

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 4366
OFFERED BY MR. ROKITA OF INDIANA**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the “Strengthening Edu-
3 cation through Research Act”.

4 SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

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1 **TITLE I—EDUCATION SCIENCES**
2 **REFORM**

3 **SEC. 101. REFERENCES.**

4 Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in
5 this title an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms
6 of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provi-
7 sion, the reference shall be considered to be made to a
8 section or other provision of the Education Sciences Re-
9 form Act of 2002 (20 U.S.C. 9501 et seq.).

10 **SEC. 102. DEFINITIONS.**

11 Section 102 (20 U.S.C. 9501) is amended—

12 (1) in paragraph (5), by striking “Affairs” and
13 inserting “Education”;

14 (2) in paragraph (10)—

15 (A) by inserting “or other information, in
16 a timely manner and” after “evaluations,” and

17 (B) by inserting “school leaders,” after
18 “teachers,”;

19 (3) in paragraph (12), by inserting “, school
20 leaders,” after “teachers”;

21 (4) by striking paragraph (13);

22 (5) by redesignating paragraphs (14) and (15)
23 as paragraphs (13) and (14), respectively;

24 (6) by inserting after paragraph (14), as so re-
25 designated, the following:

1 “(15) MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTION.—The
2 term ‘minority-serving institution’ means an institu-
3 tion of higher education described in section 371(a)
4 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
5 1067q(a)).”;

6 (7) by amending paragraph (18) to read as fol-
7 lows:

8 “(18) PRINCIPLES OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH.—
9 The term ‘principles of scientific research’ means
10 principles of research that—

11 “(A) apply rigorous, systematic, and objec-
12 tive methodology to obtain reliable and valid
13 knowledge relevant to education activities and
14 programs;

15 “(B) present findings and make claims
16 that are appropriate to, and supported by, the
17 methods that have been employed; and

18 “(C) include, appropriate to the research
19 being conducted—

20 “(i) use of systematic, empirical meth-
21 ods that draw on observation or experi-
22 ment;

23 “(ii) use of data analyses that are
24 adequate to support the general findings;

1 “(iii) reliance on measurements or ob-
2 servational methods that provide reliable
3 and generalizable findings;

4 “(iv) strong claims of causal relation-
5 ships, only with research designs that
6 eliminate plausible competing explanations
7 for observed results, such as, but not lim-
8 ited to, random-assignment experiments;

9 “(v) presentation of studies and meth-
10 ods in sufficient detail and clarity to allow
11 for replication or, at a minimum, to offer
12 the opportunity to build systematically on
13 the findings of the research;

14 “(vi) acceptance by a peer-reviewed
15 journal or critique by a panel of inde-
16 pendent experts through a comparably rig-
17 orous, objective, and scientific review; and

18 “(vii) consistency of findings across
19 multiple studies or sites to support the
20 generality of results and conclusions.”;

21 (8) in paragraph (20), by striking “scientifically
22 based research standards” and inserting “the prin-
23 ciples of scientific research”; and

24 (9) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(24) SCHOOL LEADER.—The term ‘school
2 leader’ means a principal, assistant principal, or
3 other individual who is—

4 “(A) an employee or officer of—

5 “(i) an elementary school or sec-
6 ondary school;

7 “(ii) a local educational agency serv-
8 ing an elementary school or secondary
9 school; or

10 “(iii) another entity operating the ele-
11 mentary school or secondary school; and

12 “(B) responsible for the daily instructional
13 leadership and managerial operations of the ele-
14 mentary school or secondary school.”.

15 **PART A—THE INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION**

16 **SCIENCES**

17 **SEC. 111. ESTABLISHMENT.**

18 Section 111 (20 U.S.C. 9511) is amended—

19 (1) in subsection (b)(2)—

20 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph

21 (A)—

22 (i) by striking “and wide dissemina-
23 tion activities” and inserting “and, con-
24 sistent with section 114(j), wide dissemina-
25 tion and utilization activities” and

1 (ii) by striking “(including in tech-
2 nology areas)”; and

3 (B) in subparagraph (B), by inserting
4 “disability,” after “gender”.

5 **SEC. 112. FUNCTIONS.**

6 Section 112 (20 U.S.C. 9512) is amended—

7 (1) in paragraph (1)—

8 (A) by inserting “(including evaluations of
9 impact and implementation)” after “education
10 evaluation”; and

11 (B) by inserting before the semicolon the
12 following “and utilization”; and

13 (2) in paragraph (2)—

14 (A) by inserting “, consistent with section
15 114(j),” after “disseminate”; and

16 (B) by adding before the semicolon the fol-
17 lowing: “and scientifically valid education eval-
18 uations carried out under this title”.

19 **SEC. 113. DELEGATION.**

20 Section 113 (20 U.S.C. 9513) is amended—

21 (1) in subsection (a)—

22 (A) by striking paragraph (1);

23 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (2)
24 through (5) as paragraphs (1) through (4), re-
25 spectively; and

1 (C) in paragraph (2), as so redesignated,
2 by striking “of the National Assessment of
3 Educational Progress Authorization Act”;

4 (2) in subsection (b), by striking “Secretary
5 may assign the Institute responsibility for admin-
6 istering” and by inserting “Director may accept re-
7 quests from the Secretary for the Institute to admin-
8 ister”; and

9 (3) by adding at the end the following:

10 “(c) CONTRACT ACQUISITION.—With respect to any
11 contract entered into under this title, the Director shall
12 be consulted—

13 “(1) during the procurement process; and

14 “(2) in the management of such contract’s per-
15 formance, which shall be consistent with the require-
16 ments of the performance management system de-
17 scribed in section 185.”.

18 **SEC. 114. OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR.**

19 Section 114 (20 U.S.C. 9514) is amended—

20 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “Except as
21 provided in subsection (b)(2), the” and inserting
22 “The”;

23 (2) in subsection (b)—

24 (A) in paragraph (1), by inserting before
25 the period the following: “, except that if a suc-

1 cessor to the Director has not been appointed
2 as of the date of expiration of the Director’s
3 term, the Director may serve for an additional
4 1-year period, beginning on the day after the
5 date of expiration of the Director’s term, or
6 until a successor has been appointed under sub-
7 section (a), whichever occurs first”;

8 (B) by amending paragraph (2) to read as
9 follows:

10 “(2) REAPPOINTMENT.—A Director may be re-
11 appointed under subsection (a) for one additional
12 term.”; and

13 (C) in paragraph (3)—

14 (i) in the heading, by striking “SUB-
15 SEQUENT DIRECTORS” and inserting
16 “RECOMMENDATIONS”; and

17 (ii) by striking “, other than a Direc-
18 tor appointed under paragraph (2)”;

19 (3) in subsection (f)—

20 (A) in paragraph (3), by inserting before
21 the period the following: “, and, as appropriate,
22 with such research and activities carried out by
23 public and private entities, to avoid duplicative
24 or overlapping efforts”;

1 (B) in paragraph (4), by inserting “, and
2 the use of evidence” after “statistics activities”;

3 (C) in paragraph (5)—

4 (i) by inserting “and maintain” after
5 “establish”; and

6 (ii) by inserting “and subsection (h)”
7 after “section 116(b)(3)”;

8 (D) in paragraph (7), by inserting “dis-
9 ability,” after “gender”;

10 (E) in paragraph (8), by striking “histori-
11 cally Black colleges or universities” and insert-
12 ing “minority-serving institutions”;

13 (F) by amending paragraph (9) to read as
14 follows:

15 “(9) To coordinate with the Secretary to ensure
16 that the results of the Institute’s work are coordi-
17 nated with, and utilized by, the Department’s tech-
18 nical assistance providers and dissemination net-
19 works.”;

20 (G) by striking paragraphs (10) and (11);

21 (H) by redesignating paragraph (12) as
22 paragraph (10);

23 (4) by redesignating subsection (h) as sub-
24 section (i);

1 (5) by inserting after subsection (g), the fol-
2 lowing:

3 “(h) PEER-REVIEW SYSTEM.—The Director shall es-
4 tablish and maintain a peer-review system involving high-
5 ly-qualified individuals, including practitioners, as appro-
6 priate, with an in-depth knowledge of the subject to be
7 investigated, for—

8 “(1) reviewing and evaluating each application
9 for a grant or cooperative agreement under this title
10 that exceeds \$100,000; and

11 “(2) evaluating and assessing all reports and
12 other products that exceed \$100,000 to be published
13 and publicly released by the Institute.”;

14 (6) in subsection (i), as so redesignated—

15 (A) by striking “the products and”; and

16 (B) by striking “certify that evidence-
17 based claims about those products and” and in-
18 serting “determine whether evidence-based
19 claims in those”; and

20 (7) by adding at the end the following:

21 “(j) RELEVANCE, DISSEMINATION, AND UTILIZA-
22 TION.—To ensure all activities authorized under this title
23 are rigorous, relevant, and useful for researchers, policy-
24 makers, practitioners, and the public, the Director shall—

1 “(1) ensure such activities address significant
2 challenges faced by practitioners, and increase
3 knowledge in the field of education;

4 “(2) ensure that the information, products, and
5 publications of the Institute are—

6 “(A) prepared and widely disseminated—

7 “(i) in a timely fashion; and

8 “(ii) in forms that are understand-
9 able, easily accessible, and usable, or
10 adaptable for use in, the improvement of
11 educational practice; and

12 “(B) widely disseminated through elec-
13 tronic transfer, and other means, such as post-
14 ing to the Institute’s website or other relevant
15 place;

16 “(3) promote the utilization of the information,
17 products, and publications of the Institute, including
18 through the use of dissemination networks and tech-
19 nical assistance providers, within the Institute and
20 the Department; and

21 “(4) monitor and manage the performance of
22 all activities authorized under this title in accord-
23 ance with section 185.”.

24 **SEC. 115. PRIORITIES.**

25 Section 115 (20 U.S.C. 9515) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (a)—

2 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph

3 (1)—

4 (i) by striking “(taking into consider-
5 ation long term research and development
6 on core issues conducted through the na-
7 tional research and development centers)”
8 and inserting “at least once every 6
9 years”; and

10 (ii) by striking “such as” and insert-
11 ing “including”;

12 (B) in paragraph (1)—

13 (i) by inserting “ensuring that all chil-
14 dren have the ability to obtain a high-qual-
15 ity education, particularly”; before “clos-
16 ing”;

17 (ii) by striking “especially achieve-
18 ment gaps between”;

19 (iii) by striking “nonminority chil-
20 dren” and inserting “nonminority children,
21 disabled and nondisabled children,”;

22 (iv) by striking “and between dis-
23 advantaged” and inserting “and disadvan-
24 taged”;

25 (v) by striking “and” at the end;

1 (C) by striking paragraph (2); and

2 (D) by adding at the end the following:

3 “(2) improving the quality of early childhood
4 education;

5 “(3) improving education in elementary and
6 secondary schools, particularly among low-per-
7 forming students and schools; and

8 “(4) improving access to, opportunities for, and
9 completion of postsecondary education.”; and

10 (2) in subsection (d), by striking “by means of
11 the Internet” and inserting “by electronic means
12 such as posting in an easily accessible manner on
13 the Institute’s website”.

14 **SEC. 116. NATIONAL BOARD FOR EDUCATION SCIENCES.**

15 Section 116 (20 U.S.C. 9516) is amended—

16 (1) in subsection (b)—

17 (A) in paragraph (2), by striking “to guide
18 the work of the Institute” and inserting “, and
19 to advise, and provide input to, the Director on
20 the activities of the Institute on an ongoing
21 basis”;

22 (B) in paragraph (3), by inserting “under
23 section 114(h)” after “procedures”;

24 (C) in paragraph (8), by inserting “dis-
25 ability,” after “gender,”

1 (D) in paragraph (9)—

2 (i) by striking “To solicit” and insert-
3 ing “To ensure all activities of the Insti-
4 tute are relevant to education policy and
5 practice by soliciting, on an ongoing
6 basis,”; and

7 (ii) by striking “consistent with” and
8 inserting “consistent with section 114(j)
9 and”;

10 (E) in paragraph (11)—

11 (i) by inserting “the Institute’s” after
12 “enhance”; and

13 (ii) by striking “among other Federal
14 and State research agencies” and inserting
15 “with public and private entities to im-
16 prove the work of the Institute”; and

17 (F) by adding at the end the following:

18 “(13) To conduct the evaluations required
19 under subsection (d).”;

20 (2) in subsection (c)—

21 (A) in paragraph (2)—

22 (i) by inserting “Board,” before “Na-
23 tional Academy”;

24 (ii) by striking “and the National
25 Science Advisor” and inserting “the Na-

1 tional Science Advisor, and other entities
2 and organizations that have knowledge of
3 individuals who are highly-qualified to ap-
4 praise education research, statistics, eval-
5 uations, or development.”;

6 (B) in paragraph (4)—

7 (i) in subparagraph (A)—

8 (I) in clause (i), by striking “,
9 which may include those researchers
10 recommended by the National Acad-
11 emy of Sciences”;

12 (II) by redesignating clause (ii)
13 as clause (iii);

14 (III) by inserting after clause (i),
15 the following:

16 “(ii) Not fewer than 2 practitioners
17 who are knowledgeable about the education
18 needs of the United States, who may in-
19 clude school based professional educators,
20 teachers, school leaders, local educational
21 agency superintendents, and members of
22 local boards of education or Bureau-funded
23 school boards.”; and

24 (IV) in clause (iii), as so redesign-
25 nated—

1 (aa) by striking “school
2 based professional educators,”

3 (bb) by striking “local edu-
4 cational agency superintendents,”

5 (cc) by striking “prin-
6 cipals,”;

7 (dd) by striking “or local”;
8 and

9 (ee) by striking “or Bureau-
10 funded school boards”; and

11 (ii) in subparagraph (B)—

12 (I) in the matter preceding clause
13 (i), by inserting “beginning on the
14 date of appointment of the member,”
15 after “4 years,”;

16 (II) by striking clause (i);

17 (III) by redesignating clause (ii)
18 as clause (i);

19 (IV) in clause (i), as so redesign-
20 ated, by striking the period and in-
21 serting “; and”; and

22 (V) by adding at the end the fol-
23 lowing:

24 “(ii) in a case in which a successor to
25 a member has not been appointed as of the

1 date of expiration of the member's term,
2 the member may serve for an additional 1-
3 year period, beginning on the day after the
4 date of expiration of the member's term, or
5 until a successor has been appointed under
6 paragraph (1), whichever occurs first.”;

7 (iii) by striking subparagraph (C);

8 and

9 (iv) by redesignating subparagraph
10 (D) as subparagraph (C);

11 (C) in paragraph (8)—

12 (i) by redesignating subparagraphs
13 (A) through (E) as subparagraphs (B)
14 through (F), respectively;

15 (ii) by inserting before subparagraph
16 (B), as so redesignated, the following:

17 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In the exercise of its
18 duties under section 116(b) and in accordance
19 with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5
20 U.S.C. App.), the Board shall be independent of
21 the Director and the other offices and officers
22 of the Institute.”;

23 (iii) in subparagraph (B), as so redesi-
24 gnated, by inserting before the period at
25 the end the following: “for a term of not

1 more than 6 years, and who may be re-
2 appointed by the Board for 1 additional
3 term of not more than 6 years”; and

4 (iv) by adding at the end the fol-
5 lowing:

6 “(G) SUBCOMMITTEES.—The Board may
7 establish standing or temporary subcommittees
8 to make recommendations to the Board for car-
9 rying out activities authorized under this title.”;

10 (3) by striking subsection (d);

11 (4) by redesignating subsection (e) as sub-
12 section (d);

13 (5) in subsection (d), as so redesignated—

14 (A) in the subsection heading, by striking
15 “ANNUAL” and inserting “**EVALUATION**”;

16 (B) by striking “The Board” and inserting
17 the following:

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board”;

19 (C) by striking “not later than July 1 of
20 each year, a” and inserting “and make widely
21 available to the public (including by electronic
22 means such as posting in an easily accessible
23 manner on the Institute’s website), a triennial”;

24 and

25 (D) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—An evaluation report
2 described in paragraph (1) shall include—

3 “(A) subject to paragraph (3), an evalua-
4 tion of the activities authorized for each of the
5 National Education Centers, which—

6 “(i) uses the performance manage-
7 ment system described in section 185; and

8 “(ii) is conducted by an independent
9 entity;

10 “(B) a review of the Institute to ensure its
11 work, consistent with the requirements of sec-
12 tion 114(j), is timely, rigorous, and relevant;

13 “(C) any recommendations regarding ac-
14 tions that may be taken to enhance the ability
15 of the Institute and the National Education
16 Centers to carry out their priorities and mis-
17 sions; and

18 “(D) a summary of the major research
19 findings of the Institute and the activities car-
20 ried out under section 113(b) during the 3 pre-
21 ceding fiscal years.

22 “(3) NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION EVAL-
23 UATION AND REGIONAL ASSISTANCE.—With respect
24 to the National Center for Education Evaluation

1 and Regional Assistance, an evaluation report de-
2 scribed in paragraph (1) shall contain—

3 “(A) an evaluation described in paragraph
4 (2)(A) of the activities authorized for such Cen-
5 ter, except for the regional educational labora-
6 tories established under section 174; and

7 “(B) a summative or interim evaluation,
8 whichever is most recent, for each such labora-
9 tory conducted under section 174(i) on or after
10 the date of enactment of the Strengthening
11 Education through Research Act or, in a case
12 in which such an evaluation is not available for
13 a laboratory, the most recent evaluation for the
14 laboratory conducted prior to the date of enact-
15 ment of the Strengthening Education through
16 Research Act.”; and

17 (6) by striking subsection (f).

18 **SEC. 117. COMMISSIONERS OF THE NATIONAL EDUCATION**

19 **CENTERS.**

20 Section 117 (20 U.S.C. 9517) is amended—

21 (1) in subsection (a)—

22 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “Except
23 as provided in subsection (b), each” and insert-
24 ing “Each”;

25 (B) in paragraph (2)—

1 (i) by striking “Except as provided in
2 subsection (b), each” and inserting
3 “Each”; and

4 (ii) by inserting “, statistics,” after
5 “research”;

6 (C) in paragraph (3), by striking “Except
7 as provided in subsection (b), each” and insert-
8 ing “Each”;

9 (2) by striking subsection (b);

10 (3) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as
11 subsections (b) and (c), respectively; and

12 (4) in subsection (c), as so redesignated, by
13 striking “, except the Commissioner for Education
14 Statistics,”.

15 **SEC. 118. TRANSPARENCY.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 119 (20 U.S.C. 9519) is
17 amended to read as follows:

18 **“SEC. 119. TRANSPARENCY.**

19 “Not later than 120 days after awarding a grant,
20 contract, or cooperative agreement under this title in ex-
21 cess of \$100,000, the Director shall make publicly avail-
22 able (including through electronic means such as posting
23 in an easily accessible manner on the Institute’s website)
24 a description of the grant, contract, or cooperative agree-
25 ment, including, at a minimum, the amount, duration, re-

1 cipient, and the purpose of the grant, contract, or coopera-
2 tive agreement.”.

3 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of con-
4 tents in section 1 of the Act of November 5, 2002 (Public
5 Law 107–279; 116 Stat. 1940) is amended by striking
6 the item relating to section 119 and inserting the fol-
7 lowing:

“Sec. 119. Transparency.”.

8 **SEC. 119. COMPETITIVE AWARDS.**

9 Section 120 (20 U.S.C. 9520) is amended by striking
10 “when practicable” and inserting “consistent with section
11 114(h)”.

12 **PART B—NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION**
13 **RESEARCH**

14 **SEC. 131. ESTABLISHMENT.**

15 Section 131(b) (20 U.S.C. 9531(b)) is amended—

16 (1) by amending paragraph (1) to read as fol-
17 lows:

18 “(1) to sponsor sustained research that will
19 lead to the accumulation of knowledge and under-
20 standing of education, consistent with the priorities
21 described in section 115;”;

22 (2) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph
23 (3);

24 (3) in paragraph (4), by striking the period and
25 inserting “; and”; and

1 (4) by adding at the end the following:

2 “(5) consistent with section 114(j), to widely
3 disseminate and promote utilization of the work of
4 the Research Center.”.

5 **SEC. 132. DUTIES.**

6 Section 133 (20 U.S.C. 9533) is amended—

7 (1) in subsection (a)—

8 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “peer re-
9 view standards and”;

10 (B) by striking paragraph (2);

11 (C) by redesignating paragraph (3) as
12 paragraph (2);

13 (D) by striking paragraph (4);

14 (E) by redesignating paragraphs (5)
15 through (9) as paragraphs (3) through (7), re-
16 spectively;

17 (F) in paragraph (3), as so redesignated,
18 by inserting “in the implementation of pro-
19 grams carried out by the Department and other
20 agencies” before “within the Federal Govern-
21 ment”;

22 (G) in paragraph (5), as so redesignated,
23 by striking “disseminate, through the National
24 Center for Education Evaluation and Regional

1 Assistance,” and inserting “widely disseminate,
2 consistent with section 114(j),”;

3 (H) in paragraph (6), as so redesignated—

4 (i) by striking “Director” and insert-
5 ing “Board”; and

6 (ii) by striking “of a biennial report,
7 as described in section 119” and inserting
8 “and dissemination of each evaluation re-
9 port under section 116(d)”;

10 (I) by redesignating paragraphs (10) and
11 (11) as paragraphs (9) and (10), respectively;

12 (J) by inserting after paragraph (7), as so
13 redesignated, the following:

14 “(8) to the extent time and resources allow,
15 when findings from previous research under this
16 part provoke relevant follow up questions, carry out
17 research initiatives on such follow up questions;”.

18 (K) by amending paragraph (9), as so re-
19 designated, to read as follows:

20 “(9) carry out research initiatives, including
21 rigorous, peer-reviewed, large-scale, long-term, and
22 broadly applicable empirical research, regarding the
23 impact of technology on education, including online
24 education and hybrid learning.”;

1 (L) in paragraph (10), as so redesignated,
2 by striking the period and inserting “; and”;
3 and

4 (M) by adding at the end the following:

5 “(11) to the extent feasible, carry out research
6 on the quality of implementation of practices and
7 strategies determined to be effective through sci-
8 entifically valid research.”.

9 (2) by amending subsection (b) to read as fol-
10 lows:

11 “(b) PLAN.—The Research Commissioner shall pro-
12 pose to the Director and, subject to the approval of the
13 Director, implement a research plan for the activities of
14 the Research Center that—

15 “(1) is consistent with the priorities and mis-
16 sion of the Institute and the mission of the Research
17 Center described in section 131(b), and includes the
18 activities described in subsection (a);

19 “(2) is carried out and, as appropriate, updated
20 and modified, including through the use of the re-
21 sults of the Research Center’s most recent evalua-
22 tion report under section 116(d);

23 “(3) describes how the Research Center will use
24 the performance management system described in

1 section 185 to assess and improve the activities of
2 the Center;

3 “(4) meets the procedures for peer review es-
4 tablished and maintained by the Director under sec-
5 tion 114(f)(5) and the standards of research de-
6 scribed in section 134; and

7 “(5) includes both basic research and applied
8 research, which shall include research conducted
9 through field-initiated research and ongoing research
10 initiatives.”;

11 (3) by redesignating subsection (c) as sub-
12 section (d);

13 (4) by inserting after subsection (b), as so
14 amended, the following:

15 “(c) GRANTS, CONTRACTS, AND COOPERATIVE
16 AGREEMENTS.—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Research Commis-
18 sioner may award grants to, or enter into contracts
19 or cooperative agreements, with eligible applicants to
20 carry out research under subsection (a).

21 “(2) ELIGIBILITY.—For purposes of this sub-
22 section, the term ‘eligible applicant’ means an appli-
23 cant that has the ability and capacity to conduct sci-
24 entifically valid research.

25 “(3) APPLICATIONS.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible applicant
2 that wishes to receive a grant, or enter into a
3 contract or cooperative agreement, under this
4 section shall submit an application to the Re-
5 search Commissioner at such time, in such
6 manner, and containing such information as the
7 Research Commissioner may require.

8 “(B) CONTENT.—An application submitted
9 under subparagraph (A) shall describe how the
10 eligible applicant will address and demonstrate
11 progress on the requirements of the perform-
12 ance management system described in section
13 185, with respect to the activities that will be
14 carried out under the grant, contract, or coop-
15 erative agreement.”; and

16 (5) in subsection (d), as redesignated by para-
17 graph (3)—

18 (A) by amending paragraph (1) to read as
19 follows:

20 “(1) SUPPORT.—In carrying out activities
21 under subsection (a)(2), the Research Commissioner
22 shall support national research and development cen-
23 ters that address topics of importance and relevance
24 in the field of education across the country and are

1 consistent with the Institute’s priorities under sec-
2 tion 115.”;

3 (B) by striking paragraph (2), (3), and
4 (5);

5 (C) by redesignating paragraphs (4), (6),
6 and (7) as paragraph (2), (3), and (4), respec-
7 tively;

8 (D) by amending paragraph (2), as so re-
9 designated—

10 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
11 graph (A), by striking “5 additional” and
12 inserting “2 additional”;

13 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
14 the period and inserting “; and”; and

15 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
16 lowing:

17 “(C) demonstrates progress on the require-
18 ments of the performance management system de-
19 scribed in section 185.”;

20 (E) in paragraph (3), as so redesignated,
21 by striking “paragraphs (4) and (5)” and in-
22 sserting “paragraph (2)”; and

23 (F) by amending paragraph (4), as so re-
24 designated, to read as follows:

1 “(4) DISAGGREGATION.—To the extent feasible
2 and when relevant to the research being conducted,
3 research conducted under this subsection shall be
4 disaggregated and cross-tabulated by age, race, gen-
5 der, disability status, English learner status, and so-
6 cioeconomic background.”.

7 **SEC. 133. STANDARDS FOR CONDUCT AND EVALUATION OF**
8 **RESEARCH.**

9 Section 134 (20 U.S.C. 9534) is amended—

10 (1) in subsection (a)—

11 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “based”
12 and inserting “valid”; and

13 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “and
14 wide dissemination activities” and inserting
15 “and, consistent with section 114(j), wide dis-
16 semination and utilization activities”;

17 (2) by striking subsection (b); and

18 (3) by redesignating subsection (c) as sub-
19 section (b).

20 **PART C—NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION**
21 **STATISTICS**

22 **SEC. 151. ESTABLISHMENT.**

23 Section 151(b) (20 U.S.C. 9541(b)) is amended—

1 (1) in paragraph (2), by inserting “and con-
2 sistent with the privacy protections under section
3 183” after “manner”; and

4 (2) in paragraph (3)—

5 (A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “dis-
6 ability,” after “cultural,”; and

7 (B) by amending subparagraph (B) to read
8 as follows:

9 “(B) consistent with section 114(j), is rel-
10 evant, timely, and widely disseminated.”.

11 **SEC. 152. DUTIES.**

12 Section 153 (20 U.S.C. 9543) is amended—

13 (1) in subsection (a)—

14 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
15 by inserting “, consistent with the privacy pro-
16 tections under section 183,” after “Center
17 shall”;

18 (B) in paragraph (1)—

19 (i) by amending subparagraph (D) to
20 read as follows:

21 “(D) secondary school graduation and
22 completion rates, including the four-year ad-
23 justed cohort graduation rate (as defined in sec-
24 tion 200.19(b)(1)(i)(A) of title 34, Code of Fed-
25 eral Regulations, as such section was in effect

1 on November 28, 2008) and the extended-year
2 adjusted cohort graduation rate (as defined in
3 section 200.19(b)(1)(v)(A) of title 34, Code of
4 Federal Regulations, as such section was in ef-
5 fect on November 28, 2008), and school drop-
6 out rates, and adult literacy;”;

7 (ii) in subparagraph (E), by striking
8 “and opportunity for,” and inserting “op-
9 portunity for, and completion of”;

10 (iii) by amending subparagraph (F) to
11 read as follows:

12 “(F) teaching, including information on
13 pre-service preparation, professional develop-
14 ment, teacher distribution, and teacher and
15 school leader evaluation;”;

16 (iv) in subparagraph (G), by inserting
17 “and school leaders” before the semicolon;

18 (v) in subparagraph (H), by inserting
19 “, climate, and in- and out-of-school sus-
20 pensions and expulsions” before “, includ-
21 ing information regarding”;

22 (vi) by amending subparagraph (K) to
23 read as follows:

1 “(K) the access to, and use of, technology
2 to improve elementary schools and secondary
3 schools;”;

4 (vii) in subparagraph (L), by striking
5 “and opportunity for,” and inserting “op-
6 portunity for, and quality of”;

7 (viii) in subparagraph (M), by striking
8 “such programs during school recesses”
9 and inserting “summer school”; and

10 (ix) in subparagraph (N), by striking
11 “vocational” and inserting “career”;

12 (C) in paragraph (3), by striking “when
13 such disaggregated information will facilitate
14 educational and policy decisionmaking” and in-
15 serting “so long as any reported information
16 does not reveal individually identifiable informa-
17 tion”;

18 (D) in paragraph (4), by inserting before
19 the semicolon the following: “, and the imple-
20 mentation (with the assistance of the Depart-
21 ment and other Federal officials who have stat-
22 utory authority to provide assistance on appli-
23 cable privacy laws, regulations, and policies) of
24 appropriate privacy protections”;

1 (E) in paragraph (5), by striking “promote
2 linkages across States,”;

3 (F) in paragraph (6)—

4 (i) by striking “Third” and inserting
5 “Trends in”; and

6 (ii) by inserting “and the Program for
7 International Student Assessment” after
8 “Science Study”;

9 (G) in paragraph (7), by inserting before
10 the semicolon the following: “, ensuring such
11 collections protect student privacy consistent
12 with section 183”;

13 (H) by amending paragraph (8) to read as
14 follows:

15 “(8) assisting the Board in the preparation and
16 dissemination of each evaluation report under sec-
17 tion 116(d); and”;

18 (I) by striking paragraph (9);

19 (2) by redesignating subsection (b) as sub-
20 section (c); and

21 (3) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-
22 lowing:

23 “(b) PLAN.—The Statistics Commissioner shall pro-
24 pose to the Director and, subject to the approval of the

1 Director, implement a plan for activities of the Statistics
2 Center that—

3 “(1) is consistent with the priorities and mis-
4 sion of the Institute and the mission of the Statistics
5 Center described in section 151(b);

6 “(2) is carried out and, as appropriate, updated
7 and modified, including through the use of the re-
8 sults of the Statistic Center’s most recent evaluation
9 report under section 116(d); and

10 “(3) describes how the Statistics Center will use
11 the performance management system described in
12 section 185 to assess and improve the activities of
13 the Center.”.

14 **SEC. 153. PERFORMANCE OF DUTIES.**

15 Section 154 (20 U.S.C. 9544) is amended—

16 (1) in subsection (a)—

17 (A) by striking “In carrying” and inserting
18 the following:

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying”; and

20 (B) by adding at the end the following:

21 “(2) ELIGIBILITY.—For purposes of this sec-
22 tion, the term ‘eligible applicant’ means an applicant
23 that has the ability and capacity to carry out activi-
24 ties under this part.

25 “(3) APPLICATIONS.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible applicant
2 that wishes to receive a grant, or enter into a
3 contract or cooperative agreement, under this
4 section shall submit an application to the Sta-
5 tistics Commissioner at such time, in such man-
6 ner, and containing such information as the
7 Statistics Commissioner may require.

8 “(B) CONTENTS.—An application sub-
9 mitted under subparagraph (A) shall describe
10 how the eligible applicant will address and dem-
11 onstrate progress on the requirements of the
12 performance management system described in
13 section 185, with respect to the activities that
14 will be carried out under the grant, contract, or
15 cooperative agreement.”;

16 (2) in subsection (b)(2)(A), by striking “voca-
17 tional and” and inserting “career and technical edu-
18 cation programs,”; and

19 (3) in subsection (c), by striking “5 years” the
20 second place it appears and inserting “2 years if the
21 recipient demonstrates progress on the requirements
22 of the performance management system described in
23 section 185, with respect to the activities carried out
24 under the grant, contract, or cooperative agreement
25 received under this section”.

1 **SEC. 154. REPORTS.**

2 Section 155 (20 U.S.C. 9545) is amended—

3 (1) in subsection (a), by inserting “(consistent
4 with section 114(h))” after “review”; and

5 (2) in subsection (b), by striking “2003” and
6 inserting “2015”.

7 **SEC. 155. DISSEMINATION.**

8 Section 156 (20 U.S.C. 9546) is amended—

9 (1) in subsection (c), by adding at the end the
10 following: “Such projects shall adhere to student pri-
11 vacy requirements under section 183.”; and

12 (2) in subsection (e)—

13 (A) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end
14 the following: “Before receiving access to edu-
15 cational data under this paragraph, a Federal
16 agency shall describe to the Statistics Center
17 the specific research intent for use of the data,
18 how access to the data may meet such research
19 intent, and how the Federal agency will protect
20 the confidentiality of the data consistent with
21 the requirements of section 183.”;

22 (B) in paragraph (2)—

23 (i) by inserting “and consistent with
24 section 183” after “may prescribe”; and

25 (ii) by adding at the end the fol-
26 lowing: “Before receiving access to data

1 under this paragraph, an interested party
2 shall describe to the Statistics Center the
3 specific research intent for use of the data,
4 how access to the data may meet such re-
5 search intent, and how the party will pro-
6 tect the confidentiality of the data con-
7 sistent with the requirements of section
8 183.”; and

9 (C) by adding at the end the following:

10 “(3) DENIAL AUTHORITY.—The Statistics Cen-
11 ter shall have the authority to deny any requests for
12 access to data under paragraph (1) or (2) for any
13 scientific deficiencies in the proposed research design
14 or research intent for use of the data, or if the re-
15 quest would introduce risk of a privacy violation or
16 misuse of data.”.

17 **SEC. 156. COOPERATIVE EDUCATION STATISTICS SYSTEMS.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 157 (20 U.S.C. 9547) is
19 amended—

20 (1) in the heading, by striking “**SYSTEMS**” and
21 inserting “**PARTNERSHIPS**”;

22 (2) by striking “national cooperative education
23 statistics systems” and inserting “cooperative edu-
24 cation statistics partnerships”;

1 (3) by striking “producing and maintaining,
2 with the cooperation” and by inserting “reviewing
3 and improving, with the voluntary participation”;

4 (4) by striking “comparable and uniform” and
5 inserting “data quality standards, which may include
6 establishing voluntary guidelines to standardize”;

7 (5) by striking “adult education, and libraries,”
8 and inserting “and adult education”; and

9 (6) by adding at the end the following: “No stu-
10 dent data shall be collected by the partnerships es-
11 tablished under this section, nor shall such partner-
12 ships establish a national student data system.”.

13 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of con-
14 tents in section 1 of the Act of November 5, 2002 (Public
15 Law 107–279; 116 Stat. 1940) is amended by striking
16 the item relating to section 157 and inserting the fol-
17 lowing:

 “Sec. 157. Cooperative education statistics partnerships.”.

18 **PART D—NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION**
19 **EVALUATION AND REGIONAL ASSISTANCE**

20 **SEC. 171. ESTABLISHMENT.**

21 Section 171 (20 U.S.C. 9561) is amended—

22 (1) in subsection (b)—

23 (A) by striking paragraph (1);

1 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (2), (3),
2 and (4) as paragraphs (1), (2), and (3), respec-
3 tively;

4 (C) in paragraph (1), as so redesignated,
5 by striking “of such programs” and all that fol-
6 lows through “science)” and inserting “and to
7 evaluate the implementation of such programs”;

8 (D) in paragraph (2), as so redesignated,
9 by striking “and wide dissemination of results
10 of” and inserting “and, consistent with section
11 114(j), the wide dissemination and utilization of
12 results of all”; and

13 (2) by striking subsection (c).

14 **SEC. 172. COMMISSIONER FOR EDUCATION EVALUATION**
15 **AND REGIONAL ASSISTANCE.**

16 Section 172 (20 U.S.C. 9562) is amended—

17 (1) in subsection (a)—

18 (A) by amending paragraph (2) to read as
19 follows:

20 “(2) widely disseminate, consistent with section
21 114(j), all information on scientifically valid research
22 and statistics supported by the Institute and all sci-
23 entifically valid education evaluations supported by
24 the Institute, particularly to State educational agen-
25 cies and local educational agencies, to institutions of

1 higher education, to the public, the media, voluntary
2 organizations, professional associations, and other
3 constituencies, especially with respect to the prior-
4 ities described in section 115;”;

5 (B) in paragraph (3), by inserting “, con-
6 sistent with section 114(j)” after “timely, and
7 efficient manner”;

8 (C) in paragraph (4)—

9 (i) by striking “development and dis-
10 semination” and inserting “development,
11 dissemination, and utilization”; and

12 (ii) by striking “the provision of tech-
13 nical assistance,”;

14 (D) in paragraph (5), by inserting “and”
15 after the semicolon;

16 (E) in paragraph (6)—

17 (i) by striking “Director” and insert-
18 ing “Board”;

19 (ii) by striking “preparation of a bien-
20 nial report” and inserting “preparation
21 and dissemination of each evaluation re-
22 port”; and

23 (iii) by striking “119; and” and in-
24 serting “116(d).”;

25 (F) by striking paragraph (7);

1 (2) in subsection (b)(1)—

2 (A) by inserting “all” before “information
3 disseminated”; and

4 (B) by striking “, which may include” and
5 all that follows through “of this Act”;

6 (3) by striking subsection (c) and redesignating
7 subsection (d) as subsection (e); and

8 (4) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-
9 lowing:

10 “(c) PLAN.—The Evaluation and Regional Assistance
11 Commissioner shall propose to the Director and, subject
12 to the approval of the Director, implement a plan for the
13 activities of the National Center for Education Evaluation
14 and Regional Assistance that—

15 “(1) is consistent with the priorities and mis-
16 sion of the Institute and the mission of the Center
17 described in section 171(b);

18 “(2) is carried out and, as appropriate, updated
19 and modified, including through the use of the re-
20 sults of the Center’s most recent evaluation report
21 under section 116(d); and

22 “(3) describes how the Center will use the per-
23 formance management system described in section
24 185 to assess and improve the activities of the Cen-
25 ter.

1 “(d) GRANTS, CONTRACTS, AND COOPERATIVE
2 AGREEMENTS.—

3 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the duties
4 under this part, the Evaluation and Regional Assist-
5 ance Commissioner may—

6 “(A) award grants, contracts, or coopera-
7 tive agreements to eligible applicants to carry
8 out the activities under this part; and

9 “(B) provide technical assistance.

10 “(2) ELIGIBILITY.—For purposes of this sec-
11 tion, the term ‘eligible applicant’ means an applicant
12 that has the ability and capacity to carry out activi-
13 ties under this part.

14 “(3) ENTITIES TO CONDUCT EVALUATIONS.—In
15 awarding grants, contracts, or cooperative agree-
16 ments under paragraph (1) to carry out activities
17 under section 173, the Evaluation and Regional As-
18 sistance Commissioner shall make such awards to el-
19 igible applicants with the ability and capacity to con-
20 duct scientifically valid education evaluations.

21 “(4) APPLICATIONS.—

22 “(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible applicant
23 that wishes to receive a grant, contract, or co-
24 operative agreement under paragraph (1) shall
25 submit an application to the Evaluation and

1 Regional Assistance Commissioner at such time,
2 in such manner, and containing such informa-
3 tion as the Commissioner may require.

4 “(B) CONTENTS.—An application sub-
5 mitted under subparagraph (A) shall describe
6 how the eligible applicant will address and dem-
7 onstrate progress on the requirements of the
8 performance management system described in
9 section 185, with respect to the activities car-
10 ried out under such grant, contract, or coopera-
11 tive agreement.

12 “(5) DURATION.—Notwithstanding any other
13 provision of law, the grants, contracts, and coopera-
14 tive agreements under paragraph (1) may be award-
15 ed, on a competitive basis, for a period of not more
16 than 5 years, and may be renewed at the discretion
17 of the Evaluation and Regional Assistance Commis-
18 sioner for an additional period of not more than 2
19 years if the recipient demonstrates progress on the
20 requirements of the performance management sys-
21 tem described in section 185, with respect to the ac-
22 tivities carried out under the grant, contract, or co-
23 operative agreement.”;

24 (5) in subsection (e), as so redesignated—

1 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “There is
2 established” and all that follows through “Re-
3 gional Assistance” and inserting “The Evalua-
4 tion and Regional Assistance Commissioner
5 may establish”;

6 (B) in paragraph (2)(A), by inserting “all”
7 before “products”; and

8 (C) in paragraph (2)(B)(ii), by striking
9 “2002” and all that follows through the period
10 and inserting “2002.”.

11 **SEC. 173. EVALUATIONS.**

12 Section 173 (20 U.S.C. 9563) is amended—

13 (1) in subsection (a)—

14 (A) in paragraph (1)—

15 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
16 graph (A), by striking “may” and inserting
17 “shall”;

18 (ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking
19 “evaluations” and inserting “high-quality
20 evaluations, including impact evaluations
21 that use rigorous methodologies that per-
22 mit the strongest possible causal infer-
23 ences,”;

24 (iii) in subparagraph (B), by inserting
25 before the semicolon at the end the fol-

1 lowing: “, including programs under part
2 A of such title (20 U.S.C. 6311 et seq.)”;

3 (iv) by striking subparagraph (C) and
4 redesignating subparagraph (D) as sub-
5 paragraph (C);

6 (v) by striking subparagraph (E) and
7 redesignating subparagraph (F) as sub-
8 paragraph (D); and

9 (vi) by inserting after subparagraph
10 (D), as so redesignated, the following:

11 “(E) provide evaluation findings in an un-
12 derstandable, easily accessible, and usable for-
13 mat to support program improvement;

14 “(F) support the evaluation activities de-
15 scribed in section 401 of the Strengthening
16 Education through Research Act that are car-
17 ried about by the Director; and

18 “(G) to the extent feasible—

19 “(i) examine evaluations conducted or
20 supported by others to determine the qual-
21 ity and relevance of the evidence of effec-
22 tiveness generated by those evaluations,
23 with the approval of the Director;

24 “(ii) review and supplement Federal
25 education program evaluations, particularly

1 such evaluations by the Department, to de-
2 termine or enhance the quality and rel-
3 evance of the evidence generated by those
4 evaluations;

5 “(iii) conduct implementation evalua-
6 tions that promote continuous improve-
7 ment and inform policymaking;

8 “(iv) evaluate the short- and long-
9 term effects and cost efficiencies across
10 programs assisted or authorized under
11 Federal law and administrated by the De-
12 partment; and

13 “(v) synthesize the results of evalua-
14 tion studies for and across Federal edu-
15 cation programs, policies, and practices.”;
16 and

17 (B) in paragraph (2)—

18 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking
19 “and” at the end;

20 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
21 the period and inserting “under section
22 114(h); and”; and

23 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
24 lowing:

1 “(C) be widely disseminated, consistent
2 with section 114(j).”; and

3 (2) in subsection (b), by striking “contracts”
4 and inserting “grants, contracts, or cooperative
5 agreements”.

6 **SEC. 174. REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL LABORATORIES FOR**
7 **RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, DISSEMINATION,**
8 **AND EVALUATION.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 174 (20 U.S.C. 9564) is
10 amended—

11 (1) in the section heading by striking “**TECH-**
12 **NICAL ASSISTANCE**” and inserting “**EVALUA-**
13 **TION**”;

14 (2) in subsection (a)—

15 (A) by striking “Director” and inserting
16 “Evaluation and Regional Assistance Commis-
17 sioner”;

18 (B) by striking “contracts” and inserting
19 “grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements”;
20 and

21 (C) by inserting “not more than” before
22 “10 regional”;

23 (3) in subsection (c)—

24 (A) by striking “The Director” and insert-
25 ing the following:

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Evaluation and Re-
2 gional Assistance Commissioner”;

3 (B) by striking “contracts under this sec-
4 tion with research organizations, institutions,
5 agencies, institutions of higher education,” and
6 inserting “grants, contracts, or cooperative
7 agreements under this section with public or
8 private, nonprofit or for-profit research organi-
9 zations, other organizations, or institutions of
10 higher education,”;

11 (C) by striking “or individuals,”;

12 (D) by striking “, including regional enti-
13 ties” and all that follows through “107–110));”
14 and

15 (E) by adding at the end the following:

16 “(2) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this sec-
17 tion, the term ‘eligible applicant’ means an entity
18 described in paragraph (1).”;

19 (4) by striking subsections (d) through (j) and
20 inserting the following:

21 “(d) APPLICATIONS.—

22 “(1) SUBMISSION.—

23 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible appli-
24 cant desiring a contract grant, contract, or co-
25 operative agreement under this section shall

1 submit an application at such time, in such
2 manner, and containing such information as the
3 Evaluation and Regional Assistance Commis-
4 sioner may reasonably require.

5 “(B) INPUT.—To ensure that applications
6 submitted under this paragraph are reflective of
7 the needs of the regions to be served, each eligi-
8 ble applicant submitting such an application
9 shall seek input from State educational agencies
10 and local educational agencies in the region
11 that the award will serve, and other individuals
12 with knowledge of the region’s needs. Such indi-
13 viduals may include members of the regional
14 advisory committee for the region under section
15 206(a).

16 “(2) PLAN.—

17 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Each application sub-
18 mitted under paragraph (1) shall contain a plan
19 for the activities of the regional educational lab-
20 oratory to be established under this section,
21 which shall be updated, modified, and improved,
22 as appropriate, on an ongoing basis, including
23 by using the results of the laboratory’s interim
24 evaluation under subsection (i)(3).

1 “(B) CONTENTS.—A plan described in
2 subparagraph (A) shall address—

3 “(i) the priorities for applied research,
4 development, evaluations, and wide dis-
5 semination established under section 207;

6 “(ii) the needs of State educational
7 agencies and local educational agencies, on
8 an ongoing basis, using available State and
9 local data, including the relevant results of
10 the region’s assessment under section
11 206(e); and

12 “(iii) if available, demonstrated sup-
13 port from State educational agencies and
14 local educational agencies in the region,
15 such as letters of support or signed memo-
16 randa of understanding.

17 “(3) NON-FEDERAL SUPPORT.—In conducting a
18 competition for grants, contracts, or cooperative
19 agreements under subsection (a), the Evaluation and
20 Regional Assistance Commissioner shall give priority
21 to eligible applicants that will provide a portion of
22 non-Federal funds to maximize support for activities
23 of the regional educational laboratories to be estab-
24 lished under this section.

1 “(e) AWARDING GRANTS, CONTRACTS, OR COOPERA-
2 TIVE AGREEMENTS.—

3 “(1) ASSURANCES.—In awarding grants, con-
4 tracts, or cooperative agreements under this section,
5 the Evaluation and Regional Assistance Commis-
6 sioner shall—

7 “(A) make such an award for not more
8 than a 5-year period;

9 “(B) ensure that regional educational lab-
10 oratories established under this section have
11 strong and effective governance, organization,
12 management, and administration, and employ
13 qualified staff; and

14 “(C) ensure that each such laboratory has
15 the flexibility to respond in a timely fashion to
16 the needs of the laboratory’s region, includ-
17 ing—

18 “(i) through using the results of the
19 laboratory’s interim evaluation under sub-
20 section (i)(3) to improve and modify the
21 activities of the laboratory before the end
22 of the award period; and

23 “(ii) through sharing preliminary re-
24 sults of the laboratory’s research, as ap-

1 appropriate, to increase the relevance and
2 usefulness of the research.

3 “(2) COORDINATION.—To ensure coordination
4 and prevent unnecessary duplication of activities
5 among the regions, the Evaluation and Regional As-
6 sistance Commissioner shall—

7 “(A) share information about the activities
8 of each regional educational laboratory with
9 each other regional educational laboratory, the
10 Department, the Director, and the National
11 Board for Education Sciences;

12 “(B) ensure, where appropriate, that the
13 activities of each regional educational laboratory
14 established under this section also serve na-
15 tional interests;

16 “(C) ensure each such regional educational
17 laboratory establishes strong partnerships
18 among practitioners, policymakers, researchers,
19 and others, so that such partnerships are con-
20 tinued in the absence of Federal support; and

21 “(D) enable, where appropriate, for such a
22 laboratory to work in a region being served by
23 another laboratory or to carry out a project
24 that extends beyond the region served by the
25 laboratory.

1 “(3) COLLABORATION WITH TECHNICAL ASSIST-
2 ANCE PROVIDERS.—Each regional educational lab-
3 oratory established under this section shall, on an
4 ongoing basis, coordinate its activities, collaborate,
5 and regularly exchange information with the com-
6 prehensive centers (established in section 203) in the
7 region in which the center is located, and with com-
8 prehensive centers located outside of its region, as
9 appropriate.

10 “(4) OUTREACH.—

11 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In conducting com-
12 petitions for grants, contracts, or cooperative
13 agreements under this section, the Evaluation
14 and Regional Assistance Commissioner shall—

15 “(i) by making information and tech-
16 nical assistance relating to the competition
17 widely available, actively encourage eligible
18 applicants to compete for such an award;
19 and

20 “(ii) seek input from the chief execu-
21 tive officers of States, chief State school
22 officers, educators, parents, superintend-
23 ents, and other individuals with knowledge
24 of the needs of the regions to be served by
25 the awards, regarding—

1 “(I) the needs in the regions for
2 applied research, evaluation, develop-
3 ment, and wide-dissemination activi-
4 ties authorized by this title; and

5 “(II) how such needs may be ad-
6 dressed most effectively.

7 “(B) REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES.—
8 The individuals described in subparagraph
9 (A)(ii) may include members of the regional ad-
10 visory committees established under section
11 206(a).

12 “(5) PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT.—Before
13 the Evaluation and Regional Assistance Commis-
14 sioner awards a grant, contract, or cooperative
15 agreement under this section, the Director shall es-
16 tablish measurable performance indicators for as-
17 sessing the ongoing progress and performance of the
18 regional educational laboratories established with
19 such awards that address—

20 “(A) the requirements of the performance
21 management system described in section 185;
22 and

23 “(B) the relevant results of the regional
24 assessments under section 206(e) .

1 “(6) STANDARDS.—The Evaluation and Re-
2 gional Assistance Commissioner shall adhere to the
3 Institute’s system for technical and peer review
4 under section 114(h) in reviewing the applied re-
5 search activities and research-based reports of the
6 regional educational laboratories.

7 “(7) REQUIRED CONSIDERATION.—In deter-
8 mining whether to award a grant, contract, or coop-
9 erative agreement under this section to an eligible
10 applicant that previously established a regional edu-
11 cational laboratory under this section, the Evalua-
12 tion and Regional Assistance Commissioner shall
13 consider the results of such laboratory’s summative
14 evaluation under subsection (i)(2).

15 “(f) MISSION.—Each regional educational laboratory
16 established under this section shall—

17 “(1) conduct applied research, development,
18 and evaluation activities with State educational
19 agencies, local educational agencies, and, as appro-
20 priate, schools funded by the Bureau;

21 “(2) widely disseminate such work, consistent
22 with section 114(j); and

23 “(3) develop the capacity of State educational
24 agencies, local educational agencies, and, as appro-

1 appropriate, schools funded by the Bureau to carry out
2 the activities described in paragraphs (1) and (2).

3 “(g) ACTIVITIES.—To carry out the mission de-
4 scribed in subsection (f), each regional educational labora-
5 tory established under this section shall carry out the fol-
6 lowing activities:

7 “(1) Conduct, widely disseminate, and promote
8 utilization of applied research, development activi-
9 ties, evaluations, and other scientifically valid re-
10 search.

11 “(2) Develop and improve the plan for the lab-
12 oratory under subsection (d)(2) for serving the re-
13 gion of the laboratory, and as appropriate, national
14 needs, on an ongoing basis, which shall include seek-
15 ing input and incorporating feedback from the rep-
16 resentatives of State educational agencies and local
17 educational agencies in the region, and other individ-
18 uals with knowledge of the region’s needs. Such rep-
19 resentatives and other individuals may include mem-
20 bers of the regional advisory committee for the re-
21 gion established under section 206(a).

22 “(3) Ensure research and related products are
23 relevant and responsive to the needs of the region,
24 including by using the relevant results of the re-
25 gion’s assessment under section 206(e).

1 “(h) GOVERNING BOARD.—

2 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each regional educational
3 laboratory established under this section may estab-
4 lish a governing board to improve the management
5 of activities that the laboratory carries out under
6 this section.

7 “(2) BOARD DUTIES.—A Board established
8 under paragraph (1) shall coordinate and align its
9 work with the work of the regional advisory com-
10 mittee for the region established under section 206.

11 “(i) EVALUATIONS.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Evaluation and Re-
13 gional Assistance Commissioner shall—

14 “(A) provide for ongoing summative and
15 interim evaluations described in paragraphs (2)
16 and (3), respectively, of each of the regional
17 educational laboratories established under this
18 section in carrying out the full range of duties
19 described in this section; and

20 “(B) transmit the results of such evalua-
21 tions, through appropriate means, to the appro-
22 priate congressional committees, the Director,
23 and the public.

24 “(2) SUMMATIVE EVALUATIONS.—The Evalua-
25 tion and Regional Assistance Commissioner shall en-

1 sure each regional educational laboratory established
2 under this section is evaluated by an independent
3 entity at the end of the period of the grant, contract,
4 or cooperative agreement that established such lab-
5 oratory, which shall—

6 “(A) be completed in a timely fashion;

7 “(B) assess how well the laboratory is
8 meeting the measurable performance indicators
9 established under subsection (e)(5); and

10 “(C) consider the extent to which the lab-
11 oratory ensures that the activities of such lab-
12 oratory are relevant and useful to the work of
13 State and local practitioners and policymakers.

14 “(3) INTERIM EVALUATIONS.—The Evaluation
15 and Regional Assistance Commissioner shall ensure
16 each regional educational laboratory established
17 under this section is evaluated at the midpoint of the
18 period of the grant, contract, or cooperative agree-
19 ment that established such laboratory, which shall—

20 “(A) assess how well such laboratory is
21 meeting the performance indicators described in
22 subsection (e)(5); and

23 “(B) be used to improve the effectiveness
24 of such laboratory in carrying out its plan
25 under subsection (d)(2).

1 “(j) CONTINUATION OF AWARDS; RECOMPETITION.—

2 “(1) CONTINUATION OF AWARDS.—The Evalua-
3 tion and Regional Assistance Commissioner shall
4 continue awards made to each eligible applicant for
5 the support of regional educational laboratories es-
6 tablished under this section prior to the date of en-
7 actment of the Strengthening Education through
8 Research Act, as such awards were in effect on the
9 day before the date of enactment of the Strengthen-
10 ing Education through Research Act, for the du-
11 ration of those awards, in accordance with the terms
12 and agreements of such awards.

13 “(2) RECOMPETITION.—Not later than the end
14 of the period of the awards described in paragraph
15 (1), the Evaluation and Regional Assistance Com-
16 missioner shall—

17 “(A) hold a competition to make grants,
18 contracts, or cooperative agreements under this
19 section to eligible applicants, which may include
20 eligible applicants that held awards described in
21 paragraph (1); and

22 “(B) in determining whether to select an
23 eligible applicant that held an award described
24 in paragraph (1) for an award under subpara-
25 graph (A) of this paragraph, consider the re-

- 1 sults of the summative evaluation under sub-
2 section (i)(2) of the laboratory established with
3 the eligible applicant’s award described in para-
4 graph (1).”;
- 5 (5) by striking subsection (l);
- 6 (6) by redesignating subsections (m), (n), and
7 (o) as subsections (l), (m), and (n), respectively;
- 8 (7) in subsection (l), as so redesignated, by in-
9 serting “and local” after “achieve State”;
- 10 (8) by amending subsection (m), as so redesign-
11 ated, to read as follows:
- 12 “(m) ANNUAL REPORT.—Each regional educational
13 laboratory established under this section shall submit to
14 the Evaluation and Regional Assistance Commissioner an
15 annual report containing such information as the Commis-
16 sioner may require, but which shall include, at a minimum,
17 the following:
- 18 “(1) A summary of the laboratory’s activities
19 and products developed during the previous year.
- 20 “(2) A listing of the State educational agencies,
21 local educational agencies, and schools the labora-
22 tory assisted during the previous year.
- 23 “(3) Using the measurable performance indica-
24 tors established under subsection (e)(5), a descrip-

1 tion of how well the laboratory is meeting edu-
2 cational needs of the region served by the laboratory.

3 “(4) Any changes to the laboratory’s plan under
4 subsection (d)(2) to improve its activities in the re-
5 maining years of the grant, contract, or cooperative
6 agreement.”; and

7 (9) by adding at the end the following new sub-
8 section:

9 “(o) APPROPRIATIONS RESERVATION.—Of the
10 amounts appropriated under section 194(a), the Evalua-
11 tion and Regional Assistance Commissioner shall reserve
12 16.13 percent of such funds to carry out this section, of
13 which the Commissioner shall use not less than 25 percent
14 to serve rural areas (including schools funded by the Bu-
15 reau which are located in rural areas).”.

16 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of con-
17 tents in section 1 of the Act of November 5, 2002 (Public
18 Law 107–279; 116 Stat. 1940) is amended by striking
19 the item relating to section 174 and inserting the fol-
20 lowing:

 “Sec. 174. Regional educational laboratories for research, development, dissemi-
 nation, and evaluation.”.

21 **PART E—NATIONAL CENTER FOR SPECIAL**
22 **EDUCATION RESEARCH**

23 **SEC. 175. ESTABLISHMENT.**

24 Section 175(b) (20 U.S.C. 9567(b)) is amended—

1 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “and chil-
2 dren” and inserting “children, and youth”;

3 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” at the
4 end;

5 (3) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at
6 the end and inserting a semicolon; and

7 (4) by adding at the end the following:

8 “(4) to promote quality and integrity through
9 the use of accepted practices of scientific inquiry to
10 obtain knowledge and understanding of the validity
11 of education theories, practices, or conditions with
12 respect to special education research and evaluation
13 described in paragraphs (1) through (3); and

14 “(5) to promote scientifically valid research
15 findings in special education that may provide the
16 basis for improving academic instruction and lifelong
17 learning.”.

18 **SEC. 176. COMMISSIONER FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION RE-**

19 **SEARCH.**

20 Section 176 (20 U.S.C. 9567a) is amended by insert-
21 ing “and youth” after “children”.

22 **SEC. 177. DUTIES.**

23 Section 177 (20 U.S.C. 9567b) is amended—

24 (1) in subsection (a)—

1 (A) in paragraph (1)(A), by inserting “and
2 youth” after “children”;

3 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “scientific-
4 ically based educational practices” and inserting
5 “educational practices, including the use of
6 technology based on scientifically valid re-
7 search,”;

8 (C) in paragraph (4), by striking “based”
9 and inserting “valid”;

10 (D) in paragraph (10), by inserting before
11 the semicolon the following: “, including how
12 secondary school credentials are related to post-
13 secondary and employment outcomes”;

14 (E) by redesignating paragraphs (11)
15 through (15) and paragraphs (16) and (17) as
16 paragraphs (12) through (16), respectively, and
17 paragraphs (18) and (19), respectively;

18 (F) by inserting after paragraph (10), the
19 following:

20 “(11) examine the participation and outcomes
21 of students with disabilities in secondary and post-
22 secondary career and technical education pro-
23 grams;”;

1 (G) in paragraph (14), as so redesignated,
2 by inserting “and professional development”
3 after “preparation”;

4 (H) in paragraph (16), as so redesignated,
5 by striking “help parents” and inserting “exam-
6 ine the methods by which parents may”;

7 (I) by inserting after paragraph (16), as so
8 redesignated, the following:

9 “(17) assist the Board in the preparation and
10 dissemination of each evaluation report under sec-
11 tion 116(d);”;

12 (J) in paragraph (18), as so redesignated,
13 by striking “and” at the end;

14 (K) by amending paragraph (19) to read
15 as follows:

16 “(19) examine the needs of children with dis-
17 abilities who are English learners, gifted and tal-
18 ented, or who have other unique learning needs;
19 and”; and

20 (L) by adding at the end the following:

21 “(20) examine innovations in the field of special
22 education, such as multi-tiered systems of support.”;

23 (2) in subsection (c)—

24 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph

25 (1)—

1 (i) by inserting “for the activities of
2 the Special Education Research Center”
3 after “research plan”; and

4 (ii) by inserting “and, subject to the
5 approval of the Director, implement such
6 plan” after “Services”;

7 (B) in paragraph (1), by inserting “de-
8 scribed in section 175(b)” after “Center”;

9 (C) by amending paragraph (2) to read as
10 follows:

11 “(2) is carried out, and, as appropriate, up-
12 dated and modified, including by using the results of
13 the Special Education Research Center’s most recent
14 evaluation report under section 116(d);”;

15 (D) by striking paragraph (5);

16 (E) by redesignating paragraphs (3), (4),
17 and (6) as paragraphs (4), (5), and (7), respec-
18 tively;

19 (F) by inserting after paragraph (2), as so
20 amended, the following:

21 “(3) provides for research that addresses sig-
22 nificant questions of practice where such research is
23 lacking;”;

24 (G) in paragraph (5), as so redesignated,
25 by striking “and types of children with” and in-

1 serting “, student subgroups, and types of”;
2 and

3 (H) by inserting after paragraph (5), as so
4 redesignated and amended, the following:

5 “(6) describes how the Special Education Re-
6 search Center will use the performance management
7 system described in section 185 to assess and im-
8 prove the activities of the Center; and”;

9 (3) in subsection (d)—

10 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “Direc-
11 tor” and inserting “Special Education Research
12 Commissioner”;

13 (B) by amending paragraph (3) to read as
14 follows:

15 “(3) APPLICATIONS.—

16 “(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible applicant
17 that wishes to receive a grant, or enter into a
18 contract or cooperative agreement, under this
19 section shall submit an application to the Spe-
20 cial Education Research Commissioner at such
21 time, in such manner, and containing such in-
22 formation as the Special Education Research
23 Commissioner may require.

24 “(B) CONTENTS.—An application sub-
25 mitted under subparagraph (A) shall describe

1 how the eligible applicant will address and dem-
2 onstrate progress on the requirements of the
3 performance management system described in
4 section 185, with respect to the activities that
5 will be carried out under such grant, contract,
6 or cooperative agreement.”; and

7 (C) by adding at the end the following:

8 “(4) DURATION.—Notwithstanding any other
9 provision of law, the grants, contracts, and coopera-
10 tive agreements under this section may be awarded,
11 on a competitive basis, for a period of not more than
12 5 years, and may be renewed at the discretion of the
13 Special Education Research Commissioner for an
14 additional period of not more than 2 years if the re-
15 cipient demonstrates progress on the requirements
16 of the performance management system described in
17 section 185, with respect to the activities carried out
18 under the grant, contract, or cooperative agreement
19 received under this section.”;

20 (4) by amending subsection (e) to read as fol-
21 lows:

22 “(e) DISSEMINATION.—The Special Education Re-
23 search Center shall synthesize and, consistent with section
24 114(j), widely disseminate and promote utilization of the
25 findings and results of special education research con-

1 ducted or supported by the Special Education Research
2 Center.”; and

3 (5) in subsection (f), by striking “part such
4 sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years
5 2005 through 2010” and inserting “part—
6 “(1) for fiscal year 2015, \$54,000,000;
7 “(2) for fiscal year 2016, \$54,108,000;
8 “(3) for fiscal year 2017, \$55,298,376;
9 “(4) for fiscal year 2018, \$56,625,537;
10 “(5) for fiscal year 2019, \$58,154,426; and
11 “(6) for fiscal year 2020, \$65,645,169.”.

12 **PART F—GENERAL PROVISIONS**

13 **SEC. 182. PROHIBITIONS.**

14 Section 182 (20 U.S.C. 9572) is amended—

15 (1) in subsection (b)—

16 (A) by striking “or control” and inserting
17 “control, or coerce”; and

18 (B) by inserting “specific academic stand-
19 ards or assessments,” after “the curriculum,”

20 (3) in subsection (c)—

21 (A) by inserting “coerce,” after “approve,”
22 and

23 (B) by striking “an elementary school or
24 secondary school” and inserting “early edu-

1 cation, or in an elementary school, secondary
2 school, or institution of higher education”.

3 **SEC. 183. CONFIDENTIALITY.**

4 Section 183 (20 U.S.C. 9573) is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (b)—

6 (A) by striking “their families, and infor-
7 mation with respect to individual schools,” and
8 inserting “and their families”; and

9 (B) by inserting before the period the fol-
10 lowing: “, and that any disclosed information
11 with respect to individual schools not reveal
12 such individually identifiable information”;

13 (2) in subsection (d)(2), by inserting “, includ-
14 ing voluntary and uncompensated services under sec-
15 tion 190” after “providing services”; and

16 (3) in subsection (e)(1), in the matter preceding
17 subparagraph (A), by inserting “and Director” after
18 “Secretary”.

19 **SEC. 184. AVAILABILITY OF DATA.**

20 Section 184 (20 U.S.C. 9574) is amended by striking
21 “use of the Internet” and inserting “electronic means,
22 such as posting to the Institute’s website in an easily ac-
23 cessible manner”.

1 **SEC. 185. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT.**

2 Section 185 (20 U.S.C. 9575) is amended to read as
3 follows:

4 **“SEC. 185. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT.**

5 “The Director shall establish a system for managing
6 the performance of all activities authorized under this title
7 to promote continuous improvement of the activities and
8 to ensure the effective use of Federal funds by—

9 “(1) developing and using measurable perform-
10 ance indicators, including timelines, to evaluate and
11 improve the effectiveness of the activities;

12 “(2) using the performance indicators described
13 in paragraph (1) to inform funding decisions, includ-
14 ing the awarding and continuation of all grants, con-
15 tracts, and cooperative agreements under this title;

16 “(3) establishing and improving formal feed-
17 back mechanisms to—

18 “(A) anticipate and meet stakeholder
19 needs; and

20 “(B) incorporate, on an ongoing basis, the
21 feedback of such stakeholders into the activities
22 authorized under this title; and

23 “(4) promoting the wide dissemination and uti-
24 lization, consistent with section 114(j), of all infor-
25 mation, products, and publications of the Institute.”.

1 **SEC. 186. AUTHORITY TO PUBLISH.**

2 Section 186(b) (20 U.S.C. 9576) is amended by strik-
3 ing “any information to be published under this section
4 before publication” and inserting “publications under this
5 section before the public release of such publications”.

6 **SEC. 187. REPEALS.**

7 (a) REPEALS.—Sections 187 (20 U.S.C. 9577) and
8 193 (20 U.S.C. 9583) are repealed.

9 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The table of con-
10 tents in section 1 of the Act of November 5, 2002 (Public
11 Law 107–279; 116 Stat. 1940) is amended by striking
12 the items relating to sections 187 and 193.

13 **SEC. 188. FELLOWSHIPS.**

14 Section 189 (20 U.S.C. 9579) is amended—

15 (1) by inserting “and the mission of each Na-
16 tional Education Center authorized under this title,”
17 after “related to education”; and

18 (2) by striking “historically Black colleges and
19 universities” and inserting “minority-serving institu-
20 tions”.

21 **SEC. 189. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

22 Section 194 (20 U.S.C. 9584) is amended—

23 (1) by amending subsection (a) to read as fol-
24 lows:

1 “(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be ap-
2 propriated to administer and carry out this title (except
3 part E)—

4 “(1) for fiscal year 2015, \$337,343,000;

5 “(2) for fiscal year 2016, \$338,017,686;

6 “(3) for fiscal year 2017, \$345,454,075;

7 “(4) for fiscal year 2018, \$353,744,974;

8 “(5) for fiscal year 2019, \$363,296,087; and

9 “(6) for fiscal year 2020, \$368,745,528.”.

10 (2) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the
11 following:

12 “(b) RESERVATIONS.—Of the amounts appropriated
13 under subsection (a) for each fiscal year—

14 “(1) not less than the amount provided to the
15 National Center for Education Statistics (as such
16 Center was in existence on the day before the date
17 of enactment of the Strengthening Education
18 through Research Act) for fiscal year 2014 shall be
19 provided to the National Center for Education Sta-
20 tistics, as authorized under part C; and

21 “(2) not more than the lesser of 2 percent of
22 such funds or \$2,000,000 shall be made available to
23 carry out section 116 (relating to the National
24 Board for Education Sciences).”.

1 **TITLE II—EDUCATIONAL**
2 **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

3 **SEC. 201. REFERENCES.**

4 Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in
5 this title an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms
6 of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provi-
7 sion, the reference shall be considered to be made to a
8 section or other provision of the Education Technical As-
9 sistance Act of 2002 (20 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.).

10 **SEC. 202. DEFINITIONS.**

11 Section 202 (20 U.S.C. 9601) is amended—

12 (1) by redesignating paragraph (2) as para-
13 graph (3); and

14 (2) by inserting after paragraph (1), the fol-
15 lowing:

16 “(2) SCHOOL LEADER.—The term ‘school lead-
17 er’ has the meaning given the term in section 102.”.

18 **SEC. 203. COMPREHENSIVE CENTERS.**

19 Section 203 (20 U.S.C. 9602)—

20 (1) by amending subsection (a) to read as fol-
21 lows:

22 “(a) AUTHORIZATION.—

23 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (3),
24 the Secretary is authorized to award not more than
25 17 grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements to

1 eligible applicants to establish comprehensive cen-
2 ters.

3 “(2) MISSION.—The mission of the comprehen-
4 sive centers is to provide State educational agencies
5 and local educational agencies technical assistance,
6 analysis, and training to build their capacity in im-
7 plementing the requirements of the Elementary and
8 Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301
9 et seq.) and other Federal education laws, and re-
10 search-based practices.

11 “(3) REGIONS.—In awarding grants, contracts,
12 or cooperative agreements under paragraph (1), the
13 Secretary—

14 “(A) shall establish at least one com-
15 prehensive center for each of the 10 geographic
16 regions served by the regional educational lab-
17 oratories established under section 941(h) of
18 the Educational Research, Development, Dis-
19 semination, and Improvement Act of 1994 (as
20 such provision existed on the day before the
21 date of enactment of this Act); and

22 “(B) may establish additional comprehen-
23 sive centers—

24 “(i) for one or more of the regions de-
25 scribed in subparagraph (A); or

1 “(ii) to serve the Nation as a whole by
2 providing technical assistance on a par-
3 ticular content area of importance to the
4 Nation, as determined by the Secretary
5 with the advice of the regional advisory
6 committees established under section
7 206(a).

8 “(4) NATION.—In the case of a comprehensive
9 center established to serve the Nation as described
10 in paragraph (3)(B)(ii), the Nation shall be consid-
11 ered to be a region served by such Center.

12 “(5) AWARD PERIOD.—A grant, contract, or co-
13 operative agreement under this section may be
14 awarded, on a competitive basis, for a period of not
15 more than 5 years.

16 “(6) RESPONSIVENESS.—The Secretary shall
17 ensure that each comprehensive center established
18 under this section has the ability to respond in a
19 timely fashion to the needs of State educational
20 agencies and local educational agencies, including
21 through using the results of the center’s interim
22 evaluation under section 204(c), to improve and
23 modify the activities of the center before the end of
24 the award period.”;

25 (2) in subsection (b)—

- 1 (A) in paragraph (1)—
- 2 (i) by inserting “, contracts, or coop-
- 3 erative agreements” after “Grants”;
- 4 (ii) by striking “research organiza-
- 5 tions, institutions, agencies, institutions of
- 6 higher education,” and inserting “public or
- 7 private, nonprofit or for-profit research or-
- 8 ganizations, other organizations, or institu-
- 9 tions of higher education,”;
- 10 (iii) by striking “, or individuals,”;
- 11 (iv) by striking “subsection (f)” and
- 12 inserting “subsection (e)”;
- 13 (v) by striking “, including regional”
- 14 and all that follows through “107–110)”;
- 15 and
- 16 (B) by striking paragraphs (2) and (3) and
- 17 inserting the following:
- 18 “(2) OUTREACH.—
- 19 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In conducting com-
- 20 petitions for grants, contracts, or cooperative
- 21 agreements under this section, the Secretary
- 22 shall—
- 23 “(i) by making widely available infor-
- 24 mation and technical assistance relating to

1 the competition, actively encourage eligible
2 applicants to compete for such awards; and

3 “(ii) seek input from chief executive
4 officers of States, chief State school offi-
5 cers, educators, parents, superintendents,
6 and other individuals with knowledge of
7 the needs of the regions to be served by
8 the awards, regarding—

9 “(I) the needs in the regions for
10 technical assistance authorized under
11 this title; and

12 “(II) how such needs may be ad-
13 dressed most effectively.

14 “(B) REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES.—
15 The individuals described in subparagraph
16 (A)(ii) may include members of the regional ad-
17 visory committees established under section
18 206(a).

19 “(3) PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT.—Before
20 awarding a grant, contract, or cooperative agree-
21 ment under this section, the Secretary shall establish
22 measurable performance indicators to be used to as-
23 sess the ongoing progress and performance of the
24 comprehensive centers to be established under this
25 title that address—

1 “(A) paragraphs (1) through (3) of the
2 performance management system described in
3 section 185; and

4 “(B) the relevant results of the regional
5 assessments under section 206(e).

6 “(4) REQUIRED CONSIDERATION.—In deter-
7 mining whether to award a grant, contract, or coop-
8 erative agreement under this section to an eligible
9 applicant that previously established a comprehen-
10 sive center under this section, the Secretary shall
11 consider the results of such center’s summative eval-
12 uation under section 204(b).

13 “(5) CONTINUATION OF AWARDS.—

14 “(A) CONTINUATION OF AWARDS.—The
15 Secretary shall continue awards made to each
16 eligible applicant for the support of comprehen-
17 sive centers established under this section prior
18 to the date of enactment of the Strengthening
19 Education through Research Act, as such
20 awards were in effect on the day before the
21 date of enactment of the Strengthening Edu-
22 cation through Research Act, for the duration
23 of those awards, in accordance with the terms
24 and agreements of such awards.

1 “(B) RECOMPETITION.—Not later than the
2 end of the period of the awards described in
3 subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall—

4 “(i) hold a competition to make
5 grants, contracts, or cooperative agree-
6 ments under this section to eligible appli-
7 cants, which may include eligible appli-
8 cants that held awards described in sub-
9 paragraph (A); and

10 “(ii) in determining whether to select
11 an eligible applicant that held an award
12 described in subparagraph (A) for an
13 award under clause (i) of this subpara-
14 graph, consider the results of the
15 summative evaluation under section 204(b)
16 of the center established with the eligible
17 applicant’s award described in subpara-
18 graph (A).

19 “(6) ELIGIBLE APPLICANT DEFINED.—For pur-
20 poses of this section, the term ‘eligible applicant’
21 means an entity described in paragraph (1).”;

22 (3) by amending subsection (c) to read as fol-
23 lows:

24 “(c) APPLICATIONS.—

25 “(1) SUBMISSION.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible appli-
2 cant seeking a grant, contract, or cooperative
3 agreement under this section shall submit an
4 application at such time, in such manner, and
5 containing such additional information as the
6 Secretary may reasonably require.

7 “(B) INPUT.—To ensure that applications
8 submitted under this paragraph are reflective of
9 the needs of the regions to be served, each eligi-
10 ble applicant submitting such an application
11 shall seek input from State educational agencies
12 and local educational agencies in the region
13 that the award will serve, and other individuals
14 with knowledge of the region’s needs. Such indi-
15 viduals may include members of the regional
16 advisory committee for the region under section
17 206(a).

18 “(2) PLAN.—

19 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Each application sub-
20 mitted under paragraph (1) shall contain a plan
21 for the comprehensive center to be established
22 under this section, which shall be updated,
23 modified, and improved, as appropriate, on an
24 ongoing basis, including by using the results of

1 the center’s interim evaluation under section
2 204(c).

3 “(B) CONTENTS.—A plan described in
4 subparagraph (A) shall address—

5 “(i) the priorities for technical assist-
6 ance established under section 207;

7 “(ii) the needs of State educational
8 agencies and local educational agencies, on
9 an ongoing basis, using available State and
10 local data, including the relevant results of
11 the regional assessments under section
12 206(e); and

13 “(iii) if available, demonstrated sup-
14 port from State educational agencies and
15 local educational agencies, such as letters
16 of support or signed memoranda of under-
17 standing.

18 “(3) NON-FEDERAL SUPPORT.—In conducting a
19 competition for grants, contracts, or cooperative
20 agreements under subsection (a), the Secretary shall
21 give priority to eligible applicants that will provide
22 a portion of non-Federal funds to maximize support
23 for activities of the comprehensive centers to be es-
24 tablished under this section.”;

1 (4) in subsection (d), by inserting “the number
2 of low-performing schools in the region,” after “eco-
3 nomically disadvantaged students,”;

4 (5) by striking subsection (e) and redesignating
5 subsections (f), (g), and (h) as subsections (e), (f),
6 and (g), respectively;

7 (6) in subsection (e), as so redesignated—

8 (A) in paragraph (1)—

9 (i) by striking “support dissemination
10 and technical assistance activities by” and
11 inserting “support State educational agen-
12 cies and local educational agencies, includ-
13 ing by—”;

14 (ii) in subparagraph (A)(i), by insert-
15 ing “and other Federal education laws” be-
16 fore the semicolon;

17 (iii) in subparagraph (A)(ii)—

18 (I) in the matter preceding sub-
19 clause (I), by striking “and assess-
20 ment tools” and inserting “, assess-
21 ment tools, and other educational
22 strategies”;

23 (II) in subclause (I), by striking
24 “mathematics, science,” and inserting
25 “mathematics and science, which may

1 include computer science or engineer-
2 ing.”; and

3 (III) in subclause (III), by insert-
4 ing “, including innovative tools and
5 methods” before the semicolon;

6 (iv) by striking subparagraph (A)(iii)
7 and inserting the following:

8 “(iii) the replication and adaptation of
9 exemplary practices and innovative meth-
10 ods that have an evidence base of effective-
11 ness.”;

12 (v) in subparagraph (B)—

13 (I) by inserting “, consistent with
14 section 114(j),” after “dissemi-
15 nating”; and

16 (II) by striking “(as described”
17 and all that follows through “is lo-
18 cated”; and

19 (vi) by amending subparagraph (C) to
20 read as follows:

21 “(C) ensuring activities carried out under
22 this section are relevant and responsive to the
23 needs of the region being served, including by
24 using the relevant results of the regional assess-
25 ments under section 206(e).”; and

1 (B) in paragraph (2)—

2 (i) by inserting “, on an ongoing
3 basis,” after “this section shall”; and

4 (ii) by inserting “or other regional
5 educational laboratories or comprehensive
6 centers, as appropriate,” after “center is
7 located,”; and

8 (7) by amending subsections (f) and (g), as
9 each so redesignated, to read as follows:

10 “(f) COMPREHENSIVE CENTER ADVISORY BOARD.—

11 A comprehensive center established under this section may
12 establish an advisory board to support and monitor the
13 priorities and activities of such center. An advisory board
14 established under this subsection shall coordinate and
15 align its work with the work of the regional advisory com-
16 mittee of the region served by such center established
17 under section 206.

18 “(g) REPORT TO THE SECRETARY.—Each com-
19 prehensive center established under this section shall sub-
20 mit to the Secretary an annual report, at such time, in
21 such manner, and containing such information as the Sec-
22 retary may require, which shall include the following:

23 “(1) A summary of the center’s activities and
24 products developed during the previous year.

1 “(2) A listing of the State educational agencies,
2 local educational agencies, and schools the center as-
3 sisted during the previous year.

4 “(3) Using the measurable performance indica-
5 tors established under subsection (b)(3), a descrip-
6 tion of how well the center is meeting educational
7 needs of the region served by the center.

8 “(4) Any changes to the center’s plan under
9 subsection (c)(2) to improve its activities in the re-
10 maining years of the grant, contract, or cooperative
11 agreement.”.

12 **SEC. 204. EVALUATIONS.**

13 Section 204 (20 U.S.C. 9603) is amended to read as
14 follows:

15 **“SEC. 204. EVALUATIONS.**

16 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

17 “(1) provide for ongoing summative and interim
18 evaluations described in subsections (b) and (c), re-
19 spectively, of each of the comprehensive centers es-
20 tablished under this title in carrying out the full
21 range of duties of the center under this title; and

22 “(2) transmit the results of such evaluations,
23 through appropriate means, to the appropriate con-
24 gressional committees, the Director of the Institute
25 of Education Sciences, and the public.

1 “(b) **SUMMATIVE EVALUATION.**—The Secretary shall
2 ensure each comprehensive center established under this
3 title is evaluated by an independent entity at the end of
4 the period of the grant, contract, or cooperative agreement
5 that established such center, which shall—

6 “(1) be completed in a timely fashion;

7 “(2) assess how well the center is meeting the
8 measurable performance indicators established under
9 section 203(b)(3); and

10 “(3) consider the extent to which the center en-
11 sures that the technical assistance of such center is
12 relevant and useful to the work of State and local
13 practitioners and policymakers.

14 “(c) **INTERIM EVALUATION.**—The Secretary shall en-
15 sure that each comprehensive center established under this
16 title is evaluated at the midpoint of the period of the
17 grant, contract, or cooperative agreement that established
18 such center, which shall—

19 “(1) assess how well such center is meeting the
20 measurable performance indicators established under
21 section 203(b)(3); and

22 “(2) be used to improve the effectiveness of
23 such center in carrying out its plan under section
24 203(c)(2).”.

1 **SEC. 205. EXISTING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDERS.**

2 (a) REPEAL.—Section 205 (20 U.S.C. 9604) is re-
3 pealed.

4 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of con-
5 tents in section 1 of the Act of November 5, 2002 (Public
6 Law 107–279; 116 Stat. 1940) is amended by striking
7 the item relating to section 205.

8 **SEC. 206. REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES.**

9 Section 206 (20 U.S.C. 9605) is amended—

10 (1) in subsection (a)—

11 (A) by striking “Beginning in 2004, the”
12 and inserting “The”; and

13 (B) by striking “of the Education Sciences
14 Reform Act of 2002”;

15 (2) by striking subsection (c) and redesignating
16 subsections (b) and (d) as subsections (d) and (e),
17 respectively;

18 (3) by inserting the following after subsection
19 (a):

20 “(b) MISSION.—The mission of each regional advi-
21 sory committee established under subsection (a) shall be
22 to—

23 “(1) support, strengthen, and, as appropriate,
24 align the work of the regional educational labora-
25 tories established under section 174 and the com-
26 prehensive centers established under this title; and

1 “(2) ensure that the regional educational lab-
2 oratories and comprehensive centers are meeting the
3 needs of their regions.

4 “(c) DUTIES.—Each advisory committee established
5 under subsection (a) shall—

6 “(1) conduct, on at least a biennial basis, a
7 needs assessments of the region served by the com-
8 mittee, as described in subsection (e);

9 “(2) to ensure the activities of the regional edu-
10 cational laboratory and comprehensive centers serv-
11 ing the region of the committee are responsive to the
12 needs of such region, provide ongoing input to the
13 laboratory and centers on planning and carrying out
14 their activities under section 174 and this title, re-
15 spectively;

16 “(3) maintain a high standard of quality in the
17 performance of the activities of the laboratory and
18 centers, respectively; and

19 “(4) support the continuous improvement of the
20 laboratory and centers in the region served by the
21 committee, especially in meeting the measurable per-
22 formance indicators established under sections
23 174(e)(4) and 203(b)(3), respectively.”;

24 (4) by amending subsection (d), as so redesign-
25 nated, to read as follows:

1 “(d) MEMBERSHIP.—

2 “(1) COMPOSITION.—The membership of each
3 regional advisory committee shall—

4 “(A) not exceed 25 members;

5 “(B) include the chief State school officer,
6 or such officer’s designee, or other State offi-
7 cial, of States within the region of the com-
8 mittee who have primary responsibility under
9 State law for elementary and secondary edu-
10 cation in the State;

11 “(C) include representatives of local edu-
12 cational agencies, including rural and urban
13 local educational agencies, that represent the
14 geographic diversity of the region; and

15 “(D) include researchers.

16 “(2) ELIGIBILITY.—The membership of each
17 regional advisory committee may include the fol-
18 lowing:

19 “(A) Representatives of institutions of
20 higher education.

21 “(B) Parents.

22 “(C) Practicing educators, including class-
23 room teachers, school leaders, administrators,
24 school board members, and other local school
25 officials.

1 “(D) Representatives of business.

2 “(E) Policymakers.

3 “(F) Representatives from the regional
4 educational laboratory and comprehensive cen-
5 ters in the region.

6 “(2) RECOMMENDATIONS.—In choosing individ-
7 uals for membership on a regional advisory com-
8 mittee, the Secretary shall consult with, and solicit
9 recommendations from, the chief executive officers of
10 States, chief State school officers, local educational
11 agencies, and other education stakeholders within
12 the applicable region.

13 “(3) SPECIAL RULE.—The total number of
14 members on each committee who are selected under
15 subparagraphs (B) and (C) of paragraph (1), in the
16 aggregate, shall exceed the total number of members
17 who are selected under paragraph (2), collectively.”;

18 (5) in subsection (e), as so redesignated—

19 (A) in paragraph (1)—

20 (i) by inserting “, at least on a bien-
21 nial basis,” after “assess”; and

22 (ii) by inserting “, strengths, and
23 weaknesses” after “educational needs”;

24 (B) in paragraph (2)—

1 (i) by striking “State school officers,”
2 and all that follows through “within the re-
3 gion)” and inserting “State school officers,
4 local educational agencies, representatives
5 of public charter schools, educators, par-
6 ents, and others within the region”;

7 (ii) by striking “of the Education
8 Sciences Reform Act of 2002 and section
9 203 of this title” and inserting “and sec-
10 tion 203”; and

11 (iii) by striking “and” at the end;

12 (C) by redesignating paragraph (3) as
13 paragraph (4);

14 (D) by inserting after paragraph (2) the
15 following new paragraph:

16 “(3) use available State and local data, con-
17 sistent with privacy protections under section 183,
18 to determine regional educational needs; and”.

19 **SEC. 207. PRIORITIES.**

20 Section 207 (20 U.S.C. 9606) is amended—

21 (1) by inserting “Director and” before “Sec-
22 retary shall establish”;

23 (2) by striking “of the Education Sciences Re-
24 form Act of 2002”;

25 (3) by striking “of this title”;

1 (4) by striking “to address, taking onto ac-
2 count” and inserting “, respectively, using the re-
3 sults of”; and

4 (5) by striking “relevant regional” and all that
5 follows through “Secretary deems appropriate” and
6 inserting “relevant regional and national surveys of
7 educational needs”.

8 **SEC. 208. GRANT PROGRAM FOR STATEWIDE LONGITU-**
9 **DINAL DATA SYSTEMS.**

10 Section 208 (20 U.S.C. 9607) is amended—

11 (1) in subsection (a)—

12 (A) by inserting before the period the fol-
13 lowing: “, the Higher Education Act of 1965
14 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.), and the Individuals
15 with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C.
16 1400 et seq.)”; and

17 (B) by adding at the end the following:
18 “State educational agencies receiving a grant
19 under this section may provide subgrants to
20 local educational agencies to improve the capac-
21 ity of local educational agencies to carry out the
22 activities authorized under this section.”;

23 (2) by redesignating subsections (c), (d), and
24 (e) as subsections (d), (e), and (g), respectively;

1 (3) by inserting after subsection (b), the fol-
2 lowing:

3 “(c) PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT.—Before award-
4 ing a grant under this section, the Secretary shall estab-
5 lish measurable performance indicators—

6 “(1) to be used to assess the ongoing progress
7 and performance of State educational agencies re-
8 ceiving a grant under this section; and

9 “(2) that address paragraphs (1) through (3) of
10 the performance management system described in
11 section 185.”;

12 (4) in subsection (d), as so redesignated—

13 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “, pro-
14 motes linkages across States,”;

15 (B) in paragraph (2)—

16 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
17 graph (A), by inserting “supports school
18 improvement and” after “data that”;

19 (ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking
20 “and other reporting requirements and
21 close achievement gaps; and” and inserting
22 “, other reporting requirements, close
23 achievement gaps, and improve teaching.”;

24 (iii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
25 “and close achievement gaps” and by in-

1 serting “, close achievement gaps, and im-
2 prove teaching”; and

3 (iv) by inserting after subparagraph
4 (B) the following:

5 “(C) to align statewide longitudinal data
6 systems from early education through postsec-
7 ondary education (including pre-service prepa-
8 ration programs), and the workforce, consistent
9 with privacy protections under section 183;”;
10 and

11 (C) by striking paragraph (3) and insert-
12 ing the following:

13 “(3) ensures the protection of student privacy,
14 and includes a review of how State educational agen-
15 cies, local educational agencies, and others that will
16 have access to the statewide data systems under this
17 section will adhere to Federal privacy laws and pro-
18 tections, consistent with section 183, in the building,
19 maintenance, and use of such data systems;

20 “(4) ensures State educational agencies receiv-
21 ing a grant under this section support professional
22 development that builds the capacity of teachers and
23 school leaders to use data effectively; and

24 “(5) gives priority to State educational agencies
25 that leverage the use of longitudinal data systems to

1 improve student achievement and growth, including
2 such State educational agencies that—

3 “(A) meet the voluntary standards and
4 guidelines described in section 153(a)(5);

5 “(B) define the roles of State educational
6 agencies, local educational agencies, and others
7 in providing timely access to data under the
8 statewide data systems, consistent with privacy
9 protections in section 183; and

10 “(C) demonstrate the capacity to share
11 teacher and school leader performance data, in-
12 cluding student achievement and growth data,
13 with local educational agencies and teacher and
14 school leader preparation programs.”;

15 (5) by inserting after subsection (e), as so re-
16 designated, the following:

17 “(f) RENEWAL OF AWARDS.—The Secretary may
18 renew a grant awarded to a State educational agency
19 under this section for a period not to exceed 3 years, if
20 the State educational agency has demonstrated progress
21 on the measurable performance indicators established
22 under subsection (c).”; and

23 (6) by amending subsection (g), as so redesign-
24 nated, to read as follows:

25 “(g) REPORTS.—

1 “(1) FIRST REPORT.—Not later than 1 year
2 after the date of enactment of the Strengthening
3 Education through Research Act, the Secretary shall
4 prepare and make publicly available a report on the
5 implementation and effectiveness of the activities
6 carried out by State educational agencies receiving a
7 grant under this section, including—

8 “(A) information on progress in the devel-
9 opment and use of statewide longitudinal data
10 systems described in this section;

11 “(B) information on best practices and
12 areas for improvement in such development and
13 use; and

14 “(C) how the State educational agencies
15 are adhering to Federal privacy laws and pro-
16 tections in the building, maintenance, and use
17 of such data systems.

18 “(2) SUCCEEDING REPORTS.—Every succeeding
19 3 years after the report is made publicly available
20 under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall prepare
21 and make publicly available a report on the imple-
22 mentation and effectiveness of the activities carried
23 out by State educational agencies receiving a grant
24 under this section, including—

1 “(A) information on the requirements of
2 subparagraphs (A) through (C) of paragraph
3 (1); and

4 “(B) the progress, in the aggregate, State
5 educational agencies are making on the measur-
6 able performance indicators established under
7 subsection (c).”.

8 **SEC. 209. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

9 Section 209 (20 U.S.C. 9608) is amended to read as
10 follows:

11 **“SEC. 209. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

12 “There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
13 this title—

14 “(1) for fiscal year 2015, \$82,984,000;

15 “(2) for fiscal year 2016, \$83,149,968;

16 “(3) for fiscal year 2017, \$84,979,268;

17 “(4) for fiscal year 2018, \$87,018,769;

18 “(5) for fiscal year 2019, \$89,368,277; and

19 “(6) for fiscal year 2020, \$90,708,801.”.

20 **TITLE III—NATIONAL ASSESS-**
21 **MENT OF EDUCATIONAL**
22 **PROGRESS**

23 **SEC. 301. REFERENCES.**

24 Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in
25 this title an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms

1 of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provi-
2 sion, the reference shall be considered to be made to a
3 section or other provision of the National Assessment of
4 Educational Progress Authorization Act (20 U.S.C. 9621
5 et seq.).

6 **SEC. 302. NATIONAL ASSESSMENT GOVERNING BOARD.**

7 Section 302 (20 U.S.C. 9621) is amended—

8 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “shall formu-
9 late policy guidelines” and inserting “shall oversee
10 and set policies, in a manner consistent with sub-
11 section (e) and accepted professional standards,”;

12 (2) in subsection (b)(1)(L)—

13 (A) by striking “principals” and inserting
14 “leaders”; and

15 (B) by striking “principal” both places it
16 appears and inserting “leader”;

17 (3) in subsection (c), by striking paragraph (4);

18 (4) in subsection (d)—

19 (A) in paragraph (1)—

20 (i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting
21 “the Assessment Board after consultation
22 with” before “organizations”; and

23 (ii) in subparagraph (B)—

24 (I) by striking “Each organiza-
25 tion submitting nominations to the

1 Secretary with” and inserting “With”;

2 and

3 (II) by inserting “, the Assess-
4 ment Board” after “particular va-
5 cancy”; and

6 (B) in paragraph (2)—

7 (i) by striking “that each organization
8 described in paragraph (1)(A) submit addi-
9 tional nominations” and inserting “addi-
10 tional nominations from the Assessment
11 Board or each organization described in
12 paragraph (1)(A)”;

13 (ii) by striking “such organization”
14 and inserting “the Assessment Board”;
15 and

16 (5) in subsection (e)(1)—

17 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

18 (i) by inserting “in consultation with
19 the Commissioner for Education Statis-
20 tics,” before “select”;

21 (ii) by inserting “and grades or ages”
22 before “to be”; and

23 (iii) by inserting “, and determine the
24 year in which such assessments will be
25 conducted” after “assessed”;

1 (B) in subparagraph (D), by inserting
2 “school leaders,” after “teachers,”;

3 (C) in subparagraph (E), by striking “de-
4 sign” and inserting “provide input on”;

5 (D) by redesignating subparagraph (J) as
6 subparagraph (K);

7 (E) by inserting after subparagraph (I),
8 the following:

9 “(J) provide input to the Director on an-
10 nual budget requests for the National Assess-
11 ment of Educational Progress; and”;

12 (F) in subparagraph (K), as so redesign-
13 ated—

14 (i) by striking “plan and execute the
15 initial public release of”; and

16 (ii) by inserting “release the initial”
17 before “National”; and

18 (G) in the matter following subparagraph
19 (K), as so amended and redesignated, by strik-
20 ing “subparagraph (J)” and inserting “sub-
21 paragraph (K)”.

22 **SEC. 303. NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL**
23 **PROGRESS.**

24 Section 303 (20 U.S.C. 9622) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “with the ad-
2 vice of the Assessment Board established under sec-
3 tion 302” and inserting “in a manner consistent
4 with accepted professional standards and the policies
5 set forth by the Assessment Board under section
6 302(a)”;

7 (2) in subsection (b)(2)—

8 (A) in subparagraph (D), by inserting
9 “and consistent with section 302(e)(1)(A)”
10 after “resources allow”;

11 (B) by striking “and” at the end of sub-
12 paragraph (G);

13 (C) by striking the period and inserting “;
14 and” at the end of subparagraph (H); and

15 (D) by adding at the end the following new
16 subparagraph:

17 “(I) determine, after taking into account
18 section 302(e)(1)(I), the content of initial and
19 subsequent reports of all assessments author-
20 ized under this section and ensure that such re-
21 ports are valid and reliable.”;

22 (3) in subsection (c)(2)—

23 (A) in subparagraph (B), by striking “of
24 Education” after “Secretary”; and

25 (B) in subparagraph (D)—

1 (i) by striking “Chairman of the
2 House” before “Committee on Education”;

3 (ii) by inserting “of the House of Rep-
4 resentatives” after “Workforce”;

5 (iii) by striking “Chairman of the
6 Senate” before “Committee on Health”;

7 and

8 (iv) by inserting “of the Senate” after
9 “Pensions”;

10 (4) in subsection (d)(1), by inserting before the
11 period, the following: “, except as required under
12 section 1112(b)(1)(F) of the Elementary and Sec-
13 ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
14 6312(b)(1)(F))”;

15 (5) in subsection (e)—

16 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “or age”;

17 and

18 (B) in paragraph (2)—

19 (i) in subparagraph (A)—

20 (I) by striking “shall” and all
21 that follows through “be” and insert
22 “shall be”;

23 (II) by redesignating subclauses
24 (I) and (II) as clauses (i) and (ii), re-
25 spectively; and

1 (III) in clause (ii) (as so redesignig-
2 nated), by striking “, or the age of
3 the students, as the case may be”;

4 (ii) in subparagraph (B)—

5 (I) by striking “After the deter-
6 minations described in subparagraph
7 (A), devising” and inserting “The As-
8 sessment Board shall, in making the
9 determination described in subpara-
10 graph (A), use”; and

11 (II) by inserting after “ap-
12 proach” the following: “, providing for
13 the active participation of teachers,
14 school leaders, curriculum specialists,
15 local school administrators, parents,
16 and concerned members of the general
17 public”; and

18 (iii) in subparagraph (D), by inserting
19 “Assessment” before “Board”; and

20 (6) in subsection (g)(2)—

21 (A) in the heading, by striking “AFFAIRS”
22 and inserting “EDUCATION”; and

23 (B) by striking “Affairs” and inserting
24 “Education”.

1 **SEC. 304. DEFINITIONS.**

2 Section 304 (20 U.S.C. 9623) is amended—

3 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “(1)” and in-
4 sserting “(1) DIRECTOR—”;

5 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “(2)” and in-
6 sserting “(2) STATE—”; and

7 (3) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) (as
8 so amended) as paragraphs (2) and (5), respectively;

9 (4) by inserting before paragraph (2) (as so re-
10 designated) the following new paragraph:

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The terms ‘elementary
12 school’, ‘local educational agency’, and ‘secondary
13 school’ have the meanings given those terms in sec-
14 tion 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
15 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).”; and

16 (5) by inserting after paragraph (2) (as so re-
17 designated), the following new paragraphs:

18 “(3) SCHOOL LEADER.—The term ‘school lead-
19 er’ has the meaning given the term in section 102.

20 “(4) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means
21 the Secretary of Education.”.

22 **SEC. 305. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

23 Section 305(a) (20 U.S.C. 9624(a)) is amended to
24 read as follows:

25 “(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be ap-
26 propriated—

1 “(1) for fiscal year 2015—

2 “(A) \$8,235,000 to carry out section 302
3 (relating to the National Assessment Governing
4 Board); and

5 “(B) \$132,000,000 to carry out section
6 303 (relating to the National Assessment of
7 Educational Progress);

8 “(2) for fiscal year 2016—

9 “(A) \$8,251,470 to carry out section 302
10 (relating to the National Assessment Governing
11 Board); and

12 “(B) \$132,264,000 to carry out section
13 303 (relating to the National Assessment of
14 Educational Progress);

15 “(3) for fiscal year 2017—

16 “(A) \$8,433,002 to carry out section 302
17 (relating to the National Assessment Governing
18 Board); and

19 “(B) \$135,173,808 to carry out section
20 303 (relating to the National Assessment of
21 Educational Progress);

22 “(4) for fiscal year 2018—

23 “(A) \$8,635,395 to carry out section 302
24 (relating to the National Assessment Governing
25 Board); and

1 “(B) \$138,417,979 to carry out section
2 303 (relating to the National Assessment of
3 Educational Progress);

4 “(5) for fiscal year 2019—

5 “(A) \$8,868,550 to carry out section 302
6 (relating to the National Assessment Governing
7 Board); and

8 “(B) \$142,155,266 to carry out section
9 303 (relating to the National Assessment of
10 Educational Progress); and

11 “(6) for fiscal year 2020—

12 “(A) \$9,001,578 to carry out section 302
13 (relating to the National Assessment Governing
14 Board); and

15 “(B) \$144,287,595 to carry out section
16 303 (relating to the National Assessment of
17 Educational Progress).”.

18 **TITLE IV—EVALUATION PLAN**

19 **SEC. 401. RESEARCH AND EVALUATION.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Institute of Education
21 Sciences shall be the primary entity for conducting re-
22 search on and evaluations of Federal education programs
23 within the Department of Education to ensure the rigor
24 and independence of such research and evaluation.

25 (b) FLEXIBLE AUTHORITY.—

1 (1) RESERVATION.—Notwithstanding any other
2 provision of law in the Elementary and Secondary
3 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. et seq.) related
4 to evaluation, the Secretary of Education, in con-
5 sultation with the Director of the Institute of Edu-
6 cation Sciences—

7 (A) may, for purposes of carrying out the
8 activities described in paragraph (2)(B)—

9 (i) reserve not more than 0.5 percent
10 of the total amount of funds appropriated
11 for each program authorized under the El-
12 ementary and Secondary Education Act of
13 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.), other than
14 part A of title I of such Act (20 U.S.C.
15 6311 et seq.) and section 1501 of such Act
16 (20 U.S.C. 6491); and

17 (ii) reserve, in the manner described
18 in subparagraph (B), an amount equal to
19 not more than 0.1 percent of the total
20 amount of funds appropriated for—

21 (I) part A of title I of the Ele-
22 mentary and Secondary Education
23 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311 et seq.);
24 and

1 (II) section 1501 of such Act (20
2 U.S.C. 6491); and

3 (B) in reserving the amount described in
4 subparagraph (A)(ii)—

5 (i) shall reserve up to the total
6 amount of funds appropriated for section
7 1501 of the Elementary and Secondary
8 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6491);
9 and

10 (ii) may, in a case in which the total
11 amount of funds appropriated for such sec-
12 tion 1501 (20 U.S.C. 6491) is less than
13 the amount described in subparagraph
14 (A)(ii), reserve the amount of funds appro-
15 priated for part A of title I of the Elemen-
16 tary and Secondary Education Act of 1965
17 (20 U.S.C. 6311 et seq.) that is needed for
18 the sum of the total amount of funds ap-
19 propriated for such section 1501 (20
20 U.S.C. 6491) and such amount of funds
21 appropriated for such part A of title I (20
22 U.S.C. 6311 et seq.) to equal the amount
23 described in subparagraph (A)(ii).

24 (2) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—If funds are re-
25 served under paragraph (1)—

1 (A) neither the Secretary of Education nor
2 the Director of the Institute of Education
3 Sciences shall—

4 (i) carry out evaluations under section
5 1501 of the Elementary and Secondary
6 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6491);
7 or

8 (ii) reserve funds for evaluation activi-
9 ties under section 3111(c)(1)(C) of such
10 Act (20 U.S.C. 6821); and

11 (B) the Secretary of Education, in con-
12 sultation with the Director of the Institute of
13 Education Sciences—

14 (i) shall use the funds reserved under
15 paragraph (1) to carry out high-quality
16 evaluations (consistent with the require-
17 ments of section 173(a) of the Education
18 Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (20 U.S.C.
19 9563(a)), as amended by this Act, and the
20 evaluation plan described in subsection (c)
21 of this section) of programs authorized
22 under the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
23 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et
24 seq.); and

1 (ii) may use the funds reserved under
2 paragraph (1) to—

3 (I) increase the usefulness of the
4 evaluations conducted under clause (i)
5 to promote continuous improvement of
6 programs under the Elementary and
7 Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
8 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.); or

9 (II) assist grantees of such pro-
10 grams in collecting and analyzing data
11 and other activities related to con-
12 ducting high-quality evaluations under
13 clause (i).

14 (3) DISSEMINATION.—The Secretary of Edu-
15 cation or the Director of the Institute of Education
16 Sciences shall disseminate evaluation findings, con-
17 sistent with section 114(j) of the Education Sciences
18 Reform Act of 2002 (20 U.S.C. 9514(j)), as amend-
19 ed by this Act, of evaluations carried out under
20 paragraph (2)(B)(i).

21 (4) CONSOLIDATION.—The Secretary of Edu-
22 cation, in consultation with the Director of the Insti-
23 tute of Education Sciences—

1 (A) may consolidate the funds reserved
2 under paragraph (1) for purposes of carrying
3 out the activities under paragraph (2)(B); and

4 (B) shall not be required to evaluate under
5 paragraph (2)(B)(i) each program authorized
6 under the Elementary and Secondary Education
7 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) each year.

8 (c) EVALUATION PLAN.—The Director of the Insti-
9 tute of Education Sciences, in consultation with the Sec-
10 retary of Education, shall, on a biennial basis, develop,
11 submit to Congress, and make publicly available an eval-
12 uation plan, that—

13 (1) describes the specific activities that will be
14 carried out under subsection (b)(2)(B) for the 2-year
15 period applicable to the plan, and the timelines of
16 such activities; and

17 (2) contains the results of the activities carried
18 out under subsection (b)(2)(B) for the most recent
19 2-year period.

20 (d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
21 tion shall be construed to affect section 173(b) of the Edu-
22 cation Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (20 U.S.C. 9563(b)),
23 as amended by this Act.

