

## Year-round school

### The school board's claim, reason and evidence:

Kids should go to school year-round because this provides a more effective educational experience.

Students do better on international tests of academic achievement in countries where the school year is longer. In addition, according to experts like Dr. Michaela Smith, numerous studies have shown that students lose educational gains over the summer and must spend valuable time each fall recovering what they have lost. Finally, working parents have to make arrangements for childcare during the summer and during long vacations. This is an expensive proposition. Having a longer school year would reduce expense and logistical issues.

### The opponents' rebuttal:

Numerous studies of U.S. schools have shown no academic improvement from year-round schooling. In addition, more frequent short breaks throughout the year would make childcare harder to arrange. Experts such as Dr. Seth Gershenson have found that a longer school year primarily benefits strong students, not those who are likely to lose educational gains during the summer. Finally, school is not the only place where students learn and develop. Unstructured time to play and explore increases creativity and problem-solving skills.

### The school board's counter-rebuttal:

Most of the studies on year-round schooling in U.S. schools were conducted in the 1990s and their conclusions are no longer applicable. In countries where year-round schooling is the norm, childcare for frequent and short breaks in the school year is available. Dr. Seth Gershenson's research actually did show some benefit for students who struggle academically. Creativity can be a part of the school day and many kids' time is over-structured because of after school activities, not because of school.