

111TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 3061

To amend part B of title IV of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to improve 21st Century Community Learning Centers.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 3, 2010

Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. ENSIGN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

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## A BILL

To amend part B of title IV of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to improve 21st Century Community Learning Centers.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Improving 21st Cen-  
5       tury Community Learning Centers Act of 2010”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       Congress makes the following findings:

8               (1) More than 28,000,000 children in the  
9       United States have parents who work outside the

1 home and 15,100,000 children in the United States  
2 are unsupervised after the school day ends.

3 (2) 8,400,000 children are in after school pro-  
4 grams but an additional 18,500,000 would partici-  
5 pate if such a program were available.

6 (3) After school programs inspire learning. In  
7 academic year 2006–2007, 43 percent of all 21st  
8 Century Community Learning Centers program par-  
9 ticipants had improved their reading grades, and 49  
10 percent improved their mathematics grades.

11 (4) In academic year 2006–2007, teachers re-  
12 ported that a majority of students who participated  
13 in 21st Century Community Learning Centers pro-  
14 grams demonstrated improved student behavior, par-  
15 ticularly in the areas of academic performance,  
16 homework completion, and class participation.

17 (5) A growing body of research also suggests  
18 that children who participate in after school pro-  
19 grams attend school more regularly, are more likely  
20 to stay in school, and are better prepared for college  
21 and careers.

22 (6) Benefits of after school programs extend be-  
23 yond the classroom. Communities with after school  
24 programs have reported reduced vandalism and juve-  
25 nile crime.

1           (7) After school programs help working fami-  
2       lies. One study estimates that decreased worker pro-  
3       ductivity due to stress and absenteeism caused by  
4       issues related to after school care arrangements  
5       costs employers \$496 to \$1,984 per employee, per  
6       year, depending on the annual salary of the em-  
7       ployee. The total cost to the business industry is es-  
8       timated to be between \$50,000,000,000 and  
9       \$300,000,000,000 annually in lost job productivity.

10          (8) While students in the United States are  
11       falling behind in science, technology, engineering,  
12       and mathematics (STEM), more than 90 percent of  
13       after school programs funded by 21st Century Com-  
14       munity Learning Centers offer STEM activities, pro-  
15       viding more time for children and youth to gain  
16       skills and build interest in the STEM fields. Evalua-  
17       tions of after school programs offering STEM activi-  
18       ties to students have found increases in the reading,  
19       writing, and science skills proficiency of these stu-  
20       dents. Children who participate in such programs  
21       show more interest in science careers, and are more  
22       likely to have engaged in science activities just for  
23       fun.

24          (9) Data from 73 after school studies indicate  
25       that after school programs employing evidence-based

1 approaches to improving students' personal and so-  
2 cial skills were consistently successful in producing  
3 multiple benefits for students, including improve-  
4 ments in students' personal, social, and academic  
5 skills, as well as students' self-esteem.

6 (10) Teens who do not participate in after  
7 school programs are nearly 3 times more likely to  
8 skip classes than teens who do participate. The teens  
9 who do not participate are also 3 times more likely  
10 to use marijuana or other drugs, and are more likely  
11 to drink alcohol, smoke cigarettes, and engage in  
12 sexual activity. In general, self care and boredom  
13 can increase the likelihood that a young person will  
14 experiment with drugs and alcohol by as much as 50  
15 percent.

16 (11) It is estimated that over 15 percent of all  
17 children in the United States are overweight and 1  
18 in 7 low-income, preschool-aged children is obese.  
19 After school programs provide children and youth  
20 with opportunities to engage in sports and other fit-  
21 ness activities.

22 (12) After school programs have been identified  
23 as effective venues for improving nutrition, nutrition  
24 education, and physical activity at a time when less

1       than 10 percent of high school youth consume the  
2       recommended daily servings of fruits and vegetables.

3           (13) After school programs also provide chil-  
4       dren and youth with opportunities for service learn-  
5       ing, a teaching and learning approach that inte-  
6       grates student-designed service projects that address  
7       community needs with academic studies. With struc-  
8       tured time to reflect on their service experience,  
9       these projects can strengthen student engagement,  
10      enhance students' academic achievement, lower  
11      school dropout and suspension rates, and help de-  
12      velop important workforce skills that employers are  
13      looking for, including leadership skills, critical think-  
14      ing, teamwork, and oral and written communication.

15           (14) Studies show that every dollar invested in  
16      after school programs will save taxpayers approxi-  
17      mately 3 dollars. Investments in after school pro-  
18      grams have resulted in less criminal activity by, and  
19      greater educational attainment and higher lifetime  
20      earnings for, the students participating in the after  
21      school programs.

22   **SEC. 3. REFERENCES.**

23       Except as otherwise expressly provided, wherever in  
24      this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms  
25      of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provi-

1 sion, the reference shall be considered to be made to a  
 2 section or other provision of the Elementary and Sec-  
 3 ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.).

4 **SEC. 4. 21ST CENTURY COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS.**

5 (a) PURPOSE.—Section 4201 (20 U.S.C. 7171) is  
 6 amended—

7 (1) in subsection (a)(2)—

8 (A) by inserting “service learning, nutri-  
 9 tion education,” after “youth development ac-  
 10 tivities,”; and

11 (B) by striking “recreation programs” and  
 12 inserting “physical fitness and wellness pro-  
 13 grams”; and

14 (2) in subsection (b)—

15 (A) by striking paragraph (2); and

16 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and  
 17 (4) as paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively.

18 (b) ALLOTMENTS TO STATES.—Section 4202 (20  
 19 U.S.C. 7172) is amended—

20 (1) in subsection (a)—

21 (A) by striking paragraph (1); and

22 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and  
 23 (3) as paragraphs (1) and (2), respectively; and

24 (2) in subsection (c)(3)—

1 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph  
 2 (A), by striking “3 percent” and inserting “5  
 3 percent”; and

4 (B) by adding at the end the following:

5 “(E) Supporting State-level efforts and in-  
 6 frastructure to ensure the quality and avail-  
 7 ability of after school programs.”.

8 (c) AWARD DURATION.—Section 4204(g) (20 U.S.C.  
 9 7174(g)) is amended by striking the period and inserting  
 10 “, and are renewable for a period of not less than 3 years  
 11 and not more than 5 years based on grant performance.”.

12 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section  
 13 4206 (20 U.S.C. 7176) is amended to read as follows:

14 **“SEC. 4206. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

15 “There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out  
 16 this part such sums as may be necessary for fiscal year  
 17 2011 and each of the 5 succeeding fiscal years.”.

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