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(Original Signature of Member)

113TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R.

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To strengthen the Federal education research system to make research and evaluations more timely and relevant to State and local needs in order to increase student achievement.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. ROKITA (for himself, Mr. KLINE, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, and Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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# A BILL

To strengthen the Federal education research system to make research and evaluations more timely and relevant to State and local needs in order to increase student achievement.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

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

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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”;

1 (2) in paragraph (10)—

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

4 (B) by inserting “school leaders,” after  
5 “teachers,”;

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

8 (4) by striking paragraph (13);

9 (5) by redesignating paragraphs (14) and (15)  
10 as paragraphs (13) and (14), respectively;

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

13 “(15) MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTION.—The  
14 term ‘minority-serving institution’ means an institu-  
15 tion of higher education described in section 371(a)  
16 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
17 1067q(a)).”;

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

20 “(18) PRINCIPLES OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH.—  
21 The term ‘principles of scientific research’ means  
22 principles of research that—

23 “(A) apply rigorous, systematic, and objec-  
24 tive methodology to obtain reliable and valid

1 knowledge relevant to education activities and  
2 programs;

3 “(B) present findings and make claims  
4 that are appropriate to, and supported by, the  
5 methods that have been employed; and

6 “(C) include, appropriate to the research  
7 being conducted—

8 “(i) use of systematic, empirical meth-  
9 ods that draw on observation or experi-  
10 ment;

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

13 “(iii) reliance on measurements or ob-  
14 servational methods that provide reliable  
15 and generalizable findings;

16 “(iv) strong claims of causal relation-  
17 ships, only with research designs that  
18 eliminate plausible competing explanations  
19 for observed results, such as, but not lim-  
20 ited to, random-assignment experiments;

21 “(v) presentation of studies and meth-  
22 ods in sufficient detail and clarity to allow  
23 for replication or, at a minimum, to offer  
24 the opportunity to build systematically on  
25 the findings of the research;

1                   “(vi) acceptance by a peer-reviewed  
2                   journal or critique by a panel of inde-  
3                   pendent experts through a comparably rig-  
4                   orous, objective, and scientific review; and

5                   “(vii) consistency of findings across  
6                   multiple studies or sites to support the  
7                   generality of results and conclusions.”;

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

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

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

15                         “(A) an employee or officer of—

16                                 “(i) an elementary school or sec-  
17                                 ondary school;

18                                 “(ii) a local educational agency serv-  
19                                 ing an elementary school or secondary  
20                                 school; or

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

23                                 “(B) responsible for the daily instructional  
24                                 leadership and managerial operations of the ele-  
25                                 mentary school or secondary school.”.

1           **PART A—THE INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION**  
2   **SCIENCES**

3 **SEC. 111. ESTABLISHMENT.**

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

5                   (1) in subsection (b)(2)—

6                           (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph

7                           (A)—

8                                   (i) by striking “and wide dissemina-  
9                                   tion activities” and inserting “and, con-  
10                                   sistent with section 114(j), wide dissemina-  
11                                   tion and utilization activities” and

12                                   (ii) by striking “(including in tech-  
13                                   nology areas)”; and

14                           (B) in subparagraph (B), by inserting  
15                           “disability,” after “gender”.

16 **SEC. 112. FUNCTIONS.**

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

18                   (1) in paragraph (1)—

19                           (A) by inserting “(including evaluations of  
20                           impact and implementation)” after “education  
21                           evaluation”; and

22                           (B) by inserting before the semicolon the  
23                           following “and utilization”; and

24                   (2) in paragraph (2)—

25                           (A) by inserting “, consistent with section  
26                           114(j),” after “disseminate”; and

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

4 **SEC. 113. DELEGATION.**

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

6 (1) in subsection (a)—

7 (A) by striking paragraph (1);

8 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (2)  
9 through (5) as paragraphs (1) through (4), re-  
10 spectively; and

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

14 (2) in subsection (b), by striking “Secretary  
15 may assign the Institute responsibility for admin-  
16 istering” and by inserting “Director may accept re-  
17 quests from the Secretary for the Institute to admin-  
18 ister”; and

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

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

23 “(1) during the procurement process; and

24 “(2) in the management of such contract’s per-  
25 formance, which shall be consistent with the require-

1       ments of the performance management system de-  
2       scribed in section 185.”.

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

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

5           (1) in subsection (a), by striking “Except as  
6       provided in subsection (b)(2), the” and inserting  
7       “The”;

8           (2) in subsection (b)—

9           (A) in paragraph (1), by inserting before  
10       the period the following: “, except that if a suc-  
11       cessor to the Director has not been appointed  
12       as of the date of expiration of the Director’s  
13       term, the Director may serve for an additional  
14       1-year period, beginning on the day after the  
15       date of expiration of the Director’s term, or  
16       until a successor has been appointed under sub-  
17       section (a), whichever occurs first”;

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

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

23           (C) in paragraph (3)—

1 (i) in the heading, by striking “SUB-  
2 SEQUENT DIRECTORS” and inserting  
3 “RECOMMENDATIONS”; and

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

6 (3) in subsection (f)—

7 (A) in paragraph (3), by inserting before  
8 the period the following: “, and, as appropriate,  
9 with such research and activities carried out by  
10 public and private entities, to avoid duplicative  
11 or overlapping efforts”;

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

14 (C) in paragraph (5)—

15 (i) by inserting “and maintain” after  
16 “establish”; and

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

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

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

24 (F) by amending paragraph (9) to read as  
25 follows:

1           “(9) To coordinate with the Secretary to ensure  
2           that the results of the Institute’s work are coordi-  
3           nated with, and utilized by, the Department’s tech-  
4           nical assistance providers and dissemination net-  
5           works.”;

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

7           (H) by redesignating paragraph (12) as  
8           paragraph (10);

9           (4) by redesignating subsection (h) as sub-  
10          section (i);

11          (5) by inserting after subsection (g), the fol-  
12          lowing:

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

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

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

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

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

1 (B) by striking “certify that evidence-  
2 based claims about those products and” and in-  
3 serting “determine whether evidence-based  
4 claims in those”; and

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

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

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

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

15 “(A) prepared and widely disseminated—

16 “(i) in a timely fashion; and

17 “(ii) in forms that are understand-  
18 able, easily accessible, and usable, or  
19 adaptable for use in, the improvement of  
20 educational practice; and

21 “(B) widely disseminated through elec-  
22 tronic transfer, and other means, such as post-  
23 ing to the Institute’s website or other relevant  
24 place;

1           “(3) promote the utilization of the information,  
2           products, and publications of the Institute, including  
3           through the use of dissemination networks and tech-  
4           nical assistance providers, within the Institute and  
5           the Department; and

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

9 **SEC. 115. PRIORITIES.**

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

11           (1) in subsection (a)—

12           (A) in the matter preceding paragraph

13           (1)—

14           (i) by striking “(taking into consider-  
15           ation long term research and development  
16           on core issues conducted through the na-  
17           tional research and development centers)”  
18           and inserting “at least once every 6  
19           years”; and

20           (ii) by striking “such as” and insert-  
21           ing “including”;

22           (B) in paragraph (1)—

23           (i) by inserting “ensuring that all chil-  
24           dren have the ability to obtain a high-qual-

1           ity education, particularly”; before “clos-  
2           ing”;

3           (ii) by striking “especially achieve-  
4           ment gaps between”;

5           (iii) by striking “nonminority chil-  
6           dren” and inserting “nonminority children,  
7           disabled and nondisabled children,”;

8           (iv) by striking “and between dis-  
9           advantaged” and inserting “and disadvan-  
10          taged”;

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

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

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

14           “(2) improving the quality of early childhood  
15          education;

16           “(3) improving education in elementary and  
17          secondary schools, particularly among low per-  
18          forming students and schools; and

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

21          (2) in subsection (d), by striking “by means of  
22          the Internet” and inserting “by electronic means  
23          such as posting in an easily accessible manner on  
24          the Institute’s website”.

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

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

3 (1) in subsection (b)—

4 (A) in paragraph (2), by striking “to guide  
5 the work of the Institute” and inserting “and  
6 to advise, and provide input to, the Director on  
7 the activities of the Institute on an ongoing  
8 basis”;

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

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

13 (D) in paragraph (9)—

14 (i) by striking “To solicit” and insert-  
15 ing “To ensure all activities of the Insti-  
16 tute are relevant to education policy and  
17 practice by soliciting, on an ongoing  
18 basis,”; and

19 (ii) by striking “consistent with” and  
20 inserting “consistent with section 114(j)  
21 and”;

22 (E) in paragraph (11)—

23 (i) by inserting “the Institute’s” after  
24 “enhance”; and

25 (ii) by striking “among other Federal  
26 and State research agencies” and inserting

1 “with public and private entities to im-  
2 prove the work of the Institute”; and

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

4 “(13) To conduct the evaluations required  
5 under subsection (d).”;

6 (2) in subsection (c)—

7 (A) in paragraph (2)—

8 (i) by inserting “Board,” before “Na-  
9 tional Academy”;

10 (ii) by striking “and the National  
11 Science Advisor” and inserting “the Na-  
12 tional Science Advisor, and other entities  
13 and organizations that have knowledge of  
14 individuals who are highly-qualified to ap-  
15 praise education research, statistics, eval-  
16 uations, or development.”;

17 (B) in paragraph (4)—

18 (i) in subparagraph (A)—

19 (I) in clause (i), by striking “,  
20 which may include those researchers  
21 recommended by the National Acad-  
22 emy of Sciences”;

23 (II) by redesignating clause (ii)  
24 as clause (iii);

1 (III) by inserting after clause (i),  
2 the following:

3 “(ii) Not fewer than 2 practitioners  
4 who are knowledgeable about the education  
5 needs of the United States, who may in-  
6 clude school based professional educators,  
7 teachers, school leaders, local educational  
8 agency superintendents, and members of  
9 local boards of education or Bureau-funded  
10 school boards.”; and

11 (IV) in clause (iii), as so redesign-  
12 nated—

13 (aa) by striking “school  
14 based professional educators,”

15 (bb) by striking “local edu-  
16 cational agency superintendents,”

17 (cc) by striking “prin-  
18 cipals,”;

19 (dd) by striking “or local”;  
20 and

21 (ee) by striking “or Bureau-  
22 funded school boards”; and

23 (ii) in subparagraph (B)—

24 (I) in the matter preceding clause  
25 (i), by inserting “beginning on the

- 1 date of appointment of the member”  
2 after “4 years,”;  
3 (II) by striking clause (i);  
4 (III) by redesignating clause (ii)  
5 as clause (i);  
6 (IV) in clause (i), as so redesign-  
7 nated, by striking the period and in-  
8 serting “; and”; and  
9 (V) by adding at the end the fol-  
10 lowing:  
11 “(ii) in a case in which a successor to  
12 a member has not been appointed as of the  
13 date of expiration of the member’s term,  
14 the member may serve for an additional 1-  
15 year period, beginning on the day after the  
16 date of expiration of the member’s term, or  
17 until a successor has been appointed under  
18 paragraph (1), whichever occurs first.”.;  
19 (iii) by striking subparagraph (C);  
20 and  
21 (iv) by redesignating subparagraph  
22 (D) as subparagraph (C);  
23 (C) in paragraph (8)—

1 (i) by redesignating subparagraphs  
2 (A) through (E) as subparagraphs (B)  
3 through (F), respectively;

4 (ii) by inserting before subparagraph  
5 (B), as so redesignated, the following:

6 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In the exercise of its  
7 duties under section 116(b) and in accordance  
8 with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5  
9 U.S.C. App.), the Board shall be independent of  
10 the Director and the other offices and officers  
11 of the Institute.”;

12 (iii) in subparagraph (B), as so reded-  
13 igned, by inserting before the period at  
14 the end the following: “for a term of not  
15 more than 6 years, and who may be re-  
16 appointed by the Board for 1 additional  
17 term of not more than 6 years”; and

18 (iv) by adding at the end the fol-  
19 lowing:

20 “(G) SUBCOMMITTEES.—The Board may  
21 establish standing or temporary subcommittees  
22 to make recommendations to the Board for car-  
23 rying out activities authorized under this title.”;

24 (3) by striking subsection (d);

1 (4) by redesignating subsection (e) as sub-  
2 section (d);

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

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

6 (B) by striking “The Board” and inserting  
7 the following:

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board”;

9 (C) by striking “not later than July 1 of  
10 each year, a” and inserting “and make widely  
11 available to the public (including by electronic  
12 means such as posting in an easily accessible  
13 manner on the Institute’s website), a triennial”;  
14 and

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

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

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

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

23 “(ii) is conducted by an independent  
24 entity;

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

4           “(C) any recommendations regarding ac-  
5 tions that may be taken to enhance the ability  
6 of the Institute and the National Education  
7 Centers to carry out their priorities and mis-  
8 sions; and

9           “(D) a summary of the major research  
10 findings of the Institute and the activities car-  
11 ried out under section 113(b) during the 3 pre-  
12 ceding fiscal years.

13           “(3) NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION EVAL-  
14 UATION AND REGIONAL ASSISTANCE.—With respect  
15 to the National Center for Education Evaluation  
16 and Regional Assistance, an evaluation report de-  
17 scribed in paragraph (1) shall contain—

18           “(A) an evaluation described in paragraph  
19 (2)(A) of the activities authorized for such Cen-  
20 ter, except for the regional educational labora-  
21 tories established under section 174; and

22           “(B) a summative or interim evaluation,  
23 whichever is most recent, for each such labora-  
24 tory conducted under section 174(i) on or after  
25 the date of enactment of the Strengthening

1 Education through Research Act or, in a case  
2 in which such an evaluation is not available for  
3 a laboratory, the most recent evaluation for the  
4 laboratory conducted prior to the date of enact-  
5 ment of the Strengthening Education through  
6 Research Act.”; and

7 (6) by striking subsection (f).

8 **SEC. 117. COMMISSIONERS OF THE NATIONAL EDUCATION**  
9 **CENTERS.**

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

11 (1) in subsection (a)—

12 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “Except  
13 as provided in subsection (b), each” and insert-  
14 ing “Each”;

15 (B) in paragraph (2)—

16 (i) by striking “Except as provided in  
17 subsection (b), each” and inserting  
18 “Each”; and

19 (ii) by inserting “, statistics,” after  
20 “research”;

21 (C) in paragraph (3), by striking “Except  
22 as provided in subsection (b), each” and insert-  
23 ing “Each”;

24 (2) by striking subsection (b);

1           (3) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as  
2           subsections (b) and (c), respectively; and

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

6 **SEC. 118. TRANSPARENCY.**

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

9 **“SEC. 119. TRANSPARENCY.**

10           “Not later than 120 days after awarding a grant,  
11           contract, or cooperative agreement under this title in ex-  
12           cess of \$100,000, the Director shall make publicly avail-  
13           able (including through electronic means such as posting  
14           in an easily accessible manner on the Institute’s website)  
15           a description of the grant, contract, or cooperative agree-  
16           ment, including, at a minimum, the amount, duration, re-  
17           cipient, and the purpose of the grant, contract, or coopera-  
18           tive agreement.”.

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

          “Sec. 119. Transparency.”.

1 **SEC. 119. COMPETITIVE AWARDS.**

2 Section 120 (20 U.S.C. 9520) is amended by striking  
3 “when practicable” and inserting “consistent with section  
4 114(h)”.

5 **PART B—NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION**  
6 **RESEARCH**

7 **SEC. 131. ESTABLISHMENT.**

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

9 (1) by amending paragraph (1) to read as fol-  
10 lows:

11 “(1) to sponsor sustained research that will  
12 lead to the accumulation of knowledge and under-  
13 standing of education, consistent with the priorities  
14 described in section 115;”;

15 (2) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph  
16 (3);

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

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

20 “(5) consistent with section 114(j), to widely  
21 disseminate and promote utilization of the work of  
22 the Research Center.”.

23 **SEC. 132. DUTIES.**

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

25 (1) in subsection (a)—

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

3 (B) by striking paragraph (2);

4 (C) by redesignating paragraph (3) as  
5 paragraph (2);

6 (D) by striking paragraph (4);

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

10 (F) in paragraph (3), as so redesignated,  
11 by inserting “in the implementation of pro-  
12 grams carried out by the Department and other  
13 agencies” before “within the Federal Govern-  
14 ment”;

15 (G) in paragraph (5), as so redesignated,  
16 by striking “disseminate, through the National  
17 Center for Education Evaluation and Regional  
18 Assistance,” and inserting “widely disseminate,  
19 consistent with section 114(j),”;

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

21 (i) by striking “Director” and insert-  
22 ing “Board”; and

23 (ii) by striking “of a biennial report,  
24 as described in section 119” and inserting

1 “and dissemination of each evaluation re-  
2 port under section 116(d)”;

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

5 (J) by inserting after paragraph (7), as so  
6 redesignated, the following:

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

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

13 “(9) carry out research initiatives, including  
14 rigorous, peer-reviewed, large-scale, long-term, and  
15 broadly applicable empirical research, regarding the  
16 impact of technology on education, including online  
17 education and hybrid learning.”;

18 (L) in paragraph (10), as so redesignated,  
19 by striking the period and inserting “; and”;  
20 and

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

22 “(11) to the extent feasible, carry out research  
23 on the quality of implementation of practices and  
24 strategies determined to be effective through sci-  
25 entifically valid research.”.

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

3           “(b) PLAN.—The Research Commissioner shall pro-  
4           pose to the Director and, subject to the approval of the  
5           Director, implement a research plan for the activities of  
6           the Research Center that—

7           “(1) is consistent with the priorities and mis-  
8           sion of the Institute and the mission of the Research  
9           Center described in section 131(b), and includes the  
10          activities described in subsection (a);

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

15          “(3) describes how the Research Center will use  
16          the performance management system described in  
17          section 185 to assess and improve the activities of  
18          the Center;

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

23          “(5) includes both basic research and applied  
24          research, which shall include research conducted

1 through field-initiated research and ongoing research  
2 initiatives.”;

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

5 (4) by inserting after subsection (b), as so  
6 amended, the following:

7 “(c) GRANTS, CONTRACTS, AND COOPERATIVE  
8 AGREEMENTS.—

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

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

17 “(3) APPLICATIONS.—

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

1           “(B) CONTENT.—An application submitted  
2           under subparagraph (A) shall describe how the  
3           eligible applicant will address and demonstrate  
4           progress on the requirements of the perform-  
5           ance management system described in section  
6           185, with respect to the activities that will be  
7           carried out under the grant, contract, or coop-  
8           erative agreement.”; and

9           (5) in subsection (d), as redesignated by para-  
10          graph (3)—

11           (A) by amending paragraph (1) to read as  
12          follows:

13           “(1) SUPPORT.—In carrying out activities  
14          under subsection (a)(2), the Research Commissioner  
15          shall support national research and development cen-  
16          ters that address topics of importance and relevance  
17          in the field of education across the country and are  
18          consistent with the Institute’s priorities under sec-  
19          tion 115.”;

20           (B) by striking paragraph (2), (3), and  
21          (5);

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

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

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

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

8 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-  
9 lowing:

10 “(C) demonstrates progress on the require-  
11 ments of the performance management system de-  
12 scribed in section 185.”;

13 (E) in paragraph (3), as so redesignated,  
14 by striking “paragraphs (4) and (5)” and in-  
15 serting “paragraph (2)”; and

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

18 “(4) DISAGGREGATION.—To the extent feasible  
19 and when relevant to the research being conducted,  
20 research conducted under this subsection shall be  
21 disaggregated and cross-tabulated by age, race, gen-  
22 der, disability status, English learner status, and so-  
23 cioeconomic background.”.

1 **SEC. 133. STANDARDS FOR CONDUCT AND EVALUATION OF**  
2 **RESEARCH.**

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

4 (1) in subsection (a)—

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

7 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “and  
8 wide dissemination activities” and inserting  
9 “and, consistent with section 114(j), wide dis-  
10 semination and utilization activities”;

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

12 (3) by redesignating subsection (c) as sub-  
13 section (b).

14 **PART C—NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION**  
15 **STATISTICS**

16 **SEC. 151. ESTABLISHMENT.**

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

18 (1) in paragraph (2), by inserting “and con-  
19 sistent with the privacy protections under section  
20 183” after “manner”; and

21 (2) in paragraph (3)—

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

24 (B) by amending subparagraph (B) to read  
25 as follows:

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

3 **SEC. 152. DUTIES.**

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

5                   (1) in subsection (a)—

6                           (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),  
7                           by inserting “, consistent with the privacy pro-  
8                           tections under section 183,” after “Center  
9                           shall”;

10                   (B) in paragraph (1)—

11                           (i) by amending subparagraph (D) to  
12                           read as follows:

13                           “(D) secondary school graduation and  
14                           completion rates, including the four-year ad-  
15                           justed cohort graduation rate (as defined in sec-  
16                           tion 200.19(b)(1)(i)(A) of title 34, Code of Fed-  
17                           eral Regulations, as such section was in effect  
18                           on November 28, 2008) and the extended-year  
19                           adjusted cohort graduation rate (as defined in  
20                           section 200.19(b)(1)(v)(A) of title 34, Code of  
21                           Federal Regulations, as such section was in ef-  
22                           fect on November 28, 2008), and school drop-  
23                           out rates, and adult literacy;”;

1 (ii) in subparagraph (E), by striking  
2 “and opportunity for,” and inserting “op-  
3 portunity for, and completion of”;

4 (iii) by amending subparagraph (F) to  
5 read as follows:

6 “(F) teaching, including information on  
7 pre-service preparation, professional develop-  
8 ment, teacher distribution, and teacher and  
9 school leader evaluation;”;

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

12 (v) in subparagraph (H), by inserting  
13 “, climate, and in- and out-of-school sus-  
14 pensions and expulsions” before “, includ-  
15 ing information regarding”;

16 (vi) by amending subparagraph (K) to  
17 read as follows:

18 “(K) the access to, and use of, technology  
19 to improve elementary schools and secondary  
20 schools;”;

21 (vii) in subparagraph (L), by striking  
22 “and opportunity for,” and inserting “op-  
23 portunity for, and quality of”;

1 (viii) in subparagraph (M), by striking  
2 “such programs during school recesses”  
3 and inserting “summer school”; and

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

6 (C) in paragraph (3), by striking “when  
7 such disaggregated information will facilitate  
8 educational and policy decisionmaking” and in-  
9 serting “so long as any reported information  
10 does not reveal individually identifiable informa-  
11 tion”;

12 (D) in paragraph (4), by inserting before  
13 the semicolon the following: “, and the imple-  
14 mentation (with the assistance of the Depart-  
15 ment and other Federal officials who have stat-  
16 utory authority to provide assistance on appli-  
17 cable privacy laws, regulations, and policies) of  
18 appropriate privacy protections”;

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

21 (F) in paragraph (6)—

22 (i) by striking “Third” and inserting  
23 “Trends in”; and

1 (ii) by inserting “and the Program for  
2 International Student Assessment” after  
3 “Science Study”;

4 (G) in paragraph (7), by inserting before  
5 the semicolon the following: “, ensuring such  
6 collections protect student privacy consistent  
7 with section 183”;

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

10 “(8) assisting the Board in the preparation and  
11 dissemination of each evaluation report under sec-  
12 tion 116(d); and”;

13 (I) by striking paragraph (9);

14 (2) by redesignating subsection (b) as sub-  
15 section (c); and

16 (3) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-  
17 lowing:

18 “(b) PLAN.—The Statistics Commissioner shall pro-  
19 pose to the Director and, subject to the approval of the  
20 Director, implement a plan for activities of the Statistics  
21 Center that—

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

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

5           “(3) describes how the Statistics Center will use  
6           the performance management system described in  
7           section 185 to assess and improve the activities of  
8           the Center.”.

9   **SEC. 153. PERFORMANCE OF DUTIES.**

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

11                 (1) in subsection (a)—

12                         (A) by striking “In carrying” and inserting  
13                         the following:

14                         “(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying”; and

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

16                         “(2) APPLICATIONS.—

17                                 “(A) IN GENERAL.—An entity that wishes  
18                                 to receive a grant, or enter into a contract or  
19                                 cooperative agreement, under this section shall  
20                                 submit an application to the Statistics Commis-  
21                                 sioner at such time, in such manner, and con-  
22                                 taining such information as the Statistics Com-  
23                                 missioner may require.

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

1           how the entity will address and demonstrate  
2           progress on the requirements of the perform-  
3           ance management system described in section  
4           185, with respect to the activities that will be  
5           carried out under the grant, contract, or coop-  
6           erative agreement.”;

7           (2) in subsection (b)(2)(A), by striking “voca-  
8           tional and” and inserting “career and technical edu-  
9           cation programs,”; and

10          (3) in subsection (c), by striking “5 years” the  
11          second place it appears and inserting “2 years if the  
12          recipient demonstrates progress on the requirements  
13          of the performance management system described in  
14          section 185, with respect to the activities carried out  
15          under the grant, contract, or cooperative agreement  
16          received under this section”.

17 **SEC. 154. REPORTS.**

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

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

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

23 **SEC. 155. DISSEMINATION.**

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

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

4           (2) in subsection (e)—

5           (A) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end  
6 the following: “Before receiving access to edu-  
7 cational data under this paragraph, a Federal  
8 agency shall describe to the Statistics Center  
9 the specific research intent for use of the data,  
10 how access to the data may meet such research  
11 intent, and how the Federal agency will protect  
12 the confidentiality of the data consistent with  
13 the requirements of section 183.”;

14           (B) in paragraph (2)—

15           (i) by inserting “and consistent with  
16 section 183,” after “may prescribe”; and

17           (ii) by adding at the end the fol-  
18 lowing: “Before receiving access to data  
19 under this paragraph, an interested party  
20 shall describe to the Statistics Center the  
21 specific research intent for use of the data,  
22 how access to the data may meet such re-  
23 search intent, and how the party will pro-  
24 tect the confidentiality of the data con-

1                   sistent with the requirements of section  
2                   183.”; and

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

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

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

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

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

16                  (2) by striking “national cooperative education  
17                  statistics systems” and inserting “cooperative edu-  
18                  cation statistics partnerships”;

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

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

1           (5) by striking “adult education, and libraries,”  
2           and inserting “and adult education”; and

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

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

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

12       **PART D—NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION**  
13       **EVALUATION AND REGIONAL ASSISTANCE**  
14       **SEC. 171. ESTABLISHMENT.**

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

16           (1) in subsection (b)—

17               (A) by striking paragraph (1);

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

21               (C) in paragraph (1), as so redesignated,  
22           by striking “of such programs” and all that fol-  
23           lows through “science)” and inserting “and to  
24           evaluate the implementation of such programs”;

1 (D) in paragraph (2), as so redesignated,  
2 by striking “and wide dissemination of results  
3 of” and inserting “and, consistent with section  
4 114(j), the wide dissemination and utilization of  
5 results of all”; and  
6 (2) by striking subsection (c).

7 **SEC. 172. COMMISSIONER FOR EDUCATION EVALUATION**  
8 **AND REGIONAL ASSISTANCE.**

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

10 (1) in subsection (a)—

11 (A) by amending paragraph (2) to read as  
12 follows:

13 “(2) widely disseminate, consistent with section  
14 114(j), all information on scientifically valid research  
15 and statistics supported by the Institute and all sci-  
16 entifically valid education evaluations supported by  
17 the Institute, particularly to State educational agen-  
18 cies and local educational agencies, to institutions of  
19 higher education, to the public, the media, voluntary  
20 organizations, professional associations, and other  
21 constituencies, especially with respect to the prior-  
22 ities described in section 115;”;

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

1 (C) in paragraph (4)—

2 (i) by striking “development and dis-  
3 semination” and inserting “development,  
4 dissemination, and utilization”; and

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

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

9 (E) in paragraph (6)—

10 (i) by striking “Director” and insert-  
11 ing “Board”;

12 (ii) by striking “preparation of a bien-  
13 nial report” and inserting “preparation  
14 and dissemination of each evaluation re-  
15 port”; and

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

18 (F) by striking paragraph (7);

19 (2) in subsection (b)(1)—

20 (A) by inserting “all” before “information  
21 disseminated”; and

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

24 (3) by striking subsection (c) and redesignating  
25 subsection (d) as subsection (e); and

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

3           “(c) PLAN.—The Evaluation and Regional Assistance  
4           Commissioner shall propose to the Director and, subject  
5           to the approval of the Director, implement a plan for the  
6           activities of the National Center for Education Evaluation  
7           and Regional Assistance that—

8                   “(1) is consistent with the priorities and mis-  
9                   sion of the Institute and the mission of the Center  
10                  described in section 171(b);

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

15                   “(3) describes how the Center will use the per-  
16                   formance management system described in section  
17                   185 to assess and improve the activities of the Cen-  
18                   ter.

19           “(d) GRANTS, CONTRACTS, AND COOPERATIVE  
20           AGREEMENTS.—

21                   “(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the duties  
22                   under this part (except for section 174), the Evalua-  
23                   tion and Regional Assistance Commissioner may—

24                           “(A) award grants, contracts, or coopera-  
25                           tive agreements to eligible entities to carry out

1 the activities under this part (except for section  
2 174); and

3 “(B) provide technical assistance.

4 “(2) ENTITIES TO CONDUCT EVALUATIONS.—In  
5 awarding grants, contracts, or cooperative agree-  
6 ments under paragraph (1) to carry out activities  
7 under section 173, the Evaluation and Regional As-  
8 sistance Commissioner shall make such awards to el-  
9 igible entities with the ability and capacity to con-  
10 duct scientifically valid education evaluations.

11 “(3) APPLICATIONS.—

12 “(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity that  
13 wishes to receive a grant, contract, or coopera-  
14 tive agreement under paragraph (1) shall sub-  
15 mit an application to the Evaluation and Re-  
16 gional Assistance Commissioner at such time, in  
17 such manner, and containing such information  
18 as the Commissioner may require.

19 “(B) CONTENTS.—An application sub-  
20 mitted under subparagraph (A) shall describe  
21 how the eligible entity will address and dem-  
22 onstrate progress on the requirements of the  
23 performance management system described in  
24 section 185, with respect to the activities car-

1           ried out under such grant, contract, or coopera-  
2           tive agreement.

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

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

16                (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “There is  
17                established” and all that follows through “Re-  
18                gional Assistance” and inserting “The Evalua-  
19                tion and Regional Assistance Commissioner  
20                may establish”;

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

23                (C) in paragraph (2)(B)(ii), by striking  
24                “2002” and all that follows through the period  
25                and inserting “2002.”.

1 **SEC. 173. EVALUATIONS.**

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

3 (1) in subsection (a)—

4 (A) in paragraph (1)—

5 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-  
6 graph (A), by striking “may” and inserting  
7 “shall”;

8 (ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking  
9 “evaluations” and inserting “high-quality  
10 evaluations, including impact evaluations  
11 that use rigorous methodologies that per-  
12 mit the strongest possible causal infer-  
13 ences,”;

14 (iii) in subparagraph (B), by inserting  
15 before the semicolon at the end the fol-  
16 lowing: “, including programs under part  
17 A of such title (20 U.S.C. 6311 et seq.)”;

18 (iv) by striking subparagraph (C) and  
19 redesignating subparagraph (D) as sub-  
20 paragraph (C);

21 (v) by striking subparagraph (E) and  
22 redesignating subparagraph (F) as sub-  
23 paragraph (D); and

24 (vi) by inserting after subparagraph  
25 (D), as so redesignated, the following:

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

4           “(F) support the evaluation activities de-  
5           scribed in section 401 of the Strengthening  
6           Education through Research Act that are car-  
7           ried about by the Director; and

8           “(G) to the extent feasible—

9           “(i) examine evaluations conducted or  
10          supported by others to determine the qual-  
11          ity and relevance of the evidence of effec-  
12          tiveness generated by those evaluations,  
13          with the approval of the Director;

14          “(ii) review and supplement Federal  
15          education program evaluations, particularly  
16          such evaluations by the Department, to de-  
17          termine or enhance the quality and rel-  
18          evance of the evidence generated by those  
19          evaluations;

20          “(iii) conduct implementation evalua-  
21          tions that promote continuous improve-  
22          ment and inform policymaking;

23          “(iv) evaluate the short- and long-  
24          term effects and cost efficiencies across  
25          programs assisted or authorized under

1 Federal law and administrated by the De-  
2 partment; and

3 “(v) synthesize the results of evalua-  
4 tion studies for and across Federal edu-  
5 cation programs, policies, and practices.”;  
6 and

7 (B) in paragraph (2)—

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

10 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking  
11 the period and inserting “under section  
12 114(h); and”; and

13 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-  
14 lowing:

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

17 (2) in subsection (b), by striking “contracts”  
18 and inserting “grants, contracts, or cooperative  
19 agreements”.

20 **SEC. 174. REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL LABORATORIES FOR**  
21 **RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, DISSEMINATION,**  
22 **AND EVALUATION.**

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

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

4 (2) in subsection (a)—

5 (A) by striking “contracts” and inserting  
6 “grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements”;  
7 and

8 (B) by inserting “not more than” before  
9 “10 regional”;

10 (3) in subsection (c)—

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

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director”;

14 (B) by striking “contracts under this sec-  
15 tion with research organizations, institutions,  
16 agencies, institutions of higher education,” and  
17 inserting “grants, contracts, or cooperative  
18 agreements under this section with public or  
19 private, nonprofit or for-profit research organi-  
20 zations, other organizations, or institutions of  
21 higher education,”;

22 (C) by striking “or individuals,”;

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

25 and

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

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

5 (4) by striking subsections (d) through (j) and  
6 inserting the following:

7 “(d) APPLICATIONS.—

8 “(1) SUBMISSION.—

9 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible appli-  
10 cant desiring a contract grant, contract, or co-  
11 operative agreement under this section shall  
12 submit an application at such time, in such  
13 manner, and containing such information as the  
14 Director may reasonably require.

15 “(B) INPUT.—To ensure that applications  
16 submitted under this paragraph are reflective of  
17 the needs of the regions to be served, each eligi-  
18 ble applicant submitting such an application  
19 shall seek input from State educational agencies  
20 and local educational agencies in the region  
21 that the award will serve, and other individuals  
22 with knowledge of the region’s needs. Such indi-  
23 viduals may include members of the regional  
24 advisory committee for the region under section  
25 206(a).

1           “(2) PLAN.—

2                   “(A) IN GENERAL.—Each application sub-  
3                   mitted under paragraph (1) shall contain a plan  
4                   for the activities of the regional educational lab-  
5                   oratory to be established under this section,  
6                   which shall be updated, modified, and improved,  
7                   as appropriate, on an ongoing basis, including  
8                   by using the results of the laboratory’s interim  
9                   evaluation under subsection (i)(3).

10                   “(B) CONTENTS.—A plan described in  
11                   subparagraph (A) shall address—

12                           “(i) the priorities for applied research,  
13                           development, evaluations, and wide dis-  
14                           semination established under section 207;

15                           “(ii) the needs of State educational  
16                           agencies and local educational agencies, on  
17                           an ongoing basis, using available State and  
18                           local data, including the relevant results of  
19                           the region’s assessment under section  
20                           206(e); and

21                           “(iii) if available, demonstrated sup-  
22                           port from State educational agencies and  
23                           local educational agencies in the region,  
24                           such as letters of support or signed memo-  
25                           randa of understanding.

1           “(3) NON-FEDERAL SUPPORT.—In conducting a  
2 competition for grants, contracts, or cooperative  
3 agreements under subsection (a), the Director shall  
4 give priority to eligible applicants that will provide  
5 a portion of non-Federal funds to maximize support  
6 for activities of the regional educational laboratories  
7 to be established under this section.

8           “(e) AWARDING GRANTS, CONTRACTS, OR COOPERA-  
9 TIVE AGREEMENTS.—

10           “(1) ASSURANCES.—In awarding grants, con-  
11 tracts, or cooperative agreements under this section,  
12 the Director shall—

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

15           “(B) ensure that regional educational lab-  
16 oratories established under this section have  
17 strong and effective governance, organization,  
18 management, and administration, and employ  
19 qualified staff; and

20           “(C) ensure that each such laboratory has  
21 the flexibility to respond in a timely fashion to  
22 the needs of the laboratory’s region, includ-  
23 ing—

24           “(i) through using the results of the  
25 laboratory’s interim evaluation under sub-

1 section (i)(3) to improve and modify the  
2 activities of the laboratory before the end  
3 of the award period; and

4 “(ii) through sharing preliminary re-  
5 sults of the laboratory’s research, as ap-  
6 propriate, to increase the relevance and  
7 usefulness of the research.

8 “(2) COORDINATION.—To ensure coordination  
9 and prevent unnecessary duplication of activities  
10 among the regions, the Evaluation and Regional As-  
11 sistance Commissioner shall—

12 “(A) share information about the activities  
13 of each regional educational laboratory with  
14 each other regional educational laboratory, the  
15 Department, the Director, and the National  
16 Board for Education Sciences;

17 “(B) ensure, where appropriate, that the  
18 activities of each regional educational laboratory  
19 established under this section also serve na-  
20 tional interests;

21 “(C) ensure each such regional educational  
22 laboratory establishes strong partnerships  
23 among practitioners, policymakers, researchers,  
24 and others, so that such partnerships are con-  
25 tinued in the absence of Federal support; and

1           “(D) enable, where appropriate, for such a  
2           laboratory to work in a region being served by  
3           another laboratory or to carry out a project  
4           that extends beyond the region served by the  
5           laboratory.

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

15          “(4) OUTREACH.—

16                 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In conducting com-  
17                 petitions for grants, contracts, or cooperative  
18                 agreements under this section, the Director  
19                 shall—

20                         “(i) by making information and tech-  
21                         nical assistance relating to the competition  
22                         widely available, actively encourage eligible  
23                         applicants to compete for such an award;  
24                         and

1                   “(ii) seek input from the chief execu-  
2                   tive officers of States, chief State school  
3                   officers, educators, parents, superintend-  
4                   ents, and other individuals with knowledge  
5                   of the needs of the regions to be served by  
6                   the awards, regarding—

7                   “(I) the needs in the regions for  
8                   applied research, evaluation, develop-  
9                   ment, and wide-dissemination activi-  
10                  ties authorized by this title; and

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

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

18                  “(5) PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT.—Before  
19                  awarding a grant, contract, or cooperative agree-  
20                  ment under this section, the Director shall establish  
21                  measurable performance indicators for assessing the  
22                  ongoing progress and performance of the regional  
23                  educational laboratories established with such  
24                  awards that address—

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

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

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

12          “(7) REQUIRED CONSIDERATION.—In deter-  
13          mining whether to award a grant, contract, or coop-  
14          erative agreement under this section to an eligible  
15          applicant that previously established a regional edu-  
16          cational laboratory under this section, the Secretary  
17          shall consider the results of such laboratory’s  
18          summative evaluation under subsection (i)(2).

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

21                 “(1) conduct applied research, development,  
22                 and evaluation activities with State educational  
23                 agencies, local educational agencies, and, as appro-  
24                 priate, schools funded by the Bureau;

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

3           “(3) develop the capacity of State educational  
4 agencies, local educational agencies, and, as appro-  
5 priate, schools funded by the Bureau to carry out  
6 the activities described in paragraphs (1) and (2).

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

11           “(1) Conduct, widely disseminate, and promote  
12 utilization of applied research, development activi-  
13 ties, evaluations, and other scientifically valid re-  
14 search.

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

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

5           “(h) GOVERNING BOARD.—

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

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

15           “(i) EVALUATIONS.—

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

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

24           “(B) transmit the results of such evalua-  
25 tions, through appropriate means, to the appro-

1           pripate congressional committees, the Director,  
2           and the public.

3           “(2) SUMMATIVE EVALUATIONS.—The Evalua-  
4           tion and Regional Assistance Commissioner shall en-  
5           sure each regional educational laboratory established  
6           under this section is evaluated by an independent  
7           entity at the end of the period of the grant, contract,  
8           or cooperative agreement that established such lab-  
9           oratory, which shall—

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

11                   “(B) assess how well the laboratory is  
12           meeting the measurable performance indicators  
13           established under subsection (e)(5); and

14                   “(C) consider the extent to which the lab-  
15           oratory ensures that the activities of such lab-  
16           oratory are relevant and useful to the work of  
17           State and local practitioners and policymakers.

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

1           “(A) assess how well such laboratory is  
2           meeting the performance indicators described in  
3           subsection (e)(5); and

4           “(B) be used to improve the effectiveness  
5           of such laboratory in carrying out its plan  
6           under subsection (d)(2).

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

8           “(1) CONTINUATION OF AWARDS.—The Direc-  
9           tor shall continue awards made to each eligible ap-  
10          plicant for the support of regional educational lab-  
11          oratories established under this section prior to the  
12          date of enactment of the Strengthening Education  
13          through Research Act, as such awards were in effect  
14          on the day before the date of enactment of the  
15          Strengthening Education through Research Act, for  
16          the duration of those awards, in accordance with the  
17          terms and agreements of such awards.

18          “(2) RECOMPETITION.—Not later than the end  
19          of the period of the awards described in paragraph  
20          (1), the Director shall—

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

1           “(B) in determining whether to select an  
2           eligible applicant that held an award described  
3           in paragraph (1) for an award under subpara-  
4           graph (A) of this paragraph, consider the re-  
5           sults of the summative evaluation under sub-  
6           section (i)(2) of the laboratory established with  
7           the eligible applicant’s award described in para-  
8           graph (1).”;

9           (5) by striking subsection (l);

10          (6) by redesignating subsections (m), (n), and  
11          (o) as subsections (l), (m), and (n), respectively;

12          (7) in subsection (l), as so redesignated, by in-  
13          serting “and local” after “achieve State”;

14          (8) by amending subsection (m), as so redesign-  
15          ated, to read as follows:

16          “(m) ANNUAL REPORT.—Each regional educational  
17          laboratory established under this section shall submit to  
18          the Evaluation and Regional Assistance Commissioner an  
19          annual report containing such information as the Commis-  
20          sioner may require, but which shall include, at a minimum,  
21          the following:

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

1           “(2) A listing of the State educational agencies,  
2           local educational agencies, and schools the labora-  
3           tory assisted during the previous year.

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

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

12          (9) by adding at the end the following new sub-  
13          section:

14          “(o) APPROPRIATIONS RESERVATION.—Of the  
15          amounts appropriated under section 194(a), the Director  
16          shall reserve 16.13 percent of such funds to carry out this  
17          section, of which the Director shall use not less than 25  
18          percent to serve rural areas (including schools funded by  
19          the Bureau which are located in rural areas).”.

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

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

1           **PART E—NATIONAL CENTER FOR SPECIAL**  
2                           **EDUCATION RESEARCH**

3 **SEC. 175. ESTABLISHMENT.**

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

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

7                   (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” at the  
8                   end;

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

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

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

18                   “(5) to promote scientifically valid research  
19                   findings in special education that may provide the  
20                   basis for improving academic instruction and lifelong  
21                   learning.”.

22 **SEC. 176. COMMISSIONER FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION RE-**  
23                           **SEARCH.**

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

1 **SEC. 177. DUTIES.**

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

3 (1) in subsection (a)—

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

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

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

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

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

21 (F) by inserting after paragraph (10), the  
22 following:

23 “(11) examine the participation and outcomes  
24 of students with disabilities in secondary and post-  
25 secondary career and technical education pro-  
26 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”;

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(b)) is amended by  
3 striking “any information to be published under this sec-  
4 tion before publication” and inserting “publications under  
5 this 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)”; and

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) by striking “and assessment  
19           tools” and inserting “, assessment  
20           tools, and other educational strate-  
21           gies”; and

22           (II) in subclause (III), by insert-  
23           ing “, including innovative tools and  
24           methods” before the semicolon;

1 (iv) by striking subparagraph (A)(iii)  
2 and inserting the following:

3 “(iii) the replication and adaptation of  
4 exemplary practices and innovative meth-  
5 ods that have an evidence base of effective-  
6 ness.”;

7 (v) in subparagraph (B)—

8 (I) by inserting “, consistent with  
9 section 114(j),” after “dissemi-  
10 nating”; and

11 (II) by striking “(as described”  
12 and all that follows through “is lo-  
13 cated”; and

14 (vi) by amending subparagraph (C) to  
15 read as follows:

16 “(C) ensuring activities carried out under  
17 this section are relevant and responsive to the  
18 needs of the region being served, including by  
19 using the relevant results of the regional assess-  
20 ments under section 206(e).”; and

21 (B) in paragraph (2)—

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

24 (ii) by inserting “or other regional  
25 educational laboratories or comprehensive

1                   centers, as appropriate,” after “center is  
2                   located,”; and

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

5                   “(f) COMPREHENSIVE CENTER ADVISORY BOARD.—

6 A comprehensive center established under this section may  
7 establish an advisory board to support and monitor the  
8 priorities and activities of such center.

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

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

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

19                   “(3) Using the measurable performance indica-  
20 tors established under subsection (b)(3), a descrip-  
21 tion of how well the center is meeting educational  
22 needs of the region served by the center.

23                   “(4) Any changes to the center’s plan under  
24 subsection (c)(2) to improve its activities in the re-

1       maining years of the grant, contract, or cooperative  
2       agreement.”.

3       **SEC. 204. EVALUATIONS.**

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

6       **“SEC. 204. EVALUATIONS.**

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

8               “(1) provide for ongoing summative and interim  
9       evaluations described in subsections (b) and (c), re-  
10      spectively, of each of the comprehensive centers es-  
11      tablished under this title in carrying out the full  
12      range of duties of the center under this title; and

13              “(2) transmit the results of such evaluations,  
14      through appropriate means, to the appropriate con-  
15      gressional committees, the Director of the Institute  
16      of Education Sciences, and the public.

17      “(b) SUMMATIVE EVALUATION.—The Secretary shall  
18      ensure each comprehensive center established under this  
19      title is evaluated by an independent entity at the end of  
20      the period of the grant, contract, or cooperative agreement  
21      that established such center, which shall—

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

23              “(2) assess how well the center is meeting the  
24      measurable performance indicators established under  
25      section 203(b)(3); and

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

5           “(c) INTERIM EVALUATION.—The Secretary shall en-  
6           sure that each comprehensive center established under this  
7           title is evaluated at the midpoint of the period of the  
8           grant, contract, or cooperative agreement that established  
9           such center, which shall—

10           “(1) assess how well such center is meeting the  
11           measurable performance indicators established under  
12           section 203(b)(3); and

13           “(2) be used to improve the effectiveness of  
14           such center in carrying out its plan under section  
15           203(c)(2).”.

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

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

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

23 **SEC. 206. REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES.**

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

25           (1) in subsection (a)—

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

3 (B) by striking “of the Education Sciences  
4 Reform Act of 2002”;

5 (2) by striking subsection (c) and redesignating  
6 subsections (b) and (d) as subsections (d) and (e),  
7 respectively;

8 (3) by inserting the following after subsection  
9 (a):

10 “(b) MISSION.—The mission of each regional advi-  
11 sory committee established under subsection (a) shall be  
12 to—

13 “(1) support, strengthen, and, as appropriate,  
14 align the work of the regional educational labora-  
15 tories established under section 174 and the com-  
16 prehensive centers established under this title; and

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

20 “(c) DUTIES.—Each advisory committee established  
21 under subsection (a) shall—

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

1           “(2) to ensure the activities of the regional edu-  
2           cational laboratory and comprehensive centers serv-  
3           ing the region of the committee are responsive to the  
4           needs of such region, provide ongoing input to the  
5           laboratory and centers on planning and carrying out  
6           their activities under section 174 and this title, re-  
7           spectively;

8           “(3) maintain a high standard of quality in the  
9           performance of the activities of the laboratory and  
10          centers, respectively; and

11          “(4) support the continuous improvement of the  
12          laboratory and centers in the region served by the  
13          committee, especially in meeting the measurable per-  
14          formance indicators established under sections  
15          174(e)(4) and 203(b)(3), respectively.”;

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

18          “(d) MEMBERSHIP.—

19                 “(1) COMPOSITION.—The membership of each  
20                 regional advisory committee shall—

21                         “(A) not exceed 25 members;

22                         “(B) include the chief State school officer,  
23                         or such officer’s designee, or other State offi-  
24                         cial, of States within the region of the com-  
25                         mittee who have primary responsibility under

1 State law for elementary and secondary edu-  
2 cation in the State;

3 “(C) include representatives of local edu-  
4 cational agencies, including rural and urban  
5 local educational agencies, that represent the  
6 geographic diversity of the region; and

7 “(D) include researchers.

8 “(2) ELIGIBILITY.—The membership of each  
9 regional advisory committee may include the fol-  
10 lowing:

11 “(A) Representatives of institutions of  
12 higher education.

13 “(B) Parents.

14 “(C) Practicing educators, including class-  
15 room teachers, school leaders, administrators,  
16 school board members, and other local school  
17 officials.

18 “(D) Representatives of business.

19 “(E) Policymakers.

20 “(F) Representatives from the regional  
21 educational laboratory and comprehensive cen-  
22 ters in the region.

23 “(2) RECOMMENDATIONS.—In choosing individ-  
24 uals for membership on a regional advisory com-  
25 mittee, the Secretary shall consult with, and solicit

1 recommendations from, the chief executive officers of  
2 States, chief State school officers, local educational  
3 agencies, and other education stakeholders within  
4 the applicable region.

5 “(3) SPECIAL RULE.—The total number of  
6 members on each committee who are selected under  
7 subparagraphs (B) and (C) of paragraph (1), in the  
8 aggregate, shall exceed the total number of members  
9 who are selected under paragraph (2), collectively.”;

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

11 (A) in paragraph (1)—

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

14 (ii) by inserting “, strengths, and  
15 weaknesses” after “educational needs”;

16 (B) in paragraph (2)—

17 (i) by striking “State school officers,”  
18 and all that follows through “within the re-  
19 gion)” and inserting “State school officers,  
20 local educational agencies, representatives  
21 of public charter schools, educators, par-  
22 ents, and others within the region”;

23 (ii) by striking “of the Education  
24 Sciences Reform Act of 2002 and section

1                   203 of this title” and inserting “and sec-  
2                   tion 203”; and

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

4                   (C) by redesignating paragraph (3) as  
5                   paragraph (4);

6                   (D) by inserting after paragraph (2) the  
7                   following new paragraph:

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

11 **SEC. 207. PRIORITIES.**

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

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

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

17                  (3) by striking “of this title”;

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

21                  (5) by striking “relevant regional” and all that  
22                  follows through “Secretary deems appropriate” and  
23                  inserting “relevant regional and national surveys of  
24                  educational needs”.

1 **SEC. 208. GRANT PROGRAM FOR STATEWIDE LONGITU-**  
2 **DINAL DATA SYSTEMS.**

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

4 (1) in subsection (a)—

5 (A) by inserting before the period the fol-  
6 lowing: “, the Higher Education Act of 1965  
7 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.), and the Individuals  
8 with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C.  
9 1400 et seq.)”; and

10 (B) by adding at the end the following:  
11 “State educational agencies receiving a grant  
12 under this section may provide subgrants to  
13 local educational agencies to improve the capac-  
14 ity of local educational agencies to carry out the  
15 activities authorized under this section.”;

16 (2) by redesignating subsections (c), (d), and  
17 (e) as subsections (d), (e), and (g), respectively;

18 (3) by inserting after subsection (b), the fol-  
19 lowing:

20 “(c) **PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT.**—Before award-  
21 ing a grant under this section, the Secretary shall estab-  
22 lish measurable performance indicators—

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

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

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

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

7           (B) in paragraph (2)—

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

11          (ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking  
12          “and other reporting requirements and  
13          close achievement gaps; and” and inserting  
14          “, other reporting requirements, close  
15          achievement gaps, and improve teaching”;

16          (iii) in subparagraph (B), by striking  
17          “and close achievement gaps” and by in-  
18          serting “, close achievement gaps, and im-  
19          prove teaching”; and

20          (iv) by inserting after subparagraph  
21          (B) the following:

22          “(C) to align statewide longitudinal data  
23          systems from early education through postsec-  
24          ondary education (including pre-service prepa-  
25          ration programs), and the workforce, consistent

1 with privacy protections under section 183;”;  
2 and

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

5 “(3) ensures the protection of student privacy,  
6 and includes a review of how State educational agen-  
7 cies, local educational agencies, and others that will  
8 have access to the statewide data systems under this  
9 section will adhere to Federal privacy laws and pro-  
10 tections, consistent with section 183, in the building,  
11 maintenance, and use of such data systems;

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

16 “(5) gives priority to State educational agencies  
17 that leverage the use of longitudinal data systems to  
18 improve student achievement and growth, including  
19 such State educational agencies that—

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

22 “(B) define the roles of State educational  
23 agencies, local educational agencies, and others  
24 in providing timely access to data under the

1 statewide data systems, consistent with privacy  
2 protections in section 183; and

3 “(C) demonstrate the capacity to share  
4 teacher and school leader performance data, in-  
5 cluding student achievement and growth data,  
6 with local educational agencies and teacher and  
7 school leader preparation programs.”;

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

10 “(f) RENEWAL OF AWARDS.—The Secretary may  
11 renew a grant awarded to a State educational agency  
12 under this section for a period not to exceed 3 years, if  
13 the State educational agency has demonstrated progress  
14 on the measurable performance indicators established  
15 under subsection (e).”; and

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

18 “(g) REPORTS.—

19 “(1) FIRST REPORT.—Not later than 1 year  
20 after the date of enactment of the Strengthening  
21 Education through Research Act, the Secretary shall  
22 prepare and make publicly available a report on the  
23 implementation and effectiveness of the activities  
24 carried out by State educational agencies receiving a  
25 grant under this section, including—

1           “(A) information on progress in the devel-  
2           opment and use of statewide longitudinal data  
3           systems described in this section;

4           “(B) information on best practices and  
5           areas for improvement in such development and  
6           use; and

7           “(C) how the State educational agencies  
8           are adhering to Federal privacy laws and pro-  
9           tections in the building, maintenance, and use  
10          of such data systems.

11          “(2) SUCCEEDING REPORTS.—Every succeeding  
12          3 years after the report is made publicly available  
13          under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall prepare  
14          and make publicly available a report on the imple-  
15          mentation and effectiveness of the activities carried  
16          out by State educational agencies receiving a grant  
17          under this section, including—

18                 “(A) information on the requirements of  
19                 subparagraphs (A) through (C) of paragraph  
20                 (1); and

21                 “(B) the progress, in the aggregate, State  
22                 educational agencies are making on the measur-  
23                 able performance indicators established under  
24                 subsection (c).”.

1 **SEC. 209. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

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

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

5 “There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out  
6 this title—

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

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

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

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

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

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

13 **TITLE III—NATIONAL ASSESS-**  
14 **MENT OF EDUCATIONAL**  
15 **PROGRESS**

16 **SEC. 301. REFERENCES.**

17 Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in  
18 this title an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms  
19 of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provi-  
20 sion, the reference shall be considered to be made to a  
21 section or other provision of the National Assessment of  
22 Educational Progress Authorization Act (20 U.S.C. 9621  
23 et seq.).

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

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

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

5 (2) in subsection (b)(1)(L)—

6 (A) by striking “principals” and inserting  
7 “leaders”; and

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

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

11 (4) in subsection (d)—

12 (A) in paragraph (1)—

13 (i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting  
14 “the Assessment Board after consultation  
15 with” before “organizations”; and

16 (ii) in subparagraph (B)—

17 (I) by striking “Each organiza-  
18 tion submitting nominations to the  
19 Secretary with” and inserting “With”;  
20 and

21 (II) by inserting “, the Assess-  
22 ment Board” after “particular va-  
23 cancy”; and

24 (B) in paragraph (2)—

1 (i) by striking “that each organization  
2 described in paragraph (1)(A) submit addi-  
3 tional nominations” and inserting “addi-  
4 tional nominations from the Assessment  
5 Board or each organization described in  
6 paragraph (1)(A)”;

7 (ii) by striking “such organization”  
8 and inserting “the Assessment Board”;  
9 and

10 (5) in subsection (e)(1)—

11 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

12 (i) by inserting “in consultation with  
13 the Commissioner for Education Statis-  
14 tics,” before “select”;

15 (ii) by inserting “and grades or ages”  
16 before “to be”; and

17 (iii) by inserting “and determine the  
18 year in which such assessments will be  
19 conducted” after “assessed”;

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

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

24 (D) by redesignating subparagraph (J) as  
25 subparagraph (K);

1 (E) by inserting after subparagraph (I),  
2 the following:

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

6 (F) in subparagraph (K), as so redesign-  
7 nated—

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

10 (ii) by inserting “release the initial”  
11 before “National”; and

12 (G) in the matter following subparagraph  
13 (K), as so amended and redesignated, by strik-  
14 ing “subparagraph (J)” and inserting “sub-  
15 paragraph (K)”.

16 **SEC. 303. NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL**  
17 **PROGRESS.**

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

19 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “with the ad-  
20 vice of the Assessment Board established under sec-  
21 tion 302” and inserting “in a manner consistent  
22 with accepted professional standards and the policies  
23 set forth by the Assessment Board under section  
24 302(a)”;

25 (2) in subsection (b)(2)—

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

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

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

8 (D) by adding at the end the following new  
9 subparagraph:

10 “(I) determine, after taking into account  
11 section 302(e)(1)(I), the content of initial and  
12 subsequent reports of all assessments author-  
13 ized under this section and ensure that such re-  
14 ports are valid and reliable.”;

15 (3) in subsection (c)(2)—

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

18 (B) in subparagraph (D)—

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

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

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

25 and

1 (iv) by inserting “of the Senate” after  
2 “Pensions”;

3 (4) in subsection (d)(1), by inserting before the  
4 period, the following: “, except as required under  
5 section 1112(b)(1)(F) of the Elementary and Sec-  
6 ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
7 6312(b)(1)(F))”;

8 (5) in subsection (e)—

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

10 and

11 (B) in paragraph (2)—

12 (i) in subparagraph (A)—

13 (I) by striking “shall” and all  
14 that follows through “be” and insert  
15 “shall be”;

16 (II) by redesignating subclauses  
17 (I) and (II) as clauses (i) and (ii), re-  
18 spectively; and

19 (III) in clause (ii) (as so redesign-  
20 nated), by striking “, or the age of  
21 the students, as the case may be”;

22 (ii) in subparagraph (B)—

23 (I) by striking “After the deter-  
24 minations described in subparagraph  
25 (A), devising” and inserting “The As-

1           assessment Board shall, in making the  
2           determination described in subpara-  
3           graph (A), use”; and

4                   (II) by inserting after “ap-  
5           proach” the following: “, providing for  
6           the active participation of teachers,  
7           school leaders, curriculum specialists,  
8           local school administrators, parents,  
9           and concerned members of the general  
10          public”; and

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

13          (6) in subsection (g)(2)—

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

16                   (B) by striking “Affairs” and inserting  
17          “Education”.

18 **SEC. 304. DEFINITIONS.**

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

20                   (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “(1)” and in-  
21          serting “(1) DIRECTOR—”;

22                   (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “(2)” and in-  
23          serting “(2) STATE—”; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

14 **SEC. 305. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

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

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

19 “(1) for fiscal year 2015—

20 “(A) \$8,235,000 to carry out section 302  
21 (relating to the National Assessment Governing  
22 Board); and

23 “(B) \$132,000,000 to carry out section  
24 303 (relating to the National Assessment of  
25 Educational Progress);

1 “(2) for fiscal year 2016—

2 “(A) \$8,251,470 to carry out section 302  
3 (relating to the National Assessment Governing  
4 Board); and

5 “(B) \$132,264,000 to carry out section  
6 303 (relating to the National Assessment of  
7 Educational Progress);

8 “(3) for fiscal year 2017—

9 “(A) \$8,433,002 to carry out section 302  
10 (relating to the National Assessment Governing  
11 Board); and

12 “(B) \$135,173,808 to carry out section  
13 303 (relating to the National Assessment of  
14 Educational Progress);

15 “(4) for fiscal year 2018—

16 “(A) \$8,635,395 to carry out section 302  
17 (relating to the National Assessment Governing  
18 Board); and

19 “(B) \$138,417,979 to carry out section  
20 303 (relating to the National Assessment of  
21 Educational Progress);

22 “(5) for fiscal year 2019—

23 “(A) \$8,868,550 to carry out section 302  
24 (relating to the National Assessment Governing  
25 Board); and

1           “(B) \$142,155,266 to carry out section  
2           303 (relating to the National Assessment of  
3           Educational Progress); and

4           “(6) for fiscal year 2020—

5           “(A) \$9,001,578 to carry out section 302  
6           (relating to the National Assessment Governing  
7           Board); and

8           “(B) \$144,287,595 to carry out section  
9           303 (relating to the National Assessment of  
10          Educational Progress).”.

## 11       **TITLE IV—EVALUATION PLAN**

### 12       **SEC. 401. RESEARCH AND EVALUATION.**

13       (a) IN GENERAL.—The Institute of Education  
14       Sciences shall be the primary entity for conducting re-  
15       search on and evaluations of Federal education programs  
16       within the Department of Education to ensure the rigor  
17       and independence of such research and evaluation.

18       (b) FLEXIBLE AUTHORITY.—

19           (1) RESERVATION.—Notwithstanding any other  
20       provision of law, the Secretary of Education, in con-  
21       sultation with the Director of the Institute of Edu-  
22       cation Sciences, may, for purposes of carrying out  
23       the activities described in paragraph (2)—

24           (A) reserve not more than 0.5 percent of  
25       the amount appropriated for each program au-

1           thorized under the Elementary and Secondary  
2           Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et  
3           seq.), other than part A of title I of such Act  
4           (20 U.S.C. 6311 et seq.); and

5           (B) reserve not more than 0.25 percent of  
6           the amount appropriated for part A of title I of  
7           such Act (20 U.S.C. 6311 et seq.).

8           (2) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—Subject to sub-  
9           section (d), the Secretary of Education, in consulta-  
10          tion with the Director of the Institute of Education  
11          Sciences, may use the amounts reserved under para-  
12          graph (1) to—

13           (A) carry out high-quality evaluations  
14           (consistent with the requirements of section  
15           173(a) of the Education Sciences Reform Act of  
16           2002 (20 U.S.C. 9563(a)), as amended by this  
17           Act, and the evaluation plan described in sub-  
18           section (c) of this section) of programs author-  
19           ized under the Elementary and Secondary Edu-  
20           cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.);

21           (B) increase the usefulness of such evalua-  
22           tions to promote continuous improvement of  
23           programs under such Act (20 U.S.C. 6301 et  
24           seq.); and

1           (C) assist grantees of such programs in  
2           collecting and analyzing data and other activi-  
3           ties related to conducting high-quality evalua-  
4           tions under subparagraph (A).

5           (3) DISSEMINATION.—The Secretary of Edu-  
6           cation shall disseminate evaluation findings, con-  
7           sistent with section 114(j) of the Education Sciences  
8           Reform Act of 2002 (20 U.S.C. 9514(j)), as amend-  
9           ed by this Act, of evaluations carried out under  
10          paragraph (2)(A).

11          (4) CONSOLIDATION.—The Secretary of Edu-  
12          cation—

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

16                (B) shall not be required to evaluate under  
17                paragraph (2)(A) each program authorized  
18                under the Elementary and Secondary Education  
19                Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) each year.

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

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

5           (2) contains the results of the activities carried  
6           out under subsection (b)(2) for the most recent 2-  
7           year period.

8           (d) EVALUATIONS UNDER TITLE I OF THE ESEA.—  
9           Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect part  
10          E of title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education  
11          Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6491 et seq.) or section 173(b)  
12          of the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (20 U.S.C.  
13          9563(b)), as amended by this Act.