

Hispanic Educational Resources and Empowerment (HERE) Act of 2022

Section-by-Section

Findings

The section outlines 11 whereas clauses regarding Latino educational attainment.

Purposes

The section outlines the two purposes of the bill:

- To promote and support collaborative partnerships between HSIs and school districts that educate a majority of Latino students.
- To expand and enhance the course offerings, program quality, and overall functionality of the HSIs and school districts that educate the majority of Latino students.

Grant Program Authority

The Secretary of the Department of Education shall award grants to eligible entities to carry out the collaboration initiatives between K-12 and higher education.

Eligible entities include:

- Hispanic-Serving Institutions
- Emerging Hispanic-Serving Institutions
- Local educational agencies with high enrollments of Latino students
- One or more nonprofit or community-based organizations

Authorized Activities

Grant funds can be used to support the following activities:

- Creating a college-going culture among eligible students.
- Improvements to school-based and institutional practices to prepare students for postsecondary education and to provide high quality postsecondary supports.
- Supporting students through the college application and transition process.
- Addressing non-academic needs that are barriers to college enrollment, persistence, and completion.
- Developing and offering ‘grow your own’ programs that encourage students to pursue teaching as a profession.

Reporting

Each eligible entity that receives a grant shall submit to the Secretary a report that includes information as the Secretary may reasonably require regarding the impact of this grant.

Evaluation

The Secretary, in partnership with the Director of the Institute of Education Sciences, shall conduct an independent evaluation of the activities funded under this bill, including impact of

this policy and services on the number and percentages of students entering, persisting, and completing postsecondary education.

Definitions

The section defines advanced coursework, co-requisite courses, dual or concurrent enrollment program, early college high school, eligible student, emerging Hispanic-serving institution, and local educational agency:

- The term “advanced coursework” is defined to mean coursework designed for students to earn postsecondary credit upon its successful completion while still in high school, such as Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, dual or concurrent enrollment programs, and early college high school programs.
- The term “co-requisite courses” means courses designed for college students in need of remediation that combines credit-bearing college-level coursework with supplemental instruction.
- The term “dual or concurrent enrollment program” has the meaning given the term in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.
- The term “early college high school” has the meaning given the term in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.
- An eligible student is defined to be:
 - Any student eligible to attend a secondary school that is served by a Hispanic-serving school district, and
 - Any student that has been accepted to a Hispanic-serving institution or emerging Hispanic-serving institution.
- The term ‘emerging Hispanic-serving institutions’ is defined to mean an institution of higher education legally authorized as a nonprofit entity to provide, and provides within the State, an educational program for which the institution awards not less than a bachelor’s degree; or a junior or community college, and that:
 - Is accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency or association determined by the Secretary to be reliable authority as to the quality of training offered or that is, according to such an agency or association, making reasonable progress toward accreditation.
 - Has an enrollment of undergraduate full-time equivalent students that is at least 15.0 percent but less than 25.0 percent Hispanic at the end of the award year immediately preceding the date of the application.
 - Provides an educational program of not less than 2 years in duration that is acceptable for full credit toward such a degree.
- The term ‘local educational agency with high enrollments of Hispanic or Latino students’ means a local educational agency that:
 - Has no less than 25 percent of the students served by the agency are Hispanic or Latino students, as determined by the 12th day of class enrollment figure, and
 - Has no less than 50 percent of the students served by the agency meet a measure of poverty described in section 1113(A)(5) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. are eligible to participate in the school lunch program established under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.).

Authorization of Appropriations

This section authorizes \$150 million in Fiscal Year 2023 to be appropriated to the Department of Education to carry out this grant program over five years.