

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 411

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

**Patricia A. Haddad**

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act establishing a grant program for the purpose of expanding learning time and improving student success.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Patricia A. Haddad	5th Bristol
Carlo P. Basile	1st Suffolk
Alice K. Wolf	25th Middlesex
Stephen R. Canessa	12th Bristol
Joseph F. Wagner	8th Hampden
Pam Richardson	6th Middlesex
John F. Quinn	9th Bristol
Willie Mae Allen	6th Suffolk
Carl M. Sciortino, Jr.	34th Middlesex
Richard J. Ross	9th Norfolk
Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.	26th Middlesex
Jennifer M. Callahan	18th Worcester
Ellen Story	3rd Hampshire
Geraldine Creedon	11th Plymouth
Elizabeth A. Malia	11th Suffolk
Thomas M. Stanley	9th Middlesex
Paul McMurtry	11th Norfolk
Karen E. Spilka	Second Middlesex and Norfolk

Cory Atkins

14th Middlesex

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

## AN ACT ESTABLISHING A GRANT PROGRAM FOR THE PURPOSE OF 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 1G and inserting  
2 in place thereof the following new section: -

3 Section 1G.

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

6 (b) There shall be an Expanded Learning Time Grant Program, hereinafter referred to as “the program”.  
7 The program shall be administered by the department and shall have the following purposes:

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

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

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

15 ii. provide educators with increased opportunities to work collaboratively and to participate in  
16 professional development; and

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

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

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

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

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

26 “Accountability plan”, plan developed by a school district to measure and track the efficiency and  
27 effectiveness of expanded learning time schools.

28 “Annual accountability review”, process by which the department will review the progress of a school  
29 district’s implementation of its expanded learning time program.

30 “Department”, the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education.

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

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

35 “Implementation proposal”, a proposal developed by a school district to expand the school day and/or  
36 year at selected schools.

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

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

44 (2) In awarding grants, the department shall promote the inclusion of districts not given such priority in  
45 order to demonstrate the efficacy and value of the program across a broad range of districts and schools  
46 relative to the socioeconomic status and achievement levels of the students they educate.

47 (3) Exploratory grant proposals under this act shall include, but not be limited to:

48 i. the process the district will use to create an expanded learning time implementation proposal;

49 ii. a budget necessary to create this proposal;

50 iii. a rationale for expanding learning time that describes how the expansion of time will help the  
51 school(s) attain its school improvement goals;

52 iv. the anticipated number of schools and students that will be affected; and

53 v. identification of individuals who will participate in the planning process, including representatives of  
54 teachers unions, parents, administrators and school partners.

55 (4) The department may issue guidelines for the submission of exploratory grant proposals in the absence  
56 of allocated grant funding.

57 (e) (1) Districts shall be eligible for implementation grants only after submitting an implementation  
58 proposal and having the proposal approved by the department. The implementation proposals shall  
59 include:

60 i. no less than 300 additional hours than is standard for the implementing district;

- 61 ii. mandatory additional time for all students in participating schools, provided that districts may phase in  
62 the additional time over a reasonable period of time as determined by the department and the department  
63 may provide for exceptions to this provision in extraordinary circumstances;
- 64 iii. a comprehensive restructuring of the entire school schedule and educational program to better utilize  
65 the time in school;
- 66 iv. a comprehensive budget sufficient to fund the approved proposal;
- 67 v. evidence of support from any collective bargaining units, and community-based organizations or higher  
68 education institutions involved in implementation;
- 69 vi. documentation of leadership capacity to implement the expansion of learning time; and
- 70 vii. identification of formative assessments that will be used periodically through the school year to assess  
71 student achievement.

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

74 (g) The department shall develop guidelines for and a process to annually review the progress being made  
75 by each implementing district. These guidelines shall include, but not be limited to the requirement for:

76 (1) a school and district accountability plan, using specific measurable goals to annually and  
77 longitudinally assess the implementation and the impact of additional learning time on student  
78 achievement, retention, attendance, higher educational attainment and other relevant measures. This plan  
79 may include, but not be limited to, the collection and reporting to the department of the following:  
80 attendance data; student, teacher, parent and school partner impact and satisfaction; disciplinary data;  
81 standardized test scores; grades; numbers of students attending the participating schools; and all  
82 appropriate comparison data; and

83 (2) Each school and district must participate in any evaluation or accountability process implemented by  
84 or authorized by the department.

85 (3) In the event that the department is not satisfied with the results of the annual review, the department  
86 shall, within a reasonable period of time, notify the district of remedial steps necessary to be eligible for  
87 continued funding under this program. In the event that such remedial steps are not taken, the department  
88 may decline to include that district in its annual budget recommendation for subsequent years.

89 (h)(1) The department shall issue an annual report, not later than January 31 of each year, describing and  
90 analyzing the implementation of plans in all participating districts. The reports shall include, but not be  
91 limited to: the number of school and school districts participating; the number of students attending these  
92 schools; the nature and type of changes in school learning time funded through this program by school  
93 and school district; a list of outside vendors with whom the department has contracted to provide  
94 technical support services, the amount each vendor has received, and the results obtained in each instance;  
95 the annual assessments of impact provided by the districts and any other data related to expanded learning  
96 time in participating schools and districts. This report shall be provided to the secretary of administration  
97 and finance, the senate president, the speaker of the house, the chairs of the house and senate ways and  
98 means committees and the joint committee on education.

99 (2) The department shall also provide not later than February 1<sup>st</sup> a comprehensive budget for this program  
100 for the next fiscal year, provided that such budget include:

- 101 i. the number of anticipated participating students, including students enrolled with a longer school  
102 schedule pursuant to a previously approved implementation plan and the number of students enrolled in  
103 newly approved implementation plans;
- 104 ii. a comprehensive budget for funding subsequent exploratory grants; and
- 105 iii. a comprehensive budget for funding of implementation plans anticipated to be approved by the  
106 department, including state funding of not less than \$1,400 per student in each participating school plus  
107 an annual inflation index consistent with the provisions of section 2 of Chapter 70 starting in fiscal year  
108 2011.

109 (3) This recommendation shall be provided to the secretary of education, the senate president, the speaker  
110 of the house of representatives, the chairs of the house and senate ways and means committees and the  
111 joint committee on education.

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

119 (2) The department shall, for the purpose of this program, provide technical support to participating  
120 schools and districts that may include, but is not limited to: direct services, developing documentation of  
121 best practices and the creation of a network of implementing schools and districts. The department may  
122 partner or contract with external organizations as necessary to fulfill its obligations under this section.

123 (3) The department may promulgate appropriate regulations to carry out this section.

124 (j)(1) At the conclusion of the fourth year of the implementation of this program, a program review  
125 commission shall convene to evaluate the effectiveness of this program. The commission shall be co-  
126 chaired by the House and Senate chairs of the Joint Committee on Education. The commission shall be  
127 made up of the president of the senate or her designee and the speaker of the house or his designee; the  
128 president of the Massachusetts Teachers Association or her designee; the president of the American  
129 Federation of Teachers Massachusetts or his designee; a member selected by the Massachusetts  
130 Association of School Superintendents; a member selected by the Massachusetts Association of School  
131 Committees; the director of the Massachusetts Afterschool Partnership or her designee, one representative  
132 from an educational non-profit organization and one member representing the business community both  
133 chosen by the senate president; and one representative from an educational non-profit organization and  
134 one member representing the business community both chosen by the speaker of the house.

135 (2) The commission shall review the program in its entirety and issue a report of its findings, including an  
136 analysis of all relevant data so as to determine the effectiveness of the program. The report shall include  
137 specific legislative recommendations including, but not limited to, the following:

- 138 i. whether the current school calendar as defined by the department under subsection (a) is sufficient to  
139 provide an adequate education as defined by the state constitution to all students;
- 140 ii. whether the program should be expanded, maintained or discontinued;

141   iii. a schedule and method for ongoing accountability of implementation proposals; and  
142   iv. a permanent method of calculating the annual minimum state aid for an approved implementation  
143   proposal, on a per pupil basis, and, if appropriate, on a per community basis.  
144   (3) This report shall be provided to the secretary of education the senate president, the speaker of the  
145   house, the chairs of the house and senate ways and means committees and the joint committee on  
146   education.