

Year-round School Guide

WCPSS operates 49 year-round schools: 40 elementary and 9 middle schools.

Multi-track, year-round

- Students attend 180 days on each track
- Students stay with the same teacher the entire school year
- The year is divided into four quarters with 45 days of instruction followed by 15-day breaks.
- Students and their teachers attend one of four tracks, each with its own 45/15 calendar.
- At any given time, three tracks of students and their teachers are in school and one track is on vacation
- Each time students and their teachers return from a break, they move to another classroom
- Teachers have the same number of planning days on year-round as traditional calendar
- Students and teachers have the same holidays on year-round as traditional calendar

History of WCPSS Year-round schools

1987-88	WCPSS first investigates year-round schools
1989-90	WCPSS opens nation's first magnet year-round school with 267 students
1991-92	WCPSS opens nation's first multi-track magnet year-round school Morrisville ES with 750 students
1992-93	WCPSS adds four more year-round schools: 3 elementary and 1 middle. The schools are West Lake ES, Durant Road ES, Wilburn ES and West Lake MS. There are now 3,142 students in year-round.
1999-2000	Over next seven years, WCPSS adds seven more year-round schools: five elementary and two middle. These schools include Oak Grove ES, Green ES, Jones Dairy ES, Timber Drive ES, Adams ES, Durant Road MS and Lufkin Road MS. In 1999-2000, there are 10,929 students in year-round.
2001-02	WCPSS Growth and Planning assigns English-as-a-Second-Language programs and base nodes to multi-track, year-round schools.
2003-04	WCPSS adds two more year-round schools: one elementary and one middle. These schools are Heritage ES and Heritage MS
2004-05	WCPSS adds two more year-round schools: Jones Dairy ES and Turner Creek ES. In 2005-06, there are 14,564 students in year-round.
2006-07	WCPSS adds five year-round schools: Barwell Road ES, Brier Creek ES, Carpenter ES, Holly Grove ES and River Bend ES. In 2006,-07, there are more than 17,000 students in year-round.
2007-08	As school enrollment soars, WCPSS adds 26 year-round schools, four are new schools and 22 schools are transitioned to the year-round calendar.
2008-09	WCPSS adds three year-round schools: Laurel Park ES, Mills Park ES and Sycamore Creek ES.
2009-10	WCPSS adds four year-round schools: Banks Road ES, Herbert Akins Road ES, Lake Myra ES and Leesville Road MS. Baucom ES and Knightdale ES converted to traditional calendar.
2010-11	WCPSS adds two year round schools: Alston Park ES and Holly Grove MS. Green Hope ES, Leesville Road ES, Leesville Road MS and Mills Park ES converted to traditional calendar.

What is a year-round school?

Students at year-round calendar schools attend class the same number of days and receive the same curriculum as students at traditional calendar schools. A year-round school is simply a rescheduling of the standard 180-day school calendar to keep the learning process continuous and to maximize the use of school facilities. Students have periodic, short breaks rather than one long summer break.

Explain the school calendar for year-round schools.

Under the year-round plan the school calendar is divided into four nine-week quarters. Each quarter is separated by a three-week break. Students, therefore, are in school nine weeks, off three weeks, etc. Nationally this is referred to as a 45/15 calendar – 45 days in school, 15 days on break etc.

Will my child have the same vacations and holidays as other students?

Holiday times are the same for students on the traditional calendar and the year-round calendar. Vacation times are different – rather than the long summer break, year-round students have four three-week breaks during the year

What is a track?

In a multi-track year-round school, students are split into four groups or tracks, with each track having a different schedule. Schedules are staggered so that at any given time, three tracks are in school, and one is on break. This allows more students to attend the year-round school than would be able to fit into a traditional calendar school.

Will all the children in my family be on the same track?

Yes, within grade configuration level (K-5, 6-8) if possible; across levels (K-8) when possible.

Once my child is on a track, can he move to another track?

Each student stays on the assigned track for the entire school year. A parent may request to have the student moved to a different track for the next school year.

What does “track-out” mean?

Track-out time is the three-week period when students are on vacation, or “tracked-out” of school. This time is also referred to as “intersession” at many schools. During this time, some students attend remedial sessions at the school.

How can I find child care for my child during these “track-out” times?

There are many agencies that provide child care for children during track-out. The principal can provide names of day-care providers who serve their school.

Will my child have homework during track-out time?

Track-out time is like summer vacation. Students are not assigned homework but many students use this time to get ahead by reading and by attending intersession programs.

Will my child have the same teacher throughout the school year?

Yes. At elementary schools, students stay with the same teacher the entire school year. When students go on break, their teacher goes on break as well.

Will transportation be provided?

Yes. Transportation will be provided for students who are assigned to the school and for students who live in the designated year-round transportation pattern.

What is the instructional program like in the school?

The instructional program is the same one offered in regular, traditional schools in Wake County.

How do I get my child in a year-round school?

Some students are assigned to a year-round school and will attend automatically. Other students need to apply during the magnet application period.