



March 2008

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 (chief state school officers, state education agency staff) 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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Education Week. ***Gaining a Voice After School: Why After-School Programs Are a Powerful Resource for English-Language Learners*** – This article discusses how after-school programs can serve as a valuable partner to schools in supporting English language learners. According to the article, schools struggle with the following challenges in trying to meet the needs of English language learners

- lack of time to develop language skills as well as understand content
- vast differences in language and literacy skills amongst English language learners
- communicating expectations regarding classwork and homework to parents and students

The author states that after-school programs offer a variety of language-learning opportunities that can support learning during the school day by providing the following

- additional time for learners to develop listening, speaking, and literacy skills
- lower student-to-staff ratios
- informal settings that incorporate learner-center and project-based activities
- less intimidating settings that can promote parent engagement and communication

This article is available at:

http://www.caceafterschool.org/publications/Gaining_a_Voice_After_School_r.pdf

The Finance Project. ***Financing and Sustaining Out-of-School Time Programs in Rural Communities*** – This brief focuses on funding resources and strategies for rural out-of-school time programs. It provides information on a variety of federal, state, and local resources available for funding programs in rural areas. The publication also identifies challenges related to financing and sustaining out-of-school time programs in rural communities and highlights successful program examples. The authors recommend that program directors should employ a mix of financing strategies to sustain their programs including

- creating a diverse funding base
- building partnerships
- tapping existing networks

This report is available at:

<http://www.financeproject.org/publications/OSTRuralYouth.pdf>

The Finance Project. ***Using CDBG to Support Community-Based Youth Programs*** – This brief provides an overview of the federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. It explores ways in which CDBG funds may be used to help finance and sustain programs and initiatives for children, youth, and families. CDBG funded activities must meet one of the following national goals

- benefit persons of low and moderate income
- aid in the prevention and elimination of slums or blight
- meet other community development needs of particular urgency

The law lists categories of allowable CDBG funded activities. Two primary categories of allowable CDBG activities for youth programs include

- public service, which may include mentoring, tutoring, enrichment, etc.

- public improvement and facilities, which may include the purchase, construction, or rehabilitation of youth facilities such as shelters, charter schools, and recreation centers

In addition, this brief discusses strategies for using CDBG funds to support older youth involvement for community economic development.

This report is available at:

<http://www.financeproject.org/publications/CDBGyouthprograms.pdf>

National Institute on Out-of-School Time at Wellesley Centers for Women, Wellesley College. ***Making the Case: A 2008 Fact Sheet on Children and Youth in Out-of-School Time*** – This fact sheet makes the case for the need of out-of-school time programs for children and youth. It presents the latest research and findings on the following

- outcomes related to an increase in school attendance and academic performance, engagement in extra-curricular activities, and development of positive social skills
- statistics on how children and youth are spending their time during non-school hours which includes participation in afterschool and/or school-based enrichment activities or at home unsupervised
- information on how out-of-school time activities address problems related to nutrition, obesity, and well-being of children and youth
- opportunities for participation of students with disabilities
- benefits and components of high-quality programming for middle and high school-age youth
- how technology-oriented programs can add value to the out-of-school time field

The fact sheet also provides information maintaining a continued need for sustaining and strengthening high-quality programs that involves the following

- making improvements in recruiting, developing, and retaining a motivated workforce
- developing a core set of program standards and/or practices
- aligning program activities to school standards/reform efforts

This fact sheet is available at:

<http://www.niost.org/publications/Final2008FactSheet.pdf>

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration of Children and Families Child Care Bureau. ***Building Professional Development Systems for the Afterschool Field*** – This report from the Afterschool Investments Project describes approaches of professional development system-building efforts for the afterschool field. It identifies challenges and presents examples of state and local approaches to building professional development systems. Depending on a variety of factors in each state including: the current afterschool training; levels of support from leaders and agencies; and existing professional development systems from other fields, approaches in creating a system for afterschool can vary and may include

- building off the early childhood professional development system
- connecting existing systems through several state agencies
- creating a new system

This report is available at:

http://nccic.acf.hhs.gov/afterschool/pd_systems.html

U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Education and Labor. ***After School Programs: How the Bush Administration's Budget Impacts Children and Families*** – On March 11, 2008 the House Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education examined the administration of 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) program under NCLB. Testimony provided by Teresa Kough, Education Associate, Delaware Department of Education; LaDonna Gamble, Interim Project Director, Bridges to the Future; Michael Carroll, Chief of Police, West Goshen Township Police Department, West Chester, Pennsylvania; and Priscilla Little, Associate Director, Harvard Family Research Project provided research and information on the progress and continuing need for 21st CCLC and other afterschool programs. Also, testimonies offered ideas on how the program can be strengthened.

The opening statement by U.S. Representative Mike Castle and testimonies are available at:

http://republicans.edlabor.house.gov/hearing_details.aspx?NewsID=477

Tools You Can Use...

The Program in Education, Afterschool, and Resiliency (PEAR) at Harvard University and the National Partnership for Quality Afterschool Learning at the Southwest Educational Development Laboratory (SEDL) has developed afterschool curriculum guides in literacy, mathematics, and science. The curriculum guides include lesson plans and activities.

To access this resource, please visit:

<http://www.sedl.org/afterschool/guide/literacy/>

The Secondary School Redesign Project website at the Council for Chief State School Officers includes the Adolescent Literacy Toolkit. The toolkit was developed by the Council and its partners. It contains resources for states and teachers related to developing state-level professional development activities and integrating literacy strategies and best practices in core content areas.

To access this resource, please visit:

<http://www.ccsso.org/projects/Secondary%5FSchool%5FRedesign/Adolescent%5FLiteracy%5FToolkit/>

Conferences and Events...

The **Center for Summer Learning at Johns Hopkins University** will be hosting the 2008 Summer Learning National Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico April 17, 2008. The conference will feature Dr. Mae C. Jemison, education advocate and the first African American woman in space. The conference welcomes summer program providers, educators, school administrators, research, and policy makers and will provide

- networking opportunities
- strategies on effective program management

- research and resources on ways to enhance programming

*For more information, please visit:

http://www.summerlearning.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=105&Itemid=427

The **Coalition for Community Schools** will be hosting the 10th Anniversary National Forum, *Community Schools for All* in Portland, Oregon April 30 to May 2, 2008. The event will feature an international community schools plenary, site visits, and more than eighty workshops. Keynote speakers include Pedro Noguero, author, professor, and expert on education and diversity; Vicki Phillips, Director of Education, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; Ira Harkavy, Coalition Chair and Director, Netter Center of Community Partnerships at the University of Pennsylvania; and international community school leaders.

*For more information, please visit: www.communityschool.org

The **Best of Out-of-School Time (BOOST) Conference** will be held in Palm Springs, California April 30-May 3, 2008. The conference will provide participants access to over 100 exhibitors sharing new resources, products, and services to enhance programming.

*For more information, please visit: <http://www.boostconference.org/>

Grants and Other Opportunities...

Improving Children's Health and Well-being

Ronald McDonald House Charities will be awarding global grants to non-profit, tax-exempt organizations whose programs help to improve the health and well-being of children.

Deadline to submit letter of inquiry: April 28

<http://www.rmhc.org/grants/#inquiry>

Early Childhood Reading Grants

The Target Corporation will be providing reading grants to school, libraries, and non-profit organizations whose programs support the development of reading in children from birth to age nine.

Deadline: May 31

<http://sites.target.com/site/en/corporate/page.jsp?contentId=PRD03-003408>

In the News...

March 1

A taste of cooking

<http://www.sctimes.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080301/NEWS01/103010006/1009>

March 3

81% of Hawaii teachers make the grade

<http://www.honoluluadvertiser.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080303/NEWS01/803030362>

March 4

New TAKS tests may mean lower scores

http://www.star-telegram.com/state_news/story/509571.html

March 6

English as a proficient language

Schools - More non-native students in Oregon are succeeding after the state goes to a new teaching style

<http://www.oregonlive.com/education/oregonian/index.ssf?/base/news/120477752137950.xml&coll=7>

March 7

Bill would bar remedial classes from college scholarship program

<http://ap.ardmoreite.com/pstories/state/ok/20080303/253312022.shtml>

March 8

Teachers' bonus pay held up by split

<http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/metro/20080308-9999-1sz8feaster.html>

March 9

State funds to target the learning gap

<http://www.rockymountainnews.com/news/2008/mar/09/funds-will-be-aimed-closing-learning-gap/>

March 10

STATES BALK AT HIGHER-ED MANDATE

The House has cleared a bill that forces states to stabilize taxpayer funding for public colleges.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/2008/0310/p03s03-usgn.html>

March 11

Program will pay AP students \$100 to pass

<http://argusleader.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080311/NEWS/803110319/1001>

March 12

Ruling issued on teachers' planning time

Mandatory collaboration OK'd for most schools

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/education/bal-time0312,0,235668.story>

March 13

Pupils reveal mobile snapshot

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/technology/7292799.stm>

March 14

Report Urges Changes in Teaching Math

http://www.nytimes.com/2008/03/14/education/14math.html?_r=1&oref=slogin

March 15

L.A. Unified payroll woes linger, teachers and others say

<http://www.latimes.com/news/education/la-me-payroll15mar15,1,1819126.story?track=rss>

March 16

USA's top principal could teach CEOs a thing or two

http://www.usatoday.com/money/companies/management/2008-03-16-principal-advice_N.htm

March 17

State hopes test will point the route to college

<http://www.oregonlive.com/education/oregonian/index.ssf?/base/news/1205717105141660.xml&coll=7>

March 19

State seeking to beef up programs for gifted students

<http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/08079/866179-298.stm>

March 20

UW researchers say comprehensive sex ed cuts teen pregnancy

http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/health/2004293974_sexed20m.html

March 21

California's fiscal crisis hits schools

Thousands of teachers may be laid off if the proposed budget cuts go through.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/2008/0321/p02s01-usgn.htm>

March 22

Battle brewing over WASL

Bergeson stance irks teachers

http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/356043_schools22.html

March 23

Good pay, steady work, few takers as young people spurn the trades

http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/business/356181_trades24.html

March 24

Language skills push for schools

<http://www.theage.com.au/articles/2008/03/23/1206206926099.html>

March 25

Free tutoring failing to help needy kids

http://www.usatoday.com/news/education/2008-03-25-tutoring_N.htm

March 26

Clashing Rules Block School Aid, GAO Finds

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/03/25/AR2008032502696.html?hpid=sec-education>

March 27

Teachers urge State Board of Education to reject curriculum standards for literacy works

http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/news/texasouthwest/stories/DN-sboe_27tex.ART.State.Edition1.161afbc.html

March 28

Brizard to reveal his plans for reform

<http://www.democratandchronicle.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080328/NEWS01/803280382/1002/NEWS>

March 30

Worry over 'patchy career advice'

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/education/7318919.stm

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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