

M. F. Bennett

Bennet - Title IV - Amendment # 2

AMENDMENT NO. _____ Calendar No. _____

Purpose: To amend title IV regarding family engagement in education 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

AMENDMENT intended to be proposed by Mr. BENNET *+ Mr. Franken +*

Mr. Whitehouse

Viz:

1 After section 4002, insert the following:

2 **SEC. 4003. FAMILY ENGAGEMENT IN EDUCATION PRO-**
3 **GRAMS.**

4 Title IV (20 U.S.C. 7101) is amended by adding at
5 the end the following:

6 **“PART C—FAMILY ENGAGEMENT IN EDUCATION**
7 **PROGRAMS**

8 **“SEC. 4301. PURPOSES.**

9 “The purposes of this part are the following:

10 “(1) To provide financial support to organiza-
11 tions to provide technical assistance and training to
12 State and local educational agencies in the imple-

1 mentation and enhancement of systemic and effec-
2 tive family engagement policies, programs, and ac-
3 tivities that lead to improvements in student devel-
4 opment and academic achievement.

5 “(2) To assist State educational agencies, local
6 educational agencies, community-based organiza-
7 tions, schools, and educators in strengthening part-
8 nerships among parents, teachers, school leaders, ad-
9 ministrators, and other school personnel in meeting
10 the educational needs of children and fostering
11 greater parental engagement.

12 “(3) To support State educational agencies,
13 local educational agencies, schools, educators, and
14 parents in developing and strengthening the relation-
15 ship between parents and their children’s school in
16 order to further the developmental progress of chil-
17 dren.

18 “(4) To coordinate activities funded under this
19 subpart with parent involvement initiatives funded
20 under section 1115 and other provisions of this Act.

21 “(5) To assist the Secretary, State educational
22 agencies, and local educational agencies in the co-
23 ordination and integration of Federal, State, and
24 local services and programs to engage families in
25 education.

1 **“SEC. 4302. GRANTS AUTHORIZED.**

2 “(a) STATEWIDE FAMILY ENGAGEMENT CENTERS.—

3 From the amount appropriated under section 4306, the
4 Secretary is authorized to award grants for each fiscal
5 year to statewide organizations (or consortia of such orga-
6 nizations), to establish Statewide Family Engagement
7 Centers that provide comprehensive training and technical
8 assistance to State educational agencies, local educational
9 agencies, schools identified by State educational agencies
10 and local educational agencies, organizations that support
11 family-school partnerships, and other organizations that
12 carry out, or carry out directly, parent education and fam-
13 ily engagement in education programs.

14 “(b) MINIMUM AWARD.—In awarding grants under
15 this section, the Secretary shall, to the extent practicable,
16 ensure that a grant is awarded for a Statewide Family
17 Engagement Center in an amount not less than \$500,000.

18 **“SEC. 4303. APPLICATIONS.**

19 “(a) SUBMISSIONS.—Each statewide organization, or
20 a consortium of such organizations, that desires a grant
21 under this subpart shall submit an application to the Sec-
22 retary at such time, in such manner, and including the
23 information described in subsection (b).

24 “(b) CONTENTS.—Each application submitted under
25 subsection (a) shall include, at a minimum, the following:

1 “(1) A description of the applicant’s approach
2 to family engagement in education.

3 “(2) A description of the support that the
4 Statewide Family Engagement Center that will be
5 operated by the applicant will have from the State
6 educational agency and any partner organization
7 outlining the commitment to work with the center.

8 “(3) A description of the applicant’s plan for
9 building a statewide infrastructure for family en-
10 gagement in education, that includes—

11 “(A) management and governance;

12 “(B) statewide leadership; or

13 “(C) systemic services for family engage-
14 ment in education.

15 “(4) A description of the applicant’s dem-
16 onstrated experience in providing training, informa-
17 tion, and support to State educational agencies, local
18 educational agencies, schools, educators, parents,
19 and organizations on family engagement in edu-
20 cation policies and practices that are effective for
21 parents (including low-income parents) and families,
22 English learners, minorities, parents of students
23 with disabilities, parents of homeless students, foster
24 parents and students, and parents of migratory stu-

1 dents, including evaluation results, reporting, or
2 other data exhibiting such demonstrated experience.

3 “(5) A description of the steps the applicant
4 will take to target services to low-income students
5 and parents.

6 “(6) An assurance that the applicant will—

7 “(A) establish a special advisory com-
8 mittee, the membership of which includes—

9 “(i) parents, who shall constitute a
10 majority of the members of the special ad-
11 visory committee;

12 “(ii) representatives of education pro-
13 fessionals with expertise in improving serv-
14 ices for disadvantaged children;

15 “(iii) representatives of local elemen-
16 tary schools and secondary schools, includ-
17 ing students;

18 “(iv) representatives of the business
19 community; and

20 “(v) representatives of State edu-
21 cational agencies and local educational
22 agencies;

23 “(B) use not less than 65 percent of the
24 funds received under this subpart in each fiscal
25 year to serve local educational agencies, schools,

1 and community-based organizations that serve
2 high concentrations of disadvantaged students,
3 including English learners, minorities, parents
4 of students with disabilities, parents of home-
5 less students, foster parents and students, and
6 parents of migratory students;

7 “(C) operate a Statewide Family Engage-
8 ment Center of sufficient size, scope, and qual-
9 ity to ensure that the Center is adequate to
10 serve the State educational agency, local edu-
11 cational agencies, and community-based organi-
12 zations;

13 “(D) ensure that the Center will retain
14 staff with the requisite training and experience
15 to serve parents in the State;

16 “(E) serve urban, suburban, and rural
17 local educational agencies and schools;

18 “(F) work with—

19 “(i) other Statewide Family Engage-
20 ment Centers assisted under this subpart;
21 and

22 “(ii) parent training and information
23 centers and community parent resource
24 centers assisted under sections 671 and

1 672 of the Individuals with Disabilities
2 Education Act;

3 “(G) use not less than 30 percent of the
4 funds received under this part for each fiscal
5 year to establish or expand technical assistance
6 for evidence-based parent education programs;

7 “(H) provide assistance to State edu-
8 cational agencies and local educational agencies
9 and community-based organizations that sup-
10 port family members in supporting student aca-
11 demic achievement;

12 “(I) work with State educational agencies,
13 local educational agencies, schools, educators,
14 and parents to determine parental needs and
15 the best means for delivery of services to ad-
16 dress such needs;

17 “(J) conduct sufficient outreach to assist
18 parents, including parents who the applicant
19 may have a difficult time engaging with a
20 school or local educational agency; and

21 “(K) conduct outreach to low-income stu-
22 dents and parents, including low-income stu-
23 dents and parents who are not proficient in
24 English.

1 **“SEC. 4304. USES OF FUNDS.**

2 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Grantees shall use grant funds
3 received under this part, based on the needs determined
4 under section 4303, to provide training and technical as-
5 sistance to State educational agencies, local educational
6 agencies, and organizations that support family-school
7 partnerships, and activities, services, and training for local
8 educational agencies, school leaders, educators, and par-
9 ents—

10 “(1) to assist parents in participating effectively
11 in their children’s education and to help their chil-
12 dren meet State standards, such as assisting par-
13 ents—

14 “(A) to engage in activities that will im-
15 prove student academic achievement, including
16 understanding how they can support learning in
17 the classroom with activities at home and in
18 afterschool and extracurricular programs;

19 “(B) to communicate effectively with their
20 children, teachers, school leaders, counselors,
21 administrators, and other school personnel;

22 “(C) to become active participants in the
23 development, implementation, and review of
24 school-parent compacts, family engagement in
25 education policies, and school planning and im-
26 provement;

1 “(D) to participate in the design and pro-
2 vision of assistance to students who are not
3 making academic progress;

4 “(E) to participate in State and local deci-
5 sionmaking;

6 “(F) to train other parents; and

7 “(G) to help the parents learn and use
8 technology applied in their children’s education;

9 “(2) to develop and implement, in partnership
10 with the State educational agency, statewide family
11 engagement in education policy and systemic initia-
12 tives that will provide for a continuum of services to
13 remove barriers for family engagement in education
14 and support school reform efforts; and

15 “(3) to develop and implement parental involve-
16 ment policies under this Act.

17 “(b) MATCHING FUNDS FOR GRANT RENEWAL.—
18 For each fiscal year after the first fiscal year for which
19 an organization or consortium receives assistance under
20 this section, the organization or consortium shall dem-
21 onstrate in the application that a portion of the services
22 provided by the organization or consortium is supported
23 through non-Federal contributions, which may be in cash
24 or in-kind.

1 “(c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall
2 reserve not more than 2 percent of the funds appropriated
3 under section 4306 to carry out this part to provide tech-
4 nical assistance, by competitive grant or contract, for the
5 establishment, development, and coordination of Statewide
6 Family Engagement Centers.

7 “(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
8 tion shall be construed to prohibit a Statewide Family En-
9 gagement Center from—

10 “(1) having its employees or agents meet with
11 a parent at a site that is not on school grounds; or

12 “(2) working with another agency that serves
13 children.

14 “(e) PARENTAL RIGHTS.—Notwithstanding any
15 other provision of this section—

16 “(1) no person (including a parent who edu-
17 cates a child at home, a public school parent, or a
18 private school parent) shall be required to partici-
19 pate in any program of parent education or develop-
20 mental screening under this section; and

21 “(2) no program or center assisted under this
22 section shall take any action that infringes in any
23 manner on the right of a parent to direct the edu-
24 cation of their children.

1 **“SEC. 4305. FAMILY ENGAGEMENT IN INDIAN SCHOOLS.**

2 “The Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with
3 the Secretary of Education, shall establish, or enter into
4 contracts and cooperative agreements with local Indian
5 nonprofit parent organizations to establish and operate
6 Family Engagement Centers.

7 **“SEC. 4306. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

8 “There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
9 this part such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years
10 2016 through 2021.”.”.