

Summary of the “Educating for Democracy Act of 2020”

Introduced by Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), Congressman Tom Cole (R-OK),
Senator Chris Coons (D-DE) and Senator John Cornyn (R-TX)

This comprehensive legislation would dramatically increase Federal support for history and civics education, history and civic education research, teacher professional development in civic and history education and would require the National Assessments of Educational Progress (NAEPs) in civic and history education to be conducted every four years at all three grade spans, with state level data of results made available.

Specifically, the bill authorizes \$1 billion in Federal funding each of the next five fiscal years to carry out the following provisions:

The Secretary of Education is authorized to make **grants to States**, on a competitive basis, to support educational programs in American history and civics. States receiving a grant must agree to participate in the NAEPs in civics and history and to the public release of performance data.

A State that receives a grant under this legislation shall use not less than 95% (percent) of the amount of the grant to make **subgrants, on a competitive or formula basis, to local educational agencies within the State** to assist such agencies in carrying out programs to improve the achievement of elementary and secondary school students in the fields of American civics and history. Priority will be given to grant proposals proposing to serve under-served, inner-city, rural and majority minority school populations.

The Secretary of Education is authorized to make grants to **qualified nonprofit organizations**, on a competitive basis, to assist such organizations in developing or expanding access to evidence-based curricula, instructional models, and other educational programs to enhance student knowledge and achievement in American civics and history in elementary schools and secondary schools. Priority will be given to grant proposals proposing to serve under-served, inner-city, rural and majority minority school populations.

The Secretary of Education is authorized to make grants to institutions of **higher education**, on a competitive basis, to assist such institutions in developing and implementing programs to train elementary and secondary school teachers in methods for instructing and engaging students in American civics and history. Priority shall be given to applications proposing to address the specific needs of teachers working with traditionally underserved students, including rural and inner-city urban students and English learners.

The Secretary of Education is authorized to make grants, on a competitive basis, to qualified **researchers to research** and evaluate (1) elementary and secondary school students' knowledge of American civics and history; and (2) effective instructional practices and educator professional development in the fields of American history and civics.

The bill also directs the National Assessment Governing Board and the US Department of Education to Conduct a national assessment, using a methodology sufficient to provide accurate, disaggregated, statistically significant State level data on student proficiency for every State, on student academic achievement in public and private elementary schools and secondary schools at least once every 2 years, in grades 4, 8, and 12 in civics and history.