

***More Time for Learning:  
ELT Initiatives & Enrichment Opportunities  
The Collaborative for Building After-School Systems (CBASS)  
June, 2008***

**Main Points:**

- Many policymakers and school officials are examining how a longer school day could affect student achievement
- Extended Learning Time (ELT) is based on the idea that, as more and more is expected of students, a longer school day and/or year is needed to ensure students have enough time to meet these higher expectations
- ELT initiatives are generally occurring in low-performing schools and districts and focus on giving students more time on task

**Interesting Findings:**

- Many prominent philanthropists, like Bill Gates and Eli Broad, are focusing on ELT and trying to make it a larger part of discussions around education reform in the upcoming elections
- The Chicago Public School System is focusing on including after-school at its High School Transformation project schools
- In New York City in 2005, teacher contracts were renegotiated and now require 150 more minutes a week focused on individual and/or small group tutoring
- This past January in Washington, DC, a “Saturday Scholars” program, to give students more time to focus on math and reading
- Palm Beach County, Florida, has opened 13 Beacon Centers that not only provide additional academic support, but supports and resources for families as well
- The Massachusetts ELT Initiative is by far the most extensive – the Massachusetts Department of Education and Massachusetts 2020 have launched an ELT initiative statewide; 18 schools participated in 2007-2008, and 67 more will join over the next two years

**Suggestions/Implications for Policy:**

- After-school and summer need to be discussed in terms of broader education reform
- While the goals of ELT initiatives are primarily academic, they can and should incorporate many of the positive youth development goals that after-school and summer programs generally focus on
- ELT initiatives and after-school and summer programs have similar goals, and students will benefit the most if they learn from each other and work together
- Leaders in a variety of fields – philanthropy, youth development, education, after-school, summer programming, government, etc. – need to work together to understand what students need to achieve more, and how those needs can be met

**The Full Report:**

<http://www.afterschoolsystems.org/content/document/detail/2124/>