

(ii) use valid and reliable measures to document program implementation and impacts; and

(B) to ensure—

(i) that the final report described in subsection (a)(6)(B) of this section is reviewed not later than 120 days after its completion by not less than two independent experts in program evaluation (who may be from among the members of the Review Panel appointed under paragraph (2));

(ii) that such experts evaluate and comment on the degree to which the report complies with subsection (a) of this section; and

(iii) that the comments of such experts are transmitted with the report under subsection (a)(6)(B) of this section.

(Pub. L. 89-10, title I, §1501, as added Pub. L. 107-110, title I, §101, Jan. 8, 2002, 115 Stat. 1592; amended Pub. L. 107-279, title IV, §404(d)(4), Nov. 5, 2002, 116 Stat. 1986.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Government Performance and Results Act of 1993, referred to in subsec. (b)(1)(B), is Pub. L. 103-62, Aug. 3, 1993, 107 Stat. 285, which enacted section 306 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees, sections 1115 to 1119, 9703, and 9704 of Title 31, Money and Finance, and sections 2801 to 2805 of Title 39, Postal Service, amended section 1105 of Title 31, and enacted provisions set out as notes under sections 1101 and 1115 of Title 31. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title of 1993 Amendment note set out under section 1101 of Title 31 and Tables.

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 6491, Pub. L. 89-10, title I, §1501, as added Pub. L. 103-382, title I, §101, Oct. 20, 1994, 108 Stat. 3601; amended Pub. L. 104-134, title I, §101(d) [title VII, §703(b)(3)], Apr. 26, 1996, 110 Stat. 1321-211, 1321-255; renumbered title I, Pub. L. 104-140, §1(a), May 2, 1996, 110 Stat. 1327; Pub. L. 105-18, title VI, §60002, June 12, 1997, 111 Stat. 214, related to evaluations, prior to the general amendment of this subchapter by Pub. L. 107-110.

A prior section 1501 of Pub. L. 89-10 was classified to section 2911 of this title, prior to the general amendment of Pub. L. 89-10 by Pub. L. 103-382.

AMENDMENTS

2002—Subsec. (a)(3). Pub. L. 107-279 substituted “section 9622 of this title” for “section 9010 of this title”.

§ 6492. Demonstrations of innovative practices

(a) In general

From the funds appropriated for any fiscal year under section 6302(e)(1) of this title, the Secretary may award grants to State educational agencies, local educational agencies, other public agencies, nonprofit organizations, public or private partnerships involving business and industry organizations, and consortia of such entities to carry out demonstration projects that show the most promise of enabling children served under this subchapter to meet challenging State academic content standards and challenging State student academic achievement standards.

(b) Evaluation

The Secretary shall evaluate the demonstration projects supported under this subchapter,

using rigorous methodological designs and techniques, including control groups and random assignment, to the extent feasible, to produce reliable evidence of effectiveness.

(c) Partnerships

From funds appropriated under section 6302(e)(1) of this title for any fiscal year, the Secretary may, directly or through grants or contracts, work in partnership with State educational agencies, local educational agencies, other public agencies, and nonprofit organizations to disseminate and use the highest quality research and knowledge about effective practices to improve the quality of teaching and learning in schools assisted under this subchapter.

(Pub. L. 89-10, title I, §1502, as added Pub. L. 107-110, title I, §101, Jan. 8, 2002, 115 Stat. 1597.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 6492, Pub. L. 89-10, title I, §1502, as added Pub. L. 103-382, title I, §101, Oct. 20, 1994, 108 Stat. 3604, related to demonstrations of innovative practices, prior to the general amendment of this subchapter by Pub. L. 107-110.

A prior section 1502 of Pub. L. 89-10 was classified to section 2912 of this title, prior to the general amendment of Pub. L. 89-10 by Pub. L. 103-382.

§ 6493. Assessment evaluation

(a) In general

The Secretary shall conduct an independent study of assessments used for State accountability purposes and for making decisions about the promotion and graduation of students. Such research shall be conducted over a period not to exceed 5 years and shall address the components described in subsection (d) of this section.

(b) Contract authorized

The Secretary is authorized to award a contract, through a peer review process, to an organization or entity capable of conducting rigorous, independent research. The Assistant Secretary of Educational Research and Improvement shall appoint peer reviewers to evaluate the applications for this contract.

(c) Study

The study shall—

(1) synthesize and analyze existing research that meets standards of quality and scientific rigor; and

(2) evaluate academic assessment and accountability systems in State educational agencies, local educational agencies, and schools; and

(3) make recommendations to the Department and to the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the United States House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the United States Senate, based on the findings of the study.

(d) Components of the research program

The study described in subsection (a) of this section shall examine—

(1) the effect of the assessment and accountability systems described in section¹ (c) on

¹ So in original. Probably should be “subsection”.

students, teachers, parents, families, schools, school districts, and States, including correlations between such systems and—

(A) student academic achievement, progress to the State-defined level of proficiency, and progress toward closing achievement gaps, based on independent measures;

(B) changes in course offerings, teaching practices, course content, and instructional material;

(C) changes in turnover rates among teachers, principals, and pupil-services personnel;

(D) changes in dropout, grade-retention, and graduation rates for students; and

(E) such other effects as may be appropriate;

(2) the effect of the academic assessments on students with disabilities;

(3) the effect of the academic assessments on low, middle, and high socioeconomic status students, limited and nonlimited English proficient students, racial and ethnic minority students, and nonracial or nonethnic minority students;

(4) guidelines for assessing the validity, reliability, and consistency of those systems using nationally recognized professional and technical standards;

(5) the relationship between accountability systems and the inclusion or exclusion of students from the assessment system; and

(6) such other factors as the Secretary finds appropriate.

(e) Reporting

Not later than 3 years after the contract described in subsection (b) of this section is awarded, the organization or entity conducting the study shall submit an interim report to the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the United States House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions of the United States Senate, and to the President and the States, and shall make the report widely available to the public. The organization or entity shall submit a final report to the same recipients as soon as possible after the completion of the study. Additional reports may be periodically prepared and released as necessary.

(f) Reservation of funds

The Secretary may reserve up to 15 percent of the funds authorized to be appropriated for this part to carry out the study, except such reservation of funds shall not exceed \$1,500,000.

(Pub. L. 89-10, title I, §1503, as added Pub. L. 107-110, title I, §101, Jan. 8, 2002, 115 Stat. 1597.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 6493, Pub. L. 89-10, title I, §1503, as added Pub. L. 103-382, title I, §101, Oct. 20, 1994, 108 Stat. 3605, related to innovative elementary school transition projects, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 105-277, div. A, §101(f) [title VIII, §301(c)(1)], Oct. 21, 1998, 112 Stat. 2681-337, 2681-410.

§ 6494. Close Up fellowship program

(a) Program for middle school and secondary school students

(1) Establishment

(A) General authority

In accordance with this subsection, the Secretary may make grants to the Close Up Foundation of Washington, District of Columbia, a nonpartisan, nonprofit foundation, for the purpose of assisting the Close Up Foundation in carrying out its programs of increasing civic responsibility and understanding of the Federal Government among middle school and secondary school students.

(B) Use of funds

Grants under this subsection shall be used only to provide financial assistance to economically disadvantaged students who participate in the programs described in subparagraph (A).

(C) Name of fellowships

Financial assistance received by students pursuant to this subsection shall be known as Close Up fellowships.

(2) Applications

(A) Application required

No grant under this subsection may be made except upon an application at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such information as the Secretary may reasonably require.

(B) Contents of application

Each application submitted under this paragraph shall contain assurances that—

(i) Close Up fellowships provided under this subsection shall be made to economically disadvantaged middle school and secondary school students;

(ii) every effort shall be made to ensure the participation of students from rural, small town, and urban areas;

(iii) in awarding the fellowships to economically disadvantaged students, special consideration shall be given to the participation of those students with special educational needs, including students with disabilities, ethnic minority students, and students with migrant parents; and

(iv) the funds received under this subsection shall be properly disbursed.

(b) Program for middle school and secondary school teachers

(1) Establishment

(A) General authority

In accordance with this subsection, the Secretary may make grants to the Close Up Foundation of Washington, District of Columbia, a nonpartisan, nonprofit foundation, for the purpose of assisting the Close Up Foundation in carrying out its programs of professional development for middle school and secondary school teachers and its programs to increase civic responsibility and understanding of the Federal Government among the teachers' students.