

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2212

To support the establishment and operation of Teachers Professional
Development Institutes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 19, 2007

Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself and Mr. DODD) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Edu-
cation, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To support the establishment and operation of Teachers
Professional Development Institutes.

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. TEACHERS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN-**
4 **STITUTES.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Part A of title II of the Elemen-
6 tary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
7 6601 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
8 lowing:

1 **“Subpart 6—Teachers Professional Development**
2 **Institutes**

3 **“SEC. 2161. SHORT TITLE.**

4 “‘This subpart may be cited as the ‘Teachers Profes-
5 sional Development Institutes Act’.

6 **“SEC. 2162. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

7 “(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress makes the following
8 findings:

9 “(1) Teaching is central to the educational
10 process and the ongoing professional development of
11 teachers in the subjects they teach is essential for
12 improved student learning.

13 “(2) Attaining the goal of the No Child Left
14 Behind Act of 2001 (Public Law 107–110)—having
15 a classroom teacher who is highly qualified in every
16 academic subject the teacher teaches—will require
17 innovative and effective approaches to improving the
18 quality of teaching.

19 “(3) The Teachers Institute Model focuses on
20 the continuing academic preparation of school-
21 teachers and the application of what they study to
22 their classrooms and potentially to the classrooms of
23 other teachers.

24 “(4) The Teachers Institute Model was devel-
25 oped initially by the Yale-New Haven Teachers In-

1 stitute and has successfully operated there for 30
2 years.

3 “(5) The Teachers Institute Model has also
4 been successfully demonstrated over a 3-year period
5 in a national demonstration project in cities larger
6 than New Haven.

7 “(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this subpart is to
8 provide Federal assistance to support the establishment
9 and operation of Teachers Institutes for local educational
10 agencies that serve significant low-income student popu-
11 lations in States throughout the Nation—

12 “(1) to improve student learning; and

13 “(2) to enhance the quality of teaching and
14 strengthen the subject matter mastery and the peda-
15 gogical skills of current teachers through continuing
16 teacher preparation.

17 **“SEC. 2163. DEFINITIONS.**

18 “In this subpart:

19 “(1) SIGNIFICANT LOW-INCOME POPULATION.—

20 The term ‘significant low-income population’ means
21 a population of which not less than 25 percent of the
22 individuals included are from families with incomes
23 below the poverty line, as determined by the Sec-
24 retary on the basis of the most recent satisfactory
25 data.

1 “(2) TEACHERS INSTITUTE.—The term ‘Teach-
2 ers Institute’ means a partnership or joint venture
3 between 1 or more institutions of higher education,
4 and 1 or more local educational agencies with sig-
5 nificant low-income populations, that is entered into
6 for the purpose of improving the quality of teaching
7 and learning through collaborative seminars de-
8 signed to enhance both the subject matter and the
9 pedagogical resources of the seminar participants.

10 **“SEC. 2164. AUTHORITY TO MAKE GRANTS.**

11 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized—

12 “(1) to award grants to encourage the estab-
13 lishment and operation of Teachers Institutes; and

14 “(2) to provide technical assistance, either di-
15 rectly or through the Yale-New Haven Teachers In-
16 stitute, to assist local educational agencies and insti-
17 tutions of higher education in preparing to establish
18 and in operating Teachers Institutes.

19 “(b) SELECTION CRITERIA.—In selecting Teachers
20 Institutes for grants under this subpart, the Secretary
21 shall consider—

22 “(1) the extent to which the proposed Institute
23 will serve a community or communities that have a
24 significant low-income population;

1 “(2) the extent to which the proposed Institute
2 will follow the understandings and necessary proce-
3 dures that have been developed following the Na-
4 tional Demonstration Project, as described in section
5 2166;

6 “(3) the extent to which the local educational
7 agency has a high percentage of teachers who are
8 unprepared or underprepared to teach the core aca-
9 demic subjects they are assigned to teach; and

10 “(4) the extent to which the proposed Teachers
11 Institute will receive a level of support from the
12 community and other sources that will ensure the
13 requisite long-term commitment for the success of a
14 Teachers Institute.

15 “(c) CONSULTATION.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In evaluating applications
17 under subsection (b), the Secretary may request the
18 advice and assistance of the Yale-New Haven Teach-
19 ers Institute or other Teachers Institutes.

20 “(2) STATE AGENCIES.—If the Secretary re-
21 ceives 2 or more applications from local educational
22 agencies within the same State, the Secretary shall
23 consult with the State educational agency regarding
24 the applications.

1 “(d) FISCAL AGENT.—For the purpose of this sub-
2 part, an institution of higher education participating in
3 a Teachers Professional Development Institute shall serve
4 as the fiscal agent for the receipt of grant funds under
5 this subpart.

6 “(e) LIMITATIONS.—A grant under this subpart—

7 “(1) shall provide grant funds for a period not
8 to exceed 5 years; and

9 “(2) shall not exceed 50 percent of the total
10 costs of the eligible activities, as determined by the
11 Secretary.

12 **“SEC. 2165. ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.**

13 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Grant funds under this subpart
14 may be used—

15 “(1) for the planning and development of pro-
16 posals for the establishment of Teachers Institutes;

17 “(2) for additional assistance to the Teachers
18 Institutes established during the National Dem-
19 onstration Project for their further development and
20 for their support of the planning and development of
21 proposals under paragraph (1);

22 “(3) for the salary and necessary expenses of a
23 full-time director to plan and manage the Teachers
24 Institute and to act as liaison between the local edu-
25 cational agency or agencies and the institution or in-

1 stitutions of higher education participating in the
2 Institute;

3 “(4) to provide suitable office space, staff,
4 equipment, and supplies, and to pay other operating
5 expenses, for the Teachers Institute;

6 “(5) to provide a stipend for teachers partici-
7 pating in collaborative seminars in the sciences and
8 humanities and to provide remuneration for mem-
9 bers of the faculty of the participating institution of
10 higher education leading the seminars; and

11 “(6) to provide for the dissemination through
12 print and electronic means of curriculum units pre-
13 pared in the seminars conducted by the Teachers In-
14 stitute.

15 “(b) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may
16 use not more than 50 percent of the funds appropriated
17 to carry out this subpart to provide technical assistance
18 to facilitate the establishment and operation of Teachers
19 Institutes. For the purpose of this subsection, the Sec-
20 retary may contract with the Yale-New Haven Teachers
21 Institute to provide all or a part of the technical assistance
22 under this subsection.

1 **“SEC. 2166. UNDERSTANDINGS AND PROCEDURES.**

2 “A Teachers Institute funded under this subpart
3 shall abide by the following understandings and proce-
4 dures:

5 “(1) PARTNERSHIP.—The essential relationship
6 of a Teachers Institute is a partnership between a
7 local educational agency and an institution of higher
8 education. A grantee shall demonstrate a long-term
9 commitment on behalf of the participating local edu-
10 cational agency and an institution of higher edu-
11 cation to the support, including the financial sup-
12 port, of the work of the Teachers Institute.

13 “(2) SEMINARS.—A Teachers Institute spon-
14 sors seminars led by faculty of the institution of
15 higher education partner and attended by teachers
16 from the local educational agency partner. A grantee
17 shall provide participating teachers the ability to
18 play an essential role in planning, organizing, con-
19 ducting, and evaluating the seminars and in encour-
20 aging the future participation of other teachers.

21 “(3) CURRICULUM UNIT.—The seminar uses a
22 collaborative process, in a collegial environment, to
23 develop a curriculum unit for use by participating
24 teachers that sets forth the subject matter to be pre-
25 sented and the pedagogical strategies to be em-
26 ployed. A grantee shall enable participating teachers

1 to develop a curriculum unit, based on the subject
2 matter presented, for use in their classrooms.

3 “(4) ELIGIBILITY AND REMUNERATION.—Semi-
4 nars are open to all partnership teachers with teach-
5 ing assignments relevant to the seminar topics. Sem-
6 inar leaders receive remuneration for their work and
7 participating teachers receive an honorarium or sti-
8 pend upon the successful completion of the seminar.
9 A grantee shall provide seminar leaders and partici-
10 pating teachers remuneration to allow them to par-
11 ticipate in the Institute.

12 “(5) DIRECTION.—The operations of a Teach-
13 ers Institute are managed by a full-time director
14 who reports to both partners but is accountable to
15 the institution of higher education partner. A grant-
16 ee shall appoint a director to manage and coordinate
17 the work of the Institute.

18 “(6) EVALUATION.—A grantee shall annually
19 review the activities of the Institute and disseminate
20 the results to members of the Institute’s partnership
21 community.

22 **“SEC. 2167. APPLICATION, APPROVAL, AND AGREEMENT.**

23 “(a) IN GENERAL.—To receive a grant under this
24 subpart, a Teachers Institute shall submit an application
25 to the Secretary that—

1 “(1) meets the requirement of this subpart and
2 any regulations under this subpart;

3 “(2) includes a description of how the Teachers
4 Institute intends to use funds provided under the
5 grant;

6 “(3) includes such information as the Secretary
7 may require to apply the criteria described in section
8 2164(b);

9 “(4) includes measurable objectives for the use
10 of the funds provided under the grant; and

11 “(5) contains such other information and assur-
12 ances as the Secretary may require.

13 “(b) APPROVAL.—The Secretary shall—

14 “(1) promptly evaluate an application received
15 for a grant under this subpart; and

16 “(2) notify the applicant within 90 days of the
17 receipt of a completed application of the Secretary’s
18 determination.

19 “(c) AGREEMENT.—Upon approval of an application,
20 the Secretary and the applicant shall enter into a com-
21 prehensive agreement covering the entire period of the
22 grant.

23 **“SEC. 2168. REPORTS AND EVALUATIONS.**

24 “(a) REPORT.—Each Teachers Institute receiving a
25 grant under this subpart shall report annually to the Sec-

1 retary on the progress of the Institute in achieving the
2 purpose of this subpart.

3 “(b) EVALUATION AND DISSEMINATION.—The Sec-
4 retary shall evaluate the activities funded under this sub-
5 part and submit an annual report regarding the activities
6 assisted under this subpart to the Committee on Health,
7 Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the
8 Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Rep-
9 resentatives. The Secretary shall broadly disseminate suc-
10 cessful practices developed by Teachers Institutes.

11 “(c) REVOCATION.—If the Secretary determines that
12 a Teachers Institute is not making substantial progress
13 in meeting the purposes of the grant by the end of the
14 second year of the grant under this subpart, the Secretary
15 may take appropriate action, including revocation of fur-
16 ther payments under the grant, to ensure that the funds
17 available under this subpart are used in the most effective
18 manner.

19 **“SEC. 2169. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

20 “There are authorized to be appropriated for grants,
21 including planning grants, and technical assistance under
22 this subpart—

23 “(1) \$4,000,000 for fiscal year 2008;

24 “(2) \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2009;

25 “(3) \$6,000,000 for fiscal year 2010;

1 “(4) \$7,000,000 for fiscal year 2011; and

2 “(5) \$8,000,000 for fiscal year 2012.”.

3 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of
4 the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
5 U.S.C. 6301 note) is amended by inserting after the item
6 relating to section 2151 the following:

“SUBPART 6—TEACHERS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTES

“Sec. 2161. Short title.

“Sec. 2162. Findings and purpose.

“Sec. 2163. Definitions.

“Sec. 2164. Authority to make grants.

“Sec. 2165. Eligible activities.

“Sec. 2166. Understandings and procedures.

“Sec. 2167. Application, approval, and agreement.

“Sec. 2168. Reports and evaluations.

“Sec. 2169. Authorization of appropriations.”.

