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(Original Signature of Member)

111TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to provide for school improvement and professional development for teachers, principals, instructional staff, and other school leaders, and for other purposes.

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**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Mr. POLIS of Colorado introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to provide for school improvement and professional development for teachers, principals, instructional staff, and other school leaders, and for other purposes.

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 “Great Teachers for  
5       Great Schools Act of 2010”.

1 **SEC. 2. REFERENCES.**

2 Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in  
3 this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms  
4 of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provi-  
5 sion, the reference shall be considered to be made to a  
6 section or other provision of the Elementary and Sec-  
7 ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.).

8 **SEC. 3. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

9 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

10 (1) Teacher quality is the single most important  
11 factor influencing student learning and achievement.

12 (2) Studies have found that 40 to 90 percent of  
13 the difference in student test scores can be attrib-  
14 uted to teacher quality.

15 (3) Principal leadership is second only to class-  
16 room instruction in terms of school-related factors  
17 which affect student learning, especially in high-  
18 needs schools.

19 (4) Available experimental studies indicate that  
20 there is a direct correlation between professional de-  
21 velopment and student performance. A set of pro-  
22 grams that offered substantial professional develop-  
23 ment, ranging from 30 to 100 hours in total, spread  
24 over six to 12 months, showed a positive and signifi-  
25 cant effect on student achievement gains. According  
26 to the research, the intensive professional develop-

1        ment efforts that offered an average of 49 hours in  
2        a year boosted student performance by approxi-  
3        mately 21 percentile points.

4            (5) Studies that benchmark United States' aca-  
5        demic performance against that of other developed  
6        nations have stressed the importance of and need for  
7        improved professional development, for example as  
8        follows:

9            (A) For professional development, Finland  
10        relies on a system wherein students are trained  
11        from a young age in the skills required for  
12        classroom success. These skills are bolstered in  
13        the workplace through an organizational struc-  
14        ture that promotes entrepreneurship, daily  
15        learning, and continual professional develop-  
16        ment.

17            (B) Japan's focus on continually building  
18        content knowledge, intrinsic capabilities, and  
19        pedagogical knowledge – especially amongst  
20        young teachers – has yielded massive edu-  
21        cational success for the country. They imple-  
22        ment a nationally-practiced system of “guidance  
23        teachers” and “trainee teachers” which encour-  
24        age one-on-one coaching and an intense com-  
25        mitment to professional development.

1 (C) After experiencing unsatisfactory  
2 progress in literacy and mathematics for nearly  
3 50 years, England pursued a national teacher  
4 training program that employed best practice  
5 techniques. After three years, England in-  
6 creased the number of students meeting the  
7 target standards in literacy from 63 percent to  
8 75 percent.

9 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to build  
10 the capacity of teachers and principals in our Nation’s  
11 schools through systematic, sustained, coherent school and  
12 team-based, job-embedded professional development.

13 **SEC. 4. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT.**

14 Section 1003(g)(5) (20 U.S.C. 6303(g)(5)) is amend-  
15 ed—

16 (1) in subparagraph (B), by striking “and”  
17 after the semicolon;

18 (2) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period  
19 and inserting “; and”; and

20 (3) by adding at the end the following:

21 “(D) permitted to be used to supplement  
22 the activities required under section 2501.”.

23 **SEC. 5. LOCAL SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT.**

24 Title II (20 U.S.C. 6601 et seq.) is amended by add-  
25 ing at the end the following:

1       **“PART E—BUILDING SCHOOL CAPACITY FOR**  
2                               **EFFECTIVE TEACHING**

3       **“SEC. 2501. LOCAL SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT ACTIVITIES.**

4               “(a) SUBGRANTS TO LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGEN-  
5       CIES.—

6                       “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall allot  
7       the amount made available to carry out this part for  
8       a fiscal year among the State educational agencies  
9       in proportion to the amounts received by the States  
10      under title I for such year.

11                      “(2) USE OF ALLOTMENT.—A State edu-  
12      cational agency that receives an allotment under this  
13      part shall—

14                               “(A) reserve 95 percent of the fund to  
15      make subgrants to local educational agencies;  
16      and

17                               “(B) use the remainder of the funds for  
18      administrative activities in carrying out this  
19      part.

20                      “(3) PROPORTIONALITY.—To the extent prac-  
21      ticable, the Secretary shall ensure that subgrants  
22      awarded under this part are equitably distributed  
23      among local educational agencies and serving urban  
24      and rural areas.

1       “(b) FIRST AWARD.—In awarding subgrants under  
2 this part, a State educational agency shall first award  
3 grants to local educational agencies—

4           “(1) that demonstrate the greatest need for dis-  
5 trict and school improvement subgrant funds;

6           “(2) in which the average graduation rates are  
7 less than 65 percent, if applicable; and

8           “(3) in which children eligible for free and re-  
9 duced priced lunches under the Richard B. Russell  
10 National School Lunch Act constitute not less than  
11 40 percent of the total population of children aged  
12 5 to 17 served by the agency.

13       “(c) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY APPLICATION.—

14           “(1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a  
15 subgrant under this part, a local educational agency  
16 shall submit an application to the State educational  
17 agency at such time, in such manner, and containing  
18 such information as the State educational agency  
19 may reasonably require.

20           “(2) CONTENTS.—Each application submitted  
21 pursuant to paragraph (1) shall include—

22           “(A) a description of how the local edu-  
23 cational agency will assist schools identified  
24 under section 1116(b), and low-achieving sec-

1           ondary schools with graduation rates less than  
2           65 percent, in—

3                   “(i) implementing high-impact profes-  
4                   sional development;

5                   “(ii) providing protected release time  
6                   for high-impact professional development  
7                   that occurs not less than multiple times  
8                   per week; and

9                   “(iii) using teaching standards, form-  
10                  ative assessments, teacher portfolio proc-  
11                  esses, evidence-based instructional prac-  
12                  tices, and teacher development protocols;  
13                  and

14               “(B) a description of how the local edu-  
15               cational agency will—

16                   “(i) evaluate the effectiveness of the  
17                   programs and assistance provided under  
18                   subsection (d) and pursuant to subsection  
19                   (e);

20                   “(ii) prepare, support, and utilize in-  
21                   ternal teacher leaders, coaches, or content  
22                   experts to facilitate school-based profes-  
23                   sional development; and

24                   “(iii) ensure that the professional de-  
25                   velopment required under subsection (d) is

1 integrated and aligned with the State's  
2 school improvement efforts under sections  
3 1116 and 1117.

4 “(d) USE OF FUNDS.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A local educational agency  
6 that receives a subgrant under this part shall use  
7 the subgrant funds to improve teacher, principal,  
8 and other instructional staff quality through a com-  
9 prehensive system of professional development (as  
10 defined in section 9101(34))—

11 “(A) to increase principals’, coaches’, and  
12 teacher leaders’ knowledge and skills in—

13 “(i) assisting the school to—

14 “(I) clarify school improvement  
15 goals;

16 “(II) train educators in analyzing  
17 school and student data to inform de-  
18 cisionmaking and improvement ef-  
19 forts;

20 “(III) develop and implement  
21 professional development aligned with  
22 student achievement needs and educa-  
23 tor learning goals;

24 “(IV) allocate teacher and prin-  
25 cipal professional development re-



1 sources and help develop the revised  
2 plan as related to the professional de-  
3 velopment required under section  
4 1116(b);

5 “(V) select and implement strate-  
6 gies and interventions to improve stu-  
7 dent achievement, increase teacher  
8 and school leader effectiveness, in-  
9 crease graduation rates, and ensure  
10 students graduate prepared for suc-  
11 cess in college and careers;

12 “(VI) make available opportuni-  
13 ties for individual and team learning  
14 activities that focus on increasing ped-  
15 agogical and content knowledge in  
16 academic subjects that are aligned to  
17 student learning goals; and

18 “(VII) design, create, and evalu-  
19 ate the results of curriculum-based di-  
20 agnostic and performance assess-  
21 ments; and

22 “(ii) utilizing internal teacher leaders,  
23 coaches, or content experts to—

24 “(I) support classroom learning;  
25 and

1 “(II) facilitate effective collabora-  
2 tion skills across learning communities  
3 and transfer knowledge from peers  
4 teaching and leading at high-per-  
5 forming schools;

6 “(B) to increase principals’ knowledge and  
7 skills necessary for leading effective professional  
8 learning, including—

9 “(i) establishing a shared vision of  
10 school success among all school stake-  
11 holders, including teachers, parents, com-  
12 munity organizations and related stake-  
13 holders by—

14 “(I) seeking leadership contribu-  
15 tions from parents, community orga-  
16 nizations, and other school stake-  
17 holders;

18 “(II) actively engaging the com-  
19 munity to create shared responsibility  
20 for student and school success; and

21 “(III) engaging in partnerships  
22 between elementary schools, secondary  
23 schools, and institutes of higher edu-  
24 cation to ensure the vertical alignment  
25 of student learning outcomes;

1 “(ii) establishing the school as a pro-  
2 fessional learning community in which—

3 “(I) there is a culture of contin-  
4 uous learning for adults that is tied to  
5 student learning and school goals;

6 “(II) there is time for team col-  
7 laboration focused on evaluating and  
8 improving instructional practice;

9 “(III) educators are able to ana-  
10 lyze and use data to drive instruction;

11 “(IV) professional development is  
12 evaluated and connected to all of the  
13 school learning goals; and

14 “(V) members of the faculty en-  
15 gage in leadership roles that con-  
16 tribute to school improvement efforts;  
17 and

18 “(iii) promoting the effective use of  
19 data by educators, including—

20 “(I) the use of multiple data  
21 sources as diagnostic tools to identify  
22 barriers to student success and drive  
23 instructional improvement;

24 “(II) the review and analysis of  
25 student work to determine whether

1 students are being taught to State  
2 academic content and achievement  
3 standards; and

4 “(III) the use of classroom obser-  
5 vations to ensure that all students are  
6 provided meaningful learning opportu-  
7 nities that promote active engage-  
8 ment; and

9 “(IV) supporting a standards-  
10 aligned academic instructional pro-  
11 gram that sets rigorous goals for each  
12 student, and a school culture that al-  
13 lows for and encourages students to  
14 reach those goals through ensuring  
15 that learning is aligned to established  
16 State academic standards by—

17 “(aa) ensuring that State  
18 academic content standards serve  
19 as the basis for the creation of  
20 curriculum and instruction; and

21 “(bb) monitoring and ad-  
22 justing the alignment of stand-  
23 ards, curriculum, assessments,  
24 and instruction; and

1                   “(C) for coaches, principals, and adminis-  
2                   trators that—

3                   “(i) supports coaches in responding to  
4                   developmental and contextual needs and  
5                   promotes the ongoing examination of class-  
6                   room practice;

7                   “(ii) assists coaches in the collection  
8                   and sharing of observation data to help  
9                   teachers improve their practice;

10                  “(iii) provides coaches with strategies  
11                  for helping teachers identify student needs,  
12                  plan for differentiated instruction, and en-  
13                  sure equitable learning outcomes;

14                  “(iv) supports the coaches in coaching  
15                  strategically and finding solutions to chal-  
16                  lenging situations; and

17                  “(v) helps coaches bring teachers to-  
18                  gether for meaningful and responsive  
19                  team-based learning.

20                  “(2) SPECIAL RULE.—A local educational agen-  
21                  cy that receives a subgrant under this part shall use  
22                  not less than 10 percent of the subgrant funds for  
23                  professional development for principals.

24                  “(e) EVALUATION.—

1           “(1) IN GENERAL.—The professional develop-  
2           ment program required under subsection (d) shall  
3           include a formal evaluation system to determine the  
4           effectiveness of the program on not less than—

5                   “(A) teacher instructional practice;

6                   “(B) student learning gains;

7                   “(C) teacher retention;

8                   “(D) student graduation and college readi-  
9           ness rates, as applicable;

10                  “(E) student attendance rates; and

11                  “(F) teacher efficacy.

12           “(2) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY AND  
13           SCHOOL EFFECTIVENESS.—The formal evaluation  
14           system described in paragraph (1) shall also meas-  
15           ure the local educational agency’s and school’s effec-  
16           tiveness in—

17                   “(A) ensuring that school protected release  
18           time for professional development occurs not  
19           less than multiple times per week;

20                   “(B) implementing on-going, research-  
21           based professional development for coaches,  
22           principals, and administrators;

23                   “(C) ensuring that coaches, teachers, and  
24           schools are using data to inform instructional  
25           practices; and

1           “(D) ensuring that the professional devel-  
2           opment required under subsection (d) is inte-  
3           grated and aligned with the State’s school im-  
4           provement efforts under sections 1116 and  
5           1117.

6           “(3) CONDUCT OF EVALUATION.—The evalua-  
7           tion described in subsection (e)(1) shall be con-  
8           ducted by the State, local educational agencies, insti-  
9           tutions of higher education, or an external agency  
10          that is experienced in conducting qualitative re-  
11          search, and shall be developed in collaboration with  
12          groups such as—

13               “(A) experienced educators with track  
14               records of success in the classroom;

15               “(B) institutions of higher education in-  
16               volved with teacher induction and professional  
17               development located within the State; and

18               “(C) local teacher organizations.

19          “(f) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—The assistance required  
20          to be provided under subsection (d) may be provided—

21               “(1) by the local educational agency; or

22               “(2) by the local educational agency, in collabo-  
23          ration with the State educational agency, an institu-  
24          tion of higher education, a nonprofit organization, a  
25          teacher organization, an educational service agency,

1 a teaching residency program, or another for profit  
2 or nonprofit with experience in helping schools im-  
3 prove student achievement.

4 “(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
5 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
6 \$500,000,000 for fiscal year 2010 and such sums as may  
7 be necessary for each succeeding fiscal year.

8 “(h) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

9 “(1) GRADUATION RATE.—The term ‘gradua-  
10 tion rate’ has the meaning given the term in section  
11 1111(b)(2)(C)(vi), as clarified in section  
12 200.19(b)(1) of title 34, Code of Federal Regula-  
13 tions.

14 “(2) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The term  
15 ‘local educational agency’—

16 “(A) shall have the meaning given such  
17 term in section 9101;

18 “(B) shall include any public charter  
19 school that constitutes a local educational agen-  
20 cy under State law; and

21 “(C) shall include a consortium of local  
22 educational agencies acting together.”.

23 **SEC. 6. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DEFINED.**

24 Section 9101(34) (20 U.S.C. 7801(34)) is amended  
25 to read as follows:



1           “(34)   PROFESSIONAL   DEVELOPMENT.—The  
2       term ‘professional development’ means a comprehen-  
3       sive, sustained, and intensive approach to improving  
4       teachers’ and principals’ effectiveness in raising stu-  
5       dent achievement that—

6           “(A) fosters collective responsibility for im-  
7       proved student performance;

8           “(B) is comprised of professional learning  
9       that—

10           “(I) is aligned with rigorous State  
11       student academic achievement standards  
12       as well as related local educational agency  
13       and school improvement goals;

14           “(ii) is conducted among educators at  
15       the school and facilitated by well-prepared  
16       school principals and school-based profes-  
17       sional development coaches, mentors, mas-  
18       ter teachers, or other teacher leaders; and

19           “(iii) primarily occurs several times  
20       per week among established teams of  
21       teachers, principals, and other instruc-  
22       tional staff members where the teams of  
23       educators engage in a continuous cycle of  
24       improvement that—

1 “(I) evaluates student, teacher,  
2 and school learning needs through a  
3 thorough review of data on teacher  
4 and student performance;

5 “(II) defines a clear set of educa-  
6 tor learning goals based on the rig-  
7 orous analysis of the data;

8 “(III) achieves the educator  
9 learning goals based identified in sub-  
10 clause (II) by implementing coherent,  
11 sustained, and evidence-based learning  
12 strategies, such as lesson study and  
13 the development of formative assess-  
14 ments, that improve instructional ef-  
15 fectiveness and student achievement;

16 “(IV) provides job-embedded  
17 coaching or other forms of assistance  
18 to support the transfer of new knowl-  
19 edge and skills to the classroom;

20 “(V) regularly assesses the effec-  
21 tiveness of the professional develop-  
22 ment in achieving identified learning  
23 goals, improving teaching, and assist-  
24 ing all students in meeting chal-

1                   lenging State academic achievement  
2                   standards;

3                   “(VI) informs ongoing improve-  
4                   ments in teaching and student learn-  
5                   ing; and

6                   “(VII) may be supported by ex-  
7                   ternal assistance; and

8                   “(C) may be supported by activities such  
9                   as courses, workshops, institutes, networks, and  
10                  conferences that—

11                  “(I) address the learning goals and  
12                  objectives established for professional de-  
13                  velopment by educators at the school level;

14                  “(ii) advance the ongoing school-based  
15                  professional development; and

16                  “(iii) are provided for by for-profit  
17                  and non-profit entities outside the school  
18                  such as universities, education service  
19                  agencies, technical assistance providers,  
20                  networks of content-area specialists, and  
21                  other education organizations and associa-  
22                  tions.”.