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(Original Signature of Member)

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R.

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To promote the use of blended learning in classrooms across America.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS introduced the following bill; which was referred  
to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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# A BILL

To promote the use of blended learning in classrooms across  
America.

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 “21st Century Class-  
5 room Innovation Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. REFERENCES.**

7 Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in  
8 this Act an amendment is expressed in terms of an amend-  
9 ment to a section or other provision, the reference shall

1 be considered to be made to a section or other provision  
2 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965  
3 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.).

4 **SEC. 3. ENCOURAGING STATE AND LOCAL BLENDED**  
5 **LEARNING PROJECTS.**

6 (a) STATE APPLICATIONS.—Section 2112(b) (20  
7 U.S.C. 6612(b)) is amended by inserting at the end the  
8 following:

9 “(13) In the case of a State that will carry out  
10 a program to award grants under section 2121(b),  
11 a description of the program, which shall include—

12 “(A) the criteria the State will use to  
13 award grants under such section to eligible enti-  
14 ties to carry out blended learning projects;

15 “(B) the State policies and procedures to  
16 be waived by the State, consistent with Federal  
17 law, for such eligible entities to carry out such  
18 projects, which may include waivers with re-  
19 spect to—

20 “(i) restrictions on class sizes;

21 “(ii) restrictions on licensing or  
22 credentialing of personnel supervising stu-  
23 dent work in such projects;

1           “(iii) restrictions on the use of State  
2           funding for instructional materials for the  
3           purchase of digital instructional resources;

4           “(iv) restrictions on advancing stu-  
5           dents based on demonstrated mastery of  
6           learning outcomes, rather than seat-time  
7           requirements; and

8           “(v) restrictions on secondary school  
9           students in the State enrolling in online  
10          coursework;

11          “(C) how the State will inform eligible en-  
12          tities of the availability of the waivers described  
13          in subparagraph (B); and

14          “(D) how the State will provide the non-  
15          Federal match required under section  
16          2121(b)(2)(D).”.

17          (b) RESERVATION OF SUBGRANT FUNDS FOR  
18          BLENDED LEARNING.—Section 2121 of the Elementary  
19          and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6621)  
20          is amended by adding at the end the following:

21          “(b) RESERVATION FOR BLENDED LEARNING.—

22                  “(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other  
23          provision of this part, a State that receives a grant  
24          under subpart 1 may reserve not more than 5 per-  
25          cent of the amount reserved to carry out this part

1 under section 2113(a)(1) to make grants to local  
2 educational agencies to enable the agencies to carry  
3 out blended learning projects described in paragraph  
4 (2).

5 “(2) BLENDED LEARNING PROJECTS.—

6 “(A) IN GENERAL.—

7 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The State edu-  
8 cational agency may use the funds de-  
9 scribed in paragraph (1) to carry out a  
10 program to award grants on a competitive  
11 basis to eligible entities in the State to  
12 carry out blended learning projects de-  
13 scribed in this paragraph.

14 “(ii) RESERVATION FOR RURAL  
15 AREAS.—In awarding grants under this  
16 paragraph, a State educational agency  
17 shall reserve 5 percent of the funds avail-  
18 able to carry out this paragraph for eligible  
19 entities that will serve rural areas.

20 “(B) APPLICATION.—An eligible entity de-  
21 siring to receive a grant under this paragraph  
22 shall submit an application to the State edu-  
23 cational agency at such time and in such man-  
24 ner as the agency may require, and which de-  
25 scribes—

1 “(i) the blended learning project to be  
2 carried out by the eligible entity, including  
3 the design of the instructional model to be  
4 carried out by the eligible entity and how  
5 such eligible entity will use funds provided  
6 under this paragraph to carry out the  
7 project;

8 “(ii) in the case of an eligible entity  
9 described in subclause (I) or (III) of sub-  
10 paragraph (E)(iii), the schools that will  
11 participate in the project;

12 “(iii) the expected impact on student  
13 academic achievement;

14 “(iv) how the eligible entity will en-  
15 sure sufficient information technology is  
16 available to carry out the project;

17 “(v) how the eligible entity will ensure  
18 sufficient digital instructional resources are  
19 available to students participating in the  
20 project;

21 “(vi) the ongoing professional develop-  
22 ment to be provided for teachers, school  
23 leaders, and other personnel carrying out  
24 the project;

1           “(vii) the State policies and proce-  
2           dures for which the eligible entity requests  
3           waivers from the State to carry out the  
4           project, which may include requests for the  
5           waivers described in section  
6           2112(b)(13)(B);

7           “(viii) as appropriate, how the eligible  
8           entity will use the blended learning project  
9           to improve instruction and access to the  
10          curriculum for diverse groups of students,  
11          including students with disabilities and  
12          students who are limited English pro-  
13          ficient;

14          “(ix) how the eligible entity will evalu-  
15          ate the project in terms of student aca-  
16          demic achievement and publicly report the  
17          results of such evaluation; and

18          “(x) how the eligible entity will sus-  
19          tain the project beyond the grant period.

20          “(C) USES OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity  
21          receiving a grant under this paragraph shall use  
22          such grant to carry out a blended learning  
23          project, which shall include at least 1 of the fol-  
24          lowing activities:

1                   “(i) Planning activities, which may in-  
2                   clude development of new instructional  
3                   models (including blended learning tech-  
4                   nology software and platforms), the pur-  
5                   chase of digital instructional resources, ini-  
6                   tial professional development activities, and  
7                   one-time information technology purchases,  
8                   except that such expenditures may not in-  
9                   clude expenditures related to significant  
10                  construction or renovation of facilities.

11                  “(ii) Ongoing professional develop-  
12                  ment for teachers, school leaders, or other  
13                  personnel involved in the project that is de-  
14                  signed to support the implementation and  
15                  academic success of the project.

16                  “(D) NON-FEDERAL MATCH.—A State  
17                  educational agency that carries out a grant pro-  
18                  gram under this paragraph shall provide non-  
19                  Federal matching funds equal to not less than  
20                  10 percent of the grant funds awarded by the  
21                  State educational agency to eligible entities  
22                  under this paragraph.

23                  “(E) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

1 “(i) BLENDED LEARNING PROJECT.—

2 The term ‘blended learning project’ means  
3 a formal education program—

4 “(I) that includes an element of  
5 online learning, and instructional time  
6 in a supervised location away from  
7 home;

8 “(II) that includes an element of  
9 student control over time, path, or  
10 pace; and

11 “(III) in which the elements are  
12 connected to provide an integrated  
13 learning experience.

14 “(ii) CHARTER SCHOOL.—The term  
15 ‘charter school’ has the meaning given the  
16 term in section 5210.

17 “(iii) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term  
18 ‘eligible entity’ means a—

19 “(I) local educational agency;

20 “(II) charter school; or

21 “(III) consortium of the entities  
22 described in subclause (I) or (II),  
23 which may be in partnership with a  
24 for-profit or nonprofit entity.”.