



A HISTORY OF YEAR-ROUND EDUCATION

Contrary to popular belief, long summer breaks in school calendars were never universal and were not driven by agricultural needs but the summer heat. The modern movement towards different calendar options started in the 1970s and gained significant momentum in the early 1990s. Many districts moved to year-round school options as an attempt to increase student achievement by combating learning loss over a long summer break. Others did so a part of a multi-track system to increase schools capacity during periods of rapid population growth.

WHY DO SOME FAMILIES CHOOSE YEAR-ROUND?

A year-round calendar provides more balance for students and families. Students are in session for approximately nine weeks followed by breaks of approximately three weeks. This gives students frequent breaks and a more regular routine. Some families find this schedule works better for both adults and children as it provides more flexibility in scheduling for appointments, vacations, visiting family, enjoying the outdoors, and general family quality time.

WHAT CHILDCARE OPTIONS DO I HAVE FOR INTERSESSION?

Many non-profit, educational, and community organizations provide enriching childcare opportunities for students aligned with the year-round calendar. Many of these options include subsidized funding for qualifying families that make the programs free or very low cost. While DPS does not specifically endorse these providers, you can find a list of organizations that provide programs on the [year-round schools section of the DPS website](#).

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF YEAR-ROUND EDUCATION?

Research demonstrates slight positive academic and social-emotional impacts of a year-round calendar for all students, and anecdotally, many students benefit greatly. Many families find that their children thrive both academically and developmentally with a more consistent routine and more frequent breaks. Research also suggests that a year-round calendar can reduce summer learning loss and help children maintain a healthy BMI thanks to more consistent physical activity.

CAN OLDER SIBLINGS ATTEND YEAR-ROUND CALENDAR SCHOOL TOO?

Currently, DPS offers two year-round options for older students. Rogers-Herr Middle School serves grades 6-8 and The School for Creative Studies serves grades 6-12. Both schools are accessible by the DPS lottery and offer priority seating for siblings of year-round students. DPS consistently evaluates the demand for year-round options and will increase year-round seats at the secondary level if needed.



RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

- > [A 2019 Meta-Analysis](#)
- > [Research on year-round calendar and student BMI](#)
- > [Additional research on year-round calendar and student BMI](#)



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