



Offering High School Credit Through Expanded Learning Opportunities

11:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., Friday, July 29, 2010

Forum Overview:

Welcome and Introductions: **Ben Aiken**, Program Associate, American Youth Policy Forum
Presentations: **Paul Leather**, Deputy Commissioner, New Hampshire Department of Education
Janice Hastings, VP of Development, Plus Time New Hampshire
Michael O'Malley, Principal, Newfound Regional High School
Question and Answer period following presentations

NH ELO DATA

2008/2009 Academic Year

164 ELOs attempted, of which 103 were attempted for credit, 71 received credit

Free or reduced lunch: 45.1%; special education students or ELL students: 7.9%

45% of ELOs pursued were in core courses: English, Math, Social Studies, Science or cross-core courses (combination of two or more core classes)

2009/2010 Academic Year

837 ELOs attempted, of which 636 were attempted for credit, 275 received credit, 288 pending completion for credit (563 total)

Free or reduced lunch: 40.1%; special education students or ELL students: 13%

New Hampshire ELO Program summary:

The New Hampshire Department of Education has partnered with Plus Time New Hampshire to create a model for ELOs to be used by high schools statewide as a part of the state's high school redesign initiative. The NH DOE and Plus Time NH work with school systems to implement an ELO model that aligns with state education standards and provides a means of assessing student learning conducted outside of the traditional classroom setting. ELOs allow students to pursue learning of personal passion or interest for academic credit based upon a pre-determined set of academic competencies that students must meet and demonstrate, rather than the traditional method of "seat time."

Each participating school establishes and expands formal relationships with a number of community partners and businesses to develop and implement ELOs. Students work with a highly qualified teacher, who serves as their advisor, and a community partner to co-design a learning experience that meets specific criteria, is aligned with academic course competencies, and allows them to earn credit toward graduation requirements. *For more information, please visit the NH DOE website at <http://www.education.nh.gov/innovations/elo/success.htm>*

NH Minimum Standards for School Approval

New Hampshire's Minimum Standards for School Approval (passed in 2005) outline a number of key objectives for their high school redesign initiative. The standards most notably advocate for incorporating **extended learning opportunities** into NH school systems, with a focus on harnessing local community resources, personalizing student learning, and utilizing competency-based assessments in student evaluation.

Through this policy initiative, the NH DOE encourages school districts to adopt policies that encourage **extended learning**, defined as: the primary acquisition of knowledge and skills through instruction or study outside of traditional school hours and classroom environments, including, but not limited, to: apprenticeships, community service, independent study, online courses, private instruction, internships, and performing group.

AYPF uses the term ELO to describe the range of programs and activities available for young people that occur beyond regular school hours. ELOs, particularly for older youth, occur in a 24/7 environment and blur the lines between schools and other valuable resources. The term ELO includes traditional afterschool activities with an academic focus but also incorporates activities such as internships with employers, independent study in alternative settings, classes on college campuses for high school students, and wraparound support services. For a more complete definition, and for a description of 22 successful programs, please see the AYPF publication *Learning Around the Clock*.