

HOUSE No. 01921

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 expanding learning time and improving student success.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Patricia A. Haddad</i>	<i>5th Bristol</i>
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Stephen R. Canessa</i>	<i>12th Bristol</i>
<i>Carlo Basile</i>	<i>1st Suffolk</i>
<i>Jennifer E. Benson</i>	<i>37th Middlesex</i>
<i>Kate Hogan</i>	<i>3rd Middlesex</i>
<i>John Mahoney</i>	<i>13th Worcester</i>
<i>Vincent A. Pedone</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>
<i>Tom Sannicandro</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>
<i>Alice K. Wolf</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>

HOUSE No. 01921

By Ms. Haddad of Somerset, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1921) of Patricia A. Haddad and others relative to establishing a public school grant program for expanding learning time and improving student success. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

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 1G, as
2 appearing in the 2008 Official Edition, 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 minimum
4 number of days in the school year.
- 5 (b) There shall be an expanded learning time grant program. The program shall be administered
6 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 schedule to
10 redesign their educational program and offer learning experiences focused on raising student

11 achievement. This additional time shall be designed to:- provide more instructional opportunities
12 in mathematics, literacy, science and other core subjects to support academic proficiency;
13 provide educators with increased opportunities to work collaboratively and to participate in
14 professional development; and provide school districts the opportunity to add or expand
15 programs and curricula such as arts, music, health and wellness, sports, drama and other learning
16 opportunities; (3) To provide a framework for sustained state funding for school districts who
17 voluntarily extend their school day or year;(4) To encourage schools to form partnerships with
18 community-based organizations and institutions of higher learning to provide additional
19 opportunities to children; and (5) To provide for accountability to ensure the efficient and
20 effective implementation of expanded learning time in participating districts. (c) For the
21 purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:-

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

23 “ELT performance contract,” a plan developed by a school district that defines specific goals for
24 the school over a 3 year period relating to student achievement, teacher collaboration and
25 leadership, and student engagement and other data related to the implementation of the program,
26 to measure and track the effectiveness of expanded learning time schools. Implementing
27 expanded learning time schools, their district and the department must agree to the goals in the
28 ELT performance contract during the first year of implementation as a condition of the school
29 receiving an implementation grant from the department.

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

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

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

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

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

42

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

49

50 (2) Exploratory grant proposals under this section shall include, but not be limited to:-

51 the process the district shall use to create an expanded learning time implementation proposal;

52 a budget necessary to create this proposal;

53 a rationale for expanding learning time that describes how the expansion of time will help the
54 school attain its school improvement goals;

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

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

58 (3) The department may issue guidelines for the submission of exploratory grant proposals in the
59 absence of allocated grant funding.

60 (e) (1) Districts shall be eligible for implementation grants after submitting an implementation
61 proposal and having the proposal approved by the department. The implementation proposals
62 shall include: -

63 300 additional hours to the minimum school year as established under this section;

64 mandatory additional time for all students in participating schools, provided that districts may
65 phase in the additional time over a reasonable period of time as determined by the department
66 and the department may provide for exceptions to this provision in extraordinary circumstances;

67 a comprehensive restructuring of the entire school schedule and educational program to make
68 better use of school time; a comprehensive budget sufficient to fund the approved proposal;

69 evidence of support from any collective bargaining units, community-based organizations and

70 higher education institutions involved in implementation; documentation of leadership capacity

71 to implement the expansion of learning time; and identification of formative assessments that

72 will be used periodically during the school year to assess student achievement.

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

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

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

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

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

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

89 (h)(1) The department shall issue an annual report, on or before January 31, describing and
90 analyzing the implementation of plans in all participating districts. The reports shall include: the
91 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
93 school and school district; a list of outside vendors with whom the department has contracted to

94 provide technical support services, the amount each vendor has received, and the results obtained
95 in each instance; the annual assessments of impact provided by the districts and any other data
96 related to expanded learning time in participating schools and districts. This report shall be
97 provided to the secretary of education, the senate president, the speaker of the house, the chairs
98 of the house and senate ways and means committees and the joint committee on education.

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

101 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
103 enrolled in newly approved implementation plans; funding of subsequent exploratory grants; and
104 funding of implementation plans anticipated to be approved by the department, including state
105 funding of not less than \$1,400 per student in each participating school plus an annual inflation
106 index consistent with the provisions of section 2 of chapter 70 starting in fiscal year 2011.

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

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

116 and implementation of the program. These expenditures shall not exceed 5 per cent of any funds
117 appropriated for the purposes of this program.

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

123

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

125 SECTION 2. The department shall review the ELT performance contracts for schools that
126 received implementation grants for the first time in the 2006-2007, 2007-2008 or 2008-2009
127 school years no earlier than the completion of the 2010-2011 school year.

128 SECTION 3. At the conclusion of the 2012-2013 school year an expanded learning time review
129 commission shall convene to evaluate the effectiveness of this program. The commission shall
130 consist of 14 members: 1 of whom shall be the president of the senate, or his designee; 1 of
131 whom shall be the speaker of the house of representatives, or his designee, 1 of whom shall be
132 the senate chair of the joint committee on education; 1 of whom shall be the house chair of the
133 joint committee on education; 1 of whom shall be the secretary of education or his designee; 1 of
134 whom shall be the president of the Massachusetts Teachers Association, or his designee; 1 of
135 whom shall be the president of the American Federation of Teachers Massachusetts, or his
136 designee; 1 of whom shall be a member selected by the Massachusetts Association of School
137 Superintendents; 1 of whom shall be a member selected by the Massachusetts Association of

138 School Committees; 1 of whom shall be the director of the Massachusetts Afterschool
139 Partnership, or his designee; 1 of whom shall be a representative from an educational non-profit
140 organization; 1 of whom shall be a member representing the business community, both shall be
141 chosen by the senate president; 1 shall be a representative from an educational non-profit
142 organization; 1 shall be a member representing the business community, both shall be chosen by
143 the speaker of the house.

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

148 whether the current school calendar as defined by the department under subsection (a) is
149 sufficient to provide an adequate education as defined by the state constitution to all students;
150 whether the program impacted the expanded learning time schools ability to provide their
151 students with a well-rounded education as well as improve student achievement, and the views of
152 teachers, administrators, students and parents in those schools;
153 whether the program should be expanded, and if so, at what rate, maintained or discontinued;
154 a schedule and method for ongoing accountability of implementation proposals; and
155 a permanent method of calculating the annual minimum state aid for an approved
156 implementation proposal, on a per pupil basis, and, if appropriate, on a per community basis.

157 (3) The commission shall report to the governor and the general court the results of its
158 investigation and study and its recommendation, if any, together with drafts of legislation

159 necessary to carry out such recommendation, by filing the same with the clerks of the senate and
160 the house who shall forward the same to the chairs of the joint committee on education and the
161 chairs of the house and senate committees on ways and means on or before December 31, 2013.

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