

Impact of Year Round Schooling on Students

- Little or no negative impact on either academic or non-academic outcomes
- Increasing evidence that many students benefit academically when a school changes to a year-round calendar
- Benefits accrue to at-risk students and those who are not
- Elementary as well as secondary
- Three main reasons
 1. Decreased learning loss over a shorter summer vacation, increased opportunities for remediation or enrichment through intersession.
 2. Changes in school programs and pedagogical approaches related to, but not necessarily caused by, the change to a year-round calendar.
 3. The body of research concerning the impact of year-round schooling on student achievement and on other factors related to student life is increasingly positive.
- The more we have also become aware that the calendar change usually acts as a catalyst for other types of pedagogical change
- Any district wanting to implement a calendar change will have to carefully consider whether the selected calendar meets the needs of the local area.

Impact of Year-Round Schooling on Parents

- Parental opinions change substantially following implementation of year-round schooling.
- Many of those who have not experienced year-round schooling seem to hold strong opinions against it, once the change of calendar has been in place for several years, many of the concerns related to student learning and family cohesiveness are alleviated.
- Our research leads us to conclude that the findings of Merino (1983) still hold. Parents in general, support whatever calendar their children are on and want to maintain it. Parents also tend to resist, and even fear, a change to an unfamiliar calendar; unless they are convinced that the new calendar will indeed hold significant benefits for their children's learning.

Impact of Year-Round Schooling on Teachers

- Concern expressed about how well children are prepared for high school.
- Teachers who had contacted the secondary schools into which their former elementary year round students had moved, were told that in each case students were perceived to be among the best prepared of the school's entering students

- Examination of issues related to power, to an identification of the voices that are heard and excluded from the decision-making processes related to every aspect of the life of the school
- Communication with the wider community will need to be structured to include those who have their own computers and modems, as well as those who do not
- Careful attention to appropriate communication strategies and making good use of multiple methods of communication may help to foster a sense of unity within the school community

“At issue here are the hierarchical tactics used to disenfranchise others. At issue is the lack of regard for cultural democracy, for dealing openly and honestly with the issues, for an ethic of caring in the conduct of deliberation, for engaging in inquiry to obtain comprehensive and pertinent data, and for engaging in collaborative problem solving with people of differing perspectives and understandings.”

Political Considerations and Year-Round Schooling

“When confronted with significant change, many people will act with scepticism, resistance, and often outright hostility. This creates a significant political challenge for the school district and the community. This problem is exacerbated by the pervasive lack of attention to the political aspects of the move to year-round education on the part of school people.”

Fiscal Considerations and Year Round Schooling

- Operating costs of a multi-track year-round school will be higher than for the same school on a traditional calendar, but when per pupil costs, over time, are considered, a more accurate picture emerges.

Conclusion

- If year-round school is politically responsible, it will be implemented with due regard for democratic processes. There will be sufficient public consultation with open and thorough decision-making processes.
- A socially responsible process will also ensure that the various needs of different community groups are considered in order that constituents perceive their needs have been both heard and understood. This does not mean, of course, that any decision will please everyone involved or that every group will believe that the final decision is positive.
- The most educationally accountable year-round programs we have described have been planned to ensure that the educational benefits of the calendar change were foremost in ongoing discussions.
- It is appropriate to implement a year-round school recognizing that it may help a school to move toward its goals of higher test scores or fiscal savings.
- Too frequently, traditional aspects of schooling disadvantage some students and unfairly enhance or perpetuate the advantages of others. In our view, a desirable educational change takes seriously the need for an educational vision that sometimes challenges the accepted modes of operation and asks difficult questions about whose interest are, or are not, being served by the proposed innovation.

as the work life of teachers. It opens doors to assist students in need of remediation or enrichment, those who need a more flexible schedule, who tend to burn out during the traditional school year, or who experience the most summer learning loss.

- Single-track's advantage is that it opens the calendar to enhance opportunities for flexible and innovative learning. Sometimes, when it is implemented without reconsideration of instruction and without intersession, it seems to be simply change for the sake of change. In these instances, it may remain a superficial calendar modification without having any effect on the learning environment of students.