



Improving Educational Opportunities & Outcomes for America's Children in No Child Left Behind

Quality after-school and expanded learning time programs provide more time, more enrichment, and more qualified educators for America's children. Children spend 20% of their waking hours in school, yet we expect schools to shoulder almost all of the responsibility for their futures. A child's capacity to learn doesn't end with the final bell – and our 19th century school calendar does not meet the educational demands of our 21st century economy. After-school and expanded learning provide the additional time needed to advance school success, and the ability to provide complementary learning opportunities outside school.

As Congress develops policies to shape education reform, three initiatives address this critical need for American schools, communities, and working families: a federal demonstration program to support Expanded Learning Time schools, the Teaching Fellows for Expanded Learning and After-School Act (T-FELAS), and a federal fund to bring innovative educational programs with proven results to scale.

What are the challenges?

- Nearly one in three public high school students will drop out of school. The rate approaches 50% for Latinos and African Americans (TIME Magazine, 2006).
- High school dropouts are less likely to be in the labor force than those with a high school credential or higher (U.S. Department of Labor, 2006).
- In a 2006 Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation report, 45% of high school dropouts questioned said they started high school underprepared and felt they were unable to make up the necessary ground from elementary and middle school (Gates Foundation, *The Silent Epidemic: Perspectives of High School Dropouts*, March 2006).
- More than 14 million school-age children (25%) are on their own after school (America After 3 PM, May 2004).
- Only 6.5 million K-12 children (11%) participate in after-school programs. 15 million more would participate if a quality program were available in their community (America After 3 PM, May 2004).

How can Congress address these issues in NCLB reauthorization?

- **Expanded Learning Time.** Enact a federal demonstration program to support Expanded Learning Time schools that adds at least 30% more learning time for children in schools through a partnership between the school and educational organizations.
- **Teaching Fellows for Expanded Learning & After-School Act of 2007.** T-FELAS would provide federal support for 10,000 Americorps Teaching Fellows, recent college graduates who would commit two years as full-time "second shift" educators. Teaching Fellows would support school-day learning and lead after-school and Expanded Learning Time classes. The Act will strengthen and expand the after-school sector, increase resources and opportunities for students and families in our nation's schools, and create a new professional pathway for young educators and mentors supporting academic achievement.
- **Scale What Works.** Create a dedicated fund focused on bringing to scale educational innovations that have demonstrable and proven results.

Why afterschool and expanded learning time?

- Disadvantaged students who participate in high-quality after-school programs show significant gains in standardized test scores, improved work habits, and reduced behavior problems (Vandell, Reisner, and Pierce; *Outcomes Linked to High-Quality Afterschool Programs*, 2007).
- A multi-year, independent, matched comparison group study of 1,000 Boston Public Schools students found that Citizen Schools participants are performing better academically in middle school, enrolling in better high schools, and outperforming their peers on high-stakes exams in 10th grade (Policy Studies Associates, 2008).
- Among ten schools in a 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*). At the Edwards Middle School in Boston, where Citizen Schools worked with all 6th grade students, the number of 6th graders achieving

How does Citizen Schools already help?

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 community volunteers.



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