

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