Texas Senate Education Committee
Hearing on Extended Learning Time

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Education Commission of the State
The only nationwide education interstate compact

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Web Site: www.ecs.org
Overview

- Current trends in learning time in America
  - Number of instructional days/hours required
  - Trends over the past 40 years
  - What counts as learning time?

- The cost of extended learning time
  - The cost of traditional models
  - New models in extended learning
Number of Days/Hours

- All 50 states have minimum time requirements:
  - 17 states measure in days
  - 7 states measure in hours
  - 26 states give districts the option of days or hours

- Time ranges:
  - Longest requirement 186 days – Kansas (Grades 1-11)
  - Shortest requirement 160 days – Colorado
Number of Days/Hours

- Over 180 days (1,000 hours): 5 states
- 180 days (990 to 1,000 hours): 32 states
- 175 to 179 days (989 to 957 hours): 9 states
- Below 175 days (957 hours): 4 states
Number of Days/Hours

- Over 180 days: 38 states
- 180 days: 6 states
- 175 to 179 days: 17 states
- Below 175 days: 2 states

Legend:
- Blue: Over 180 days
- Green: 180 days
- Yellow: 175 to 179 days
- Red: Below 175 days
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Over 180</th>
<th>178 to 180</th>
<th>175 to 177</th>
<th>Under 175</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Defining School Time

• States define an “instructional day” differently
  
  • Greater time requirements
    • 7 hours - Texas (Includes recess & intermissions)
    • 6.5 hours - Tennessee
  
  • Lesser time requirements
    • 3 hrs – Maryland & Missouri
    • 4 hrs - California
  
  • Some states allow districts some flexibility
    • Delaware – At least 3.5 hrs a day and 31.5 hours a week
Defining Instructional Time

- 38 states define what can or cannot count toward “instruction time”

- Common exclusions
  - Intermission/Passing period: 10 states
  - Lunch: 18 states
  - Recess: 10 states

- Common Inclusions
  - Intermission/Passing period: 4 states
  - Recess: 6 states
The Cost of Extended Time

• Higher cost
  • Extending the school year under the current model
  • This would cost Texas approximately $72 mill per day

• Lower cost
  • Targeted programs (At-risk students or G&T)
  • Non-educational programs (After school, summer school or weekends)
  • Staggered teaching schedules
Questions & Answers

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