116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S.

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to provide grants to local educational agencies to establish “Family Friendly School” policies at 500 elementary schools that align the school day with the work day to better support working families and to disseminate the learnings from these model schools so that other local educational agency’s may adopt these practices, and to establish a supplemental 21st century community learning centers grant program to support programs and activities during summer recess when school is not in session.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

__________ introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to provide grants to local educational agencies to establish “Family Friendly School” policies at 500 elementary schools that align the school day with the work day to better support working families and to disseminate the learnings from these model schools so that other local educational agency’s may adopt these practices, and to establish a supplemental 21st century community learning centers grant program to support programs and activities during summer recess when school is not in session.
Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Family Friendly
Schools Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Schools are shut down for an average of 29
days throughout the school year, which is 2 weeks
longer than the typical American with paid leave has
in paid holidays and vacation.

(2) Moreover, 39 percent of all workers, and 80
percent of low-wage workers, lack access to any paid
vacation time.

(3) Most schools close at or around 3 pm, 2
hours short of the standard full-time work day.

(4) Fewer than \(\frac{1}{2}\) of elementary schools and
fewer than \(\frac{1}{3}\) of low-income schools offer before-
and after-school care.

(5) In communities across the Nation, 1 in 5
school-aged children were unsupervised after school.

(6) In 2014, parents of approximately
19,400,000 children who were not in an afterschool
program said that their children would participate if
a program were available.
(7) If families pay out of pocket for child care to cover the excess school closure days and the hours between 3 pm and 5 pm, it would cost an average of $6,600 per year, or 9 percent of an average family’s income.

(8) Moreover, 73 percent of families report some difficulty in finding summer care.

(9) Many working parents are forced to make job-related changes during the summer. In 57 percent of families, at least one parent makes a change to their job that is likely to result in a smaller paycheck, and in nearly 1/3 of families, both parents make a job sacrifice.

(10) The misalignment of school and work schedules creates a significant strain on working parents and guardians, particularly mothers and Black, Latino, low-income, and single working parents, and those with irregular schedules.

(11) Misaligned school schedules cost the United States economy $55,000,000,000 in lost productivity annually.

(12) 1,000,000 women with elementary school-aged children work less than full-time because of their caregiving responsibilities.
(13) More than 8 in 10 parents of children in afterschool programs agree that afterschool programs help working parents keep their jobs.

(14) More than half of families report a desire for their child to participate in a summer learning program.

(15)Aligning school and work schedules is both an economic growth and child development strategy.

SEC. 3. GRANT PROGRAM FOR FAMILY FRIENDLY SCHOOLS.

Title IV of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“PART G—FAMILY FRIENDLY SCHOOLS

“SEC. 4701. GRANT PROGRAM FOR FAMILY FRIENDLY SCHOOLS.

“(a) AUTHORIZATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award grants to eligible entities to enable the establishment of ‘Family Friendly School’ policies at a total of 500 elementary schools that align the school day with the work day to better support working families.

“(2) DURATION.—Each grant awarded under this section shall be for a 5-year period.
“(3) AMOUNT.—Each grant awarded under this section shall be in an amount that is not more than $5,000,000 for the grant period for each elementary school at which Family Friendly School policies are established by the eligible entity. In determining the grant amount, the Secretary shall consider the number of students served.

“(4) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—As a condition of receiving a grant under this section, an eligible entity shall provide, from non-Federal sources, matching funds in an amount equal to not less than 10 percent of the cost of establishing Family Friendly School policies under this section. A parent copayment or fee collected by the eligible entity shall not qualify as matching funds.

“(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—In this section, the term ‘eligible entity’ means—

“(1) a local educational agency—

“(A) that serves schools receiving assistance under part A of title I; and

“(B) that—

“(i) has not reduced the instructional time or number of instructional days for elementary schools at any point during the
4-year period preceding the date of the application for a grant under this section; or

“(ii) has reduced the instructional time or number of instructional days for elementary schools at any point during the 4-year period preceding the date of the application for a grant under this section but pledges—

“(I) to reverse the reduction without the use of Federal funds; and

“(II) to return any Federal funds received under this section if the local educational agency does not reverse the reduction without the use of Federal funds not later than 1 year after the date of receipt of the Federal funds; or

“(2) a local educational agency described in paragraph (1) in partnership with a nonprofit or community–based organization with a demonstrated record of providing high-quality enrichment activities for children.

“(c) APPLICATION.—An eligible entity that desires to receive a grant under this section shall submit an applica-
tion at such time, in such manner, and accompanied such
information as the Secretary may require, including—

“(1) the number of elementary schools at which
the eligible entity desires to establish Family Friendly
School policies;

“(2) how such elementary schools will align
with other schools and local educational agencies in
the same geographic area in ways that support
working families with children in different schools;
and

“(3) how such elementary schools will make
necessary adjustments to transportation to serve
students attending such schools, including students
with disabilities.

“(d) AWARD OF GRANTS.—In awarding grants under
this section, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible en-
tities that—

“(1) serve schools that have been identified by
the local educational agency in the eligible entity to
have the greatest need for aligning the school day
with the work day to better support working families
(such as through a survey of parents in the district
to identify which schools have the most single par-
ents who work outside the home, families with 2
working parents, or parents working irregular sched-
ules); and

“(2) propose—

“(A) to restructure and expand the school
day to better meet the needs of working fami-
lies, students, and teachers rather than adding
on to the existing, unchanged school schedule;
and

“(B) to leverage community resources,
such as nonprofit or government programs for
children or interested stakeholders in the com-
munity, to provide academic, athletic, or enrich-
ment activities during the additional school
hours.

“(e) USE OF FUNDS.—

“(1) PLANNING.—An eligible entity that re-
ceives a grant under this section shall spend the first
year of the grant planning and consulting with
teachers, parents, students, and community organi-
izations about how best to design and implement the
Family Friendly School policies. Such first year
grant period shall include a needs and assets assess-
ment that identifies the academic, nonacademic,
physical and mental health, and other needs that
would be most helpful in supporting working families
as they seek to maintain employment while sup-
porting their children’s development.

“(2) Establishment of Family Friendly
School Policies.—An eligible entity that receives a
grant under this section shall establish, after the
first year of the grant period, Family Friendly
School policies at an elementary school in accord-
ance with the following:

“(A) If the eligible entity serves both
schools that receive assistance under part A of
title I and schools that do not receive assistance
under such part, the eligible entity shall first
serve, with funds provided under the grant,
schools that receive assistance under such part.

“(B) An elementary school at which Fam-
ily Friendly School policies are established shall
not increase the amount of time teachers, para-
professionals, and other school staff have to
work unless they volunteer to work additional
hours, which additional hours shall be com-
pensated at no less than the rate the teachers,
paraprofessionals, and other school staff earn
for regular school hours.

“(C) An elementary school at which Fam-
ily Friendly School policies are established shall
collaborate with community partners to develop high-quality, culturally relevant, linguistically accessible, developmentally appropriate academic, athletic, extracurricular, enrichment, or community-based learning opportunities, for students from at least 8 am to 6 pm (or different hours if determined appropriate due to the needs of the community) Monday through Friday during the school year.

“(D) An elementary school at which Family Friendly School policies are established shall not close throughout the school year, except for on Federal holidays, weekends, and during weather emergencies and other emergencies that would make it a safety liability for children to be at school. Specifically, each elementary school at which Family Friendly School policies are established may not close for parent-teacher conferences, professional development, or for any other reason without offering full day enrichment activities free of charge for students.

“(E) An elementary school at which Family Friendly School policies are established shall develop and implement evidence-based policies and practices for parent and family engagement
to support working families and help better align school and work schedules, which shall include at least one of the following activities:

“(i) Providing one or more of the parent and family engagement activities permitted under this Act.

“(ii) Providing assistance to families to leverage existing programs that support working families, such as programs under the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858 et seq.), the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.), the Medicaid program under title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.), and the supplemental nutrition assistance program under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.).

“(iii) Making school buildings available for programs that serve parents, students, and families when school is not in session.
“(iv) Hosting parent-teacher conferences and other school events in the evening, or at times that are convenient for parents who work outside the home, or using technology to speak with parents virtually.

“(v) Engaging in any other activities and strategies appropriate and consistent with the school’s parent and family engagement policies and practices, which may include consulting with parents, students, and community organizations to support collaborative leadership.

“(F) An elementary school at which Family Friendly School policies are established shall annually survey parents, teachers, students, school administrators, and community organizations throughout the 5-year grant period to ask about their satisfaction with the programs and activities funded through the grant.

“(3) COORDINATION ACTIVITIES.—An eligible entity that receives a grant under this section may allocate not more than 2 percent of the grant funds to the local mayor or other head of the locality to coordinate with the eligible entity, parents, teachers,
school administrators, local businesses, the local workforce development board, and other community organizations to strategize about how elementary schools at which Family Friendly School policies are established will align their calendar with other schools served by the eligible entity and with other schools in the same geographic region in ways that support working families with children in different schools.

“(f) REPORT AND EVALUATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—At the 3-year mark in the grant period and at the conclusion of the 5-year grant period, the Secretary shall report to Congress on—

“(A) approaches taken by the elementary schools at which Family Friendly School policies are established to align school and work schedules, including district-level changes or supports provided to schools to assist these efforts;

“(B) survey results on parent, teacher, student, school administrator, and community organization satisfaction with elementary schools at which Family Friendly School policies are established;
“(C) where available, information about changes in parental employment over the 5-year grant period for each elementary school at which Family Friendly School policies are established, which may include information provided voluntarily by parents about—

“(i) changes in parental employment rates by gender; and

“(ii) changes in parental wages by gender;

“(D) aggregate improvements in student engagement and performance, such as improvements in grades, standardized test scores, class participation, classroom behavior, and attendance rates, including rates of chronic absenteeism and tardiness, for each elementary school at which Family Friendly School policies are established;

“(E) changes in overall teacher compensation and retention rates over the grant period for each elementary school at which Family Friendly School policies are established;

“(F) best practices and recommendations for creating schools that better align school and work schedules;
“(G) best practices and recommendations for communities to align school schedules and calendars among all schools within a school district and with schools in other school districts, and between schools and businesses;

“(H) best practices and recommendations for parent and family engagement policies to support working families and help better align school and work schedules; and

“(I) best practices and recommendations for strengthening partnerships between schools and community resources.

“(2) DISAGGREGATION.—The information provided under paragraph (1) shall be disaggregated by race, ethnicity, and income, where appropriate.

“(3) PRIVACY.—The Secretary shall collect and disseminate information under this subsection in a manner that protects the privacy of individuals.

“(g) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—An eligible entity that receives a grant under this section shall use the grant funds to supplement, and not supplant, other funds available to carry out the activities described in this section.

“(h) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to alter, diminish, or otherwise af-
fect the rights, remedies, and procedures afforded to indi-
viduals employed by schools or local educational agen-
cies.”.

SEC. 4. SUPPLEMENTAL 21ST CENTURY COMMUNITY
LEARNING CENTERS GRANT PROGRAM.

Part B of title IV of the Elementary and Secondary
Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7171 et seq.) is amend-
ed by striking section 4206 and inserting the following:

“SEC. 4206. SUPPLEMENTAL GRANTS FOR SUMMER PRO-
GRAMS.

“(a) In General.—From amounts appropriated
under section 4207(b), the Secretary shall carry out a sup-
plemental grant program under this part, through which
grants shall be allotted to States in accordance with sec-
tion 4202 (except that section 4202(a)(1) shall not apply).

“(b) Terms, Conditions, Requirements.—The
terms, conditions, and requirements of this part shall
apply to supplemental grants awarded under this section
(including requirements relating to the State use of funds,
State application and approval process, the local competi-
tive subgrant program, and local activities), except that
funds awarded to eligible entities for community learning
centers under this section shall be awarded for community
learning centers that propose—
“(1) to establish or expand programs and activities carried out during summer recess when school is not in session; or

“(2) to establish or expand programs and activities—

“(A) carried out during summer recess when school is not in session; and

“(B) carried out during after school hours.

“SEC. 4207. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this part (other than section 4206) $1,300,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024.

“(b) SUPPLEMENTAL GRANTS FOR SUMMER PROGRAMS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 4206 $1,300,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024.”.

SEC. 5. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

Section 4202 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7172) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “section 4206” and inserting “section 4207(a)”; and

(2) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “section 4206” and inserting “section 4207(a)”. 