

S 444

Supporting Afterschool STEM Act

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Education

Introduced: Feb 10, 2015

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. (Feb 10, 2015)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/444>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH]

Party: Democratic • **State:** NH • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (5 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Boxer, Barbara [D-CA]	D · CA		Feb 10, 2015
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Feb 10, 2015
Sen. Heinrich, Martin [D-NM]	D · NM		Feb 10, 2015
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		Feb 10, 2015
Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]	D · OR		Feb 10, 2015

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee	Senate	Referred To	Feb 10, 2015

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Education

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 HR 831	Related bill	Feb 19, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on Research and Technology.

Supporting Afterschool STEM Act

Requires the Director of the National Science Foundation (NSF) to establish an afterschool STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) grant program awarding competitive grants to afterschool or STEM networks to:

- develop quality standards for STEM programming in afterschool programs and provide those programs with technical assistance in implementing such standards,
- work with state education stakeholders to define and promote appropriate measurable outcomes for afterschool programs that include STEM content,
- provide technical assistance to afterschool programs to start or grow their afterschool STEM efforts and define appropriate learning outcomes for such efforts,
- coordinate professional development for afterschool program educators,
- help afterschool program providers form strategic partnerships to advance STEM learning in afterschool programs,
- create and disseminate tool kits to afterschool programs wanting to form partnerships and incorporate STEM professionals as mentors and role models, and
- provide technical assistance to federally funded STEM researchers and professionals who wish to engage with afterschool programs.

Requires the Director to reserve 20% of the funds appropriated for such grant program to develop and support new afterschool or STEM networks in states or areas where they do not exist.

Defines: (1) an "afterschool program" as a structured program offered for elementary, middle, or secondary school students when school is not in session, such as before or after school, on the weekend, or during the summer; and (2) an "afterschool or STEM network" as a coalition that fosters partnerships and provides support to afterschool program providers and STEM education providers.

Includes as goals of the grant program: (1) to support the development and delivery of high-quality STEM education to populations underrepresented in STEM fields, and (2) to provide hands-on learning and exposure to STEM research facilities and businesses through in-person or virtual distance-learning experiences.

Requires the Director to provide each recipient of a STEM research grant who is under the Director's authority with information on opportunities to engage with students in out-of-school-time programs, such as through mentorships.

Actions Timeline

- **Feb 10, 2015:** Introduced in Senate
- **Feb 10, 2015:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.