

22 (i) in subparagraph (A)—

23 (I) in clause (i), by striking “,
24 which may include those researchers

1 recommended by the National Acad-
2 emy of Sciences”;

3 (II) by redesignating clause (ii)
4 as clause (iii);

5 (III) by inserting after clause (i),
6 the following:

7 “(ii) Not fewer than 2 practitioners
8 who are knowledgeable about the education
9 needs of the United States, who may in-
10 clude school-based professional educators,
11 teachers, school leaders, local educational
12 agency superintendents, and members of
13 local boards of education or Bureau-funded
14 school boards.”; and

15 (IV) in clause (iii), as redesign-
16 nated by subclause (II)—

17 (aa) by striking “school-
18 based professional educators,”;

19 (bb) by inserting “State
20 leaders in adult education,” after
21 “executives,”;

22 (cc) by striking “local edu-
23 cational agency superintend-
24 ents,”;

1 (dd) by striking “prin-
2 cipals,”;

3 (ee) by striking “or local”;

4 and

5 (ff) by striking “or Bureau-
6 funded school boards”;

7 (ii) in subparagraph (B)—

8 (I) in the matter preceding clause
9 (i), by inserting “beginning on the
10 date of appointment of the member,”
11 after “4 years,”;

12 (II) by striking clause (i);

13 (III) by redesignating clause (ii)
14 as clause (i);

15 (IV) in clause (i), as redesignated
16 by subclause (III), by striking the pe-
17 riod and inserting “; and”; and

18 (V) by adding at the end the fol-
19 lowing:

20 “(ii) in a case in which a successor to
21 a member has not been appointed as of the
22 date of expiration of the member’s term,
23 the member may serve for an additional 1-
24 year period, beginning on the day after the
25 date of expiration of the member’s term, or

1 until a successor has been appointed under
2 paragraph (1), whichever occurs first.”;

3 (iii) by striking subparagraph (C);

4 and

5 (iv) by redesignating subparagraph
6 (D) as subparagraph (C); and

7 (C) in paragraph (8)—

8 (i) by redesignating subparagraphs
9 (A) through (E) as subparagraphs (B)
10 through (F), respectively;

11 (ii) by inserting before subparagraph
12 (B), as redesignated by clause (i), the fol-
13 lowing:

14 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In the exercise of its
15 duties under subsection (b) and in accordance
16 with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5
17 U.S.C. App.), the Board shall be independent of
18 the Director and the other offices and officers
19 of the Institute.”;

20 (iii) in subparagraph (B), as redesign-
21 ated by clause (i), by inserting before the
22 period at the end the following: “for a
23 term of not more than 6 years, and who
24 may be reappointed by the Board for 1 ad-

1 “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—An evaluation report
2 described in paragraph (1) shall include—

3 “(A) subject to paragraph (3), an evalua-
4 tion of the activities authorized for each of the
5 National Education Centers, which—

6 “(i) uses the performance manage-
7 ment system described in section 185; and

8 “(ii) is conducted by an independent
9 entity;

10 “(B) a review of the Institute to ensure its
11 work, consistent with the requirements of sec-
12 tion 114(j), is timely, rigorous, and relevant;

13 “(C) any recommendations regarding ac-
14 tions that may be taken to enhance the ability
15 of the Institute and the National Education
16 Centers to carry out their priorities and mis-
17 sions;

18 “(D) a summary of the major research
19 findings of the Institute and the activities car-
20 ried out under section 113(b) during the 3 pre-
21 ceeding fiscal years; and

22 “(E) interim findings made widely avail-
23 able to the public (including by electronic
24 means such as posting in an easily accessible
25 manner on the Institute’s website) 3 years after

1 the independent entity has begun reviewing the
2 work of the Institute.

3 “(3) NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION EVAL-
4 UATION AND REGIONAL ASSISTANCE.—With respect
5 to the National Center for Education Evaluation
6 and Regional Assistance, an evaluation report de-
7 scribed in paragraph (1) shall contain—

8 “(A) an evaluation described in paragraph
9 (2)(A) of the activities authorized for such Cen-
10 ter, except for the regional educational labora-
11 tories established under section 174; and

12 “(B) a summative or interim evaluation,
13 whichever is most recent, for each such labora-
14 tory conducted under section 174(i) on or after
15 the date of enactment of the Strengthening
16 Education through Research Act or, in a case
17 in which such an evaluation is not available for
18 a laboratory, the most recent evaluation for the
19 laboratory conducted prior to the date of enact-
20 ment of such Act.”; and

21 (6) by striking subsection (f).

22 **SEC. 117. COMMISSIONERS OF THE NATIONAL EDUCATION**
23 **CENTERS.**

24 Section 117 (20 U.S.C. 9517) is amended—

25 (1) in subsection (a)—

1 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “Except
2 as provided in subsection (b), each” and insert-
3 ing “Each”;

4 (B) in paragraph (2)—

5 (i) by striking “Except as provided in
6 subsection (b), each” and inserting
7 “Each”; and

8 (ii) by inserting “, statistics,” after
9 “research”; and

10 (C) in paragraph (3), by striking “Except
11 as provided in subsection (b), each” and insert-
12 ing “Each”;

13 (2) by striking subsection (b);

14 (3) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as
15 subsections (b) and (c), respectively; and

16 (4) in subsection (c), as redesignated by para-
17 graph (3), by striking “, except the Commissioner
18 for Education Statistics,”.

19 **SEC. 118. TRANSPARENCY.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 119 (20 U.S.C. 9519) is
21 amended to read as follows:

22 **“SEC. 119. TRANSPARENCY.**

23 “Not later than 120 days after awarding a grant,
24 contract, or cooperative agreement under this title in ex-
25 cess of \$100,000, the Director shall make publicly avail-

1 able (including through electronic means such as posting
2 in an easily accessible manner on the Institute’s website)
3 a description of the grant, contract, or cooperative agree-
4 ment, including, at a minimum, the amount, duration, re-
5 cipient, and the purpose of the grant, contract, or coopera-
6 tive agreement.”.

7 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of con-
8 tents in section 1 of the Act of November 5, 2002 (Public
9 Law 107–279; 116 Stat. 1940), is amended by striking
10 the item relating to section 119 and inserting the fol-
11 lowing:

“Sec. 119. Transparency.”.

12 **SEC. 119. COMPETITIVE AWARDS.**

13 Section 120 (20 U.S.C. 9520) is amended by striking
14 “when practicable” and inserting “consistent with section
15 114(h)”.

16 **PART B—NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION**

17 **RESEARCH**

18 **SEC. 131. ESTABLISHMENT.**

19 Section 131(b) (20 U.S.C. 9531(b)) is amended—

20 (1) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the
21 following:

22 “(1) to sponsor sustained research that will
23 lead to the accumulation of knowledge and under-
24 standing of education, consistent with the priorities
25 described in section 115;”;

1 (2) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph
2 (3);

3 (3) in paragraph (4), by striking the period and
4 inserting “; and”; and

5 (4) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(5) consistent with section 114(j), to widely
7 disseminate and promote utilization of the work of
8 the Research Center.”.

9 **SEC. 132. DUTIES.**

10 Section 133 (20 U.S.C. 9533) is amended—

11 (1) in subsection (a)—

12 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “peer-re-
13 view standards and”;

14 (B) by striking paragraph (2);

15 (C) by redesignating paragraph (3) as
16 paragraph (2);

17 (D) by striking paragraph (4);

18 (E) by redesignating paragraphs (5)
19 through (9) as paragraphs (3) through (7), re-
20 spectively;

21 (F) in paragraph (3), as redesignated by
22 subparagraph (E), by inserting “in the imple-
23 mentation of programs carried out by the De-
24 partment and other agencies” before “within
25 the Federal Government”;

1 (G) in paragraph (5), as redesignated by
2 subparagraph (E), by striking “disseminate,
3 through the National Center for Education
4 Evaluation and Regional Assistance,” and in-
5 serting “widely disseminate, consistent with sec-
6 tion 114(j),”;

7 (H) in paragraph (6), as redesignated by
8 subparagraph (E)—

9 (i) by striking “Director” and insert-
10 ing “Board”; and

11 (ii) by striking “of a biennial report,
12 as described in section 119” and inserting
13 “and dissemination of each evaluation re-
14 port under section 116(d)”;

15 (I) in paragraph (7), as redesignated by
16 subparagraph (E), by inserting “and which may
17 include research on social and emotional learn-
18 ing, and the acquisition of competencies and
19 skills, including the ability to think critically,
20 solve complex problems, evaluate evidence, and
21 communicate effectively,” after “gap,”;

22 (J) by inserting after paragraph (7), as re-
23 designating by subparagraph (E), the following:

24 “(8) to the extent time and resources allow,
25 when findings from previous research under this

1 part provoke relevant follow up questions, carry out
2 research initiatives on such follow up questions;”;

3 (K) by redesignating paragraphs (10) and
4 (11) as paragraphs (9) and (10), respectively;

5 (L) by striking paragraph (9), as redesign-
6 nated by subparagraph (K), and inserting the
7 following:

8 “(9) carry out research initiatives, including
9 rigorous, peer-reviewed, large-scale, long-term, and
10 broadly applicable empirical research, regarding the
11 impact of technology on education, including online
12 education and hybrid learning;”;

13 (M) in paragraph (10), as redesignated by
14 subparagraph (K), by striking the period at the
15 end and inserting “; and”; and

16 (N) by adding at the end the following:

17 “(11) to the extent feasible, carry out research
18 on the quality of implementation of practices and
19 strategies determined to be effective through sci-
20 entifically valid research.”;

21 (2) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the
22 following:

23 “(b) PLAN.—The Research Commissioner shall pro-
24 pose to the Director and, subject to the approval of the

1 Director, implement a research plan for the activities of
2 the Research Center that—

3 “(1) is consistent with the priorities and mis-
4 sion of the Institute and the mission of the Research
5 Center described in section 131(b), and includes the
6 activities described in subsection (a);

7 “(2) is carried out and, as appropriate, updated
8 and modified, including through the use of the re-
9 sults of the Research Center’s most recent evalua-
10 tion report under section 116(d);

11 “(3) describes how the Research Center will use
12 the performance management system described in
13 section 185 to assess and improve the activities of
14 the Center;

15 “(4) meets the procedures for peer review es-
16 tablished and maintained by the Director under sec-
17 tion 114(f)(5) and the standards of research de-
18 scribed in section 134; and

19 “(5) includes both basic research and applied
20 research, which shall include research conducted
21 through field-initiated research and ongoing research
22 initiatives.”;

23 (3) by redesignating subsection (c) as sub-
24 section (d);

1 (4) by inserting after subsection (b), the fol-
2 lowing:

3 “(c) GRANTS, CONTRACTS, AND COOPERATIVE
4 AGREEMENTS.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Research Commis-
6 sioner may award grants to, or enter into contracts
7 or cooperative agreements with, eligible applicants to
8 carry out research under subsection (a).

9 “(2) ELIGIBILITY.—For purposes of this sub-
10 section, the term ‘eligible applicant’ means an appli-
11 cant that has the ability and capacity to conduct sci-
12 entifically valid research.

13 “(3) APPLICATIONS.—

14 “(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible applicant
15 that wishes to receive a grant, or enter into a
16 contract or cooperative agreement, under this
17 section shall submit an application to the Re-
18 search Commissioner at such time, in such
19 manner, and containing such information as the
20 Research Commissioner may require.

21 “(B) CONTENT.—An application submitted
22 under subparagraph (A) shall describe how the
23 eligible applicant will address and demonstrate
24 progress on the requirements of the perform-
25 ance management system described in section

1 185, with respect to the activities that will be
2 carried out under the grant, contract, or coop-
3 erative agreement.”; and

4 (5) in subsection (d), as redesignated by para-
5 graph (3)—

6 (A) by striking paragraph (1) and insert-
7 ing the following:

8 “(1) SUPPORT.—In carrying out activities
9 under subsection (a)(2), the Research Commissioner
10 shall support national research and development cen-
11 ters that address topics of importance and relevance
12 in the field of education across the country and are
13 consistent with the Institute’s priorities under sec-
14 tion 115.”;

15 (B) by striking paragraphs (2), (3), and
16 (5);

17 (C) by redesignating paragraphs (4), (6),
18 and (7) as paragraphs (2), (3), and (4), respec-
19 tively;

20 (D) in paragraph (2), as redesignated by
21 subparagraph (C)—

22 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
23 graph (A)—

24 (I) by striking “5 additional”
25 and inserting “2 additional”; and

1 (II) by striking “notwithstanding
2 section 134(b),” and inserting “not-
3 withstanding section 114(h),”;

4 (ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking
5 “and” after the semicolon;

6 (iii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
7 the period and inserting “; and”; and

8 (iv) by adding at the end the fol-
9 lowing:

10 “(C) demonstrates progress on the require-
11 ments of the performance management system
12 described in section 185.”;

13 (E) in paragraph (3), as redesignated by
14 subparagraph (C), by striking “paragraphs (4)
15 and (5)” and inserting “paragraph (2)”; and

16 (F) by striking paragraph (4), as redesign-
17 ated by subparagraph (C), and inserting the
18 following:

19 “(4) DISAGGREGATION.—To the extent feasible
20 and when relevant to the research being conducted,
21 research conducted under this subsection shall be
22 disaggregated and cross-tabulated by age, race, gen-
23 der, disability status, English learner status, socio-
24 economic background, and other population charac-
25 teristics as determined by the Research Commis-

1 sioner, so long as any reported information does not
2 reveal individually identifiable information.”.

3 **SEC. 133. STANDARDS FOR CONDUCT AND EVALUATION OF**
4 **RESEARCH.**

5 Section 134 (20 U.S.C. 9534) is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (a)—

7 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “based”
8 and inserting “valid”; and

9 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “and
10 wide dissemination activities” and inserting
11 “and, consistent with section 114(j), wide dis-
12 semination and utilization activities”;

13 (2) by striking subsection (b); and

14 (3) by redesignating subsection (c) as sub-
15 section (b).

16 **PART C—NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION**
17 **STATISTICS**

18 **SEC. 151. ESTABLISHMENT.**

19 Section 151(b) (20 U.S.C. 9541(b)) is amended—

20 (1) in paragraph (2), by inserting “and con-
21 sistent with the privacy protections under section
22 183” after “manner”; and

23 (2) in paragraph (3)—

24 (A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “dis-
25 ability,” after “cultural,”; and

1 (B) by striking subparagraph (B) and in-
2 serting the following:

3 “(B) is consistent with section 114(j), is
4 relevant, timely, and widely disseminated.”.

5 **SEC. 152. DUTIES.**

6 Section 153 (20 U.S.C. 9543) is amended—

7 (1) in subsection (a)—

8 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
9 by inserting “, consistent with the privacy pro-
10 tections under section 183,” after “Center
11 shall”;

12 (B) in paragraph (1)—

13 (i) by striking subparagraph (D) and
14 inserting the following:

15 “(D) secondary school graduation and
16 completion rates, including the four-year ad-
17 justed cohort graduation rate (as defined in sec-
18 tion 200.19(b)(1)(i)(A) of title 34, Code of Fed-
19 eral Regulations, as such section was in effect
20 on November 28, 2008) and the extended-year
21 adjusted cohort graduation rate (as defined in
22 section 200.19(b)(1)(v)(A) of title 34, Code of
23 Federal Regulations, as such section was in ef-
24 fect on November 28, 2008), and school drop-
25 out rates, and adult literacy;”;

1 (ii) in subparagraph (E), by striking
2 “and opportunity for,” and inserting “op-
3 portunity for, and completion of”;

4 (iii) by striking subparagraph (F) and
5 inserting the following:

6 “(F) teaching and school leadership, in-
7 cluding information on teacher and school lead-
8 er pre-service preparation, professional develop-
9 ment, teacher distribution, and teacher and
10 school leader evaluation;”;

11 (iv) in subparagraph (G), by inserting
12 “and school leaders” before the semicolon;

13 (v) in subparagraph (H), by inserting
14 “, climate, and in- and out-of-school sus-
15 pensions and expulsions” before “, includ-
16 ing information regarding”;

17 (vi) by striking subparagraph (K) and
18 inserting the following:

19 “(K) the access to, and use of, technology
20 to improve elementary schools and secondary
21 schools;”;

22 (vii) in subparagraph (L), by striking
23 “and opportunity for,” and inserting “op-
24 portunity for, and quality of”;

- 1 (viii) in subparagraph (M), by striking
2 “such programs during school recesses”
3 and inserting “summer school”;
- 4 (ix) in subparagraph (N)—
- 5 (I) by striking “vocational” and
6 inserting “career”; and
- 7 (II) by striking “and” after the
8 semicolon;
- 9 (x) in subparagraph (O), by inserting
10 “and” after the semicolon; and
- 11 (xi) by adding at the end the fol-
12 lowing:
- 13 “(P) access to, and opportunity for, adult
14 education and literacy activities;”;
- 15 (C) in paragraph (3)—
- 16 (i) by striking “when such
17 disaggregated information will facilitate
18 educational and policy decisionmaking”
19 and inserting “so long as any reported in-
20 formation does not reveal individually iden-
21 tifiable information”; and
- 22 (ii) by striking “limited English pro-
23 ficiency” and inserting “English learner
24 status”;

1 (D) in paragraph (4), by inserting before
2 the semicolon the following: “, and the imple-
3 mentation (with the assistance of the Depart-
4 ment and other Federal officials who have stat-
5 utory authority to provide assistance on appli-
6 cable privacy laws, regulations, and policies) of
7 appropriate privacy protections”;

8 (E) in paragraph (5)—

9 (i) by striking “determining voluntary
10 standards and guidelines to assist” and in-
11 sserting “providing technical assistance to”;
12 and

13 (ii) by striking “promote linkages
14 across States,”;

15 (F) in paragraph (6)—

16 (i) by striking “Third” and inserting
17 “Trends in”; and

18 (ii) by inserting “and the Program for
19 International Student Assessment” after
20 “Science Study”;

21 (G) in paragraph (7), by striking the semi-
22 colon and inserting the following: “and ensuring
23 such collections protect student privacy con-
24 sistent with section 183; and”;

1 (H) by striking paragraph (8) and insert-
2 ing the following:

3 “(8) assisting the Board in the preparation and
4 dissemination of each evaluation report under sec-
5 tion 116(d).”; and

6 (I) by striking paragraph (9);

7 (2) by redesignating subsection (b) as sub-
8 section (c); and

9 (3) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-
10 lowing:

11 “(b) PLAN.—The Statistics Commissioner shall de-
12 velop a plan in consultation with the Director and imple-
13 ment a plan for activities of the Statistics Center that—

14 “(1) is consistent with the priorities and mis-
15 sion of the Institute and the mission of the Statistics
16 Center described in section 151(b);

17 “(2) is carried out and, as appropriate, updated
18 and modified, including through the use of the re-
19 sults of the Statistic Center’s most recent evaluation
20 report under section 116(d); and

21 “(3) describes how the Statistics Center will use
22 the performance management system described in
23 section 185 to assess and improve the activities of
24 the Center.”.

1 **SEC. 153. PERFORMANCE OF DUTIES.**

2 Section 154 (20 U.S.C. 9544) is amended—

3 (1) in subsection (a)—

4 (A) by striking “In carrying” and inserting
5 the following:

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying”;

7 (B) by inserting “to eligible applicants”
8 after “technical assistance”; and

9 (C) by adding at the end the following:

10 “(2) ELIGIBILITY.—For purposes of this sec-
11 tion, the term ‘eligible applicant’ means an applicant
12 that has the ability and capacity to carry out activi-
13 ties under this part.

14 “(3) APPLICATIONS.—

15 “(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible applicant
16 that wishes to receive a grant, or enter into a
17 contract or cooperative agreement, under this
18 section shall submit an application to the Sta-
19 tistics Commissioner at such time, in such man-
20 ner, and containing such information as the
21 Statistics Commissioner may require.

22 “(B) CONTENTS.—An application sub-
23 mitted under subparagraph (A) shall describe
24 how the eligible applicant will address and dem-
25 onstrate progress on the requirements of the
26 performance management system described in

1 section 185, with respect to the activities that
2 will be carried out under the grant, contract, or
3 cooperative agreement.”;

4 (2) in subsection (b)(2)(A), by striking “voca-
5 tional and” and inserting “career and technical edu-
6 cation programs,”; and

7 (3) in subsection (c), by striking “5 years” the
8 second place it appears and inserting “2 years if the
9 recipient demonstrates progress on the requirements
10 of the performance management system described in
11 section 185, with respect to the activities carried out
12 under the grant, contract, or cooperative agreement
13 received under this section”.

14 **SEC. 154. REPORTS.**

15 Section 155 (20 U.S.C. 9545) is amended—

16 (1) in subsection (a), by inserting “(consistent
17 with section 114(h))” after “review”; and

18 (2) in subsection (b), by striking “2003” and
19 inserting “2016”.

20 **SEC. 155. DISSEMINATION.**

21 Section 156 (20 U.S.C. 9546) is amended—

22 (1) in subsection (c), by adding at the end the
23 following: “Such projects shall adhere to student pri-
24 vacy requirements under section 183.”; and

25 (2) in subsection (e)—

1 (A) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end
2 the following: “Before receiving access to edu-
3 cational data under this paragraph, a Federal
4 agency shall describe to the Statistics Center
5 the specific research intent for use of the data,
6 how access to the data may meet such research
7 intent, and how the Federal agency will protect
8 the confidentiality of the data consistent with
9 the requirements of section 183.”;

10 (B) in paragraph (2)—

11 (i) by inserting “and consistent with
12 section 183” after “may prescribe”; and

13 (ii) by adding at the end the fol-
14 lowing: “Before receiving access to data
15 under this paragraph, an interested party
16 shall describe to the Statistics Center the
17 specific research intent for use of the data,
18 how access to the data may meet such re-
19 search intent, and how the party will pro-
20 tect the confidentiality of the data con-
21 sistent with the requirements of section
22 183.”; and

23 (C) by adding at the end the following:

24 “(3) DENIAL AUTHORITY.—The Statistics Cen-
25 ter shall have the authority to deny any requests for

1 access to data under paragraph (1) or (2) if the
2 data requested would be unnecessary for or unre-
3 lated to the proposed research design or research in-
4 tent, or if the request would introduce risk of a pri-
5 vacy violation or misuse of data.

6 “(4) APPLICABILITY OF REQUIREMENTS.—The
7 requirements described under the second sentence of
8 paragraph (1) and the second sentence of paragraph
9 (2) and the authority under paragraph (3) shall not
10 apply to public use data sets.”.

11 **SEC. 156. COOPERATIVE EDUCATION STATISTICS PARTNER-**
12 **SHIPS.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 157 (20 U.S.C. 9547) is
14 amended—

15 (1) in the section heading, by striking “**SYS-**
16 **TEMS**” and inserting “**PARTNERSHIPS**”;

17 (2) by striking “national cooperative education
18 statistics systems” and inserting “cooperative edu-
19 cation statistics partnerships”;

20 (3) by striking “producing and maintaining,
21 with the cooperation” and inserting “reviewing and
22 improving, with the voluntary participation”;

23 (4) by striking “comparable and uniform” and
24 inserting “data quality standards, which may include
25 establishing voluntary guidelines to standardize”;

1 (5) by striking “adult education, and libraries,”
2 and inserting “and adult education”; and

3 (6) by adding at the end the following: “No stu-
4 dent data shall be collected by the partnerships es-
5 tablished under this section, nor shall such partner-
6 ships establish a national student data system.”.

7 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of con-
8 tents in section 1 of the Act of November 5, 2002 (Public
9 Law 107–279; 116 Stat. 1940), is amended by striking
10 the item relating to section 157 and inserting the fol-
11 lowing:

“Sec. 157. Cooperative education statistics partnerships.”.

12 **PART D—NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION**
13 **EVALUATION AND REGIONAL ASSISTANCE**
14 **SEC. 171. ESTABLISHMENT.**

15 Section 171 (20 U.S.C. 9561) is amended—

16 (1) in subsection (b)—

17 (A) by striking paragraph (1);

18 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (2), (3),
19 and (4) as paragraphs (1), (2), and (3), respec-
20 tively;

21 (C) in paragraph (1), as redesignated by
22 subparagraph (B), by striking “of such pro-
23 grams” and all that follows through “science)”
24 and inserting “and to evaluate the implementa-
25 tion of such programs”; and

1 (D) in paragraph (2), as redesignated by
2 subparagraph (B), by striking “and wide dis-
3 semination of results of” and inserting “and,
4 consistent with section 114(j), the wide dissemi-
5 nation and utilization of results of all”; and
6 (2) by striking subsection (c).

7 **SEC. 172. COMMISSIONER FOR EDUCATION EVALUATION**
8 **AND REGIONAL ASSISTANCE.**

9 Section 172 (20 U.S.C. 9562) is amended—

10 (1) in subsection (a)—

11 (A) by striking paragraph (2) and insert-
12 ing the following:

13 “(2) widely disseminate, consistent with section
14 114(j), all information on scientifically valid research
15 and statistics supported by the Institute and all sci-
16 entifically valid education evaluations supported by
17 the Institute, particularly to State educational agen-
18 cies and local educational agencies, to institutions of
19 higher education, and to the public, the media, vol-
20 untary organizations, professional associations, and
21 other constituencies, especially with respect to the
22 priorities described in section 115;”;

23 (B) in paragraph (3)—

1 (i) by inserting “, consistent with sec-
2 tion 114(j)” after “timely, and efficient
3 manner”; and

4 (ii) by striking “that shall include all
5 topics covered in paragraph (2)(E)”;

6 (C) in paragraph (4)—

7 (i) by striking “development and dis-
8 semination” and inserting “development,
9 dissemination, and utilization”; and

10 (ii) by striking “the provision of tech-
11 nical assistance,”;

12 (D) in paragraph (5)—

13 (i) by striking “subsection (d)” and
14 inserting “subsection (e)”; and

15 (ii) by inserting “and” after the semi-
16 colon;

17 (E) in paragraph (6)—

18 (i) by striking “Director” and insert-
19 ing “Board”;

20 (ii) by striking “preparation of a bien-
21 nial report,” and inserting “preparation
22 and dissemination of each evaluation re-
23 port”; and

24 (iii) by striking “119; and” and in-
25 serting “116(d).”; and

1 (F) by striking paragraph (7);

2 (2) in subsection (b)(1)—

3 (A) by inserting “all” before “information
4 disseminated”; and

5 (B) by striking “, which may include” and
6 all that follows through “of this Act”);

7 (3) by striking subsection (c);

8 (4) by redesignating subsection (d) as sub-
9 section (e);

10 (5) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-
11 lowing:

12 “(c) PLAN.—The Evaluation and Regional Assistance
13 Commissioner shall propose to the Director and, subject
14 to the approval of the Director, implement a plan for the
15 activities of the National Center for Education Evaluation
16 and Regional Assistance that—

17 “(1) is consistent with the priorities and mis-
18 sion of the Institute and the mission of the Center
19 described in section 171(b);

20 “(2) is carried out and, as appropriate, updated
21 and modified, including through the use of the re-
22 sults of the Center’s most recent evaluation report
23 under section 116(d); and

24 “(3) describes how the Center will use the per-
25 formance management system described in section

1 185 to assess and improve the activities of the Cen-
2 ter.

3 “(d) GRANTS, CONTRACTS, AND COOPERATIVE
4 AGREEMENTS.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the duties
6 under this part, the Evaluation and Regional Assist-
7 ance Commissioner may—

8 “(A) award grants, contracts, or coopera-
9 tive agreements to eligible applicants to carry
10 out the activities under this part; and

11 “(B) provide technical assistance.

12 “(2) ELIGIBILITY.—For purposes of this sec-
13 tion, the term ‘eligible applicant’ means an applicant
14 that has the ability and capacity to carry out activi-
15 ties under this part.

16 “(3) ENTITIES TO CONDUCT EVALUATIONS.—In
17 awarding grants, contracts, or cooperative agree-
18 ments under paragraph (1) to carry out activities
19 under section 173, the Evaluation and Regional As-
20 sistance Commissioner shall make such awards to el-
21 igible applicants with the ability and capacity to con-
22 duct scientifically valid education evaluations.

23 “(4) APPLICATIONS.—

24 “(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible applicant
25 that wishes to receive a grant, contract, or co-

1 operative agreement under paragraph (1) shall
2 submit an application to the Evaluation and
3 Regional Assistance Commissioner at such time,
4 in such manner, and containing such informa-
5 tion as the Commissioner may require.

6 “(B) CONTENTS.—An application sub-
7 mitted under subparagraph (A) shall describe
8 how the eligible applicant will address and dem-
9 onstrate progress on the requirements of the
10 performance management system described in
11 section 185, with respect to the activities car-
12 ried out under such grant, contract, or coopera-
13 tive agreement.

14 “(5) DURATION.—Notwithstanding any other
15 provision of law, the grants, contracts, and coopera-
16 tive agreements under paragraph (1) may be award-
17 ed, on a competitive basis, for a period of not more
18 than 5 years, and may be renewed at the discretion
19 of the Evaluation and Regional Assistance Commis-
20 sioner for an additional period of not more than 2
21 years if the recipient demonstrates progress on the
22 requirements of the performance management sys-
23 tem described in section 185, with respect to the ac-
24 tivities carried out under the grant, contract, or co-
25 operative agreement.”; and

1 (6) in subsection (e), as redesignated by para-
2 graph (4)—

3 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “There is
4 established” and all that follows through “Re-
5 gional Assistance” and inserting “The Evalua-
6 tion and Regional Assistance Commissioner
7 may establish”;

8 (B) in paragraph (2)(A), by inserting “all”
9 before “products”; and

10 (C) in paragraph (2)(B)(ii), by striking
11 “2002” and all that follows through the period
12 and inserting “2002).”.

13 **SEC. 173. EVALUATIONS.**

14 Section 173 (20 U.S.C. 9563) is amended—

15 (1) in subsection (a)—

16 (A) in paragraph (1)—

17 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
18 graph (A), by striking “may” and inserting
19 “shall”;

20 (ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking
21 “evaluations” and inserting “high-quality
22 evaluations, including impact evaluations
23 that use rigorous methodologies that per-
24 mit the strongest possible causal infer-
25 ences,”;

1 (iii) in subparagraph (B), by inserting
2 before the semicolon at the end the fol-
3 lowing: “, including programs under part
4 A of such title (20 U.S.C. 6311 et seq.)”;
5 (iv) by striking subparagraph (C);
6 (v) by redesignating subparagraph
7 (D) as subparagraph (C);
8 (vi) by striking subparagraphs (E)
9 and (G);
10 (vii) by redesignating subparagraph
11 (F) as subparagraph (D);
12 (viii) in subparagraph (D), as redesign-
13 nated by clause (vii), by striking “and” at
14 the end; and
15 (ix) by inserting after subparagraph
16 (D), as redesignated by clause (vii), the
17 following:
18 “(E) provide evaluation findings in an un-
19 derstandable, easily accessible, and usable for-
20 mat to support program improvement;
21 “(F) support the evaluation activities de-
22 scribed in section 401 of the Strengthening
23 Education through Research Act that are car-
24 ried out by the Director; and
25 “(G) to the extent feasible—

1 “(i) examine evaluations conducted or
2 supported by others to determine the qual-
3 ity and relevance of the evidence of effec-
4 tiveness generated by those evaluations,
5 with the approval of the Director;

6 “(ii) review and supplement Federal
7 education program evaluations, particularly
8 such evaluations by the Department, to de-
9 termine or enhance the quality and rel-
10 evance of the evidence generated by those
11 evaluations;

12 “(iii) conduct implementation evalua-
13 tions that promote continuous improve-
14 ment and inform policymaking;

15 “(iv) evaluate the short- and long-
16 term effects and cost efficiencies across
17 programs assisted or authorized under
18 Federal law and administrated by the De-
19 partment; and

20 “(v) synthesize the results of evalua-
21 tion studies for and across Federal edu-
22 cation programs, policies, and practices.”;
23 and

24 (B) in paragraph (2)—

1 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking
2 “and” at the end;

3 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
4 the period and inserting “under section
5 114(h); and”; and

6 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
7 lowing:

8 “(C) be widely disseminated, consistent
9 with section 114(j).”; and

10 (2) in subsection (b), by striking “contracts”
11 and inserting “grants, contracts, or cooperative
12 agreements”.

13 **SEC. 174. REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL LABORATORIES FOR**
14 **RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, DISSEMINATION,**
15 **AND EVALUATION.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 174 (20 U.S.C. 9564) is
17 amended—

18 (1) in the section heading, by striking “**TECH-**
19 **NICAL ASSISTANCE**” and inserting “**EVALUA-**
20 **TION**”;

21 (2) in subsection (a)—

22 (A) by striking “The Director” and insert-
23 ing “Except as provided in subsection (e)(8),
24 the Evaluation and Regional Assistance Com-
25 missioner”; and

1 (B) by striking “contracts” and inserting
2 “grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements”;
3 (3) in subsection (c)—

4 (A) by striking “The Director” and insert-
5 ing the following:

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Evaluation and Re-
7 gional Assistance Commissioner”;

8 (B) by striking “contracts under this sec-
9 tion with research organizations, institutions,
10 agencies, institutions of higher education,” and
11 inserting “grants, contracts, or cooperative
12 agreements under this section with public or
13 private, nonprofit or for-profit research organi-
14 zations, other organizations, or institutions of
15 higher education,”;

16 (C) by striking “or individuals,”;

17 (D) by striking “, including regional enti-
18 ties” and all that follows through “107–110))”;
19 and

20 (E) by adding at the end the following:

21 “(2) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this sec-
22 tion, the term ‘eligible applicant’ means an entity
23 described in paragraph (1).”;

24 (4) by striking subsections (d) through (j) and
25 inserting the following:

1 “(d) APPLICATIONS.—

2 “(1) SUBMISSION.—

3 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible appli-
4 cant desiring a grant, contract, or cooperative
5 agreement under this section shall submit an
6 application at such time, in such manner, and
7 containing such information as the Evaluation
8 and Regional Assistance Commissioner may
9 reasonably require.

10 “(B) INPUT.—To ensure that applications
11 submitted under this paragraph are reflective of
12 the needs of the regions to be served, each eligi-
13 ble applicant submitting such an application
14 shall seek input from State educational agencies
15 and local educational agencies in the region
16 that the award will serve, and other individuals
17 with knowledge of the region’s needs.

18 “(2) PLAN.—

19 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Each application sub-
20 mitted under paragraph (1) shall contain a plan
21 for the activities of the regional educational lab-
22 oratory to be established under this section,
23 which shall be updated, modified, and improved,
24 as appropriate, on an ongoing basis, including

1 by using the results of the laboratory's interim
2 evaluation under subsection (i)(3).

3 “(B) CONTENTS.—A plan described in
4 subparagraph (A) shall address—

5 “(i) the priorities for applied research,
6 development, evaluations, and wide dis-
7 semination established under section 207;

8 “(ii) the needs of State educational
9 agencies and local educational agencies, on
10 an ongoing basis, using available State and
11 local data; and

12 “(iii) if available, demonstrated sup-
13 port from State educational agencies and
14 local educational agencies in the region,
15 such as letters of support or signed memo-
16 randa of understanding.

17 “(3) NON-FEDERAL SUPPORT.—In conducting a
18 competition for grants, contracts, or cooperative
19 agreements under subsection (a), the Evaluation and
20 Regional Assistance Commissioner shall give priority
21 to eligible applicants that will provide a portion of
22 non-Federal funds to maximize support for activities
23 of the regional educational laboratories to be estab-
24 lished under this section.

1 “(e) AWARDING GRANTS, CONTRACTS, OR COOPERA-
2 TIVE AGREEMENTS.—

3 “(1) ASSURANCES.—In awarding grants, con-
4 tracts, or cooperative agreements under this section,
5 the Evaluation and Regional Assistance Commis-
6 sioner shall—

7 “(A) make such an award for not more
8 than a 5-year period;

9 “(B) ensure that regional educational lab-
10 oratories established under this section have
11 strong and effective governance, organization,
12 management, and administration, and employ
13 qualified staff; and

14 “(C) ensure that each such laboratory has
15 the flexibility to respond in a timely fashion to
16 the needs of the laboratory’s region, includ-
17 ing—

18 “(i) through using the results of the
19 laboratory’s interim evaluation under sub-
20 section (i)(3) to improve and modify the
21 activities of the laboratory before the end
22 of the award period; and

23 “(ii) through sharing preliminary re-
24 sults of the laboratory’s research, as ap-

1 appropriate, to increase the relevance and
2 usefulness of the research.

3 “(2) COORDINATION.—To ensure coordination
4 and prevent unnecessary duplication of activities
5 among the regions, the Evaluation and Regional As-
6 sistance Commissioner shall—

7 “(A) share information about the activities
8 of each regional educational laboratory with
9 each other regional educational laboratory, the
10 Department, the Director, and the National
11 Board for Education Sciences;

12 “(B) ensure, where appropriate, that the
13 activities of each regional educational laboratory
14 established under this section also serve na-
15 tional interests;

16 “(C) ensure each such regional educational
17 laboratory establishes strong partnerships
18 among practitioners, policymakers, researchers,
19 and others, so that such partnerships are con-
20 tinued in the absence of Federal support; and

21 “(D) enable, where appropriate, for such a
22 laboratory to work in a region being served by
23 another laboratory or to carry out a project
24 that extends beyond the region served by the
25 laboratory.

1 “(3) COLLABORATION WITH TECHNICAL ASSIST-
2 ANCE PROVIDERS.—Each regional educational lab-
3 oratory established under this section shall, on an
4 ongoing basis, coordinate its activities, collaborate,
5 and regularly exchange information with the com-
6 prehensive centers (established in section 203) in the
7 region in which the laboratory is located, and with
8 comprehensive centers located outside of its region,
9 as appropriate.

10 “(4) OUTREACH.—In conducting competitions
11 for grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements
12 under this section, the Evaluation and Regional As-
13 sistance Commissioner shall—

14 “(A) by making information and technical
15 assistance relating to the competition widely
16 available, actively encourage eligible applicants
17 to compete for such an award; and

18 “(B) seek input from the chief executive
19 officers of States, chief State school officers,
20 educators, parents, superintendents, and other
21 individuals with knowledge of the needs of the
22 regions to be served by the awards, regarding—

23 “(i) the needs in the regions for ap-
24 plied research, evaluation, development,

1 and wide-dissemination activities author-
2 ized by this title; and

3 “(ii) how such needs may be ad-
4 dressed most effectively.

5 “(5) PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT.—Before
6 the Evaluation and Regional Assistance Commis-
7 sioner awards a grant, contract, or cooperative
8 agreement under this section, the Director shall es-
9 tablish measurable performance indicators for as-
10 sessing the ongoing progress and performance of the
11 regional educational laboratories established with
12 such awards that address the requirements of the
13 performance management system described in sec-
14 tion 185.

15 “(6) STANDARDS.—The Evaluation and Re-
16 gional Assistance Commissioner shall adhere to the
17 Institute’s system for technical and peer review
18 under section 114(h) in reviewing the applied re-
19 search activities and research-based reports of the
20 regional educational laboratories.

21 “(7) REQUIRED CONSIDERATION.—In deter-
22 mining whether to award a grant, contract, or coop-
23 erative agreement under this section—

24 “(A) to an eligible applicant that pre-
25 viously established a regional educational lab-

1 oratory under this section, the Evaluation and
2 Regional Assistance Commissioner shall—

3 “(i) consider the results of such lab-
4 oratory’s summative evaluation under sub-
5 section (i)(2), or, if not available, any in-
6 terim evaluation findings under subsection
7 (i)(3); and

8 “(ii) ensure that only such labora-
9 tories determined effective in their relevant
10 interim or summative evaluations, as de-
11 scribed in subsection (i), are eligible to re-
12 ceive a new grant, contract, or cooperative
13 agreement; and

14 “(B) to any eligible applicant, the Evalua-
15 tion and Regional Assistance Commissioner
16 shall ensure that such applicant has—

17 “(i) a history of effectiveness in con-
18 ducting high-quality applied research; and

19 “(ii) the capacity to meet the measur-
20 able performance indicators established
21 under paragraph (5).

22 “(8) FLEXIBILITY IN LABORATORY NUMBER.—

23 “(A) DETERMINATION.—The Evaluation
24 and Regional Assistance Commissioner, in con-
25 sultation with the regional educational labora-

1 tory advisory boards described in subsection
2 (h), may determine that establishing 10 re-
3 gional educational laboratories is unnecessary,
4 as required in subsection (a), and grant an al-
5 ternative number of awards or reorganize such
6 laboratories, which may include not basing the
7 awards on the regions described in subsection
8 (b), if—

9 “(i) an insufficient number of regional
10 educational laboratories are meeting the
11 needs of the regions described in sub-
12 section (b), as determined by the Commis-
13 sioner;

14 “(ii) an insufficient number of labora-
15 tories are meeting the measurable perform-
16 ance indicators established under para-
17 graph (5), as determined by the Commis-
18 sioner and the most recent interim or
19 summative evaluation under subsection (i);
20 or

21 “(iii) an insufficient number of eligi-
22 ble applicants have the capacity to meet
23 the measurable performance indicators es-
24 tablished under paragraph (5), as deter-
25 mined by the Commissioner.

1 “(B) LIMITATION.—If the Evaluation and
2 Regional Assistance Commissioner uses the de-
3 termination authority described in subpara-
4 graph (A), there shall be no more than 10 re-
5 gional educational laboratories established.

6 “(f) MISSION.—Each regional educational laboratory
7 established under this section shall—

8 “(1) conduct applied research, development,
9 data analysis, and evaluation activities with State
10 educational agencies, local educational agencies, and,
11 as appropriate, schools funded by the Bureau;

12 “(2) widely disseminate such work, consistent
13 with section 114(j); and

14 “(3) develop the capacity of State educational
15 agencies, local educational agencies, and, as appro-
16 priate, schools funded by the Bureau to carry out
17 the activities described in paragraphs (1) and (2).

18 “(g) ACTIVITIES.—To carry out the mission de-
19 scribed in subsection (f), each regional educational labora-
20 tory established under this section shall carry out the fol-
21 lowing activities:

22 “(1) Conduct, widely disseminate, and promote
23 utilization of applied research, development activi-
24 ties, evaluations, data analysis, and other scientif-
25 ically valid research.

1 “(2) Develop and improve the plan for the lab-
2 oratory under subsection (d)(2) for serving the re-
3 gion of the laboratory, and as appropriate, national
4 needs, on an ongoing basis, which shall include seek-
5 ing input and incorporating feedback from the rep-
6 resentatives of State educational agencies and local
7 educational agencies in the region, and other individ-
8 uals with knowledge of the region’s needs.

9 “(3) Ensure research and related products are
10 relevant and responsive to the needs of the region.

11 “(h) REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL LABORATORY ADVI-
12 SORY BOARD.—

13 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Each regional edu-
14 cational laboratory established under this section
15 may establish an advisory board that shall support
16 the priorities of such laboratory.

17 “(2) DUTIES.—Each advisory board established
18 under paragraph (1) shall advise the regional edu-
19 cational laboratory—

20 “(A) concerning the activities described in
21 subsection (g);

22 “(B) on strategies for monitoring and ad-
23 dressing the educational needs of the region, on
24 an ongoing basis, and as appropriate, national
25 needs;

1 “(C) on maintaining a high standard of
2 quality in the performance of the laboratory’s
3 activities, especially in meeting the measurable
4 performance indicators established under sub-
5 section (e)(5);

6 “(D) on carrying out the laboratory’s du-
7 ties in a manner that promotes progress toward
8 improving student academic achievement;

9 “(E) on the activities undertaken by the
10 comprehensive center in the region, other cen-
11 ters, as appropriate, and other laboratories to
12 align the work of such entities, reduce redun-
13 dancy, and increase collaboration and resource-
14 sharing in such activities; and

15 “(F) on joint activities with other com-
16 prehensive centers or laboratories that would
17 meet the needs of multiple regions.

18 “(3) COMPOSITION.—

19 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Each advisory board
20 shall—

21 “(i) not exceed 25 members;

22 “(ii) include the chief State school of-
23 ficer, or such officer’s designee, or other
24 State official, of States within the region
25 of the laboratory who have primary respon-

1 sibility under State law for elementary and
2 secondary education in the State;

3 “(iii) include representatives of local
4 educational agencies, including rural and
5 urban local educational agencies, that rep-
6 resent the geographic diversity of the re-
7 gion;

8 “(iv) include researchers; and

9 “(v) include not less than 1 represent-
10 ative from an advisory board of a com-
11 prehensive center serving the region, if ap-
12 plicable.

13 “(B) ELIGIBILITY.—The membership of
14 each regional educational laboratory advisory
15 board may include the following:

16 “(i) Representatives of institutions of
17 higher education.

18 “(ii) Parents.

19 “(iii) Practicing educators, including
20 classroom teachers, school leaders, admin-
21 istrators, school board members, and other
22 local school officials.

23 “(iv) Representatives of business.

24 “(v) Policymakers.

1 “(4) RECOMMENDATIONS.—In choosing individ-
2 uals for membership on a regional educational lab-
3 oratory advisory board, the regional educational lab-
4 oratory shall consult with, and solicit recommenda-
5 tions from, the Evaluation and Regional Assistance
6 Commissioner, the chief executive officers of States,
7 chief State school officers, local educational agencies,
8 and other education stakeholders within the applica-
9 ble region.

10 “(5) SPECIAL RULE.—The total number of
11 members on each regional educational laboratory ad-
12 visory board who are selected under clauses (ii) and
13 (iii) of paragraph (3)(A), in the aggregate, shall ex-
14 ceed the total number of members who are selected
15 under paragraph (3)(B), collectively.

16 “(i) EVALUATIONS.—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Evaluation and Re-
18 gional Assistance Commissioner shall—

19 “(A) provide for ongoing summative and
20 interim evaluations described in paragraphs (2)
21 and (3), respectively, of each of the regional
22 educational laboratories established under this
23 section in carrying out the full range of duties
24 described in this section; and

1 “(B) transmit the results of such evalua-
2 tions, through appropriate means, to the appro-
3 priate congressional committees, the Director,
4 and the public.

5 “(2) SUMMATIVE EVALUATIONS.—The Evalua-
6 tion and Regional Assistance Commissioner shall en-
7 sure each regional educational laboratory established
8 under this section is evaluated by an independent
9 entity at the end of the period of the grant, contract,
10 or cooperative agreement that established such lab-
11 oratory, and such evaluation shall—

12 “(A) be completed in a timely fashion;

13 “(B) assess how well the laboratory is
14 meeting the measurable performance indicators
15 established under subsection (e)(5); and

16 “(C) consider the extent to which the lab-
17 oratory ensures that the activities of such lab-
18 oratory are relevant and useful to the work of
19 State and local practitioners and policymakers.

20 “(3) INTERIM EVALUATIONS.—The Evaluation
21 and Regional Assistance Commissioner shall ensure
22 each regional educational laboratory established
23 under this section is evaluated at the midpoint of the
24 period of the grant, contract, or cooperative agree-

1 ment that established such laboratory, and such
2 evaluation shall—

3 “(A) assess how well such laboratory is
4 meeting the performance indicators described in
5 subsection (e)(5); and

6 “(B) be used to improve the effectiveness
7 of such laboratory in carrying out its plan
8 under subsection (d)(2).

9 “(j) CONTINUATION OF AWARDS; RECOMPETITION.—

10 “(1) CONTINUATION OF AWARDS.—The Evalua-
11 tion and Regional Assistance Commissioner shall
12 continue awards made to each eligible applicant for
13 the support of regional educational laboratories es-
14 tablished under this section prior to the date of en-
15 actment of the Strengthening Education through
16 Research Act, as such awards were in effect on the
17 day before the date of enactment of such Act, for
18 the duration of those awards, in accordance with the
19 terms and agreements of such awards.

20 “(2) RECOMPETITION.—Not later than the end
21 of the period of the awards described in paragraph
22 (1), the Evaluation and Regional Assistance Com-
23 missioner shall—

24 “(A) hold a competition to make grants,
25 contracts, or cooperative agreements under this

1 section to eligible applicants, which may include
2 eligible applicants that held awards described in
3 paragraph (1); and

4 “(B) in determining whether to select an
5 eligible applicant that held an award described
6 in paragraph (1) for an award under subpara-
7 graph (A) of this paragraph, consider the re-
8 sults of the summative evaluation under sub-
9 section (i)(2) of the laboratory established with
10 the eligible applicant’s award described in para-
11 graph (1).”;

12 (5) by striking subsection (l);

13 (6) by redesignating subsections (m), (n), and
14 (o) as subsections (l), (m), and (n), respectively;

15 (7) in subsection (l), as redesignated by para-
16 graph (6), by inserting “and local” after “achieve
17 State”;

18 (8) by striking subsection (m), as redesignated
19 by paragraph (6), and inserting the following:

20 “(m) ANNUAL REPORT.—Each regional educational
21 laboratory established under this section shall submit to
22 the Evaluation and Regional Assistance Commissioner an
23 annual report containing such information as the Commis-
24 sioner may require, but which shall include, at a minimum,
25 the following:

1 “(1) A summary of the laboratory’s activities
2 and products developed during the previous year.

3 “(2) A listing of the State educational agencies,
4 local educational agencies, and schools the labora-
5 tory assisted during the previous year.

6 “(3) Using the measurable performance indica-
7 tors established under subsection (e)(5), a descrip-
8 tion of how well the laboratory is meeting edu-
9 cational needs of the region served by the laboratory.

10 “(4) Any changes to the laboratory’s plan under
11 subsection (d)(2) to improve its activities in the re-
12 maining years of the grant, contract, or cooperative
13 agreement.”; and

14 (9) by adding at the end the following:

15 “(o) APPROPRIATIONS RESERVATION.—Of the
16 amounts appropriated under section 194(a), the Evalua-
17 tion and Regional Assistance Commissioner shall reserve
18 16.13 percent of such funds to carry out this section, of
19 which the Commissioner shall use not less than 25 percent
20 to serve rural areas (including schools funded by the Bu-
21 reau which are located in rural areas).”.

22 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of con-
23 tents in section 1 of the Act of November 5, 2002 (Public
24 Law 107–279; 116 Stat. 1940), is amended by striking

1 the item relating to section 174 and inserting the fol-
2 lowing:

“Sec. 174. Regional educational laboratories for research, development, dissemi-
nation, and evaluation.”.

3 **PART E—NATIONAL CENTER FOR SPECIAL**
4 **EDUCATION RESEARCH**

5 **SEC. 175. ESTABLISHMENT.**

6 Section 175(b) (20 U.S.C. 9567(b)) is amended—

7 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “and chil-
8 dren” and inserting “children, and youth”;

9 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” at the
10 end;

11 (3) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at
12 the end and inserting a semicolon; and

13 (4) by adding at the end the following:

14 “(4) to promote quality and integrity through
15 the use of accepted practices of scientific inquiry to
16 obtain knowledge and understanding of the validity
17 of education theories, practices, or conditions with
18 respect to special education research and evaluation
19 described in paragraphs (1) through (3); and

20 “(5) to promote scientifically valid research
21 findings in special education that may provide the
22 basis for improving academic instruction and lifelong
23 learning.”.

1 **SEC. 176. COMMISSIONER FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION RE-**
2 **SEARCH.**

3 Section 176 (20 U.S.C. 9567a) is amended by insert-
4 ing “and youth” after “children”.

5 **SEC. 177. DUTIES.**

6 Section 177 (20 U.S.C. 9567b) is amended—

7 (1) in subsection (a)—

8 (A) in paragraph (1)(A), by inserting “and
9 youth” after “children”;

10 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “scientific-
11 ically based educational practices” and inserting
12 “educational practices, including the use of
13 technology based on scientifically valid re-
14 search,”;

15 (C) in paragraph (4)—

16 (i) by striking “scientifically based”;
17 and

18 (ii) by inserting “are based on sci-
19 entificallly valid research and” after “inter-
20 ventions that”;

21 (D) in paragraph (10), by inserting before
22 the semicolon the following: “, including how
23 secondary school credentials are related to post-
24 secondary and employment outcomes”;

25 (E) by redesignating paragraphs (11)
26 through (15) and paragraphs (16) and (17) as

1 paragraphs (12) through (16), respectively, and
2 paragraphs (18) and (19), respectively;

3 (F) by inserting after paragraph (10), the
4 following:

5 “(11) examine the participation and outcomes
6 of students with disabilities in secondary and post-
7 secondary career and technical education pro-
8 grams;”;

9 (G) in paragraph (14), as redesignated by
10 subparagraph (E), by inserting “and profes-
11 sional development” after “preparation”;

12 (H) in paragraph (16), as redesignated by
13 subparagraph (E), by striking “help parents”
14 and inserting “examine the methods by which
15 parents may”;

16 (I) by inserting after paragraph (16), as
17 redesignated by subparagraph (E), the fol-
18 lowing:

19 “(17) assist the Board in the preparation and
20 dissemination of each evaluation report under sec-
21 tion 116(d);”;

22 (J) in paragraph (18), as redesignated by
23 subparagraph (E), by striking “and” at the
24 end;

1 (K) by striking paragraph (19), as redesignated by subparagraph (E), and inserting the following:

2 “(19) examine the needs of children with disabilities who are English learners, are gifted and talented, or have other unique learning needs; and”;

3 and

4 (L) by adding at the end the following:

5 “(20) examine innovations in the field of special education, such as multi-tiered systems of support.”;

6 (2) in subsection (c)—

7 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

8 (i) by inserting “for the activities of the Special Education Research Center” after “a research plan”; and

9 (ii) by striking “Services, that—” and inserting “Services, and, subject to the approval of the Director, implement the research plan. The research plan shall be a plan that—”;

10 (B) in paragraph (1), by inserting “described in section 175(b)” after “Center”;

11 (C) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

1 “(2) is carried out, and, as appropriate, up-
2 dated and modified, including by using the results of
3 the Special Education Research Center’s most recent
4 evaluation report under section 116(d);”;

5 (D) by striking paragraph (5);

6 (E) by redesignating paragraphs (3), (4),
7 and (6) as paragraphs (4), (5), and (7), respec-
8 tively;

9 (F) by inserting after paragraph (2) the
10 following:

11 “(3) provides for research that addresses sig-
12 nificant questions of practice where such research is
13 lacking;”;

14 (G) in paragraph (5), as redesignated by
15 subparagraph (E), by striking “and types of
16 children with” and inserting “, student sub-
17 groups, and types of”; and

18 (H) by inserting after paragraph (5), as
19 redesignated by subparagraph (E), the fol-
20 lowing:

21 “(6) describes how the Special Education Re-
22 search Center will use the performance management
23 system described in section 185 to assess and im-
24 prove the activities of the Center; and”;

25 (3) in subsection (d)—

1 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “Direc-
2 tor” and inserting “Special Education Research
3 Commissioner”;

4 (B) by striking paragraph (3) and insert-
5 ing the following:

6 “(3) APPLICATIONS.—

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible applicant
8 that wishes to receive a grant, or enter into a
9 contract or cooperative agreement, under this
10 section shall submit an application to the Spe-
11 cial Education Research Commissioner at such
12 time, in such manner, and containing such in-
13 formation as the Special Education Research
14 Commissioner may require.

15 “(B) CONTENTS.—An application sub-
16 mitted under subparagraph (A) shall describe
17 how the eligible applicant will address and dem-
18 onstrate progress on the requirements of the
19 performance management system described in
20 section 185, with respect to the activities that
21 will be carried out under such grant, contract,
22 or cooperative agreement.”; and

23 (C) by adding at the end the following:

24 “(4) DURATION.—Notwithstanding any other
25 provision of law, the grants, contracts, and coopera-

1 tive agreements under this section may be awarded
2 or entered into, on a competitive basis, for a period
3 of not more than 5 years, and may be renewed at
4 the discretion of the Special Education Research
5 Commissioner for an additional period of not more
6 than 2 years if the recipient demonstrates progress
7 on the requirements of the performance management
8 system described in section 185, with respect to the
9 activities carried out under the grant, contract, or
10 cooperative agreement received or entered into under
11 this section.”;

12 (4) by striking subsection (e) and inserting the
13 following:

14 “(e) DISSEMINATION.—The Special Education Re-
15 search Center shall synthesize and, consistent with section
16 114(j), widely disseminate and promote utilization of the
17 findings and results of special education research con-
18 ducted or supported by the Special Education Research
19 Center.”; and

20 (5) in subsection (f), by striking “part such
21 sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years
22 2005 through 2010.” and inserting the following:

23 “part—

24 “(1) for fiscal year 2016, \$54,000,000;

25 “(2) for fiscal year 2017, \$55,242,000;

- 1 “(3) for fiscal year 2018, \$56,512,566;
2 “(4) for fiscal year 2019, \$57,812,355;
3 “(5) for fiscal year 2020, \$59,142,039; and
4 “(6) for fiscal year 2021, \$66,922,118.”.

5 **PART F—GENERAL PROVISIONS**

6 **SEC. 181. PROHIBITIONS.**

7 Section 182 (20 U.S.C. 9572) is amended—

8 (1) in subsection (b), by inserting “specific aca-
9 demic achievement or content standards or assess-
10 ments,” after “the curriculum,”; and

11 (2) in subsection (c), by striking “an elemen-
12 tary school or secondary school” and inserting
13 “early education, or in an elementary school, sec-
14 ondary school, or institution of higher education”.

15 **SEC. 182. CONFIDENTIALITY.**

16 Section 183 (20 U.S.C. 9573) is amended—

17 (1) in subsection (b)—

18 (A) by striking “their families, and infor-
19 mation with respect to individual schools,” and
20 inserting “and their families”; and

21 (B) by inserting before the period at the
22 end the following: “, and that any disclosed in-
23 formation with respect to individual schools not
24 reveal such individually identifiable informa-
25 tion”;

1 (2) in subsection (d)(2), by inserting “, includ-
2 ing voluntary and uncompensated services under sec-
3 tion 190” after “providing services”; and

4 (3) in subsection (e)(1), in the matter preceding
5 subparagraph (A), by inserting “and Director” after
6 “Secretary”.

7 **SEC. 183. AVAILABILITY OF DATA.**

8 Section 184 (20 U.S.C. 9574) is amended by striking
9 “use of the Internet” and inserting “electronic means,
10 such as posting in an easily accessible manner on the In-
11 stitute’s website”.

12 **SEC. 184. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT.**

13 Section 185 (20 U.S.C. 9575) is amended to read as
14 follows:

15 **“SEC. 185. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT.**

16 “The Director shall establish a system for managing
17 the performance of all activities authorized under this title
18 to promote continuous improvement of the activities and
19 to ensure the effective use of Federal funds by—

20 “(1) developing and using measurable perform-
21 ance indicators, including timelines, to evaluate and
22 improve the effectiveness of the activities;

23 “(2) using the performance indicators described
24 in paragraph (1) to inform funding decisions, includ-

1 ing the awarding and continuation of all grants, con-
2 tracts, and cooperative agreements under this title;

3 “(3) establishing and improving formal feed-
4 back mechanisms to—

5 “(A) anticipate and meet stakeholder
6 needs; and

7 “(B) incorporate, on an ongoing basis, the
8 feedback of such stakeholders into the activities
9 authorized under this title; and

10 “(4) promoting the wide dissemination and uti-
11 lization, consistent with section 114(j), of all infor-
12 mation, products, and publications of the Institute.”.

13 **SEC. 185. AUTHORITY TO PUBLISH.**

14 Section 186(b) (20 U.S.C. 9576(b)) is amended by
15 striking “any information to be published under this sec-
16 tion before publication” and inserting “any publication
17 under this section before the public release of such publi-
18 cation”.

19 **SEC. 186. REPEALS.**

20 (a) REPEALS.—Sections 187 (20 U.S.C. 9577) and
21 193 (20 U.S.C. 9583) are repealed.

22 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The table of con-
23 tents in section 1 of the Act of November 5, 2002 (Public
24 Law 107–279; 116 Stat. 1940), is amended by striking
25 the items relating to sections 187 and 193.

1 **SEC. 187. FELLOWSHIPS.**

2 Section 189 (20 U.S.C. 9579) is amended—

3 (1) by inserting “and the mission of each Na-
4 tional Education Center authorized under this title”
5 after “related to education”; and

6 (2) by striking “historically Black colleges and
7 universities” and inserting “minority-serving institu-
8 tions”.

9 **SEC. 188. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

10 Section 194 (20 U.S.C. 9584) is amended—

11 (1) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the
12 following:

13 “(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be ap-
14 propriated to administer and carry out this title (except
15 part E)—

16 “(1) for fiscal year 2016, \$337,343,000;

17 “(2) for fiscal year 2017, \$345,101,889;

18 “(3) for fiscal year 2018, \$353,039,232;

19 “(4) for fiscal year 2019, \$361,159,135;

20 “(5) for fiscal year 2020, \$369,465,795; and

21 “(6) for fiscal year 2021, \$376,225,846.”; and

22 (2) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the
23 following:

24 “(b) RESERVATIONS.—Of the amounts appropriated
25 under subsection (a) for each fiscal year—

1 “(1) not less than the amount provided to the
2 National Center for Education Statistics (as such
3 Center was in existence on the day before the date
4 of enactment of the Strengthening Education
5 through Research Act) for fiscal year 2015 shall be
6 provided to the National Center for Education Sta-
7 tistics, as authorized under part C; and

8 “(2) not more than the lesser of 2 percent of
9 such appropriated amounts or \$2,000,000 shall be
10 made available to carry out section 116 (relating to
11 the National Board for Education Sciences).”.

12 **PART G—TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING**

13 **AMENDMENTS**

14 **SEC. 191. TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO**

15 **OTHER LAWS.**

16 (a) **CARL D. PERKINS CAREER AND TECHNICAL**
17 **EDUCATION ACT OF 2006.**—Section 3(25) of the Carl D.
18 Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20
19 U.S.C. 2302(25)) is amended by striking “using scientif-
20 ically based research standards, as defined in section 102”
21 and inserting “in accordance with the principles of sci-
22 entific research, as defined in section 102”.

23 (b) **ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT**
24 **OF 1965.**—Section 9529(b) of the Elementary and Sec-
25 ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7909(b)) is

1 amended by striking “section 153(a)(5)” and inserting
2 “section 153(a)(6)”.

3 (c) INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION
4 ACT.—Section 681(a)(1) of the Individuals with Disabil-
5 ities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1481(a)(1)) is amended
6 by striking “section 178(c)” and inserting “section
7 177(c)”.

8 **TITLE II—EDUCATIONAL**
9 **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

10 **SEC. 201. REFERENCES.**

11 Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in
12 this title an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms
13 of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provi-
14 sion, the reference shall be considered to be made to a
15 section or other provision of the Educational Technical As-
16 sistance Act of 2002 (20 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.).

17 **SEC. 202. DEFINITIONS.**

18 Section 202 (20 U.S.C. 9601) is amended—

19 (1) by redesignating paragraph (2) as para-
20 graph (3); and

21 (2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-
22 lowing:

23 “(2) SCHOOL LEADER.—The term ‘school lead-
24 er’ has the meaning given the term in section 102.”.

1 **SEC. 203. COMPREHENSIVE CENTERS.**

2 Section 203 (20 U.S.C. 9602) is amended—

3 (1) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the
4 following:

5 “(a) AUTHORIZATION.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (3)
7 and except as provided in subsection (b)(5), the Sec-
8 retary shall award 17 grants, contracts, or coopera-
9 tive agreements to eligible applicants to establish
10 comprehensive centers.

11 “(2) MISSION.—The mission of the comprehen-
12 sive centers is to provide State educational agencies
13 and local educational agencies technical assistance,
14 analysis, and training to build their capacity in im-
15 plementing the requirements of the Elementary and
16 Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301
17 et seq.) and other Federal education laws, and re-
18 search-based practices.

19 “(3) REGIONS.—In awarding grants, contracts,
20 or cooperative agreements under paragraph (1), the
21 Secretary—

22 “(A) shall establish at least one com-
23 prehensive center for each of the 10 geographic
24 regions served by the regional educational lab-
25 oratories established under section 941(h) of
26 the Educational Research, Development, Dis-

1 semination, and Improvement Act of 1994 (20
2 U.S.C. 6041(h)) (as such provision existed on
3 the day before the date of enactment of this
4 Act);

5 “(B) may establish additional comprehen-
6 sive centers—

7 “(i) for one or more of the regions de-
8 scribed in subparagraph (A); or

9 “(ii) to serve the Nation as a whole by
10 providing technical assistance on a par-
11 ticular content area of importance to the
12 Nation, as determined by the Secretary;
13 and

14 “(C) may make such arrangements as the
15 Secretary determines necessary to ensure that
16 the Bureau of Indian Education and States or
17 local educational agencies serving significant
18 numbers of American Indian, Alaska Native, or
19 Native Hawaiian students have access to serv-
20 ices provided under this section.

21 “(4) NATION.—In the case of a comprehensive
22 center established to serve the Nation as described
23 in paragraph (3)(B)(ii), the Nation shall be consid-
24 ered to be a region served by such Center.

1 (iv) by striking “subsection (f)” and
2 inserting “subsection (e)”; and

3 (v) by striking “, including regional”
4 and all that follows through “107–110))”;
5 and

6 (B) by striking paragraphs (2) and (3) and
7 inserting the following:

8 “(2) OUTREACH.—In conducting competitions
9 for grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements
10 under this section, the Secretary shall—

11 “(A) by making widely available informa-
12 tion and technical assistance relating to the
13 competition, actively encourage eligible appli-
14 cants to compete for such awards; and

15 “(B) seek input from chief executive offi-
16 cers of States, chief State school officers, edu-
17 cators, parents, superintendents, and other indi-
18 viduals with knowledge of the needs of the re-
19 gions to be served by the awards, regarding—

20 “(i) the needs in the regions for tech-
21 nical assistance authorized under this title;
22 and

23 “(ii) how such needs may be ad-
24 dressed most effectively.

1 “(3) PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT.—Before
2 awarding a grant, contract, or cooperative agree-
3 ment under this section, the Secretary shall establish
4 measurable performance indicators to be used to as-
5 sess the ongoing progress and performance of the
6 comprehensive centers to be established under this
7 title that address paragraphs (1) through (3) of the
8 performance management system described in sec-
9 tion 185.

10 “(4) REQUIRED CONSIDERATION.—In deter-
11 mining whether to award or enter into a grant, con-
12 tract, or cooperative agreement under this section—

13 “(A) to an eligible applicant that pre-
14 viously established a comprehensive center
15 under this section, the Secretary shall—

16 “(i) consider the results of such cen-
17 ter’s summative evaluation under section
18 204(b) or, if not available, any interim
19 evaluation results under section 204(c);
20 and

21 “(ii) ensure that only centers deter-
22 mined effective in the centers’ relevant in-
23 terim or summative evaluations, as de-
24 scribed in section 204, are eligible to re-

1 ceive a new grant, contract, or cooperative
2 agreement; and

3 “(B) to any eligible applicant, the Sec-
4 retary shall ensure that such applicant has—

5 “(i) a history of effectiveness in pro-
6 viding high-quality technical assistance;
7 and

8 “(ii) the capacity to meet the measur-
9 able performance indicators established
10 under paragraph (3).

11 “(5) FLEXIBILITY IN COMPREHENSIVE CENTER
12 NUMBER.—

13 “(A) DETERMINATION.—The Secretary, in
14 consultation with the comprehensive center ad-
15 visory boards described in subsection (f), may
16 determine that establishing 17 comprehensive
17 centers under this section is unnecessary, as re-
18 quired in subsection (a)(1), and grant an alter-
19 native number of awards or reorganize such
20 centers, which may include organizing the cen-
21 ters around content area instead of by the re-
22 gions described in subsection (a)(3), if—

23 “(i) an insufficient number of such
24 comprehensive centers are meeting the
25 needs of the regions described in para-

1 graphs (3) and (4) of subsection (a), as de-
2 termined by the Secretary;

3 “(ii) an insufficient number of such
4 comprehensive centers are meeting the
5 measurable performance indicators estab-
6 lished under paragraph (3), as determined
7 by the Secretary and the most recent in-
8 terim or summative evaluation under sec-
9 tion 204; or

10 “(iii) an insufficient number of eligi-
11 ble applicants have the capacity to meet
12 the measurable performance indicators es-
13 tablished under paragraph (3), as deter-
14 mined by the Secretary.

15 “(B) LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall
16 not use the determination authority described
17 in subparagraph (A) to establish more than 17
18 comprehensive centers under this section.

19 “(6) CONTINUATION OF AWARDS.—

20 “(A) CONTINUATION OF AWARDS.—The
21 Secretary shall continue awards made to each
22 eligible applicant for the support of comprehen-
23 sive centers established under this section prior
24 to the date of enactment of the Strengthening
25 Education through Research Act, as such

1 awards were in effect on the day before the
2 date of enactment of such Act, for the duration
3 of those awards, in accordance with the terms
4 and agreements of such awards.

5 “(B) RECOMPETITION.—Not later than the
6 end of the period of the awards described in
7 subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall—

8 “(i) hold a competition to make
9 grants, contracts, or cooperative agree-
10 ments under this section to eligible appli-
11 cants, which may include eligible appli-
12 cants that held awards described in sub-
13 paragraph (A); and

14 “(ii) in determining whether to select
15 an eligible applicant that held an award
16 described in subparagraph (A) for an
17 award under clause (i) of this subpara-
18 graph, consider the results of the
19 summative evaluation under section 204(b)
20 of the center established with the eligible
21 applicant’s award described in subpara-
22 graph (A).

23 “(7) ELIGIBLE APPLICANT DEFINED.—For pur-
24 poses of this section, the term ‘eligible applicant’
25 means an entity described in paragraph (1).”;

1 (3) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the
2 following:

3 “(c) APPLICATIONS.—

4 “(1) SUBMISSION.—

5 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible appli-
6 cant seeking a grant, contract, or cooperative
7 agreement under this section shall submit an
8 application at such time, in such manner, and
9 containing such additional information as the
10 Secretary may reasonably require.

11 “(B) INPUT.—To ensure that applications
12 submitted under this paragraph are reflective of
13 the needs of the regions to be served, each eligi-
14 ble applicant submitting such an application
15 shall seek input from—

16 “(i) State educational agencies and
17 local educational agencies in the region
18 that the award will serve; and

19 “(ii) other individuals with knowledge
20 of the region’s needs.

21 “(2) PLAN.—

22 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Each application sub-
23 mitted under paragraph (1) shall contain a plan
24 for the comprehensive center to be established
25 under this section, which shall be updated,

1 modified, and improved, as appropriate, on an
2 ongoing basis, including by using the results of
3 the center’s interim evaluation under section
4 204(c).

5 “(B) CONTENTS.—A plan described in
6 subparagraph (A) shall address—

7 “(i) the priorities for technical assist-
8 ance established under section 207;

9 “(ii) the needs of State educational
10 agencies and local educational agencies, on
11 an ongoing basis, using available State and
12 local data, including how the needs of
13 schools identified for improvement and
14 schools and local educational agencies with
15 a high percentage or number of low-income
16 students will be prioritized and served; and

17 “(iii) if available, demonstrated sup-
18 port from State educational agencies and
19 local educational agencies, such as letters
20 of support or signed memoranda of under-
21 standing.

22 “(3) NON-FEDERAL SUPPORT.—In conducting a
23 competition for grants, contracts, or cooperative
24 agreements under subsection (a), the Secretary shall
25 give priority to eligible applicants that will provide

1 a portion of non-Federal funds to maximize support
2 for activities of the comprehensive centers to be es-
3 tablished under this section.”;

4 (4) in subsection (d), by inserting “the number
5 of low-performing schools in the region,” after “eco-
6 nomically disadvantaged students,”;

7 (5) by striking subsections (e), (g), and (h);

8 (6) by redesignating subsection (f) as sub-
9 section (e);

10 (7) in subsection (e), as redesignated by para-
11 graph (6)—

12 (A) in paragraph (1)—

13 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
14 graph (A), by striking “support dissemina-
15 tion and technical assistance activities by”
16 and inserting “support State educational
17 agencies and local educational agencies, in-
18 cluding by”;

19 (ii) in subparagraph (A)—

20 (I) in clause (i), by inserting
21 “and other Federal education laws”
22 before the semicolon;

23 (II) in clause (ii)—

24 (aa) in the matter preceding
25 subclause (I), by striking “and

1 assessment tools” and inserting
2 “, assessment tools, and other
3 educational strategies”;

4 (bb) in subclause (I), by
5 striking “mathematics, science,”
6 and inserting “mathematics and
7 science, which may include com-
8 puter science or engineering,”;
9 and

10 (cc) in subclause (III), by
11 inserting “, including innovative
12 tools and methods” before the
13 semicolon; and

14 (III) by striking clause (iii) and
15 inserting the following:

16 “(iii) the replication and adaptation of
17 exemplary practices and innovative meth-
18 ods that have an evidence base of effective-
19 ness; and”;

20 (iii) in subparagraph (B)—

21 (I) by inserting “, consistent with
22 section 114(j),” after “dissemi-
23 nating”; and

1 (II) by striking “(as described”
2 and all that follows through “is lo-
3 cated”; and

4 (iv) by striking subparagraph (C) and
5 inserting the following:

6 “(C) ensuring activities carried out under
7 this section are relevant and responsive to the
8 needs of the region being served.”; and

9 (B) in paragraph (2)—

10 (i) by inserting “, on an ongoing
11 basis,” after “this section shall”; and

12 (ii) by striking “in which the center is
13 located” and inserting “served by the cen-
14 ter or other regional educational labora-
15 tories or comprehensive centers, as appro-
16 priate”; and

17 (8) by adding at the end the following:

18 “(f) COMPREHENSIVE CENTER ADVISORY BOARD.—

19 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Each comprehensive
20 center established under this section may establish
21 an advisory board that shall support the priorities of
22 such center.

23 “(2) DUTIES.—Each advisory board established
24 under paragraph (1) shall advise the comprehensive
25 center—

1 “(A) concerning the activities described in
2 subsection (e);

3 “(B) on strategies for monitoring and ad-
4 dressing the educational needs of the region
5 being served on an ongoing basis and, as appro-
6 priate, national needs;

7 “(C) on maintaining a high standard of
8 quality in the performance of the center’s ac-
9 tivities, especially in meeting the measurable
10 performance indicators established under sub-
11 section (b)(3);

12 “(D) on carrying out the center’s duties in
13 a manner that promotes progress toward im-
14 proving student academic achievement;

15 “(E) on the activities undertaken by re-
16 gional educational laboratories of the region
17 being served, other regional educational labora-
18 tories, as appropriate, and other comprehensive
19 centers to align the work of the laboratories
20 and centers, reduce redundancy, and increase
21 collaboration and resource-sharing in such ac-
22 tivities; and

23 “(F) on joint activities, with other com-
24 prehensive centers or regional educational lab-

1 oratories from other regions, that would meet
2 the needs of multiple regions.

3 “(3) COMPOSITION.—

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Each advisory board
5 shall—

6 “(i) not exceed 25 members;

7 “(ii) include the chief State school of-
8 ficer, or such officer’s designee, or other
9 State official, of States within the region
10 served by the comprehensive center who
11 have primary responsibility under State
12 law for elementary and secondary edu-
13 cation in the State;

14 “(iii) include representatives of local
15 educational agencies, including rural and
16 urban local educational agencies, that rep-
17 resent the geographic diversity of the re-
18 gion;

19 “(iv) include researchers; and

20 “(v) include not less than 1 represent-
21 ative from the advisory board of a regional
22 educational laboratory in the region being
23 served by the comprehensive center.

1 “(B) ELIGIBILITY.—The membership of
2 each comprehensive center advisory board may
3 include the following:

4 “(i) Representatives of institutions of
5 higher education.

6 “(ii) Parents.

7 “(iii) Practicing educators, including
8 classroom teachers, school leaders, admin-
9 istrators, school board members, and other
10 local school officials.

11 “(iv) Representatives of business.

12 “(v) Policymakers.

13 “(4) RECOMMENDATIONS.—In choosing individ-
14 uals for membership on a comprehensive center advi-
15 sory board, the comprehensive center shall consult
16 with, and solicit recommendations from, the Sec-
17 retary, chief executive officers of States, chief State
18 school officers, local educational agencies, and other
19 education stakeholders within the applicable region.

20 “(5) SPECIAL RULE.—The total number of
21 members on each board who are selected under
22 clauses (ii) and (iii) of paragraph (3)(A), in the ag-
23 gregate, shall exceed the total number of members
24 who are selected under paragraph (3)(B), collec-
25 tively.

1 “(g) REPORT TO THE SECRETARY.—Each com-
2 prehensive center established under this section shall sub-
3 mit to the Secretary an annual report, at such time, in
4 such manner, and containing such information as the Sec-
5 retary may require, which shall include the following:

6 “(1) A summary of the center’s activities and
7 products developed during the previous year.

8 “(2) A listing of the State educational agencies,
9 local educational agencies, and schools the center as-
10 sisted during the previous year.

11 “(3) Using the measurable performance indica-
12 tors established under subsection (b)(3), a descrip-
13 tion of how well the center is meeting educational
14 needs of the region served by the center.

15 “(4) Any changes to the center’s plan under
16 subsection (c)(2) to improve its activities in the re-
17 maining years of the grant, contract, or cooperative
18 agreement.”.

19 **SEC. 204. EVALUATIONS.**

20 Section 204 (20 U.S.C. 9603) is amended to read as
21 follows:

22 **“SEC. 204. EVALUATIONS.**

23 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

24 “(1) provide for ongoing summative and interim
25 evaluations described in subsections (b) and (c), re-

1 spectively, of each of the comprehensive centers es-
2 tablished under this title in carrying out the full
3 range of duties of the center under this title; and

4 “(2) transmit the results of such evaluations,
5 through appropriate means, to the appropriate con-
6 gressional committees, the Director of the Institute
7 of Education Sciences, and the public.

8 “(b) **SUMMATIVE EVALUATION.**—The Secretary shall
9 ensure each comprehensive center established under this
10 title is evaluated by an independent entity at the end of
11 the period of the grant, contract, or cooperative agreement
12 that established such center, which shall—

13 “(1) be completed in a timely fashion;

14 “(2) assess how well the center is meeting the
15 measurable performance indicators established under
16 section 203(b)(3); and

17 “(3) consider the extent to which the center en-
18 sures that the technical assistance of such center is
19 relevant and useful to the work of State and local
20 practitioners and policymakers.

21 “(c) **INTERIM EVALUATION.**—The Secretary shall en-
22 sure that each comprehensive center established under this
23 title is evaluated at the midpoint of the period of the
24 grant, contract, or cooperative agreement that established
25 such center, which shall—

1 “(1) assess how well such center is meeting the
2 measurable performance indicators established under
3 section 203(b)(3); and

4 “(2) be used to improve the effectiveness of
5 such center in carrying out its plan under section
6 203(c)(2).”.

7 **SEC. 205. EXISTING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDERS.**

8 (a) REPEAL.—Section 205 (20 U.S.C. 9604) is re-
9 pealed.

10 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of con-
11 tents in section 1 of the Act of November 5, 2002 (Public
12 Law 107–279; 116 Stat. 1940), is amended by striking
13 the item relating to section 205.

14 **SEC. 206. REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES.**

15 (a) REPEAL.—Section 206 (20 U.S.C. 9605) is re-
16 pealed.

17 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of con-
18 tents in section 1 of the Act of November 5, 2002 (Public
19 Law 107–279; 116 Stat. 1940), is amended by striking
20 the item relating to section 206.

21 **SEC. 207. PRIORITIES.**

22 Section 207 (20 U.S.C. 9606) is amended—

23 (1) by inserting “Director and” before “Sec-
24 retary shall establish”;

1 (2) by striking “of the Education Sciences Re-
2 form Act of 2002”;

3 (3) by striking “of this title”;

4 (4) by striking “to address, taking onto account
5 the regional assessments conducted under section
6 206 and other” and inserting “, respectively, using
7 the results of”; and

8 (5) by striking “relevant regional” and all that
9 follows through “Secretary deems appropriate” and
10 inserting “relevant regional and national surveys of
11 educational needs”.

12 **SEC. 208. GRANT PROGRAM FOR STATEWIDE, LONGITU-
13 DINAL DATA SYSTEMS.**

14 Section 208 (20 U.S.C. 9607) is amended—

15 (1) in subsection (a)—

16 (A) by inserting before the period at the
17 end the following: “, the Higher Education Act
18 of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.), and the Indi-
19 viduals with Disabilities Education Act (20
20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.)”; and

21 (B) by adding at the end the following:
22 “State educational agencies receiving a grant
23 under this section may provide subgrants to
24 local educational agencies to improve the capac-

1 ity of local educational agencies to carry out the
2 activities authorized under this section.”;

3 (2) by redesignating subsections (c), (d), and
4 (e) as subsections (d), (e), and (g), respectively;

5 (3) by inserting after subsection (b), the fol-
6 lowing:

7 “(c) PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT.—Before award-
8 ing a grant under this section, the Secretary shall estab-
9 lish measurable performance indicators—

10 “(1) to be used to assess the ongoing progress
11 and performance of State educational agencies re-
12 ceiving a grant under this section; and

13 “(2) that address paragraphs (1) through (3) of
14 the performance management system described in
15 section 185.”;

16 (4) in subsection (d), as redesignated by para-
17 graph (2)—

18 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “, pro-
19 motes linkages across States,”;

20 (B) in paragraph (2)—

21 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
22 graph (A), by inserting “supports school
23 improvement and” after “data that”;

24 (ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking
25 “and other reporting requirements and

1 close achievement gaps; and” and inserting
2 “and other reporting requirements, close
3 achievement gaps, and improve teaching
4 and school leadership;”;

5 (iii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
6 “and close achievement gaps; and” and by
7 inserting “, close achievement gaps, and
8 improve teaching and school leadership;
9 and”; and

10 (iv) by inserting after subparagraph
11 (B) the following:

12 “(C) to align statewide, longitudinal data
13 systems from early education through postsec-
14 ondary education (including pre-service prepa-
15 ration programs), and the workforce, consistent
16 with privacy protections under section 183;”;
17 and

18 (C) by striking paragraph (3) and insert-
19 ing the following:

20 “(3) ensures the protection of student privacy,
21 and includes a review of how State educational agen-
22 cies, local educational agencies, and others that will
23 have access to the statewide, longitudinal data sys-
24 tems under this section will adhere to Federal pri-
25 vacy laws and protections, consistent with section

1 183, in the building, maintenance, and use of such
2 data systems;

3 “(4) ensures State educational agencies receiv-
4 ing a grant under this section support professional
5 development that builds the capacity of teachers and
6 school leaders to use data effectively; and

7 “(5) gives priority to State educational agencies
8 that leverage the use of statewide, longitudinal data
9 systems to improve student achievement and growth,
10 including such State educational agencies that—

11 “(A) are carrying out the activities de-
12 scribed in section 153(a)(5);

13 “(B) define the roles of State educational
14 agencies, local educational agencies, and others
15 in providing timely access to data under the
16 statewide, longitudinal data systems, consistent
17 with privacy protections in section 183; and

18 “(C) demonstrate the capacity to share
19 teacher and school leader performance data, in-
20 cluding student achievement and growth data,
21 with local educational agencies and teacher and
22 school leader preparation programs.”;

23 (5) by inserting after subsection (e), as redesign-
24 nated by paragraph (2), the following:

1 “(f) RENEWAL OF AWARDS.—The Secretary may
2 renew a grant awarded to a State educational agency
3 under this section for a period not to exceed 3 years, if
4 the State educational agency has demonstrated progress
5 on the measurable performance indicators established
6 under subsection (c).”; and

7 (6) by striking subsection (g), as redesignated
8 by paragraph (2), and inserting the following:

9 “(g) REPORTS.—

10 “(1) FIRST REPORT.—Not later than 1 year
11 after the date of enactment of the Strengthening
12 Education through Research Act, the Secretary shall
13 prepare and make publicly available a report on the
14 implementation and effectiveness of the activities
15 carried out by State educational agencies receiving a
16 grant under this section, including—

17 “(A) information on progress in the devel-
18 opment and use of statewide, longitudinal data
19 systems described in this section;

20 “(B) information on best practices and
21 areas for improvement in such development and
22 use; and

23 “(C) how the State educational agencies
24 are adhering to Federal privacy laws and pro-

1 “(4) for fiscal year 2019, \$88,842,601;
2 “(5) for fiscal year 2020, \$90,885,981; and
3 “(6) for fiscal year 2021, \$92,548,906.”.

4 **TITLE III—NATIONAL ASSESS-**
5 **MENT OF EDUCATIONAL**
6 **PROGRESS**

7 **SEC. 301. REFERENCES.**

8 Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in
9 this title an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms
10 of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provi-
11 sion, the reference shall be considered to be made to a
12 section or other provision of the National Assessment of
13 Educational Progress Authorization Act (20 U.S.C. 9621
14 et seq.).

15 **SEC. 302. NATIONAL ASSESSMENT GOVERNING BOARD.**

16 Section 302 (20 U.S.C. 9621) is amended—

17 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “shall formu-
18 late policy guidelines” and inserting “shall oversee
19 and set policies, in a manner consistent with sub-
20 section (e) and accepted professional standards,”;

21 (2) in subsection (b)(1)(L)—

22 (A) by striking “principals” and inserting
23 “leaders”; and

24 (B) by striking “principal” both places it
25 appears and inserting “leader”;

1 (3) in subsection (c), by striking paragraph (4);

2 (4) in subsection (d)—

3 (A) in paragraph (1)—

4 (i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting
5 “the Assessment Board after consultation
6 with” before “organizations”; and

7 (ii) in subparagraph (B)—

8 (I) by striking “Each organiza-
9 tion submitting nominations to the
10 Secretary with” and inserting “With”;
11 and

12 (II) by inserting “, the Assess-
13 ment Board” after “particular va-
14 cancy”; and

15 (B) in paragraph (2)—

16 (i) by striking “that each organization
17 described in paragraph (1)(A) submit addi-
18 tional nominations” and inserting “addi-
19 tional nominations from the Assessment
20 Board or each organization described in
21 paragraph (1)(A)”; and

22 (ii) by striking “such organization”
23 and inserting “the Assessment Board”;
24 and

25 (5) in subsection (e)(1)—

1 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

2 (i) by inserting “in consultation with
3 the Commissioner for Education Statis-
4 tics,” before “select”;

5 (ii) by inserting “and grades or ages”
6 before “to be”; and

7 (iii) by inserting “, and determine the
8 year in which such assessments will be
9 conducted” after “assessed”;

10 (B) in subparagraph (D), by inserting
11 “school leaders,” after “teachers,”;

12 (C) in subparagraph (E), by striking “de-
13 sign” and inserting “provide input on”;

14 (D) by striking “and” at the end of sub-
15 paragraph (I);

16 (E) by redesignating subparagraph (J) as
17 subparagraph (K);

18 (F) by inserting after subparagraph (I),
19 the following:

20 “(J) provide input to the Director on an-
21 nual budget requests for the National Assess-
22 ment of Educational Progress; and”;

23 (G) in subparagraph (K), as redesignated
24 by subparagraph (E)—

- 1 (i) by striking “plan and execute the
2 initial public release of”; and
3 (ii) by inserting “release the initial”
4 before “National”; and
5 (H) in the matter following subparagraph
6 (K), as redesignated by subparagraph (E), by
7 striking “subparagraph (J)” and inserting
8 “subparagraph (K)”.

9 **SEC. 303. NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL**
10 **PROGRESS.**

11 Section 303 (20 U.S.C. 9622) is amended—

12 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “with the ad-
13 vice of the Assessment Board established under sec-
14 tion 302” and inserting “in a manner consistent
15 with accepted professional standards and the policies
16 set forth by the Assessment Board under section
17 302(a)”;

18 (2) in subsection (b)—

19 (A) in paragraph (2)—

20 (i) in subparagraph (D), by inserting
21 “and consistent with section 302(e)(1)(A)”
22 after “resources allow”;

23 (ii) in subparagraph (G)—

1 (I) by striking “limited English
2 proficiency” and inserting “English
3 learner status”; and

4 (II) by striking “and” at the end
5 of subparagraph (G);

6 (iii) in subparagraph (H), by striking
7 the period at the end and inserting “;
8 and”; and

9 (iv) by adding at the end the fol-
10 lowing:

11 “(I) determine, after taking into account
12 section 302(e)(1)(I), the content of initial and
13 subsequent reports of all assessments author-
14 ized under this section and ensure that such re-
15 ports are valid and reliable.”; and

16 (B) in paragraph (5)(C), by striking “lim-
17 ited English proficiency” and inserting
18 “English learner status”;

19 (3) in subsection (c)(2)—

20 (A) in subparagraph (B), by striking “of
21 Education” after “Secretary”; and

22 (B) in subparagraph (D)—

23 (i) by striking “Chairman of the
24 House” before “Committee on Education”;

1 (ii) by inserting “of the House of Rep-
2 resentatives” after “Workforce”;

3 (iii) by striking “Chairman of the
4 Senate” before “Committee on Health”;
5 and

6 (iv) by inserting “of the Senate” after
7 “Pensions”;

8 (4) in subsection (d)(1), by inserting before the
9 period, the following: “, except as required under
10 section 1112(b)(1)(F) of the Elementary and Sec-
11 ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
12 6312(b)(1)(F))”;

13 (5) in subsection (e)—

14 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “or age”;
15 and

16 (B) in paragraph (2)—

17 (i) in subparagraph (A)—

18 (I) by striking “shall” and all
19 that follows through “be” and insert
20 “shall be”;

21 (II) by redesignating subclauses
22 (I) and (II) as clauses (i) and (ii), re-
23 spectively (and by moving the margins
24 2 ems to the left); and

1 (III) in clause (ii), as redesignig-
2 nated by subclause (II), by striking “,
3 or the age of the students, as the case
4 may be”;

5 (ii) in subparagraph (B)—

6 (I) by striking “After the deter-
7 minations described in subparagraph
8 (A), devising” and inserting “The As-
9 sessment Board shall, in making the
10 determination described in subpara-
11 graph (A), use”; and

12 (II) by inserting “, providing for
13 the active participation of teachers,
14 school leaders, curriculum specialists,
15 local school administrators, parents,
16 and concerned members of the general
17 public” after “approach”; and

18 (iii) in subparagraph (D), by inserting
19 “Assessment” before “Board”; and

20 (6) in subsection (g)(2)—

21 (A) in the heading, by striking “AFFAIRS”
22 and inserting “EDUCATION”; and

23 (B) by striking “Affairs” and inserting
24 “Education”.

1 **SEC. 304. DEFINITIONS.**

2 Section 304 (20 U.S.C. 9623) is amended by striking
3 paragraphs (1) and (2) and inserting the following:

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The terms ‘elementary
5 school’, ‘local educational agency’, and ‘secondary
6 school’ have the meanings given those terms in sec-
7 tion 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
8 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

9 “(2) DIRECTOR.—The term ‘Director’ means
10 the Director of the Institute of Education Sciences.

11 “(3) SCHOOL LEADER.—The term ‘school lead-
12 er’ has the meaning given the term in section 102.

13 “(4) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means
14 the Secretary of Education.

15 “(5) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means each of
16 the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the
17 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.”.

18 **SEC. 305. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

19 Section 305(a) (20 U.S.C. 9624(a)) is amended to
20 read as follows:

21 “(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be ap-
22 propriated—

23 “(1) for fiscal year 2016—

24 “(A) \$8,235,000 to carry out section 302
25 (relating to the National Assessment Governing
26 Board); and

1 “(B) \$129,000,000 to carry out section
2 303 (relating to the National Assessment of
3 Educational Progress);

4 “(2) for fiscal year 2017—

5 “(A) \$8,424,405 to carry out section 302
6 (relating to the National Assessment Governing
7 Board); and

8 “(B) \$131,967,000 to carry out section
9 303 (relating to the National Assessment of
10 Educational Progress);

11 “(3) for fiscal year 2018—

12 “(A) \$8,618,166 to carry out section 302
13 (relating to the National Assessment Governing
14 Board); and

15 “(B) \$135,002,241 to carry out section
16 303 (relating to the National Assessment of
17 Educational Progress);

18 “(4) for fiscal year 2019—

19 “(A) \$8,816,384 to carry out section 302
20 (relating to the National Assessment Governing
21 Board); and

22 “(B) \$138,107,293 to carry out section
23 303 (relating to the National Assessment of
24 Educational Progress);

25 “(5) for fiscal year 2020—

1 “(A) \$9,019,161 to carry out section 302
2 (relating to the National Assessment Governing
3 Board); and

4 “(B) \$141,283,760 to carry out section
5 303 (relating to the National Assessment of
6 Educational Progress); and

7 “(6) for fiscal year 2021—

8 “(A) \$9,184,183 to carry out section 302
9 (relating to the National Assessment Governing
10 Board); and

11 “(B) \$143,868,805 to carry out section
12 303 (relating to the National Assessment of
13 Educational Progress).”.

14 **TITLE IV—EVALUATION PLAN**

15 **SEC. 401. RESEARCH AND EVALUATION.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Institute of Education
17 Sciences shall be the primary entity for conducting re-
18 search on and evaluations of Federal education programs
19 within the Department of Education to ensure the rigor
20 and independence of such research and evaluation.

21 (b) FLEXIBLE AUTHORITY.—

22 (1) RESERVATION.—Notwithstanding any other
23 provision of law in the Elementary and Secondary
24 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) re-
25 lated to evaluation, the Secretary of Education, in

1 consultation with the Director of the Institute of
2 Education Sciences—

3 (A) may, for purposes of carrying out the
4 activities described in paragraph (2)(B)—

5 (i) reserve not more than 0.5 percent
6 of the total amount of funds appropriated
7 for each program authorized under the El-
8 ementary and Secondary Education Act of
9 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.), other than
10 part A of title I of such Act (20 U.S.C.
11 6311 et seq.) and section 1501 of such Act
12 (20 U.S.C. 6491); and

13 (ii) reserve, in the manner described
14 in subparagraph (B), an amount equal to
15 not more than 0.1 percent of the total
16 amount of funds appropriated for—

17 (I) part A of title I of the Ele-
18 mentary and Secondary Education
19 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311 et seq.);
20 and

21 (II) section 1501 of such Act (20
22 U.S.C. 6491); and

23 (B) in reserving the amount described in
24 subparagraph (A)(ii)—

1 (i) shall reserve not more than the
2 total amount of funds appropriated for sec-
3 tion 1501 of the Elementary and Sec-
4 ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
5 6491); and

6 (ii) may, in a case in which the total
7 amount of funds appropriated for such sec-
8 tion 1501 (20 U.S.C. 6491) is less than
9 the amount described in subparagraph
10 (A)(ii), reserve the amount of funds appro-
11 priated for part A of title I of the Elemen-
12 tary and Secondary Education Act of 1965
13 (20 U.S.C. 6311 et seq.) that is needed for
14 the sum of the total amount of funds ap-
15 propriated for such section 1501 (20
16 U.S.C. 6491) and such amount of funds
17 appropriated for such part A of title I (20
18 U.S.C. 6311 et seq.) to equal the amount
19 described in subparagraph (A)(ii).

20 (2) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—If funds are re-
21 served under paragraph (1)—

22 (A) neither the Secretary of Education nor
23 the Director of the Institute of Education
24 Sciences shall—

1 (i) carry out evaluations under section
2 1501 of the Elementary and Secondary
3 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6491);

4 or

5 (ii) reserve funds for evaluation activi-
6 ties under section 3111(c)(1)(C) of such
7 Act (20 U.S.C. 6821(c)(1)(C)); and

8 (B) the Secretary of Education, in con-
9 sultation with the Director of the Institute of
10 Education Sciences—

11 (i) shall use the funds reserved under
12 paragraph (1) to carry out high-quality
13 evaluations (consistent with the require-
14 ments of section 173(a) of the Education
15 Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (20 U.S.C.
16 9563(a)), as amended by this Act, and the
17 evaluation plan described in subsection (c)
18 of this section) of programs authorized
19 under the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
20 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et
21 seq.); and

22 (ii) may use the funds reserved under
23 paragraph (1) to—

24 (I) increase the usefulness of the
25 evaluations conducted under clause (i)

1 to promote continuous improvement of
2 programs under the Elementary and
3 Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
4 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.); or

5 (II) assist grantees of such pro-
6 grams in collecting and analyzing data
7 and other activities related to con-
8 ducting high-quality evaluations under
9 clause (i).

10 (3) DISSEMINATION.—The Secretary of Edu-
11 cation or the Director of the Institute of Education
12 Sciences shall disseminate evaluation findings, con-
13 sistent with section 114(j) of the Education Sciences
14 Reform Act of 2002 (20 U.S.C. 9514(j)), as amend-
15 ed by this Act, of evaluations carried out under
16 paragraph (2)(B)(i).

17 (4) CONSOLIDATION.—The Secretary of Edu-
18 cation, in consultation with the Director of the Insti-
19 tute of Education Sciences—

20 (A) may consolidate the funds reserved
21 under paragraph (1) for purposes of carrying
22 out the activities under paragraph (2)(B); and

23 (B) shall not be required to evaluate under
24 paragraph (2)(B)(i) each program authorized

1 under the Elementary and Secondary Education
2 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) each year.

3 (c) EVALUATION PLAN.—The Director of the Insti-
4 tute of Education Sciences, in consultation with the Sec-
5 retary of Education, shall, on a biennial basis, develop,
6 submit to Congress, and make publicly available an eval-
7 uation plan, that—

8 (1) describes the specific activities that will be
9 carried out under subsection (b)(2)(B) for the 2-year
10 period applicable to the plan, and the timelines of
11 such activities;

12 (2) contains the results of the activities carried
13 out under subsection (b)(2)(B) for the most recent
14 2-year period; and

15 (3) describes how programs authorized under
16 the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of
17 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) will be regularly eval-
18 uated.

19 (d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
20 tion shall be construed to affect section 173(b) of the Edu-
21 cation Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (20 U.S.C. 9563(b)),
22 as amended by this Act.