

## HR 4979

Rural STEM Education Act

**Congress:** 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** Science, Technology, Communications

**Introduced:** Nov 5, 2019

**Current Status:** Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and

**Latest Action:** Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. (Sep 17, 2020)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/4979>

### Sponsor

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**Name:** Rep. Lucas, Frank D. [R-OK-3]

**Party:** Republican • **State:** OK • **Chamber:** House

**Cosponsors** (46 total)

<b>Cosponsor</b>	<b>Party / State</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Date Joined</b>
Rep. Baird, James R. [R-IN-4]	R · IN		Nov 5, 2019
Rep. Balderson, Troy [R-OH-12]	R · OH		Nov 5, 2019
Rep. Comer, James [R-KY-1]	R · KY		Nov 5, 2019
Rep. Conaway, K. Michael [R-TX-11]	R · TX		Nov 5, 2019
Rep. Gonzalez, Anthony [R-OH-16]	R · OH		Nov 5, 2019
Rep. Horn, Kendra S. [D-OK-5]	D · OK		Nov 5, 2019
Rep. Johnson, Eddie Bernice [D-TX-30]	D · TX		Nov 5, 2019
Rep. McAdams, Ben [D-UT-4]	D · UT		Nov 5, 2019
Rep. Murphy, Gregory [R-NC-3]	R · NC		Nov 5, 2019
Rep. Norman, Ralph [R-SC-5]	R · SC		Nov 5, 2019
Rep. Waltz, Michael [R-FL-6]	R · FL		Nov 5, 2019
Rep. Weber, Randy K., Sr. [R-TX-14]	R · TX		Nov 5, 2019
Rep. Babin, Brian [R-TX-36]	R · TX		Nov 13, 2019
Rep. Davis, Rodney [R-IL-13]	R · IL		Nov 13, 2019
Rep. Eshoo, Anna G. [D-CA-18]	D · CA		Nov 13, 2019
Rep. Foster, Bill [D-IL-11]	D · IL		Nov 13, 2019
Rep. Herrera Beutler, Jaime [R-WA-3]	R · WA		Nov 13, 2019
Rep. Lamb, Conor [D-PA-17]	D · PA		Nov 13, 2019
Rep. Marshall, Roger [R-KS-1]	R · KS		Nov 13, 2019
Rep. Axne, Cynthia [D-IA-3]	D · IA		Dec 6, 2019
Rep. Delgado, Antonio [D-NY-19]	D · NY		Dec 6, 2019
Rep. Mooney, Alexander X. [R-WV-2]	R · WV		Dec 6, 2019
Rep. Newhouse, Dan [R-WA-4]	R · WA		Dec 6, 2019
Rep. Perlmutter, Ed [D-CO-7]	D · CO		Dec 6, 2019
Rep. Peterson, Collin C. [D-MN-7]	D · MN		Dec 6, 2019
Rep. Stauber, Pete [R-MN-8]	R · MN		Dec 6, 2019
Rep. Wexton, Jennifer [D-VA-10]	D · VA		Dec 6, 2019
Rep. Wittman, Robert J. [R-VA-1]	R · VA		Dec 6, 2019
Rep. Emmer, Tom [R-MN-6]	R · MN		Dec 19, 2019
Rep. Harder, Josh [D-CA-10]	D · CA		Dec 19, 2019
Rep. Kind, Ron [D-WI-3]	D · WI		Dec 19, 2019
Rep. Spanberger, Abigail Davis [D-VA-7]	D · VA		Dec 19, 2019
Rep. Hartzler, Vicky [R-MO-4]	R · MO		Jan 13, 2020
Rep. Slotkin, Elissa [D-MI-8]	D · MI		Jan 13, 2020
Rep. Cole, Tom [R-OK-4]	R · OK		Jan 24, 2020
Rep. Cox, TJ [D-CA-21]	D · CA		Jan 24, 2020
Rep. Crawford, Eric A. "Rick" [R-AR-1]	R · AR		Jan 24, 2020
Rep. Dunn, Neal P. [R-FL-2]	R · FL		Jan 24, 2020
Rep. Gottheimer, Josh [D-NJ-5]	D · NJ		Jan 24, 2020
Rep. Hagedorn, Jim [R-MN-1]	R · MN		Jan 24, 2020
Rep. Hayes, Jahana [D-CT-5]	D · CT		Jan 24, 2020

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Khanna, Ro [D-CA-17]	D · CA		Jan 24, 2020
Rep. LaMalfa, Doug [R-CA-1]	R · CA		Jan 24, 2020
Rep. Scott, David [D-GA-13]	D · GA		Jan 24, 2020
Rep. Bustos, Cheri [D-IL-17]	D · IL		Jan 27, 2020
Rep. Houlahan, Chrissy [D-PA-6]	D · PA		Jan 27, 2020

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee	Senate	Referred To	Sep 17, 2020
Science, Space, and Technology Committee	House	Reported By	Feb 13, 2020

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Science, Technology, Communications

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 S 4972	Related bill	<b>Dec 8, 2020:</b> Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

## **Rural STEM Education Act**

This bill directs the National Science Foundation (NSF) to support research regarding STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, including computer science) education in rural schools.

(Sec. 3) The NSF must award grants to institutions of higher education or nonprofit organizations for (1) research and development to advance innovative approaches to support and sustain high-quality STEM teaching in rural schools, (2) research and development of programming to identify the barriers rural students face in accessing high-quality STEM education, and (3) development of innovative solutions to improve the participation and advancement of rural students in grades Pre-K through 12 in STEM studies.

The NSF may establish a pilot program of regional cohorts in rural areas to provide peer support, mentoring, and hands-on research experiences for rural STEM educators of students in grades Pre-K through 12 in order to build an ecosystem of cooperation among educators, researchers, academia, and local industry.

(Sec. 4) The NSF shall award competitive grants to institutions of higher education or nonprofit organizations (or a consortium thereof, which may include a private sector partner) to conduct research on online STEM education courses for rural communities.

(Sec. 5) The NSF shall enter into an agreement with the National Academy of Sciences under which the National Academy agrees to evaluate aspects of STEM education and workforce development in rural areas.

(Sec. 6) The Government Accountability Office shall conduct a study on the engagement of rural populations in federal STEM programs.

(Sec. 7) Each of the federal agencies administering an Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) program shall consider modifications to EPSCoR award structures to increase the capacity of rural communities to provide quality STEM education and STEM workforce development programming to students and teachers.

(Sec. 8) The bill expands certain outreach activities of the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) Program and MEP Centers to include secondary schools.

The National Institute of Standards and Technology must award prizes to stimulate research and development of creative technologies in order to deploy affordable and reliable broadband connectivity to underserved rural communities.

(Sec. 9) The Office of Science and Technology Policy must establish a broadband research and development working group to address national research challenges and opportunities for improving broadband access and adoption across the United States.

## Actions Timeline

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- **Sep 17, 2020:** Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.
- **Sep 16, 2020:** Ms. Johnson (TX) moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.
- **Sep 16, 2020:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H4463-4467)
- **Sep 16, 2020:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on H.R. 4979.
- **Sep 16, 2020:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by voice vote.
- **Sep 16, 2020:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by voice vote. (text: CR H4463-4466)
- **Sep 16, 2020:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Feb 13, 2020:** Reported (Amended) by the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. H. Rept. 116-397.
- **Feb 13, 2020:** Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 319.
- **Nov 14, 2019:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Nov 14, 2019:** Ordered to be Reported (Amended) by Voice Vote.
- **Nov 5, 2019:** Introduced in House
- **Nov 5, 2019:** Referred to the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.