

Alternatives to Traditional Schooling

Presented by the Freshmen Class of Chugwater, WY

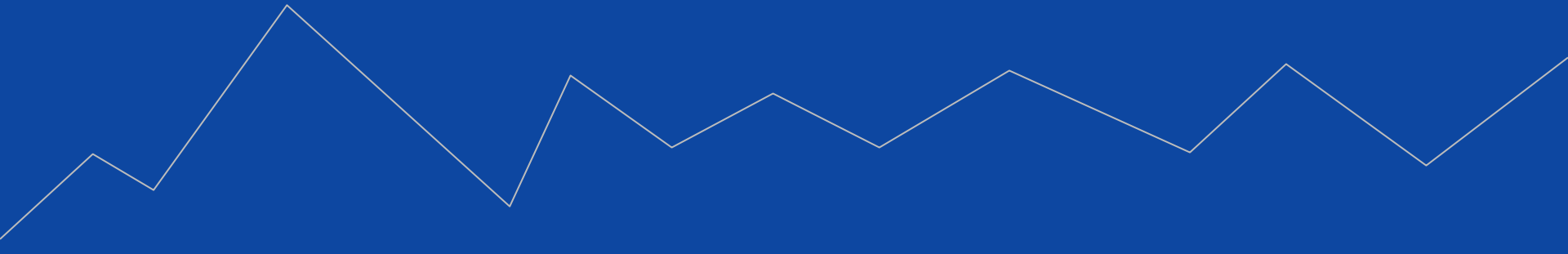


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Abstract

4 day school week, late start and end time, year round schooling - these are all alternatives to traditional schooling. Improving secondary schooling for all young people is a worthwhile social and educational objective. The research question explored is “What kind of schooling would benefit both the students and the staff?” This research shows three aspects to be considered: (a) 4 day school week, (b) later start time, (c) and year round schooling. Each of these show the pros and cons associated with standard schooling. We will also talk about the benefits happening with these changes in the standard schooling. Increased test scores and decreased absences were prioritized throughout this research.



Four Day School Week

4 Day School Week

Four day school weeks have been implemented across the nation. This type of school system usually takes away a day from the week - normally either Monday or Friday. Some say it helps the students with multiple academic achievements, others find it a waste of an academic day.





Assessments and Measurements

- Measures have shown that the test scores have improved in almost 60% of all the students tested
- The students academic levels has increased and the GPA has gone up
- A greater percentage of students have a better retention level in Math and English

Who It Affects: Participants

- Participants
 - Staff
 - Students
 - Community



- 4 day school week would most likely be from Monday to Thursday
- Fridays would be based around sports, appointments, and for kids who are academically ineligible
- Fridays can also be for teachers' meetings and planning

Graphs & Charts

Four-Day School Weeks

No. of states with four-day weeks: **21**

No. of school districts: **120**

Average annual savings per district: **0.4 to 2.5%**

Pros:

- Students better rested and more engaged in class
- Decrease in absenteeism
- More planning and collaborative time for educators

Cons:

- Potential new costs for parents
- Loss of wages for support professionals (bus drivers and food service workers)
- Reduced access to school services for low-income students







Start and End Times



Start and End Times

- Start and end times is another aspect of traditional schooling that can be altered
- Some alternatives include:
 - Start later, end later
 - Start sooner, end sooner
- For example:
 - Start at 9, end at 4
 - Start at 7, end at 2
- Many staff and parents have seen a positive change in the school and academics standings in the school by extending the start time

*By starting later we mean to start the school day later (For example: begin school/classes at 9)



Assessment and Measurements

- Student's level of academics have risen due to the hour difference
- According to the National Sleep Foundation students undergo a series of sleep rhythms. If the student is disturbed during this time the student may not be fully asleep or get as much sleep as usual. The student gets caught up on the sleep that they need and can focus and study better at school.

Pros

- Students:
 - Get recommended amount of sleep
 - Help teens with natural sleep/wake cycle
 - Less dependence on caffeine
 - More alert during day
 - Improved test scores
 - Retain more information
 - Better attitude towards school



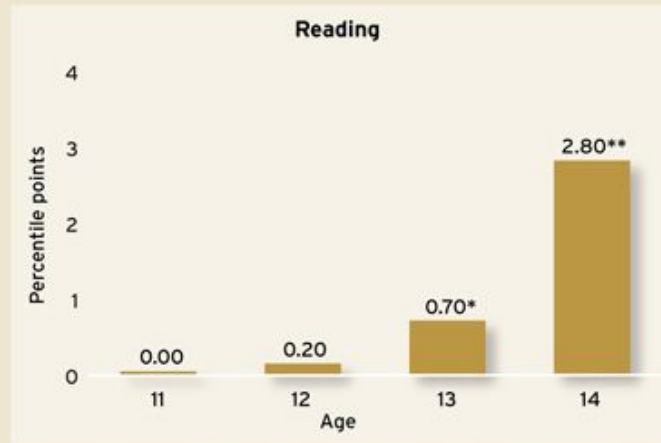
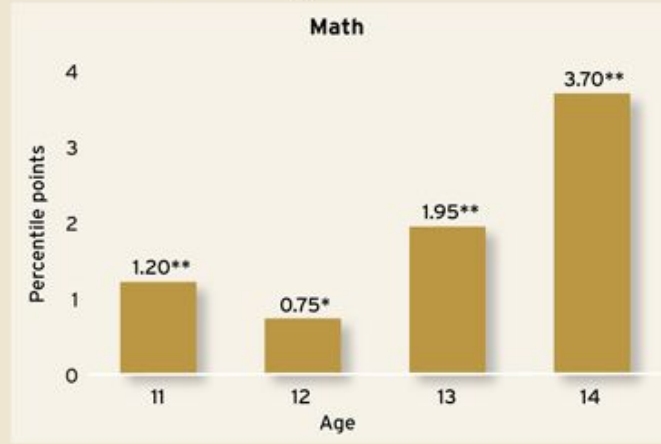
Cons

- Students:
 - Get out of school later
 - Teens staying up later during the night
 - Conflict with sports schedules
 - Transportation and bus schedules
 - Causes more stress on families, daycare for younger students with parents who work earlier



A Teen Effect (Figure 2)

In both reading and math, the test-score effects of later start times increase as students age.

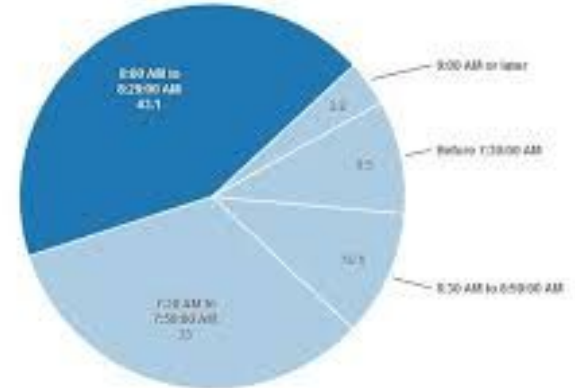


** (*) indicates that the effect is statistically significant at the 99 (95) percent

Graphs and Charts

Start times for U.S. high schools

Percent of U.S. public high schools with morning start times:



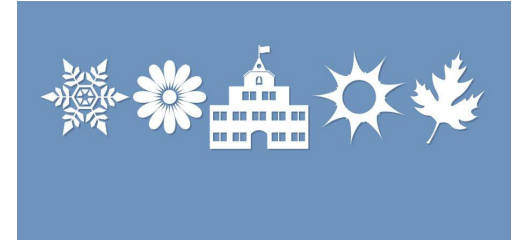
Created with [TableSimulator](#)

Source: U.S. Department of Education, [2014](#)

The background features a repeating geometric pattern of triangles. The triangles are arranged in a grid-like fashion, with some pointing up and some pointing down. The colors used are teal, orange, and black. The pattern is partially obscured by a large white arrow pointing from left to right.

Year Round Schooling

Year Round Schooling



- **Terminology:**
 - Year Round Schooling: *Year round schooling is not education that is 365 days a year, as is commonly misconceived. Instead there are still 180 contact days, just spread more evenly across the year*
- **Example schedules:**
 - 90-30: 90 weekdays in school, 30 days off
 - 60-20: 60 weekdays in school, 20 days off
 - 45-15: 45 weekdays in school, 15 days off

Who It Affects: Participants

- Affects
 - Parents, teachers, students, the community, the school, sports, and the economy
- Year round schooling saves money on transportation, the lunch program, and staff which include
 - Principals
 - Specialist teachers which include art, music, physical education, computer technicians, and librarians



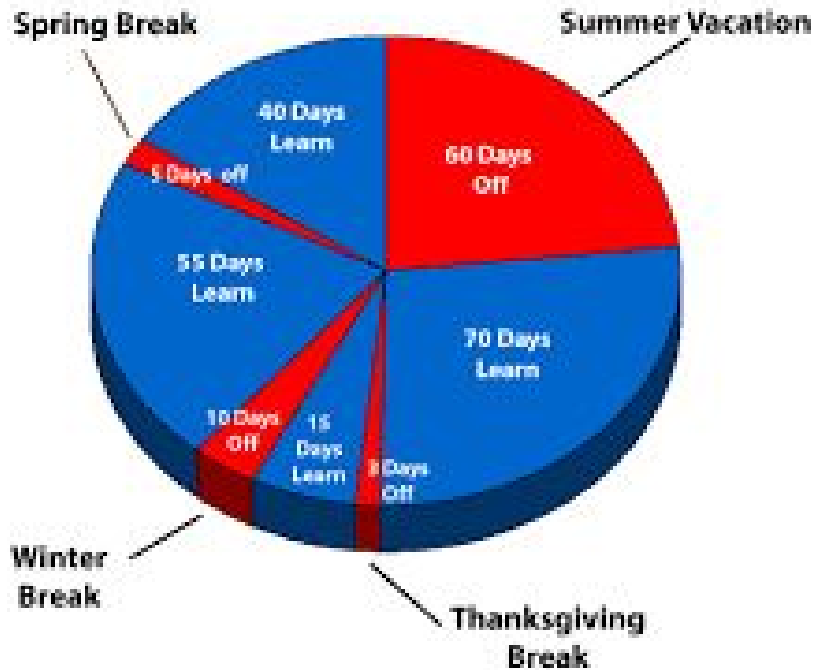
Assessments and Measures

- Little to no academic difference in test scores over six levels (grades)
- No statistically significant difference in reading or mathematics between YRS (Year Round Schooling) and traditional schooling
- Achievement test scores do decline over summer
 - Equal to about one month's loss of information on grade level equivalent

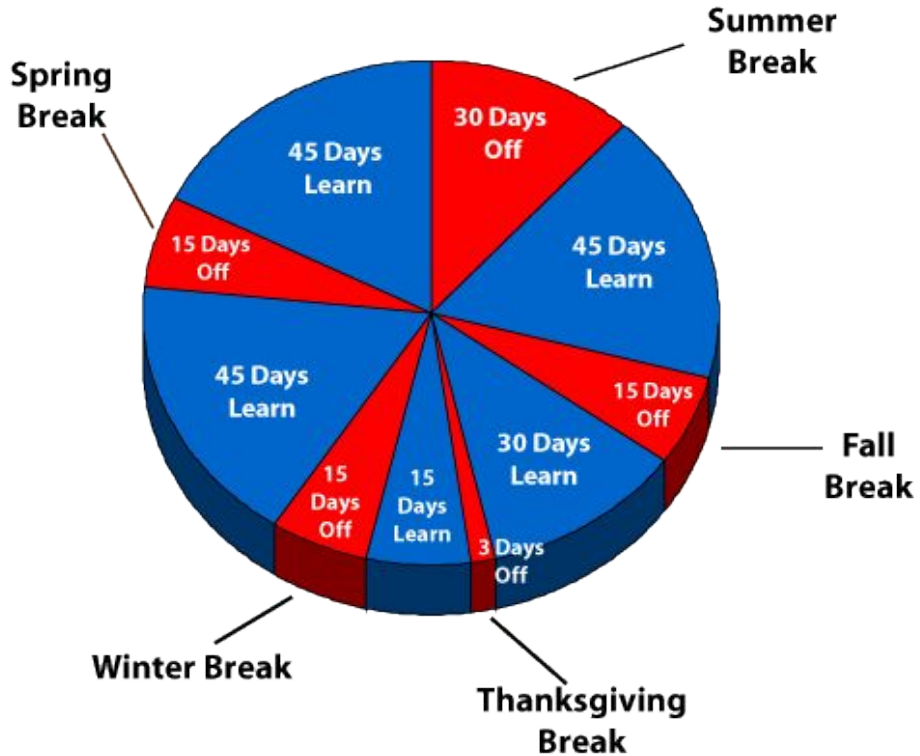




Traditional Calendar



Balanced Calendar



Assessments and Measurements

CURRENT

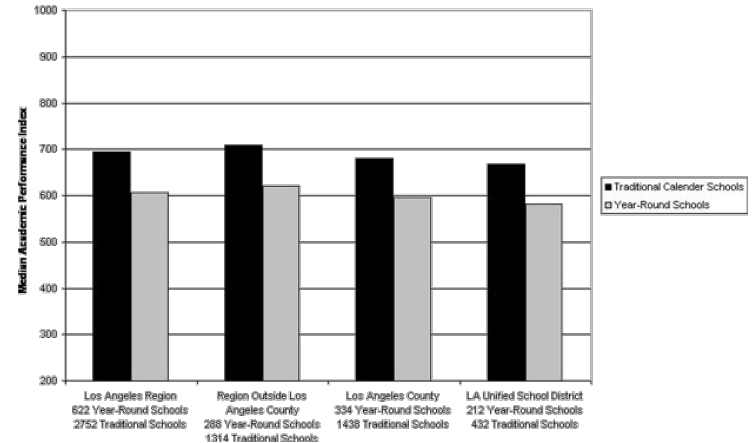


New School and Boundary Not Rotating – Empty Rooms During Off Track	Declining Population Not Rotating - Empty Rooms During Off Track	Currently Still Rotating To Rooms During Track Exchange
Copper Hills	Bacchus	Granger
Magna	Beehive	Hillside
Pleasant Green	Bridger	Stansbury
	Hillsdale	Valley Crest
	Orchard	
	Wilson	
	South Kearns (single track)	

Assessments and Measure cont.

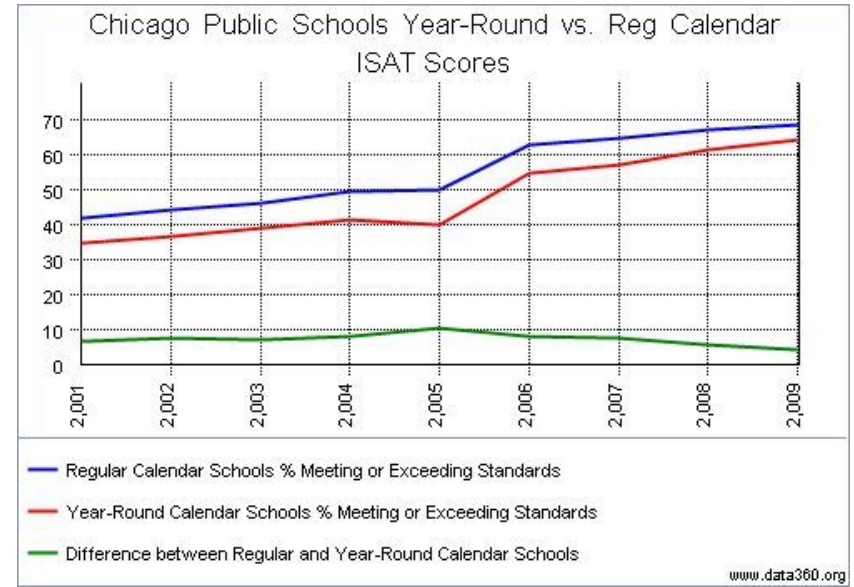
- Achievement seemed to be similar to that of students in traditional schools
- A constant rate of rate of return to investment and a constant rate of depreciation have signaled that the amount of learning is more important than the timing of learning

Standardized Test Scores For Students in Traditional Calendar and Year-Round Schools, Los Angeles Region, 2001-2002:
Students in schools on traditional calendars have higher Academic Performance Indexes than students in year-round schools.



Pros

- No Summer academic loss
- More time for learning
- Longer break times
- Not as exhausting as usual school times

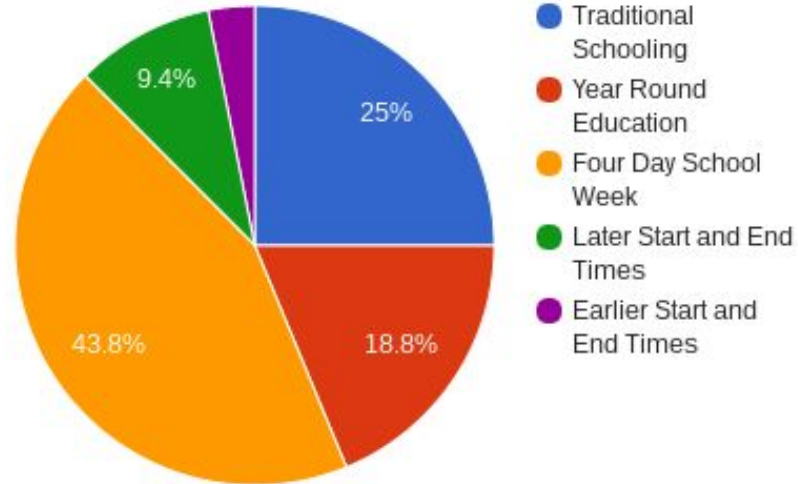




Cons

- Affects family trips and plannings for both staff and students
- The summer time gives staff time to take off
- Summer vacation can offer activities that are often not offered in classroom time
- More testing
- Places additional costs on schools
- Working parents may find it harder and them and their kids
- Extra-curricular activities may be harder to work around as well as jobs

Survey Results



The 9th grade class conducted a survey pertaining to the varying school systems. The majority of the students and teachers would like to see the Four Day School Week in our district and school.



Conclusion

In conclusion, these are our findings on the alternatives - four day school week, year round schooling, and start and end times. We would like to recommend/not recommend a 4-day week, YRS (year round schooling), later start and end times because YRS (year round schooling) is mostly for areas with large populations that need more schools, 4-day school weeks increase the school year, and later start times would mean getting home later and not having time for homework, chores, and time for a student's self.

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