

CLOSING THE GAP: THE EXPANDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES (ELO) SPECIAL FUND



ELO Working Group
PreK-16 Council
State House
Ethan Allen Room
November 16, 2015

WORKING GROUP MEMBERS

- ▶ TOM ALDERMAN
- ▶ GINNY BURLEY
- ▶ SENATOR BRIAN CAMPION
- ▶ JIM FITZPATRICK
- ▶ HARRY FRANK
- ▶ DAVE GURTMAN
- ▶ REPRESENTATIVE ANN MANWARING
- ▶ KATIE MOBLEY
- ▶ HOLLY MOREHOUSE
- ▶ BARB RUSS
- ▶ KAREN SCOTT
- ▶ SARAH TEEL



TWO YEARS, THREE REPORTS

- ▶ **Every Hour Counts: Vermont Students Succeed with Expanded Learning Opportunities (Dec 2014)**
- ▶ **Closing the Gap: The Expanded Learning Opportunities (ELO) Special Fund (Nov 2015)**
- ▶ **Yet to be named- Expanded Learning Opportunities, Personalized Learning Plans (PLPs), Flexible Pathways (Act 77), and proficiency-based graduation requirements (Dec 2015)**



WHY ARE ELO'S IMPORTANT?

- ▶ Keep Kids Healthy and Safe
- ▶ Inspire Learning
- ▶ Help Working Families
- ▶ Support Vermont's Vision for Education



HOW GREAT IS THE NEED?

- ▶ 24% percent of Vermont's children, grades K-12, are currently enrolled in Expanded Learning Opportunities.
- ▶ Of those not currently in programs, 33% or 22,000 children and youth would participate if more programs were available and accessible.
- ▶ VT ranks 51st in nation for % of low-income children participating in ELO programs.



WHY IS THE TIMING CRITICAL?

- ▶ Academic Achievement Gap
- ▶ Opportunity Gap
- ▶ Geographic Gap



WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY

- ▶ We have an incredible opportunity right now to do something important for Vermont's children, youth, and families that is research-based, cost effective, and that will have numerous positive outcomes for our state, our children, our communities.



WORKING GROUP'S CHARGE

- ▶ H.480/ Act 48 created the ELO Special Fund that can accept both private and public dollars
- ▶ Purpose of the Fund is to increase access to Expanded Learning Opportunities
- ▶ ELO defined as a structured program that serves children and youth outside the school day and year on a regular basis
- ▶ Charged the ELO Working Group with looking at how to fund the Fund and how to distribute monies from the Fund; bring recommendations to VTAOE



OUR APPROACH

- ▶ Align with other state initiatives and priorities
- ▶ Acknowledge the challenge of funding, both public and private
- ▶ Recognize the demands on state agencies/ state capacity
- ▶ Hear from those working in the field



RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE REPORT

- ▶ Structure of the Fund
- ▶ Funding Priorities
- ▶ Allowable Uses and Matching Funds
- ▶ State ELO Committee
- ▶ Agency Role
- ▶ Funding and Proposed Plan



STRUCTURE OF THE FUND (P. 4)

▶ Purpose and Definition

- ▶ Increase access to ELO's as defined in the legislation

▶ Eligibility

- ▶ Recommend that a wide variety of entities can apply
- ▶ Let the competitive grant process determine what gets funded

▶ Flexibility

- ▶ Create a process that is flexible, aligned, and streamlined
- ▶ Allow the state to meet the needs of Vermont communities in ways that the current funding sources are not able to
- ▶ Not predetermined in detail so that grant process could be coordinated with other state initiatives

FUNDING PRIORITIES (P. 5)

- ▶ Expanding access to programs for children and youth of all ages who qualify as low-income.
- ▶ Expanding access in parts of the state where few or no options are currently available.
- ▶ Secondary- consider programs for older youth; support comprehensive programming



ALLOWABLE USES (P. 6)

- ▶ Starting a new program
- ▶ Expanding an existing program
- ▶ Making quality improvements
- ▶ Sustaining or matching funds from another source
- ▶ Doing a community assessment



UTILIZE MATCHING FUNDS (P. 4, 10)

- ▶ Recommend that a 1-to-1 match be required
- ▶ There is money in local communities that can be leveraged
- ▶ Encourage local schools/communities to think about how to change how some funding is currently being used
- ▶ Be flexible in what can be considered a match; can use federal funds, other grants, local contributions, in-kind
- ▶ Would help 21st CCLC grantees and other existing programs to sustain their programs without undermining local sustainability

STATE ELO COMMITTEE (P. 7)

- ▶ Full ELO Committee
 - ▶ Responsible for leadership, support, and funding
 - ▶ Important because this issue is bigger than any one agency or program type; recommend no more than 13 people
 - ▶ Include experts in ELO programming and funding, individuals who can contribute to big-picture, innovative thinking about this issue, and representatives from private business and philanthropy to build public-private partnerships for funding
- ▶ Grant Subcommittee
 - ▶ 5-7 people; work closely with VTAOE and adds capacity
 - ▶ Responsible for grant application and review, funding decisions, ongoing oversight

AGENCY ROLE (P. 8)

- ▶ Award and administer the grants based on committee recommendations and provide technical assistance and resources to support grantees (allow for this to be contracted out if needed)
- ▶ Meet with the committee 2x/year to discuss grant program
- ▶ Provide admin support to the committee or allow other member(s) of the committee to provide support at no cost to the Agency
- ▶ Provide an annual report to the Legislature on the grant program, dollars spent, and outcomes achieved
- ▶ Recommend 5% of the Fund allocated for training, technical assistance, evaluation, and state administration of the grant awards

FUNDING FOR THE FUND

- ▶ State Leadership and Investment
- ▶ Private Contributions
- ▶ Building the Local Match



PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS (P. 9)

- ▶ Increase awareness of ELOs and the Fund
- ▶ Clarify legal/tax issues around giving
- ▶ Ensure that funding is sustainable—private foundation funding is often short-term (1-3 years) and focused on innovation or seed ideas
- ▶ Recognize that private donors often prefer to give locally and to have control over how money is used
- ▶ Avoid setting up competition for private funding that is already going to support local ELO programs



BUILDING THE LOCAL MATCH (P. 10)

- ▶ Key Federal Funding Sources
 - ▶ 21st Century Community Learning Centers
 - ▶ Child Care Development Fund
- ▶ Participant Fees, although caution about high-need areas and barriers to access
- ▶ Other local dollars (e.g., school budgets, town budgets, local partners, private donations, other grants, collaborations with other initiatives)
- ▶ Ask local leaders to leverage and reallocate existing funds; funding from Act 46 efforts



STATE LEADERSHIP AND INVESTMENT (P. 9)

- ▶ Filling in the gaps requires state vision, investment, and action with a long-term view
- ▶ Essential to state priorities- eliminating the academic achievement gap, ensuring equity in educational opportunities, and fulfilling the vision of Vermont's Education Quality Standards
- ▶ Important role for the state; otherwise, Vermont risks the danger of further exacerbating the opportunity gap



FUNDING ANALYSIS (P. 11)

- ▶ Average Program Cost ranges from \$94,926 to \$231,000 per year depending on number of students served and amount of programming
- ▶ Average Per Pupil Cost of ELO programs in Vermont is \$1,148/student per year
- ▶ Unmet Demand- 22,000 children and youth
- ▶ Filling the Gaps. \$5 million in the Fund paired with \$5 million from the matching requirement would support access to ELO programs in all of Vermont's communities where at least 50% of the children/ youth qualify as low-income

WHAT WOULD IT LOOK LIKE? (P. 12)

- ▶ **Impact Communities.** Depending on how awarded, could create or expand programming in approximately 111 communities and provide programming and services to approx. 26,117 Vermont children and youth (K- grade 12)
- ▶ **Target Resources.** Could target resources to communities most in need. For instance, \$5 million in the ELO Special Fund could help support ELO programming in every Vermont community that has free/reduced lunch rate of 50% or greater
- ▶ **Be Cost Effective.** Of the 26,117 students above, approx. 33% would participate on a regular basis. For just over \$1100 per student per year, the Fund would help create between 600-800 hours of additional programming for each of these children and youth

BUILD PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP (P. 12)

- ▶ State Funding- start with a state investment in the ELO Special Fund that would target programs and services to Vermont's children and youth today; use this state investment to leverage federal, local, and private dollars
- ▶ Private Match- Use the match requirement to match the state investment by bringing in private dollars and other local resources
- ▶ Embolden the ELO Committee- seek out the right mix of public and private representatives and big-picture entrepreneurial thinkers; give them time to develop a joint vision model that will result in blended, sustainable funding

WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY

- ▶ Innovation vs Scaling Up- focus must be access
- ▶ Appropriate priorities (i.e., high-need and underserved) and ability to target by community or by program
- ▶ Strong network and public-private partnership in place to support programs
- ▶ If not state agency, then where? Other examples (e.g., Children's Trust Fund)
- ▶ Aligns with goals of Act 46; potential grant funds can be used to encourage investment at the local level in ELO



RECOMMENDATIONS

- ▶ Establish the ELO Committee with broad representation and clear responsibilities
- ▶ Ensure that the funding process is flexible, aligned and streamlined
- ▶ Continue to support quality programming
- ▶ Bring in private-public partnerships for funding
- ▶ Claim a strong state leadership role



THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE FOR THEIR WISDOM, EXPERIENCE, AND INPUT OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS:

- ▶ Raquel Aronhime, Community Impact Manager- Education and Health, United Way of Chittenden County
- ▶ Helen Beattie, Co-Founder and Director, Up for Learning
- ▶ Emanuel Betz, 21st Century Community Learning Centers State Coordinator, Vermont Agency of Education
- ▶ Penny Bishop, Associate Dean, Professor of Middle Level Education, University of Vermont
- ▶ John Castle, Superintendent, North Country Schools Supervisory Union, Newport
- ▶ Julia Chafets, Girls Program Coordinator, Vermont Works for Women
- ▶ Stuart Comstock-Gay, Executive Director, Vermont Community Foundation
- ▶ Paul Costello, Executive Director, Vermont Council on Rural Development

Continued on next page...

- ▶ Brooke DeBonis, Principal, Mettawee Community School, West Pawlet
- ▶ Maureen Deppmann, Personalized Learning Department, Mt. Anthony Union High School
- ▶ Kathleen Dolan, Board of Directors, Dolan Family Foundation
- ▶ John Downes, Associate Director for Innovative Education, Tarrant Institute, University of Vermont
- ▶ Karin Edwards, Director, Vermont Agency of Education
- ▶ John Fischer, Deputy Secretary (former), Vermont Agency of Education
- ▶ Amy Fowler, Deputy Secretary, Vermont Agency of Education
- ▶ Christy Gallese, Expanded Learning Director, Burlington School District
- ▶ Fagan Hart, Executive Director, Vermont Children's Trust Foundation
- ▶ Rebecca Holcombe, Secretary, Vermont Agency of Education
- ▶ Kathleen Kesson, Long Island University, Brooklyn, NY
- ▶ Derrick Lambert, Child Nutrition Advocate, Hunger Free Vermont

Continued on next page...

- ▶ Margaret MacLean, former Member, Vermont State Board of Education, and Lead Trainer at the Rural School and Community Trust
- ▶ Martha Maksum, Executive Director, United Way of Chittenden County
- ▶ Ellie Mitchell, Director, Maryland Out of School Time Network
- ▶ Reeva Murphy, Deputy Commissioner, Child Development Division, Department for Children and Families, Vermont Agency of Human Services
- ▶ Jay Nichols, Superintendent, Franklin Northeast Supervisory Union, Enosburg
- ▶ Julie Peterson, Director of School Age Programs (former), Greater Burlington YMCA
- ▶ Todd Rivver, Principal, Albany Community School
- ▶ Kate Toland, UNBOUND Director and Social Studies Teacher, Peoples Academy, Morrisville
- ▶ Amy Yeakel, ELO Coordinator, Newfound Regional High School, NH

THOUGHTS

QUESTIONS?

