



## **Helping Afterschool Better Support Education Reform** Recommendations for the Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act

### **Improving 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (21<sup>st</sup>CCLC)**

- Ensure 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC funded efforts are connected to broader school reform efforts
  - Require local applicants to detail how their 21<sup>st</sup>CCLC funded activities complement and expand upon existing school reform efforts.
  - Emphasize the alignment of afterschool programming with school coursework.
  
- Increase flexibility of 21<sup>st</sup>CCLC allowable activities.
  - Maintain focus on ensuring kids have safe, supervised learning environments beyond the traditional school day.
  - Promote community engagement by encouraging funded programs to offer services and facilities (e.g., computer, library, gym access) to all in the community. This could be accomplished through competitive priorities established for state competitions.
  - Continue to balance academic programming with enrichment activities and strengthen alignment with individual classroom and district learning objectives.
  - Add physical activity and nutrition education as allowable activities.
  
- Encourage programs to operate in schools partnering with at least one community based organization, however, continue the flexibility of allowing non-school community centers when appropriate.
  
- Enhance sustainability of programs by giving states flexibility to make grants renewable based on performance.
  - Grantees would have to apply for renewal; and document steps towards sustainability.
  
- Increase quality by giving states the option to expand T&TA Set-Aside up to 5% to improve quality and availability.
  - Address infrastructure and capacity needs; used for TA, professional development, systems building, planning assistance, and program evaluation.
  - Only if it would not impact funding to current grantees.



- Increase authorized funding and annual appropriation for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers Program.
  - Only serving a fraction of 15.1 million children who continue to be unsupervised and at risk after the school day ends.
  - Evaluations show 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC funds contribute to improved student outcomes. Over 146 independent studies show positive academic and behavioral outcomes linked to graduation and student success.  
[http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/Evaluations%20Backgrounder%20Academic\\_08\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/Evaluations%20Backgrounder%20Academic_08_FINAL.pdf)
  - Average 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC funding per student is \$776, which is less than 1/3 of the full cost of afterschool. In local communities, 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC funding is complemented by state, local and private funding.
  - Increased funding authorization levels are critical if allowable activities and focus of program are broadened.

## **SES Option A**

### **Improve Supplemental Education Services**

- At a minimum, broaden the definition of Supplemental Education Services beyond tutoring and make SES funds more accessible to comprehensive afterschool programs. Research shows that tutoring is more effective in the context of broader, comprehensive afterschool programs.
- Allow Community Advisory Boards made up of parents to interview and select a small number of specific SES providers that eligible students can access for services. Provide guidance to Advisory Boards that stresses the need to provide more comprehensive services that reduce barriers to learning, in addition to providing academic support.
- Allow LEAs, based on a needs assessment, and working through subgrants or subcontracts with community partners, to use these funds for a) comprehensive services to address non-academic barriers to learning, b) increased learning time opportunities including after school programs, c) expanded parent and family involvement activities that have a proven impact on a parent's ability to support their child's academic achievement and d) tutoring.
- Ensure inclusion/coordination of SES with other comprehensive afterschool programs to minimize competition between programs and maximize coordination and alignment.
- Direct states to increase emphasis on a comprehensive service delivery model that encourages existing school-based, community-based, faith-based and other public agency afterschool programs to become SES providers; prioritize outreach and TA, encourage partnerships.
- Eliminate barriers to using SES to fund summer learning programs.
- Do not limit SES funds to schools or districts in their third year of needing improvement but rather encourage a broad use of Title I funds for extended academic support after school.



### **SES Option B**

#### **Reconfigure Supplemental Education Services**

- Allow Title I Part A funds previously used for SES to be used to fund afterschool programs, summer learning, community schools and/or extended learning, provided these services include a tutoring or academic assistance component.
- If extended day becomes a focus of this funding stream, require collaboration with community partners and an emphasis on hands-on, experiential project-based learning for traditional academic subjects as well as enrichment activities.
- Require using a portion of Title I funds for programs that reduce barriers to learning.

### **Afterschool for Older Youth**

- Ensure that any new federal investment targeted at middle and high school grades includes expanded time for learning and enrichment.
  - Local and national afterschool “centers of excellence” that serve low-income and/or low-performing students.
  - High quality programs, academic enrichment, civic engagement and service learning opportunities, and marketable skills development. Include a range of allowable activities including mathematics and science education; language arts, writing, and reading; history, geography, or social studies; career technical education activity; business and entrepreneurial education program; health, physical activity and wellness; environmental and conservation; or arts and music education.
  - Tied to high school reform and college access.

### **Title I**

- Build on ARRA Title I guidance. Include language explicitly listing afterschool as an allowable use of funds.

### **Accountability and Assessing Student Performance**

- Ensure that measures of student success show growth and improvement over time and go beyond test scores to include preliminary indicators such as improved school day attendance, better classroom grades, daily program attendance, on time advancement to the next grade level. Ensure that data collection includes the above indicators.
- Stagger accountability provisions to reflect the time needed to affect change. For instance, make improved attendance and reduced disciplinary actions an early indicator of success and improved test scores a later indicator.
- Require states and districts to collect data and report on the amount of federal funds used from Title I, 21st CCLC, and IDEA, and the number of children served, through both afterschool and summer learning programs separately.



### **Improved Coordination and Alignment Between Schools and Programs**

- Eliminate barriers and actively encourage coordination between LEAs/schools and community based organizations around afterschool and summer learning, to include:
  - Sharing of collected student data.
  - Aligning school-day classroom based learning objectives with academic and enrichment programs offered before school, afterschool and during the summer.
  - Specifically with regard to LEA provided summer school, coordinate community based organization programming with daily summer school sessions. Allow flexibility for half day enrichment and half day academic summer program models.
  - Allow flexibility for community based organizations to be fiscal agents for school-based afterschool collaborative programs.
  - Ensure that collaborative partnerships with community based organizations are strengthened, not weakened, by the connection to school improvement.