

# **Best Practices to Help Meet the Needs of Children in Poverty**

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- ❑ **Modify the traditional school calendar to:**
  - extend the school year
  - lengthen the school day
  - space school vacations out over 12 months
  - offer Saturday classes.
- ❑ **Furnish a breakfast/lunch program.**
- ❑ **Provide a summer breakfast program.**
- ❑ **Offer after-school homework clubs.**
- ❑ **Arrange for before/after school care.**
- ❑ **Render special needs services before children are seven years old.**
- ❑ **Adopt the Reading Styles<sup>TM</sup> program.**
- ❑ **Initiate Reading Recovery<sup>TM</sup> or similar type strategies.**
- ❑ **Make available accelerated learning opportunities.**
- ❑ **Extend summer school opportunities.**
- ❑ **Create small class sizes (18-22 students).**
- ❑ **Establish a small school size (under 750 students).**
- ❑ **Propose universal preschool (4 year olds).**
- ❑ **Expand head-start to include the near poor.**
- ❑ **Provide a full-day kindergarten program.**
- ❑ **Institute transition programs/grades, i.e.:**
  - pre-kindergarten program (young fives)
  - pre-first grade (young sixes)
  - pre-second grade (young sevens).
- ❑ **Propose looping classrooms including inter-building looping.**
- ❑ **Suggest creating multiage classrooms.**
- ❑ **Increase Title I services to include the near poor.**
- ❑ **Arrange for a teacher aide for every classroom.**
- ❑ **Suggest private tutoring opportunities.**
- ❑ **Provide remedial math and language arts services.**
- ❑ **Eliminate grade-level promotional gates.**
- ❑ **Abolish group-standardized testing before grade four.**
- ❑ **Establish three school entrance dates throughout the year.**
- ❑ **Set the school entrance date to September 1<sup>st</sup> or before.**