



April 2007

The *Extended Learning Opportunities Network* e-newsletter (ELON) is a monthly publication from CCSSO that provides timely information, research, and resources to support our members in expanding and sustaining high quality Extended Learning Opportunities (ELOs) to students in need of them. ELOs are initiatives that provide safe, structured environments for students outside the regular school day. ELOs include before- and after-school programs; Saturday, weekend, and summer programs; extended day/year initiatives, distance learning, and early education initiatives.

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Asia Society. ***Afterschool for the Global Age*** – This report summarizes the most recent national meeting, The Creative Afterschool Programming for the Global Age, convened by the Asia Society and the George Lucas Foundation. The meeting, planned in collaboration with the Afterschool and Community Learning Network and The Children's Aid Society brought together representatives from national groups, state and local leaders, and experts in the youth development to explore strategies for expanding and integrating international education in afterschool programming and summer learning initiatives. Discussion centered on these questions

- How can extended learning programs and initiatives integrate international content into program design, development and delivery?
- What help is available and needed to implement internationally oriented afterschool and summer learning initiatives?
- How can the afterschool community incorporate an international perspective in policy advocacy?

Challenges discussed include

- integrating global content most applicable to afterschool and summer learning programming, including staff training and professional development
- ensuring funding and sustainability through all sources, including federal, state and local governments as well as philanthropic leaders, consulates and global business firms
- spreading innovation by disseminating best practices from successful sites

Meeting participants identified these action steps to promote global education in the afterschool field

- raise awareness through local, state and national meetings and publications
- survey existing programs to understand the current scope of international learning
- develop a field-building vision around international education and its role
- create practical resources to implement the vision such as, a how-to guide and self-assessments for programs and staff
- focus on pilot sites for research and development of models of quality programs
- embed an international focus in existing and future program expansion

This report is available at:

<http://www.internationaled.org/afterschoolreport.pdf>

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families Child Care Bureau. ***Promoting Physical Activity and Healthy Nutrition in Afterschool Settings: Strategies for Program Leaders and Policy Makers*** – This report brief focuses on ways the afterschool field may contribute to improving and promoting healthy lifestyles among children. It discusses strategies and provides examples for program and policy leaders in these areas

- incorporating physical activity and nutrition into programming
- using policy levers to build capacity and facilitate community involvement in policy discussions
- assessing resources and finances

Resources are provided throughout the brief can be downloaded for free.

This report brief is available at:
http://nccic.acf.hhs.gov/afterschool/fitness_nutrition.pdf

Policy Studies Associates, Inc. ***Charting the Benefits of High-Quality After-School Program Experience: Evidence from New Research on Improving After-School Opportunities for Disadvantaged Youth*** – This report presents the research findings of a two year study on various after-school settings for disadvantaged youth. Researchers surveyed participants, parents and teachers to explore differing outcomes associated with youth participation in these various types of after-school settings

- *program plus activities* – includes high-quality after-school programs and also other out-of-school time activities in schools, neighborhoods or community centers such as, sports teams, arts or religious lessons
- *program only* – includes only high-quality after-school programs two to three days a week
- *supervised at home* – involves no participation in any after-school program but at home supervised by a parent or other adult
- *self-care plus activities* – includes sporadic participation in after-school programs and one to three days a week in setting not supervised by adults

For this study researchers defined high-quality after-school programs as having the following characteristics

- serving least 30 youth throughout the school year in one or two of these age groups: youth in third or fourth grade and youth in sixth or seventh grade
- located in high-poverty communities
- offering services at no cost to parents four or five days a week
- collecting evaluation data demonstrating positive participant outcomes

Findings indicated youth participating in any one of the three supervised after-school settings compared to their peers in self-care plus activities showed improved work habits, reduced misconduct and better academic performance. The most positive outcomes were found for youth participating in various sets of activities.

This report is available at:
<http://www.statewideafterschoolnetworks.net/dat/promisingprograms.pdf>

University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). ***Addressing Barriers to Learning*** – This newsletter from the UCLA School Mental Health Project/Center for Mental Health in Schools highlights comprehensive systems of learning supports. Its feature article discusses the strategy of developing school-community collaborations as a key practice for schools to increase positive family, youth and community involvement. Complementary articles describe the effective school-community collaboration among the Berkeley Unified School District, the City of Berkeley, the University of California-Berkeley, and the Berkeley community and identify research studies presenting evidence and data on the importance for moving toward a comprehensive system of learning supports.

This newsletter is available at:
<http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/Newsletter/spring07.pdf>

Montgomery County Collaboration Council for Children, Youth and Families, Inc. ***Status of Out-of-School Time in Montgomery County, Maryland*** – The Montgomery County Collaboration Council for Children, Youth and Families is working to build a community-wide, collaborative system to expand and enhance after school programs in Montgomery County, MD. This report outlines the first phase of the Collaboration Council's work and describes the current status of out-of-school time in the county in these four areas

- demand and capacity
- program standards
- organization and professional development
- finance and resources

Workgroups for each topic were organized to collect information through interviews and surveys. The report describes the summarizes findings and provides recommendations to each issue. Also it outlines next steps and identifies recommended priority short- and long-term implementation approaches.

This report is available at:

<http://www.collaborationcouncil.org/News/afterschooltaskforcereport.pdf>

Council of Chief State School Officers. ***Council Quarterly*** – This issue of *Council Quarterly* highlights discussions from the 2006 Annual Policy Forum and Business Meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas. Advocacy issues identified and discussed at the meeting include

- the role of chief leadership around the global imperative for education change
- state-level policy around teacher effectiveness and the needs of 21st century learners
- state capacity to support school and district improvement
- the development of national/shared standards

This issue also spotlights the work of the NCLB-IDEA Collaboration Community project of the IDEA Partnership at the National Association of State Directors of Special Education and the Access Center's State-to-State Information Sharing Community at the American Institute for Research.

The *Council Quarterly* will be available at:

http://www.ccsso.org/Whats_New/newsletters/council_quarterly/index.cfm

For readings from the 2006 Annual Policy Forum and Business Meeting, please visit: http://www.ccsso.org/projects/Membership_Meetings/Annual_Policy_Forum_and_Business_Meeting/

Spotlight on State-Level Work

The Tennessee Department of Education's Evaluation of Supplemental Educational Services

The Tennessee Department of Education has recently posted its evaluation report of SES provider impact during the 2005-06 school year on its website. Along with the report is an evaluation guide and PowerPoint presentation. The PowerPoint presentation highlights components of the evaluation and key findings from the work of districts, local school educators and providers.

To access these resources, please visit:

<http://www.state.tn.us/education/fedprog/fpses.shtml>

If you have state specific resources and news to share on extended learning opportunities and other initiatives designed to support student achievement and educational attainment, please send them to morakotm@ccsso.org

Tools You Can Use...

This website from the Public Broadcasting Company contains free lesson plans, tip and additional standards-based resources for all grade levels in these areas

- Arts
- Health and Fitness
- Math
- Reading and Language Arts
- Science and Technology
- Social Studies
- Early Childhood
- Library Media

To access these resources, please visit:

<http://www.pbs.org/teachers/>

This website from the George Lucas Foundation contains free instructional modules that include articles, video footage, slide show presentations and class activities.

Modules include

- Project-based Learning
- Assessment
- Technology Integration
- Technology Integration: Language Arts and Social Studies
- Technology Integration: Math and Science
- Exploratory Learning with Digital Microscope
- Project-based Learning, An Integral Approach: CSI
- Theory of Multiple Intelligences

To access these resources, please visit:

<http://www.edutopia.org/foundation/courseware.php>

Conferences and Events...

As part of the Extended Learning and Development Opportunities project, CCSSO will convene an audio conference for state education agency staff that administer the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) and Supplemental Educational Service (SES) programs. This call will focus on extended learning opportunities for high school students and will feature Merita Irby, Managing Director, The Forum for Youth Investment; Angela Hernandez Marshall, Director, Secondary School Redesign, CCSSO; Michelle Novello, Executive Director, Riverzedge Arts Project; and two students participating in the Riverzedge Arts Project. The call will be held on Wednesday, May 9, 2007 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. (EDT). A detailed agenda and call information will be forwarded via the listserv on Monday, May 7, 2007.

The American Youth Policy Forum will be hosting a lunchtime forum and discussion, Career and Technology Education: Responding to Industry Needs on May 10, 2007. The free event will feature Phyllis Eisen, Vice President, The Manufacturing Institute and Executive Director, The Center for Workforce Success and Duane Crum, California State Director, Project Lead the Way.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.aypf.org/forum/briefs/2007/fb051007.htm>

As part of the Summer 2007 Professional Development workshop series, Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning will be providing a two session, Designing Effective Science Lessons Overview on May 31-June 1, 2007. Participants will learn to address content, understanding and environment in high-quality science lessons.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.mcrel.org/topics/services/132/>

For a complete list of workshops available throughout the summer, please visit: <http://www.mcrel.org/summerPD/>

Grants and Other Opportunities...

U.S. Department of Education - Mentoring Programs

The Office of Safe and Drug-free Schools at the U.S. Department of Education will be awarding 198 \$100,000-200,000 awards to local educational agencies (LEAs), non-profit community-based organizations (CBOs) and partnerships between LEAs and CBOs that provide mentoring programs to children with the greatest need.

These programs must

- assist participants in receiving support and guidance from a mentor
- improve academic performance and interpersonal relationships
- reduce the dropout rate and juvenile delinquency

Deadline: May 23, 2007

*For more information, please visit:

<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20071800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/E7-6863.htm>

In the News...

April 1

Schools battle to land best leaders

http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2007/04/01/schools_battle_to_land_best_leaders/

April 2

Schools drop Holocaust lessons

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/secondworldwar/story/0,,2048082,00.html>

April 3

Parents would have to OK kids' choice of clubs

Requiring permission will help parents, sponsor says

<http://tennessean.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070403/NEWS04/704030335>

April 4

Schools consider special curricula

Niche programs would attract motivated students

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/local/annearundel/bal-ar-magnet04apr04,0,1347867.story?coll=bal-local-arundel>

April 6

Where Colleges Don't Excel

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/04/05/AR2007040501791.html>

April 8

Splitting the difference

In the first year of a pilot program on single-sex classes, teachers are figuring out how boys and girls learn

<http://www.jsonline.com/story/index.aspx?id=588260>

April 9

Teachers hit goals, but gaps also exist

http://www.palmbeachpost.com/localnews/content/local_news/epaper/2007/04/09/s1b_skhhighlyqualified_0408.html

April 10

At-risk student plan detailed

<http://www.nola.com/education/t-p/index.ssf?/base/news-3/1176184627121360.xml&coll=1>

April 11

Maryland joins eight states to devise Algebra II test

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/local/bal-md.tests11apr11,0,2404136.story?coll=bal-local-headlines>

April 12

Bush Defends No Child Left Behind Act

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/04/12/AR2007041201561.html>

April 14

School's out, forever

<http://education.guardian.co.uk/schools/story/0,,2056551,00.html>

April 15

'No F' rule benches more kids, survey finds

<http://desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070415/NEWS02/704150335/1004>

April 16

Autism: More Treatable Than Thought?

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2007/04/16/earlyshow/living/parenting/main2686266.shtml>

April 18

Chinese School helps bridge cultures

<http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/0418mr-chinese0419.html>

April 20

Gates offers \$3 software for students

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2007-04/20/content_854762.htm

April 21

Key Initiative Of 'No Child' Under Federal Investigation

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/04/20/AR2007042002284.html>

April 22

EDITORIAL

Too many empty seats in classrooms

<http://www.indystar.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070422/OPINION/704220333>

April 23

Community Colleges

Many Still Struggling to Graduate

<http://www.miamiherald.com/460/story/82657.html>

April 24

One child under six is expelled every week

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2007/04/20/nexpel20.xml>

April 25

Local educators not sure about new federal background checks

http://www.yorkdispatch.com/local/ci_5746982

April 26

Children 'learn most from peers not parents'

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2007/04/26/nedu26.xml>

April 27

Zoners OK new school for autistic children

http://www.yorkdispatch.com/local/ci_5766703

April 28

U.S. schools may join inexpensive laptop project

<http://asia.news.yahoo.com/070426/3/30ym9.html>

April 30

Top Teachers Issue Call for Revamped Pay Plans

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/04/29/AR2007042901206.html>

About the Extended Learning and Development Opportunities Project

The Extended Learning and Development Opportunities Project is housed at CCSSO and is supported through funding from the [Charles Stewart Mott Foundation](#). The project is designed to assist states in developing their capacity to effectively implement the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC), and Supplemental Educational Services programs, as well as other state-based extended learning initiatives.

To submit a news item relevant to extended learning efforts at the state or district level, provide feedback, or to subscribe/unsubscribe, send an e-mail to Morakot Masokas at morakotm@ccsso.org. The PDF version of this newsletter is available at the following URL:

http://www.ccsso.org/whats_new/newsletters/elon_news/index.cfm

The Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) is a nonpartisan, nationwide, nonprofit organization of public officials who head departments of elementary and secondary education in the states, the District of Columbia, the Department of Defense Education Activity, and five U.S. extra-state jurisdictions. CCSSO provides leadership, advocacy, and technical assistance on major educational issues. The Council seeks member consensus on major educational issues and expresses their views to civic and professional organizations, federal agencies, Congress, and the public.

Our mission statement: The Council of Chief State School Officers, through Leadership, Advocacy, and Service, assists chief state school officers and their organizations in achieving the vision of an American education system that enables all children to succeed in school, work, and life.

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