

STATE OF NEVADA  
LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU

LEGISLATIVE BUILDING  
401 S. CARSON STREET  
CARSON CITY, NEVADA 89701-4747  
Fax No.: (775) 684-6600



LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION (775) 684-6800  
BARBARA E. BUCKLEY, *Assemblywoman, Chair*  
Lorne J. Malkiewich, *Director, Secretary*

INTERIM FINANCE COMMITTEE (775) 684-6821  
MORSE ARBERRY JR., *Assemblyman, Chairman*  
Mark W. Stevens, *Fiscal Analyst*  
Gary L. Ghiggeri, *Fiscal Analyst*

LORNE J. MALKIEWICH, *Director*  
(775) 684-6800

BRENDA J. ERDOES, *Legislative Counsel* (775) 684-6830  
PAUL V. TOWNSEND, *Legislative Auditor* (775) 684-6815  
DONALD O. WILLIAMS, *Research Director* (775) 684-6825

**MEMORANDUM**

DATE: February 27, 2007  
TO: Senator Bob Beers  
FROM: Joe McCoy, Senior Research Analyst  
Research Division  
SUBJECT: **Clark County School District Study on Full-Day Kindergarten**

This memorandum responds to your request for information on the Clark County School District's (CCSD) *Full/Extended Day Kindergarten Longitudinal Study*. Specifically, you asked for the percentage improvement by second grade for students who had attended full-day kindergarten and who were not classified as at-risk students.

I have included a copy of the CCSD study as well as supplementary material, *Descriptive Statistics of Study Population* (DSSP), and the results of a peer review of the methodology employed in the study. This material was provided by Craig Kadlub, Director, CCSD Community and Government Relations.

**Method and Aims of the Study:** The study contained the results of a standardized reading test, the Oral Reading Fluency (ORF) Benchmark Goals and Indicators of Risk, which was administered to two groups of second grade students in the CCSD:

- One group completed a full-day kindergarten program, and the other completed a standard half-day kindergarten program;



- Students were categorized as "at risk," "some risk," and "low risk" depending solely on their test scores (DSSP, Table 1);



- The study analyzed the relative benefits of full-day kindergarten for students that were at varying degrees of risk (DSSP, Table 2); and

- The study also examined the relative benefits of full-day kindergarten at varying degrees of risk for English language learners (ELL) as well as students who participate in the Free or Reduced-Price Lunch (FRL) program (DSSP, Tables 3 through 5).

**Results Published in the Study:** The study explicitly noted the increased benefits of full-day kindergarten for ELL and FRL students as well as for at-risk students in general:

- For ELL students, the full-day kindergarten group had a mean ORF score of 8.14 points higher than those who were in half-day kindergarten (DSSP, Table 3).
- For FRL students, the full-day kindergarten group had a mean ORF score of 8.82 points higher than those who were in half-day kindergarten (DSSP, Table 3).
- For the entire test group as well as for the groups of ELL and FRL students, a lower percentage of students were at risk and a greater percentage of students were low risk after having completed full-day kindergarten (DSSP, Tables 1, 4, and 5).



**Additional Results:** The supplementary data provided by CCSD, specifically the numbers of participating students in the various categories analyzed, permit the comparison of mean ORF scores for non-ELL and non-FRL students. Enclosed you will find a description of how these results were calculated, along with more specific numbers for all the ORF risk categories. **Mr. Kadlub confirmed the accuracy of these figures with the CCSD research staff:**

- For non-ELL students, the full-day kindergarten group had a mean ORF score of 3.84 points higher than those who were in half-day kindergarten.
- **For non-FRL students, the full-day kindergarten group had a mean ORF score of 3.04 points lower than those who were in half-day kindergarten.**

Mr. Kadlub had no comment on these data or the cause of the lower mean score for the non-FRL group of students who had completed full-day kindergarten.

I hope this information is helpful to you. If you would like additional assistance or more specific information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (775) 684-6825.

JM/dr:W71395  
Enc.