



**Education Daily October 20, 2011**

### **Legislators introduce Education for Tomorrow's Jobs Act**

Sen. Bob Casey, D-Pa., and Rep. Glenn Thompson, R-Pa., introduced legislation last week to amend Title I funding provisions in ESEA to promote programs and interventions that integrate academics with career and technical education.

The Education for Tomorrow's Jobs Act, [H.R. 3154](#) and [S. 1686](#) , would give school districts funding flexibility to implement effective strategies that bridge core academics with technical instruction, and to promote partnerships between school districts, local businesses and institutions of higher education.

The bill mirrors a similar measure introduced last year by Rep. Judy Chu, D-Calif. It encourages the use of federal funds to support across all states the Linked Learning Initiative, a popular high school reform strategy in California that blends core subjects with technical skills training and work-based learning opportunities.

It's formally known as a multiple pathways approach; although, it aims to prepare students specifically for high-growth career fields like engineering, biomedicine, and health, and to meet local industry needs.

Under the program, school leaders would partner with community stakeholders to implement a system of "pathway schools around career themes designated as high-pay, high-growth, and high-skill industries," officials explained.

Thompson contends the legislation will lead to better student outcomes, help boost graduation completion rates as well as college- and career-preparedness, "while securing our nation's technical job base so that we can remain globally competitive."

He also said the bill complements current federal efforts to ensure all students have an equal educational experience "without duplicating current programs in a manner that respects the taxpayer and is completely budget neutral."

Two education groups, the [Association for Career and Technical Education](#) and the [National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium](#) , support the bill.

Bob Wise, president of the [Alliance for Excellent Education](#) , also said the Linked Learning approach would help eliminate the gap between what students learn in the classroom and what skills are acquired on the job.

-- [Emily Ann Brown](#) covers competitiveness issues for LRP Publications.

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