

A BILL

To provide funds to create new teacher-training programs.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE

This act may be cited as the Teacher Qualification Act of 2015.

SECTION 2. FINDINGS

Congress hereby finds and declares that,

1. On average only 3.2 million students graduate from high school.
2. Some teachers have a “curse of knowledge” complex.
3. Teachers don’t know know to teach to all learners.
4. There are currently 7.2 million teachers in the United States.
5. There are currently 77 million students in the United States.
6. Teachers fail because they aren’t prepared.
7. Teachers fail because they’re teaching the wrong thing.
8. Teachers in Finland have a more rigorous teacher education process, which helps them be better teachers.
9. American teachers don’t have to do as much training and learning as teachers in other countries do.
10. Improving teacher training will also require educators to better develop granular, usable knowledge to guide the field.
11. Only 35% of 8th grade students are proficient in Math.
12. Only 36% of 8th grade students are proficient in Reading.
13. Amount of kids enrolled in Elementary Schools: 38,716,000.
14. Amount of kids enrolled in Secondary Schools: 16,160,000.
15. Three-quarters of high school grads are failing.
16. Kids don’t necessarily learn how to attack a new or different kind of equation.
17. Students find that their educational background has not prepared them for the academic demands of the college.
18. Approximately 600,000 students dropped out from the class of 2008 “at great cost not only to themselves but also to their communities.”

SECTION 3. STATUTORY LANGUAGE

A) The Department of Education shall allocate \$1.5 million per district for the purpose of creating new teacher training programs. These teacher training programs shall be required for all new teachers and all returning teachers. This program shall train teachers on how to teach to all types of learners, teach material multiple ways, and help to provide a better education for all students.

B) The Department of Education shall be enforcing this bill due to their status and access to school funds. The money currently given to the schools shall be used to make these training programs. Any extra funds that are raised shall be contributed to these programs.

C) All schools found in violation of this rule shall have their budgets decreased or cut and their teachers under supervision. All currently employed teachers who do not attend the trainings shall be suspended without pay until they can complete their training. This act shall be enacted on January 1, 2017. It shall expire December 31, 2020.

Educational Reform

The United States is one of the wealthiest countries in the world, however we are poor in the sense of academic standards. Classrooms have been upgraded for new technology, teachers have a college degree, and a majority of students are willing to learn. Somehow there is a disconnect between the amount of funding dedicated to schools, and student success rates. It's common knowledge that students in other countries like Finland, China, Korea, and Japan are excelling academically. US students are getting the short end of the stick and it's affecting their ability to attend good schools and work in well paying jobs. The question is, how can we improve teacher training so that all students get an equal opportunity to succeed. We need to increase graduation rates, train teachers to teach the subjects that they know, and teach them to teach to all types of students.

In the United States, on average only 3.2 million students graduate from high school. The District of Columbia (DC) our nation's capital had the lowest graduation rate in 2014 with only 59% of students graduating. The American Psychological Association takes the position that "poverty and dropouts are inextricably connected in the three primary settings affecting healthy child and adolescent development: families, schools and communities" (APA). One of the reasons why students are failing can be directly related to some the teachers or their teaching styles.

Some teachers may have a "curse of knowledge" complex. This is the inability to teach a subject that they are extremely familiar and knowledgeable of. Other teachers may be overwhelmed by the teaching curriculum while others may not care because of their tenure status. Another reason could be unprepared teachers. A study released in 2014 by the National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ), argues that "teaching colleges are too lenient in their admissions criteria and have failed to prepare their students to teach subjects like reading, math and science" (Sanchez). Additionally, the NCTQ would argue, "that not only are these programs failing to train effective teachers, they're also making things harder for themselves by admitting inferior applicants. Three out of four U.S. schools that train teachers don't require applicants to be in the top half of the college-going population" (NCTQ). A combination of these factors affects every school, in every state, in this nation.

Some teachers don't know how to teach to all types of learners. According to Gardner's multiple intelligence, there are a number of learning styles. The types of learners are: Visual-Spatial, Bodily-Kinesthetic, Musical, Interpersonal, Intrapersonal, Linguistic, Logical-Mathematical, and Natural. Most teachers only know how to teach to the Logical-Mathematical learners. If teachers are only teaching to this type of learner, all the others fall to the side and do not receive equal education. The solution to these problems is a new teacher training program. A program that teaches teachers to teach to all types of learners, to teach different ways, and make sure teachers are truly ready to teach a classroom before they actually go out and do it.

Students have had the right to an education for many years. This bill is necessary to ensure that that right is met. In order to help our students succeed something needs to change. Teacher training needs to be reinvented. Teachers need to be taught to teach to all types of learners, they need to be able to teach a lesson multiple ways, and they need to be the reason our students are succeeding. Our students deserve the right to a good education, they deserve to go to good schools, and they deserve to have good teachers.