

Children at Risk Supports Senate Bill 949 (Ellis) and House Bill 642 (Rodriguez)

The research is clear: more time learning equals improved academic achievement and enhanced student learning.

- In the United States, it has historically been the public education system that has allowed individuals to move from poverty to the middle class. However, our public education system has not always kept up with changing times.
- In 2009, the National Assessment of Educational Progress found that 27% of Texas 8th graders were below basic reading achievement levels.
- During the 2010 school year, 80% of Houston ISD (HISD) students were classified as economically disadvantaged and 63% were considered at risk of dropping out.
- For the Class of 2008, HISD only graduated 54% of its incoming freshmen.
- As part of a comprehensive reform effort, lengthening the school year can play an integral role in providing a better education for all children and enabling today's students to compete in the global economy of the 21st Century.

There are numerous benefits associated with extended learning time.

- Studies have proven that more time spent in the classroom, particularly for low-income students, translates into more time for student engagement and a deeper level of study.
- Low-income and minority students benefit most from extended learning time because lower-income students are less likely than their more affluent peers to have educational resources outside of school, and are more likely to fall further behind on summer vacation.
- KIPP (an open-enrollment charter network) found that, by expanding learning time by 30%, the average student proficiency rate saw a 44% increase in math, 19% increase in science, and 39% increases in English/Language Arts compared to previous years.

Senate Bill 949 and House Bill 1555 targets the Houston ISD and supports its ongoing effort to improve academic success by extending quality learning time.

- Targeted schools in Houston ISD will begin the school year a few weeks earlier by adding, at its own local expense, locally funded days of instruction for up to 20 percent of its campuses with some of the most disadvantaged students in the state.
- This narrow, targeted bill will give these students the instructional time they need – and a better chance for their future.

For Questions or comments please contact:

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