

Key Pieces of High School Legislation



Introduced in the 111th Congress

High School Improvement: Graduation Promise Act – S.1698^I (Companion bill H.R. 2928^{II} pending reintroduction)

The Graduation Promise Act (GPA) would authorize \$2.5 billion in new funding to turn around low-performing high schools. The GPA would provide money to districts and states in order to implement effective, research-based reforms tailored to a low-performing school's specific needs. Title I of the GPA would authorize a \$2.4 billion High School Improvement and Dropout Reduction Fund to support the development of statewide systems of differentiated high school improvement in every state. Title II would authorize \$60 million in competitive grants for the development, implementation, and replication of effective secondary school models for struggling students and dropouts.

Graduation Rate Calculations: Every Student Counts Act – S. 618^{III} and H.R. 1569^{IV}

The Every Student Counts Act would seek to hold high schools responsible for graduating students by improving the calculation of and accountability for high school graduation rates. Specifically, the bill would require states, schools, and districts to use a common, accurate graduation rate calculation. The bill would also give schools credit for graduating students who may take longer than the typical four years to graduate with a regular diploma. It would also require high schools with graduation rates of less than 90 percent to make aggressive but attainable increases in their graduation rates as part of the annual accountability requirements under the No Child Left Behind Act. To ensure that schools are held accountable for the graduation of all students, this requirement would apply to both the overall graduation rate and the graduation rate of each subgroup of students.

Innovation and Research: Secondary School Innovation Fund Act – S. 968^V and H.R. 2239^{VI}

The Secondary School Innovation Fund Act would authorize \$500 million to support partnerships for creating innovative programs and models in secondary schools to increase student achievement and prepare students for success in postsecondary education and the workforce. The partnerships would consist of state education agencies or local education agencies collaborating with institutes of higher education, community based organizations, nonprofits, businesses, or school development organizations.

Middle School Improvement: Success in the Middle Act – S. 1362^{VII} and H.R. 3006^{VIII}

The Success in the Middle Act is the first school improvement bill of its kind specifically directed at the middle grades. The legislation would authorize \$1 billion a year in formula grants for states to improve low-performing schools that contain middle grades. It would require states that receive grants to develop early-warning data systems to identify students who are most at risk of dropping out and intervene to help them succeed. Interventions could include extended learning time and personal graduation plans that enable all students to stay on the path to graduation.

Introduced in the 110th Congress (reintroduction pending)

Adolescent Literacy: Striving Readers Act of 2007 – S. 958^{IX} and H.R. 2289^X

The Striving Readers Act would seek to improve student achievement and high school graduation rates by ensuring that older students who struggle to read at grade level would receive the literacy interventions needed to succeed in school. Specifically, the bill would provide funding to states to support their efforts to create statewide literacy initiatives for students in grades 4–12, share data on student progress with parents and the public, and improve teacher training and professional development in literacy so that all students receive high-quality instruction. The Striving Readers Act would also provide funding to districts to create plans to improve literacy, develop top-notch assessments, train teachers in every subject area in literacy strategies, and use regular data to improve teaching and learning.

Statewide Data Systems (Senate): A bill to provide for statewide longitudinal data systems – S. 2014^{XI}

This statewide data systems bill would award \$100 million in competitive grants to states for the development and implementation of statewide longitudinal data systems that include all ten essential elements recommended by the Data Quality Campaign and \$100 million in formula grants to states for alignment, professional development, and other efforts to improve the use of data. The bill would also authorize funding to support state education data centers and state educational data coordinators to improve data collection, reporting, and compliance processes.

Statewide Data Systems (House): METRICS Act – H.R. 3253^{xii}

The Measuring and Evaluating Trends for Reliability, Integrity, and Continued Success (METRICS) Act would authorize \$150 million in formula grants to states for the development and implementation of statewide longitudinal data systems. The bill would include a set-aside of up to \$2 million for state education data centers, which would support states in developing these systems. The centers would also disseminate best practices and serve as a central repository for education- and school-safety-related data.

For more information visit: <http://www.all4ed.org/legislative/Congress.html>

SPONSOR INFORMATION (As of 9/24/2009)

ⁱ **Graduation Promise Act (S. 1185) sponsor:** Bingaman (D-NM) **Co-sponsors:** Brown (D-OH), Casey (D-PA), Dodd (D-CT), Franken (D-MN), Merkley (D-OR), Murray (D-WA), Reed (D-RI), Reid (D-NV)

ⁱⁱ **Graduation Promise Act (H.R. 2928) sponsor:** Hinojosa (D-TX) **Co-sponsors:** Abercrombie (D-HI), Allen (ME), Altmire (D-PA), Baca (D-CA), Becerra (D-CA), Bishop (D-NY), Boucher (D-VA), Clarke (D-NY), Christensen (D-VI), Cohen (D-TN), Conyers (D-MI), Courtney (D-CT), Cummings (D-MD), Davis (D-AL), Davis (D-IL), Emanuel (D-IL), Fattah (D-PA), Ferguson (R-NJ), Gonzalez (D-TX), Green (D-TX), Grijalva (D-AZ), Gutierrez (D-IL), Hastings (D-FL), Hirono (D-HI), Holt (D-NJ), Honda (D-CA), Jackson (D-IL), Johnson (D-TX), Kennedy (D-RI), Kilpatrick (D-MI), Klein (D-FL), Lee (D-CA), Lewis (D-GA), Linda Sanchez (D-CA), Loretta Sanchez (D-CA), Lynch (D-MA), Maloney (D-NY), McDermott (D-WA), McGovern (D-MA), McNulty (D-NY), Moore (D-KS), Murphy (D-PA), Napolitano (D-CA), Ortiz (D-TX), Pascarella (D-NJ), Payne (D-NJ), Rangel (D-NY), Reyes (D-TX), Rodriguez (D-TX), Ross (D-AR), Rothman (D-NJ), Roybal-Allard (D-CA), Rush (D-IL), Salazar (D-CO), Scott (D-GA), Scott (D-VA), Sestak (D-PA), Solis (D-CA), Serrano (D-NY), Shuler (D-NC), Sires (D-NJ), Van Hollen (D-MD), Velázquez (D-NY), Weiner (D-NY), Woolsey (D-CA), Yarmuth (D-KY), Young (R-AK)

ⁱⁱⁱ **Every Student Counts Act (S. 618) sponsor:** Harkin (D-IA)

^{iv} **Every Student Counts Act (H.R. 1569) sponsor:** Scott, Bobby (D-VA) **Co-sponsors:** Bishop (D-GA), Brown (D-FL), Clarke (D-NY), Conyers (D-MI), Cummings (D-MD), Davis (D-IL), Fattah (D-PA), Fudge (D-OH), Grijalva (D-AZ), Hinojosa (D-TX), Honda (D-CA), Jackson (D-IL), Kilpatrick (D-MI), Kucinich (D-OH), Lee (D-CA), Meeks (D-NY), Ortiz (D-TX), Payne (D-NJ), Polis (D-CO), Thompson (D-MS)

^v **Secondary School Innovation Fund Act (S. 968) sponsors:** Murray (D-WA), Pryor (D-AR), and Reid (D-NV) **Co-sponsors:** Bayh (D-IN), Bennet (D-CO), Franken (D-MN), Lautenberg (D-NJ), Lincoln (D-AR), Menendez (D-NJ)

^{vi} **Secondary School Innovation Fund Act (H.R. 2239) sponsor:** Loebsack (D-IA) **Co-sponsors:** Boswell (D-IA), Conyers (D-MI), Hare (D-IL), Johnson (D-GA), Massa (D-NY), Matsui (D-CA), Payne (D-NJ), Sestak (D-PA)

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^{xi} **S. 2014 sponsors:** Brown (D-OH) **Co-sponsors:** Clinton (D-NY), Sanders (I-VT)

^{xii} **METRICS Act (H.R. 3253) sponsors:** Holt (D-NJ) and McCarthy (D-NY) **Co-sponsors:** Abercrombie (D-HI), Carson (D-IN), Davis (D-IL), Hare (D-IL), Hinojosa (D-TX), Moran (D-VA), Sestak (D-PA)