

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 4519**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the Year Two Thousand Ten**  
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An Act ESTABLISHING A GRANT PROGRAM FOR EXPANDING LEARNING TIME AND IMPROVING STUDENT SUCCESS..

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 69 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out section  
2 1G and inserting in place thereof the following section: -

3 Section 1G. (a) The board shall establish the minimum length for a school day and the  
4 minimum number of days in the school year.

5 (b) There shall be an expanded learning time grant program. The program shall be  
6 administered by the department and shall have the following purposes:-

7 (1) To expand learning time in the form of longer school days, additional school days or a  
8 combination of both;

9 (2) To provide school districts the opportunity to add additional time to the school  
10 schedule to redesign their educational program and offer learning experiences focused on raising  
11 student achievement. This additional time shall be designed to:-

12 provide more instructional opportunities in mathematics, literacy, science and other core  
13 subjects to support academic proficiency;

14 provide educators with increased opportunities to work collaboratively and to participate  
15 in professional development; and

16 provide school districts the opportunity to add or expand programs and curricula such as  
17 arts, music, health and wellness, sports, drama and other learning opportunities;

18 (3) To provide a framework for sustained state funding for school districts who  
19 voluntarily extend their school day or year;

20 (4) To encourage schools to form partnerships with community-based organizations and  
21 institutions of higher learning to provide additional opportunities to children; and

22 (5) To provide for accountability to ensure the efficient and effective implementation of  
23 expanded learning time in participating districts.

24 (c) For the purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:-

25 “Department”, the department of elementary and secondary education.

26 “ELT performance contract,” a plan developed by a school district that defines specific  
27 goals for the school over a 3 year period relating to student achievement, teacher collaboration  
28 and leadership, and student engagement and other data related to the implementation of the  
29 program, to measure and track the effectiveness of expanded learning time schools.

30 Implementing expanded learning time schools, their district and the department must agree to the  
31 goals in the ELT performance contract during the first year of implementation as a condition of  
32 the school receiving an implementation grant from the department.

33 “Expanded learning time”, the redesign of the school calendar with the addition of 300  
34 hours to a school’s calendar through additional hours to the school day or additional days to the  
35 school year.

36 “Exploratory grant proposal”, application for exploratory grants submitted to the  
37 department by a school district.

38 “Exploratory grant”, grant awarded to a school district for the purpose of exploring and  
39 planning for a longer school day or year.

40 “Implementation proposal”, a proposal developed by a school district to expand the  
41 school day or year at selected schools.

42 “Implementation grant”, grant awarded to a school district to expand learning time by  
43 lengthening school days or the school year at selected schools through its implementation  
44 proposal.

45 (d)(1) All school districts shall be eligible for exploratory and implementation grants  
46 under this program, but priority shall be given to: (i) districts with more than 25 per cent of  
47 students eligible for free and reduced lunch programs; (ii) districts in the bottom 10 per cent of  
48 statewide grade ten MCAS scores; (iii) districts whose proposals use partnerships with  
49 community-based organizations and institutions of higher education. Not less than 60 per cent of  
50 all funds granted under this program shall be awarded to prioritized districts.

51 (2) Exploratory grant proposals under this section shall include, but not be limited to:-  
52 the process the district shall use to create an expanded learning time implementation  
53 proposal;

54 a budget necessary to create this proposal;

55 a rationale for expanding learning time that describes how the expansion of time will help

56 the school attain its school improvement goals;

57 the anticipated number of schools and students that will be affected; and

58 identification of individuals who will participate in the planning process, including

59 representatives of teachers unions, parents, administrators and school partners.

60 (3) The department may issue guidelines for the submission of exploratory grant

61 proposals in the absence of allocated grant funding.

62 (e) (1) Districts shall be eligible for implementation grants after submitting an

63 implementation proposal and having the proposal approved by the department. The

64 implementation proposals shall include: -

65 300 additional hours to the minimum school year as established under this section;

66 mandatory additional time for all students in participating schools, provided that districts

67 may phase in the additional time over a reasonable period of time as determined by the

68 department and the department may provide for exceptions to this provision in extraordinary

69 circumstances;

70 a comprehensive restructuring of the entire school schedule and educational program to

71 make better use of school time;

72 a comprehensive budget sufficient to fund the approved proposal;

73 evidence of support from any collective bargaining units, community-based organizations  
74 and higher education institutions involved in implementation;

75 documentation of leadership capacity to implement the expansion of learning time; and  
76 identification of formative assessments that will be used periodically during the school  
77 year to assess student achievement.

78 (f) Districts that are already participating in the program shall be eligible for  
79 implementation grants under paragraph (1).

80 (g) The department shall develop guidelines for an annual review of the progress being  
81 made by each implementing district.

82 (1) A school receiving an implementation grant shall have until the end of the fourth year  
83 of implementation to reach the goals specified in its ELT performance contract. If the school  
84 does not attain the goals as specified in the ELT performance contract at the end of the fourth  
85 year of implementation, the department shall not continue to renew the grant.

86 (i) The department shall review the ELT performance contract of an ELT school at the  
87 conclusion of the fourth year of implementation for each school to determine whether the school  
88 has fulfilled the ELT performance contract.

89 (ii) The department may consider extraordinary circumstances and grant 1 year waivers  
90 to schools to meet the goals of their ELT performance contract before the department ends the  
91 participation of said school in the program.

92 (2) Each school and district shall participate in any evaluation or accountability process  
93 implemented by or authorized by the department.

94 (h)(1) The department shall issue an annual report, on or before January 31, describing  
95 and analyzing the implementation of plans in all participating districts. The reports shall include:  
96 the number of school and school districts participating; the number of students attending these  
97 schools; the nature and type of changes in school learning time funded through this program by  
98 school and school district; a list of outside vendors with whom the department has contracted to  
99 provide technical support services, the amount each vendor has received, and the results obtained  
100 in each instance; the annual assessments of impact provided by the districts and any other data  
101 related to expanded learning time in participating schools and districts. This report shall be  
102 provided to the secretary of education, the senate president, the speaker of the house, the chairs  
103 of the house and senate ways and means committees and the joint committee on education.

104 (3) The department shall provide comprehensive budget recommendations for this  
105 program each fiscal year, provided that such budget recommendations include:-

106 the number of anticipated participating students, including students enrolled with a longer  
107 school schedule pursuant to a previously approved implementation plan and the number of  
108 students enrolled in newly approved implementation plans;

109 funding of subsequent exploratory grants; and

110 funding of implementation plans anticipated to be approved by the department, including  
111 state funding of not less than \$1,400 per student in each participating school plus an annual  
112 inflation index consistent with the provisions of section 2 of chapter 70 starting in fiscal year  
113 2011.

114 (4) This recommendation shall be reported to the governor, the senate president, the  
115 speaker of the house of representatives, the chairs of the house and senate ways and means  
116 committees and the joint committee on education on or before December 1.

117 (i)(1) The department may expend funds to administer and evaluate this program. These  
118 expenditures shall include, but not be limited to: (i) creation of an application process for  
119 exploratory grants; (ii) review and approval of qualifying exploratory grant proposals; (iii)  
120 review and approval of implementation proposals submitted by those districts awarded  
121 exploratory grants; (iv) technical assistance to participating schools and districts; (v) compliance  
122 monitoring of participating districts; and (vi) annual and longitudinal evaluations of the impact  
123 and implementation of the program. These expenditures shall not exceed 5 per cent of any funds  
124 appropriated for the purposes of this program.

125 (2) The department shall, for the purpose of this program, provide technical support to  
126 participating schools and districts that may include: direct services, developing documentation of  
127 best practices and the creation of a network of implementing schools and districts. The  
128 department may partner or contract with external organizations as necessary to fulfill its  
129 obligations under this section.

130 (i) The department may promulgate appropriate regulations to carry out this section.

131 SECTION 2. The department shall review the ELT performance contracts for schools  
132 that received implementation grants for the first time in the 2006-2007, 2007-2008 or 2008-2009  
133 school years no earlier than the completion of the 2011-2012 school year.

134 SECTION 3. At the conclusion of the 2012-2013 school year an expanded learning time  
135 review commission shall convene to evaluate the effectiveness of this program. The commission

136 shall consist of 14 members: 1 of whom shall be the president of the senate, or his designee; 1 of  
137 whom shall be the speaker of the house of representatives, or his designee, 1 of whom shall be  
138 the senate chair of the joint committee on education; 1 of whom shall be the house chair of the  
139 joint committee on education; 1 of whom shall be the secretary of education or his designee; 1 of  
140 whom shall be the president of the Massachusetts Teachers Association, or his designee; 1 of  
141 whom shall be the president of the American Federation of Teachers Massachusetts, or his  
142 designee; 1 of whom shall be a member selected by the Massachusetts Association of School  
143 Superintendents; 1 of whom shall be a member selected by the Massachusetts Association of  
144 School Committees; 1 of whom shall be the director of the Massachusetts Afterschool  
145 Partnership, or his designee; 1 of whom shall be a representative from an educational non-profit  
146 organization; 1 of whom shall be a member representing the business community, both shall be  
147 chosen by the senate president; 1 shall be a representative from an educational non-profit  
148 organization; 1 shall be a member representing the business community, both shall be chosen by  
149 the speaker of the house.

150 (2) The commission shall review the program in its entirety and issue a report of its  
151 findings after a 9-month period, including an analysis of all relevant data so as to determine the  
152 effectiveness of the program. The report shall include specific legislative recommendations  
153 including the following:-

154 whether the current school calendar as defined by the department under subsection (a) is  
155 sufficient to provide an adequate education as defined by the state constitution to all students;



156 whether the program impacted the expanded learning time schools ability to provide their  
157 students with a well-rounded education as well as improve student achievement, and the views of  
158 teachers, administrators, students and parents in those schools;

159 whether the program should be expanded, and if so, at what rate, maintained or  
160 discontinued;

161 a schedule and method for ongoing accountability of implementation proposals; and

162 a permanent method of calculating the annual minimum state aid for an approved  
163 implementation proposal, on a per pupil basis, and, if appropriate, on a per community basis.

164 (3) The commission shall report to the governor and the general court the results of its  
165 investigation and study and its recommendation, if any, together with drafts of legislation  
166 necessary to carry out such recommendation, by filing the same with the clerks of the senate and  
167 the house who shall forward the same to the chairs of the joint committee on education and the  
168 chairs of the house and senate committees on ways and means on or before December 31, 2013.

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