





(2) to provide, in a systematic manner, strong, comprehensive links between secondary schools and colleges.

SECTION 4. *Program authorized.*—

(1) GENERAL AUTHORITY—The Secretary of Education shall make grants to pay the cost of activities carried out under this Act to consortia of —

(a) public secondary schools or area vocational schools serving secondary school students; and

(b) state colleges and universities (including post secondary vocational technical schools).

SECTION 5. *Technical Preparation Education Programs.*—

(1) GENERAL AUTHORITY—Each grant recipient shall use amounts paid under this Act to develop and operate a 4-year technical preparation education program.

(2) CONTENTS OF PROGRAM—Each such program shall

(a) be carried out under an articulation agreement between the participants in the consortium;

(b) consist of the 2 years of secondary school preceding graduation and 2 years of higher education, with a common core of required proficiency in mathematics, science, communications and technologies designed to lead to an associate degree in a specific career field;

(c) include the development of technical preparation education program curriculum appropriate to the needs of the consortium participants; and

(d) include in-service training for teachers that—

(i) is designed to train teachers to implement effectively technical preparation education curriculum;

(ii) provides for joint training for teachers from all participants in the consortium; and

(iii) may provide such training in weekend, evening and summer sessions, institutes or workshops.

(3) ADDITIONAL AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES — Each such program may—

(a) provide for training programs for counselors designed to enable counselors to more effectively recruit students for technical preparation education programs, and ensure their successful completion of such programs and their placement in appropriate employment; and

(b) to provide for the acquisition of technical preparation program equipment.

SECTION 6. *Applications.* —

(1) IN GENERAL—Each consortium that desires to receive a grant under this section shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time and in such manner as the Secretary shall prescribe.

(2) FIVE-YEAR PLAN—Each application submitted under this section shall contain a 5-year plan for the development and implementation of activities under this Act.

(3) APPROVAL—The Secretary shall approve applications based on their potential to create an effective technical preparation education program as described in section 5.

(4) SPECIAL CONSIDERATION—The Secretary shall give special consideration to applicants whose applications—

(a) provide for effective employment placement activities or transfer of students to four-year baccalaureate degree programs;

(b) demonstrate commitment to continue the program after the termination of assistance under this Act; and

(c) are developed in consultation with business, industry and labor unions.

(5) EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF ASSISTANCE—In making grants, the Secretary shall ensure an equitable distribution of assistance among the regions and among a cross-section of urban and rural consortium participants.

SECTION 7. *Reports.* — Each grant recipient shall, with respect to assistance received under this Act, submit to the Secretary such reports as may be required by the Secretary to ensure that such grant recipient is complying with the requirements of this Act.

SECTION 8. *Authorization of Appropriations.* — There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary in each fiscal year to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 9. *Separability Clause.* — If any provision, or part hereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 10. *Repealing Clause.* — Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with, the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SECTION 11. *Effectivity Clause.* — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.