



September 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 (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.

IN THIS ISSUE...

Publications/Reports...

Afterschool Alliance. ***Afterschool Alert. Issue Brief #29, Expanding Learning Opportunities: It Takes More than Time***

Center for American Progress. ***Choosing More Time for Students. The What, Why, and How of Expanded Learning Time***

Center for American Progress. ***From Poverty to Prosperity: A National Strategy to Cut Poverty in Half***

Nellie Mae Education Foundation. ***The Learning Season: The Untapped Power of Summer to Advance Student Achievement***

New Jersey After 3, Inc. ***Promising Afterschool Practices. A showcase of innovative, creative, and successful afterschool programs***

U.S. Department of Education. ***Giving Parents Options: Strategies for Informing Parents and Implementing Public School Choice and Supplemental Educational Services Under No Child Left Behind***

Tools You Can Use...

Conferences and Events...

Grants and Other Opportunities...

In the News...

Publications and Reports...

Afterschool Alliance. ***Afterschool Alert. Issue Brief #29, Expanding Learning Opportunities: It Takes More than Time*** – This issue brief focuses on expanded learning opportunities, which is defined as a school reform model that lengthens the school day and/or year for students. It highlights best practices from the afterschool field involving programming that builds on students' school-day experiences that is meaningful and of high quality. The brief frames efforts to extend the school day as a strategy that provide broader opportunities for students when incorporating afterschool best practices such as, offering enriching, hands-on activities and mentoring to students.

This brief is available at:

http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/issue_briefs/issue_expand_learn_29.pdf

Center for American Progress. ***Choosing More Time for Students. The What, Why, and How of Expanded Learning Time*** – This report advocates for the expansion of learning time as a strategy for low-performing, high-poverty schools. It defines expanded learning time as a comprehensive approach that allows teachers, principals, community organizations and leaders, and parents to build multiple curriculums that provide the best opportunity to support student learning. It also highlights model programs and explains what is needed for successful implementation. Programs highlighted expanded learning time by at least thirty percent.

The author discusses common characteristics among well-implemented expanded learning time initiatives that include

- bold leadership
- teacher participation and leadership
- use of data
- community support and partners
- focused, aligned use of time that engages students

This report is available at:

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2007/08/pdf/expanded_learning.pdf

Center for American Progress. ***From Poverty to Prosperity: A National Strategy to Cut Poverty in Half*** – This report is the result of the work undertaken by the the Center for American Progress's Task Force on Poverty. It recommends action steps the United States could take to cut poverty in half over the next ten years. Recommendations provided are based on these principles

- promote decent work
- provide opportunity for all
- ensure economic security
- help people build wealth

Related to ELO, the report discusses the need for more and better use of learning time; ensuring that all students have access to a high-quality early education; and increasing state and federal support for establishing community schools.

This report is available at:

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2007/04/pdf/poverty_report.pdf

The executive summary is available at:

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2007/04/pdf/poverty_execsum_web.pdf

Nellie Mae Education Foundation. ***The Learning Season: The Untapped Power of Summer to Advance Student Achievement*** – This report focuses on summer learning. It reviews research findings regarding the impact of summer learning opportunities. Findings indicate that during the school year children from all socioeconomic groups are learning at the same rate. During the summer months however, significant differences in learning loss develop between children from poor and middle-class families. Research findings suggest the necessity to re-evaluate funding and program capacity that will provide all children equal access to summer enrichment opportunities.

Policy recommendations include

- focus dialogue on expanding high-quality summer learning opportunities
- map current sources of funding as well as potential funding sources at the local, state, and federal levels
- build on existing networks that may include existing afterschool networks or other statewide groups
- increase public support for access to high quality summer enrichment programs
- combine funding streams
- support increased quality through training and technical assistance
- develop strong, appropriate accountability systems for funded programs
- develop and disseminate high quality curricula
- connect community resources and schools
- consider changes to the school calendar, particularly extending the school year to reduce the length of the summer vacation or breaking up the long summer vacation into shorter periods over the year
- build community capacity
- advocate for policy changes at the state and national levels

This report is available at:

http://www.nmefdn.org/uploads/Learning_Season_FR.pdf

The executive summary is available at:

http://www.nmefdn.org/uploads/Learning_Season_ES.pdf

New Jersey After 3, Inc. ***Promising Afterschool Practices. A showcase of innovative, creative, and successful afterschool programs*** - This second edition of *Promising Afterschool Practices* compiles nine promising practices used by the New Jersey After 3 afterschool programs. It defines promising practices as systems, processes, or activities in a program that are effective and lead to positive academic and social outcomes for children. Each practice summary contains a description, strategies for implementation, and information on program contacts. Categories of highlighted strategies include programming that fosters and builds

- peer leadership
- school, family, and community connections
- effective staffing
- health and safety

Other practices highlight program content, such as in the Family Guidance Center of Warren County and Taylor Street Elementary School in Washington, New Jersey. Additional academic supports are provided to students who need assistance with basic skills in math and language arts. The activities are age appropriate and also are linked to the school district's curriculum.

Relating to supplemental educational services (SES), the Boys and Girls Club of Trenton and Mercer County and Mott Elementary School in Trenton, New Jersey enroll students to participate in a multi-site afterschool basketball league with a tutoring component. The majority of students participating in the league qualify for SES. Participants practice and play games either away or at their home site three times a week. The cost for transportation to away games is built into the program budget. In addition to practices and games, players are required to participate in homework help/tutoring. Students are expected to do their homework before or after practice. The Boys and Girls Club employs the SES instructors who are certified teachers.

This publication is available at:

http://www.njafter3.org/old_site/NJA3PromisingPractices2007.pdf

U.S. Department of Education. ***Giving Parents Options: Strategies for Informing Parents and Implementing Public School Choice and Supplemental Educational Services Under No Child Left Behind*** - This resource is intended to assist state education agencies (SEAs) and school districts in implementing the public school choice and supplemental educational services (SES) provisions of NCLB. Recommendations provided focus on implementation at the district and local level. In addition, it discusses a variety of ways in which SEAs may support districts in SES and public school choice that include

- providing sample notices to parents
- supplying checklists of items that need or ought to be included in parent notices
- holding timely technical assistance meetings that address the elements parent notification and notice
- delivering timely and adequate information on approved providers
- engaging in a partnership with the Parent Information and Resource Centers (PIRCs)
- developing flyers, brochures, or posters with information on choice and SES
- developing general sets of frequently asked questions for parents on options available
- creating a template of questions for parents to consider when choosing a school or provider
- setting clear expectations of allowable parent outreach activities and monitoring protocols
- communicating timelines and procedures related to application and enrollment processes
- determining appropriate SES enrollment targets
- providing technical assistance in calendar planning
- outlining policies related to provider access to school facilities and use of enrollment incentives and attendance awards
- preparing sample SES implementation materials that include district-provider contracts, student learning plans, and student progress reports
- organizing or facilitating regular meetings of districts and providers that encourage a successful working relationships

This resource is available at:

<http://www.ed.gov/admins/comm/choice/options/givingparentsoptions.pdf>

Tools You Can Use...

This database from the Education Commission of States compiles various organizations' NCLB recommendations for reauthorization. NCLB recommendations may be viewed through the following lenses

- organization name
- topic issues
- summary of an organization's recommendations for all issues
- summary of all organization's recommendations on each issue

To access this database, please visit:

http://www.ecs.org/ecsmain.asp?page=/html/educationIssues/NCLBreauthorization/NCLB_parapro_DB_intro.asp

This website from the Peace Corps has useful ideas on service learning projects. It presents project ideas, advice on planning and implementation, and information on how to select, plan, and carry out projects.

To access this resource, please visit:

<http://www.peacecorps.gov/wvs/educators/servicelearning/>

Conferences and Events...

The 8th Annual Lights On Afterschool is October 18, 2007. This event will be celebrating afterschool programs and bring attention to the need for those programs that keep kids safe, help working families, and inspire learning.

*For more information, visit:

http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/lights_on/index.cfm?CFID=302673&CFTOKEN=12555401

The 20th Annual National Afterschool Association Conference will be held March 12-14, 2008 in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. Proposals for a variety of workshops that include sharing research, promising practices, practical program activities and curriculum, and innovative ideas are being accepted by November 1, 2007.

*For more information, visit:

<http://www.naaconference.org/faq.html>

Grants and Other Opportunities...

Opportunity for High School Students

The U.S. News & World Report and AXA Foundation will provide AXA Achievement Scholarships, resources, and offer an internship to high school students graduating in 2008 and are planning to attend college. The maximum award includes \$15,000, a laptop, and an internship with AXA Financial Services.

Deadline: December 15, 2007

http://www.axaonline.com/rs/axa/about-us/33a_National_Initiatives.html

School Improvement Projects

In recognition of the importance of parent involvement, Lowe's Toolbox for Education grant program will fund up to \$5,000 in school improvement projects initiated by parents.

Deadline: October 12, 2007.

<http://toolboxforeducation.com>

In the News...

September 2

Oregon is rare in not testing students

<http://www.oregonlive.com/news/oregonian/index.ssf?/base/news/1188627971300460.xml&coll=7>

September 3

'A' is for absent teachers

http://www.palmbeachpost.com/localnews/content/local_news/epaper/2007/09/03/s1b_skattendance_0903.html

September 5

Secretary of Education Criticizes Proposal

http://www.nytimes.com/2007/09/06/education/06child.html?_r=1&oref=slogin

September 6

Schools alone 'cannot help poor'

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/education/6982090.stm

September 7

Survey Reveals Student Attitudes, Parental Goals and Teacher Mistrust

http://www.nytimes.com/2007/09/07/nyregion/07schools.html?_r=2&ref=education&oref=slogin&oref=slogin

September 8

**New Orleans to throw book at students who skip school
New truancy center, staff aim to raise attendance**

<http://www.nola.com/news/t-p/metro/index.ssf?/base/news-23/1189234848248700.xml&coll=1>

September 9

Ark. obesity report cards scaled back

<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/ap/health/5120564.html>

September 10

Their simple secret to teaching successes

"You do more," say a teacher of the year and her protégé.

http://www.philly.com/inquirer/education/20070910_Their_simple_secret_to_teaching_successes.html

September 11

Teachers to broach 9/11 carefully, if at all

http://www.denverpost.com/ci_6856814

September 12

Opinion: Filing isn't learning

Using students to help teachers with paperwork, and calling it a class, is part of what is stunting education.

http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/la-ed-electives12sep12_0,4002467.story?coll=la-opinion-leftrail

September 13

**Report: Schools aren't preparing kids for college
Better alignment is needed between high school and college standards,
panelists say**

<http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showstoryts.cfm?Articleid=7363>

September 14

SoCal college offers YouTube class

http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/national/1120AP_YouTube_Class.html?source=myspi

September 16

'I HATE IT'

Teachers Slap 'F' On Bonus Pay Plan

**Critics say state merit plan undermines teamwork; a few districts refuse
state funds.**

<http://www.theledger.com/article/20070916/NEWS/709160491/1039>

September 17

Fewer sodas in school, industry says

http://www.boston.com/news/education/k_12/articles/2007/09/17/report_fewer_soft_drinks_at_schools/

September 18

Pilot program to target children in middle school, focus on dropouts

<http://www.clarionledger.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070918/NEWS/709180386/1002/NEWS01>

September 19

NYC wins \$500,000 for schools

Broad Prize to fund scholarships

http://www.usatoday.com/printedition/life/20070919/d_broad_prize19.art.htm

September 20

Maine Schools Roll Out Farm Products in School Lunches

Governor proclaims Maine Harvest Day for School Lunch

<http://www.maine.gov/tools/whatsnew/index.php?topic=DOENews&id=42207&v=article>

September 23

In the Crucible of Growth, Fast School Construction Is a Science

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/09/22/AR2007092201299.html?nav=rss_education

September 25

Teaching Secrets: Hallway Hints II

http://www.teachermagazine.org/tm/articles/2007/09/25/05tln_norton_web.h19.html

September 26

On 50th Anniversary, 'Little Rock Nine' Get a Hero's Welcome

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/09/25/AR2007092502147.html>

September 26

Math Scores Rise, but Reading Is Mixed

<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/09/26/education/26scores.html?ex=1348459200&en=f4115725350bfe80&ei=5088&partner=rssnyt&emc=rss>

September 27

Fitness testing set for students statewide

http://www.star-telegram.com/state_news/story/248721.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.

Council of Chief State School Officers
One Massachusetts Avenue, NW • Suite 700
Washington, DC 20001-1431
voice: 202.336.7000 • fax: 202.408.8072
<http://www.ccsso.org/>