

Ministry of Education

Strategic Planning,
Coordination and
Intergovernmental Affairs
Branch

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Ministère de l'Éducation

Direction de la planification
stratégique, de la coordination
et des affaires
intergouvernementales

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July 23, 2024

Beth Mai
Chair of the Board
Thames Valley District School Board
Education Centre
1250 Dundas Street
London ON N5W 5P2
boardchair@tvdsb.ca

Dear Beth:

Thank you for your information request. We have not conducted a review of research on year-round schooling for elementary students within the past five years. In the past, general analysis of research on year-round schooling has found mixed results in terms of the impact on student achievement. At this time, the Ministry of Education does not have plans to undertake a subsequent review of the research on year-round schooling.

As implementation of year-round schooling is at the discretion of local school boards, a handful of boards have implemented modified school-year calendars in some schools. You may wish to reach out to these boards to learn more about the impact of a modified school-year calendar in these schools, recognizing that each circumstance should be considered while taking into account the unique characteristics of every school.

In addition, I would note that there are multiple initiatives funded by The Continuing Education and Other Programs Allocation that support a variety of students and learning opportunities, primarily outside the regular day-school program, to support student achievement and address learning gaps. Many of these initiatives are specifically targeted to elementary students and support year-round learning – particularly in the summer:

- Summer School - Funding supports non-credit summer programming for students in Kindergarten to Grade 12 with exceptionalities, as well as reach ahead credit course opportunities for students in Grade 8

- Literacy and Math Outside the School Day - Funding supports non-credit summer programming for students from Grade(s) 7 to 8, (including during the summer for those who recently completed Grade 6)
- International and Indigenous Languages, Elementary (IILE) - Funding supports summer programming in a language other than English or French
- Tutoring - Funding may be used to support summer programming for students in Kindergarten to Grade 8
- Outdoor Education - Funding may be used to support summer programming for students in Kindergarten to Grade 8

Also, the Ministry of Education provides funding for the Summer Learning Program (SLP). SLP has traditionally been a three-week intervention program delivered by school boards that takes place in July or August and is targeted towards ensuring equity of achievement for students in Kindergarten to Grade 6. The program is intended to prevent summer learning loss and improve numeracy and literacy skills through free, high-quality instruction and recreational activities outside of the school year. The SLP has shown consistent positive impacts on mitigation of learning loss, with improvements seen in student literacy and numeracy levels, confidence and engagement, and high parent satisfaction and engagement.

Sincerely,

(original signed by)

Eric Ward
Director
Strategic Planning, Coordination & Intergovernmental Affairs Branch