Accountability for Programs that Prepare Teachers

Legislative Language

"SEC. 205. ACCOUNTABILITY FOR PROGRAMS THAT PREPARE TEACHERS.

'(a) INSTITUTIONAL AND PROGRAM REPORT CARDS ON THE QUALITY OF TEACHER PREPARATION.—

'(1) REPORT CARD.—Each institution of higher education that conducts a traditional teacher preparation program or alternative routes to State certification or licensure program and that enrolls students receiving Federal assistance under this Act shall report annually to the State and the general public, in a uniform and comprehensible manner that conforms with the definitions and methods established by the Secretary, the following:

'(A) GOALS AND ASSURANCES.—

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'(i) For the most recent year for which the information is available for the institution—

'(I) whether the goals set under section 206 have been met; and

'(II) a description of the activities the institution implemented to achieve such goals.

'(ii) A description of the steps the institution is taking to improve its performance in meeting the annual goals set under section 206.

'(iii) A description of the activities the institution has implemented to meet the assurances provided under section 206.

'(B) PASS RATES AND SCALED SCORES.—For the most recent year for which the information is available for those students who took the assessments used for teacher certification or licensure by the State in which the program is located and are enrolled in the traditional teacher preparation program or alternative routes to State certification or licensure program, and for those who have taken such assessments and have completed the traditional teacher preparation program or alternative routes to State certification or licensure program during the two-year period preceding such year, for each of such assessments—

'(i) the percentage of students who have completed 100 percent of the nonclinical coursework and taken the assessment who pass such assessment;

'(ii) the percentage of all students who passed such assessment;

'(iii) the percentage of students who have taken such assessment who enrolled in and completed the traditional teacher preparation program or alternative routes to State certification or licensure program, as applicable;

'(iv) the average scaled score for all students who took such assessment;

'(v) a comparison of the program’s pass rates with the average pass rates for programs in the State; and
“(vi) a comparison of the program’s average scaled scores with the average scaled scores for programs in the State.

“(C) PROGRAM INFORMATION.—A description of—

“(i) the criteria for admission into the program;

“(ii) the number of students in the program (disaggregated by race, ethnicity, and gender);

“(iii) the average number of hours of supervised clinical experience required for those in the program;

“(iv) the number of full-time equivalent faculty and students in the supervised clinical experience; and

“(v) the total number of students who have been certified or licensed as teachers, disaggregated by subject and area of certification or licensure.

“(D) STATEMENT.—In States that require approval or accreditation of teacher preparation programs, a statement of whether the institution’s program is so approved or accredited, and by whom.

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“(E) DESIGNATION AS LOW-PERFORMING.—Whether the program has been designated as low-performing by the State under section 207(a).

“(F) USE OF TECHNOLOGY.—A description of the activities, including activities consistent with the principles of universal design for learning, that prepare teachers to integrate technology effectively into curricula and instruction, and to use technology effectively to collect, manage, and analyze data in order to improve teaching and learning for the purpose of increasing student academic achievement.

“(G) TEACHER TRAINING.—A description of the activities that prepare general education and special education teachers to teach students with disabilities effectively, including training related to participation as a member of individualized education program teams, as defined in section 614(d)(1)(B) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and to effectively teach students who are limited English proficient.

“(2) REPORT.—Each eligible partnership receiving a grant under section 202 shall report annually on the progress of the eligible partnership toward meeting the purposes of this part and the objectives and measures described in section 204(a).

“(3) FINES.—The Secretary may impose a fine not to exceed $27,500 on an institution of higher education for failure to provide the information described in this subsection in a timely or accurate manner.

“(4) SPECIAL RULE.—In the case of an institution of higher education that conducts a traditional teacher preparation program or alternative routes to State certification or licensure program and has fewer than 10 scores reported on any single initial teacher certification or licensure assessment during an academic year, the institution shall collect and publish information, as required under paragraph (1)(B), with respect to an average pass rate and scaled score on each State certification or licensure assessment taken over a three-year period.

“(b) STATE REPORT CARD ON THE QUALITY OF TEACHER
PREPARATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Each State that receives funds under this Act shall provide to the Secretary, and make widely available to the general public, in a uniform and comprehensible manner that conforms with the definitions and methods established by the Secretary, an annual State report card on the quality of teacher preparation in the State, both for traditional teacher preparation programs and for alternative routes to State certification or licensure programs, which shall include not less than the following:

“(A) A description of the reliability and validity of the teacher certification and licensure assessments, and any other certification and licensure requirements, used by the State.

“(B) The standards and criteria that prospective teachers must meet to attain initial teacher certification or licensure and to be certified or licensed to teach particular academic subjects, areas, or grades within the State.

“(C) A description of how the assessments and requirements described in subparagraph (A) are aligned with the State’s challenging academic content standards required under section 1111(b)(1) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 and, as applicable, State early learning standards for early childhood education programs.

“(D) For each of the assessments used by the State for teacher certification or licensure—

“(i) for each institution of higher education located in the State and each entity located in the State, including those that offer an alternative route for teacher certification or licensure, the percentage of students at such institution or entity who have completed 100 percent of the nonclinical coursework and taken the assessment who pass such assessment;

“(ii) the percentage of all such students at all such institutions and entities who have taken the assessment who pass such assessment;

“(iii) the percentage of students who have taken the assessment who enrolled in and completed a teacher preparation program; and

“(iv) the average scaled score of individuals participating in such a program, or who have completed such a program during the two-year period preceding the first year for which the annual State report card is provided, who took each such assessment.

“(E) A description of alternative routes to teacher certification or licensure in the State (including any such routes operated by entities that are not institutions of higher education), if any, including, for each of the assessments used by the State for teacher certification or licensure—

“(i) the percentage of individuals participating in such routes, or who have completed such routes during the two-year period preceding the date for which the determination is made, who passed each such assessment; and

“(ii) the average scaled score of individuals participating
in such routes, or who have completed such
routes during the two-year period preceding the first
year for which the annual State report card is provided,
who took each such assessment.
“(F) A description of the State’s criteria for assessing
the performance of teacher preparation programs within
institutions of higher education in the State. Such criteria
shall include indicators of the academic content knowledge
and teaching skills of students enrolled in such programs.
“(G) For each teacher preparation program in the
State—
“(i) the criteria for admission into the program;
“(ii) the number of students in the program,
disaggregated by race, ethnicity, and gender (except
that such disaggregation shall not be required in a
case in which the number of students in a category
is insufficient to yield statistically reliable information
or the results would reveal personally identifiable
information about an individual student);
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“(iii) the average number of hours of supervised
clinical experience required for those in the program;
and
“(iv) the number of full-time equivalent faculty,
adjunct faculty, and students in supervised clinical
experience.
“(H) For the State as a whole, and for each teacher
preparation program in the State, the number of teachers
prepared, in the aggregate and reported separately by—
“(i) area of certification or licensure;
“(ii) academic major; and
“(iii) subject area for which the teacher has been
prepared to teach.
“(I) A description of the extent to which teacher
preparation programs are addressing shortages of highly
qualified teachers, by area of certification or licensure,
subject, and specialty, in the State’s public schools.
“(J) The extent to which teacher preparation programs
prepare teachers, including general education and special
education teachers, to teach students with disabilities effectively,
including training related to participation as a
member of individualized education program teams, as
declared in section 614(d)(1)(B) of the Individuals with
Disabilities Education Act.
“(K) A description of the activities that prepare
teachers to—
“(i) integrate technology effectively into curricula
and instruction, including activities consistent with the
principles of universal design for learning; and
“(ii) use technology effectively to collect, manage,
and analyze data to improve teaching and learning
for the purpose of increasing student academic achievement.
“(L) The extent to which teacher preparation programs
prepare teachers, including general education and special
education teachers, to effectively teach students who are
limited English proficient.
“(2) Prohibition Against Creating a National List.—
The Secretary shall not create a national list or ranking of States, institutions, or schools using the scaled scores provided under this subsection.

“(c) Data Quality.—The Secretary shall prescribe regulations to ensure the reliability, validity, integrity, and accuracy of the data submitted pursuant to this section.

“(d) Report of the Secretary on the Quality of Teacher Preparation.—

“(1) Report Card.—The Secretary shall annually provide to the authorizing committees, and publish and make widely available, a report card on teacher qualifications and preparation in the United States, including all the information reported in subparagraphs (A) through (L) of subsection (b)(1). Such report shall identify States for which eligible partnerships received a grant under this part.

“(2) Report to Congress.—The Secretary shall prepare and submit a report to the authorizing committees that contains the following:

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“(A) A comparison of States’ efforts to improve the quality of the current and future teaching force.

“(B) A comparison of eligible partnerships’ efforts to improve the quality of the current and future teaching force.

“(C) The national mean and median scaled scores and pass rate on any standardized test that is used in more than one State for teacher certification or licensure.

“(3) Special Rule.—In the case of a teacher preparation program with fewer than ten scores reported on any single initial teacher certification or licensure assessment during an academic year, the Secretary shall collect and publish, and make publicly available, information with respect to an average pass rate and scaled score on each State certification or licensure assessment taken over a three-year period.

“(e) Coordination.—The Secretary, to the extent practicable, shall coordinate the information collected and published under this part among States for individuals who took State teacher certification or licensure assessments in a State other than the State in which the individual received the individual’s most recent degree.

“SEC. 206. Teacher Development.

“(a) Annual Goals.—Each institution of higher education that conducts a traditional teacher preparation program (including programs that offer any ongoing professional development programs) or alternative routes to State certification or licensure program, and that enrolls students receiving Federal assistance under this Act, shall set annual quantifiable goals for increasing the number of prospective teachers trained in teacher shortage areas designated by the Secretary or by the State educational agency, including mathematics, science, special education, and instruction of limited English proficient students.

“(b) Assurances.—Each institution described in subsection (a) shall provide assurances to the Secretary that—

“(1) training provided to prospective teachers responds to the identified needs of the local educational agencies or States
where the institution’s graduates are likely to teach, based on past hiring and recruitment trends;

‘‘(2) training provided to prospective teachers is closely linked with the needs of schools and the instructional decisions new teachers face in the classroom;

‘‘(3) prospective special education teachers receive course work in core academic subjects and receive training in providing instruction in core academic subjects;

‘‘(4) general education teachers receive training in providing instruction to diverse populations, including children with disabilities, limited English proficient students, and children from low-income families; and

‘‘(5) prospective teachers receive training on how to effectively teach in urban and rural schools, as applicable.

‘‘(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to require an institution to create a new teacher preparation area of concentration or degree program or adopt a specific curriculum in complying with this section.

‘‘SEC. 208. GENERAL PROVISIONS.
‘‘(a) METHODS.—In complying with sections 205 and 206, the Secretary shall ensure that States and institutions of higher education use fair and equitable methods in reporting and that the reporting methods do not reveal personally identifiable information.

‘‘(b) SPECIAL RULE.—For each State that does not use content assessments as a means of ensuring that all teachers teaching in core academic subjects within the State are highly qualified, as required under section 1119 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, in accordance with the State plan submitted or revised under section 1111 of such Act, and that each person employed as a special education teacher in the State who teaches elementary school or secondary school is highly qualified by the deadline, as required under section 612(a)(14)(C) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the Secretary shall—

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‘‘(1) to the extent practicable, collect data comparable to the data required under this part from States, local educational agencies, institutions of higher education, or other entities that administer such assessments to teachers or prospective teachers; and

‘‘(2) notwithstanding any other provision of this part, use such data to carry out requirements of this part related to assessments, pass rates, and scaled scores.

‘‘(c) RELEASE OF INFORMATION TO TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS.—

‘‘(1) IN GENERAL.—For the purpose of improving teacher preparation programs, a State that receives funds under this Act, or that participates as a member of a partnership, consortium, or other entity that receives such funds, shall provide to a teacher preparation program, upon the request of the teacher preparation program, any and all pertinent education related information that—

‘‘(A) may enable the teacher preparation program to evaluate the effectiveness of the program’s graduates or the program itself; and

‘‘(B) is possessed, controlled, or accessible by the State.

‘‘(2) CONTENT OF INFORMATION.—The information described
in paragraph (1)—

‘‘(A) shall include an identification of specific individuals
who graduated from the teacher preparation program
to enable the teacher preparation program to evaluate the
information provided to the program from the State with
the program’s own data about the specific courses taken
by, and field experiences of, the individual graduates; and
‘‘(B) may include—
‘‘(i) kindergarten through grade 12 academic
achievement and demographic data, without revealing
personally identifiable information about an individual
student, for students who have been taught by graduates
of the teacher preparation program; and
‘‘(ii) teacher effectiveness evaluations for teachers
who graduated from the teacher preparation program.

‘‘PART C—GENERAL PROVISIONS

‘‘SEC. 261. LIMITATIONS.

‘‘(a) FEDERAL CONTROL PROHIBITED.—Nothing in this title shall
be construed to permit, allow, encourage, or authorize any Federal
control over any aspect of any private, religious, or home school,
whether or not a home school is treated as a private school or
home school under State law. This section shall not be construed
to prohibit private, religious, or home schools from participation
in programs or services under this title.

‘‘(b) NO CHANGE IN STATE CONTROL ENCOURAGED OR
REQUIRED.—Nothing in this title shall be construed to encourage
or require any change in a State’s treatment of any private, religious,
or home school, whether or not a home school is treated
as a private school or home school under State law.

‘‘(c) NATIONAL SYSTEM OF TEACHER CERTIFICATION OR LICENSURE
PROHIBITED.—Nothing in this title shall be construed to
permit, allow, encourage, or authorize the Secretary to establish
or support any national system of teacher certification or licensure.

‘‘(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this title shall be
construed to alter or otherwise affect the rights, remedies, and
procedures afforded to the employees of local educational agencies
under Federal, State, or local laws (including applicable regulations
or court orders) or under the terms of collective bargaining agreements,
memoranda of understanding, or other agreements between
such employees and their employers.’’.