

Glossary of Terms

- **Balanced Calendar:** The term refers to a variation of the year-round calendar which organizes the school schedule by reducing the summer vacation and redistributing those weeks throughout the year as vacation or intersession. The curriculum and the number of instruction days are generally identical to the traditional calendar (National Association for Year-Round Education, 2000).
- **Faucet Theory:** Faucet theory developed by Entwisle, Alexander, and Olson (1997) is the belief that during the academic school year, the faucet of resources flows for all children; during the summer intermission the faucet of resources is turned off (Rozelle & Mackenzie, 2011).
- **Intersession:** The term refers to intervals of time between instructional sessions used for educational-related services. These might include remedial activities, enrichment activities, and recreational activities or camps (Kneese, 2000).
- **Multi-track:** A multi-track schedule staggers the instructional and vacation/intersession periods of each track throughout the entire year so that some students are receiving instruction while others are on vacation (Kneese, 2000).
- **Single-track:** A single-track schedule generally calls for an instructional year of 180 days, with short breaks (intersessions) interspersed throughout the year (Kneese, 2000).
- **Summer Learning Loss:** Summer learning loss amounts to the amount of educational ground children lose during a summer recess from school (Gordon, 2011).
- **Summer Recess:** Summer recess is the time a student is not in school during the summer months. This break is typically up to 12-weeks annually in the United States (Hattie, 2009)
- **Track:** A track schedule involves a group of students who are assigned to attend school during the same instructional session. These students are on track and off-track at the same time (Kneese, 2000).
- **Traditional Calendar:** The term refers to an academic schedule that usually begins around Labor Day and ends early in the summer, with a winter break, designated holidays, and a long summer vacation of 10 to 12 weeks. (Shields and Oberg, 2000).
- **Year-Round Education and Year-Round Schooling:** The terms are often used interchangeably in the literature, but differ technically. Year-round education means shortening the summer vacation to add more school days to the school year for some students. Year-round schooling, on the other hand, is a change of schedule that does not materially increase the days each child spends in school (National Association for Year-Round Education, 2006b).