Your Question: You requested information about year-round schooling policies, including information about its effectiveness.

Our Response: The issue of year-round schooling seem to arise periodically, particularly during discussions around the so-called “summer slide,” when some students fall behind academically during the summer break (more discussion on this subject available here). Although the practice of year-round school doesn’t seem to have taken hold widely, there is some degree of recurring interest in this idea and a handful of districts or states adopt or abandon the idea every few years. According to a 2008 report by CCSSO, in 2008 17 states have policies explicitly allowing year-round school schedules and 30 states reported having at least one district with year-round schools (see page 7). Overall, it appears decisions about using a year-round schedule are left largely to school districts.

In the two sections below you will find information about state policies and research on year-round schooling.

State Policies
The State Legislation section of our website includes a compilation of state policies about school scheduling generally and year-round school policies specifically. Much of the state legislation around year-round schools seems to be limited to scheduling or other technical issues rather than explicitly requiring or prohibiting year-round policies, although there are a few exceptions, as you will note below. A few state policies that may be of some note to you:

- **Hawaii, S.B. 1345** (2015): This bill eliminates state policies about multi-track, or year-round, scheduling.
- **California, S.B. 1524** (2011): This measure, which was vetoed, would have phased out year-round schools.
- **Illinois, H.B. 1415** (2011): Under this measure, local school boards may move schools that have been on academic watch status for more than two years to a full-year schedule.
- **Virginia, H.J.R. 646** (2011): This resolution directed the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission to study the efficacy of year-round schools. The resulting report is available here.
- **North Carolina, H.B. 1478** (1998): This measure encouraged, but did not require, districts to provide year-round schools.

The 2014 publication Year-Round Schools: In Brief by the Congressional Research Service and SREB’s 2011 publication on the topic both have good overviews of state policies around the issue (see below for brief summaries of these briefs).

Research
Below are summaries of a few resources that seem to be the most useful plus a list of several other resources that you may find helpful.

Research on the effects of year-round education is sporadic and limited, particularly in recent years, and the results appear neutral or mixed. In a brief review of the sources listed below, several noted the difficulty in providing teachers with adequate professional development on a year-round schedule and the potentially disruptive nature of year-round schedules for families. Another common discussion point is the importance of starting the year-round schedule implementation process early to ensure a smooth transition.
• **Year-Round Schools: In Brief**, Congressional Research Service, 2014: This policy brief, one of the best and most recent we found, provides a tidy overview of the statistics and state policies about year-round schools, a review of the research, and the pros and cons of implementing year-round schools.

• **Focus on the Alternative School Calendar: Year-Round School Programs and Update on the Four-Day School Week**, SREB, 2011: This report focuses on the 16 SREB states’ policies around year-round education and provides a closer look at the types of multi-track schedules plus the pros and cons of year-round school.

• **What Research Says About Year-Round Schooling**, ASCD, 2010: This is an overview of some of the research findings on year-round schoolings, plus considerations for schools considering the switch.

• **Year-Round Schooling Explained**, Education Week: Similar to the other resources listed here, this resource provides an overview of how year-round schooling works, some of the benefits, a few statistics, and an overview of the research. It also provides a glossary of terms plus links to other Ed Week articles.

• **Research Spotlight on Year-Round Education**, NEA: This research overview provides links to several resources specific to research on year-round schools.

**Other Resources**

• **California Department of Education Year-Round Education Program Guide**

• **The Impact of Year-Round Schooling on Academic Achievement: Evidence from Mandatory School Calendar Conversions**

• **Case of Year Round Education in Two Georgia Elementary Schools**, 2008 dissertation

• **A Descriptive Study of the Effect of Traditional and Year-Round Calendars, Socio-Economic Status, and Teacher Tenure Status on Student Achievement in Two Rural School Systems in Tennessee**, 2007 dissertation