

## Extended Learning Time

### District and School Improvement at American Institutes for Research (AIR)

AIR's District and School Improvement Center (<http://revivingschools.org/>) provides a smart, real-world, hands-on approach to school improvement that is based on a framework grounded in research and refined by practice. Instead of implementing a one-size-fits-all program, we identify the needs specific to districts and schools and provide guidance for modifying existing programming or starting fresh. District and School Improvement Center staff believe that sustained district and school turnaround and transformation can be achieved through building capacity at all levels of the educational system and developing a strong collaborative partnership among teachers, leaders, families, and communities.

### Background

Our approach is to help our schools and districts find the best solution for their context and maximize the time for improved student learning. Research by Marzano (2003) estimates that students have approximately 1,008 instructional hours during the course of a school year, assuming a school calendar of 180 days and approximately 5.6 hours per day, devoted to instruction in all academic areas. For students who are well below grade level and in schools with poor student performance, additional time in the school day is needed to close achievement gaps and, therefore, is a requirement of the school transformation model.

### Service Description

The needs of students in chronically underperforming schools likely require the expansion of learning opportunities and more access to academic remediation and enrichment through the expansion of the school day or the implementation of high-quality afterschool programs, or both. Throughout our extensive work with afterschool and expanded learning programs, AIR has maintained a focus on ensuring the broad dissemination of practices that support engaging and high-quality programs that are likely to promote youth development and academic success.

We assist our schools with finding solutions to expanding learning opportunities through extending the school day or year; creating flexible schedules for students and teachers; involving community partners in providing learning opportunities; and programming for before, after, and summer school. The best approach for a school or district depends on a variety of factors. We know that outside forces such as teacher contracts, buses, and community concerns all factor into the choices made. With this in mind, AIR provides solutions that meet the specific contextual needs of your school, staff, students, and community.

### Value We Bring

AIR partner schools use data to drive decisions on extended learning time for students in a way that aligns with their school improvement goals and student needs. Providing opportunities for student learning and enrichment is a strategy that can be a catalyst for improvement.

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