

Extended School Year Incentive

A Summary of TEA's HB 3 in 30 Video

October 18, 2019

On October 17th, the Texas Education Agency released the [next video](#) in its "HB 3 in 30" series covering the new extended school year incentive. The accompanying "To the Administrator Addressed" letter can be found [here](#).

Key Points:

1. House Bill 3 gives districts the option to extend their school year and receive **additional funding for up to 30 additional half-days beginning with the 2020-21 school year**.
2. TEA is very encouraging of districts using this incentive to **enact major restructurings of their academic calendar**.
3. Extending the school year is something districts should undergo deliberately with extensive planning and community buy-in.

New Incentive Included in HB 3 ([2:58](#))

Beginning with the 2020-21 school year, HB 3 adds half-day formula funding for districts that choose to add instructional days to any of their elementary school calendars (grades PK-5 only). Districts have the option to add **up to 30 additional half-days** beyond the minimum 180 days. Students attending these additional instructional days over the summer would **only generate half-day formula funding**.

TEA also provided clarification regarding the required length of their academic calendar ([5:48](#)). While districts are well aware of the 75,600 minute requirement, districts that choose to extend the school year under this new incentive will be required to meet **both the 75,600 minute requirement as well as the 180-day requirement** before any additional funding can be earned.

Districts choosing to extend their school year would need to provide TEA with a new estimated pupil projection that includes the increase in ADA from the additional days. The Agency provided the example calculation below ([25:58](#)).

The example assumes a district with 10,000 ADA during the 180-day traditional calendar, and 3,000 students attending the 30 additional days of the extended school year at a 98 percent attendance rate. Following the calculations below, this would result in a new reported ADA of **10,244.90**.

180 Day ADA	10,000	
# of Students participating in Additional Days	3,000	Assumed 30 additional days
Adjusted ADA for Additional Days	244.90	Calculated additional ADA with assumed 98% attendance for add'l days: $(30/2) / 180 = .0833$ $.0833 * 3,000 * 0.98 = 244.90$
New reported ADA	10,244.90	

School Year Design Considerations (7:08)

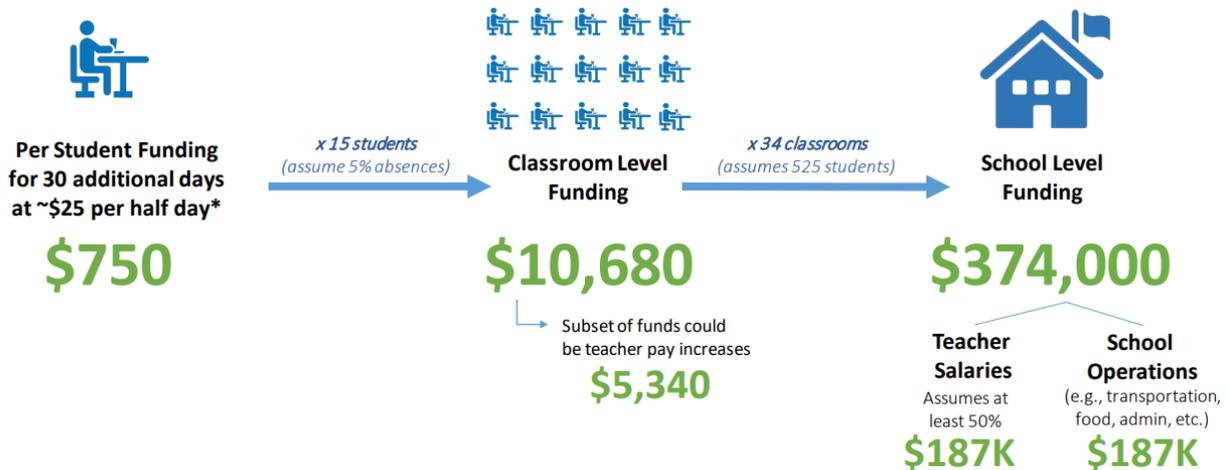
Agency staff highlighted the flexibility that is afforded to districts if they choose to extend their school year under this incentive and outlined three possible design options:

1. **Optional Summer Learning:** A traditional 180-day calendar, followed by up to 30 additional days of summer programming now paid for by this new incentive.
2. **Intersessional Calendar:** 180 “traditional” days spaced out over the 210-day timeframe, with intermittent breaks for targeted remediation with a subset of students.
3. **Full-Year Redesign:** A revamped 7X6-weeks calendar, as well as daily schedule changes to increase teacher planning time and student “brain breaks.”

Benefits of an Extended School Year (3:25)

Agency staff reviewed the policy rationale of extending the school year as a way to combat summer slide, and to potentially restructure the entire school calendar.

Additionally, TEA cited this financial incentive as a way to increase teacher salaries and provided the sample scenario below.



An extended school year also benefits families by providing help with summer childcare support and by providing a safe and healthy environment for students who may not have access to that outside of school.

Planning and Implementation (18:23)

Agency staff highlighted [research into best practices](#) on implementing a new extended school year. Some key points include:

- Conducting early, robust planning,
- Planning for student recruitment, particularly given the statutory requirement that students **are not required to attend any of these additional days**,
- Ensuring that new instructional time is well-spent,

Additionally, TEA stated that districts will still have to adhering to [existing requirements](#) on school year start dates (4th Monday in August, unless DOI or year-round school) and testing windows for state assessments.

The Agency provided clarification that districts may opt to pilot an extended school year at a select campus or set of campuses (20:02). Also, TEA announced that the agency will require districts extending their school year under this incentive to plan for 2 bad weather make-up days in order to avoid funding reductions in the event of weather or other disruptions (21:53).

For early adopting districts that implement this in the 2020-21 school year, they will have some additional cash flow issues to consider, as they must front the cash needed for the program and settle up in the spring of 2022 (24:54).

TEA also announced that it will be launching an **Additional Days Planning Grant** next spring (27:31). An individual charter or district can receive a **maximum of \$150,000** only if they choose to undergo a full-year redesign (i.e. option 3 outlined above). The Agency anticipates beginning to accept grant applications January-February 2020 and will make award announcements in April-May.

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