

119TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

}

H. R. _____

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 21, 2026

Mr. _____ (for himself and Mr. _____) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A B I L L

To establish a program of grants to expand instruction in artificial intelligence in high-need elementary schools and secondary schools, to require dialect inclusive evaluation of speech technology used in those schools, to protect the audio recordings of student speakers, and for other purposes.

DRAFTED BY MACHINA MUNDI, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

Discussion draft. No bill number has been assigned and this text has not been introduced in either House. It is offered for the consideration of Members and staff and carries no legal effect.

STATEMENT OF DRAFTING AUTHORSHIP AND STATUS



MACHINA MUNDI
Hartford, Connecticut

DOCUMENT	Artificial Intelligence Equity Grant Act of 2026, discussion draft
DRAFTED BY	Machina Mundi, an organization founded and staffed by secondary school students, Hartford and East Hartford, Connecticut
DATE	August 21, 2026
STATUS	Discussion draft. Not introduced. No bill number assigned. No legal effect.
JURISDICTION	Committee on Education and the Workforce, House of Representatives; Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, Senate
PREPARED FOR	Consideration by Members and staff, following meetings with the office of a Member of the Connecticut delegation
CONTACT	Machina Mundi, Hartford, Connecticut, machinamundi.vercel.app

1. AUTHORSHIP

This draft was written by Machina Mundi. It is not a product of any committee, of any Member of Congress, of the Congressional Research Service, or of the Office of the Legislative Counsel. It is composed in the form used for House bills so that its provisions can be read and marked in the register in which legislation is considered.

2. STATUS AND EFFECT

Nothing in this document has legal effect. The blanks on the cover stand where a bill number and a sponsor would appear if the text were introduced. No Member has sponsored it. The Committee on Education and the Workforce is named because it holds jurisdiction over elementary and secondary education programs, and is where a measure of this subject matter would be referred. No referral has been made.

3. BASIS FOR THE FINDINGS

The figures in section 2 come from Machina Mundi's own records. The count of students reflects participation in programs delivered with Code Ninjas, the YMCA, and host schools between 2024 and 2026. Recording for ConvoAAVE was conducted in Hartford and East Hartford, with written consent, and section 2 states the corpus figures on that basis.

4. TREATMENT OF AUDIO

Section 6(d) and section 7(d) carry forward the rule the organization applies to its own corpus: transcripts are released in de-identified form and audio recordings are not released at all. A speaker who helps record how a system fails should not have to surrender that speaker's voice to do it.

5. ATTESTATION

The undersigned, on behalf of Machina Mundi, states that sections 1 through 11 were drafted by the organization; that the figures in section 2 come from its own records; that no audio recording it collected has been published; and that this is a discussion draft, not introduced.

Karthik Srikumar
Founder and President, Machina Mundi

Date
Hartford, Connecticut

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Sec. 1(b) of the draft refers to this table. Figures are page numbers of this document.

Sec. 1.	Short title; table of contents.	4
Sec. 2.	Findings.	4
Sec. 3.	Definitions.	6
Sec. 4.	Artificial Intelligence Equity Grant program.	7
Sec. 5.	Applications.	9
Sec. 6.	Use of funds.	9
Sec. 7.	Dialect inclusive evaluation protocol.	11
Sec. 8.	Reporting and evaluation.	12
Sec. 9.	Authorization of appropriations.	12
Sec. 10.	Rule of construction.	13
Sec. 11.	Severability; effective date.	13
<i>Exhibit A.</i>	<i>Flow of funds from appropriation to eligible school.</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>Exhibit B.</i>	<i>Authorization and coverage, by fiscal year.</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>Exhibit C.</i>	<i>Form AIEG 1, per-construction error rate report.</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>Exhibit D.</i>	<i>Statutory clock and authorized amounts.</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Exhibit E.</i>	<i>Determination of school eligibility.</i>	<i>15</i>

NOTE ON COMPOSITION

This document follows Government Publishing Office practice for House bills: a ruled cover carrying the Congress, the session, and a blank where a bill number would appear; twenty five numbered lines to a page of operative text; section headings flush to the left margin; subsections indented two characters with continuation lines returning one level; and defined terms in quotation marks at first use. It departs in one respect. Where that practice sets a long dash after a subsection heading, this draft sets a colon.

1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United
2 States of America in Congress assembled,

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE: This Act may be cited as the “Artificial
5 Intelligence Equity Grant Act of 2026”.

6 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS: The table of contents for this Act appears on
7 the page preceding the enacting clause.

8 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

9 Congress finds the following:

10 (1) Between 2024 and 2026, nearly 900 students in Hartford, East
11 Hartford, Manchester, and South Windsor, Connecticut, completed
12 introductory instruction in machine learning through programs run by
13 Machina Mundi, an organization staffed by secondary school students.

14 (2) Students in those programs reported that speech recognition
15 and captioning tools in their classrooms misrecognized their speech
16 at rates materially higher than for speakers of General American
17 English.

18 (3) Machina Mundi assembled ConvoAAVE, a corpus of more than
19 80,000 words of transcribed African American Vernacular English
20 speech, recorded with written consent in Hartford and East Hartford,
21 Connecticut, and held so that only de-identified transcripts are
22 released.

23 (4) Speech corpora in general circulation underrepresent that
24 dialect, and systems trained on them show elevated error rates on
25 constructions characteristic of it, including habitual “be”, copula

1 absence, complete “done”, and negative concord.

2 (5) A single blended error rate conceals that pattern, and schools
3 serving high concentrations of students from low-income households
4 lack the means to measure it on the speech of their own students.

5 (6) Covered speech technology is no longer confined to
6 accessibility settings. It is used for dictation and writing
7 support, for live captioning, for oral reading fluency assessment,
8 and for voice-directed practice, so an error rate that falls
9 unevenly across dialects falls unevenly across instruction and
10 across the record a school keeps of what a student knows.

11 (7) Published measurement establishes the size of the gap. Across
12 five commercial speech recognition systems, the average word error
13 rate was 0.35 for black speakers and 0.19 for white speakers, and
14 roughly 23 percent of recordings of black speakers, against 1.6
15 percent for white speakers, produced a transcript with an error rate
16 above 0.5. The gap persisted on identical phrases spoken by both
17 groups. (Koencke and others, Racial Disparities in Automated Speech
18 Recognition, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, volume
19 117, number 14, 2020.)

20 (8) A grant that pays for instruction in artificial intelligence
21 without also paying to measure the speech systems already installed
22 in the same classrooms would leave the more immediate harm
23 unaddressed, and the two are therefore funded together under this
24 Act.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **AFFECTED DIALECT:** The term “affected dialect” means African American Vernacular English and any other variety of English for which the Secretary determines, applying the protocol under section 7, that covered speech technology shows a per-construction error rate exceeding the baseline rate by more than 25 percent.

(2) **COVERED SPEECH TECHNOLOGY:** The term “covered speech technology” means a speech recognition, captioning, voice-directed assessment, or speech-enabled instructional system used in the instruction or assessment of students in an eligible school.

(3) **ELIGIBLE SCHOOL:** The term “eligible school” means a public elementary or secondary school in which not less than 40 percent of students are eligible for free or reduced price lunch under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.) and in which covered speech technology is in use or proposed for use.

(4) **PER-CONSTRUCTION ERROR RATE:** The term “per-construction error rate” means the word error rate of a covered speech technology computed separately for each construction enumerated in the protocol under section 7.

(5) **RESTRICTED ACCESS:** The term “restricted access” means handling under which an audio recording is not published, is not transferred to a commercial entity, and is available only to a researcher under a written agreement prohibiting redistribution.

(6) OTHER TERMS: The terms “local educational agency” and “State educational agency” have the meanings given in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801). “Secretary” means the Secretary of Education.

SEC. 4. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE EQUITY GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL: The Secretary shall establish a program of grants to State educational agencies, for subgrants to local educational agencies, for the benefit of eligible schools.

(b) SUBGRANT AMOUNT:

(1) BASE AMOUNT: A subgrant shall be in the amount of \$5,000 for each eligible school served by the local educational agency for each fiscal year of the grant period.

(2) SPEECH TECHNOLOGY SUPPLEMENT: The amount under paragraph (1) shall be increased by \$2,500 for each eligible school in which a covered speech technology is used in the assessment of a student, and the supplement shall be used only for the activities described in section 6(c).

(3) FLOOR: A local educational agency serving a single eligible school shall not receive less than the amount under paragraph (1) for that school, without regard to the reservation in subsection (f).

(c) ALLOCATION AMONG STATES: The Secretary shall allot to each State the share of the amounts appropriated that its number of eligible schools bears to the number in all States, except that no State shall receive less than one-half of 1 percent.

1 (d) GRANT PERIOD: A grant shall be for 3 fiscal years, and may be
2 renewed once upon a showing of compliance with section 8.

3 (e) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT: Funds under this Act shall supplement,
4 and not supplant, other funds available for the activities described
5 in section 6.

6 (f) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS: A State educational agency may reserve not
7 more than 3 percent of its allotment, and a local educational agency
8 not more than 2 percent of its subgrant, for administration.

9 (g) PAYMENT: The Secretary shall pay each allotment in two
10 installments in each fiscal year, the second of which shall be
11 withheld from a State educational agency that has not filed the report
12 required by section 8(b) for the preceding fiscal year.

13 (h) NO MATCHING REQUIREMENT: A local educational agency shall not be
14 required to provide matching funds, and a State educational agency
15 shall not condition a subgrant on the provision of matching funds, in
16 cash or in kind.

17 (i) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE: From the amount retained under section
18 9(c), the Secretary shall provide technical assistance to applicants
19 and recipients, including model application forms, guidance on
20 computing a per-construction error rate, and a public clearinghouse of
21 the rates reported under section 8, organized by covered speech
22 technology and by construction.

23 (j) LIMITATION: A school shall not be counted more than once in a
24 fiscal year, whether by more than one local educational agency or
25 under more than one grant.

SEC. 5. APPLICATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL: A local educational agency seeking a subgrant shall apply to the State educational agency at such time and in such manner as that agency requires.

(b) CONTENTS: An application shall include the following:

(1) An inventory of each covered speech technology in use in each eligible school to be served, identifying vendor, version, and instructional purpose, and a description of the instruction to be provided, including instructional hours and grade levels.

(2) Baseline data sufficient to compute a per-construction error rate for each technology under paragraph (1), or the steps the agency will take to obtain it.

(3) An assurance that any audio recording of a student will be held under restricted access, and a certification that written consent was obtained from a parent or guardian, or from a student who has attained the age of 18, before a speech sample is collected.

(c) PRIORITY: A State educational agency shall give priority to an agency serving a rural area, an agency that has not previously received a subgrant, or an agency in which the proportion described in section 3(3) exceeds 60 percent.

SEC. 6. USE OF FUNDS.

(a) REQUIRED USE: Not less than 20 percent of a subgrant shall be used for professional development for teachers assigned to provide instruction in artificial intelligence.

(b) PERMISSIBLE USES: A subgrant may be used for:

(1) instructional materials and computing hardware for instruction in artificial intelligence;

(2) stipends for teachers and for students, and compensation for community members who assist in the activities described in subsection (c);

(3) evaluation of a covered speech technology under section 7, including the collection of speech samples with written consent and the transcription of those samples;

(4) transcription and captioning infrastructure, and the remediation or replacement of a covered speech technology that does not meet the threshold in section 7(c);

(5) instruction in how speech recognition systems are built, how they are evaluated, and why their error rates differ across dialects; and

(6) engagement with families and community organizations, including the return of evaluation results to the school community from which the speech samples were collected.

(c) **SPEECH TECHNOLOGY RESERVATION:** Not less than 15 percent of a subgrant, and the whole of any supplement under section 4(b)(2), shall be used for the activities described in paragraphs (3), (4), and (5) of subsection (b). A local educational agency that certifies that no covered speech technology is in use in any school it serves may apply the reservation to paragraph (5) alone.

(d) **PROHIBITED USES:** No funds under this Act may be used for:

(1) public release of an audio recording of a student;

(2) transfer of student speech data to a commercial entity for the training of a model, whether or not for consideration;

(3) procurement or operation of a facial recognition system or an emotion inference system; or

(4) construction or renovation of a facility.

SEC. 7. DIALECT INCLUSIVE EVALUATION PROTOCOL.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT: Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, shall publish a protocol for evaluating covered speech technology.

(b) CONTENTS: The protocol shall specify:

(1) the constructions for which a per-construction error rate is reported, including at a minimum habitual “be”, copula absence, completive “done”, negative concord, and possessive marking;

(2) the minimum number of speakers and duration of speech required for a reported rate to be valid, and a uniform reporting format which presents each rate separately and does not permit an aggregate rate in place of those rates; and

(3) requirements for consent and restricted access applicable to any recording made for the evaluation.

(c) PROCUREMENT THRESHOLD: Beginning 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, no funds under this Act may procure a covered speech technology whose most recent evaluation reports a per-construction error rate exceeding the baseline rate by more than 25 percent.

(d) PUBLICATION: The Secretary shall publish each evaluation, with the transcripts on which it relies in de-identified form, except that no audio recording shall be published.

SEC. 8. REPORTING AND EVALUATION.

(a) LOCAL AND STATE REPORTS: Not later than 90 days after the end of each fiscal year of a grant period, a local educational agency shall report to the State educational agency the students served, instructional hours, obligations by category of use, and each per-construction error rate measured. The State agency shall aggregate and transmit those reports to the Secretary.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS: Not later than March 1 of each year, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate a report stating, by State, the eligible schools served, the amount obligated, and the change in each per-construction error rate.

(c) COMPTROLLER GENERAL: Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to those committees a study of the per-pupil cost of the program and the change in measured rates for affected dialects.

SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL: There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act \$45,000,000 for fiscal year 2027, \$60,000,000 for fiscal year 2028, and \$75,000,000 for fiscal year 2029.

(b) AVAILABILITY: Amounts appropriated shall remain available for

1 obligation for the fiscal year for which appropriated and for the
2 succeeding fiscal year.

3 (c) DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION: Not more than 1 percent of the
4 amounts appropriated for a fiscal year may be used by the Department
5 of Education for administration.

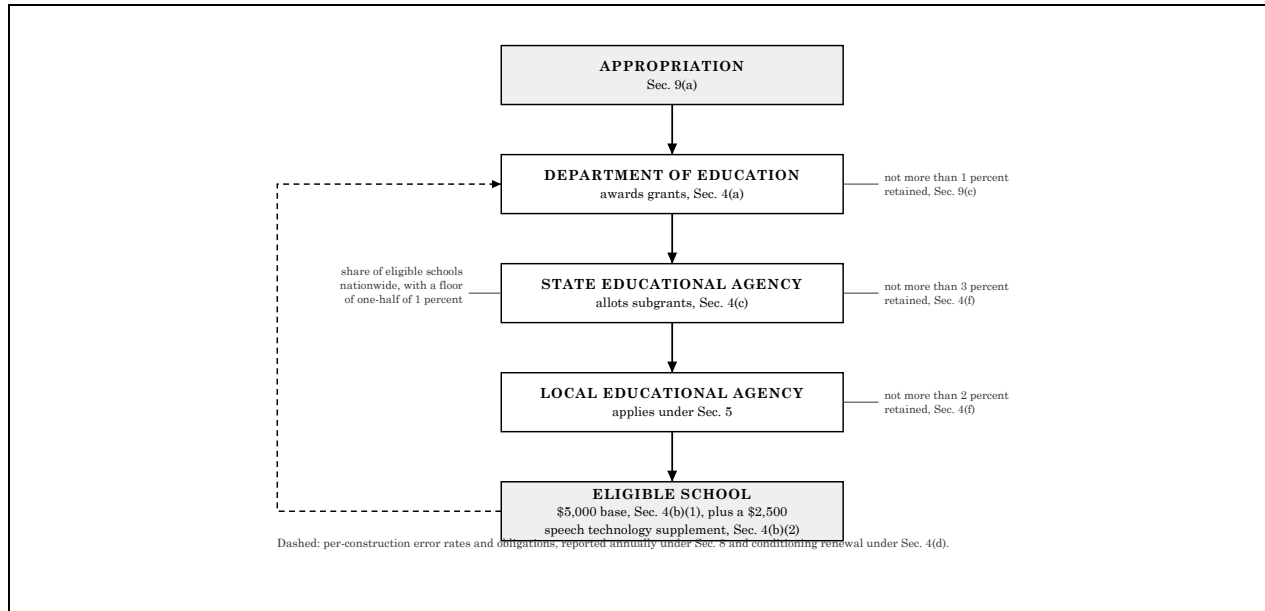
6 **SEC. 10. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

7 Nothing in this Act shall be construed to authorize the Secretary to
8 prescribe a curriculum, to require a student to provide a speech
9 sample as a condition of participation, or to require the adoption of
10 a particular covered speech technology.

11 **SEC. 11. SEVERABILITY; EFFECTIVE DATE.**

12 (a) SEVERABILITY: If any provision of this Act, or its application
13 to any person or circumstance, is held unconstitutional, the remaining
14 provisions shall not be affected.

15 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE: This Act takes effect on the first day of the
16 first fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of this Act.

EXHIBIT A. FLOW OF FUNDS FROM APPROPRIATION TO ELIGIBLE SCHOOL

Solid arrows show the path of funds under sections 4 and 9. Callouts show the maximum each level may retain. The dashed return path is the reporting obligation under section 8, which runs back up the same chain and conditions renewal under section 4(d).

EXHIBIT B. AUTHORIZATION AND COVERAGE, BY FISCAL YEAR

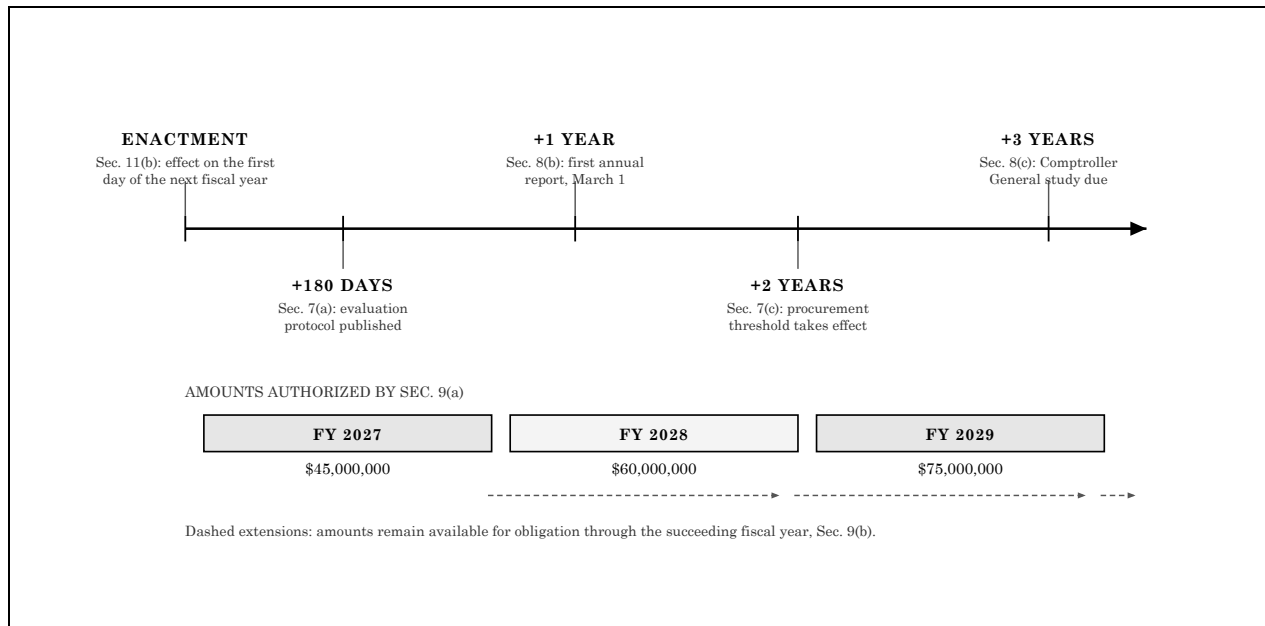
FISCAL YEAR	AMOUNT AUTHORIZED Sec. 9(a)	BASE PER SCHOOL Sec. 4(b)(1)	WITH SUPPLEMENT Sec. 4(b)(2)	SCHOOLS AT BASE AMOUNT	SCHOOLS IF ALL SUPPLEMENTED
2027	\$45,000,000	\$5,000	\$7,500	9,000	6,000
2028	\$60,000,000	\$5,000	\$7,500	12,000	8,000
2029	\$75,000,000	\$5,000	\$7,500	15,000	10,000
TOTAL	\$180,000,000			36,000	24,000

The two right-hand columns divide the amount authorized by the base award under section 4(b)(1) and by the base plus the speech technology supplement under section 4(b)(2). Together they bound coverage, before the retentions permitted by sections 4(f) and 9(c). Neither figure is a projection of participation.

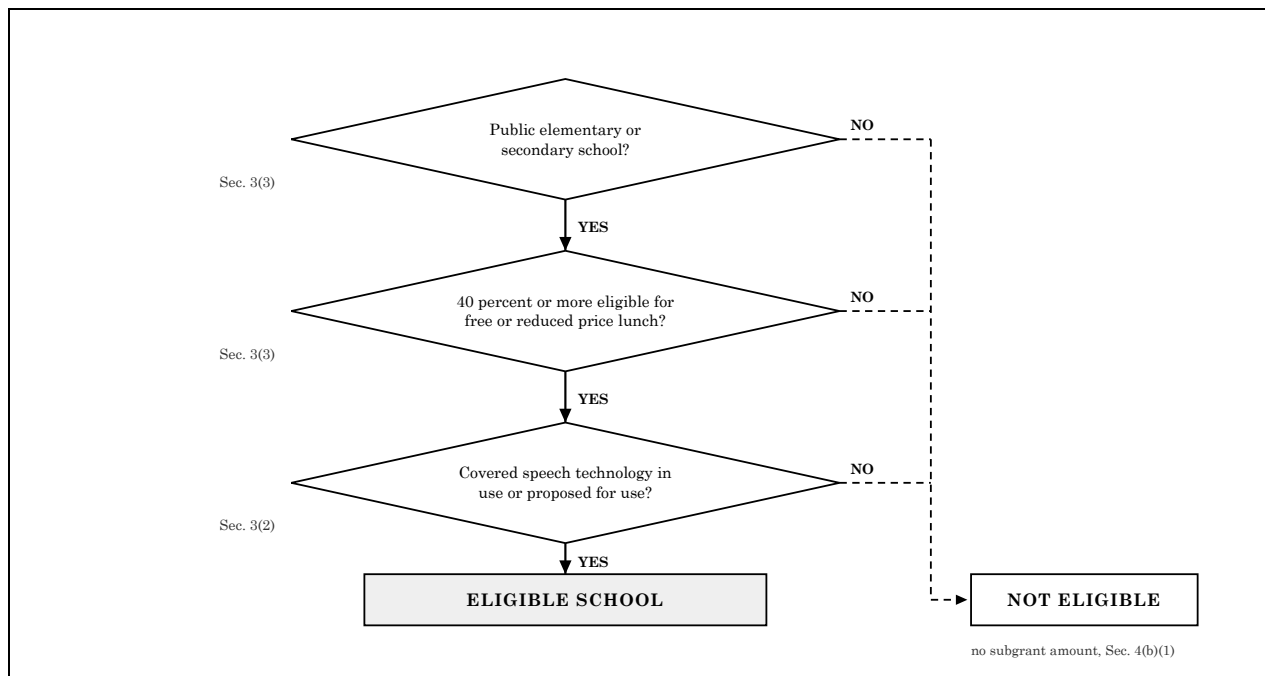
EXHIBIT C. FORM AIEG 1, PER-CONSTRUCTION ERROR RATE REPORT

CONSTRUCTION REPORTED, SEC. 7(b)(1)	SPEAKERS	MINUTES	ERROR RATE	BASELINE	RATIO
Habitual “be”					
Copula absence					
Completive “done”					
Negative concord					
Possessive marking					
Aggregate, all speech					

One row per construction enumerated in section 7(b)(1). The last row is reported in addition to, never in place of, the rows above it. Ratio is the reported rate divided by the baseline; a ratio above 1.25 triggers section 7(c).

EXHIBIT D. STATUTORY CLOCK AND AUTHORIZED AMOUNTS

The clock runs from enactment. The protocol under section 7(a) must be published before the procurement threshold under section 7(c) can bind, and the first annual report under section 8(b) falls between them. Bands below the axis show the amounts authorized by section 9(a) and, dashed, the second year of availability under 9(b).

EXHIBIT E. DETERMINATION OF SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY

Each test comes from the definitions in section 3, and all three must be satisfied. A school failing any one of them is outside the definition of an eligible school and generates no subgrant amount under section 4(b)(1), whatever the merits of its application.