



Improving Educational Opportunities & Outcomes Through Expanded Learning Time

Expanded Learning Time (ELT) programs provide more time, more enrichment, and more qualified educators for America's children. Children spend only 20% of their waking hours in the classroom, yet we expect schools to shoulder almost all of the responsibility for educating them. Schools are striving to prepare *all* students for success in the 21st-century global economy; but many need additional time and support to get the job done. ELT programs give schools the opportunity to re-imagine the school day and provide students with the time, enrichment, and instruction they need to meet today's high academic standards.

What is Expanded Learning Time (ELT)?

Schools that adopt expanded learning time significantly extend their schedules for all students by lengthening the school day, school year, or both. As schools respond to an increasingly competitive global economy as well as the expectation that all students reach high standards, ELT is gaining national momentum as a smart education reform.

In partnership with the nonprofit organization Massachusetts 2020, Massachusetts created an ELT pilot program in 2006. Fueled in part by early success of this initiative, urban school districts like New York City and Chicago are adding more time to support struggling schools. States including California, Oklahoma, Alabama, Rhode Island, and Delaware are now exploring options for expanded learning time (Massachusetts 2020, *Redesigning Today's Schools for a Stronger Tomorrow*, 2007-2008 Annual Report).



About Citizen Schools

Citizen Schools is a leading national education initiative that uniquely mobilizes thousands of adult volunteers to help improve student achievement by teaching skill-building apprenticeships afterschool. These programs blend these 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. Citizen Schools operates in 44 schools in California, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, and Texas, serving an estimated 3,800 students and engaging 3,200 com-

What difference does ELT make?

- Among the 10 schools in the Massachusetts Expanded Learning Time pilot program, the number making Adequate Yearly Progress doubled in math and increased by 40% in English after the first year (Massachusetts 2020, *Time for a New Day: ELT Initiative 2006-2007 Annual Report*).
- As part of the Massachusetts ELT pilot program, Citizen Schools worked with all of the 6th graders at the Edwards Middle School in Boston. In the first year, 6th grade math proficiency rates increased from 15% to 32% and passage rates increased from 48% to 70% (Carpenter Bernier, *Expanding Learning Time*, Apr. 2008).
- Since it began partnering with Citizen Schools in 2006, the Edwards Middle School has reduced the achievement gap for 8th graders in math and ELA by more than 50% (Massachusetts 2020, *Redesigning Today's Schools for a Stronger Tomorrow*, 2007-2008 Annual Report).

How can Congress support ELT?

Support bills that call for a national ELT demonstration project. In the 110th Congress, ELT legislation was introduced in the Senate and House. Senator Kennedy (D-MA) sponsored the Time for Innovation Matters in Education (TIME) Act (S. 3431), and Rep. Donald Payne (D-NJ), sponsored the Expanded Learning Time Demonstration Act (H.R. 3642). These bills would:

- Fund ELT initiatives in schools, giving them the opportunity to comprehensively redesign and expand their schedules.
- Enrich 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.
- Targets schools serving low-income students.
- Promote partnerships between schools and afterschool programs to encourage broader learning opportunities that connect directly to school-day learning.

For more information, contact Christin M. Driscoll, Executive Director of Policy and Communications, at christindriscoll@citizenschools.org. 308 Congress Street, Floor 5, Boston, MA 02210 • 617.695.2300 • in Washington, D.C. 703.524.2552

[www.citizenschools.org]