



The Time for Innovation Matters in Education Act of 2009 (TIME Act, S. 1410 and H.R. 3130)

Background

Despite the increasing educational demands of the 21st century, most American schools still follow the 19th century agrarian calendar of 180 days per year and 6.5 hours a day. As we expect more from our students and teachers, we must provide them with the time they need to achieve. On July 8, 2009, the late Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D-MA) and Senator Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) called for an expanded and enriched school schedule by introducing the Time for Innovation Matters in Education Act of 2009. The same day, Representatives Donald Payne (D-NJ) and George Miller (D-CA) introduced a companion bill (H.R. 3130). This legislation recognizes that collaboration between schools and the greater community is vital to the success of expanded learning time initiatives.

Summary

The Time for Innovation Matters in Education Act of 2009:

- Authorizes grants to state and local education agencies on a competitive basis to fund expanded learning time initiatives in school. This funding would give schools the opportunity to comprehensively redesign and expand their schedule – ultimately increasing learning time for students by at least 300 hours.
- Allows schools to develop programs that provide in-depth instruction in core academic subjects, such as reading, math, science, social studies, and foreign languages.
- Enriches the school curriculum by lending greater time to music and the arts, physical education, and other opportunities for well-rounded learning, such as internships, mentoring, and service learning.
- Requires expanded learning time initiatives to increase time for all students in all grade levels, except in high schools where expanded learning time must apply to at least one entire grade level. Citizen Schools would like middle schools, as well, to have the flexibility to increase time for one or more grade levels.
- Gives priority to local education agencies serving a high percentage of low-income student populations and partnerships including a nonprofit community-based organization or an organization focused on alternative learning or dropout prevention.
- Allows the Secretary of Education to award grants directly to a partnership that serves more than one area in more than one state. Not more than 10% of the grant funding can be awarded directly to these types of partnerships. Citizen Schools would like at least 20% of the grant funding to be available for multi-state partnerships.
- Authorizes \$350 million in the first fiscal year of enactment. Appropriations would increase over time until the fifth year, when the program would receive \$500 million.

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Citizen Schools is a leading national education initiative that mobilizes thousands of adult volunteers to help improve student achievement by teaching skills-building apprenticeships after school. These programs blend real-world learning projects with rigorous academic and leadership development activities, preparing students in the middle grades for success in high school, college, the workforce, and civic life.

For more information, contact Christin M. Driscoll, Executive Director of Policy and Communications, at christindriscoll@citizenschools.org or (703) 524-2552 or Tasha Patusky, National Public Policy Manager at tashapatusky@citizenschools.org or (617) 894-8585.