

PUBLIC LAW 114-113—DEC. 18, 2015

CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016



SEC. 817. (a) This section may be cited as the “D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program School Certification Requirements Act”.

(b) Section 3007(a) of the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act (Public Law 112-10; 125 Stat. 203) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4)—

(A) in subparagraph (E), by striking “and” after the semicolon;

(B) in subparagraph (F), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(G)(i) is provisionally or fully accredited by a national or regional accrediting agency that is recognized in the District of Columbia School Reform Act of 1995 (sec. 38-1802.02(16)(A)-(G), D.C. Official Code) or any other accrediting body deemed appropriate by the Office of the State Superintendent for Schools for the purposes of accrediting an elementary or secondary school; or

“(ii) in the case of a school that is a participating school as of the day before the date of enactment of the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program School Certification Requirements Act and, as of such day, does not meet the requirements of clause (i)—

“(I) by not later than 1 year after such date of enactment, is pursuing accreditation by a national or regional accrediting agency recognized in the District of Columbia School Reform Act of 1995 (sec. 38-1802.02(16)(A)-(G), D.C. Official Code) or any other accrediting body deemed appropriate by the Office of the State Superintendent for Schools for the purposes of accrediting an elementary or secondary school; and

“(II) by not later than 5 years after such date of enactment, is provisionally or fully accredited by such accrediting agency, except that an eligible entity may grant not more than one 1-year extension to meet this requirement for each participating school that provides evidence to the eligible entity from such accrediting agency that the school’s application for accreditation is in process and the school will be awarded accreditation before the end of the 1-year extension period;

“(H) conducts criminal background checks on school employees who have direct and unsupervised interaction with students; and

“(I) complies with all requests for data and information regarding the reporting requirements described in section 3010.”; and

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(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(5) **NEW PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS.**—If a school is not a participating school as of the date of enactment of the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program School Certification Requirements Act, the school shall not become a participating school and none of the funds provided under this division for opportunity scholarships may be used by an eligible student to enroll in that school unless the school—

“(A) is actively pursuing provisional or full accreditation by a national or regional accrediting agency that is recognized in the District of Columbia School Reform Act of 1995 (sec. 38-1802.02(16)(A)-(G), D.C. Official Code) or any other accrediting body deemed appropriate by the Office of the State Superintendent for Schools for the purposes of accrediting an elementary or secondary school; and

“(B) meets all of the other requirements for participating schools under this Act.

“(6) **ENROLLING IN ANOTHER SCHOOL.**—An eligible entity shall assist the parents of a participating eligible student in identifying, applying to, and enrolling in another participating school for which opportunity scholarship funds may be used, if—

“(A) such student is enrolled in a participating private school and may no longer use opportunity scholarship funds for enrollment in that participating private school because such school fails to meet a requirement under paragraph 4, or any other requirement of this Act; or

“(B) a participating eligible student is enrolled in a school that ceases to be a participating school.”

(c) **REPORT TO ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.**—Section 3010 of the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act (Public Law 112-10; 125 Stat. 203) is further amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (e); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (c) the following:

“(d) **REPORTS TO ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.**—The eligible entity receiving funds under section 3004(a) shall ensure that each participating school under this division submits to the eligible entity beginning not later than 5 years after the date of the enactment of the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program School Certification Requirements Act, a certification that the school has been awarded provisional or full accreditation, or has been granted an extension by the eligible entity in accordance with section 3007(a)(4)(G).”

(d) Unless specifically provided otherwise, this section, and the amendments made by this section, shall take effect 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act.