

Expanded Learning Time (ELT):

Enabling Higher Achievement and Broader Opportunities for Children

October 2009

We are at a Critical Juncture in the Movement to Expand Learning Time

"We can no longer afford an academic calendar designed when America was a nation of farmers... That calendar may have once made sense, but today, it puts us at a competitive disadvantage."

- President Barack Obama, March 9, 2009

- "Time" now at the forefront of education reform dialogue
 - Charter schools and the Massachusetts ELT Initiative show the value of more time for learning
- Education leaders highly focused on 4 **core concerns** - all 4 underscore the need for more learning time:
 - The unrelenting achievement gap
 - Trend toward the narrowing of the curriculum (arts, physical education, social studies and other important programs and subjects cut)
 - The need to enhance teacher quality
 - International competitiveness

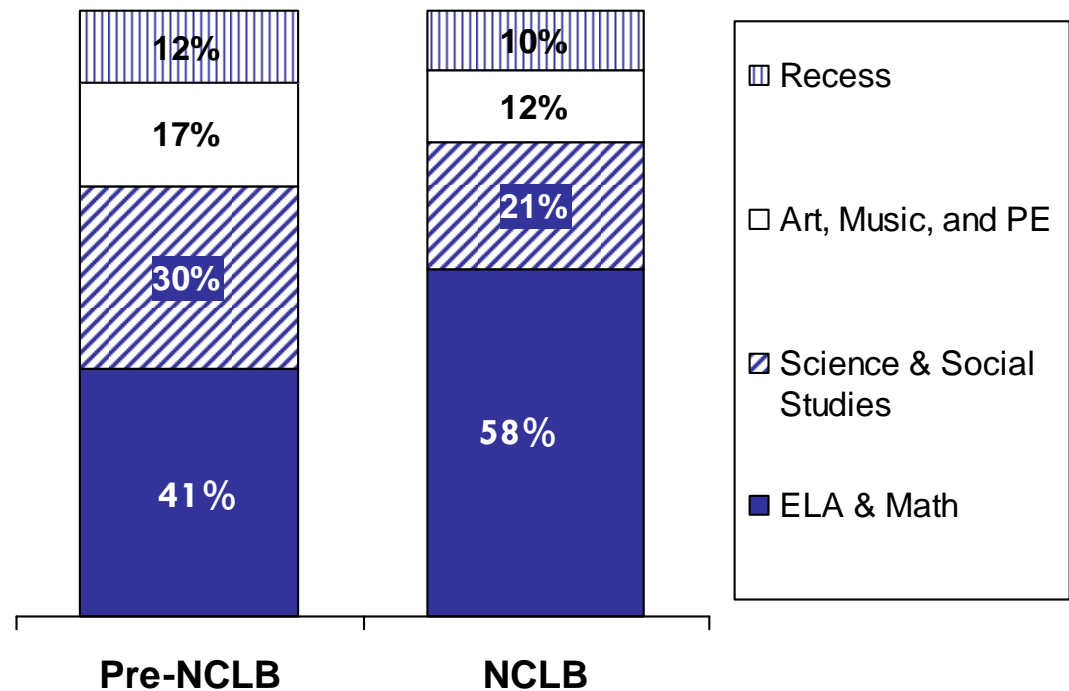
"I think our school day is too short, our week is too short, our year is too short."

- Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, January 2009 Senate Confirmation Hearing

Why More School Time is Needed: Narrowing the Curriculum

- As schools work to meet the benchmarks established by NCLB, they have increased time for English Language Arts and Math at the expense of other subjects.
- Time spent on science, social studies, art, music and PE has been cut by one-third since the start of NCLB.
- In today's knowledge-based economy that values problem-solving, teamwork and communications, our students need more exposure, not less exposure, to these subjects.

Percentage of Time Spent in Various Subjects in Elementary Schools

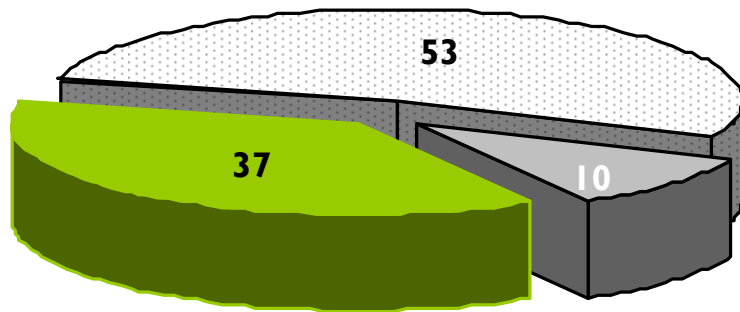


Source: Center on Education Policy, Feb. 2008

Why More School Time is Needed: Teacher Effectiveness

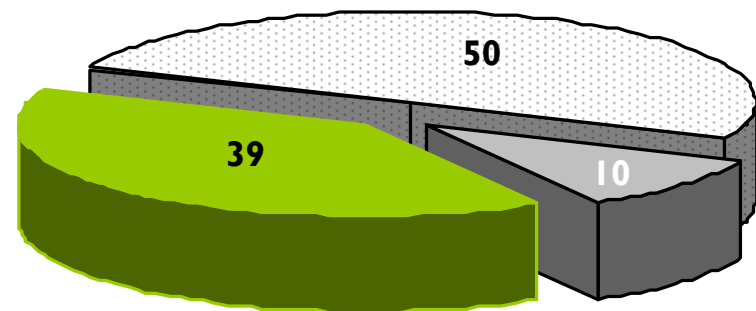
The majority of teachers do not believe they have adequate time to complete the curriculum and to meet the needs of all their students

Adequate time to complete the curriculum



■ Agree ■ Disagree ■ Neither Agree/Disagree

Adequate time to meet the needs of all students



■ Agree ■ Disagree ■ Neither Agree/Disagree

Note: The Massachusetts Teaching, Learning and Leading Survey: Creating Conditions Where Teachers Stay and Teachers Thrive was released on February 24, 2009 to the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. The MassTells is a survey of 40,028 teachers created by a coalition of stakeholder groups representing teachers, superintendents, community and business groups.

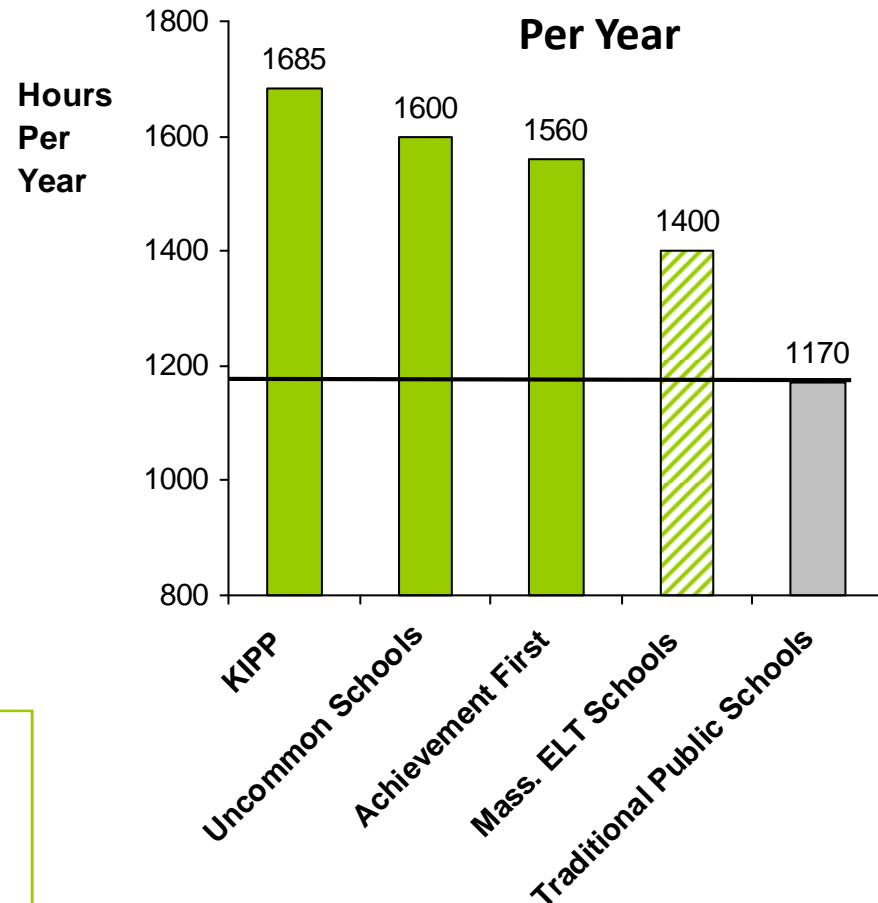
Three of the Most Successful Charter School Networks in the U.S. Consider “More Time” a Core Design Element

- **KIPP Academy**
66 Schools in 19 states serving 16,000 students
- **Achievement First**
15 Schools serving 3,700 students in CT and NY (e.g. Amistad Academy, New Haven)
- **Uncommon Schools**
11 Schools serving 10,000 low-income students in NY and NJ (e.g. North Star Academy, Newark)

Massachusetts ELT Schools

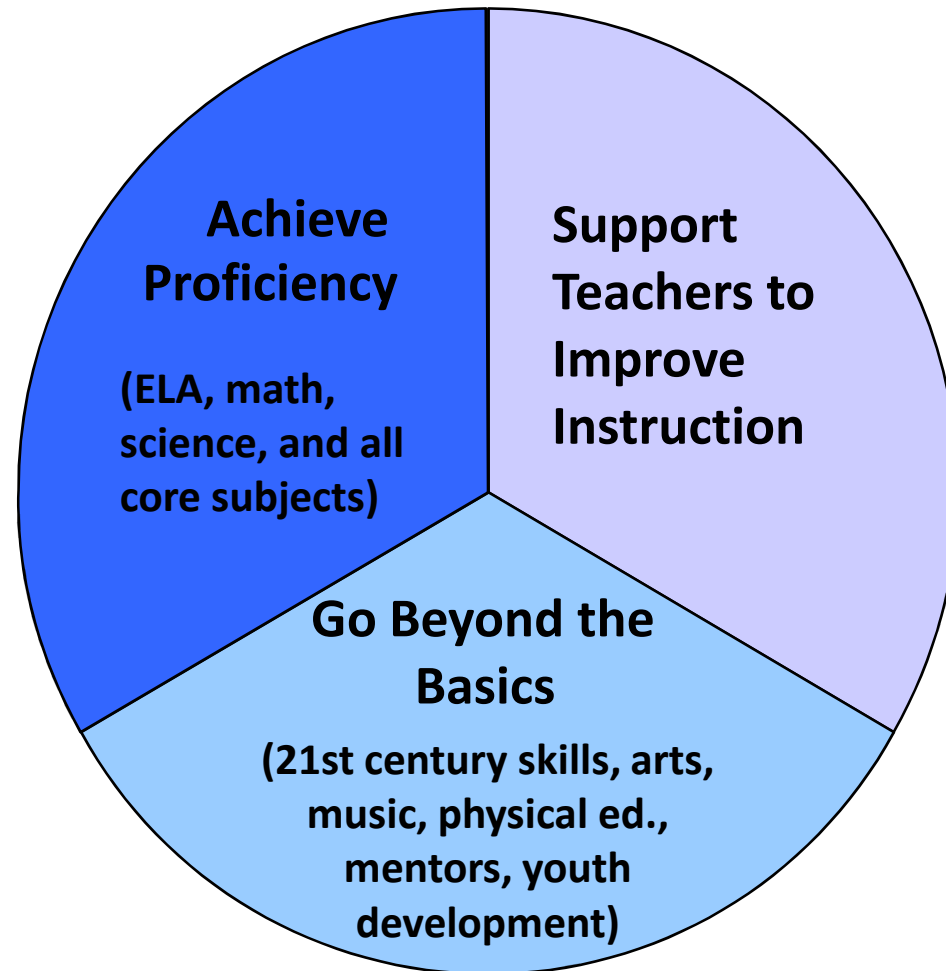
22 schools in MA serving more than 12,000 students


Comparison of School Time



Enabling a Well-Rounded Education

A school calendar of 180, 6½-hour days is not enough time to:



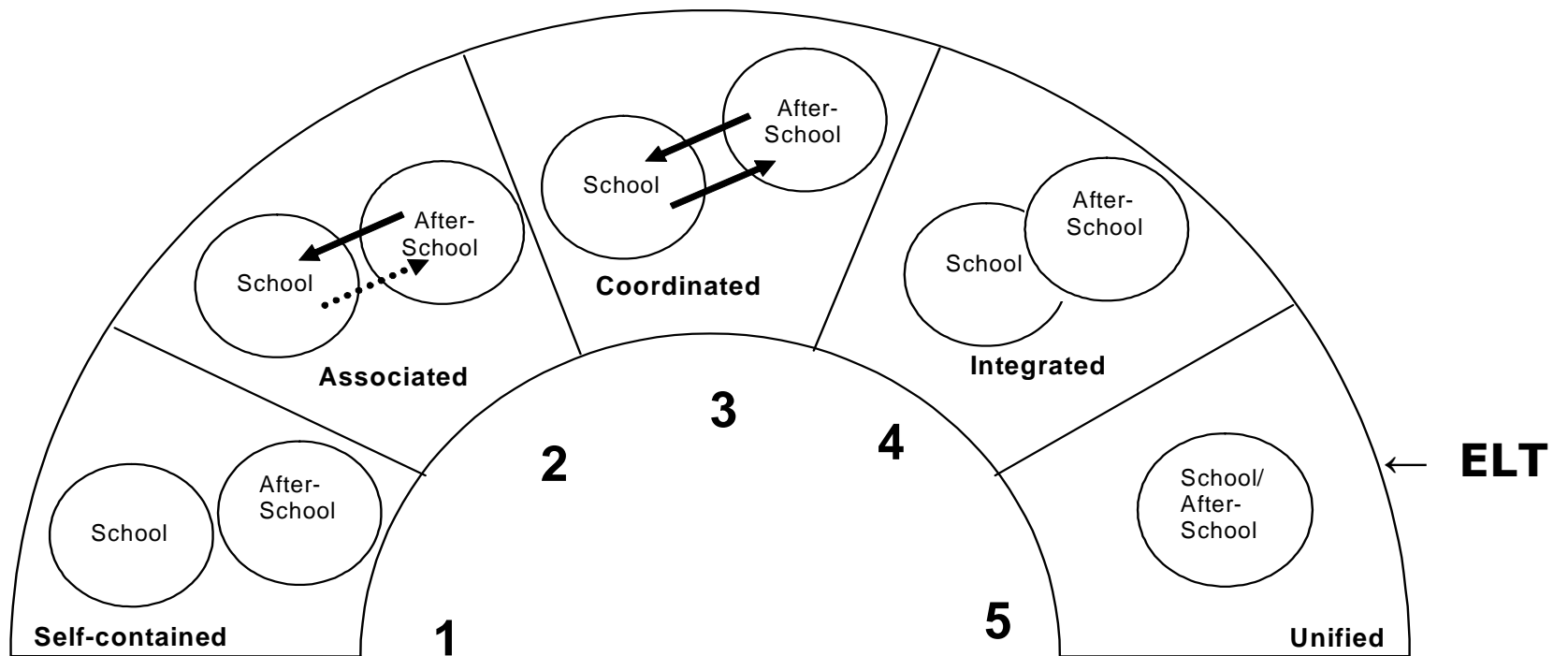


Massachusetts

Expanded Learning Time Initiative:

First State Policy Initiative To Redesign School Schedules Adding At Least 300 Hours For All Students In Participating Schools

Evolution of the Model



Source: Program for Afterschool Education and Research, Harvard, 2002

MA Expanded Learning Time Initiative

What is it?

- A state policy initiative launched in 2005 with \$500,000 in state funds to support school planning; currently **22 schools** and **12,000** students are participating.
- **Partnership** between Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and Massachusetts 2020, with the support of Governor Patrick and the Legislature. Mass 2020/NCTL provides state policy support as well as district and school-level technical assistance.
- Schools, with district support, **volunteer** to redesign their schedules and add at least **300 more hours** for **ALL** students in the school; teacher agreements are **negotiated locally**.
- Whole school **redesign** required for more effective use of time; **inclusive year-long, data driven planning process** is key.

MA Expanded Learning Time Initiative

What is it?

- **Balanced approach** to adding time aimed at improving academic outcomes and broadening opportunities for students:
 - Core academics
 - Enrichment opportunities (often provided by community partners)
 - Teacher planning and professional development
- State funds **13%** (\$1,300) more per pupil for 30% (300 hours) more time for implementing schools; school selection is **competitive**
- Full-scale, multi-year **evaluation and Knowledge Capture strategy** to gauge impact and effectiveness

Massachusetts Expanded Learning Time Initiative

	2009 - 2010
Schools	22
Districts	11
Students	12,000
Elem/K-8/Middle/ HS	9/4/8/1
State Funding	\$15.6 million

30 additional schools have submitted ELT redesign proposals to the Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Education.

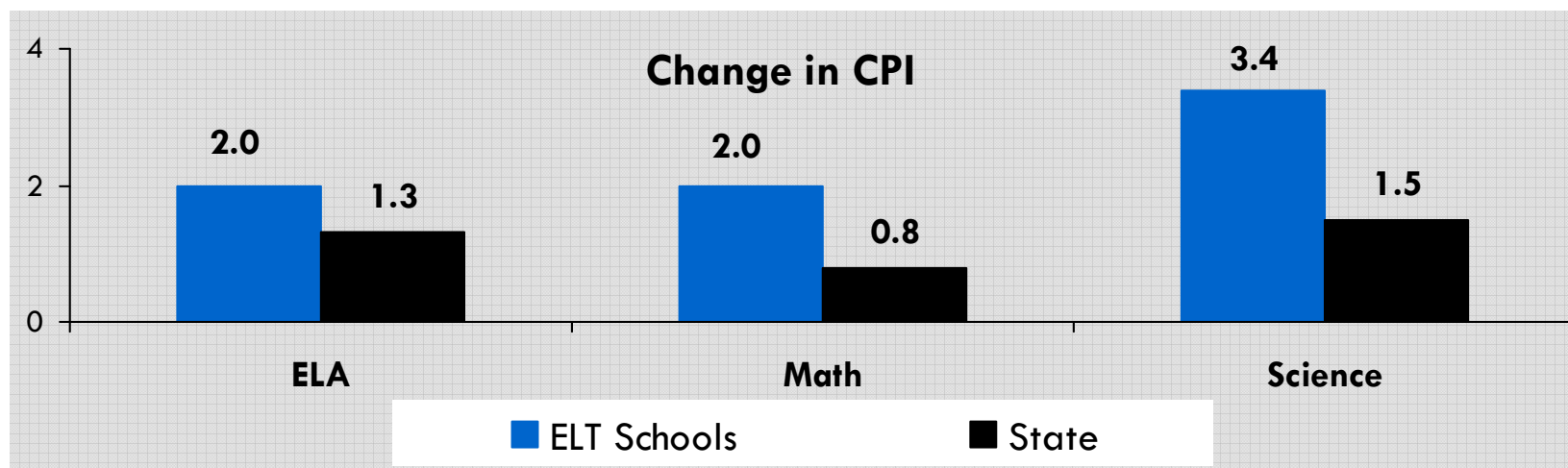
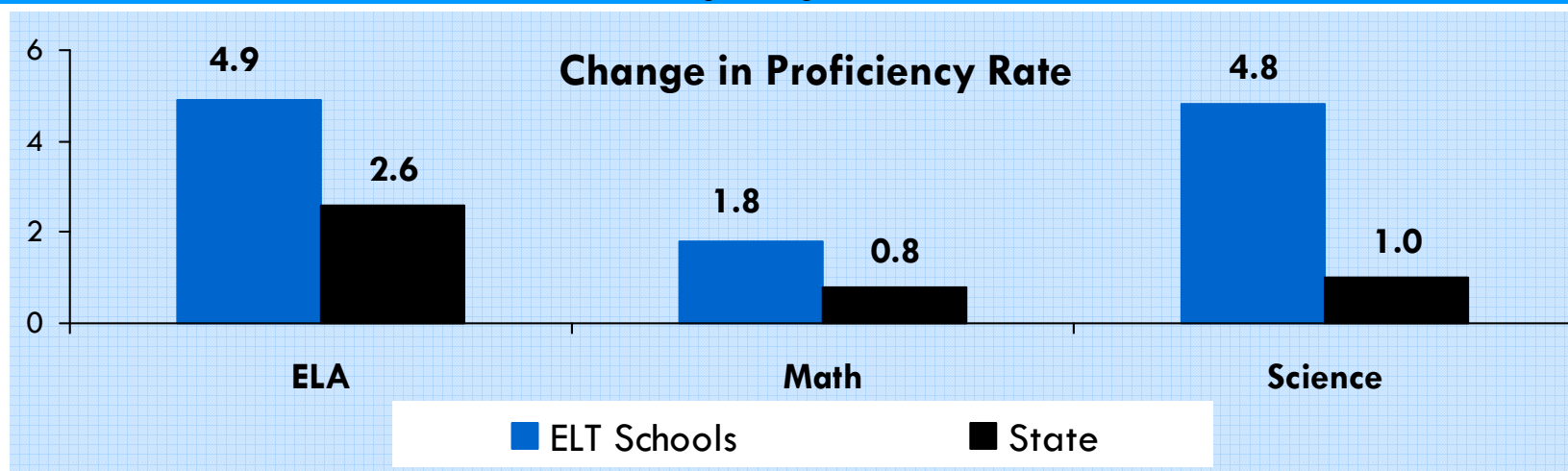
Expanded Learning Time Initiative

Year Three Results

After three years of implementation, what have we learned?

- Students have shown promising gains in achievement
 - ✓ Students across all Cohort 1 ELT schools achieved higher rates of proficiency compared to their historical performance in all three subject areas.
 - ✓ Students in middle grades (6th – 8th) performed especially well. Across all schools, grades 6th – 8th outperformed the state in math and ELA.
 - ✓ Several middle school grades in a number of schools posted particularly impressive gains, narrowing the achievement gap by at least 50% in just three years.
- Parents and teachers highly satisfied
 - ✓ Parents see academic gains for their children
 - ✓ Teachers are able to enhance their teaching and believe students are learning more

Change in Proficiency and CPI: 2008 to 2009 ELT Schools (All Grades) vs. State n=25* *By Subject*



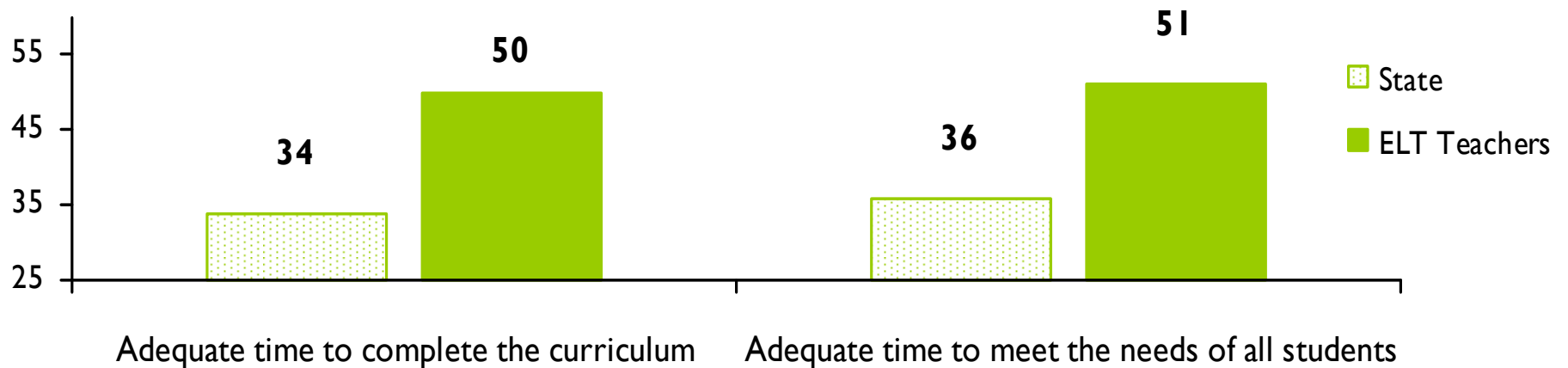
CPI = Composite Performance Index. State DOE calculated measure of progress toward proficiency for all students. Used to determine AYP in MA.

* Viveiros Elementary School (Fall River) has no 2008 data and so are excluded from the analysis.

How Teachers Perceive Impact of Expanded Learning Time

Higher percentages of teachers in Expanded Learning Time schools believe they have sufficient time to complete the curriculum and meet the needs of all students compared to teachers in traditional schools.

Percent of Teachers Agreeing



Source: *MassTeLLS, 2009*

(p < .001)

Note: The Massachusetts Teaching, Learning and Leading Survey: Creating Conditions Where Teachers Stay and Teachers Thrive was released on February 24, 2009 to the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. The MassTells is a coalition of stakeholder groups representing teachers, superintendents, community and business groups.

More than 150 organizations partner with ELT schools to broaden opportunities for Massachusetts students



BOSTON BALLET

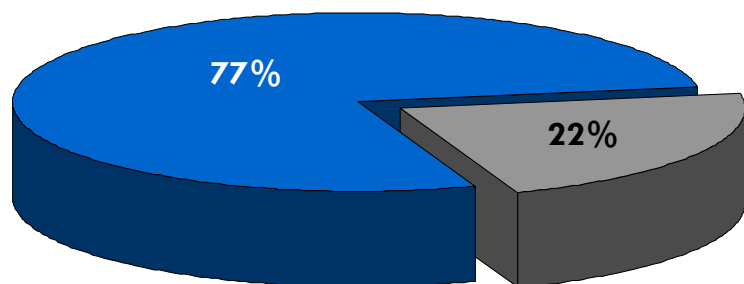


ARTS FOR LEARNING



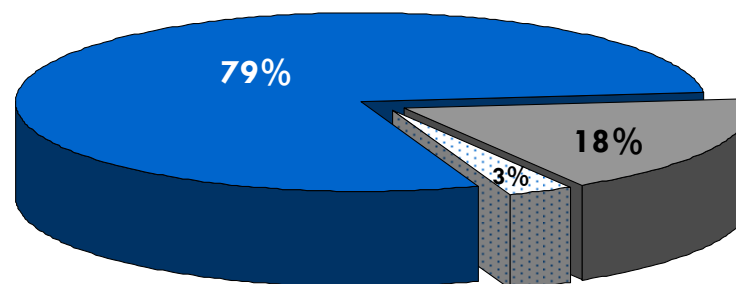
Parents See the Benefits of ELT

Do you think having a longer school day is helping your child improve how they're doing in school?



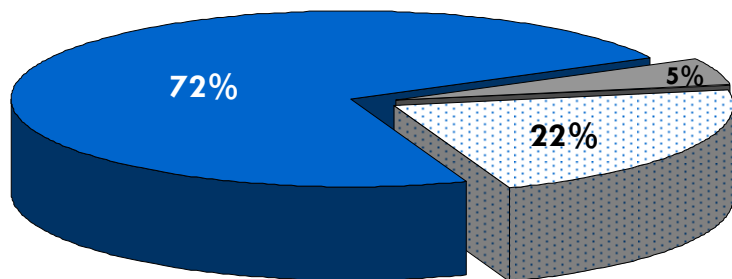
■ A Lot of/Some Improvement ■ No Difference

Do you agree that there should be more schools in Massachusetts with a longer day?



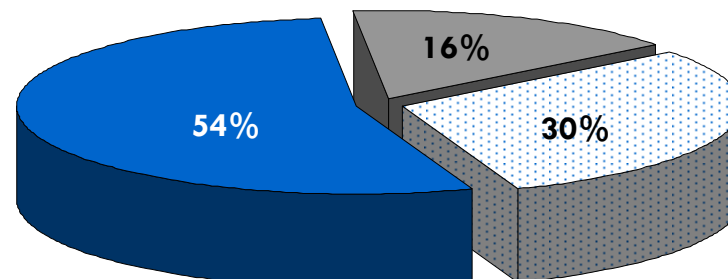
■ Agree ■ Disagree □ No Answer

How has the new schedule impacted the quality of your child's education?



■ Much/Somewhat Better ■ Much/Somewhat Worse □ No Change

How has the new school schedule impacted your child's interest in school?



■ Much/Somewhat Better ■ Much/Somewhat Worse □ No Change



Launched in 2007



Our Mission

The **National Center on Time & Learning (NCTL)** is dedicated to expanding learning time to improve student achievement and enable a well-rounded education, with an emphasis on underserved children.

Through **research, public policy** and **technical assistance**, we support initiatives that add more school time for academic and enrichment opportunities to help all children meet the demands of the 21st Century.

Obama Administration Encourages Use of ARRA Funds to Expand Learning Time

- NCTL is supporting states around the use of ARRA resources to launch ELT Initiatives; USED ARRA guidelines encourage ELT for struggling schools:
 - Race to the Top (preliminary guidelines released July 27th) - **\$4.35 billion**
 - School Improvement Grants (preliminary guidelines released August 26th) - **\$3.45 billion**
 - Local Innovation Fund (preliminary guidelines released October 6th) - **\$650 million**
- Future Federal Policy Opportunities to Expand ELT Initiatives:
 - **TIME Act**
 - **ESEA Reauthorization**

Thank You

For more information contact:

Jennifer Davis, President & CEO:

jennifer@timeandlearning.org

To learn more about our work, visit us at:

www.timeandlearning.org

www.mass2020.org

