

BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS



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Beethoven/Ohrenberger

BTU K-8

Carter Development Ctr.

Curley K-8

Dearborn Middle

Edison K-8

Edwards Middle

Eliot K-8

Frederick Pilot Middle

Gavin Middle

Greenwood, Sarah K-8

Harbor Middle

Hernandez K-8

Hurley K-8

Irving Middle

Jackson/Mann K-8

Kilmer K-8

King K-8

Higginson/Lewis K-8

Lyndon K-8

Lyon K-8

McKay K-8

McKinley

Middle School Academy

Mildred Ave

Mission Hill K-8

Murphy K-8

Orchard Gardens K-8

Perry K-8

Rogers Middle

Roosevelt K-8

Timilty Middle

Tobin K-8

Umana Middle

Warren/Prescott K-8

Young Achievers K-8

Expanded Learning Time Initiative

Schools across the country are looking at how to use time differently. Charter schools have shown that adding time is a critical component to raising student achievement. Some school districts are looking at re-organizing time in response to financial pressures. Others are adopting “virtual” school models, using technology as a way to change how instruction is delivered. All of these approaches speak to a need to rethink the traditional school model.

In Massachusetts, the state has launched the Expanded Learning Time (ELT) Initiative where over 20 schools are provided an additional 300 hours of student learning time. Securing state funding at a rate of 1,300 per student, the Initiative has proven to be a cost effective model, when compared to the relative average per pupil cost. Early results appear promising as students are exposed to additional academic and extracurricular hours.

The Edwards Middle School is one example of an ELT school that has flourished using the longer school day. Just a few years ago, the school was on the brink of closure with incredibly poor academic outcomes and a dwindling enrollment. Within three years of adopting ELT, the test scores are among the highest in the district and the Edwards is the most highly chosen school in Boston. Perhaps most impressive is that the achievement gap at the school has been virtually eliminated.

To say that schools will succeed simply by adding more hours to the school day is not realistic. The need to plan how best to use that time is crucial, as are a host of other conditions. In the end, adding more time can be seen as one effective strategy for increasing educational outcomes for our children.