



## EDUCATION COMMISSION OF THE STATES

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## Learning Time in America: Trends to Reform the American School Calendar

Expanded-time district schools, those that provide learning time for seven-plus hours per day, now outnumber expanded-time charter schools for the first time. These schools, largely in urban communities, serve more than 1 million students and provide them with more time to accelerate academic growth and enable a well-rounded, enriching education.

A [new joint report](#) from the [National Center on Time & Learning \(NCTL\)](#) and Education Commission of the States shows that at least 35 districts across more than 10 states are fueling the growth of schools that have implemented a longer school day and/or year. The report, released today along with an informational database, identifies more than 50 laws related to school time from the two most recent legislative sessions.

[Learning Time in America: Trends to reform the American school calendar](#) outlines the policy trends at the local, state and federal levels that often result in substantially more learning hours for students. Some state policymakers, including those in Massachusetts and New York, have promoted expanding time in class as a key strategy to turn around chronically underperforming.

"Redesigning and significantly expanding the school day can give students more than two additional years of learning time over the course of their education providing them more personalized learning to build the skills needed for success in college, the workforce and life," said Jennifer Davis, co-founder and president of NCTL.

*Some key takeaways from the report:*

- The number of students served by expanded-time district schools has more than doubled -- from 520,000 to more than 1 million -- since 2012.
- Expanded-time schools have significantly more learning time than the standard school schedule of 180 six-and-a-half hour days. The average length of the school day among the 2,009 expanded-time schools is 7.6 hours.
- Nearly 70 percent of expanded-time schools have student populations that are at least 75 percent free or reduced-price lunch eligible, compared with 20 percent of all public schools in the U.S.

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