

# Shifting from Compliance to Instruction:

## An Analysis of Time Savings by Ellevation Districts in Texas

### Objective

This white paper explores the following questions:

1. Does the use of Ellevation save educators time?
2. If so, how much time does Ellevation return to educators, and what is the value?
3. What are educators able to do with the time saved by Ellevation?

### Ellevation: A Texas Focus

Founded in 2011, Ellevation is a mission-driven software company exclusively focused on English Language Learners (ELLs) and the educators that serve them. To support hardworking educators, we develop solutions to improve instruction, enhance collaboration, and maximize impact so that ELL students can thrive in school and beyond. In Texas, we serve Brownsville ISD, Harlandale ISD, Houston ISD, Plano ISD along with 70 other districts. In aggregate, districts using Ellevation serve more than 20% of the state's English Language Learners.

### Research on Time Savings

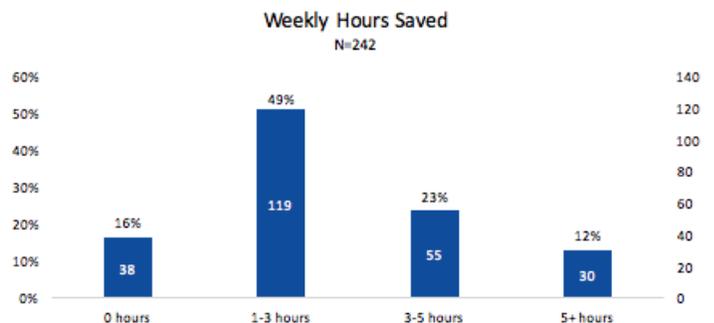
Over the past month, Ellevation has solicited input from educators in two different ways.

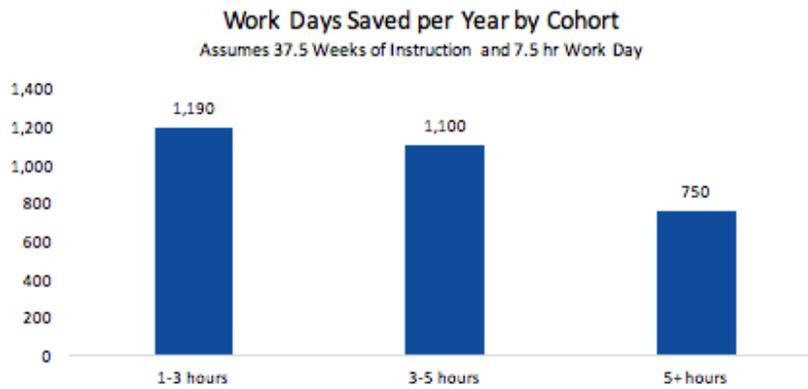
- **Quantitative:** Ellevation conducted an end of the school year survey between the end of May and the middle of June. Two hundred and forty-two Texas educators in districts that have implemented Ellevation responded to the survey and answered questions about time savings.
- **Qualitative:** As a follow up, Ellevation's CEO and other team members spoke with and collected feedback from a small number of district leaders that have implemented Ellevation.

### Findings

The following chart shows the distribution of responses by the 242 educators that completed the most recent survey. As illustrated, 84% of respondents report that **Ellevation has saved them at least 1-3 hours per week.**

This data also points at a very large number of workdays saved over the course of a full school year. For example, the 55 educators that expressed a time savings of 3-5 hours a week saved 1,100 instruction days, collectively.





Based on this data, one can extrapolate that an “average” educator working with Ellevation, based on a work week of 7.5 hours and 37.5 weeks per year, **would save over 90 hours in the school year, or more than 12 work days.** These days represent a huge opportunity cost. **Specifically, the time spent on paperwork, compliance, logistics, and more directly reduces the amount of time educators use for instruction, planning, and intervention.**

To validate and illuminate the survey data, we conducted interviews with members of the leadership team in three districts. District leaders reported the following:

- **More Time for Instruction:** With Ellevation, their jobs are changing. Rather than focusing primarily on compliance, they are now able to balance compliance and instruction, and use the compliance requirements to inform where more of their focus is required. An administrator in Waco ISD stated that the time spent on compliance has gone from about 60% to approximately 20%, directly leading to more time working individually with ELLs.
- **Efficiency:** Each district leader noted that during LPAC meetings, educators spend much less time collating documents and finding data and much more time engaged in meaningful conversations about students making informed decisions about intervention, needs, and opportunities. This is particularly meaningful given that districts in Texas using Ellevation conducted over 210,000 LPACs during the 2015-2016 school year.
- **Collaboration:** During the school day, educators report that they spend much less time pulling files and compiling data and have much more time for effective collaboration. The ESL Director in Hays ISD indicated that this means much more time to get feedback from colleagues on action plans and have conversations about students.

## Conclusion

School districts and educators must help a growing and very diverse population of ELLs gain content knowledge, consistent with rigorous math and ELA standards, and develop English language fluency. Helping students concurrently learn the language and master the content so that they can transition from ELL status is extraordinarily difficult. The existing compliance and accountability systems are helpful and provide a measurement framework, but they can also put pressure on time-starved educators. Ellevation streamlines the compliance process so that TX ELL policies work as intended, spotlighting the needs of students so that educators can support them properly. These systems are a foundation and much more is needed to drive change. To do so:

- Ellevation helps districts manage their programs using accurate and reliable ELL data.
- Ellevation helps districts regain a great deal of time, without discarding measurement and accountability.
- Ellevation puts up-to-date and reliable data, and high-quality strategies, in the hands of educators to help inform instruction and drive language acquisition across cohorts of students.

With actionable and reliable data, a deeper understanding of ELLs, best-in-class instructional resources, and an enormous amount of time saved, educators are much better prepared to support language acquisition, content proficiency, and move students to monitoring status in a timely manner.

For more information, contact your Ellevation representative or visit [info.ellevationeducation.com/platform-TX](http://info.ellevationeducation.com/platform-TX).