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Statewide Input on Extended Learning Opportunities

Research broadly indicates additional learning time is one factor that can improve student outcomes. In New Mexico, three programs provide opportunities for extended learning: the K-5 Plus extended school year program, Extended Learning Time programs, and a new pilot program to extend instructional hours. With these programs, teachers have additional time to support students most at-risk of falling academically behind.

The need for additional learning time was among the findings of the 1st Judicial District court in the consolidated *Martinez-Yazzie* lawsuit. The court found K-3 Plus, the predecessor of the K-5 Plus program, had positive effects on student outcomes, particularly for low-income students and noted “it would be beneficial for all students enrolled in high poverty schools to be enrolled in the K-3 Plus program.”

In response to these findings, the Legislature expanded the K-3 Plus program to K-5 Plus and provided sufficient funding for all high poverty elementary schools to participate in the program. Additionally, Extended Learning Time program could add instructional time for students in all grade levels. To provide year-to-year funding stability, these programs were added to the public school funding formula. Together, these programs provide funds to offer extended instructional time for all students during the 2021-2022 school year.

Key Takeaways

Despite sufficient funding for all students in FY22, PED estimates that only 7 percent of students will participate in K-5 Plus programming during the 2021-2022 school year. Less than half of students will participate in Extended Learning Time programs.

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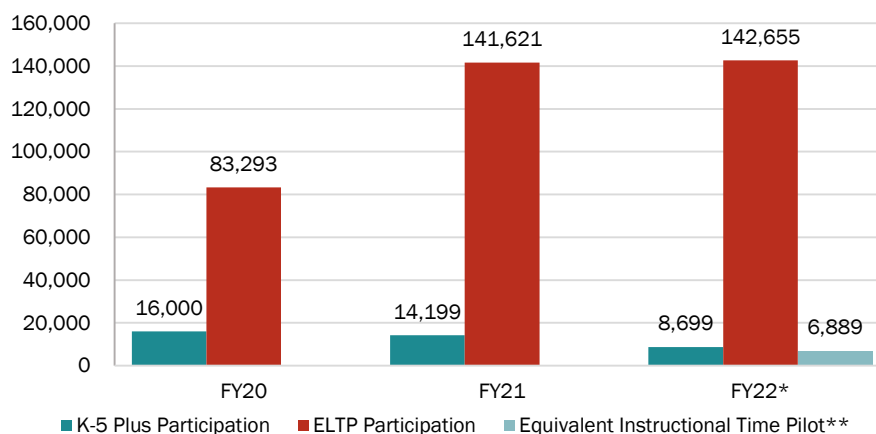
Research has yet to be conducted comparing K-5 Plus and other programs extending learning time.

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While there is anecdotal information about how Extended Learning Time programs are being implemented across the state, there is no set analysis for Extended Learning Time Programs or for the Equivalent Instructional Hours Pilot Program.

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Statewide Student Participation



*Estimated participation

** Program was fully awarded in FY22

Source: LESC Files

New Mexico statute currently mandates a minimum number of instructional hours, allowing school districts flexibility to determine the number of instructional days.

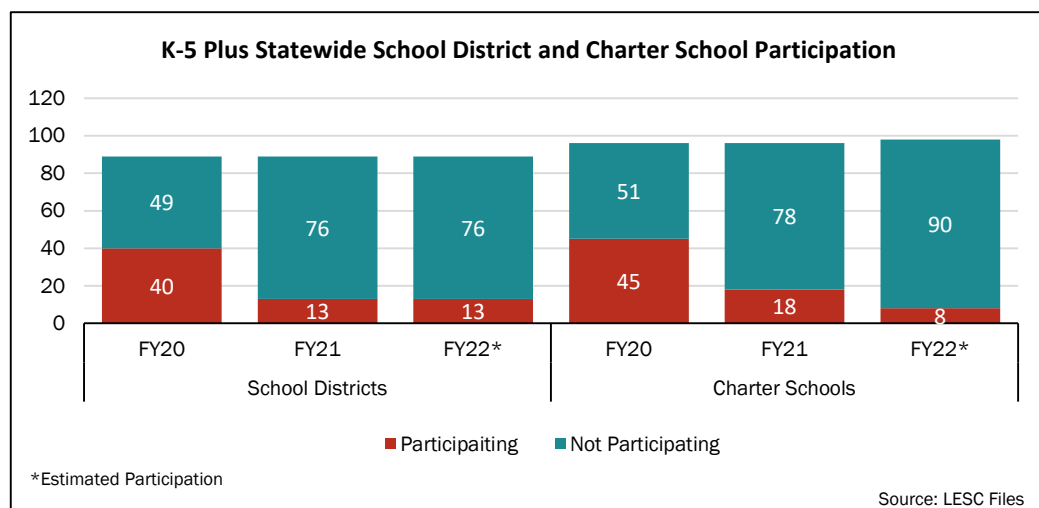
While there is no existing research in New Mexico on the efficacy of Extended Learning Time programs, research on the programmatic model K-5 Plus indicates fidelity to the program is most effective for improving student outcomes. Fidelity to the K-5 Plus model requires the program be implemented schoolwide and not as a remedial summer school or targeted intervention program. However, many school districts noted the requirement to add additional time as 25 instructional days was burdensome. In response, the Legislature appropriated \$20 million over two years to fund a pilot program testing the efficacy of equivalent instructional hours.

In addition to available state funding, the federal government will require schools to spend 20 percent of their Covid-19 relief funds to address missed instructional time, representing \$176 million for New Mexico schools to direct toward missed instructional time through October 2024. The Public Education Department (PED) is required to spend 7 percent, or \$6.9 million, of their federal funds to address missed instructional time, with two percent set aside for summer and afterschool programs.

Additional Learning Time Programs

K-5 Plus

Although the state continues to provide funding for every low-income, low-performing school to provide K-5 Plus to all of their elementary students, participation in the program has been decreasing. For FY22, PED estimates 8,699 students, or 7 percent of all elementary school students, will participate in a K-5 Plus program. The total number of school districts and charter schools participating in the program has fallen from 85 in FY20 to 21 in FY22.



School districts noted the requirements to ensure students stay with their K-5 Plus cohort during the regular school year, the short implementation period, and challenges with adjusting the school calendar, including lack of interest in extending the school year from

parents and teachers in their communities, as factors leading to the low uptake of K-5 Plus programs in FY20.

Several of the statutory requirements of the original K-5 Plus program proved challenging for schools. During the 2021 regular session, the Legislature sought to address many of these concerns, providing greater flexibility. These amendments to the K-5 Plus Act were developed with input from school district and charter schools. The changes:

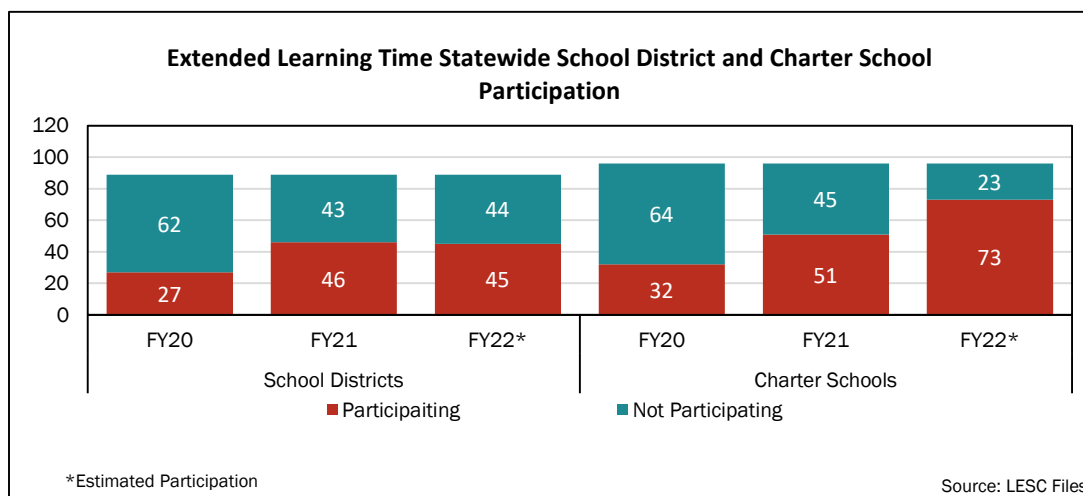
- Allow school districts and charter schools to add additional days at any time during their school year, rather than prior to the start of the school year;
- Require all K-5 Plus programs to be implemented school-wide for all students attending a school; and
- Softens a strict interpretation of the K-5 Plus cohorting requirement.

Requirements for Generating K-5 Plus Program Units	
4-Day School Instructional Week	5-Day School Instructional Week
20 Additional Instructional Days	25 Additional Instructional Days
Or	Or
175 Total Instructional Days	205 Total Instructional Days

Extended Learning Time Programs

Department-approved school-wide Extended Learning Time programs (ELTP) increase the number of school days without being limited to instructional days, guarantee 80 hours of professional development time for teachers, and provide after-school programs for students. ELTP allows school districts and charter schools to add 10 days of equivalent hours if the school district or charter school is participating in a schoolwide K-5 Plus program in addition to the ELTP program. If a school district or charter school is not participating in a K-5 Plus program in addition to an ELTP program, the school district or charter school must add additional time in the form of 10 additional days.

Extended Learning Time programs are considered an extended school calendar and must be implemented for all students in a participating school. After-school program opportunities for academic learning, extracurricular or enrichment programming must not supplant federally funded programs.



Requirements for Generating ELTP Program Units	
4-Day School Instructional Week	5-Day School Instructional Week
8 Additional Instructional Days	10 Additional Instructional Days
Or	Or
160 Total Instructional Days	190 Total Instructional Days

During the 2021 Legislative Session, the Legislature sought to address implementation concerns raised by school district and charter school leaders by allowing schools to add instructional days or instructional hours to qualify for the program. The changes also

provided accommodation for four-day school weeks, shortening the number of days required for these school districts.

Equivalent Instructional Hours Pilot Program

Some school districts noted the requirement to add additional time only as 25 instructional days to be eligible for the K-5 Plus program was burdensome and advocated for instructional hours to be allowed in lieu of days. The Legislature sought to address this concern by allowing school districts and charter schools to generate K-5 Plus program funding by adding equivalent hours once a minimum number of total instructional days was met. This program provides grants to elementary schools to provide an additional 140 hours of instructional time

In 2021, the Legislature authorized the two-year pilot program, appropriating \$20 million from the public education reform fund, with \$10 million authorized for FY22 and \$10 million authorized for FY23. Five school districts and two state-chartered charter schools are participating in the pilot and while other extended school year programs have struggled to reach full participation, school districts and charter schools showed sufficient interest in the pilot program to fully award funding in FY22.

Participation in the Instructional Pilot Program		
School District or Charter School	Number of Students	Funding
Alamogordo Public Schools	1,057	\$1,577,000
Albuquerque Public Schools	3,290	\$4,708,000
Belen Consolidated Schools	1,428	\$2,043,700
Cobre Consolidated Schools	258	\$369,252
Dulce Independent Schools	300	\$429,363
School of Dreams Academy	181	\$259,049
Albuquerque Bilingual Academy	375	\$536,704
Statewide Total	6,889	\$9,923,068

Additional Research on Extended Learning

Expanded Learning Time

District leaders considering ELT should invest in evidence-based methods to support students, while also fostering trusting relationships and opportunities for a well-rounded education.

<https://edtrust.org/resource/expanded-learning-time/>

New Mexico StartSmart K-3 Plus Validation Study. This study found statistically significant effects of the program on Kindergarten readiness in four out of the six outcome areas.

<https://ccpi.unm.edu/sites/default/files/publications/EvaluatorReport.pdf>

What does the research say about increased learning time and student outcomes?

Findings suggest that the impacts of these programs depend on the settings, implementation features, and types of students targeted. https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/edlabs/regions/appalachia/pdf/REL_2014061.pdf

Analysis of Issues Concerning Extended Learning Time

This report provides a brief review of past extended learning time initiatives and research, instructional time in other countries, as well as examples of extended learning time programs and discusses barriers to implementation.

<https://www.everycrsreport.com/reports/R40568.html>