

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To amend the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 to establish a National Center for Advanced Development in Education at the Institute for Education Sciences, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. BENNET (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. TILLIS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To amend the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 to establish a National Center for Advanced Development in Education at the Institute for Education Sciences, 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 “New Essential Edu-
5 cation Discoveries Act of 2026”.

1 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL CENTER FOR ADVANCED DEVELOPMENT**
2 **IN EDUCATION.**

3 (a) ORGANIZATION.—Section 111(c)(3) of the Edu-
4 cation Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (20 U.S.C.
5 9511(c)(3)) is amended—

6 (1) in subparagraph (C), by striking “and” at
7 the end;

8 (2) in subparagraph (D), by striking the period
9 at the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

11 “(E) the National Center for Advanced
12 Development in Education (as described in part
13 G).”.

14 (b) DEFINITIONS.—Section 102 of the Education
15 Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (20 U.S.C. 9501) is amend-
16 ed—

17 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (18) through
18 (23) as paragraphs (19) through (24), respectively;
19 and

20 (2) by inserting after paragraph (17) the fol-
21 lowing:

22 “(18) SCIENCE OF LEARNING AND DEVELOP-
23 MENT.—The term ‘science of learning and develop-
24 ment’ means the body of peer-reviewed knowledge
25 from a variety of academic fields and disciplines that
26 demonstrates how students best learn and develop.”.

1 (c) ESTABLISHMENT.—Title I of the Education
2 Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (20 U.S.C. 9501 et seq.)
3 is amended by adding at the end the following:

4 **“PART G—NATIONAL CENTER FOR ADVANCED**
5 **DEVELOPMENT IN EDUCATION**

6 **“SEC. 195. ESTABLISHMENT.**

7 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the
8 Institute a National Center for Advanced Development in
9 Education (in this part referred to as the ‘Advanced De-
10 velopment Center’).

11 “(b) MISSION.—The mission of the Advanced Devel-
12 opment Center is to—

13 “(1) identify, develop, and promote advances in
14 and new solutions for teaching and learning, with an
15 emphasis on breakthrough technologies, new peda-
16 gogical approaches, innovative learning models, and
17 more efficient, reliable, and valid forms of assess-
18 ments;

19 “(2) identify, develop, and promote trans-
20 formative, community-informed solutions to address
21 disparities in achievement and opportunity for stu-
22 dents;

23 “(3) identify, develop, and promote community-
24 informed advances in teaching and learning that

1 have the potential to transform education practices
2 across—

3 “(A) early childhood education;

4 “(B) elementary and secondary education;

5 “(C) postsecondary education;

6 “(D) adult education;

7 “(E) special education and services for stu-
8 dents with disabilities; and

9 “(F) services for English learners;

10 “(4) identify, develop, test, and promote strate-
11 gies and interventions that support student relation-
12 ships and skill-building consistent with the science of
13 learning and development;

14 “(5) identify and provide community-informed
15 recommendations and solutions that address addi-
16 tional factors that can improve student outcomes, in-
17 cluding—

18 “(A) access to a diverse teaching work-
19 force; and

20 “(B) institutional barriers, including with
21 respect to students from underrepresented com-
22 munities; and

23 “(6) investigate transformative research oppor-
24 tunities, including—

1 “(A) technologies to analyze speech sam-
2 ples and identify speech and reading disorders;

3 “(B) identifying tools to support skill ac-
4 quisition outside of school (including tools for
5 parents); and

6 “(C) developing tools to provide feedback
7 directly to students on their competencies.

8 **“SEC. 196. COMMISSIONER FOR ADVANCED EDUCATION DE-**
9 **VELOPMENT.**

10 “The Advanced Development Center shall be headed
11 by a Commissioner for Advanced Education Development
12 (in this part referred to as the ‘Advanced Development
13 Commissioner’) who shall be highly qualified and have
14 substantial knowledge of the methodologies used and ac-
15 tivities undertaken by the Advanced Development Center.

16 **“SEC. 197. DUTIES.**

17 “(a) GENERAL DUTIES.—The Advanced Develop-
18 ment Center shall—

19 “(1) collect, report, analyze, and disseminate
20 data related to transforming education in the United
21 States;

22 “(2) approve and terminate projects in accord-
23 ance with subsection (f)(2)(B);

24 “(3) set priorities that align with the mission of
25 the Advanced Development Center, including by

1 identifying areas that can be furthered by research
2 and development, including—

3 “(A) interventions for learning accelera-
4 tion, with a particular focus on students who
5 score below proficient on the academic assess-
6 ments in mathematics or reading or language
7 arts described in section 1111(b)(2) of the Ele-
8 mentary and Secondary Education Act of 1965
9 (20 U.S.C. 6311(b)(2));

10 “(B) pedagogy; and

11 “(C) assessments administered to students,
12 including such assessments that are summative,
13 formative, competency-based, performance-
14 based, administered throughout the school year
15 to produce a single summative assessment
16 score, or incorporated into an instructional se-
17 quence or lesson;

18 “(4) support the use of scientific discoveries
19 and inventions to improve teaching and learning;

20 “(5) carry out the evaluation and dissemination
21 requirements under subsection (e); and

22 “(6) convene and engage an advisory panel
23 under section 198.

24 “(b) PLAN.—Not later than 6 months after the date
25 of the enactment of this part, and every 3 years thereafter,

1 the Advanced Development Commissioner shall submit to
2 the Director a research plan that—

3 “(1) is consistent with the priorities and mis-
4 sion of the Institute and the mission of the Ad-
5 vanced Development Center; and

6 “(2) describes how the Advanced Development
7 Center will use the performance management system
8 described in section 185 to assess and improve the
9 activities of the Advanced Development Center.

10 “(c) TRAINING PROGRAM.—The Advanced Develop-
11 ment Commissioner may establish a program to train em-
12 ployees of public and private educational agencies, organi-
13 zations, and institutions and may establish a fellowship
14 program to appoint such employees as temporary fellows
15 at the Advanced Development Center in order to assist
16 the Advanced Development Center in carrying out its du-
17 ties.

18 “(d) COLLABORATION.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the duties
20 under this section, the Advanced Development Com-
21 missioner may award grants and cash prizes, enter
22 into contracts and cooperative agreements, and pro-
23 vide technical assistance.

24 “(2) ENTITIES.—In awarding grants and cash
25 prizes and entering into contracts and cooperative

1 agreements under paragraph (1), the Advanced De-
2 velopment Commissioner shall—

3 “(A) solicit applications from public and
4 private entities; and

5 “(B) build research collaborations between
6 a variety of stakeholders—

7 “(i) from the private and public sec-
8 tors; and

9 “(ii) with expertise in education prac-
10 tices, including teachers, principals and
11 other school leaders, and local and State
12 educational agency leaders.

13 “(3) APPLICABLE PROGRAMS.—For purposes of
14 carrying out an applicable program under subsection
15 (f)(2), a program manager may enter into contracts
16 and cooperative agreements in the manner described
17 in paragraph (2).

18 “(e) EVALUATION AND DISSEMINATION.—

19 “(1) EVALUATION.—

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Advanced Devel-
21 opment Commissioner shall obtain independent,
22 periodic, and rigorous evaluation of—

23 “(i) the effectiveness of the processes
24 that the Advanced Development Center is

1 using to achieve the mission described in
2 section 195(b);

3 “(ii) the relevance, accessibility, and
4 utility of the awards made and trans-
5 actions entered into under subsection (d)
6 to education practitioners; and

7 “(iii) the effectiveness of the projects
8 carried out through such awards and
9 transactions, using evidence standards de-
10 veloped in consultation with the Institute
11 of Education Sciences, and the suitability
12 of such projects for further investment or
13 increased scale.

14 “(B) BEST PRACTICES.—The Advanced
15 Development Commissioner shall assess the in-
16 formation obtained from the evaluation and
17 identify best practices for the Advanced Devel-
18 opment Center.

19 “(2) DISSEMINATION.—

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Advanced Devel-
21 opment Center shall disseminate, through the
22 entities listed in subparagraph (B), information
23 obtained from the evaluation under paragraph
24 (1) and any other information determined to be
25 relevant by the Advanced Development Commis-

1 sioner with respect to effective practices and
2 technologies developed under the Advanced De-
3 velopment Center, as appropriate, to—

4 “(i) education professionals, including
5 teachers, principals, and local and State
6 superintendents; and

7 “(ii) parents and other caregivers.

8 “(B) ENTITIES.—The Advanced Develop-
9 ment Center shall distribute the information de-
10 scribed in subparagraph (A) through—

11 “(i) the comprehensive centers estab-
12 lished under section 203 of the Edu-
13 cational Technical Assistance Act of 2002
14 (20 U.S.C. 9602);

15 “(ii) the regional laboratories system
16 established under section 174; and

17 “(iii) such other means as the Ad-
18 vanced Development Commissioner, in con-
19 sultation with the Director and the Sec-
20 retary, determines to be appropriate.

21 “(3) USE AND ADOPTION.—The Advanced De-
22 velopment Commissioner shall support the use and
23 adoption of the best practices identified in para-
24 graph (1)(B) at all levels of education and training.

25 “(f) HIRING.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section
2 188, the Advanced Development Commissioner, with
3 the approval of and in collaboration with the Direc-
4 tor, shall—

5 “(A) make appointments of scientific, engi-
6 neering, and professional personnel, which may
7 include temporary or time-limited appointments
8 as determined by the Director to be necessary
9 to carry out the mission described in section
10 195(b), without regard to the provisions of title
11 5, United States Code, governing appointment
12 in the competitive service and fix the compensa-
13 tion of such personnel at a rate to be deter-
14 mined by the Director;

15 “(B) hire staff with sufficient qualifica-
16 tions and expertise (as determined by the Com-
17 missioner in consultation with the Director) to
18 enable the Advanced Development Center to
19 carry out the duties described in subsection (a)
20 in conjunction with other operations of the In-
21 stitute, without regard to the provisions of title
22 5, United States Code, governing appointment
23 in the competitive service and fix the compensa-
24 tion of such staff at a rate to be determined by
25 the Director; and

1 “(C) use all existing authorities of the Di-
2 rector to hire administrative, financial, and cler-
3 ical staff as necessary to carry out this sub-
4 section and pay such staff in accordance with
5 the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III
6 of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, re-
7 lating to classification and General Schedule
8 pay rates.

9 “(2) PROGRAM MANAGERS.—

10 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Advanced Devel-
11 opment Commissioner, with the approval of and
12 in collaboration with the Director, shall des-
13 ignate staff appointed or hired under subpara-
14 graph (A) or (B) of paragraph (1), respectively,
15 to serve as program managers for the Advanced
16 Development Center.

17 “(B) DUTIES.—A program manager shall
18 be responsible for—

19 “(i) establishing research and develop-
20 ment goals for an applicable program, in-
21 cluding by developing and hosting work-
22 shops and consulting with outside experts;

23 “(ii) publicizing such goals;

24 “(iii) soliciting applications from eligi-
25 ble entities for projects that advance such

1 goals and contribute to making rapid ad-
2 vances in teaching and learning, to be sub-
3 mitted by such entities at such time, in
4 such manner, and containing such infor-
5 mation as the program manager, in con-
6 junction with the Advanced Development
7 Commissioner, may require;

8 “(iv) selecting, on a competitive basis,
9 such projects to be supported under an ap-
10 plicable program, taking into consider-
11 ation—

12 “(I) the novelty and scientific
13 and technical merit of a proposed
14 project;

15 “(II) the demonstrated capabili-
16 ties of the eligible entity to success-
17 fully carry out such proposed project;

18 “(III) the extent to which the eli-
19 gible entity considered, as part of the
20 application submitted under clause
21 (iii), future commercial applications of
22 a proposed project to increase the
23 likelihood of scalability of such
24 project; and

1 “(IV) such other criteria as the
2 program manager, in conjunction with
3 the Advanced Development Commis-
4 sioner, may require;

5 “(v) terminating such projects, as ap-
6 plicable; and

7 “(vi) establishing the research collabo-
8 rations described in subsection (d)(3).

9 “(C) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

10 “(i) APPLICABLE PROGRAM.—The
11 term ‘applicable program’ means a pro-
12 gram—

13 “(I) for which a project manager
14 establishes research and development
15 goals;

16 “(II) that supports projects
17 aligned with such goals; and

18 “(III) that receives funds from
19 the Advanced Development Center.

20 “(ii) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term
21 ‘eligible entity’ means—

22 “(I) a State educational agency;

23 “(II) a local educational agency;

24 “(III) a public or private non-
25 profit institution of higher education;

1 “(IV) a nonprofit educational or-
2 ganization; and

3 “(V) a federally funded research
4 and development center.

5 **“SEC. 198. ADVISORY PANEL.**

6 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after
7 the date on which the Advanced Development Commis-
8 sioner is appointed, the Commissioner shall establish an
9 advisory panel to identify, evaluate, and make rec-
10 ommendations with respect to improving education re-
11 search in order to promote the mission of the Advanced
12 Development Center.

13 “(b) DUTIES.—

14 “(1) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the
15 date on which the advisory panel is established, the
16 advisory panel shall create and update on an annual
17 basis a report that—

18 “(A) identifies, analyzes, and evaluates the
19 state of—

20 “(i) education research and develop-
21 ment; and

22 “(ii) education research priorities at
23 the State and local levels;

24 “(B) identifies and promotes advances in
25 teaching and learning; and

1 “(C) highlights factors that can have an
2 impact on student learning outcomes, with par-
3 ticular attention to opportunity and achieve-
4 ment disparities for students, including the fac-
5 tors addressed in section 195(b)(6).

6 “(2) SUBMISSION AND PUBLICATION.—Not
7 later than 1 month after the date on which the re-
8 port described in paragraph (1) is created and not
9 later than 1 month after each subsequent update of
10 such report, the advisory panel shall—

11 “(A) submit such report to—

12 “(i) the Advanced Development Com-
13 missioner;

14 “(ii) the Director;

15 “(iii) the Secretary;

16 “(iv) the Committee on Appropria-
17 tions of the House of Representatives;

18 “(v) the Committee on Appropriations
19 of the Senate;

20 “(vi) the Committee on Education and
21 the Workforce of the House of Representa-
22 tives; and

23 “(vii) the Committee on Health, Edu-
24 cation, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate;
25 and

1 “(B) make such report publicly available
2 on the website of the Institute.

3 “(c) MEMBERSHIP.—The advisory panel shall be
4 composed of at least 8, but not more than 12, members
5 appointed by the Advanced Development Commissioner as
6 follows:

7 “(1) At least 1 but not more than 2 members
8 shall be parents.

9 “(2) At least 1 but not more than 2 members
10 shall be education professionals.

11 “(3) At least 1 but not more than 2 members
12 shall be experts in technology.

13 “(4) At least 1 but not more than 2 members
14 shall be specialists in rapid gains in student achieve-
15 ment and school improvement.

16 “(5) At least 1 but not more than 2 members
17 shall be specialists in personalized learning.

18 “(6) At least 1 but not more than 2 members
19 shall be education and social science researchers.

20 “(7) At least 1 but not more than 2 members
21 shall be representatives from the Department or Na-
22 tional Science Foundation.

23 “(8) At least 1 but not more than 2 members
24 shall be individuals with expertise in education
25 issues not otherwise represented who will contribute

1 to the overall rigor and quality of the Advanced De-
2 velopment Center.

3 “(d) ADVISORY NATURE.—The function of the advi-
4 sory panel shall be advisory in nature. Nothing in this sec-
5 tion shall be construed as giving the advisory panel au-
6 thority over the activities authorized under this part.

7 “(e) TERMINATION.—The advisory panel shall termi-
8 nate 5 years after the date of establishment of such panel.

9 **“SEC. 199. COMMUNITY-INFORMED DEFINED.**

10 “In this part, the term ‘community-informed’ means
11 to be informed by input from State educational agencies,
12 local educational agencies, parents, students, and edu-
13 cation practitioners, including teachers, principals, and
14 other school leaders within the community or regional area
15 where activities planned and carried out by the Advanced
16 Development Center will occur.

17 **“SEC. 200. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

18 “(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be ap-
19 propriated to carry out this part such sums as may be
20 necessary for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.

21 “(b) TIMING.—Amounts made available for a fiscal
22 year under subsection (a) shall remain available until ex-
23 pended.

24 “(c) RESERVATION.—The Secretary may reserve not
25 more than 5 percent of the funds appropriated for a fiscal

1 year under subsection (a) for administrative expenses and
2 technical assistance.”.

3 **SEC. 3. IMPROVING STATEWIDE LONGITUDINAL DATA SYS-**
4 **TEMS.**

5 Section 208 of the Education Sciences Reform Act
6 (20 U.S.C. 9607) is amended to read as follows:

7 **“SEC. 208. GRANT PROGRAM FOR STATEWIDE LONGITU-**
8 **DINAL DATA SYSTEMS.**

9 “(a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—

10 “(1) GRANTS FOR STATEWIDE LONGITUDINAL
11 DATA SYSTEMS.—

12 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
13 award, on a competitive basis, grants to eligible
14 agencies to enable such agencies to design, de-
15 velop, implement, and improve statewide longi-
16 tudinal data systems.

17 “(B) PERIOD.—

18 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as pro-
19 vided in clause (ii), a grant awarded under
20 subparagraph (A) shall be for a period of
21 not longer than 4 years.

22 “(ii) RENEWAL.—Upon the conclusion
23 of the grant period described in clause (i),
24 the Secretary may renew a grant awarded
25 under subparagraph (A) for 2 additional

1 years if the eligible agency demonstrates
2 significant progress in meeting its goals, as
3 determined by the Secretary.

4 “(2) PLANNING GRANTS.—

5 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Of the amounts made
6 available to carry out this section, the Secretary
7 may reserve not more than 10 percent to award
8 planning grants to eligible agencies to support
9 planning related to the design, development, im-
10 plementation, improvement, and sustainability
11 of statewide longitudinal data systems, which
12 may include planning to support—

13 “(i) the integration or coordination of
14 additional Federal, State, Tribal, or local
15 data sources in the statewide longitudinal
16 data system, which may include facilitating
17 interoperability and linkages across such
18 data sources, including from across other
19 Federal, State, Tribal, or local agencies;

20 “(ii) alignment with the voluntary
21 standards and guidelines described in sec-
22 tion 153(a)(5) of the Education Sciences
23 Reform Act of 2002, which may include
24 the use of linked, open, and interoperable
25 data standards;

1 “(iii) the development of products,
2 tools, or interfaces that provide appro-
3 priate access to data insights produced by
4 the statewide longitudinal data system; and
5 “(iv) upgrading data infrastructure or
6 reporting systems.

7 “(B) PERIOD.—A grant awarded under
8 subparagraph (A) shall be for a period of not
9 longer than 18 months.

10 “(C) ENGAGEMENT.—In carrying out
11 planning activities under this paragraph, an eli-
12 gible agency shall, to the greatest extent prac-
13 ticable, engage students, families, practitioners,
14 education system leaders, policymakers, commu-
15 nity organizations, and State, Tribal, and local
16 public agencies.

17 “(b) APPLICATION.—An eligible agency desiring a
18 grant under subsection (a)(1) shall submit an application
19 to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and accom-
20 panied by such information as the Secretary may reason-
21 ably require, including the following:

22 “(1) A description of how the eligible agency
23 will design, develop, implement, or improve a state-
24 wide longitudinal data system that will integrate
25 data in accordance with the individual privacy and

1 data security requirements specified in section 183
2 of the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002, from
3 the following data sources, to the greatest extent
4 practicable:

5 “(A) Early childhood education, in accord-
6 ance with the guidance developed pursuant to
7 subsection (g)(2).

8 “(B) Elementary and secondary education,
9 including data reported from local educational
10 agencies and the State educational agency.

11 “(C) Career and technical education.

12 “(D) Postsecondary education, including
13 data reported from public institutions of higher
14 education and public systems of institutions of
15 higher education.

16 “(E) Adult education and workforce devel-
17 opment programs.

18 “(F) Unemployment insurance or other
19 statewide data sources with access to labor
20 market outcomes or wage record data and in
21 accordance with privacy and data security re-
22 quirements of the State.

23 “(G) The Bureau of Indian Education, as
24 applicable.

1 “(2) A description of how the eligible agency
2 will design, develop, implement, or improve a state-
3 wide longitudinal data system that may integrate
4 data from other Federal, State, or local public or
5 private agencies or organizations, in accordance with
6 Federal and State privacy laws.

7 “(3) A description of how the eligible agency
8 will ensure that the statewide longitudinal data sys-
9 tem will—

10 “(A) be able to publicly disaggregate stu-
11 dent data by each subgroup of students (as de-
12 fined in section 1111(c)(2) of the Elementary
13 and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
14 U.S.C. 6311(c)(2)));

15 “(B) ensure technical quality, including va-
16 lidity and reliability, of the data managed by
17 the statewide longitudinal data system;

18 “(C) enable the development of tools, prod-
19 ucts, or interfaces that will provide publicly ac-
20 cessible and useful information to students,
21 families, practitioners, education system lead-
22 ers, policymakers, community organizations,
23 State and local public agencies, and the public
24 in a manner that protects and promotes indi-
25 vidual privacy and data security; and

1 “(D) enable researchers to conduct sci-
2 entifically valid research in a manner that ad-
3 heres to Federal or State privacy laws and pro-
4 tections.

5 “(4) A description of how the statewide longitu-
6 dinal data system will, to the extent practicable, pro-
7 mote standardized data definitions, open data for-
8 mats, other widely recognized and adopted stand-
9 ards, and linkages utilized in multiple States, and be
10 aligned with subchapter I of chapter 35 of title 44,
11 United States Code.

12 “(5) A description of how the eligible agency
13 will protect and promote individual privacy and data
14 security in implementing the State longitudinal data
15 system, including by—

16 “(A) defining policies, guidelines, or proto-
17 cols as appropriate for data collection, storage,
18 data sharing, use, data destruction, and disclo-
19 sure avoidance to secure any personally identifi-
20 able information;

21 “(B) reviewing how researchers, State
22 agencies, local agencies, and other entities that
23 will have access to the statewide longitudinal
24 data systems under this section will adhere to
25 Federal and State privacy laws and protections

1 in the building, maintenance, and use of such
2 data systems; and

3 “(C) providing training or professional de-
4 velopment to any employee or contractor of
5 such system to ensure compliance with section
6 444 of the General Education Provisions Act
7 (commonly known as the ‘Family Educational
8 Rights and Privacy Act of 1974’), section 445
9 of that Act (commonly known as the ‘Protection
10 of Pupil Rights Amendment’), the Children’s
11 Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998 (15
12 U.S.C. 6501 et seq.), the Health Insurance
13 Portability and Accountability Act of 1996
14 (Public Law 104–191), and any other relevant
15 Federal or State privacy law as determined by
16 the Secretary.

17 “(6) A description of the data governance struc-
18 ture for the statewide longitudinal data system,
19 which shall, to the greatest extent practicable, sup-
20 port the implementation of statewide data govern-
21 ance structures that involve all relevant State agen-
22 cies, and which may include establishing a State
23 chief privacy officer or a data governance coordi-
24 nator.

1 “(7) A description of how the eligible agency
2 will promote long-term sustainability of the state-
3 wide longitudinal data system, including by identi-
4 fying State and local funding that will be used to
5 support the operation, maintenance, and upgrades of
6 such system.

7 “(c) SELECTION.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In awarding grants under
9 subsection (a)(1), the Secretary shall use a peer re-
10 view process that, with respect to the entities se-
11 lected—

12 “(A) ensures technical quality (including
13 validity and reliability), promotes data linkages
14 within the State, and ensures the protection of
15 individual privacy consistent with section 183 of
16 the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002;

17 “(B) promotes the generation and accurate
18 and timely use of data that is needed—

19 “(i) to support implementation of—

20 “(I) the Elementary and Sec-
21 ondary Education Act of 1965;

22 “(II) the Higher Education Act
23 of 1965;

24 “(III) the Individuals with Dis-
25 abilities Education Act;

1 “(IV) the Carl D. Perkins Career
2 and Technical Education Act of 2006;

3 “(V) the Workforce Innovation
4 and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3101
5 et seq.);

6 “(VI) the Head Start Act (42
7 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.);

8 “(VII) the Child Care and Devel-
9 opment Block Grant Act of 1990 (42
10 U.S.C. 9857 et seq.); and

11 “(VIII) other relevant Federal
12 laws as determined by the Secretary;
13 and

14 “(ii) to facilitate research to improve
15 educational and employment opportunities
16 and outcomes, including student academic
17 achievement, postsecondary education ac-
18 cess and completion, labor market out-
19 comes, and the closing of opportunity and
20 achievement gaps between subgroups of
21 students (as defined in section 1111(c)(2)
22 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
23 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
24 6311(c)(2))).

1 “(2) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under
2 subsection (a)(1), the Secretary shall give priority to
3 eligible agencies that—

4 “(A) received a planning grant under sub-
5 section (a)(2) and propose to carry out activi-
6 ties informed by such planning;

7 “(B) propose the development of products,
8 tools, or interfaces that provide appropriate ac-
9 cess to data insights produced by the statewide
10 longitudinal data system; or

11 “(C) require the use of the voluntary
12 standards and guidelines described in section
13 153(a)(5) of the Education Sciences Reform
14 Act of 2002.

15 “(d) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible agency receiving
16 an award under subsection (a)(1)—

17 “(1) shall use funds—

18 “(A) to enhance or modernize data infra-
19 structure and analytics capacity to integrate
20 data across early childhood education through
21 postsecondary study and labor market outcomes
22 into the statewide longitudinal data system; and

23 “(B) to carry out the activities described in
24 paragraphs (1) through (7) of subsection (b);
25 and

1 “(2) may carry out 1 or more of the following
2 activities:

3 “(A) Award subgrants to public agencies
4 or institutions of higher education to improve
5 the capacity of such agencies or institutions to
6 participate in statewide longitudinal data sys-
7 tems.

8 “(B) Integrate additional Federal, State,
9 or local data sources in the statewide longitu-
10 dinal data system or facilitate interoperability
11 between such data sources.

12 “(C) Develop or increase the access of the
13 public to products, tools, or interfaces that pro-
14 vide appropriate access to data insights pro-
15 duced by the statewide longitudinal data sys-
16 tem.

17 “(D) Implement policies to protect and
18 promote student privacy and data security.

19 “(E) Provide professional development to
20 individuals, practitioners, and education system
21 leaders to better understand, use, and analyze
22 data from the statewide longitudinal data sys-
23 tem.

24 “(e) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—Funds made
25 available under this section shall be used to supplement,

1 and not supplant, other State or local funds used for de-
2 veloping State data systems.

3 “(f) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
4 of enactment of the New Essential Education Discoveries
5 Act of 2026, and again 3 years after such date of enact-
6 ment, the Secretary, in consultation with the National
7 Academies Committee on National Statistics shall make
8 publicly available a report on the implementation and ef-
9 fectiveness of Federal, State, and local efforts related to
10 the activities carried out by eligible agencies that receive
11 a grant under subsection (a)(1), including—

12 “(1) identifying and analyzing State practices
13 regarding the development and use of statewide lon-
14 gitudinal data systems;

15 “(2) evaluating the ability of such systems to
16 manage individual student data, promote linkages
17 across States, and protect student privacy consistent
18 with section 183 of the Education Sciences Reform
19 Act of 2002; and

20 “(3) identifying best practices and areas for im-
21 provement.

22 “(g) GUIDANCE.—

23 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
24 the date of enactment of the New Essential Edu-
25 cation Discoveries Act of 2026, and on an ongoing

1 basis thereafter, the Secretary shall issue guidance
2 and provide technical assistance on—

3 “(A) protecting and promoting individual
4 privacy and data security in implementing
5 statewide longitudinal data systems in accord-
6 ance with applicable Federal, State, and local
7 privacy laws;

8 “(B) developing or increasing the public’s
9 access to products, tools, or interfaces that pro-
10 vide appropriate access to data insights pro-
11 duced by statewide longitudinal data systems,
12 which may support the public, researchers, pol-
13 icymakers, practitioners, and States in effi-
14 ciently and accurately accessing, managing,
15 analyzing, and using data to inform decision
16 making and improve educational opportunities
17 and outcomes, including academic achievement,
18 postsecondary education access and completion,
19 and labor market outcomes; and

20 “(C) supporting data linkages between a
21 statewide longitudinal data system and data
22 from postsecondary education, workforce pro-
23 grams, unemployment insurance, or other state-
24 wide data sources with access to wage record
25 data, which shall include the use of different

1 unique identifiers and may include the use of
2 Social Security numbers, in accordance with ap-
3 plicable Federal, State, and local privacy laws.

4 “(2) EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION DATA.—
5 The Secretary of Health and Human Services, in co-
6 ordination with the Statistics Commissioner, shall
7 develop guidance for eligible agencies with respect to
8 integrating data voluntarily reported under the Head
9 Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.) and other early
10 childhood education data in the statewide longitu-
11 dinal data system.

12 “(3) EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL OR DUAL
13 OR CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT PROGRAMS.—The
14 Statistics Commissioner shall provide technical as-
15 sistance to eligible agencies to collect and report
16 data related to enrollment, retention, transfer, and
17 completion rates in early college high school or dual
18 or concurrent enrollment programs.

19 “(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

20 “(1) ELIGIBLE AGENCY.—The term ‘eligible
21 agency’ means—

22 “(A) a State educational agency;

23 “(B) the office of the Governor of a State;

1 “(C) a State agency, data governance
2 body, or public sector organization, as deter-
3 mined and designated by the Governor;

4 “(D) an outlying area; and

5 “(E) a consortium of entities described in
6 subparagraphs (A) through (C) located in a sin-
7 gle State or a consortium of such entities lo-
8 cated in 2 or more States.

9 “(2) STATEWIDE LONGITUDINAL DATA SYS-
10 TEM.—The term ‘statewide longitudinal data system’
11 means a data system operated by an eligible agency
12 at the State level that connects individual-level data
13 from early childhood education, elementary and sec-
14 ondary education, postsecondary education, adult
15 education, workforce development, labor market out-
16 comes, and other data sources, as determined by the
17 State, in a manner that—

18 “(A) protects and promotes individual pri-
19 vacy and data security, in accordance with ap-
20 plicable Federal, State, and local privacy laws,
21 increases data transparency, and minimizes re-
22 porting burden; and

23 “(B) enhances the ability of the public, re-
24 searchers, policymakers, practitioners, and
25 States to efficiently and accurately access, man-

1 age, disaggregate, analyze, and use data to in-
2 form decision making and improve educational
3 opportunities and outcomes, including academic
4 achievement, postsecondary education access
5 and completion, and labor market outcomes.

6 “(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
7 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this sec-
8 tion—

9 “(1) such sums as may be necessary for fiscal
10 year 2027; and

11 “(2) for each fiscal year thereafter, not less
12 than the amount appropriated for fiscal year 2027.”.