



AMENDMENT NO. II/1

Calendar No. \_\_\_\_\_

Purpose: To support accelerated learning programs.

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

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

To reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to ensure that every child achieves.

Referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_ and ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENTS intended to be proposed by Mr. FRANKEN (for himself and Mr. CASSIDY)

Viz:

- 1 On page 225, between lines 6 and 7, insert the fol-
- 2 lowing:
- 3 “(f) ACCELERATED LEARNING.—For the purposes of
- 4 carrying out part E, there are authorized to be appro-
- 5 priated such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal
- 6 years 2016 through 2021.
  
- 7 On page 314, between lines 2 and 3, insert the fol-
- 8 lowing:

1 **SEC. 2004A. ACCELERATED LEARNING.**

2 Title II (20 U.S.C. 6601 et seq.), as amended by sec-  
3 tion 2004, is further amended by inserting after section  
4 2406 the following:

5 **“PART E—ACCELERATED LEARNING**

6 **“SEC. 2501. SHORT TITLE.**

7 “This part may be cited as the ‘Accelerated Learning  
8 Act of 2015’.

9 **“SEC. 2502. PURPOSES.**

10 “The purposes of this part are—

11 “(1) to raise student academic achievement  
12 through accelerated learning programs, including  
13 Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate  
14 programs, dual enrollment programs, and  
15 early college high schools that provide postsec-  
16 ondary-level instruction, examinations, or sequences  
17 of courses that are widely accepted for credit at in-  
18 stitutions of higher education;

19 “(2) to increase the number of students attend-  
20 ing high-need schools who enroll and succeed in ac-  
21 celerated learning courses, accelerated learning ex-  
22 aminations, dual enrollment programs, and early col-  
23 lege high school courses;

24 “(3) to support efforts by States and local edu-  
25 cational agencies to increase the availability of, and  
26 enrollment in, accelerated learning courses, pre-ac-

1       celerated learning courses, dual enrollment pro-  
2       grams, and early college high school courses in high-  
3       need schools; and

4               “(4) to provide high-quality professional devel-  
5       opment for teachers of accelerated learning courses,  
6       pre-accelerated learning courses, dual enrollment  
7       programs, and early college high school courses in  
8       high-need schools.

9       **“SEC. 2503. FUNDING DISTRIBUTION RULE.**

10       “From amounts appropriated under section 2003(e)  
11       for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall give priority to fund-  
12       ing activities under section 2504 and shall distribute any  
13       remaining funds under section 2505.

14       **“SEC. 2504. ACCELERATED LEARNING EXAMINATION FEE**  
15               **PROGRAM.**

16       “(a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—From amounts made  
17       available under section 2503 for a fiscal year, the Sec-  
18       retary shall award grants to State educational agencies  
19       having applications approved under this section to enable  
20       the State educational agencies to reimburse low-income  
21       students to cover part or all of the costs of accelerated  
22       learning examination fees, if the low-income students—

23               “(1) are enrolled in an accelerated learning  
24       course; and

1           “(2) plan to take an accelerated learning exam-  
2           ination.

3           “(b) AWARD BASIS.—In determining the amount of  
4 the grant awarded to a State educational agency under  
5 this section for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall consider  
6 the number of children eligible to be counted under section  
7 1124(c) in the State in relation to the number of such  
8 children so counted in all States.

9           “(c) INFORMATION DISSEMINATION.—A State edu-  
10 cational agency that is awarded a grant under this section  
11 shall make publicly available information regarding the  
12 availability of accelerated learning examination fee pay-  
13 ments under this section, and shall disseminate such infor-  
14 mation to eligible high school students and parents, in-  
15 cluding through high school teachers and counselors.

16           “(d) APPLICATIONS.—Each State educational agency  
17 desiring to receive a grant under this section shall submit  
18 an application to the Secretary at such time, in such man-  
19 ner, and accompanied by such information as the Sec-  
20 retary may require. At a minimum, each State educational  
21 agency application shall—

22           “(1) describe the accelerated learning examina-  
23           tion fees the State educational agency will pay on  
24           behalf of low-income students in the State from  
25           grant funds awarded under this section;

1           “(2) provide an assurance that any grant funds  
2 awarded under this section shall be used only to pay  
3 for accelerated learning examination fees; and

4           “(3) contain such information as the Secretary  
5 may require to demonstrate that the State edu-  
6 cational agency will ensure that a student is eligible  
7 for payments authorized under this section, includ-  
8 ing ensuring that the student is a low-income stu-  
9 dent.

10          “(e) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall prescribe  
11 such regulations as are necessary to carry out this section.

12          “(f) REPORT.—

13               “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each State educational  
14 agency awarded a grant under this section shall,  
15 with respect to each accelerated learning course sub-  
16 ject, annually report to the Secretary the following  
17 data for the preceding year:

18                   “(A) The number of students in the State  
19 who are taking an accelerated learning course  
20 in such subject.

21                   “(B) The number of accelerated learning  
22 examinations taken by students in the State  
23 who have taken an accelerated learning course  
24 in such subject.



1       retary shall award grants, on a competitive basis, to  
2       eligible entities to enable such entities to carry out  
3       the authorized activities described in subsection (e).

4               “(2) DURATION, RENEWAL, AND PAYMENTS.—

5       —

6               “(A) DURATION.—The Secretary shall  
7       award a grant under this section for a period  
8       of not more than 3 years.

9               “(B) RENEWAL.—The Secretary may  
10       renew a grant awarded under this section for  
11       an additional period of not more than 2 years,  
12       if an eligible entity—

13               “(i) is achieving the objectives of the  
14       grant; and

15               “(ii) has shown improvement against  
16       baseline data on the performance measures  
17       described in subparagraphs (A) through  
18       (E) of subsection (g)(1).

19               “(C) PAYMENTS.—The Secretary shall  
20       make grant payments under this section on an  
21       annual basis.

22               “(b) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—In this sec-  
23       tion, the term ‘eligible entity’ means—

24               “(1) a State educational agency;

25               “(2) a local educational agency; or

1 “(3) a partnership consisting of—

2 “(A) a national, regional, or statewide non-  
3 profit organization, with expertise and experi-  
4 ence in providing accelerated learning course  
5 services, dual enrollment programs, and early  
6 college high school courses; and

7 “(B) a State educational agency or local  
8 educational agency.

9 “(c) APPLICATION.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible entity desir-  
11 ing a grant under this section shall submit an appli-  
12 cation to the Secretary at such time, in such man-  
13 ner, and accompanied by such information as the  
14 Secretary may require.

15 “(2) CONTENTS.—The application shall, at a  
16 minimum, include a description of—

17 “(A) the goals and objectives for the  
18 project supported by the grant under this sec-  
19 tion, including—

20 “(i) increasing the number of teachers  
21 serving high-need schools who are qualified  
22 to teach accelerated learning courses, dual  
23 enrollment programs, and early college  
24 high school courses;

1                   “(ii) increasing the number of acceler-  
2                   ated learning courses, dual enrollment pro-  
3                   grams, and early college high school  
4                   courses that are offered at high-need  
5                   schools; and

6                   “(iii) increasing the number of stu-  
7                   dents attending a high-need school, par-  
8                   ticularly low-income students, who enroll  
9                   and succeed in—

10                   “(I) accelerated learning courses;

11                   “(II) if offered by the school,  
12                   pre-accelerated learning courses;

13                   “(III) dual enrollment programs;

14                   and

15                   “(IV) early college high school  
16                   courses;

17                   “(B) how the eligible entity will ensure  
18                   that students have access to courses that will  
19                   prepare students to enroll and succeed in accel-  
20                   erated learning courses, pre-accelerated learning  
21                   courses, dual enrollment programs, and early  
22                   college high school courses;

23                   “(C) how the eligible entity will provide  
24                   professional development for teachers that will

1 further the goals and objectives of the grant  
2 project;

3 “(D) how the eligible entity will ensure  
4 that teachers serving high-need schools are  
5 qualified to teach accelerated learning courses,  
6 dual enrollment programs, and early college  
7 high school courses;

8 “(E) how the eligible entity will provide for  
9 the involvement of business and community or-  
10 ganizations and other entities, including institu-  
11 tions of higher education, in carrying out the  
12 activities described in subsection (e);

13 “(F) how the eligible entity will use funds  
14 received under this section; and

15 “(G) how the eligible entity will evaluate  
16 the success of the grant project.

17 “(d) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this sec-  
18 tion, the Secretary shall give priority to applications from  
19 eligible entities that propose to carry out activities in a  
20 local educational agency that is eligible under the small  
21 rural school achievement program or the rural and low-  
22 income school program authorized under subpart 1 or 2  
23 of part B of title VI.

1       “(e) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—Each eligible entity  
2 that receives a grant under this section may use grant  
3 funds for—

4           “(1) high-quality teacher professional develop-  
5 ment, in order to expand the pool of teachers in the  
6 participating State, local educational agency, or  
7 high-need school who are qualified to teach acceler-  
8 ated learning courses, dual enrollment programs,  
9 and early college high school courses, including  
10 through innovative models such as online academies  
11 and training institutes;

12           “(2) teacher and counselor high-quality profes-  
13 sional development in high school to prepare stu-  
14 dents for success in accelerated learning courses,  
15 dual enrollment programs, and early college high  
16 school courses;

17           “(3) coordination and articulation between  
18 grade levels to prepare students to enroll and suc-  
19 ceed in accelerated learning courses, dual enrollment  
20 programs, and early college high school courses;

21           “(4) the purchase of instructional materials for  
22 accelerated learning courses, dual enrollment pro-  
23 grams, and early college high school courses;

24           “(5) activities to increase the availability of,  
25 and participation in, online accelerated learning

1 courses, dual enrollment programs, and early college  
2 high school courses;

3 “(6) carrying out the requirements of sub-  
4 section (g); or

5 “(7) in the case of an eligible entity described  
6 in subsection (b)(1), awarding subgrants to local  
7 educational agencies to enable the local educational  
8 agencies to carry out authorized activities described  
9 in paragraphs (1) through (6).

10 “(f) CONTRACTS.—An eligible entity that is awarded  
11 a grant to provide online courses under this section may  
12 enter into a contract with an organization to provide accel-  
13 erated learning courses, dual enrollment programs, and  
14 early college high school courses, including contracting for  
15 necessary support services.

16 “(g) COLLECTING AND REPORTING REQUIRE-  
17 MENTS.—

18 “(1) REPORT.—Each eligible entity receiving a  
19 grant under this section shall collect and report to  
20 the Secretary annually such data regarding the re-  
21 sults of the grant as the Secretary may reasonably  
22 require, including—

23 “(A) the number of students served by the  
24 eligible entity enrolling in accelerated learning  
25 courses, pre-accelerated learning courses, dual

1 enrollment programs, and early college high  
2 school courses, disaggregated by grade level of  
3 the student, and the grades received by such  
4 students in the courses;

5 “(B) the number of students taking an ac-  
6 celerated learning examination and the distribu-  
7 tion of scores on those examinations,  
8 disaggregated by the grade level of the student  
9 at the time of examination;

10 “(C) the number of teachers who are cur-  
11 rently, as of the date of the report, receiving  
12 training to teach accelerated learning courses,  
13 dual enrollment programs, and early college  
14 high school courses, and will teach such courses  
15 in the next school year;

16 “(D) the number of teachers becoming  
17 qualified to teach accelerated learning courses,  
18 dual enrollment programs, and early college  
19 high school courses; and

20 “(E) the number of qualified teachers who  
21 are teaching accelerated learning courses, dual  
22 enrollment programs, and early college high  
23 school courses in high-need schools served by  
24 the eligible entity.

1           “(2) REPORTING OF DATA.—Each eligible enti-  
2           ty receiving a grant under this section shall report  
3           the data required under paragraph (1)—

4                   “(A) disaggregated by subject area;

5                   “(B) in the case of student data,  
6                   disaggregated in the same manner as informa-  
7                   tion is disaggregated under section  
8                   1111(b)(2)(B)(xi); and

9                   “(C) in a manner that allows for an as-  
10                  sessment of the effectiveness of the grant pro-  
11                  gram.

12           “(h) EVALUATION.—The Secretary, acting through  
13           the Director of the Institute of Education Sciences, shall,  
14           in consultation with the relevant program office at the De-  
15           partment, evaluate the implementation and impact of the  
16           activities supported under this section, including progress  
17           as measured by the performance measures established  
18           under subparagraphs (A) through (E) of subsection  
19           (g)(1).

20           “(i) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—

21                   “(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding paragraph  
22                   (3), each eligible entity that receives a grant under  
23                   this section shall provide toward the cost of the ac-  
24                   tivities assisted under the grant, from non-Federal  
25                   sources, an amount equal to 100 percent of the

1 amount of the grant, except that an eligible entity  
2 that is a high-need local educational agency, as de-  
3 termined by the Secretary, shall provide an amount  
4 equal to not more than 50 percent of the amount of  
5 the grant.

6 “(2) MATCHING FUNDS.—The eligible entity  
7 may provide the matching funds described in para-  
8 graph (1) in cash or in-kind, fairly evaluated, but  
9 may not provide more than 50 percent of the match-  
10 ing funds in-kind. The eligible entity may provide  
11 the matching funds from State, local, or private  
12 sources.

13 “(3) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive all or  
14 part of the matching requirement described in para-  
15 graph (1) for any fiscal year for an eligible entity if  
16 the Secretary determines that applying the matching  
17 requirement to such eligible entity would result in  
18 serious hardship or an inability to carry out the au-  
19 thorized activities described in subsection (e).

20 **“SEC. 2506. SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.**

21 “Grant funds provided under this part shall supple-  
22 ment, and not supplant, other non-Federal funds that are  
23 available to assist low-income students to pay for the cost  
24 of accelerated learning fees or to expand access to acceler-  
25 ated learning and pre-accelerated learning courses.

1 **“SEC. 2507. DEFINITIONS.**

2 “In this part:

3 “(1) ACCELERATED LEARNING COURSE.—The  
4 term ‘accelerated learning course’ means—

5 “(A) a course of postsecondary-level in-  
6 struction provided to middle or high school stu-  
7 dents, terminating in an Advanced Placement  
8 or International Baccalaureate examination; or

9 “(B) another highly rigorous, evidence-  
10 based, postsecondary preparatory program ter-  
11 minating in—

12 “(i) an examination or sequence of  
13 courses that are widely accepted for credit  
14 at institutions of higher education; or

15 “(ii) another examination or sequence  
16 of courses approved by the Secretary.

17 “(2) ACCELERATED LEARNING EXAMINA-  
18 TION.—The term ‘accelerated learning examination’  
19 means an Advanced Placement examination adminis-  
20 tered by the College Board, an International Bacca-  
21 laureate examination administered by the Inter-  
22 national Baccalaureate, an examination that is wide-  
23 ly accepted for college credit, or another such exam-  
24 ination approved by the Secretary.

1           “(3) DUAL ENROLLMENT PROGRAM.—The term  
2           ‘dual enrollment’ means a program through which a  
3           high school student—

4                   “(A) takes courses offered through an in-  
5                   stitution of higher education while the student  
6                   is enrolled in high school; and

7                   “(B) earns both secondary school and post-  
8                   secondary credit for the courses described in  
9                   subparagraph (A).

10           “(4) EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL.—The  
11           term ‘early college high school’ means a high school  
12           that provides a course of study that enables a stu-  
13           dent to earn a high school diploma and either an as-  
14           sociate’s degree or 1 to 2 years of postsecondary  
15           credit toward a postsecondary degree or credential.

16           “(5) HIGH-NEED SCHOOL.—The term ‘high-  
17           need school’ means a high school—

18                   “(A) with a demonstrated need for Ad-  
19                   vanced Placement or International Bacca-  
20                   laureate courses, dual enrollment programs, or  
21                   early college high school courses; and

22                   “(B) that—

23                           “(i) has a high concentration of low-  
24                           income students; or

1                   “(ii) is a local educational agency that  
2                   is eligible, as determined by the Secretary,  
3                   under the small, rural school achievement  
4                   program, or the rural and low-income  
5                   school program, authorized under subpart  
6                   1 or 2 of part B of title VI.

7                   “(6) LOW-INCOME STUDENT.—The term ‘low-  
8                   income student’ means a student who is eligible for  
9                   a free or reduced-price lunch under the school lunch  
10                  program established under the Richard B. Russell  
11                  National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et  
12                  seq.).”.

13                  On page 314, line 5, strike “section 2004” and insert  
14                  “sections 2004 and 2004A”.

15                  On page 314, line 6, strike “2405” and insert  
16                  “2507”.

17                  On page 314, line 7, strike “**PART E**” and insert  
18                  “**PART F**”.

19                  On page 314, line 8, strike “**2504**” and insert “**2601**”.