

On July 8, 2009, Senators Edward M. Kennedy (D-MA), Jeff Bingaman (D-NM), Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Tom Harkin (D-IA), and Bernie Sanders (I-VT) and Congressmen Donald M. Payne (D-NJ) and George Miller (D-CA) introduced the *Time for Innovation Matters in Education* (TIME) Act. Modeled after the Massachusetts Expanded Learning Time Initiative, this legislation would provide federal funding to support state initiatives to expand learning time for all students in selected low-performing, high-poverty schools. The TIME Act, identical in the Senate and the House, focuses on closing the academic achievement gap by helping students reach high academic standards and ensuring students have a well-rounded, engaging education that prepares them for success in college and our complex 21<sup>st</sup> century economy.

### **The Time for Innovation Matters in Education Act (S. 1410 & H.R. 3130)**

#### **Intent of the TIME Act**

- Support the creation of Expanded Learning Time Initiatives in order to increase student achievement, engagement and success by providing:
  1. More in-depth and rigorous learning opportunities in core subjects;
  2. More time for other academic subjects and enrichment activities that contribute to a well-rounded education;
  3. Increased opportunities for teachers to work collaboratively and participate in professional planning to improve instruction.

#### **Provisions of the TIME Act**

The TIME Act will enable Congress to catalyze and accelerate school, school district, and state action to expand learning time in high-need, high poverty schools—schools with 50% or more students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch.

- The Act establishes two types of competitive six-year grants (1 year for planning and 5 years for implementation):
  1. Grants to State Education Agencies (SEA) to create state Expanded Learning Time Initiatives that offer competitive subgrants to LEAs to plan for and implement an expanded and redesigned school program including 300 additional school hours in a subset of schools.
  2. Grants to Local Education Agencies (LEA) or partnerships to plan for and implement an expanded and redesigned school day. Partnerships can include one or more of the following: another LEA, non-profit, community-based organization, institution of higher education, community learning center, or any other public or non-profit entity.

#### **Two-Stage Process for Planning & Implementation**

- LEAs that are awarded Expanded Learning Time Grants from the USDOE and LEAs that receive subgrants from SEAs would follow the same two-stage process:
  1. **Planning Phase:** Qualifying LEAs are first awarded one-year planning grants to develop a detailed plan to implement Expanded Learning Time Initiatives in a subset of schools. The planning process will ensure the meaningful involvement of teachers, teacher organizations, parents, and community-based organizations. These implementation plans are submitted to the USDOE or SEA for review and approval.
  2. **Implementation Phase:** If the authorizing education agency approves the implementation plan of an LEA, that LEA receives a five-year grant to implement its Expanded Learning Time implementation plan in a subset of schools.

## **Guidelines for the Use of Expanded Learning Time**

- The TIME Act states that schools that redesign and expand their school day will:
  1. Expand the school day, week or year to increase the total number of school hours for the school year by not less than 300 hours, compared to the school year that is standard in the school district in which the school is located.
    - a) Elementary and middle schools will expand learning time for all students in all grade levels in the school.
    - b) High Schools will expand learning time for not less than one entire grade level of students in the school. If the school expands time for additional students it will expand time for additional entire grade levels.
  2. Use additional time for:
    - a) Academic work to improve proficiency in reading, language arts, mathematics, science, history and civics, and other core academic subjects;
    - b) Advancing student learning for all students, including those who already meet or exceed student academic achievement standards;
    - c) Additional subjects and enrichment activities that contribute to a well-rounded education, including music and the arts, physical education, service-learning, and experiential and work-based learning opportunities; and for
    - d) Teacher collaboration and professional planning within and across grades and subjects.
  3. Create partnerships between schools and local education agencies, and external organizations such as community-based organizations, institutions of higher education, community learning centers, cultural organizations, and health and mental health agencies.

## **Technical Assistance**

- The TIME Act provides funding for technical assistance. All participating SEAs and LEAs will partner with a technical assistance provider to:
  1. Effectively plan for and implement Expanded Learning Time Initiatives;
  2. Implement a program of professional development for teachers and administrators;
  3. Identify and disseminate information on effectively planned and implemented initiatives;
  4. Identify best practices for using expanded learning time to improve student academic achievement in schools that have not made Adequate Yearly Progress for two or more years, and to use these best practices in implementing expanded learning time initiatives; and
  5. Collect and analyze data on student achievement and engagement, teacher collaboration and professional planning, and the time devoted to core academic subjects and enrichment activities.

## **Accountability**

- Participating SEAs, LEAs, and schools must demonstrate effective implementation and results to be eligible for additional funding in the form of a second five-year implementation grant.

## **Evaluation**

- The TIME Act provides funding for a comprehensive national evaluation to gauge the impact and implementation of expanded learning time. This evaluation will also document lessons learned from implementation and make recommendations for schools and states that want to consider expanding learning time.

## **Authorization**

- The TIME Act authorizes \$350 million in the first year and up to \$500 million in 2014.