

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To support early learning.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. CASEY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. UDALL, Mr. KAINE, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. COONS, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. WYDEN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

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**A BILL**

To support early learning.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Strong Start for Amer-  
5 ica’s Children Act of 2015”.

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.

TITLE I—PREKINDERGARTEN ACCESS

Subtitle A—Access to Voluntary Prekindergarten for Low- and Moderate-  
Income Families

- Sec. 101. Purposes.
- Sec. 102. Definitions.
- Sec. 103. Program authorization.
- Sec. 104. Allotments and reservations of funds.
- Sec. 105. State eligibility criteria.
- Sec. 106. State applications.
- Sec. 107. State use of funds.
- Sec. 108. Additional prekindergarten services.
- Sec. 109. Performance measures and targets.
- Sec. 110. Matching requirements.
- Sec. 111. Eligible local entity applications.
- Sec. 112. Required subgrant activities.
- Sec. 113. Report and evaluation.
- Sec. 114. Prohibition of required participation or use of funds for assessments.
- Sec. 115. Coordination with Head Start programs.
- Sec. 116. Technical assistance in program administration.
- Sec. 117. Authorization of appropriations.

Subtitle B—Prekindergarten Development Grants

- Sec. 121. Prekindergarten development grants.

TITLE II—EARLY LEARNING QUALITY PARTNERSHIPS

- Sec. 201. Purposes.
- Sec. 202. Early learning quality partnerships.

TITLE III—AUTHORIZATIONS OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE  
EDUCATION OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

- Sec. 301. Preschool grants.
- Sec. 302. Infants and toddlers with disabilities.

TITLE IV—MATERNAL, INFANT, AND EARLY CHILDHOOD HOME  
VISITING PROGRAM

- Sec. 401. Sense of the Senate.

1     **TITLE I—PREKINDERGARTEN**  
 2                     **ACCESS**  
 3     **Subtitle A—Access to Voluntary**  
 4         **Prekindergarten for Low- and**  
 5         **Moderate-Income Families**

6     **SEC. 101. PURPOSES.**

7         The purposes of this subtitle are to—

1           (1) establish a Federal-State partnership to  
2 provide access to high-quality public prekindergarten  
3 programs for all children from low-income and mod-  
4 erate-income families to ensure that they enter kin-  
5 dergarten prepared for success;

6           (2) broaden participation in such programs to  
7 include children from additional middle-class fami-  
8 lies;

9           (3) promote access to high-quality kindergarten,  
10 and high-quality early childhood education programs  
11 and settings for children; and

12           (4) increase access to appropriate supports so  
13 children with disabilities and other children who  
14 need specialized supports can fully participate in  
15 high quality early education programs.

16 **SEC. 102. DEFINITIONS.**

17 In this subtitle:

18           (1) **CHILD WITH A DISABILITY.**—The term  
19 “child with a disability” means—

20           (A) a child with a disability, as defined in  
21 section 602 of the Individuals with Disabilities  
22 Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1401); or

23           (B) an infant or toddler with a disability,  
24 as defined in section 632 of the Individuals with  
25 Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1432).

1           (2) COMPREHENSIVE EARLY LEARNING ASSESS-  
2           MENT SYSTEM.—The term “comprehensive early  
3           learning assessment system”—

4           (A) means a coordinated and comprehen-  
5           sive system of multiple assessments, each of  
6           which is valid and reliable for its specified pur-  
7           pose and for the population with which it will  
8           be used, that—

9           (i) organizes information about the  
10          process and context of young children’s  
11          learning and development to help early  
12          childhood educators make informed in-  
13          structional and programmatic decisions;  
14          and

15          (ii) conforms to the recommendations  
16          of the National Research Council reports  
17          on early childhood; and

18          (B) includes, at a minimum—

19          (i) child screening measures to iden-  
20          tify children who may need follow-up serv-  
21          ices to address developmental, learning, or  
22          health needs in, at a minimum, areas of  
23          physical health, behavioral health, oral  
24          health, child development, vision, and hear-  
25          ing;

- 1 (ii) child formative assessments;  
2 (iii) measures of environmental qual-  
3 ity; and  
4 (iv) measures of the quality of adult-  
5 child interactions.

6 (3) DUAL LANGUAGE LEARNER.—The term  
7 “dual language learner” means an individual who is  
8 limited English proficient.

9 (4) EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PRO-  
10 GRAM.—The term “early childhood education pro-  
11 gram” has the meaning given the term under section  
12 103 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20  
13 U.S.C. 1003).

14 (5) ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.—The term “elemen-  
15 tary school” has the meaning given the term in sec-  
16 tion 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-  
17 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

18 (6) ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION DATE.—The  
19 term “eligibility determination date” means the date  
20 used to determine eligibility for public elementary  
21 school in the community in which the eligible local  
22 entity involved is located.

23 (7) ELIGIBLE LOCAL ENTITY.—The term “eligi-  
24 ble local entity” means—

1 (A) a local educational agency, including a  
2 charter school or a charter management organi-  
3 zation that acts as a local educational agency,  
4 or an educational service agency in partnership  
5 with a local educational agency;

6 (B) an entity (including a Head Start pro-  
7 gram or licensed child care setting) that carries  
8 out, administers, or supports an early childhood  
9 education program; or

10 (C) a consortium of entities described in  
11 subparagraph (A) or (B).

12 (8) FULL-DAY.—The term “full-day” means a  
13 day that is—

14 (A) equivalent to a full school day at the  
15 public elementary schools in a State; and

16 (B) not less than 5 hours a day.

17 (9) GOVERNOR.—The term “Governor” means  
18 the chief executive officer of a State.

19 (10) HIGH-QUALITY PREKINDERGARTEN PRO-  
20 GRAM.—The term “high-quality prekindergarten  
21 program” means a prekindergarten program sup-  
22 ported by an eligible local entity that includes, at a  
23 minimum, the following elements based on nationally  
24 recognized standards:

25 (A) Serves children who—

1 (i) are age 4 or children who are age  
2 3 or 4, by the eligibility determination date  
3 (including children who turn age 5 while  
4 attending the program); or

5 (ii) have attained the legal age for  
6 State-funded prekindergarten.

7 (B) Requires high qualifications for staff,  
8 including that teachers meet the requirements  
9 of 1 of the following clauses:

10 (i) The teacher has a bachelor's de-  
11 gree in early childhood education or a re-  
12 lated field with coursework that dem-  
13 onstrates competence in early childhood  
14 education.

15 (ii) The teacher—

16 (I) has a bachelor's degree in any  
17 field;

18 (II) has demonstrated knowledge  
19 of early childhood education by pass-  
20 ing a State-approved assessment in  
21 early childhood education;

22 (III) while employed as a teacher  
23 in the prekindergarten program, is en-  
24 gaged in on-going professional devel-

1                   opment in early childhood education  
2                   for not less than 2 years; and

3                   (IV) not more than 4 years after  
4                   starting employment as a teacher in  
5                   the prekindergarten program, enrolls  
6                   in and completes a State-approved ed-  
7                   ucator preparation program in which  
8                   the teacher receives training and sup-  
9                   port in early childhood education.

10                  (iii) The teacher has bachelor's degree  
11                  with a credential, license, or endorsement  
12                  that demonstrates competence in early  
13                  childhood education.

14                  (C) Maintains an evidence-based maximum  
15                  class size.

16                  (D) Maintains an evidence-based child to  
17                  instructional staff ratio.

18                  (E) Offers a full-day program.

19                  (F) Provides developmentally appropriate  
20                  learning environments and evidence-based cur-  
21                  ricula that are aligned with the State's early  
22                  learning and development standards described  
23                  in section 105(1).



1 (G) Offers instructional staff salaries com-  
2 parable to kindergarten through grade 12  
3 teaching staff.

4 (H) Provides for ongoing monitoring and  
5 program evaluation to ensure continuous im-  
6 provement.

7 (I) Offers accessible comprehensive services  
8 for children that include, at a minimum—

9 (i) screenings for vision, hearing, den-  
10 tal, health (including mental health), and  
11 development (including early literacy and  
12 math skill development) and referrals, and  
13 assistance obtaining services, when appro-  
14 priate;

15 (ii) family engagement opportunities  
16 that take into account home language,  
17 such as parent conferences (including par-  
18 ent input about their child's development)  
19 and support services, such as parent edu-  
20 cation, home visiting, and family literacy  
21 services;

22 (iii) nutrition services, including nutri-  
23 tious meals and snack options aligned with  
24 requirements set by the most recent Child  
25 and Adult Care Food Program guidelines

1 promulgated by the Department of Agri-  
2 culture as well as regular, age-appropriate,  
3 nutrition education for children and their  
4 families;

5 (iv) programs in coordination with  
6 local educational agencies and entities pro-  
7 viding services and supports authorized  
8 under part B and part C of the Individuals  
9 with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C.  
10 1411 et seq.; 1431 et seq.) to ensure the  
11 full participation of children with disabili-  
12 ties;

13 (v) physical activity programs aligned  
14 with evidence-based guidelines, such as  
15 those recommended by the Institute of  
16 Medicine, and which take into account and  
17 accommodate children with disabilities;

18 (vi) additional support services, as ap-  
19 propriate, based on the findings of the  
20 community assessment, as described in sec-  
21 tion 111(b)(4); and

22 (vii) on-site coordination, to the max-  
23 imum extent practicable.

24 (J) Provides high-quality professional de-  
25 velopment for all staff, including regular in-

1 classroom observation for teachers and teacher  
2 assistants by individuals trained in such obser-  
3 vation and which may include evidence-based  
4 coaching.

5 (K) Meets the education performance  
6 standards in effect under section 641A(a)(1)(B)  
7 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C.  
8 9836a(a)(1)(B)).

9 (L) Maintains evidence-based health and  
10 safety standards.

11 (M) Maintains disciplinary policies that do  
12 not include expulsion or suspension of partici-  
13 pating children, except as a last resort in ex-  
14 traordinary circumstances where—

15 (i) there is a determination of a seri-  
16 ous safety threat; and

17 (ii) policies are in place to provide ap-  
18 propriate alternative early educational  
19 services to expelled or suspended children  
20 while they are out of school.

21 (11) HOMELESS CHILD.—The term “homeless  
22 child” means a child or youth described in section  
23 725(2) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance  
24 Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a(2)).

1           (12) INDIAN TRIBE; TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—

2           The terms “Indian tribe” and “tribal organization”  
3           have the meanings given the terms in 658P of the  
4           Child Care and Development Block Grant of 1990  
5           (42 U.S.C. 9858n).

6           (13) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—

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

10          (14) LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENT.—The

11          term “limited English proficient” has the meaning  
12          given the term in section 637 of the Head Start Act  
13          (42 U.S.C. 9832).

14          (15) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY; STATE

15          EDUCATIONAL AGENCY; EDUCATIONAL SERVICE  
16          AGENCY.—The terms “local educational agency”,  
17          “State educational agency”, and “educational service  
18          agency” have the meanings given the terms in sec-  
19          tion 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-  
20          cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

21          (16) MIGRATORY CHILD.—The term “migratory

22          child” has the meaning given the term in section  
23          1309 of the Elementary and Secondary Education  
24          Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6399).

1           (17) OUTLYING AREA.—The term “outlying  
2 area” means each of the United States Virgin Is-  
3 lands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth  
4 of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Republic  
5 of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, and  
6 the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

7           (18) POVERTY LINE.—The term “poverty line”  
8 means the official poverty line (as defined by the Of-  
9 fice of Management and Budget)—

10           (A) adjusted to reflect the percentage  
11 change in the Consumer Price Index for All  
12 Urban Consumers published by the Bureau of  
13 Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor  
14 for the most recent 12-month period or other  
15 interval for which the data are available; and

16           (B) applicable to a family of the size in-  
17 volved.

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

22           (20) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary”  
23 means the Secretary of Education.

24           (21) STATE.—Except as otherwise provided in  
25 this subtitle, the term “State” means each of the 50

1 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth  
2 of Puerto Rico, and each of the outlying areas.

3 (22) STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON EARLY  
4 CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE.—The term  
5 “State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Edu-  
6 cation and Care” means the State Advisory Council  
7 on Early Childhood Education and Care established  
8 under section 642B(b) of the Head Start Act (42  
9 U.S.C. 9837b(b)).

10 **SEC. 103. PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION.**

11 From amounts made available to carry out this sub-  
12 title, the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of  
13 Health and Human Services, shall award grants to States  
14 to implement high-quality prekindergarten programs, con-  
15 sistent with the purposes of this subtitle described in sec-  
16 tion 101. For each fiscal year, the funds provided under  
17 a grant to a State shall equal the allotment determined  
18 for the State under section 104.

19 **SEC. 104. ALLOTMENTS AND RESERVATIONS OF FUNDS.**

20 (a) RESERVATION.—From the amount made avail-  
21 able each fiscal year to carry out this subtitle, the Sec-  
22 retary shall—

23 (1) reserve not less than 1 percent and not  
24 more than 2 percent for payments to Indian tribes  
25 and tribal organizations;

1           (2) reserve one-half of 1 percent for the out-  
2     lying areas to be distributed among the outlying  
3     areas on the basis of their relative need, as deter-  
4     mined by the Secretary in accordance with the pur-  
5     poses of this subtitle;

6           (3) reserve one-half of 1 percent for eligible  
7     local entities that serve children in families who are  
8     engaged in migrant or seasonal agricultural labor;  
9     and

10          (4) reserve not more than 1 percent or  
11     \$30,000,000, whichever amount is less, for national  
12     activities, including administration, technical assist-  
13     ance, and evaluation.

14     (b) ALLOTMENTS.—

15           (1) IN GENERAL.—From the amount made  
16     available each fiscal year to carry out this subtitle  
17     and not reserved under subsection (a), the Secretary  
18     shall make allotments to States in accordance with  
19     paragraph (2) that have submitted an approved ap-  
20     plication.

21           (2) ALLOTMENT AMOUNT.—

22           (A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-  
23     graph (B), the Secretary shall allot the amount  
24     made available under paragraph (1) for a fiscal  
25     year among the States in proportion to the

1 number of children who are age 4 who reside  
2 within the State and are from families with in-  
3 comes at or below 200 percent of the poverty  
4 line for the most recent year for which satisfac-  
5 tory data are available, compared to the num-  
6 ber of such children who reside in all such  
7 States for that fiscal year.

8 (B) MINIMUM ALLOTMENT AMOUNT.—No  
9 State receiving an allotment under subpara-  
10 graph (A) may receive less than one-half of 1  
11 percent of the total amount allotted under such  
12 subparagraph.

13 (3) REALLOTMENT AND CARRY OVER.—

14 (A) IN GENERAL.—If one or more States  
15 do not receive an allotment under this sub-  
16 section for any fiscal year, the Secretary may  
17 use the amount of the allotment for that State  
18 or States, in such amounts as the Secretary de-  
19 termines appropriate, for either or both of the  
20 following:

21 (i) To increase the allotments of  
22 States with approved applications for the  
23 fiscal year, consistent with subparagraph  
24 (B).



1                   (ii) To carry over the funds to the  
2                   next fiscal year.

3                   (B) REALLOTMENT.—In increasing allot-  
4                   ments under subparagraph (A)(i), the Secretary  
5                   shall allot to each State with an approved appli-  
6                   cation an amount that bears the same relation-  
7                   ship to the total amount to be allotted under  
8                   subparagraph (A)(i), as the amount the State  
9                   received under paragraph (2) for that fiscal  
10                  year bears to the amount that all States re-  
11                  ceived under paragraph (2) for that fiscal year.

12                  (4) STATE.—For purposes of this subsection,  
13                  the term “State” means each of the 50 States, the  
14                  District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of  
15                  Puerto Rico.

16                  (c) FLEXIBILITY.—The Secretary may make minimal  
17                  adjustments to allotments under subsection (b), which  
18                  shall neither lead to a significant increase or decrease in  
19                  a State’s allotment determined under subsection (b), based  
20                  on a set of factors, such as the level of program participa-  
21                  tion and the estimated cost of the activities specified in  
22                  the State plan under section 106(2).

1 **SEC. 105. STATE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA.**

2 A State is eligible to receive a grant under this sub-  
3 title if the State demonstrates to the Secretary that the  
4 State—

5 (1) has established or will establish early learn-  
6 ing and development standards that—

7 (A) describe what children from birth to  
8 kindergarten entry should know and be able to  
9 do;

10 (B) are universally designed and develop-  
11 mentally, culturally, and linguistically appro-  
12 priate;

13 (C) are aligned with the State's chal-  
14 lenging academic content standards and chal-  
15 lenging student academic achievement stand-  
16 ards, as adopted under section 1111(b)(1) of  
17 the Elementary and Secondary Education Act  
18 of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311(b)(1)); and

19 (D) cover all of the essential domains of  
20 school readiness, which address—

21 (i) physical well-being and motor de-  
22 velopment;

23 (ii) social and emotional development;

24 (iii) approaches to learning, including  
25 creative arts expression;

1 (iv) developmentally appropriate oral  
2 and written language and literacy develop-  
3 ment; and

4 (v) cognition and general knowledge,  
5 including early mathematics and early sci-  
6 entific development;

7 (2) has the ability or will develop the ability to  
8 link prekindergarten data with State elementary  
9 school and secondary school data for the purpose of  
10 collecting longitudinal information for all children  
11 participating in the State's high-quality prekinder-  
12 garten program and any other federally-funded early  
13 childhood program that will remain with the child  
14 through the child's public education through grade  
15 12;

16 (3) offers State-funded kindergarten for chil-  
17 dren who are eligible children for that service in the  
18 State; and

19 (4) has established a State Advisory Council on  
20 Early Childhood Education and Care.

21 **SEC. 106. STATE APPLICATIONS.**

22 To receive a grant under this subtitle, the Governor  
23 of a State, in consultation with the Indian tribes and tribal  
24 organizations in the State, if any, shall submit an applica-  
25 tion to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and

1 containing such information as the Secretary may reason-  
2 ably require. At a minimum, each such application shall  
3 include—

4 (1) an assurance that the State—

5 (A) will coordinate with and continue to  
6 participate in the programs authorized under  
7 section 619 and part C of the Individuals with  
8 Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1419;  
9 1431 et seq.), the Child Care and Development  
10 Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858 et  
11 seq.), and the maternal, infant, and early child-  
12 hood home visiting programs funded under sec-  
13 tion 511 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.  
14 711) for the duration of the grant;

15 (B) will designate a State-level entity (such  
16 as an agency or joint interagency office), se-  
17 lected by the Governor, for the administration  
18 of the grant, which shall coordinate and consult  
19 with the State educational agency if the entity  
20 is not the State educational agency; and

21 (C) will establish, or certify the existence  
22 of, program standards for all State prekind-  
23 garten programs consistent with the definition  
24 of a high-quality prekindergarten program  
25 under section 102;

1 (2) a description of the State’s plan to—

2 (A) use funds received under this subtitle  
3 and the State’s matching funds to provide high-  
4 quality prekindergarten programs, in accord-  
5 ance with section 107(d), with open enrollment  
6 for all children in the State who—

7 (i) are described in section 102(9)(A);

8 and

9 (ii) are from families with incomes at  
10 or below 200 percent of the poverty line;

11 (B) develop or enhance a system for moni-  
12 toring eligible local entities that are receiving  
13 funds under this subtitle for compliance with  
14 quality standards developed by the State and to  
15 provide program improvement support, which  
16 may be accomplished through the use of a  
17 State-developed system for quality rating and  
18 improvement;

19 (C) if applicable, expand participation in  
20 the State’s high-quality prekindergarten pro-  
21 grams to children from families with incomes  
22 above 200 percent of the poverty line;

23 (D) carry out the State’s comprehensive  
24 early learning assessment system, or how the  
25 State plans to develop such a system, ensuring

1 that any assessments are culturally, develop-  
2 mentally, and age-appropriate and consistent  
3 with the recommendations from the study on  
4 Developmental Outcomes and Assessments for  
5 Young Children by the National Academy of  
6 Sciences, consistent with section 649(j) of the  
7 Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9844);

8 (E) develop, implement, and make publicly  
9 available the performance measures and targets  
10 described in section 109;

11 (F) increase the number of teachers with  
12 bachelor's degrees in early childhood education,  
13 or with bachelor's degrees in another closely re-  
14 lated field and specialized training and dem-  
15 onstrated competency in early childhood edu-  
16 cation, including how institutions of higher edu-  
17 cation will support increasing the number of  
18 teachers with such degrees and training, includ-  
19 ing through the use of assessments of prior  
20 learning, knowledge, and skills to facilitate and  
21 expedite attainment of such degrees;

22 (G) coordinate and integrate the activities  
23 funded under this subtitle with Federal, State,  
24 and local services and programs that support  
25 early childhood education and care, including

1 programs supported under this subtitle, the El-  
2 elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965  
3 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.), the Individuals with  
4 Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et  
5 seq.), the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et  
6 seq.), the Community Services Block Grant Act  
7 (42 U.S.C. 9901 et seq.), the Child Care and  
8 Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42  
9 U.S.C. 9858 et seq.), the temporary assistance  
10 for needy families program under part A of title  
11 IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et  
12 seq.), the Race to the Top program under sec-  
13 tion 14006 of division A of the American Re-  
14 covery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public  
15 Law 111-5)”, federally funded early literacy  
16 programs, the maternal, infant, and early child-  
17 hood home visiting programs funded under sec-  
18 tion 511 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.  
19 711), health improvements to child care funded  
20 under title XIX of the Social Security Act (42  
21 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.), the program under sub-  
22 title B of title VII of the McKinney-Vento  
23 Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.S. 11431 et  
24 seq.), the innovation fund program under sec-  
25 tion 14007 of the American Recovery and Rein-

1 vestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–5), pro-  
2 grams authorized under part E of title IV of  
3 the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 670 et seq.),  
4 the Fostering Connections to Success and In-  
5 creasing Adoptions Act of 2008 (Public Law  
6 110–351), grants for infant and toddler care  
7 through Early Head Start-Child Care Partner-  
8 ships funded under the heading “CHILDREN  
9 AND FAMILIES SERVICES PROGRAMS” under the  
10 heading ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND  
11 FAMILIES in title II of division H of the Depart-  
12 ment of Health and Human Services Appro-  
13 priations Act, 2014 (Public Law 113–76; 128  
14 Stat. 377-378), the preschool development  
15 grants program funded under the heading “IN-  
16 NOVATION AND IMPROVEMENT” in title III of  
17 division G of the Department of Education Ap-  
18 propriations Act, 2015 (Public law 113–235;  
19 128 Stat. 2496), and any other Federal, State,  
20 or local early childhood education programs  
21 used in the State;

22 (H) award subgrants to eligible local enti-  
23 ties, and in awarding such subgrants, facilitate  
24 a delivery system of high-quality prekinderg-  
25 arten programs that includes diverse pro-



1           viders, such as providers in community-based,  
2           public school, and private settings, and consider  
3           the system’s impact on options for families;

4           (I) in the case of a State that does not  
5           have a State-determined funding mechanism for  
6           prekindergarten, use objective criteria in award-  
7           ing subgrants to eligible local entities that will  
8           implement high-quality prekindergarten pro-  
9           grams, including actions the State will take to  
10          ensure that eligible local entities will coordinate  
11          with local educational agencies or other early  
12          learning providers, as appropriate, to carry out  
13          activities to provide children served under this  
14          subtitle with a successful transition from pre-  
15          school into kindergarten, which activities shall  
16          include—

17                 (i) aligning curricular objectives and  
18                 instruction;

19                 (ii) providing staff professional devel-  
20                 opment, including opportunities for joint-  
21                 professional development on early learning  
22                 and kindergarten through grade 3 stand-  
23                 ards, assessments, and curricula;

24                 (iii) coordinating family engagement  
25                 and support services; and

1 (iv) encouraging the shared use of fa-  
2 cilities and transportation, as appropriate;

3 (J) use the State early learning and devel-  
4 opment standards described in section 105(1)  
5 to address the needs of dual language learners,  
6 including by incorporating benchmarks related  
7 to English language development;

8 (K) identify barriers, and propose solutions  
9 to overcome such barriers, which may include  
10 seeking assistance under section 116, in the  
11 State to effectively use and integrate Federal,  
12 State, and local public funds and private funds  
13 for early childhood education that are available  
14 to the State on the date on which the applica-  
15 tion is submitted;

16 (L) support articulation agreements (as  
17 defined in section 486A of the Higher Edu-  
18 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1093a)) between  
19 public 2-year and public 4-year institutions of  
20 higher education and other credit-bearing pro-  
21 fessional development in the State for early  
22 childhood teacher preparation programs and  
23 closely related fields;

24 (M) ensure that the higher education pro-  
25 grams in the State have the capacity to prepare

1 a workforce to provide high-quality prekindergarten programs;  
2

3 (N) support workforce development, including State and local policies that support  
4 prekindergarten instructional staff's ability to  
5 earn a degree, certification, or other specializations or qualifications, including policies on  
6 leave, substitutes, and child care services, including non-traditional hour child care;  
7  
8

9  
10 (O) hold eligible local entities accountable  
11 for use of funds;

12 (P) ensure that the State's early learning  
13 and development standards are integrated into  
14 the instructional and programmatic practices of  
15 high-quality prekindergarten programs and related  
16 programs and services, such as those provided to children under section 619 and part C  
17 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education  
18 Act (20 U.S.C. 1419 and 1431 et seq);  
19

20 (Q) increase the number of children in the  
21 State who are enrolled in high-quality kindergarten  
22 programs and carry out a strategy to  
23 implement such a plan;

24 (R) coordinate the State's activities supported by grants under this subtitle with activi-  
25

1           ties in State plans required under the Elemen-  
2           tary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20  
3           U.S.C. 6301 et seq.), the Individuals with Dis-  
4           abilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et  
5           seq.), the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et  
6           seq.), the Child Care and Development Block  
7           Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858 et seq.),  
8           and the Adult Education and Family Literacy  
9           Act (29 U.S.C. 3271 et seq.);

10           (S) encourage eligible local entities to co-  
11           ordinate with community-based learning re-  
12           sources, such as libraries, arts and arts edu-  
13           cation programs, appropriate media programs,  
14           family literacy programs, public parks and  
15           recreation programs, museums, nutrition edu-  
16           cation programs, and programs supported by  
17           the Corporation for National and Community  
18           Service;

19           (T) work with eligible local entities, in con-  
20           sultation with elementary school principals, to  
21           ensure that high-quality prekindergarten pro-  
22           grams have sufficient and appropriate facilities  
23           to meet the needs of children eligible for pre-  
24           kindergarten;

1 (U) support local early childhood coordi-  
2 nating entities, such as local early childhood  
3 councils, if applicable, and help such entities to  
4 coordinate early childhood education programs  
5 with high-quality prekindergarten programs to  
6 ensure effective and efficient delivery of early  
7 childhood education program services;

8 (V) support shared services administering  
9 entities, if applicable;

10 (W) ensure that the provision of high-qual-  
11 ity prekindergarten programs will not lead to a  
12 diminution in the quality or supply of services  
13 for infants and toddlers or disrupt the care of  
14 infants and toddlers in the geographic area  
15 served by the eligible local entity, which may in-  
16 clude demonstrating that the State will direct  
17 funds to provide high-quality early childhood  
18 education and care to infants and toddlers in  
19 accordance with section 107(d); and

20 (X) encourage or promote socioeconomic,  
21 racial, and ethnic diversity in the classrooms of  
22 high-quality prekindergarten programs, as ap-  
23 plicable; and

1           (3) an inventory of the State’s higher education  
2 programs that prepare individuals for work in a  
3 high-quality prekindergarten program, including—  
4           (A) certification programs;  
5           (B) associate degree programs;  
6           (C) baccalaureate degree programs;  
7           (D) masters degree programs; and  
8           (E) other programs that lead to a speciali-  
9 zation in early childhood education, or a related  
10 field.

11 **SEC. 107. STATE USE OF FUNDS.**

12       (a) RESERVATION FOR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT AC-  
13 TIVITIES .—

14           (1) IN GENERAL.—A State that receives a  
15 grant under this subtitle may reserve, for not more  
16 than the first 4 years such State receives such a  
17 grant, not more than 20 percent of the grant funds  
18 for quality improvement activities that support the  
19 elements of high-quality prekindergarten programs.  
20 Such quality improvement activities may include  
21 supporting teachers, center directors, and principals  
22 in a State’s high-quality prekindergarten program,  
23 licensed or regulated child care, or Head Start pro-  
24 grams to enable such teachers, principals, or direc-  
25 tors to earn a baccalaureate degree in early child-

1 hood education, or a closely-related field, through ac-  
2 tivities which may include—

3 (A) expanding or establishing scholarships,  
4 counseling, and compensation initiatives to  
5 cover the cost of tuition, fees, materials, trans-  
6 portation, and release time for such teachers;  
7 and

8 (B) providing ongoing professional develop-  
9 ment opportunities, including regular in-class-  
10 room observation by individuals trained in such  
11 observation, for such teachers, directors, prin-  
12 cipals, and teachers assistants to enable such  
13 teachers, directors, principals, and teachers as-  
14 sistants to carry out the elements of high-qual-  
15 ity prekindergarten programs, which may in-  
16 clude activities that address—

17 (i) promoting children’s development  
18 across all of the essential domains of early  
19 learning and development;

20 (ii) developmentally appropriate cur-  
21 ricula and teacher-child interaction;

22 (iii) effective family engagement;

23 (iv) providing culturally competent in-  
24 struction;

1 (v) working with a diversity of chil-  
2 dren and families, including children with  
3 disabilities and dual language learners;

4 (vi) childhood nutrition and physical  
5 education programs;

6 (vii) supporting the implementation of  
7 evidence-based curricula;

8 (viii) social and emotional develop-  
9 ment; and

10 (ix) incorporating age-appropriate  
11 strategies of positive behavioral interven-  
12 tions and supports; and

13 (C) providing families with increased op-  
14 portunities to learn how best to support their  
15 children's physical, cognitive, social, and emo-  
16 tional development during the first 5 years of  
17 life.

18 (2) NOT SUBJECT TO MATCHING.—The amount  
19 reserved under paragraph (1) shall not be subject to  
20 the matching requirements under section 110.

21 (3) COORDINATION.—A State that reserves an  
22 amount under paragraph (1) shall coordinate the  
23 use of such amount with activities funded under sec-  
24 tion 658G of the Child Care and Development Block



1 Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858e) and the Head  
2 Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.).

3 (4) CONSTRUCTION.—A State may not use  
4 funds reserved under this subsection to meet the re-  
5 quirement described in section 102(9)(G).

6 (b) SUBGRANTS FOR HIGH-QUALITY PREKINDER-  
7 GARTEN PROGRAMS.—A State that receives a grant under  
8 this subtitle shall award subgrants of sufficient size to eli-  
9 gible local entities to enable such eligible local entities to  
10 implement high-quality prekindergarten programs for chil-  
11 dren who—

12 (1) are described in section 102(9)(A);

13 (2) reside within the State; and

14 (3) are from families with incomes at or below  
15 200 percent of the poverty line.

16 (c) ADMINISTRATION.—A State that receives a grant  
17 under this subtitle may reserve not more than 1 percent  
18 of the grant funds for administration of the grant, and  
19 may use part of that reservation for the maintenance of  
20 the State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education  
21 and Care.

22 (d) EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE PRO-  
23 GRAMS FOR INFANTS AND TODDLERS.—

24 (1) USE OF ALLOTMENT FOR INFANTS AND  
25 TODDLERS.—An eligible State may apply to use, and

1 the appropriate Secretary may grant permission for  
2 the State to use, not more than 15 percent of the  
3 funds made available through a grant received under  
4 this subtitle to award subgrants to early childhood  
5 education programs to provide, consistent with the  
6 State's early learning and development guidelines for  
7 infants and toddlers, high-quality early childhood  
8 education and care to infants and toddlers who re-  
9 side within the State and are from families with in-  
10 comes at or below 200 percent of the poverty line.

11 (2) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to use the  
12 grant funds as described in paragraph (1), the State  
13 shall submit an application to the appropriate Sec-  
14 retary at such time, in such manner, and containing  
15 such information as the Secretary may require. Such  
16 application shall, at a minimum, include a descrip-  
17 tion of how the State will—

18 (A) designate a lead agency which shall ad-  
19 minister such funds;

20 (B) ensure that such lead agency, in co-  
21 ordination with the State's Advisory Council on  
22 Early Childhood Education and Care, will col-  
23 laborate with other agencies in administering  
24 programs supported under this subsection for  
25 infants and toddlers in order to obtain input

1 about the appropriate use of such funds and en-  
2 sure coordination with programs for infants and  
3 toddlers funded under the Child Care and De-  
4 velopment Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.  
5 9858 et seq.), the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C.  
6 9831 et seq.) (including any Early Learning  
7 Quality Partnerships established in the State  
8 under section 645B of the Head Start Act, as  
9 added by section 202), the Race to the Top pro-  
10 gram under section 14006 of division A of the  
11 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of  
12 2009 (Public Law 111-5), the maternal, infant,  
13 and early childhood home visiting programs  
14 funded under section 511 of the Social Security  
15 Act (42 U.S.C. 711), part C of the Individuals  
16 with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C.  
17 1431 et seq.), and grants for infant and toddler  
18 care through Early Head Start-Child Care  
19 Partnerships funded under the heading “CHIL-  
20 DREN AND FAMILIES SERVICES PROGRAMS”  
21 under the heading ADMINISTRATION FOR CHIL-  
22 DREN AND FAMILIES in title II of division H of  
23 the Department of Health and Human Services  
24 Appropriations Act, 2014 (Public Law 113-76;  
25 128 Stat. 377-378);

1           (C) ensure that infants and toddlers who  
2 benefit from amounts made available under this  
3 subsection will transition to and have the oppor-  
4 tunity to participate in a high-quality pre-  
5 kindergarten program supported under this  
6 subtitle;

7           (D) in awarding subgrants, give preference  
8 to early childhood education programs that  
9 have a written formal plan with baseline data,  
10 benchmarks, and timetables to increase access  
11 to and full participation in high-quality pre-  
12 kindergarten programs for children who need  
13 additional support, including children with de-  
14 velopmental delays or disabilities, children who  
15 are dual language learners, homeless children,  
16 children who are in foster care, children of mi-  
17 grant families, children eligible for a free or re-  
18 duced-price lunch under the Richard B. Russell  
19 National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et  
20 seq.), or children in the child welfare system;  
21 and

22           (E) give priority to activities carried out  
23 under this subsection that will increase access  
24 to high-quality early childhood education pro-  
25 grams for infants and toddlers in local areas

1 with significant concentrations of low-income  
2 families that do not currently benefit from such  
3 programs.

4 (3) ELIGIBLE PROVIDERS.—A State may use  
5 the grant funds as described in paragraph (1) to  
6 serve infants and toddlers only by working with  
7 early childhood education program providers that—

8 (A) offer full-day, full-year care, or other-  
9 wise meet the needs of working families; and

10 (B) meet high-quality standards, such as—

11 (i) Early Head Start program per-  
12 formance standards under the Head Start  
13 Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.); or

14 (ii) high quality, demonstrated, valid,  
15 and reliable program standards that have  
16 been established through a national entity  
17 that accredits early childhood education  
18 programs.

19 (4) FEDERAL ADMINISTRATION.—

20 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall  
21 bear responsibility for obligating and disbursing  
22 funds to support activities under this subsection  
23 and ensuring compliance with applicable laws  
24 and administrative requirements, subject to  
25 paragraph (3).

1                   (B) INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT.—The Sec-  
2                   retary of Education and the Secretary of  
3                   Health and Human Services shall jointly ad-  
4                   minister activities supported under this sub-  
5                   section on such terms as such Secretaries shall  
6                   set forth in an interagency agreement. The Sec-  
7                   retary of Health and Human Services shall be  
8                   responsible for any final approval of a State’s  
9                   application under this subsection that addresses  
10                  the use of funds designated for services to in-  
11                  fants and toddlers.

12                  (C) APPROPRIATE SECRETARY.—In this  
13                  subsection, the term “appropriate Secretary”  
14                  used with respect to a function, means the Sec-  
15                  retary designated for that function under the  
16                  interagency agreement.

17 **SEC. 108. ADDITIONAL PREKINDERGARTEN SERVICES.**

18                  (a) PREKINDERGARTEN FOR 3-YEAR OLDS.—Each  
19                  State that certifies to the Secretary that the State pro-  
20                  vides universally available, voluntary, high-quality pre-  
21                  kindergarten programs for 4-year old children who reside  
22                  within the State and are from families with incomes at  
23                  or below 200 percent of the poverty line may use the  
24                  State’s allocation under section 104(b) to provide high-  
25                  quality prekindergarten programs for 3-year old children

1 who reside within the State and are from families with  
2 incomes at or below 200 percent of the poverty line.

3 (b) SUBGRANTS.—In each State that has a city,  
4 county, or local educational agency that provides univer-  
5 sally available high-quality prekindergarten programs for  
6 4-year old children who reside within the State and are  
7 from families with incomes at or below 200 percent of the  
8 poverty line the State may use amounts from the State’s  
9 allocation under section 104(b) to award subgrants to eli-  
10 gible local entities to enable such eligible local entities to  
11 provide high-quality prekindergarten programs for 3-year  
12 old children who are from families with incomes at or  
13 below 200 percent of the poverty line and who reside in  
14 such city, county, or local educational agency.

15 **SEC. 109. PERFORMANCE MEASURES AND TARGETS.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—A State that receives a grant  
17 under this subtitle shall develop, implement, and make  
18 publicly available the performance measures and targets  
19 for the activities carried out with grant funds. Such meas-  
20 ures shall, at a minimum, track the State’s progress in—

21 (1) increasing school readiness across all do-  
22 mains for all categories of children, as described in  
23 section 113(b)(7), including children with disabilities  
24 and dual language learners;

1           (2) narrowing school readiness gaps between  
2           minority and nonminority children, and low-income  
3           children and more advantaged children, in prepara-  
4           tion for kindergarten entry;

5           (3) decreasing the number of years that chil-  
6           dren receive special education and related services as  
7           described in part B of the Individuals with Disabil-  
8           ities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1411 et seq.);

9           (4) increasing the number of programs meeting  
10          the criteria for high-quality prekindergarten pro-  
11          grams across all types of local eligible entities, as de-  
12          fined by the State and in accordance with section  
13          102;

14          (5) decreasing the need for grade-to-grade re-  
15          tention in elementary school;

16          (6) if applicable, ensuring that high-quality pre-  
17          kindergarten programs do not experience instances  
18          of chronic absence among the children who partici-  
19          pate in such programs;

20          (7) increasing the number and percentage of  
21          low-income children in high-quality early childhood  
22          education programs that receive financial support  
23          through funds provided under this subtitle; and



1           (8) providing high-quality nutrition services,  
2           nutrition education, physical activity, and obesity  
3           prevention programs.

4           (b) PROHIBITION OF MISDIAGNOSIS PRACTICES.—A  
5           State shall not, in order to meet the performance meas-  
6           ures and targets described in subsection (a), engage in  
7           practices or policies that will lead to the misdiagnosis or  
8           under-diagnosis of disabilities or developmental delays  
9           among children who are served through programs sup-  
10          ported under this subtitle.

11       **SEC. 110. MATCHING REQUIREMENTS.**

12          (a) MATCHING FUNDS.—

13           (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-  
14           graph (2), a State that receives a grant under this  
15           subtitle shall provide matching funds from non-Fed-  
16           eral sources, as described in subsection (c), in an  
17           amount equal to—

18                   (A) 10 percent of the Federal funds pro-  
19                   vided under the grant in the first year of grant  
20                   administration;

21                   (B) 10 percent of the Federal funds pro-  
22                   vided under the grant in the second year of  
23                   grant administration;

1           (C) 20 percent of the Federal funds pro-  
2           vided under the grant in the third year of grant  
3           administration;

4           (D) 30 percent of the Federal funds pro-  
5           vided under the grant in the fourth year of  
6           grant administration;

7           (E) 40 percent of the Federal funds pro-  
8           vided under the grant in the fifth year of grant  
9           administration;

10          (F) 50 percent of the Federal funds pro-  
11          vided under the grant in the sixth year of grant  
12          administration;

13          (G) 75 percent of the Federal funds pro-  
14          vided under the grant in the seventh year of  
15          grant administration; and

16          (H) 100 percent of the Federal funds pro-  
17          vided under the grant in the eighth and fol-  
18          lowing years of grant administration.

19          (2) REDUCED MATCH RATE.—A State that  
20          meets the requirements under subsection (b) may  
21          provide matching funds from non-Federal sources at  
22          a reduced rate. The full reduced matching funds  
23          rate shall be in an amount equal to—

1 (A) 5 percent of the Federal funds pro-  
2 vided under the grant in the first year of grant  
3 administration;

4 (B) 5 percent of the Federal funds pro-  
5 vided under the grant in the second year of  
6 grant administration;

7 (C) 10 percent of the Federal funds pro-  
8 vided under the grant in the third year of grant  
9 administration;

10 (D) 20 percent of the Federal funds pro-  
11 vided under the grant in the fourth year of  
12 grant administration;

13 (E) 30 percent of the Federal funds pro-  
14 vided under the grant in the fifth year of grant  
15 administration;

16 (F) 40 percent of the Federal funds pro-  
17 vided under the grant in the sixth year of grant  
18 administration;

19 (G) 50 percent of the Federal funds pro-  
20 vided under the grant in the seventh year of  
21 grant administration;

22 (H) 75 percent of the Federal funds pro-  
23 vided under the grant in the eighth year of  
24 grant administration; and

1 (I) 100 percent of the Federal funds pro-  
2 vided under the grant in the ninth and fol-  
3 lowing years of the grant administration.

4 (b) REDUCED MATCH RATE ELIGIBILITY.—A State  
5 that receives a grant under this subtitle may provide  
6 matching funds from non-Federal sources at the full re-  
7 duced rate under subsection (a)(2) if the State, across all  
8 publicly-funded programs (including locally-funded pro-  
9 grams)—

10 (1)(A) offers enrollment in high-quality pre-  
11 kindergarten programs to not less than half of chil-  
12 dren in the State who are—

13 (i) age 4 on the eligibility determination  
14 date; and

15 (ii) from families with incomes at or below  
16 200 percent of the poverty line; and

17 (B) has a plan for continuing to expand access  
18 to high-quality prekindergarten programs for such  
19 children in the State; and

20 (2) has a plan to expand access to high-quality  
21 prekindergarten programs to children from moderate  
22 income families whose income exceeds 200 percent of  
23 the poverty line.

24 (c) NON-FEDERAL RESOURCES.—

1           (1) IN CASH.—A State shall provide the match-  
2           ing funds under this section in cash with non-Fed-  
3           eral resources which may include State funding,  
4           local funding, or contributions from philanthropy or  
5           other private sources, or a combination thereof.

6           (2) FUNDS TO BE CONSIDERED AS MATCHING  
7           FUNDS.—A State may include, as part of the State’s  
8           matching funds under this section, not more than 10  
9           percent of the amount of State or local funds des-  
10          ignated for State or local prekindergarten programs  
11          or to supplement Head Start programs under the  
12          Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.) as of the  
13          date of enactment of this Act, but may not include  
14          any funds that are attributed as matching funds, as  
15          part of a non-Federal share, or as a maintenance of  
16          effort requirement, for any other Federal program.

17          (d) MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT.—

18           (1) IN GENERAL.—If a State reduces its com-  
19           bined fiscal effort per student or the aggregate ex-  
20           penditures within the State to support early child-  
21           hood education programs for any fiscal year that a  
22           State receives a grant authorized under this subtitle  
23           relative to the previous fiscal year, the Secretary  
24           shall reduce support for such State under this sub-

1 title by the same amount as the decline in State ef-  
2 fort for such fiscal year.

3 (2) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive the re-  
4 quirements of paragraph (1) if—

5 (A) the Secretary determines that a waiver  
6 would be appropriate due to a precipitous de-  
7 cline in the financial resources of a State as a  
8 result of unforeseen economic hardship or a  
9 natural disaster that has necessitated across-  
10 the-board reductions in State services, including  
11 early childhood education programs; or

12 (B) due to the circumstances of a State re-  
13 quiring reductions in specific programs, includ-  
14 ing early childhood education, if the State pre-  
15 sents to the Secretary a justification and dem-  
16 onstration why other programs could not be re-  
17 duced and how early childhood programs in the  
18 State will not be disproportionately harmed by  
19 such State action.

20 (e) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—Grant funds re-  
21 ceived under this subtitle shall be used to supplement and  
22 not supplant other Federal, State, and local public funds  
23 expended on public prekindergarten programs in the  
24 State.

1 **SEC. 111. ELIGIBLE LOCAL ENTITY APPLICATIONS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—An eligible local entity desiring to  
3 receive a subgrant under section 107(b) shall submit an  
4 application to the State, at such time, in such manner,  
5 and containing such information as the State may reason-  
6 ably require.

7 (b) CONTENTS.—Each application submitted under  
8 subsection (a) shall include the following:

9 (1) PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT.—A de-  
10 scription of how the eligible local entity plans to en-  
11 gage the parents and families of the children such  
12 entity serves and ensure that parents and families of  
13 eligible children, as described in clauses (i) and (ii)  
14 of section 106(2)(A), are aware of the services pro-  
15 vided by the eligible local entity, which shall include  
16 a plan to—

17 (A) carry out meaningful parent and fam-  
18 ily engagement, through the implementation  
19 and replication of evidence-based or promising  
20 practices and strategies, which shall be coordi-  
21 nated with parent and family engagement strat-  
22 egies supported under the Individuals with Dis-  
23 abilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et  
24 seq.), part A of title I and title V of the Ele-  
25 mentary and Secondary Education Act of 1965  
26 (20 U.S.C. 6311 et seq. and 7201 et seq.), and

1 strategies in the Head Start Parent, Family,  
2 and Community Engagement Framework, if ap-  
3 plicable, to—

4 (i) provide parents and family mem-  
5 bers with the skills and opportunities nec-  
6 essary to become engaged and effective  
7 partners in their children’s education, par-  
8 ticularly the families of dual language  
9 learners and children with disabilities,  
10 which may include access to family literacy  
11 services;

12 (ii) improve child development; and

13 (iii) strengthen relationships among  
14 prekindergarten staff and parents and  
15 family members; and

16 (B) participate in community outreach to  
17 encourage families with eligible children to par-  
18 ticipate in the eligible local entity’s high-quality  
19 prekindergarten program, including—

20 (i) homeless children;

21 (ii) dual language learners;

22 (iii) children in foster care;

23 (iv) children with disabilities; and

24 (v) migrant children.



1           (2) COORDINATION & ALIGNMENT.—A descrip-  
2           tion of how the eligible local entity will—

3                   (A) coordinate, if applicable, the eligible  
4           local entity’s activities with—

5                           (i) Head Start agencies (consistent  
6                           with section 642(e)(5) of the Head Start  
7                           Act (42 U.S.C. 9837(e)(5)), if the local en-  
8                           tity is not a Head Start agency;

9                           (ii) local educational agencies, if the  
10                          eligible local entity is not a local edu-  
11                          cational agency;

12                          (iii) providers of services under part C  
13                          of the Individuals with Disabilities Edu-  
14                          cation Act (20 U.S.C. 1431 et seq.);

15                          (iv) programs carried out under sec-  
16                          tion 619 of the Individuals with Disabil-  
17                          ities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1419); and

18                          (v) if feasible, other entities carrying  
19                          out early childhood education programs  
20                          and services within the area served by the  
21                          local educational agency.

22                          (B) develop a process to promote con-  
23                          tinuity of developmentally appropriate instruc-  
24                          tional programs and shared expectations with  
25                          local elementary schools for children’s learning

1 and development as children transition to kin-  
2 dergarten;

3 (C) organize, if feasible, and participate in  
4 joint training, when available, including transi-  
5 tion-related training for school staff and early  
6 childhood education program staff;

7 (D) establish comprehensive transition  
8 policies and procedures, with applicable elemen-  
9 tary schools and principals, for the children  
10 served by the eligible local entity that support  
11 the school readiness of children transitioning to  
12 kindergarten, including the transfer of early  
13 childhood education program records, with pa-  
14 rental consent;

15 (E) conduct outreach to parents, families,  
16 and elementary school teachers and principals  
17 to discuss the educational, developmental, and  
18 other needs of children entering kindergarten;

19 (F) help parents, including parents of chil-  
20 dren who are dual language learners, under-  
21 stand and engage with the instructional and  
22 other services provided by the kindergarten in  
23 which such child will enroll after participation  
24 in a high-quality prekindergarten program; and

1 (G) develop and implement a system to in-  
2 crease program participation of underserved  
3 populations of eligible children, especially home-  
4 less children, children eligible for a free or re-  
5 duced-price lunch under the Richard B. Russell  
6 National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et  
7 seq.), parents of children who are dual language  
8 learners, and parents of children with disabil-  
9 ities.

10 (3) FULL PARTICIPATION OF ALL CHILDREN.—

11 A description of how the eligible local entity will  
12 meet the diverse needs of children in the community  
13 to be served, including children with disabilities,  
14 dual language learners, children who need additional  
15 support, children in the State foster care system,  
16 and homeless children. Such description shall dem-  
17 onstrate, at a minimum, how the entity plans to—

18 (A) ensure the eligible local entity's high-  
19 quality prekindergarten program is accessible  
20 and appropriate for children with disabilities  
21 and dual language learners;

22 (B) establish effective procedures for en-  
23 suring use of evidence-based practices in assess-  
24 ment and instruction, including use of data for  
25 progress monitoring of child performance and

1 provision of technical assistance support for  
2 staff to ensure fidelity with evidence-based  
3 practices;

4 (C) establish effective procedures for time-  
5 ly referral of children with disabilities to enti-  
6 ties authorized under part B and part C of the  
7 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20  
8 U.S.C. 1411 et seq.; 1431 et seq.);

9 (D) ensure that the eligible local entity's  
10 high-quality prekindergarten program works  
11 with appropriate entities to address the elimi-  
12 nation of barriers to immediate and continuous  
13 enrollment for homeless children; and

14 (E) ensure access to and continuity of en-  
15 rollment in high-quality prekindergarten pro-  
16 grams for migratory children, if applicable, and  
17 homeless children, including through policies  
18 and procedures that require—

19 (i) outreach to identify migratory chil-  
20 dren and homeless children;

21 (ii) immediate enrollment, including  
22 enrollment during the period of time when  
23 documents typically required for enroll-  
24 ment, including health and immunization

1 records, proof of eligibility, and other docu-  
2 ments, are obtained;

3 (iii) continuous enrollment and par-  
4 ticipation in the same high-quality pre-  
5 kindergarten program for a child, even if  
6 the child moves out of the program's serv-  
7 ice area, if that enrollment and participa-  
8 tion are in the child's best interest, includ-  
9 ing by providing transportation when nec-  
10 essary;

11 (iv) professional development for high-  
12 quality prekindergarten program staff re-  
13 garding migratory children and homeless-  
14 ness among families with young children;  
15 and

16 (v) in serving homeless children, col-  
17 laboration with local educational agency li-  
18 aisons designated under section  
19 722(g)(1)(J)(ii) of the McKinney-Vento  
20 Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.  
21 11432(g)(1)(J)(ii)), and local homeless  
22 service providers.

23 (4) ACCESSIBLE COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES.—  
24 A description of how the eligible local entity plans to  
25 provide accessible comprehensive services, described

1 in section 102(9)(I), to the children the eligible local  
2 entity serves. Such description shall provide informa-  
3 tion on how the entity will—

4 (A) conduct a data-driven community as-  
5 sessment in coordination with members of the  
6 community, including parents and community  
7 organizations, or use a recently conducted data-  
8 driven assessment, which—

9 (i) may involve an external partner  
10 with expertise in conducting such needs  
11 analysis, to determine the most appro-  
12 priate social or other support services to  
13 offer through the eligible local entity's on-  
14 site comprehensive services to children who  
15 participate in high-quality prekindergarten  
16 programs; and

17 (ii) shall consider the resources avail-  
18 able at the school, local educational agen-  
19 cy, and community levels to address the  
20 needs of the community and improve child  
21 outcomes; and

22 (B) have a coordinated system to facilitate  
23 the screening, referral, and provision of services  
24 related to health, nutrition, mental health, dis-

1 ability, and family support for children served  
2 by the eligible local entity.

3 (5) WORKFORCE.—A description of how the eli-  
4 gible local entity plans to support the instructional  
5 staff of such entity’s high-quality prekindergarten  
6 program, which shall, at a minimum, include a plan  
7 to provide high-quality professional development, or  
8 facilitate the provision of high-quality professional  
9 development through an external partner with exper-  
10 tise and a demonstrated track record of success,  
11 based on scientifically valid research, that will im-  
12 prove the knowledge and skills of high-quality pre-  
13 kindergarten teachers and staff through activities,  
14 which may include—

15 (A) acquiring content knowledge and learn-  
16 ing teaching strategies needed to provide effec-  
17 tive instruction that addresses the State’s early  
18 learning and development standards described  
19 under section 105(1), including professional  
20 training to support the social and emotional de-  
21 velopment of children;

22 (B) enabling high-quality prekindergarten  
23 teachers and staff to pursue specialized training  
24 in early childhood development;

1 (C) enabling high-quality prekindergarten  
2 teachers and staff to acquire the knowledge and  
3 skills to provide instruction and appropriate  
4 language and support services to increase the  
5 English language skills of dual language learn-  
6 ers;

7 (D) enabling high-quality prekindergarten  
8 teachers and staff to acquire the knowledge and  
9 skills to provide developmentally appropriate in-  
10 struction for children with disabilities;

11 (E) promoting classroom management;

12 (F) providing high-quality induction and  
13 support for incoming high-quality prekindergarten  
14 teachers and staff in high-quality pre-  
15 kindergarten programs, including through the  
16 use of mentoring programs and coaching that  
17 have a demonstrated track record of success;

18 (G) promoting the acquisition of relevant  
19 credentials, including in ways that support ca-  
20 reer advancement through career ladders; and

21 (H) enabling high-quality prekindergarten  
22 teachers and staff to acquire the knowledge and  
23 skills to provide culturally competent instruc-  
24 tion for children from diverse backgrounds.



1 **SEC. 112. REQUIRED SUBGRANT ACTIVITIES.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—An eligible local entity that re-  
3 ceives a subgrant under section 107(b) shall use subgrant  
4 funds to implement the elements of a high-quality pre-  
5 kindergarten program for the children described in section  
6 107(b).

7 (b) COORDINATION.—

8 (1) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY PARTNER-  
9 SHIPS WITH LOCAL EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION  
10 PROGRAMS.—A local educational agency that re-  
11 ceives a subgrant under this subtitle shall provide an  
12 assurance that the local educational agency will  
13 enter into strong partnerships with local early child-  
14 hood education programs, including programs sup-  
15 ported through the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831  
16 et seq.).

17 (2) ELIGIBLE LOCAL ENTITIES THAT ARE NOT  
18 LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.—An eligible local  
19 entity that is not a local educational agency that re-  
20 ceives a subgrant under this subtitle shall provide an  
21 assurance that such entity will enter into strong  
22 partnerships with local educational agencies.

23 **SEC. 113. REPORT AND EVALUATION.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—Each State that receives a grant  
25 under this subtitle shall prepare an annual report, in such

1 manner and containing such information as the Secretary  
2 may reasonably require.

3 (b) CONTENTS.—A report prepared under subsection  
4 (a) shall contain, at a minimum—

5 (1) a description of the manner in which the  
6 State has used the funds made available through the  
7 grant and a report of the expenditures made with  
8 the funds;

9 (2) a summary of the State’s progress toward  
10 providing access to high-quality prekindergarten pro-  
11 grams for children eligible for such services, as de-  
12 termined by the State, from families with incomes at  
13 or below 200 percent of the poverty line, including  
14 the percentage of funds spent on children from fami-  
15 lies with incomes—

16 (A) at or below 100 percent of the poverty  
17 line;

18 (B) at or below between 101 and 150 per-  
19 cent of the poverty line; and

20 (C) at or below between 151 and 200 per-  
21 cent of the poverty line;

22 (3) an evaluation of the State’s progress toward  
23 achieving the State’s performance targets, described  
24 in section 109;

1           (4) data on the number of high-quality pre-  
2 kindergarten program teachers and staff in the  
3 State (including teacher turnover rates and teacher  
4 compensation levels compared to teachers in elemen-  
5 tary schools and secondary schools), according to the  
6 setting in which such teachers and staff work (which  
7 settings shall include, at a minimum, Head Start  
8 programs, public prekindergarten, and child care  
9 programs) who received training or education during  
10 the period of the grant and remained in the early  
11 childhood education program field;

12           (5) data on the kindergarten readiness of chil-  
13 dren in the State;

14           (6) a description of the State's progress in ef-  
15 fectively using Federal, State, and local public funds  
16 and private funds, for early childhood education;

17           (7) the number and percentage of children in  
18 the State participating in high-quality prekinde-  
19 rgarten programs, disaggregated by race, ethnicity,  
20 family income, child age, disability, whether the chil-  
21 dren are homeless children, and whether the children  
22 are dual language learners;

23           (8) data on the availability, affordability, and  
24 quality of infant and toddler care in the State;

1           (9) the number of operational minutes per week  
2           and per year for each eligible local entity that re-  
3           ceives a subgrant;

4           (10) the local educational agency and zip code  
5           in which each eligible local entity that receives a  
6           subgrant operates;

7           (11) information, for each of the local edu-  
8           cational agencies described in paragraph (10), on  
9           the percentage of the costs of the public early child-  
10          hood education programs that is funded from Fed-  
11          eral, from State, and from local sources, including  
12          the percentages from specific funding programs;

13          (12) data on the number and percentage of  
14          children in the State participating in public kinder-  
15          garten programs, disaggregated by race, family in-  
16          come, child age, disability, whether the children are  
17          homeless children, and whether the children are dual  
18          language learners, with information on whether such  
19          programs are offered—

20                   (A) for a full-day; and

21                   (B) at no cost to families;

22          (13) data on the number of individuals in the  
23          State who are supported with scholarships, if appli-  
24          cable, to meet the bachelor's degree requirement for

1 high-quality prekindergarten programs, as defined in  
2 section 102; and

3 (14) information on—

4 (A) the rates of expulsion, suspension, and  
5 similar disciplinary action, of children in the  
6 State participating in high-quality prekindergarten  
7 programs, disaggregated by race, ethnicity,  
8 family income, child age, and disability;

9 (B) the State's progress in establishing  
10 policies on effective behavior management strategies  
11 and training that promote positive social  
12 and emotional development to eliminate expulsions  
13 and suspensions of children participating  
14 in high-quality prekindergarten programs; and

15 (C) the State's policies on providing early  
16 learning services to children in the State participating  
17 in high-quality prekindergarten programs who have been  
18 suspended.

19 (c) SUBMISSION.—A State shall submit the annual  
20 report prepared under subsection (a), at the end of each  
21 fiscal year, to the Secretary, the Secretary of Health and  
22 Human Services, and the State Advisory Council on Early  
23 Childhood Education and Care.

24 (d) COOPERATION.—An eligible local entity that receives  
25 a subgrant under this subtitle shall cooperate with

1 all Federal and State efforts to evaluate the effectiveness  
2 of the program the entity implements with subgrant funds.

3 (e) NATIONAL REPORT.—The Secretary shall compile  
4 and summarize the annual State reports described under  
5 subsection (c) and shall prepare and submit an annual re-  
6 port to Congress that includes a summary of such State  
7 reports.

8 **SEC. 114. PROHIBITION OF REQUIRED PARTICIPATION OR**  
9 **USE OF FUNDS FOR ASSESSMENTS.**

10 (a) PROHIBITION ON REQUIRED PARTICIPATION.—A  
11 State receiving a grant under this subtitle shall not re-  
12 quire any child to participate in any Federal, State, local,  
13 or private early childhood education program, including a  
14 high-quality prekindergarten program.

15 (b) PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR ASSESS-  
16 MENT.—A State receiving a grant under this subtitle and  
17 an eligible local entity receiving a subgrant under this sub-  
18 title shall not use any grant or subgrant funds to carry  
19 out any of the following activities:

20 (1) An assessment that provides rewards or  
21 sanctions for individual children, teachers, or prin-  
22 cipals.

23 (2) An assessment that is used as the primary  
24 or sole method for assessing program effectiveness.

1           (3) Evaluating children, other than for the pur-  
2           poses of—

3                   (A) improving instruction or the classroom  
4           environment;

5                   (B) targeting professional development;

6                   (C) determining the need for health, men-  
7           tal health, disability, or family support services;

8                   (D) program evaluation for the purposes of  
9           program improvement and parent information;  
10          and

11                   (E) improving parent and family engage-  
12          ment.

13 **SEC. 115. COORDINATION WITH HEAD START PROGRAMS.**

14          (a) INCREASED ACCESS FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN.—

15 Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this  
16 Act, the Secretary and the Secretary of Health and  
17 Human Services shall develop a process—

18           (1) for use in the event that Head Start pro-  
19           grams funded under the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C.  
20           9831 et seq.) operate in States or regions that have  
21           achieved sustained universal, voluntary access to 4-  
22           year old children who reside within the State and  
23           who are from families with incomes at or below 200  
24           percent of the poverty line to high-quality prekindergarten  
25           programs; and

1           (2) for how such Head Start programs will  
2           begin converting slots for children who are age 4 on  
3           the eligibility determination date to children who are  
4           age 3 on the eligibility determination date, or, when  
5           appropriate, converting Head Start Programs into  
6           Early Head Start programs to serve infants and tod-  
7           dlers.

8           (b) COMMUNITY NEED AND RESOURCES.—The proc-  
9           ess described in subsection (a) shall—

10           (1) be carried out on a case-by-case basis and  
11           shall ensure that sufficient resources and time are  
12           allocated for the development of such a process so  
13           that no child or cohort is excluded from currently  
14           available services; and

15           (2) ensure that any conversion shall be based  
16           on community need and not on the aggregate num-  
17           ber of children served in a State or region that has  
18           achieved sustained, universal, voluntary access to  
19           high-quality prekindergarten programs.

20           (c) PUBLIC COMMENT AND NOTICE.—Not fewer than  
21           90 days after the development of the proposed process de-  
22           scribed in subsection (a), the Secretary and the Secretary  
23           of Health and Human Services shall publish a notice de-  
24           scribing such proposed process for conversion in the Fed-  
25           eral Register providing at least 90 days for public com-



1 ment. The Secretaries shall review and consider public  
2 comments prior to finalizing the process for conversion of  
3 Head Start slots and programs.

4 (d) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Concurrently with  
5 publishing a notice in the Federal Register as described  
6 in subsection (c), the Secretaries shall provide a report  
7 to the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the  
8 House of Representatives and the Committee on Health,  
9 Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate that pro-  
10 vides a detailed description of the proposed process de-  
11 scribed in subsection (a), including a description of the  
12 degree to which Head Start programs are providing State-  
13 funded high-quality prekindergarten programs as a result  
14 of the grant opportunity provided under this subtitle in  
15 States where Head Start programs are eligible for conver-  
16 sion described in subsection (a).

17 **SEC. 116. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN PROGRAM ADMINIS-**  
18 **TRATION.**

19 In providing technical assistance to carry out activi-  
20 ties under this subtitle, the Secretary shall coordinate that  
21 technical assistance, in appropriate cases, with technical  
22 assistance provided by the Secretary of Health and  
23 Human Services to carry out the programs authorized  
24 under the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.), the  
25 Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42

1 U.S.C. 9858 et seq.), and the maternal, infant and early  
2 childhood home visiting programs assisted under section  
3 511 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 711).

4 **SEC. 117. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

5 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out  
6 this subtitle—

7 (1) \$1,300,000,000 for fiscal year 2016;

8 (2) 3,250,000,000 for fiscal year 2017;

9 (3) \$5,780,000,000 for fiscal year 2018;

10 (4) \$7,580,000,000 for fiscal year 2019;

11 (5) \$8,960,000,000 for fiscal year 2020; and

12 (6) such sums as may be necessary for each of  
13 fiscal years 2021 through 2025.

14 **Subtitle B—Prekindergarten**  
15 **Development Grants**

16 **SEC. 121. PREKINDERGARTEN DEVELOPMENT GRANTS.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Education, in  
18 consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human  
19 Services, shall award competitive grants to States that  
20 wish to increase their capacity and build the infrastructure  
21 within the State to offer high-quality prekindergarten pro-  
22 grams.

23 (b) ELIGIBILITY OF STATES.—A State that is not re-  
24 ceiving funds under subtitle A may compete for grant  
25 funds under this subtitle if the State provides an assur-

1   ance that the State will, through the support of grant  
2   funds awarded under this subtitle, meet the eligibility re-  
3   quirements of section 105 not later than 3 years after the  
4   date the State first receives grant funds under this sub-  
5   title.

6       (c) GRANT DURATION.—The Secretary shall award  
7   grants under this subtitle for a period of not more than  
8   3 years. Such grants shall not be renewed.

9       (d) APPLICATION.—

10           (1) IN GENERAL.—A Governor, or chief execu-  
11   tive officer of a State that desires to receive a grant  
12   under this subtitle shall submit an application to the  
13   Secretary of Education at such time, in such man-  
14   ner, and accompanied by such information as the  
15   Secretary of Education may reasonably require, in-  
16   cluding, if applicable, a description of how the State  
17   plans to become eligible for grants under section 105  
18   by not later than 3 years after the date the State  
19   first receives grant funds under this subtitle.

20           (2) DEVELOPMENT OF STATE APPLICATION.—

21   In developing an application for a grant under this  
22   subtitle, a State shall consult with the State Advi-  
23   sory Council on Early Childhood Education and  
24   Care and incorporate the Council's recommenda-  
25   tions, where applicable.

1 (e) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a  
3 grant under this subtitle, a State shall contribute for  
4 the activities for which the grant was awarded non-  
5 Federal matching funds in an amount equal to not  
6 less than 20 percent of the amount of the grant.

7 (2) NON-FEDERAL FUNDS.—To satisfy the re-  
8 quirement of paragraph (1), a State may use—

9 (A) non-Federal resources in the form of  
10 State funding, local funding, or contributions  
11 from philanthropy or other private sources, or  
12 a combination of such resources; or

13 (B) in-kind contributions.

14 (3) FINANCIAL HARDSHIP WAIVER.—The Sec-  
15 retary may waive the requirement under paragraph  
16 (1) or reduce the amount of matching funds re-  
17 quired under that paragraph for a State that has  
18 submitted an application for a grant under this sub-  
19 section if the State demonstrates, in the application,  
20 a need for such a waiver or reduction due to extreme  
21 financial hardship, as determined by the Secretary.

22 (f) SUBGRANTS.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—A State awarded a grant  
24 under this subtitle may use the grant funds to  
25 award subgrants to eligible local entities, as defined

1 in section 102, to carry out the activities under the  
2 grant.

3 (2) SUBGRANTEES.—An eligible local entity  
4 awarded a subgrant under paragraph (1) shall com-  
5 ply with the requirements of this subtitle relating to  
6 grantees, as appropriate.

7 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
8 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this sec-  
9 tion—

10 (1) \$750,000,000 for fiscal year 2016; and

11 (2) such sums as may be necessary for each of  
12 fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

13 **TITLE II—EARLY LEARNING**  
14 **QUALITY PARTNERSHIPS**

15 **SEC. 201. PURPOSES.**

16 The purposes of this title are to—

17 (1) increase the availability of, and access to,  
18 high-quality early childhood education and care pro-  
19 gramming for infants and toddlers;

20 (2) support a higher quality of, and increase ca-  
21 pacity for, such programming in both child care cen-  
22 ters and family child care homes;

23 (3) encourage the provision of comprehensive,  
24 coordinated full-day services and supports for in-  
25 fants and toddlers; and

1           (4) increase access to appropriate supports so  
2 children with disabilities and other children who  
3 need specialized supports can fully participate in  
4 high-quality early education programs.

5 **SEC. 202. EARLY LEARNING QUALITY PARTNERSHIPS.**

6           The Head Start Act is amended—

7           (1) by amending section 645A(e) (42 U.S.C.  
8 9840a(e)) to read as follows:

9           “(e) SELECTION OF GRANT RECIPIENTS.—The Sec-  
10 retary shall award grants under this section on a competi-  
11 tive basis to applicants meeting the criteria in subsection  
12 (d) (giving priority to entities with a record of providing  
13 early, continuous, and comprehensive childhood develop-  
14 ment and family services and entities that agree to partner  
15 with a center-based or family child care provider to carry  
16 out the activities described in section 645B).”;

17           (2) by inserting after section 645A the fol-  
18 lowing:

19 **“SEC. 645B. EARLY LEARNING QUALITY PARTNERSHIPS.**

20           “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make grants  
21 to Early Head Start agencies to enable the Early Head  
22 Start agencies to form early learning quality partnerships  
23 by partnering with center-based or family child care pro-  
24 viders, particularly those that receive support under the  
25 Child Care and Development Block Grant of 1990 (42

1 U.S.C. 9858 et seq.), that agree to meet the program per-  
2 formance standards described in section 641A(a)(1) and  
3 Early Head Start standards described in section 645A  
4 that are applicable to the ages of children served with  
5 funding and technical assistance from the Early Head  
6 Start agency.

7 “(b) SELECTION OF GRANT RECIPIENTS.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-  
9 graphs (2) and (3), the Secretary shall award grants  
10 under this section in a manner consistent with sec-  
11 tion 645A(e).

12 “(2) COMPETITIVE PRIORITY.—In awarding  
13 grants under this section, the Secretary shall give  
14 priority to applicants—

15 “(A) that propose to create strong align-  
16 ment of programs with maternal, infant, and  
17 early childhood home visiting programs assisted  
18 under section 511 of the Social Security Act  
19 (42 U.S.C. 711), State-funded prekindergarten  
20 programs, programs carried out under the  
21 Child Care and Development Block Grant Act  
22 of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858 et seq.), and other  
23 programs supported under this Act, to create a  
24 strong continuum of high-quality services for  
25 children from birth to school entry; and

1           “(B) that seek to work with child care pro-  
2           viders across settings, including center-based  
3           and home-based programs.

4           “(3) ALLOCATION.—

5           “(A) RESERVATION.—From funds appro-  
6           priated to carry out this section, the Secretary  
7           shall reserve—

8                   “(i) not less than 3 percent of such  
9                   funds for Indian Head Start programs  
10                  that serve young children;

11                   “(ii) not less than 4.5 percent for mi-  
12                  grant and seasonal Head Start programs  
13                  that serve young children; and

14                   “(iii) not less than 0.2 percent for  
15                  programs funded under clause (iv) or (v)  
16                  of section 640(a)(2)(B).

17           “(B) ALLOCATION AMONG STATES.—The  
18           Secretary shall allocate funds appropriated to  
19           carry out this section and not reserved under  
20           subparagraph (A) among the States proportion-  
21           ally based on the number of young children  
22           from families whose income is below the poverty  
23           line residing in such States.

24           “(c) ELIGIBILITY OF CHILDREN.—Partnerships  
25           formed through assistance provided under this section



1 may serve children through age 3, and the standards ap-  
2 plied to children in subsection (a) shall be consistent with  
3 those applied to 3-year old children under this subchapter.

4 “(d) PARTNERSHIPS.—An Early Head Start agency  
5 that receives a grant under this section shall—

6 “(1) enter into a contractual relationship with  
7 a center-based or family child care provider to raise  
8 the quality of such provider’s programs so that the  
9 provider meets the program performance standards  
10 described in subsection (a) through activities that  
11 may include—

12 “(A) expanding the center-based or family  
13 child care provider’s programs through financial  
14 support;

15 “(B) providing training, technical assist-  
16 ance, and support to the provider in order to  
17 help the provider meet the program perform-  
18 ance standards, which may include supporting  
19 program and partner staff in earning a child  
20 development associate credential, associate’s de-  
21 gree, or baccalaureate degree in early childhood  
22 education or a closely related field for working  
23 with infants and toddlers; and

24 “(C) blending funds received under the  
25 Child Care and Development Block Grant of

1           1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858 et seq.) and the Early  
2           Head Start program carried out under section  
3           645A in order to provide high-quality child  
4           care, for a full day, that meets the program  
5           performance standards;

6           “(2) develop and implement a proposal to re-  
7           cruit and enter into a contract with a center-based  
8           or family child care provider, particularly a provider  
9           that serves children who receive assistance under the  
10          Child Care and Development Block Grant of 1990  
11          (42 U.S.C. 9858 et seq.);

12          “(3) create a clear and realizable timeline to in-  
13          crease the quality and capacity of a center-based or  
14          family child care provider so that the provider meets  
15          the program performance standards described in  
16          subsection (a); and

17          “(4) align activities and services provided  
18          through funding under this section with the Head  
19          Start Child Outcomes Framework.

20          “(e) STANDARDS.—Prior to awarding grants under  
21          this section, the Secretary shall establish standards to en-  
22          sure that the responsibility and expectations of the Early  
23          Head Start agency and the partner child care providers  
24          are clearly defined.

1           “(f) DESIGNATION RENEWAL.—A partner child care  
2 provider that receives assistance through a grant provided  
3 under this section shall be exempt, for a period of 18  
4 months, from the designation renewal requirements under  
5 section 641(c).

6           “(g) SURVEY OF EARLY HEAD START AGENCIES AND  
7 REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Within one year of the effective  
8 date of this section, the Secretary shall conduct a survey  
9 of Early Head Start agencies to determine the extent of  
10 barriers to entering into early learning quality partnership  
11 agreements under this section on Early Head Start agen-  
12 cies and on child care providers, and submit this informa-  
13 tion, with suggested steps to overcome such barriers, in  
14 a report to the Committee on Education and Workforce  
15 of the House of Representatives and the Committee on  
16 Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, in-  
17 cluding a detailed description of the degree to which Early  
18 Head Start agencies are utilizing the funds provided.

19           “(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
20 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this sec-  
21 tion—

22                   “(1) \$1,430,376,000 for fiscal year 2016; and

23                   “(2) such sums as may be necessary for each  
24 of fiscal years 2017 through 2025.”.

1 **TITLE III—AUTHORIZATIONS OF**  
2 **APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE**  
3 **EDUCATION OF CHILDREN**  
4 **WITH DISABILITIES**

5 **SEC. 301. PRESCHOOL GRANTS.**

6 Section 619(j) of the Individuals with Disabilities  
7 Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1419(j)) is amended to read  
8 as follows:

9 “(j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
10 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
11 \$418,000,000 for fiscal year 2016 and such sums as may  
12 be necessary for each succeeding fiscal year.”.

13 **SEC. 302. INFANTS AND TODDLERS WITH DISABILITIES.**

14 Section 644 of Individuals with Disabilities Edu-  
15 cation Act (20 U.S.C. 1444) is amended to read as follows:

16 **“SEC. 644. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

17 “For the purpose of carrying out this part, there are  
18 authorized to be appropriated \$508,000,000 for fiscal year  
19 2016 and such sums as may be necessary for each suc-  
20 ceeding fiscal year.”.

21 **TITLE IV—MATERNAL, INFANT,**  
22 **AND EARLY CHILDHOOD**  
23 **HOME VISITING PROGRAM**

24 **SEC. 401. SENSE OF THE SENATE.**

25 It is the sense of the Senate that—

1           (1) from the prenatal period to the first day of  
2 kindergarten, children’s development rapidly pro-  
3 gresses at a pace exceeding that of any subsequent  
4 stage of life;

5           (2) as reported by the National Academy of  
6 Sciences in 2001, striking disparities exist in what  
7 children know and can do that are evident well be-  
8 fore they enter kindergarten;

9           (3) such differences are strongly associated with  
10 social and economic circumstances, and they are pre-  
11 dictive of subsequent academic performance;

12           (4) research has consistently demonstrated that  
13 investments in high-quality programs that serve in-  
14 fants and toddlers—

15           (A) better positions those children for suc-  
16 cess in elementary, secondary, and postsec-  
17 ondary education; and

18           (B) helps those children develop the critical  
19 physical, emotional, social, and cognitive skills  
20 that they will need for the rest of their lives;

21           (5) in 2011, there were 11,000,000 infants and  
22 toddlers living in the United States, and 49 percent  
23 of these children came from low-income families with  
24 incomes at or below 200 percent of the Federal pov-  
25 erty guidelines;

1           (6) the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood  
2 Home Visiting program (referred to as “MIECHV”)  
3 was authorized by Congress to facilitate collabora-  
4 tion and partnership at the Federal, State, and com-  
5 munity levels to improve health and development  
6 outcomes for at-risk children, including those from  
7 low-income families, through evidence-based home  
8 visiting programs;

9           (7) MIECHV is an evidence-based policy initia-  
10 tive and the program’s authorizing legislation re-  
11 quires that at least 75 percent of funds dedicated to  
12 the program must support programs to implement  
13 evidence-based home visiting models, which includes  
14 the home-based model of Early Head Start; and

15           (8) Congress should continue to provide re-  
16 sources to MIECHV to support the work of States  
17 to help at-risk families voluntarily receive home vis-  
18 its from nurses and social workers to—

19                   (A) promote maternal, infant, and child  
20 health;

21                   (B) improve school readiness and achieve-  
22 ment;

23                   (C) prevent potential child abuse or neglect  
24 and injuries;

- 1 (D) support family economic self-suffi-
- 2 ciency;
- 3 (E) reduce crime or domestic violence; and
- 4 (F) improve coordination or referrals for
- 5 community resources and supports.