



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

January 30, 2015

S. 227

Strengthening Education through Research Act

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
on January 28, 2015*

SUMMARY

S. 227 would amend and reauthorize the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (ESRA) through fiscal year 2021. (That authorization would automatically be extended one year through 2022 under the General Education Provisions Act.) The legislation would authorize the appropriation of \$612 million for fiscal year 2016 and \$3.2 billion over the 2016-2020 period to support federal educational research, statistical analysis, and other activities.

CBO estimates that implementing S. 227 would cost about \$2 billion over the 2016-2020 period, assuming the appropriation of the authorized amounts. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

S. 227 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA).

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

As shown in the following table, the costs of this legislation fall within budget function 500 (education, training, employment, and social services). For this estimate, CBO assumes that spending will follow historical patterns for the affected programs.

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					2016-2020
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Title I—Education Sciences Reform						
Authorization Level	391	400	410	419	429	2,049
Estimated Outlays	39	157	278	402	412	1,289
Title II—Educational Technical Assistance						
Authorization Level	83	85	87	89	91	434
Estimated Outlays	8	33	59	85	87	273
Title III—National Assessment of Educational Progress						
Authorization Level	137	140	144	147	150	718
Estimated Outlays	14	55	98	141	144	452
Total Changes						
Authorization Level	612	626	640	655	670	3,202
Estimated Outlays	61	246	435	629	643	2,014

Note: Components may not add to totals because of rounding.

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

S. 227 would authorize the appropriation of \$612 million in fiscal year 2016 and \$3.2 billion for the 2016-2020 period. Based on historical spending patterns, CBO estimates that fully implementing the act would cost \$2.0 billion over the 2016-2020 period and an additional \$1.9 billion after fiscal year 2020, assuming the appropriation of the specified amounts.

For fiscal year 2015, the Congress appropriated \$612 million for the programs in ESRA. All of the previous authorizations for the programs in ESRA expired in either 2008 or 2010.

Title I—Education Sciences Reform

Title I would reauthorize funding for the Institute of Education Sciences, an independent institute within the Department of Education that conducts and oversees education research. S. 227 would authorize a total of \$391 million for fiscal year 2016, including \$54 million for the National Center for Special Education Research and \$337 million for

the rest of title I. The Congress appropriated the same level of funding for those activities in fiscal year 2015. The act would authorize the appropriation of about \$2 billion over five years for those activities. CBO estimates that implementing this title would cost about \$1.3 billion over the 2016-2020 period.

Title II—Educational Technical Assistance

Title II would reauthorize the Educational Technical Assistance Act (ETAA), which authorizes two grant programs at the Department of Education. The first program provides funds to states to develop and expand longitudinal data systems. The second provides funds to local organizations to provide technical assistance for and evaluation of issues such as meeting requirements in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. The legislation would authorize the appropriation of \$83 million for fiscal year 2016, the same amount the Congress appropriated for fiscal year 2015. The bill would authorize the appropriation of \$434 million over the 2016-2020 period, and CBO estimates that implementing this title would cost about \$270 million over the same period.

Title III—National Assessment of Educational Progress

Title III would reauthorize the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Authorization Act. That act authorizes funding for overseeing and administering a series of assessments of student achievement in mathematics and reading. For fiscal year 2016, S. 227 would authorize the appropriation of \$137 million: \$8 million for the National Assessment Governing Board, which oversees the administration of the NAEP, and \$129 million for administration of the assessments. The Congress appropriated the same funding levels for those activities in fiscal year 2015. The legislation would authorize the appropriation of \$718 million over five years for those activities; CBO estimates that implementing this title would cost \$452 million over the 2016-2020 period.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 227 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. State and local governments could benefit from grants authorized in the act for education research and related activities. Any costs associated with receiving such grants would be incurred voluntarily as a condition of receiving federal assistance.

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