

To the office of U.S. Representative Adelita S. Grijalva

Re: HR 10436 (119th Congress), Reaching English Learners Act • Latest action (2026-09-16): Referred to the House Committee on Education and Workforce.

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Office of record (Congress.gov): 1203 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC • (202) 225-2435

Reaching English Learners Teacher Preparation Grants With Caps and Sunset

The measure, as described from the official record: Help more new teachers learn how to teach students who are learning English, especially in high-need schools and early learning programs.

THE PROPOSAL

Congress can fund voluntary teacher training under Article I, Section 8, Clause 1, but the Tenth Amendment leaves control of schools, curriculum, and hiring with states and local communities, and the Fifth Amendment requires clear terms and fair process. That rule permits a capped and time-limited grant, but it forbids federal control of what local schools teach or whom they hire. The strongest objection is that any federal education grant expands federal power over schools. The answer in this draft is plain limits: voluntary participation, a fixed spending cap, no federal curriculum mandate, and an end date unless Congress votes to continue.

The VFA proposal would create a focused, time-limited federal grant program. The Department of Education would offer grants to partnerships between colleges that train teachers and high-need school districts or high-need early childhood programs. Each project would strengthen coursework, classroom practice, tutoring, and mentoring so teacher candidates can teach English learners with skill and respect.

Federal funds would support training only. Local schools and colleges would keep control over hiring, curriculum, promotion, and classroom methods. No funds would require a state, district, or college to adopt a federal curriculum or teaching method. Participation would be voluntary, and grant terms would be stated in plain language before funds are accepted.

The program would be capped and checked each year. Funding would be limited to \$150 million per year from annual appropriations, with strict audit rules. The Department would publish yearly results, including the number of teachers trained, placement in high-need schools, and student progress measures chosen by states. The Government Accountability Office would review results and costs. Misused funds would be repaid after notice and a chance to respond.

The authority would end after five years unless Congress reviews the results and votes to continue it. This sunset forces a clear choice: continue what works, fix what does not, or let the program close. The official summary states the original bill was introduced on September 16, 2026 and referred to the House Committee on Education and Workforce. Compared with the original, the VFA proposal would add a spending cap, a five-year sunset, audit and due process

protections, public reporting, and an express ban on federal control of local curriculum and hiring.

OPERATIVE PROVISIONS (VFA PROPOSAL)

Effective Date	School year beginning after date of enactment
Enforcement Mechanism	Department of Education grant terms with annual audits, repayment for misuse of funds, and right to respond before funds are withheld
Funding Amount	Capped at \$150 million per year, with no more than 5 percent for federal administration
Funding Source	Annual appropriations from general revenues, subject to available funds
Oversight Body	Department of Education with annual public reporting and review by the Government Accountability Office
Sunset Years	5 years

CONSTITUTIONAL BASIS

- Article I, Section 8, Clause 1
- Tenth Amendment
- Fifth Amendment Due Process

Concerns with the measure as written:

- Federal education grants must rest on the spending power and respect state control of schools under the Tenth Amendment.
 - Grant conditions must be clear and voluntary, with fair notice and fair process under Fifth Amendment Due Process.
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WHY BOTH SIDES CAN BACK IT (VFA'S ASSESSMENT)

VFA assesses this draft honors Democratic priorities by expanding support for English learners and high-need schools through better teacher preparation. VFA assesses it honors Republican priorities by limiting federal control, capping spending, sunsetting the program, and leaving curriculum and hiring decisions with states, colleges, and local agencies.

Strongest objection, and the answer: The strongest objection is that any federal education grant expands federal power over schools. The answer in this draft is plain limits: voluntary participation, a fixed spending cap, no federal curriculum mandate, and an end date unless Congress votes to continue.

CHECK BEFORE RELYING ON THIS

Basis: The Congress.gov summary of H.R. 10436 in the 119th Congress states the bill directs the Department of Education to create grants for teacher preparation for English learners through partnerships between higher education institutions and high-need local agencies or early childhood programs, and was referred to committee on September 16, 2026.

The official summary does not state the full bill text, grant amounts, eligibility rules, current law, cost effects, appeal rights, or likely votes. Readers should verify those points in the full bill text at the official Congress.gov page. Protections described here are new proposed terms, not statements of existing law.

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