



The Benefits of Expanded Learning Opportunities for Older Youth

New Publication Forthcoming

The Benefits of Expanded Learning Opportunities for Older Youth identifies and describes Expanded Learning Opportunities (ELOs) that improve academic performance, college and career preparation, social and emotional development, and health and wellness outcomes for underserved youth. Expanded learning opportunities are an effective use of resources to prepare youth for the complexities that face them as adults. The underlying message drawn from our review of the evaluations is that expanded learning opportunities (ELOs) work. ELOs deserve ongoing and expanded support and to be fully viewed as a major contributor in the preparation of youth for postsecondary education, careers, and civic engagement.

The forthcoming publication (March 2009) is an easy-to-read guide designed to help national, state, and local policymakers and practitioners better understand the wide-array of benefits ELOs provide and the programmatic and structural elements of successful ELOs. Included in *The Benefits of Expanded Learning Opportunities for Older Youth* are profiles of 22 ELOs that have proven results for youth across a range of indicators.

Our analysis of the 22 included program evaluations demonstrates that ELOs leverage existing resources and contribute additional resources (including significant numbers of adult volunteers) to augment K-12 and community-based funding streams. ELOs provide positive youth development experiences and increased support for academic learning, and they can play a part in restructuring the learning environment for older youth, who live with more complex and demanding schedules. As such, ELOs should be viewed as a mainstream solution to help leverage scarce resources in the effort to ensure our youth are well-prepared for postsecondary education, careers, and civic engagement.

To order a copy of the report, please send your complete contact information to aypf@aypf.org and include “The Benefits of ELOs” in the subject line.

The complete report will also be available online at www.aypf.org

The American Youth Policy Forum (AYPF), a nonprofit, nonpartisan professional development organization based in Washington, DC, provides learning opportunities for policymakers, practitioners, and researchers working on youth issues at the national, state, and local levels.

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