

Archived Information

SEC. 803. ESTABLISHMENT OF PILOT PROGRAM FOR COURSE MATERIAL RENTAL.

(a) Pilot Grant Program.--From the amounts appropriated pursuant to subsection (e), the Secretary of Education (referred to in this section as the ``Secretary'') shall make grants on a competitive basis to not more than ten institutions of higher education to support pilot programs that expand the services of bookstores to provide the option for students to rent course materials in order to achieve savings for students.

(b) Application.--An institution of higher education that desires to obtain a grant under this section shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such form, and containing or accompanied by such information, agreements, and assurances as the Secretary may reasonably require.

(c) Use of Funds.--The funds made available by a grant under this section may be used for--

(1) purchase of course materials that the entity will make available by rent to students;

(2) any equipment or software necessary for the conduct of a rental program;

(3) hiring staff needed for the conduct of a rental program, with priority given to hiring enrolled undergraduate students; And

(4) building or acquiring extra storage space dedicated to course materials for rent.

(d) Evaluation and Report.--

(1) Evaluations by recipients.--After a period of time to be determined by the Secretary, each institution of higher education that receives a grant under this section shall submit a report to the Secretary on the effectiveness of their rental programs in reducing textbook costs for students.

(2) Report to congress.--Not later than September 30, 2010, the Secretary shall submit a report to Congress on the effectiveness of the textbook rental pilot programs under this section, and identify the best practices developed in such pilot programs. Such report shall contain an estimate by the Secretary of the savings achieved by students who participate in such pilot programs.

(e) Authorization of Appropriations.--There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 2009 and 2010.