



Providing Resources Early for Kids Act of 2007

The "Pre-K" Act, H.R. 3289

The Committee on Education and Labor passed H.R. 3289, the Pre-K Act, introduced by Representative Mazie Hirono (D-HI-2) on June 26, 2008. The following table compares the original version of the bill with the version reported out of the Committee. Changes in the markup version are noted in italics.

ORIGINAL VERSION		COMMITTEE MARKUP VERSION
Statute	Amends the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)	<i>New legislation</i>
Ages Covered	Ages 4-5 with set-aside funds for ages 0-3	Ages 4-5 with set-aside funds for ages 0-3
Federal Agency	Secretary of Education	Secretary of Education
Type of Program	Voluntary grant program for states "to enhance or improve state-funded preschool programs, as defined by the state." Secretary will reserve 2.5% for the purpose of making grants to Indian tribes.	Voluntary grant program for states "to enhance or improve state-funded preschool programs, as defined by the state." <i>Secretary will reserve 1% for the purpose of making grants to Indian tribes.</i>
Who Submits Application?	The state (application must designate a state agency to administer and oversee the funds and activities)	The state (application must designate a state agency to administer and oversee the funds and activities)
Eligibility	Two categories of states are eligible to apply: "qualified states" and "selected states." 1.) Qualified states, those with already established pre-k programs that meet the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Use research-based curriculum aligned with state early learning standards ◆ Use nationally established best practices for group size, teacher-pupil ratios ◆ Require each teacher to have at least an associate degree ◆ Have a plan to move toward a requirement that each teacher holds a bachelor's degree in early childhood education within five years 2.) Selected states, those with state-funded preschool programs that do not yet meet the above quality criteria, must have a plan to become a qualified state in two years. The Secretary of Education will determine, on a competitive basis, whether to designate any states as "selected states."	Two categories of states are eligible to apply: "qualified states" and "selected states." 1.) Qualified states, those with already established pre-k programs that meet the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Use research-based curriculum aligned with state early learning standards ◆ Use nationally established best practices for group size, teacher-pupil ratios ◆ Require each teacher to have at least an associate degree ◆ Have a plan to move toward a requirement that each teacher holds a bachelor's degree in early childhood education within five years 2.) Selected states, those with state-funded preschool programs that do not yet meet the above quality criteria, must have a plan to become a qualified state in two years. The Secretary of Education will determine, on a competitive basis, whether to designate any states as "selected states."

	ORIGINAL VERSION	COMMITTEE MARKUP VERSION
Distribution of Funds	<p>Base allotment proportional to number of children ages 0-5 living below the federal poverty line. In years when all states do not receive a base allotment, remaining funds will be reallocated among qualified states.</p> <p>No state shall receive less than .25% of the amounts appropriated to be awarded.</p>	<p>Base allotment proportional to number of children ages 0-5 living below the federal poverty line. In years when all states do not receive a base allotment, remaining funds will be reallocated among qualified states.</p> <p>No state shall receive less than .25% of the amounts appropriated to be awarded.</p>
Use of Funds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Increase the number of teachers and administrators with a BA degree in early childhood education or a related field ◆ Increase the number of teacher aides who hold an AA degree in early childhood education ◆ Improve recruitment and retention by increasing the compensation or benefits for teachers, program directors and aides ◆ Decrease class size ◆ Improve teacher-pupil ratios ◆ Provide comprehensive services, such as screenings and referrals for vision and hearing ◆ Extend program's hours per day or weeks per year ◆ Improve monitoring ◆ Provide professional development ◆ Conduct minor renovations of facilities ◆ Use up to 10% of funds to improve services for children ages 0-3 ◆ Qualified state can use up to 50% of the funds to serve more low-income children in the program if, a) the appropriated amount is at least \$250 million; or b) the pre-k program meets or exceeds criteria in standards, teachers, scope and range of services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ <i>New language emphasizes state must give priority to improving the quality programs in communities with high concentrations of low-income children</i> ◆ Increase the number of teachers and administrators with BA degree in early childhood education or a related field ◆ Increase the number of teacher aides who hold an AA degree in early childhood education ◆ Improve recruitment and retention by increasing the compensation or benefits for teachers, program directors and aides ◆ Decrease class size ◆ Improve teacher-pupil ratios ◆ Provide comprehensive services such as screenings and referrals for vision and hearing ◆ <i>Extend program's hours per day; days per week or weeks per year</i> ◆ Improve monitoring ◆ Provide professional development ◆ Conduct minor renovations of facilities ◆ <i>Must use 10% of funds to improve services for children ages 0-3</i> ◆ Qualified state can use up to 50% of the funds to serve more low-income children in the program if, a) the appropriated amount is at least \$250 million; or b) the pre-k program meets or exceeds criteria in standards, teachers, scope and range of services
Teacher Quality	Qualified states must have a plan to move toward a requirement that each teacher has a bachelor's degree in early childhood education within five years after receiving the grant	Qualified states must have a plan to move toward a requirement that each teacher has a bachelor's degree in early childhood education within five years after receiving the grant
Curriculum	Qualified states must have research-based curricula	Qualified states must have research-based curricula
ELL/Special Education	State plans must show how programs will be culturally and linguistically appropriate and meet the needs of children with limited English proficiency and children with disabilities	State-funded programs will be culturally and linguistically appropriate and meet the needs of children with limited English proficiency and children with disabilities
Teacher/Pupil Ratios	Qualified states must require nationally established best practices on teacher-pupil ratios	Qualified states must require nationally established best practices on teacher-pupil ratios
Coordination with K-12	State plans to describe how programs will ensure a successful transition to kindergarten	State plans to describe how pre-k programs <i>will coordinate with LEAs in their area</i> to ensure a smooth and successful transition to kindergarten

ORIGINAL VERSION		COMMITTEE MARKUP VERSION
Service Providers	State plans must describe how the State will ensure that funds are available to a range of types of preschool providers, including LEAs, community-based providers such as child care and Head Start.	State plans must describe how the State will ensure that funds are available to a range of types of preschool providers, including LEAs, community-based providers such as child care and Head Start.
State Matching Funds	Qualified state: provide 50% of federal grant Selected state: provide 30% more state funds than in the most recent year for which it was not a grantee	<i>Qualified state: provide 30% of the federal funds</i> <i>Selected state: provide 50% of the federal funds</i>
Maintenance of Effort	State must maintain the average per-child expenditure and total expenditures on pre-k and childcare services expenditures yearly.	State must maintain the average per-child expenditure and total expenditures on pre-k and childcare services expenditures yearly.
Reporting	States would report annually to the Secretary on the activities and how the funds improve the quality of state-funded pre-k programs	<i>Secretary is required to submit an annual report to Congress on the activities carried out under this Act</i>
Authorized Funds	\$1 billion for each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2013	<i>\$500 million for each of the fiscal years 2009 through 2013</i>

Amendments adopted by the Committee on Education and Labor

- ◆ Requires states in developing applications for the grants to consult with the State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care or similar state entity and providers of early childhood programs operating in the state. *–Rep. Dennis Kucinich (D-OH-10)*
- ◆ Requires states to describe in their applications how the state is working to address the transportation needs of families for whom lack of transportation is a significant barrier to accessing state-funded preschool. *–Rep. Dennis Kucinich (D-OH-10)*
- ◆ Removes state reporting requirement and requires instead the Secretary to submit an annual report to Congress on the activities carried out under this act including progress of selected states moving toward becoming a qualified state, the extent to which the state used funds to expand a preschool program and the cost and barriers to expansion. *–Rep. Dennis Kucinich (D-OH-10)*
- ◆ Adds language regarding enhancing and improving the quality of state-funded preschool programs serving children who live in a rural area. *–Rep. Phil Hare (D-IL-17)*
- ◆ Adds language requiring states to describe how they develop and use research-based curricula that are aligned with state early learning standards and are linguistically and culturally appropriate for children with limited English proficiency; how states would use funds to increase the number of teachers and administrators who have specialized training in working with ELLs and students with disabilities and their families. *–Rep. Rubén Hinojosa (D-TX-15)*
- ◆ Strengthens language requiring states to describe in their applications how they will ensure the state-funded pre-k program will coordinate with the school districts in their area to ensure a smooth and successful transition to kindergarten. *–Rep. Phil Hare (D-IL-17)*
- ◆ Adds language requiring states to describe in their applications how they are working to eliminate barriers and improve access to state-funded preschool program for children who live in rural areas. *–Rep. Phil Hare (D-IL-17)*
- ◆ Defines a “rural area” as a geographic area served by a rural local educational agency; defines a “rural local educational agency” as a school district having administrative control or direction of schools which meet a metro-centric locale code of 41, 42, or 43 as determined by the National Center for Educational Statistics and the Bureau of the Census. *–Rep. Phil Hare (D-IL-17)*
- ◆ Allows states to use grant funds to provide induction and support for preschool program directors, teachers and staff during the first three years of employment in a new position and to provide ongoing mentoring. *–Rep. Susan Davis (D-CA-53)*