

Biotechnology for All High School Students Act

Overview

The **Biotechnology for All High School Students Act (H.R.8268)** would enable the National Science Foundation (NSF) to make competitive, merit-based awards to support teacher training, classroom resources, and partnerships for biotechnology education at the high school level.

Background

The National Security Commission on Emerging Biotechnology (NSCEB) assessed in April 2025 that the American education and training system is currently not producing enough skilled workers to meet the demands of the biotechnology industry. The United States' ability to compete globally in biotechnology—and safeguard national security—depends on whether we have the workforce necessary to translate scientific advances into scaled, domestic production.

High school is often the final opportunity for most Americans to take science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) classes, but not all states make biology a high school graduation requirement. Less than 30 percent of public high school biology classes include molecular biology, a foundational precursor to higher learning in biotechnology.

Given how many Americans enter the workforce immediately after high school, this juncture is a critical moment to prepare students for biotechnology careers. High-quality biotechnology education for all high school students would yield a pipeline of American talent to drive U.S. innovation and leadership in this growing sector.

H.R. 8268

Sponsor:
Rep. Sarah McBride
(D-DE-At Large)

Original Co-Sponsor:
Rep. Rich McCormick
(R-GA-7)

Available for Senate introduction

Congress established the National Security Commission on Emerging Biotechnology (NSCEB) to assess biotechnology's national security impact and recommend strategies to ensure American leadership.

Read the NSCEB's April 2025 report at <https://www.biotech.senate.gov/final-report>

Legislative Details

01 Awards

The NSF, in consultation with the Department of Education, may make merit-based awards to support biotechnology education for high school students. This includes support for teacher training, curricula design, pedagogy, the purchasing of laboratory equipment, and cross-sector partnerships.

02 Eligibility

Eligible entities would include local and state education agencies, institutions of higher education, nonprofit organizations, and public-private partnerships that combine these stakeholders.

03 National Biotechnology Education Consortium

The NSF shall establish a consortium of cross-sector stakeholders to advise and coordinate on biotechnology education programs for high school students. The consortium would be composed of representatives across the public, private, and nonprofit sectors at the federal, state, and local levels.

Interested in leading or co-sponsoring this bill?

Please contact ideas@biotech.senate.gov

