Beyond School Bells
Expanded Learning Opportunities (ELO) Survey

In the fall of 2015, Beyond School Bells partnered with the Nebraska Association of School Boards to conduct a brief survey of local school board member’s attitudes toward Expanded Learning Opportunity (ELO) programs, meaning high-quality, afterschool and summer programs powered by school-community partnerships. Respondents showed overwhelming support for ELO programs.

**QUESTION ONE**
Do you feel there is a need for Expanded Learning Opportunities (ELO) programs in your community? Please explain why.

124 community need for ELOs
18 no community need for ELOs

Common reasons respondents listed as to why there is a need for ELOs in the community.

**School board members across Nebraska understand that learning doesn’t end when the school day does.**

High quality ELO programs intentionally build and support collaborative relationships with schools, local community members, leaders, businesses, and organizations that form important partnerships in program planning, funding, and delivery.

- Learning development benefits of children
- Need opportunities for hands on learning
- Lacking parental supervision at home
- Prevents negative behaviors - keeps kids safe
- Growing at-risk population - need more opportunities
- Summer learning loss impacts achievement

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2023-2024, Beyond School Bells and Nebraska Association of School Boards conducted a brief survey of local school board member’s attitudes toward Expanded Learning Opportunities (ELO) programs, meaning high-quality, afterschool and summer programs powered by school-community partnerships. Respondents showed overwhelming support for ELO programs.

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**QUESTION TWO**
Does your district collaborate with community partners to provide expanding learning opportunity programs to youth in your community?

- 72 respondents provided
- 75 respondents did not provide

Quality ELOs involve school-community partnerships and resource sharing.

School-community partnerships leverage community assets and lead to more high-quality, sustainable Expanded Learning Opportunity programs serving more of Nebraska’s youth.

**QUESTION THREE**
Why do you provide ELOs in your district? (Respondents were allowed to select multiple answers.)

- 52 respondents helped support working parents
- 70 respondents provide enrichment opportunities
- 62 respondents helped support learning
- 58 respondents strengthen community ties

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**QUESTION FOUR**
If not the district, who is providing after-school services in your community?

“YMCA
Public/private daycare
NO ONE
Teachers
Church groups
Parents”

**QUESTION FIVE**
What are the biggest obstacles to starting or sustaining expanded learning opportunity programs in your community?

1. Funding (3.5)
2. Lack of community partners (2.9)
3. Lack of qualified staff (2.9)
4. Inadequate facilities (2.6)