

What's New in Research December 2009

The Report: "Union and District Partnerships to Expand Learning Time: Three Schools' Experiences"

Where It's From: Center for American Progress and The Broad Foundation, November 2009

The Findings: In order to successfully implement expanded learning time (ELT) initiatives, districts are learning to rethink school days, rethink what teachers do, and rethink how they work with teachers' unions. This report highlights three successful ELT initiatives, and considers how teachers and teachers' unions have been part of the success.

Some Specifics:

- A middle school in Boston that is part of Massachusetts' ELT initiative and partnered with Citizen Schools has become one of the most improved middle schools in the city.
- Schools in Buffalo have implemented staggered teaching schedules to lengthen the school day without adding more time to teachers' schedules.
- A school in Brooklyn alternates between regular course-work and month-long intensive courses as a way to add school days for students while still giving teachers enough time off.

The Full Report Is Available for Purchase At:

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/11/elt_union_districts.html

The Report: "Family Friendly for All Families" in "A Woman's Nation Changes Everything: The Shriver Report"

Where It's From: Center for American Progress and The Shriver Center

The Findings: According to the Executive Summary, for the first time, "women are half of all U.S. workers and mothers are the primary breadwinners or co-breadwinners in nearly two-thirds of American families." Considering this new norm, men's and women's roles have changed, and government and other institutions need to implement policies and practices to meet the needs of the new family.

Some Specifics:

- Many workers in this country lack paid days off or flexible work hours to allow them to meet the needs of their families without it adversely affecting their employment situation.
- Tax credits and other government support for child care and dependent care are not enough to cover the costs, and are not available to all who need them.
- Programs such as child care development block grants and Head Start help fill this gap, but are not sufficient.
- Over a third – and nearly half – of children are cared for by someone other than a parent.

The Full Report Is Available At:

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/10/womans_nation.html