

# *Texas Senate Education Committee*

## *Hearing on Extended Learning Time*

Austin, Texas  
September 13, 2012



**Education Commission**  
of the **S t a t e s**

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# Education Commission of the States

- ▶ The only nationwide education interstate compact
- ▶ Founded in 1965 to enlighten, equip and engage education policy makers
- ▶ 53 member states, territories and the District of Columbia
- ▶ Web Site: [www.ecs.org](http://www.ecs.org)



# Overview

- Current trends in learning time in America
  - Number of instructional days/hours required
  - Trends over the past 40 years
  - What counts as learning time?
- The cost of extended learning time
  - The cost of traditional models
  - New models in extended learning



# Number of Days/Hours

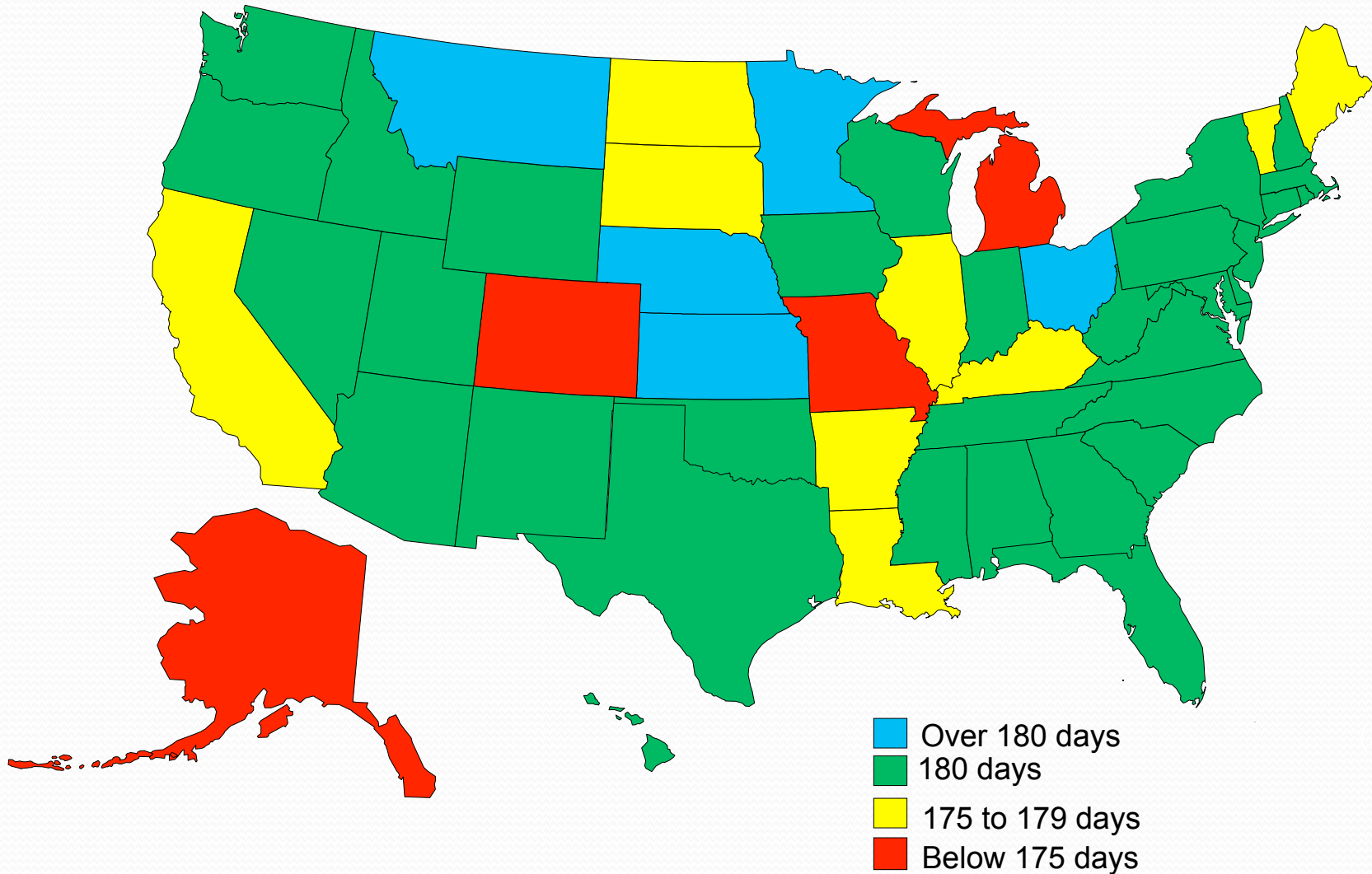
- All 50 states have minimum time requirements:
  - 17 states measure in days
  - 7 states measure in hours
  - 26 states give districts the option of days or hours
- Time ranges:
  - Longest requirement 186 days – Kansas (*Grades 1-11*)
  - Shortest requirement 160 days – Colorado



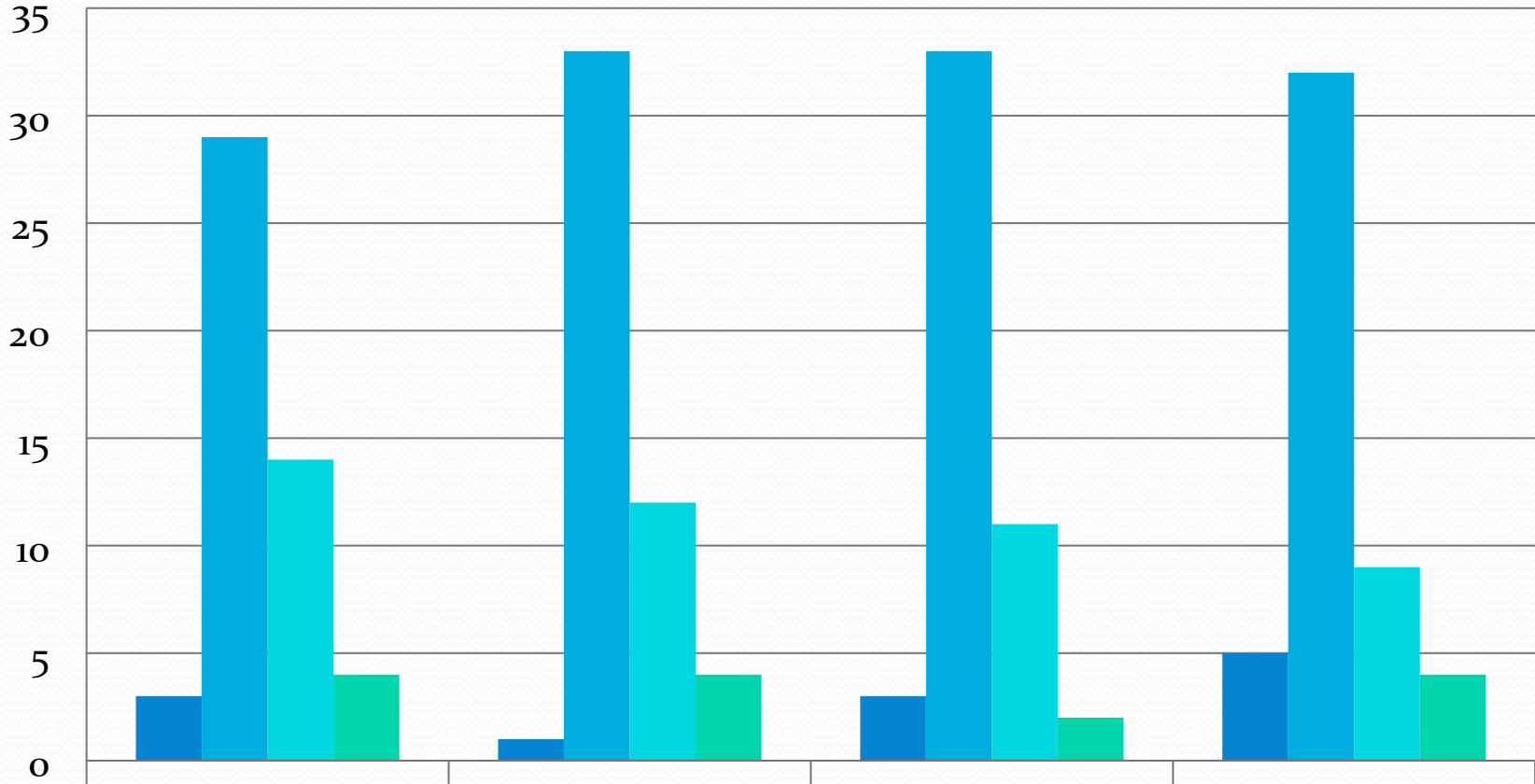
# Number of Days/Hours

- Over 180 days (*1,000 hours*): 5 states
- 180 days (*990 to 1,000 hours*): 32 states
- 175 to 179 days (*989 to 957 hours*): 9 states
- Below 175 days (*957 hours*): 4 states

# Number of Days/Hours



# Length of School Year



	1980	1990	2000	2011
<b>Over 180</b>	3	1	3	5
<b>178 to 180</b>	29	33	33	32
<b>175 to 177</b>	14	12	11	9
<b>Under 175</b>	4	4	2	4



# Defining School Time

- States define an “instructional day” differently
  - Greater time requirements
    - 7 hours - Texas (Includes recess & intermissions)
    - 6.5 hours - Tennessee
  - Lesser time requirements
    - 3 hrs – Maryland & Missouri
    - 4 hrs - California
  - Some states allow districts some flexibility
    - Delaware – At least 3.5 hrs a day and 31.5 hours a week





# Defining Instructional Time

- 38 states define what can or cannot count toward “instruction time”
- Common exclusions
  - Intermission/Passing period 10 states
  - Lunch 18 states
  - Recess 10 states
- Common Inclusions
  - Intermission/Passing period 4 states
  - Recess 6 states



# The Cost of Extended Time

- Higher cost
  - Extending the school year under the current model
  - This would cost Texas approximately \$72 mill per day
- Lower cost
  - Targeted programs (At-risk students or G&T)
  - Non-educational programs (After school, summer school or weekends)
  - Staggered teaching schedules

# Questions & Answers

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