116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to provide criteria for use of Federal funds to support trauma-informed practices in schools, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to provide criteria for use of Federal funds to support trauma-informed practices in schools, and for other purposes.

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

2 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

3 This Act may be cited as the “Trauma-Informed Schools Act of 2019”.

(Original Signature of Member)
SEC. 2. TRAUMA-INFORMED PRACTICES.

(a) DEFINITION.—Section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (51) and (52) as paragraphs (52) and (53), respectively.

(2) by inserting after paragraph (50) the following:

“(51) TRAUMA-INFORMED PRACTICES.—The term ‘trauma-informed practices’ means—

“(A) evidence-based professional development that promotes a shared understanding among teachers, teachers assistants, school leaders, paraprofessionals, specialized instructional support personnel, and other staff that—

“(i) traumatic experiences are common among students;

“(ii) trauma can impact student learning, behavior, and relationships in school;

“(iii) traumatic experiences do not inherently undermine the capabilities of students to reach high expectations in academics and life;

“(iv) school-wide learning environments where all students and adults feel
safe, welcomed, and supported can enable
students to succeed despite traumatic expe-
riences; and

“(v) services, supports, and programs
provided to meet individual student needs
should be trauma-informed, where appro-
priate, and increase student connection to
the school-wide learning environment;
“(B) adoption of disciplinary procedures
and practices that—

“(i) accompany disciplinary actions
with holistic assessments and positive be-
havioral interventions and supports to ad-
dress the underlying causes of student be-
havior, including trauma;
“(ii) avoid harsh, punitive, or exclu-
sionary disciplinary practices;
“(iii) utilize evidence-based restorative
practices that build a culture of trust; and
“(iv) do not discriminate on the basis
of race, color, national origin, sex (includ-
ing sexual orientation or gender identity),
disability, English proficiency status, mi-
grant status, or age consistent with the
Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (42

“(C) activities that engage teachers, teachers assistants, school leaders, paraprofessionals, specialized instructional support personnel, and other staff in a process of school-based planning to—

“(i) promote a school-wide culture of acceptance;

“(ii) help all students feel safe and connected to the school community;

“(iii) support all students to form positive relationships with adults and peers, understand and manage emotions, achieve success academically and in extracurricular areas, and experience physical and psychological health and well being;
“(iv) promote teamwork and effective communication among all staff and shared responsibility for every student;

“(v) integrate evidence-based practices that build social-emotional skills into rigorous academic instruction; and

“(vi) recognize and prevent adult implicit bias.”.

(b) **STATE PLAN.**—Section 1111(g)(1)(C) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 6311(g)(1)(C)) is amended—

(1) by striking “reducing”;

(2) in clause (i), by inserting “reducing” before “incidences”;

(3) in clause (ii)—

(A) by inserting “reducing” before “the overuse”; and

(B) by striking “and”;

(4) in clause (iii)—

(A) by inserting “reducing” before “the use”; and

(B) by inserting “and” after “safety”; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

“(iv) increasing the prevalence of trauma-informed practices;”. 
(c) PLAN PROVISIONS.—Section 1112(b) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6312(b)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (12) and (13) as paragraphs (13) and (14), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (11) the following:

“(12) how the local educational agency will support efforts to increase the prevalence of trauma-informed practices;”.

(d) SCHOOLWIDE PROGRAM.—Section 1114(b)(7)(A)(iii) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 6314(b)(7)(A)(iii)) is amended—

(1) in subclause (IV), by striking at the end “and”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(VI) the implementation of trauma-informed practices; and”.

(e) TRAINING.—Section 2101 of such Act (20 U.S.C. 6611) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(4)(B)—

(A) by redesignating clauses (xv) through (xxi) as clauses (xvi) through (xxii), respectively; and
(B) by inserting after clause (xiv) the following:

“(xv) Providing training for all teachers, school leaders, paraprofessionals, and specialized instructional support personnel on trauma-informed practices.”; and

(2) in subsection (d)(2)—

(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (K) through (M) as subparagraphs (L) through (N) respectively; and

(B) by inserting after subparagraph (J) the following:

“(K) A description of how the State educational agency will use funds under this part to increase the prevalence of trauma-informed practices.”.

(f) LOCAL USE OF FUNDS.—Section 2103(b)(3)(I) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 6613(b)(3)(I)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating clauses (i) through (iv) as clauses (ii) through (v); and

(2) by inserting before clause (ii), as redesignated, the following:

“(i) trauma-informed practices;”.

(g) STATE ACTIVITIES.—Section 4104(b)(3)(B)(ii) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 7114(b)(3)(B)(ii)) is amended—
Section 4203(a)(6) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 7173(a)(6)) is amended by striking “development;” and inserting “development, which may include professional development on trauma-informed practices;”.

Description of Plan.—Section 4303(f)(1)(A)(viii) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 7221b(f)(1)(A)(viii)) is amended—

(1) in subclause (I), by striking at the end “and”;

(2) in subclause (II), by inserting “and” at the end; and

(3) by inserting at the end the following:

“(III) adopting trauma-informed practices.”.

Application Requirements.—Section 4305(b)(3)(B)(ii) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 7221d(b)(3)(B)(ii)) is amended—
(1) in subclause (II), by striking “and”;

(2) in subclause (III), by inserting “and” at the end; and

(3) by inserting at the end the following:

“(IV) the discipline practices that will be used, including a description of whether such practices are consistent with trauma-informed practices;”.