



**Report to the Legislature: *School Redesign: Expanding Learning Time to Support Student Success***

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Line-item 7061-9412  
March 2009



This document was prepared by the  
Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education  
Mitchell D. Chester, Ed.D.  
Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education

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# Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

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Mitchell D. Chester, Ed.D.  
Commissioner

March 2009

Dear Members of the General Court:

I am pleased to submit this *Report to the Legislature: School Redesign: Expanding Learning Time to Support Student Success* pursuant to Chapter 182 of the Acts of 2008, line item 7061-9412 that reads in part:

*“that the department shall issue an annual report, not later than February 2, 2009 on the implementation of plans in all participating districts; provided further, that said report shall include, but not be limited to: the names of schools and school districts participating; the number of students attending these schools and the nature and type of changes made in participating schools as a result of this program; provided further, that the report shall also include an anticipated budget for this program for the next fiscal year and a breakdown of the distribution of the \$1,300 per student by school; provided further, that said report shall be provided to the secretary of administration and finance, the senate president, the speaker of the house, the chairs of the house and senate committees on ways and means and the house and senate chairs of the joint committee on education;”*

The School Redesign: Expanded Learning Time (ELT) initiative began in FY06 when planning grants were first included in the state budget. ELT planning grants are intended to support districts’ activities in planning for longer school days, a longer school year, or both, as part of a redesign strategy to raise student achievement. The initiative requires the addition of at least 300 more hours to school schedules in order to:

- Provide students with more core instructional opportunity in math, literacy, science and other core subjects to support student achievement;
- Integrate enrichment and applied learning opportunities into the school day to motivate and engage students; and
- Provide educators with increased opportunity to plan together and to participate in professional development with other teachers and in collaboration with their partnering community-based organizations.

The FY09 state budget included a \$17.5 million appropriation for ELT and allowed for 8 new schools to become ELT schools. Currently 26 schools in twelve districts are operating redesigned schools with expanded learning time.

Districts that received an ELT planning grant in FY08 had the opportunity to consider a September 2009 start-up. Districts that targeted a 2009 start-up submitted Preliminary Implementation Proposals to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (ESE) at the end of July 2008, received feedback from ESE staff, and then submitted Final Implementation Proposals in December 2008. This interested group represents 17 districts and 30 schools. A cross section of ESE staff is reviewing and scoring each proposal and awaiting FY10 budget projections

to determine how many schools' conversions can be supported by grants. It is likely that again this year demand and interest will outweigh fiscal resources.

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education continues to contract with Abt Associates of Cambridge, MA, to conduct a comprehensive, multi-year evaluation of the ELT initiative. The evaluation is designed to elicit information on factors affecting implementation and, ultimately, on program impact. The Year Two Report is included in the appendix. The report details the approaches the 18 schools in the first two cohorts used to implement the three components of ELT—academic learning time; enrichment; and collaboration, planning, and professional development—during the 2007-08 school year. The findings are based on data collected through interviews and focus groups with staff from the state, districts, schools, and community partners, as well as with parents of students in ELT schools. Brief highlights from the Abt report are:

- Academic learning time: With a longer school day, all ELT schools across both cohorts increased academic learning time for all students. Exactly how schools chose to devote this extra learning time varied, but in general, ELT schools focused primarily on attempting to improve ELA and math performance.
- Enrichment: Enrichment is one of the key features of the ELT initiative that differentiates ELT schools from traditional schools. Many school personnel stated that students look forward to enrichment classes and enjoy the new experiences offered by the school; school and district respondents often noted enrichment provides opportunities to students that most would not otherwise have and helps to build “cultural capital.” The way enrichment was structured and the types of activities offered varied across schools, including an array of academic and non-academic options. Further, schools' approaches to staffing enrichment activities included using their own staff and/or bringing in external providers and partners.
- Collaboration, Planning, and Professional Development: Unlike in the first year of ELT, all of the schools, across cohorts, reported having common planning time incorporated into teachers' schedules, though the amount and frequency of that time varied among the schools. The amount of common planning time scheduled ranged from 48 minutes per week to 45 minutes per day. Teachers and principals alike spoke of the merits of common planning time, in terms of both addressing student issues and sharing instructional practices, and teachers in some schools would like to see more of it.

The Expanded Learning Time initiative has now been implemented for two years. It continues to evolve in positive ways. I look forward to the continued evaluation of this model for providing our students with additional learning time within the structured school day. In particular, I am eager to explore the opportunity for using our proposed measure of student growth as a tool for evaluating the impact of the program on changes in student achievement.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact me or Associate Commissioner Lynda Foisy at 781 338-3525.

Sincerely,

Mitchell D. Chester, Ed.D.  
Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education

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# School Redesign: Expanding Learning Time to Support Student Success

## 1. Introduction

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education respectfully submits this Report to the Legislature: *School Redesign: Expanding Learning Time to Support Student Success* pursuant to Chapter 182 of the Acts of 2008, line item 7061-9412 addressing the following:

*“that the department shall issue an annual report, not later than February 2, 2009 on the implementation of plans in all participating districts; provided further, that said report shall include, but not be limited to: the names of schools and school districts participating; the number of students attending these schools and the nature and type of changes made in participating schools as a result of this program; provided further, that the report shall also include an anticipated budget for this program for the next fiscal year and a breakdown of the distribution of the \$1,300 per student by school; provided further, that said report shall be provided to the secretary of administration and finance, the senate president, the speaker of the house, the chairs of the house and senate committees on ways and means and the house and senate chairs of the joint committee on education;”*

## 2. Overview

The School Redesign: Expanded Learning Time (ELT) initiative began in FY06 when planning grants were first included in the state budget. ELT planning grants are intended to support districts’ activities in planning for longer school days, a longer school year, or both, as part of a redesign strategy to raise student achievement. The grants, awarded by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, provide resources for districts to plan innovative redesigns in selected schools that offer all students more time for challenging, research-based, and varied learning experiences. At the end of the planning grant period, districts submit ELT Implementation plans to the Department. Based on review and approval of the plans, the Department awards grants to districts so that the qualifying schools can implement their plans to expand learning time for students and teachers.

The School Redesign: Expanded Learning Time initiative requires the addition of at least 300 more hours to school schedules in order to:

- Provide students with more core instructional opportunity in math, literacy, science and other core subjects to support student achievement;
- Integrate enrichment and applied learning opportunities into the school day to motivate and engage students; and
- Provide educators with increased opportunity to plan together and to participate in professional development with other teachers and in collaboration with their partnering community-based organizations.

Implementation of ELT redesigns began in FY07 when the Department of Education awarded grants of \$1,300 per student. The Legislature appropriated \$6.5 million for the ELT initiative, enabling ten schools in five districts to open in September 2006 with a

substantially longer school day. This appropriation also enabled the Department to fund an additional 29 districts to join in a second round of planning to explore whether and how they would redesign and expand schedules for schools in their communities. The FY08 state budget included a \$13 million appropriation for ELT. Eighteen schools in eight districts operated redesigned schools with expanded learning time.

The FY09 state budget included a \$17.5 million appropriation for ELT. Currently 26 schools in twelve districts are operating redesigned schools with expanded learning time. The chart below includes all schools currently receiving ELT implementation funding and distinguishes whether or not the school began its redesign in 2006, 2007 or 2008.

| <b>District</b> | <b>Cohort</b> | <b>School</b>           | <b>Grade Span</b> | <b># of students</b> |
|-----------------|---------------|-------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Boston          | 2006          | Mario Umana MS Academy  | 6-8               | 625                  |
| Boston          | 2006          | Clarence R. Edwards     | 6-8               | 390                  |
| Boston          | 2006          | James P. Timilty        | 6-8               | 690                  |
| Boston          | 2007          | Boston Arts Academy     | 9-12              | 423                  |
| Cambridge       | 2006          | M.L.King                | K-8               | 255                  |
| Cambridge       | 2006          | Fletcher Maynard        | K-8               | 250                  |
| Chelsea         | 2008          | Joseph A. Browne Middle | 5-8               | 503                  |
| Chicopee        | 2007          | Bowe Elementary School  | K-5               | 415                  |
| Fall River      | 2007          | North End               | K-5               | 525                  |
| Fall River      | 2006          | Carlton M. Viveiros     | K-5               | 747                  |
| Fall River      | 2006          | Matthew J. Kuss         | 6-8               | 650                  |
| Fitchburg       | 2008          | BF Brown Arts Vision    | 5-8               | 483                  |
| Fitchburg       | 2007          | Academy MS              | 5-8               | 340                  |
| Framingham      | 2008          | Cameron Middle          | 6-8               | 525                  |
| Framingham      | 2008          | Brophy Elementary       | K-5               | 465                  |
| Greenfield      | 2007          | Newton Elementary       | K-4               | 210                  |
| Greenfield      | 2007          | Greenfield Middle       | 5-8               | 480                  |
| Malden          | 2007          | Ferryway                | K-8               | 900                  |
| Malden          | 2006          | Salemwood               | K-8               | 1,200                |
| Revere          | 2008          | Garfield Middle         | 6-8               | 500                  |
| Revere          | 2008          | A.C. Whelan Elementary  | K-5               | 710                  |
| Southbridge     | 2008          | West Street             | 4-5               | 390                  |
| Southbridge     | 2008          | Wells Middle            | 6-8               | 530                  |
| Worcester       | 2007          | Chandler Elementary     | K-6               | 325                  |
| Worcester       | 2007          | City View               | K-6               | 556                  |
| Worcester       | 2006          | Jacob Hiatt Magnet      | K-6               | 454                  |
|                 |               |                         | <b>Total</b>      | <b>13,541</b>        |

### 3. Expanded Learning Time – FY09 Current Interest

Districts that received an ELT planning grant in FY08 had the opportunity to consider a September 2009 start-up. Districts that targeted a 2009 start-up submitted Preliminary Implementation Proposals to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (ESE) at the end of July 2008, received feedback from ESE staff, and then submitted Final Implementation Proposals in December 2008. Currently, a cross section of ESE staff is reviewing and scoring each proposal.

#### Final Implementation Proposals submitted in December 2008 for Possible September 2009 Start-Up

| District              | School                          | Grades | Projected Enrollment |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|--------|----------------------|
| Amherst-Pelham PS     | Pelham Elementary               | K-6    | 117                  |
| Athol-Royalston       | Riverbend                       | K-5    | 210                  |
| Barnstable PS         | Centerville Elementary          | K-4    | 315                  |
| Barnstable PS         | Hyannis East Elementary         | K-4    | 300                  |
| Central Berkshire RSD | Berkshire Trail Elementary      | K-5    | 90                   |
| Chelsea PS            | Edgar F. Hooks                  | 1-4    | 449                  |
| Chelsea PS            | Frank M. Sokolowski             | 1-4    | 447                  |
| Chelsea PS            | George F. Kelly                 | 1-4    | 480                  |
| Chelsea PS            | William A. Berkowitz Elementary | 1-4    | 465                  |
| Chelsea PS            | Clark Avenue Middle             | 5-8    | 568                  |
| Chelsea PS            | Eugene Wright Middle            | 5-8    | 447                  |
| Fall River PS         | Edmond P. Talbot Middle         | 6-8    | 600                  |
| Fall River PS         | James Tansey Elementary         | K-5    | 343                  |
| Fall River PS         | Alfred S. Letourneau Elementary | K-5    | 600                  |
| Framingham PS         | Fuller Middle                   | 6-8    | 590                  |
| Framingham PS         | Hemenway Elementary             | K-5    | 590                  |
| Framingham PS         | Woodrow Wilson                  | K-5    | 510                  |
| Haverhill PS          | Dr. A. B. Consentino            | 5-8    | 780                  |
| Haverhill PS          | John Greenleaf Whittier Middle  | 5-8    | 470                  |
| Lynn PS               | Robert L. Ford                  | K-8    | 800                  |
| Mashpee PS            | Mashpee High                    | 9-12   | 560                  |
| Mashpee PS            | Quashnet                        | 3-6    | 520                  |
| New Bedford PS        | Normandin Middle                | 6-8    | 1,000                |
| North Adams PS        | Silvio Conte Middle             | 6-8    | 330                  |

|                |                               |     |     |
|----------------|-------------------------------|-----|-----|
| Revere PS      | Susan B. Anthony Middle       | 6-8 | 455 |
| Revere PS      | William McKinley              | K-5 | 458 |
| Saugus PS      | Belmonte Saugus Middle        | 6-8 | 720 |
| Springfield PS | William N. DeBerry Elementary | K-5 | 266 |
| Taunton PS     | H. H. Galligan                | K-4 | 280 |
| Winthrop PS    | Arthur T. Cummings Elementary | 3-5 | 480 |

The Department did not award FY09 ELT planning grants during this year as it has in previous years. With the Governor's recent state budget cuts, there are not sufficient funds in the FY09 line item to award new planning grants. All FY09 ELT funds are dedicated to the 26 schools which are implementing ELT redesigns.

#### 4. FY09 Budget

Based on projected student enrollment, the following chart demonstrates the FY09 grant distribution of the \$1,300 per student by school and district.

| District    | Cohort | School                  | Grant Amount | District Total       |
|-------------|--------|-------------------------|--------------|----------------------|
| Boston      | 2006   | Mario Umana Academy     | \$ 812,500   |                      |
| Boston      | 2006   | Clarence R. Edwards     | \$ 507,000   |                      |
| Boston      | 2006   | James P. Timilty        | \$ 897,000   |                      |
| Boston      | 2007   | Boston Arts Academy     | \$ 549,900   | \$ 2,766,400         |
| Cambridge   | 2006   | M.L. King               | \$ 331,500   | \$ 656,500           |
| Cambridge   | 2006   | Fletcher Maynard        | \$ 325,000   |                      |
| Chelsea     | 2008   | Joseph A. Browne Middle | \$ 653,900   | \$ 653,900           |
| Chicopee    | 2007   | Bowe Elementary         | \$ 539,500   | \$ 539,500           |
| Fall River  | 2007   | North End               | \$ 682,500   | \$ 2,498,600         |
| Fall River  | 2006   | Carlton M. Viveiros     | \$ 971,100   |                      |
| Fall River  | 2006   | Matthew J. Kuss         | \$ 845,000   |                      |
| Fitchburg   | 2008   | BF Brown Arts Vision    | \$ 627,900   | \$ 1,069,900         |
| Fitchburg   | 2007   | Academy Middle          | \$ 442,000   |                      |
| Framingham  | 2008   | Cameron Middle          | \$ 682,500   | \$ 1,287,000         |
| Framingham  | 2008   | Brophy Elementary       | \$ 604,500   |                      |
| Greenfield  | 2007   | Newton Elementary       | \$ 273,000   | \$ 897,000           |
| Greenfield  | 2007   | Greenfield Middle       | \$ 624,000   |                      |
| Malden      | 2007   | Ferryway                | \$1,170,000  | \$ 2,730,000         |
| Malden      | 2006   | Salemwood               | \$1,560,000  |                      |
| Revere      | 2008   | Garfield Middle         | \$ 650,000   | \$ 1,573,000         |
| Revere      | 2008   | A.C. Whelan Elementary  | \$ 923,000   |                      |
| Southbridge | 2008   | West Street             | \$ 507,000   | \$ 1,196,000         |
| Southbridge | 2008   | Wells Middle            | \$ 689,000   |                      |
| Worcester   | 2007   | Chandler Elementary     | \$ 422,500   | \$ 1,735,500         |
| Worcester   | 2007   | City View               | \$ 722,800   |                      |
| Worcester   | 2006   | Jacob Hiatt Magnet      | \$ 590,200   |                      |
|             |        |                         |              | <b>\$ 17,603,300</b> |

#### 5. FY10 Budget

The Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education approved a \$26 million budget request at its October 2008 meeting. This was a combined request for the Expanded Learning Time initiative and After-School and Out-of-School Time (ASOST) programs.

## **6. Evaluation of ELT Initiative**

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education continues to contract with Abt Associates of Cambridge, MA, to conduct a comprehensive, multi-year evaluation of the ELT initiative. The evaluation is designed to elicit information on factors affecting implementation and, ultimately, on program impact.

The Year Two report is available on the Abt Associates' website at [http://abtassociates.com/reports/MA-ELT\\_Year\\_2\\_Report\\_Final\\_3-26-09.pdf](http://abtassociates.com/reports/MA-ELT_Year_2_Report_Final_3-26-09.pdf).

The report's executive summary is available on the Department's website at [http://www.doe.mass.edu/research/reports/0309elt\\_yr2execsum.pdf](http://www.doe.mass.edu/research/reports/0309elt_yr2execsum.pdf).

## **Appendix A: Chapter 182 of the Acts of 2008**

7061-9412 For grants to cities, towns, and regional school districts for the purpose of planning for and implementing expanded learning time in the form of longer school days or school years at selected schools; provided, that implementation grants shall only be provided under this item to schools and districts which submitted qualifying applications which were approved by the department in fiscal year 2008 and which including a minimum of an additional 300 hours on a mandatory basis for all children attending that school; provided further, that in approving expanded learning time implementation grant applications, preference shall be given to districts with high poverty rates or a high percentage of students scoring in levels I or II on the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System, those districts with proposals that have the greatest potential for district-wide impact, those districts that plan to utilize partnerships with community-based organizations and institutions of higher education, and those districts with proposals that include a comprehensive restructuring of the entire school day and/or year to maximize the use of the additional learning time; provided further, that the department shall approve implementation proposals that include an appropriate mix of additional time spent on core academics, additional time spent on enrichment opportunities such as small group tutoring, homework help, music, arts, sports, physical activity, health and wellness programs, project-based experiential learning and additional time for teacher preparation and/or professional development; provided further, that the department shall only approve implementation proposals that assume not more than \$1,300 per pupil per year in future state appropriations of expanded learning time implementation funds; provided further, that in extraordinary cases the department may exceed the \$1,300 per pupil per year limit; provided further, that the department shall review all qualified proposals and award approved grants not later than August 14, 2008; provided further, that in carrying out the provisions of this item, funds may be expended by the department to evaluate the impact and effectiveness of the program; provided further, that the department shall issue an annual report, not later than February 2, 2009 on the implementation of plans in all participating districts; provided further, that said report shall include, but not be limited to: the names of schools and school districts participating; the number of students attending these schools and the nature and type of changes made in participating schools as a result of this program; provided further, that the report shall also include an anticipated budget for this program for the next fiscal year and a breakdown of the distribution of the \$1,300 per student by school; provided further, that said report shall be provided to the secretary of administration and finance, the senate president, the speaker of the house, the chairs of the house and senate committees on ways and means and the house and senate chairs of the joint committee on education; provided further, that for this item, appropriated funds may be expended through August 31, 2009 to allow for planning and implementation during the summer months; provided further, that any grant funds distributed from this item to a city, town, or regional school district shall be deposited with the treasurer of such city, town, or regional school district and held in a separate account and shall be expended by the school committee of such city, town or regional school district without further appropriation, notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary; and provided further, that no funds shall be expended for personnel costs at the department of elementary and secondary education \$17,500,000