




STATE OF DELAWARE
STATE COUNCIL FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
MARGARET M. O'NEILL BUILDING
410 FEDERAL STREET, SUITE 1
DOVER, DE 19901

VOICE: (302) 739-3620
TTY/TDD: (302) 739-3699
FAX: (302) 739-6704

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 29, 2016

TO: All Members of the Delaware State Senate
and House of Representatives

FROM: Ms. Daniese McMullin-Powell,  Chairperson
State Council for Persons with Disabilities

RE: H.B. 240 (Afterschool Programs)

The State Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD) has reviewed H.B. 240 which establishes the Statewide Afterschool Initiative Learning Program. Background is provided by the attached January 7, 2016 News Journal article. Consistent with the attached fiscal note, there are 147 Title I (low-income) schools in Delaware with an aggregate enrollment of 78,950 students. The bill would authorize grants to these schools to operate afterschool programs. The programs would have to operate 4-5 days/week during the school year, have at least 1 certified teacher for every 10 participating students, and offer at least 1 hour of homework assistance and 1 hour of enrichment daily. Provision of an after-school meal is also encouraged (lines 8 and 49). The list of authorized services (lines 11-16) is quite varied and includes tutoring, counseling, physical fitness, financial literacy, and apprenticeship programs. An assessment of the benefits of the program is required on an annual basis (lines 65-76). An advisory council is established (lines 21-42). The program is expected to enhance student achievement, attendance, wellness, and nutrition. SCPD has the following observations.

First, there is an extraneous word in line 23, i.e. the "of" between "designee" and "appointed" should be deleted.

Second, the afterschool program would be "available to students in kindergarten through tenth grade" (line 53). It's unclear why 11th and 12th graders would be categorically ineligible to participate. For example, the bill contemplates participation in "internship and apprenticeship" initiatives which are generally correlated with older students. Likewise, the attached article touts the goal of crime diversion - "kids who are in school in the afternoon aren't on the streets where they might run afoul of the law". Academic classes, including math and science, are more challenging in 11th and 12 grade making "tutorial services" (lines 9-10) particularly valuable.

Finally, “financial literacy instruction” (line 13) would be of enhanced value to 11th and 12th graders close to completing school and entering adulthood. For these reasons, the sponsors may wish to reconsider the categorical exclusion of 11th and 12th graders from program eligibility.

Third, the Statewide Afterschool Initiative Learning Council omits representation of special education interests. Council membership should be enhanced to include a representative of the Governor’s Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (14 Del.C. §3111).

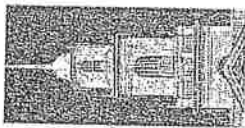
Fourth, the legislation could be improved by clarifying expectation that the afterschool program must be physically and programmatically accessible to students with disabilities.

Thank you for your consideration and please contact SCPD if you have any questions regarding our observations on the proposed legislation.

cc: The Honorable Matthew Denn
Mr. Brian Hartman, Esq.
Governor’s Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens
Developmental Disabilities Council

HB 240 after school programs 2-22-16

Lawmakers want to boost after-school programs



DELAWARE LEGISLATIVE SESSION
MATTHEW ALBRIGHT

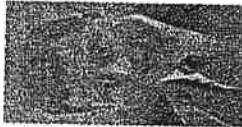
This is one in a series of stories examining issues confronting the Delaware General Assembly in the session that starts Jan. 12. Visit delawareonline.com for continuing coverage of the Legislature.

A top state lawmaker wants to make funding available to every high-needs school in Delaware to create after-school programs, hoping to give kids from low-income families a safe, constructive place for academic help and healthy meals.

House Majority Leader Valerie Longhurst, D-Bear, announced Wednesday that she will propose a bill next week to create the Statewide Afterschool Initiative Learning program, or SAIL, which would offer grants to schools under the federal Title I program for low-income youth.

"We have a great core of organizations in our communities that have spent years showing us these outcomes," Longhurst said, pointing to better literacy, attendance and dropout rates among existing after-school programs. "And it's time for the state and our school districts to step up and bring these proven practices to even more kids throughout Delaware."

To qualify for SAIL grants, school programs would have to offer at least three hours on four to five days a



From left, House Majority Leader Valerie Longhurst, Sen. Nicole Poore and Attorney General Matt Denn.

other places where lawmakers want to allocate more funds.

Sen. Nicole Poore, D-New Castle, is slated to be a co-sponsor and says many of her colleagues have already said they support the bill. Longhurst is the second-highest ranking member of the House, and a third planned co-sponsor. Sen. Harris McDowell, D-Wilmington North, co-chairs the legislative committee that writes the state budget.

"It's definitely going to sail through — no pun intended — the House and the Senate," Poore said. "This is something we know works."

Attorney General Matt Denn, the state's top-ranking law enforcement official, supports the bill.

"From a short-term perspective, we have statistics that show us that kids who are in these sorts of programs are less likely to get in trouble," he said, noting that kids who are in school in the afternoon aren't on the streets where they might run afoul of the law.

In the long term, Denn believes after-school programs will prevent dropouts and other academic problems that can derail a young person's life.

Colonial School District Superintendent Dusty Blakey said school leaders think after-school programs are smart investments but often struggle to find a funding source.

"We are very thankful these state leaders recognize the opportunity we can provide," Blakey said.

Contact Matthew Albright at (302) 324-2428.

148TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

FISCAL NOTE

BILL:	HOUSE BILL NO. 240
SPONSOR:	Representative Longhurst
DESCRIPTION:	AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 14 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS.

ASSUMPTIONS:

1. This Act is effective upon signature of the Governor.
2. This Act establishes the Statewide Afterschool Learning Program whereby schools that meet the State approved indicator for low socioeconomic status are eligible to receive grants to support after-school homework and enrichment programs.
3. The grants support at least 3 hours of after-school programs that operate 4-5 days per week during the school year. The programs are staffed by a certified teacher at a ratio of 1 teacher for every 10 students.
4. The grants support students enrolled in grades Kindergarten through 10th grade.
5. There are a total of 147 Title I schools that may be eligible to participate in the program where the total enrollment in these schools, based on the September 30, 2015 enrollment count, is 78,950 students. Title I schools are schools that receive federal funds for supplemental educational services for students considered low-income.
6. It is assumed the additional compensation teachers would receive is equivalent to the starting teachers' salary on the State teacher pay scale, prorated for the minimum hours worked in the program plus other employment costs. As such, a \$50,000 grant per school would serve 10% of the eligible population of students 4 days per week.
7. This Act does not require a local match of program funds. However, participating local school districts have the ability to utilize their existing match tax for Extra Time programs to supplement State program funds.
8. Inflation is assumed at 2.0% to account for growth in enrollment and personnel costs.

Cost:

Fiscal Year 2017: Every 10% of students participating is projected to cost \$7,400,000
(equivalent to a \$50,000 grant per school & a 4 day/week program)

Fiscal Year 2018: Every 10% of students participating is projected to cost \$7,548,000
(equivalent to a \$50,000 grant per school & a 4 day/week program)

Fiscal Year 2019: Every 10% of students participating is projected to cost \$7,699,000
(equivalent to a \$50,000 grant per school & a 4 day/week program)

Office of Controller General
January 13, 2016
MJ: MJ
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(Amounts are shown in whole dollars)