

## **School should be year-round**

### **Key Terms**

Year-round school  
Tracking (multitracking)  
School district  
Budget deficit

### **Sources**

Education World  
[http://www.education-world.com/a\\_admin/admin137.shtml](http://www.education-world.com/a_admin/admin137.shtml)  
Stop Year Round School  
<http://www.auburn.edu/~enebasa/html/home.pp.html>  
ERIC-Year Round Education  
[http://ericir.syr.edu/cgi-bin/print.cgi/Resources/Educational\\_Management/Scheduling/Year\\_Round\\_Education.html](http://ericir.syr.edu/cgi-bin/print.cgi/Resources/Educational_Management/Scheduling/Year_Round_Education.html)

### **Fact Set**

- Year-round school refers to a modified school calendar that offers short breaks throughout the year, rather than the traditional summer vacation. Some year-round programs are “multitrack,” which means that different groups of students are at school at different times, and some year-round programs have everyone go to school on the same schedule.
- Over 1 million California students attend year-round school, and California is planning to greatly extend year-round schedules in the next five years. Urban schools in other major cities across the country have adopted year-round schedules as well.

### **Arguments in favor of year-round schooling**

- Year round schooling helps schools that are overcrowded because not all the students are in school at the same time. Without year-round school, class sizes would increase and students would get less individualized attention.
- Students forget a lot of information over long summer breaks and time is wasted at the start of the year reviewing this material. With shorter breaks, students will have less opportunity to forget things they have learned. Students may also be able to concentrate more easily without having such a long break from school in the middle of the school year. Increased concentration on school work will help students learn more.
- Given current budget deficits, many school districts might decide to cut days off school if they do not use year-round school. Year-round school is better than cutting days out of the school calendar.
- Different tracks can be used to group students with particular interests or needs together. Students who are struggling with language abilities, for example, can be placed on the same schedule so that teachers can target classes to their needs instead of having to teach a highly mixed class.

### **Arguments against year-round schooling**

- Students can't get summer jobs or internships because they do not have a big block of time off of school. This might hurt their chances of getting into competitive colleges or make them have to work during the school year.
- Year-round schedules are the result of a lack of school funding and are most likely to be adopted by schools attending by students whose families have lower incomes or come from a racial minority. More privileged students are able to afford private school tuition and these private schools run mostly on traditional schedules. Thus, any problems with year-round school will be concentrated on low-income, minority students that must attend public schools.
- It is hard to maintain school facilities when they are constantly in use. Schools on a year-round calendar are likely to be in a worse state of repair than those that offer a summer vacation.
- Families may have to arrange for supervision of students at different times if siblings are not on the same school schedule. Families may also not be able to take vacations if they have multiple students that have vacations at different times.

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### **Discussion Questions**

- What types of schools operate on a year-round calendar?
- How does year-round school impact education?
- How much should financial concerns be allowed to dictate the school calendar?
- What benefit might there be to having a long break for students? For teachers and administrators?
- Should the school calendar be standardized among all schools, or left up to each school district to decide? Are there other ways to solve the problems that year round schooling is supposed to address? Would these other solutions be better or worse for students?