



Questions for Classroom Discussion

“Year-Round Schooling”

- **Why do people want to move to a year-round school calendar?**
 - ⇒ Consider this viewpoint — *“more time in school makes children better prepared for college”*
 - ⇒ Consider that some believe that year-round school would eliminate some “teacher burnout”
 - ⇒ Consider the “catch-up” that students face when returning from the traditional length of the summer break, and how year-round schooling helps eliminate that

- **What would be some of the negative aspects of switching to a year-round calendar?**
 - ⇒ Consider the logistical challenges of keeping schools open all year, including air-conditioning, providing transportation in the form of buses, and the need to maintain the buildings throughout the year (all of which increase costs)
 - ⇒ Consider the impact on summer camps and the summer job market on local businesses
 - ⇒ Consider the personal impact on year-round schools beyond the academic one, such as how it affects parents, children, and teachers

- **If a school district decides to switch to a year-round calendar, why would it be difficult to make the switch?**
 - ⇒ Consider how different groups will be impacted in making this switch (parents, teachers, school districts, school employees, local businesses, etc.)
 - ⇒ Consider how this might be hard on families with younger siblings that rely on daily child care or rely on the traditional 180-day calendar schedule to plan vacations
 - ⇒ Consider that most people are used to traditional schooling, and the best way to improve schools might not be to take everyone out of their comfort zone