

Glossary of Year-Round Terms

Enrichment: An optional learning program offered during the intersession. The activities offered are normally less academic and are intended to be fun as well as educational. Sometimes called "discovery days."

Extended year: A year-round calendar in which students attend school more than the traditional 180 days apart from summer school or remediation.

Grade enhancement: A week of educational review, administered during the intersession, that is offered to students who want to improve their grades.

Intersession: A short break between school sessions. Typically three to five weeks, part of which can be devoted to remedial work and enrichment activities.

Magnet school: A school that students can *choose* to attend as opposed to being *assigned* to a school according to a zoned district. Each school has a unique area of specialization such as math and science, performing arts, or a year-round calendar.

Multi-track: A year-round program that operates with different groups or *tracks* of students attending on separate calendars. The groups attend on a staggered schedule that rotates, so there is always one group of students on vacation. This way, the school can accommodate a greater capacity of students.

Remediation: A week of educational review, administered during the intersession, that is given to students who are at risk of failing. It is the year-round version of "summer school."

School-within-a-school: A school that operates on both a year-round calendar and the traditional calendar, and allows parents and students to choose between the two.

Single-track: A year-round program in which all of the students in the year-round program attend school on the same calendar and take breaks at the same time. It is offered for educational purposes rather than as a means to remedy overcrowding.

Traditional calendar: The typical American school calendar in which students attend school for nine months, from late August to early June, with a concentrated three-month summer break.

Year-round calendar: A calendar in which students attend school during all seasons of the year. The school calendar is reorganized by eliminating the long summer break and replacing it with more frequent short breaks.

—John Charles Bradbury

track schedules also were eliminated, says Hagerty, for one valid reason and one not so valid reason. The valid reason, Hagerty says, was the lack of a common K-12 calendar in the Seminole County Schools. The not so valid reason? The multi-track experience eroded enthusiasm and psychological support for the year-round experiment among parents and teachers. Support for even the more manageable single-track calendar could not be sustained.

To Ballinger, the Florida system's sudden disaffection is no surprise. "In Florida, it was a top-down expansion without real buy-in from parents,"

Ballinger says. "Too often, principals and superintendents haven't bought in to the year-round idea. They're doing it simply to solve the problem of overcrowding."

Ballinger's point seems crucial to the debate about year-round schools. As long as everyone involved—parents, teachers, principals, and students—think that the unconventional calendar has merit, it holds promise as a potentially effective reform. But rarely has the 12-month calendar survived or flourished when parents and school personnel feel that it has been forced upon them.

In North Carolina, virtually all of the three