

Every student succeeds



President Obama and Congress gave American children a gift this holiday season with passage of the "Every Student Succeeds Act" ["Senate approves sweeping legislation on public schools," news, Dec. 10]. The law offers an opportunity to improve public school education through greater adoption of expanded learning time and targeting funds to after-school, before-school and summer services for students from low-income families. By sixth grade, children from affluent homes have spent 6,000 more hours at enrichment activities, creating a critical education gap. It's not an achievement gap but an opportunity gap. Afternoons filled with caring adults in the classroom offer moments of discovery that can be a critical advantage all children can enjoy. Now there is a federal law to further support and encourage that. That is a gift for all children in our nation.

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