



## The Transition-to-Success Mentoring Act

### Background and Issue

A recent survey found that only 39% of young people said an adult was available to talk to them when feeling stressed or having problems. Middle school in particular is a uniquely challenging time for students, and ensuring a smooth transition from middle to high school is critical to their long-term success. School-based mentoring is an innovative, evidence-based supplement to the traditional learning that takes place in the classroom, providing underserved and at-risk students with attention and relational support to help keep them engaged in school. Strong mentoring services can also help youth address mental health and trauma, decrease absenteeism from school, connect with employers, and avoid involvement with the juvenile justice system.

### Bill Summary

The Transition-to-Success Mentoring Act would establish a grant program through the Department of Education to support partnerships between local education agencies (LEA's) and community and school-based mentoring programs targeted at helping youth facing risk of dropping out before graduation. Under this legislation, participating students would develop and execute a plan for success in high school and beyond, and meet regularly with a school faculty member or volunteer mentor from the community known as a "Success Coach."

Specifically, the bill would:

- Authorize \$50 million for discretionary grants to establish, expand, or support school-based mentoring programs to assist eligible students with the transition from middle school to high school
- Require grantees to recruit, screen, and match new mentors; develop and carry out a quality training program; hire staff to perform/support the program objective; and provide activities or programming with the purpose of engaging and connecting the student to the school community
- Distribute grants to LEA's and schools with the highest need
- Require the reporting necessary for the Department of Education to rigorously evaluate the outcomes of the school-based mentoring programs
- Give preference to applicants who have integrated youth voice into their program design

### Become a Sponsor

This bill is led by Rep. Carson in the House of Representatives, Sen. Booker in the Senate, and is supported by the [Youth Mentoring Caucus](#). To become a co-sponsor, please contact Diala Qasem at [diala.qasem@mail.house.gov](mailto:diala.qasem@mail.house.gov) or Gloria Nuñez at [gloria\\_nunez@booker.senate.gov](mailto:gloria_nunez@booker.senate.gov).