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(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To direct the Secretary of Education to make grants to support early college high schools and dual or concurrent enrollment programs, and for other purposes.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Mr. ESPAILLAT introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

To direct the Secretary of Education to make grants to support early college high schools and dual or concurrent enrollment programs, and for other purposes.

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 “Jumpstart on College  
5       Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

7       The purpose of this Act is to increase the percentage  
8       of students who complete a recognized postsecondary cre-

1   dential within 100 percent of the normal time for the com-  
2   pletion of such credential, including low-income students  
3   and students from other populations that are underrep-  
4   resented in higher education.

5   **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

6       In this Act:

7           (1) **ELIGIBLE ENTITY.**—The term “eligible enti-  
8       ty” means an institution of higher education in part-  
9       nership with one or more local educational agencies  
10      (which may be an educational service agency). Such  
11      partnership may also include other entities, such as  
12      nonprofit organizations or businesses and schools in  
13      juvenile detention centers.

14          (2) **INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.**—The  
15      term “institution of higher education” has the  
16      meaning given the term in section 101 of the Higher  
17      Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

18          (3) **ESEA TERMS.**—The terms “dual or concur-  
19      rent enrollment program”, “early college high  
20      school”, “educational service agency”, “four-year ad-  
21      justed cohort graduation rate”, “local educational  
22      agency”, “secondary school”, and “State” have the  
23      meanings given the terms in section 8101 of the Ele-  
24      mentary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20  
25      U.S.C. 7801).

1 (4) LOW-INCOME STUDENT.—The term “low-in-  
2 come student” means a student counted under sec-  
3 tion 1124(c) of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-  
4 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6333(c)).

5 (5) RECOGNIZED POSTSECONDARY CREDEN-  
6 TIAL.—The term “recognized postsecondary creden-  
7 tial” has the meaning given the term in section 3 of  
8 the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29  
9 U.S.C. 3102).

10 (6) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
11 the Secretary of Education.

12 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS; RESERVA-**  
13 **TIONS.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—To carry out this Act, there are  
15 authorized to be appropriated \$250,000,000 for fiscal year  
16 2022 and each of the five succeeding fiscal years.

17 (b) RESERVATIONS.—From the funds appropriated  
18 under subsection (a) for each fiscal year, the Secretary  
19 shall reserve—

20 (1) not less than 40 percent for grants to eligi-  
21 ble entities under section 5;

22 (2) not less than 55 percent for grants to  
23 States under section 6; and

24 (3) not less than 5 percent for national activi-  
25 ties under section 8.

1   **SEC. 5. GRANTS TO ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.**

2           (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award grants  
3 to eligible entities, on a competitive basis, to assist such  
4 entities in establishing or supporting an early college high  
5 school or dual or concurrent enrollment program in ac-  
6 cordance with this section.

7           (b) DURATION.—Each grant under this section shall  
8 be awarded for a period of 6 years.

9           (c) GRANT AMOUNT.—The Secretary shall ensure  
10 that the amount of each grant under this section is suffi-  
11 cient to enable each grantee to carry out the activities de-  
12 scribed in subsection (h), except that a grant under this  
13 section may not exceed \$2,000,000, of which not more  
14 than 15 percent of the overall grant total may be used  
15 to improve data systems for the purpose of facilitating the  
16 execution of the reporting requirement in section 7(a).

17          (d) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—

18               (1) IN GENERAL.—For each year that an eligi-  
19 ble entity receives a grant under this section, the en-  
20 tity shall contribute matching funds, in the amounts  
21 described in paragraph (2), for the activities sup-  
22 ported by the grant.

23               (2) AMOUNTS DESCRIBED.—The amounts de-  
24 scribed in this paragraph are—

1 (A) for each of the first and second years  
2 of the grant period, 20 percent of the grant  
3 amount;

4 (B) for each of the third and fourth years  
5 of the grant period, 30 percent of the grant  
6 amount;

7 (C) for the fifth year of the grant period,  
8 40 percent of the grant amount; and

9 (D) for the sixth year of the grant period,  
10 50 percent of the grant amount.

11 (3) DETERMINATION OF AMOUNT CONTRIB-  
12 UTED.—

13 (A) IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS.—The Sec-  
14 retary shall allow an eligible entity to meet the  
15 requirements of this subsection through in-kind  
16 contributions.

17 (B) NON-FEDERAL SOURCES.—Not less  
18 than half of each amount described in para-  
19 graph (2) shall be provided by the eligible entity  
20 from non-Federal sources.

21 (e) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—An eligible enti-  
22 ty shall use a grant received under this section only to  
23 supplement funds that would, in the absence of such a  
24 grant, be made available from other Federal, State, or

1 local sources for activities supported by the grant, not to  
2 supplant such funds.

3 (f) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this sec-  
4 tion, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible entities  
5 that—

6 (1) propose to establish or support an early col-  
7 lege high school or dual or concurrent enrollment  
8 program that will serve a student population of  
9 which not less than 51 percent are low-income stu-  
10 dents;

11 (2) include a local educational agency which  
12 serves a high school that is—

13 (A) identified for comprehensive support  
14 and improvement under section  
15 1111(c)(4)(D)(i) of the Elementary and Sec-  
16 ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
17 6311(c)(4)(D)(i)); or

18 (B) implementing a targeted support and  
19 improvement plan as described in section  
20 1111(d)(2) of the Elementary and Secondary  
21 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311(d)(2));

22 (3) are from States that provide assistance to  
23 early college high schools or dual or concurrent en-  
24 rollment programs, such as assistance to defray the

1 costs of higher education (including costs of tuition,  
2 fees, and textbooks); and

3 (4) propose to establish or support an early col-  
4 lege high school or dual or concurrent enrollment  
5 program that meets quality standards established  
6 by—

7 (A) a nationally recognized accrediting  
8 agency or association that offers accreditation  
9 specifically for such programs; or

10 (B) a State process specifically for the re-  
11 view and approval of such programs.

12 (g) EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION.—The Secretary shall  
13 ensure, to the extent practicable, that eligible entities re-  
14 ceiving grants under this section—

15 (1) are from a representative cross section of—

16 (A) urban, suburban, and rural areas; and

17 (B) regions of the United States; and

18 (2) include both two-year and four-year institu-  
19 tions of higher education.

20 (h) USES OF FUNDS.—

21 (1) MANDATORY ACTIVITIES.—

22 (A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity shall  
23 use grant funds received under this section—

24 (i) to support the activities described  
25 in its application under subsection (i);

1 (ii) to create and maintain a coherent  
2 system of supports for students, teachers,  
3 principals, and faculty under the program,  
4 including—

5 (I) college and career readiness,  
6 academic, and social support services  
7 for students; and

8 (II) professional development for  
9 secondary school teachers, faculty,  
10 and principals, and faculty from the  
11 institution of higher education, includ-  
12 ing—

13 (aa) joint professional devel-  
14 opment activities; and

15 (bb) activities to assist such  
16 teachers, faculty, and principals  
17 in using effective parent and  
18 community engagement strate-  
19 gies and to help ensure the suc-  
20 cess of students academically at  
21 risk of not enrolling in or com-  
22 pleting postsecondary education,  
23 first-generation college students,  
24 and students described in section  
25 1111(b)(2)(B)(xi) of the Elemen-



1                    tary and Secondary Education  
2                    Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
3                    6311(b)(2)(B)(xi));

4                    (iii) to carry out liaison activities  
5                    among the partners that comprise the eli-  
6                    gible entity pursuant to an agreement or  
7                    memorandum of understanding docu-  
8                    menting commitments, resources, roles,  
9                    and responsibilities of the partners con-  
10                    sistent with the design of the program;

11                    (iv) for outreach programs to ensure  
12                    that secondary school students and their  
13                    families, including students academically at  
14                    risk of not enrolling in or completing post-  
15                    secondary education, first-generation col-  
16                    lege students, and students described in  
17                    section 1111(b)(2)(B)(xi) of the Elemen-  
18                    tary and Secondary Education Act of 1965  
19                    (20 U.S.C. 6311(b)(2)(B)(xi)), are—

20                    (I) aware of, and recruited into,  
21                    the early college high school or dual  
22                    or concurrent enrollment program;  
23                    and

24                    (II) assisted with the process of  
25                    enrolling and succeeding in the early

1 college high school or dual or concur-  
2 rent enrollment program, which may  
3 include providing academic support;

4 (v) to collect, share, and use data (in  
5 compliance with section 444 of the General  
6 Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C.  
7 1232g)) for program improvement and  
8 program evaluation; and

9 (vi) to review and strengthen its pro-  
10 gram to maximize the potential that stu-  
11 dents participating in the program will  
12 eventually complete a recognized postsec-  
13 ondary credential, including by opti-  
14 mizing—

15 (I) the curriculum of the pro-  
16 gram;

17 (II) the use of high-quality as-  
18 sessments of student learning, such as  
19 performance-based, project-based, or  
20 portfolio assessments that measure  
21 higher-order thinking skills;

22 (III) the sequence of courses of-  
23 fered by the program; and

24 (IV) the alignment of academic  
25 calendars between the secondary

1 schools and the institution of higher  
2 education participating in the pro-  
3 gram.

4 (B) NEW PROGRAMS.—In the case of an  
5 eligible entity that uses a grant under this sec-  
6 tion to establish an early college high school or  
7 dual or concurrent enrollment program, the en-  
8 tity shall use such funds during the first year  
9 of the grant period—

10 (i) to design the curriculum and se-  
11 quence of courses in collaboration with, at  
12 a minimum—

13 (I) faculty from the institution of  
14 higher education;

15 (II) teachers and faculty from  
16 the local educational agency; and

17 (III) in the case of a career and  
18 technical education program, employ-  
19 ers or workforce development entities  
20 to ensure that the program is aligned  
21 with labor market demand;

22 (ii) to develop and implement an ar-  
23 ticulation agreement between the institu-  
24 tion of higher education and the local edu-  
25 cational agency that governs how sec-

1           ondary and postsecondary credits will be  
2           awarded under the program; and

3           (iii) to carry out the activities de-  
4           scribed in subparagraph (A).

5           (2) ALLOWABLE ACTIVITIES.—An eligible entity  
6           may use grant funds received under this section to  
7           support the activities described in its application  
8           under subsection (i), including by—

9           (A) purchasing textbooks and equipment  
10          that support the program’s curriculum;

11          (B) pursuant to the assurance provided by  
12          the eligible entity under subsection (i)(3)(A),  
13          paying tuition and fees for postsecondary  
14          courses taken by students under the program;

15          (C) incorporating work-based learning op-  
16          portunities (other than by paying wages of stu-  
17          dents) into the program (which may include  
18          partnering with entities that provide such op-  
19          portunities), including—

20               (i) internships;

21               (ii) career-based capstone projects;

22               (iii) pre-apprenticeships and reg-  
23               istered apprenticeships provided by eligible  
24               providers of apprenticeship programs de-  
25               scribed in section 122(a)(2)(B) of the

1 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act  
2 (29 U.S.C. 3152(a)(2)(B)); and

3 (iv) work-based learning opportunities  
4 provided under chapters 1 and 2 of sub-  
5 part 2 of part A of title IV of the Higher  
6 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a–  
7 11 et seq.);

8 (D) providing students with transportation  
9 to and from the program;

10 (E) paying costs for—

11 (i) high school teachers to obtain the  
12 skills, credentials, or industry certifications  
13 necessary to teach for the institution of  
14 higher education participating in the pro-  
15 gram; or

16 (ii) postsecondary faculty to become  
17 certified to teach high school; or

18 (F) providing time during which secondary  
19 school teachers and faculty and faculty from an  
20 institution of higher education can collaborate,  
21 which may include—

22 (i) professional development;

23 (ii) the planning of team activities for  
24 such teachers and faculty; and

1 (iii) curricular design and student as-  
2 sessment.

3 (i) APPLICATION.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a  
5 grant under this section, an eligible entity shall sub-  
6 mit to the Secretary an application at such time, in  
7 such manner, and containing such information as  
8 the Secretary may require.

9 (2) CONTENTS OF APPLICATION.—The applica-  
10 tion under paragraph (1) shall include, at minimum,  
11 a description of—

12 (A) the partnership that comprises the eli-  
13 gible entity, including documentation of partner  
14 commitments, resources and budget, roles, and  
15 responsibilities;

16 (B) how the partners that comprise the eli-  
17 gible entity will coordinate to carry out the  
18 mandatory activities described in subsection  
19 (h)(1);

20 (C) the number of students intended to be  
21 served by the program and demographic infor-  
22 mation relating to such students;

23 (D) how the eligible entity's curriculum  
24 and sequence of courses form a program of

1 study leading to a recognized postsecondary cre-  
2 dential;

3 (E) how postsecondary credits earned will  
4 be transferable to institutions of higher edu-  
5 cation within the State, including any applicable  
6 statewide transfer agreements and any provi-  
7 sions of such agreements that are specific to  
8 dual or concurrent enrollment programs;

9 (F) how the eligible entity will conduct  
10 outreach to students;

11 (G) how the eligible entity will determine  
12 the eligibility of students for postsecondary  
13 courses, including an explanation of the mul-  
14 tiple factors the entity will take into account to  
15 assess the readiness of students for such  
16 courses; and

17 (H) the sustainability plan for the early  
18 college high school or dual or concurrent enroll-  
19 ment program.

20 (3) ASSURANCES.—The application under para-  
21 graph (1) shall include assurances from the eligible  
22 entity that—

23 (A) students participating in a program  
24 funded with a grant under this section will not

1 be required to pay tuition or fees for postsec-  
2 ondary courses taken under the program;

3 (B) postsecondary credits earned by stu-  
4 dents under the program will be transcribed  
5 upon completion of the required course work;  
6 and

7 (C) instructors of postsecondary courses  
8 under the program will meet the same stand-  
9 ards applicable to other faculty at the institu-  
10 tion of higher education that is participating in  
11 the program.

12 **SEC. 6. GRANTS TO STATES.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award grants  
14 to States, on a competitive basis, to assist States in sup-  
15 porting or establishing early college high schools or dual  
16 or concurrent enrollment programs.

17 (b) DURATION.—Each grant under this section shall  
18 be awarded for a period of 6 years.

19 (c) GRANT AMOUNT.—The Secretary shall ensure  
20 that the amount of each grant under this section is suffi-  
21 cient to enable each grantee to carry out the activities de-  
22 scribed in subsection (f), of which not more than 15 per-  
23 cent of the overall grant total may be used to improve data  
24 systems for the purpose of facilitating the execution of the  
25 reporting requirement in section 7(a).



1 (d) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—For each year that  
2 a State receives a grant under this section, the State shall  
3 provide, from non-Federal sources, an amount equal to 50  
4 percent of the amount of the grant received by the State  
5 for such year to carry out the activities supported by the  
6 grant.

7 (e) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—A State shall  
8 use a grant received under this section only to supplement  
9 funds that would, in the absence of such grant, be made  
10 available from other Federal, State, or local sources for  
11 activities supported by the grant, not to supplant such  
12 funds.

13 (f) USES OF FUNDS.—

14 (1) MANDATORY ACTIVITIES.—A State shall use  
15 grant funds received under this section to—

16 (A) support the activities described in its  
17 application under subsection (g);

18 (B) plan and implement a statewide strat-  
19 egy for expanding access to early college high  
20 schools and dual or concurrent enrollment pro-  
21 grams for students who are underrepresented in  
22 higher education to raise statewide rates of sec-  
23 ondary school graduation, readiness for postsec-  
24 ondary education, and completion of recognized  
25 postsecondary credentials, with a focus on stu-

1 dents academically at risk of not enrolling in or  
2 completing postsecondary education;

3 (C) identify any obstacles to such a strat-  
4 egy under State law or policy;

5 (D) provide technical assistance (either di-  
6 rectly or through a knowledgeable intermediary)  
7 to early college high schools and dual or concur-  
8 rent enrollment programs, which may include—

9 (i) brokering relationships and agree-  
10 ments that forge a strong partnership be-  
11 tween elementary and secondary and post-  
12 secondary partners; and

13 (ii) offering statewide training, profes-  
14 sional development, and peer learning op-  
15 portunities for school leaders, instructors,  
16 and counselors or advisors;

17 (E) identify and implement policies that  
18 will improve the effectiveness and ensure the  
19 quality of early college high schools and dual or  
20 concurrent enrollment programs, such as eligi-  
21 bility and access, funding, data and quality as-  
22 surance, governance, accountability, and align-  
23 ment policies;

24 (F) update the State's requirements for a  
25 student to receive a regular high school diploma

1 to align with the challenging State academic  
2 standards and entrance requirements for credit-  
3 bearing coursework as described in subpara-  
4 graphs (A) and (D) of section 1111(b)(1) of the  
5 Elementary and Secondary Education Act of  
6 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311(b)(1));

7 (G) incorporate indicators regarding stu-  
8 dent access to and completion of early college  
9 high schools and dual or concurrent enrollment  
10 programs into the school quality and student  
11 success indicators included in the State system  
12 of annual meaningful differentiation as de-  
13 scribed under section 1111(c)(4)(B)(v)(I) of the  
14 Elementary and Secondary Education Act of  
15 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311(c)(4)(B)(v)(I));

16 (H) disseminate best practices for early  
17 college high schools and dual or concurrent en-  
18 rollment programs, which may include best  
19 practices from programs in the State or other  
20 States;

21 (I) facilitate statewide secondary and post-  
22 secondary data collection, research and evalua-  
23 tion, and reporting to policymakers and other  
24 stakeholders, disaggregated for each category of  
25 students described in section 1111(b)(2)(B)(xi)

1 of the Elementary and Secondary Education  
2 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311(b)(2)(B)(xi)); and  
3 (J) conduct outreach programs to ensure  
4 that secondary school students, their families,  
5 and community members are made aware of  
6 early college high schools and dual or concur-  
7 rent enrollment programs in the State through  
8 a new or existing State online website that com-  
9 plies with the web accessibility requirements  
10 under Federal and State laws that protect indi-  
11 viduals with disabilities.

12 (2) ALLOWABLE ACTIVITIES.—A State may use  
13 grant funds received under this section to—

14 (A) establish a mechanism to offset the  
15 costs of tuition, fees, standardized testing, per-  
16 formance assessments, and support services for  
17 low-income students and students from under-  
18 represented populations enrolled in early college  
19 high schools or dual or concurrent enrollment  
20 programs;

21 (B) establish formal transfer systems with-  
22 in and across State higher education systems,  
23 including two-year and four-year public and pri-  
24 vate institutions to maximize the transferability  
25 of college courses;

1 (C) provide incentives to school districts  
2 that—

3 (i) assist high school teachers in get-  
4 ting the credentials needed to participate  
5 in early college high school and dual or  
6 concurrent enrollment programs;

7 (ii) encourage the use of college in-  
8 structors to teach college courses in high  
9 schools; and

10 (iii) participate in participate in an  
11 annual assessment of current availability  
12 and shortages of high school instructors  
13 who are credentialed to teach a dual or  
14 concurrent enrollment course, and short-  
15 ages of these instructors in specific cur-  
16 ricular areas; and

17 (D) support initiatives to improve the qual-  
18 ity of early college high school and dual or con-  
19 current enrollment programs at participating  
20 institutions, including by assisting such institu-  
21 tions in aligning programs with the quality  
22 standards described in section 5(f)(3).

23 (g) STATE APPLICATIONS.—

24 (1) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a  
25 grant under this section, a State shall submit to the

1 Secretary an application at such time, in such man-  
2 ner, and containing such information as the Sec-  
3 retary may require.

4 (2) CONTENTS OF APPLICATION.—The applica-  
5 tion under paragraph (1) shall include, at minimum,  
6 a description of—

7 (A) how the State will carry out the man-  
8 datory State activities described in subsection  
9 (f)(1);

10 (B) how the State will ensure that any  
11 programs funded with a grant under this sec-  
12 tion are coordinated with programs under—

13 (i) the Carl D. Perkins Career and  
14 Technical Education Act of 2006 (20  
15 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.);

16 (ii) the Workforce Innovation and Op-  
17 portunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.);

18 (iii) the Elementary and Secondary  
19 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et  
20 seq.); and

21 (iv) the Individuals with Disabilities  
22 Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.);

23 (C) how the State intends to use grant  
24 funds to address achievement gaps for each cat-  
25 egory of students described in section

1           1111(b)(2)(B)(xi) of the Elementary and Sec-  
2           ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
3           6311(b)(2)(B)(xi));

4           (D) how the State will access and leverage  
5           additional resources necessary to sustain early  
6           college high schools and dual or concurrent en-  
7           rollment programs;

8           (E) how the State will identify and elimi-  
9           nate barriers to implementing effective early  
10          college high schools and dual or concurrent en-  
11          rollment programs after the grant expires, in-  
12          cluding by engaging businesses and nonprofit  
13          organizations; and

14          (F) such other information as the Sec-  
15          retary determines to be appropriate.

16 **SEC. 7. REPORTING AND OVERSIGHT.**

17          (a) IN GENERAL.—Not less frequently than once an-  
18          nually, each State and eligible entity that receives a grant  
19          under this Act shall submit to the Secretary a report on  
20          the progress of the State or eligible entity in carrying out  
21          the programs supported by such grant.

22          (b) FORM OF REPORT.—The report under subsection  
23          (a) shall be submitted to the Secretary at such time, in  
24          such manner, and containing such information as the Sec-  
25          retary may require. The Secretary shall issue uniform

1 guidelines describing the information that shall be re-  
2 ported by grantees under such subsection.

3 (c) CONTENTS OF REPORT.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The report under subsection  
5 (a) shall include, at minimum, the following:

6 (A) The number of students enrolled in the  
7 early college high school or dual or concurrent  
8 enrollment program.

9 (B) The number and percentage of stu-  
10 dents enrolled in the early college high school or  
11 dual or concurrent enrollment program who  
12 earn a recognized postsecondary credential con-  
13 currently with a high school diploma.

14 (C) The number of postsecondary credits  
15 earned by eligible students while enrolled in the  
16 early college high school or dual or concurrent  
17 enrollment program that may be applied toward  
18 a recognized postsecondary credential.

19 (D) The number and percentage of stu-  
20 dents who earn a high school diploma.

21 (E) The number and percentage of grad-  
22 uates who enroll in postsecondary education.

23 (2) CATEGORIES OF STUDENTS.—The informa-  
24 tion described in each of subparagraphs (A) through  
25 (F) of paragraph (1) shall be disaggregated for each



1 category of students described in section  
2 1111(b)(2)(B)(xi) of the Elementary and Secondary  
3 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
4 6311(b)(2)(B)(xi)).

5 **SEC. 8. NATIONAL ACTIVITIES.**

6 (a) REPORTING BY SECRETARY.—Not less frequently  
7 than once annually, the Secretary shall submit to Con-  
8 gress a report that includes—

9 (1) an analysis of the information received from  
10 States and eligible entities under section 7;

11 (2) an identification of best practices for car-  
12 rying out programs supported by grants under this  
13 Act; and

14 (3) the results of the evaluation under sub-  
15 section (b).

16 (b) NATIONAL EVALUATION.—Not later than 6  
17 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the  
18 Secretary shall seek to enter into a contract with an inde-  
19 pendent entity to perform an evaluation of the grants  
20 awarded under this Act. Such evaluation shall apply rig-  
21 orous procedures to obtain valid and reliable data con-  
22 cerning student outcomes by social and academic charac-  
23 teristics and monitor the progress of students from sec-  
24 ondary school to and through postsecondary education.

1       (c) **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**—The Secretary shall  
2 provide technical assistance to States and eligible entities  
3 concerning best practices and quality improvement pro-  
4 grams in early college high schools and dual or concurrent  
5 enrollment programs and shall disseminate such best prac-  
6 tices among eligible entities, States, and local educational  
7 agencies.

8       (d) **ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.**—From amounts re-  
9 served to carry out this section under section 4(b)(3), the  
10 Secretary may reserve such sums as may be necessary for  
11 the direct administrative costs of carrying out the Sec-  
12 retary’s responsibilities under this Act.

13 **SEC. 9. RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.**

14       (a) **EMPLOYEES.**—Nothing in this Act shall be con-  
15 strued to alter or otherwise affect the rights, remedies,  
16 and procedures afforded to the employees of local edu-  
17 cational agencies (including schools) or institutions of  
18 higher education under Federal, State, or local laws (in-  
19 cluding applicable regulations or court orders) or under  
20 the terms of collective bargaining agreements, memoranda  
21 of understanding, or other agreements between such em-  
22 ployees and their employers.

23       (b) **GRADUATION RATE.**—A student who graduates  
24 from an early college high school supported by a grant  
25 under section 5 within 100 percent of the normal time

- 1 for completion described in the eligible entity's application
- 2 under such section shall be counted in the four-year ad-
- 3 justed cohort graduation rate for such high school.