



Afterschool Alliance

AFTERSCHOOL FOR ALL

September 5, 2007

TO: Chairman George Miller
Ranking Member Buck McKeon

FR: Jodi Grant
Executive Director

RE: Recommended Changes to Title I Discussion Draft - Section 1116 School and Local Educational Agency Improvement and Assistance

Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide feedback on the House Education and Labor Committee Discussion Draft of Title I. The comments below are specific to Section 1116 (g) Supplemental Educational Services found on pages 212 through 225 of the Discussion Draft.

Studies and evaluations demonstrate that quality, comprehensive afterschool programs (those that present academic instruction in fun and engaging activities and at the same time provide a safe environment for children and youth where they can explore extra-curricular interests, develop talents, and receive extra attention and support from caring adults; these programs typically operate a minimum of 12 hours per week) benefit children and youth the most - and in fact that limiting programs' focus to purely academic activities reduces their impact on academic achievement. Additionally, research reveals challenges in the implementation of Supplemental Education Services with slow rates of take-up and eligible students going unserved.

Meanwhile, locally operated afterschool programs that could be serving as known and trusted institutions for service delivery face hurdles that prevent many from becoming providers. In order to enhance quality and better serve students, we propose an increased emphasis on a comprehensive service delivery model that encourages existing school-based, community-based and other afterschool programs to become SES providers and/or strengthens partnerships between SES providers and afterschool programs.

We respectfully recommend the following changes be made:

1. Page 218 line 16 (H) - delete "at its discretion"
2. Page 218 line 24 - change to "providing assistance to existing school-based, community-based, faith-based and other public agency afterschool programs, including 21st Century Community Learning Centers programs, with the approval process to encourage them to become providers of supplemental education services."



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3. Page 220 line 24 - add a new (G) "Provide delivery of tutoring services in a comprehensive service delivery model through partnership with, or as part of a comprehensive afterschool program.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft legislation. Feel free to contact me or Erika Argersinger at 202-347-2030 or Ellin Nolan at 202-289-3900 with any questions regarding our recommendations.

Sincerely,

Jodi Grant
Executive Director