

# Success in the Middle Act of 2011 (H.R.1547 / S.833) *Summary*

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## PURPOSE

- Improves middle grades student academic achievement and prepare students for rigorous secondary school course work, postsecondary education, independent living, and employment;
- Ensures that curricula and student supports for middle grades education align with the curricula and student supports provided for elementary and secondary school grades;
- Provides resources to State educational agencies and local educational agencies to collaboratively develop school improvement plans in order to deliver support and technical assistance to schools serving students in the middle grades; and
- Increases the capacity of States and local educational agencies to develop effective, sustainable, and replicable school improvement programs and models and evidence-based or, when available, scientifically valid student interventions for implementation by schools serving students in the middle grades.
- Facilitates the generation, dissemination, and application of research needed to identify and implement effective practices that lead to continual student learning and high academic achievement in the middle grades.

## GRANTS TO STATES

### **Authorizes 1 billion annually to local school districts to improve low-performing schools that contain middle grades.**

- States receiving grants must implement a plan that describes what students are required to know and do to successfully complete the middle grades and transition to and succeed in an academically rigorous high school that prepares them for postsecondary education and the workplace
- States must develop early warning and intervention systems to identify students most at-risk of dropping out and intervene appropriately to help them succeed.
- States and districts are encouraged to invest in proven strategies, such as: 1) Providing professional development and coaching to school leaders, teachers and other school personnel in addressing the needs of diverse learners and in using challenging and relevant research-based best practices and curriculum; 2) Developing and implementing comprehensive, school-wide improvement efforts in eligible schools; and 3) Implementing student supports, such as extended learning time and personal academic plans that enable all students to stay on the path to graduation.

## RESEARCH

### **Authorizes an additional \$100 million to facilitate the generation, dissemination, and application of research to identify promising practices in middle grades education, as well as review existing research on middle grades education practices.**



*the association for  
middle level education*

National Middle School Association  
Westerville, OH 43081

4151 Executive Parkway, Suite 300  
www.nmsa.org 800-528-6672