

THE TEACHER EXCELLENCE FOR ALL CHILDREN ACT OF 2007

The Miller-Kennedy TEACH Act addresses the most compelling problems facing the teaching profession so that all children will be taught by high-quality teachers and all teachers will have the support they need to do their job well. The bill, which would double the federal investment in teacher quality with an additional \$3.4 billion, would do the following:

RECRUITS OUTSTANDING NEW TEACHERS

***Problem:** There are not enough qualified teachers in our classrooms and an unprecedented number of teachers will retire over the next five years. This problem is even more pronounced in areas of high poverty. As a result, we will need to bring over two million new teachers into our public schools over the next decade.*

TEACH Act Solutions:

- Provides **financial incentives** to encourage excellent teachers and principals to enter the profession and to elevate the standing of the profession.
- Creates a \$200 million **grant program for institutions of higher education to recruit teachers** from among students majoring in math, science, foreign languages, special education and ELLs.
- Teacher **loan forgiveness is increased** from \$17,500 to \$20,000.
- New TEACH Grants are created that would provide **up-front pre-paid tuition assistance** of \$4,000/year for high-achieving graduate and undergraduate students who commit to teaching a high-need subject in a high-need school for four years.

ENSURES CHILDREN HAVE TEACHERS WITH EXPERTISE IN THE SUBJECTS THEY TEACH

***Problem:** Many children—especially those in high-poverty schools—are taught by teachers who lack a major in the subject they teach. For example, 70 percent of math classes in high-poverty middle schools are taught by teachers without even a minor in math.*

TEACH Act Solutions:

- Provides funding for school districts to pay **annual bonuses** to exemplary teachers and principals who transfer into the hardest-to-staff schools for four years, with extra incentives for teachers in subjects in which there are shortages, such as math, science, and special education. (*\$2.2 billion*)
- Enforces NCLB's Teacher Equity provisions by making ESEA funding contingent on states' compliance with their plan to make sure poor and minority children have **equitable access to high-quality teachers**.
- Requires the Secretary of Education to conduct the Schools and Staffing Survey at least every three years in order to better **track the distribution of teachers**.

IDENTIFIES AND REWARDS OUR BEST TEACHERS USING 21ST CENTURY DATA, TOOLS, AND ASSESSMENTS

***Problem:** Research shows that individual teachers have the greatest impact on how well their students learn. Having a high-quality teacher throughout elementary school can offset – and even eliminate – the disadvantage of low socio-economic status.*

TEACH Act Solutions:

- Encourages our best teachers to remain in the classroom by **recognizing exceptional veteran teachers** through the development and use of data systems that can track student achievement gains, identify and improve teacher effectiveness, and inform instruction. (*\$200 million*)
- Promotes the establishment of teacher **career advancement ladders** by augmenting the salaries of teachers who expand their knowledge and skills and take on new professional and leadership roles such as mentor and master teachers. (*\$200 million*)
- Holds schools of teacher education accountable for results by requiring states receiving Title II Teacher Quality Grants to **track the quality and results of the graduates of teacher education programs** in the state and makes continued funding contingent on their progress.
- Requires the Secretary of Education to **study the validity of tests of teacher certification or licensure** used by multiple states and provide a grant for creation of portable-based teacher assessment.

KEEPS THE BEST TEACHERS AND PRINCIPALS IN OUR SCHOOLS

***Problem:** Too many principals and teachers do not receive adequate preparation for their jobs or adequate training to improve during their first years on the job. As a result, over half of new teachers leave the profession within five years.*

TEACH Act Solutions:

- Helps new teachers transition into the classroom and build their skills through **state-of-the-art induction programs** that include proven strategies such as structured mentoring, common lesson-planning, intensive professional development, and a transition year into the classroom. (*\$300 million*)
- Helps veteran teachers improve their skills through **peer mentoring and review programs**. (*\$50 million*)
- Helps states overhaul and upgrade their **principal certification and professional development** programs, and to recruit and train talented new principals through grants for 10 states to develop, implement, and evaluate 5-year pilot programs for performance-based certification and training of exemplary principals. (*\$100 million*)
- Provides **tax relief** for teachers and principals in high-need schools, and teachers in high-need subject areas (\$15,000 annual exclusion from income; \$25,000 for those teaching in high need school *and* subject).