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(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R.

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To direct the Secretary of Education to carry out a STEM grant program.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. FOSTER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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# A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Education to carry out a STEM  
grant program.

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 “Partnerships for  
5 Progress and Prosperity Act” or the “P3 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) As part of their Blueprint for Action re-  
9 searchers at Harvard Graduate School of Education

1 and the Pathways to Prosperity Network recommend  
2 creating programs designed to “combine work and  
3 academic learning in post-secondary career prepara-  
4 tion”. In a follow-up study to the original “Path-  
5 ways to Prosperity” published by Harvard’s Grad-  
6 uate School of Education in 2011, the same re-  
7 searchers released “A Blueprint for Action” in June  
8 2014.

9 (2) The Executive Office of Science and Tech-  
10 nology Policy have explicitly stated a goal of  
11 strengthening America’s STEM workforce.

12 (3) According to a study by the Manufacturing  
13 Institute, a national survey of United States manu-  
14 facturing executives found that 83 percent of Amer-  
15 ican manufacturers reported a moderate or severe  
16 shortage of skilled workers.

17 (4) The American Enterprise Institute further  
18 states that, “According to the U.S. Department of  
19 Labor, the percentage of manufacturing workers  
20 aged 55 to 64 and the share of workers older than  
21 65 have both significantly increased since 2000.  
22 Moreover, they also report that the median age of  
23 the manufacturing workforce increased from 40.5 in  
24 2000 to 44.1 in 2011. The Society of Manufacturing  
25 Engineers predicts that the shortfall of skilled fac-

1 tory workers could increase to 3 million jobs by  
2 2015 due to the aging manufacturing workforce and  
3 the resulting retirements of older workers, at the  
4 same time that an anticipated manufacturing re-  
5 bound will increase demand for skilled workers.”.

6 (5) The 2012 Program for International Stu-  
7 dent Assessment found the United States below the  
8 average score of participating countries in mathe-  
9 matics and science. Furthermore, the United States  
10 has dropped in the rankings for mathematics  
11 achievement from 25th in 2009 to 36th in 2012.

12 (6) NAE, along with other peer reviewed publi-  
13 cations and studies from universities around the  
14 country have examined the benefits of partnerships  
15 between schools and outside organizations. Partner-  
16 ships for Progress and Prosperity Act programs as  
17 well as experiential learning play an important role  
18 in training students for the jobs of the future.

19 **SEC. 3. GRANT PROGRAM.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—From the amounts appropriated  
21 under subsection (h), the Secretary of Education shall  
22 award grants to eligible entities to improve the education  
23 of students in science, technology, engineering, and mathe-  
24 matics (in this section referred to as “STEM”) and pre-

1 pare such students to pursue undergraduate and graduate  
2 degrees and careers in such fields.

3 (b) APPLICATION.—To receive a grant under this sec-  
4 tion, an eligible entity shall submit an application to the  
5 Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing  
6 such information as the Secretary may require, which shall  
7 include a description of—

8 (1) the local, regional, or national employer in  
9 a STEM field with which the eligible entity will  
10 partner or collaborate to carry out activities under  
11 subsection (c)(2); and

12 (2) the activities the eligible entity will carry  
13 out under subsection (c)(2) with the grant.

14 (c) USES OF FUNDS.—

15 (1) PARTNERSHIP OR COLLABORATION.—An el-  
16 igible entity receiving a grant under this section  
17 shall carry out at least one of the activities described  
18 in paragraph (2) in partnership or collaboration  
19 with—

20 (A) the local, regional, or national em-  
21 ployer described in the agency's application  
22 under subsection (b)(1); and

23 (B) an institution of higher education, in  
24 the case of an eligible entity that is a local edu-  
25 cational agency, or a local educational agency,

1 in the case of an eligible entity that is an insti-  
2 tution of higher education.

3 (2) ACTIVITIES.—The activities referred to in  
4 paragraph (1) are as follows:

5 (A) Assist students in being placed in in-  
6 ternships or apprenticeships with the employers  
7 with whom the eligible entity is partnering or  
8 collaborating under paragraph (1)(A).

9 (B) Develop the curriculum and metrics of  
10 STEM coursework.

11 (C) Carry out dual-credit courses that  
12 offer both secondary school credit and college  
13 credit, and incorporate STEM education and  
14 STEM workplace training.

15 (D) Provide tutoring in STEM coursework  
16 and mentoring programs for academic advice  
17 and assistance in discussing future career op-  
18 portunities in STEM fields.

19 (E) Enable students and their teachers to  
20 attend STEM events outside the classroom.

21 (F) Provide after-school and summer  
22 STEM programs for students.

23 (G) Purchase education materials or equip-  
24 ment to facilitate STEM instruction.

1 (d) AWARDING OF GRANTS.—In awarding grants  
2 under this section, the Secretary shall—

3 (1) carry out a rigorous evaluation of each eligi-  
4 ble entity's application under subsection (b) being  
5 considered for a grant under this section to deter-  
6 mine whether the eligible entity demonstrates a ra-  
7 tionale based on high-quality research findings or  
8 positive evaluation that the activity proposed to be  
9 funded with the grant is likely to improve student  
10 outcomes or other relevant outcomes; and

11 (2) give special consideration to eligible entities  
12 that—

13 (A) promote in-classroom engagement be-  
14 tween STEM professionals and students, cre-  
15 ating co-teaching and guest-teaching opportuni-  
16 ties;

17 (B) use technology-based instructional ma-  
18 terials and content;

19 (C) pair mentors and tutors with students  
20 struggling to meet curriculum benchmarks;

21 (D) in the case of eligible entities that are  
22 local educational agencies, serve schools in  
23 which the majority of students are eligible to  
24 receive free or reduced price lunch under the

1 Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act  
2 (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.); and

3 (E) propose to use the grant to target  
4 interventions for populations that are tradition-  
5 ally underrepresented in STEM fields, including  
6 women, minorities, and low-income students.

7 (e) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible entity that re-  
9 ceives a grant under this section shall provide, from  
10 non-Federal sources, an amount equal to 50 percent  
11 of the grant. Such non-Federal contribution may be  
12 provided in cash or in kind.

13 (2) PARTNERSHIP AUTHORIZED.—An eligible  
14 entity may partner with a public and private entity  
15 that may assist the eligible entity in meeting the  
16 matching requirement under paragraph (1).

17 (3) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive all or  
18 part of the matching requirement under paragraph  
19 (1) for an eligible entity if the entity demonstrates  
20 that such requirement would result in a serious fi-  
21 nancial hardship or a financial inability to carry out  
22 the goals of the grant.

23 (f) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—Grant funds  
24 provided to an eligible entity under this section shall be  
25 used to supplement, and not supplant, funds that would

1 otherwise be used for activities authorized under this sec-  
2 tion.

3 (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

4 (1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-  
5 ty” means a local educational agency or an institu-  
6 tion of higher education.

7 (2) ESEA TERMS.—The terms “local edu-  
8 cational agency”, “poverty line”, “secondary  
9 school”, “Secretary”, and “State” have the mean-  
10 ings given the terms in section 8101 of the Elemen-  
11 tary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20  
12 U.S.C. 7801).

13 (3) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The  
14 term “institution of higher education” has the  
15 meaning given the term in section 102 of the Higher  
16 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002).

17 (4) LOW-INCOME STUDENT.—The term “low-in-  
18 come student” means a student whose family’s tax-  
19 able income for the preceding year did not exceed  
20 150 percent of the poverty line.

21 (h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
22 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be  
23 necessary to carry out this section for fiscal year 2020  
24 and each succeeding fiscal year.