

School Year Type	Pros	Cons
<b>Traditional</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Begins late August/early September</li> <li>Ends late May/early June</li> <li>Has built-in breaks</li> <li>Federal holidays</li> <li>2-3 days around Thanksgiving</li> <li>2-3 weeks over Christmas and New Year's</li> <li>1 week in the spring</li> <li>3 months off during the summer</li> <li>Typically contains 180 school days</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keeps your child on the same schedule as their peers in public or private school</li> <li>May aid in the transition of your child from a traditional school environment to the homeschool environment, especially if a consistent routine is important to them</li> <li>Has built-in breaks for the student and allows for an extensive planning break before diving into the next school year's material</li> <li>Can help you stay on track with the number of school days required by your state laws</li> <li>Is the most well-known and culturally accepted school schedule</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extended breaks make it harder for children to get back into routines and retain knowledge from the previous year</li> <li>Is less flexible, making it more challenging when life circumstances impact your ability to have school on a given day</li> <li>May cause difficulties for your child if they were having trouble thriving in the traditional school environment</li> </ul>
<b>Calendar</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Begins in January</li> <li>Ends either in October or December depending on break schedules</li> <li>Breaks to be determined by parent</li> <li>Can contain 180 school days or more</li> <li>Can be similar to either a traditional or year-round approach depending on how you structure your breaks and number of school days</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gives you the opportunity to start fresh with each new year</li> <li>Can allow for an extended Christmas break for family time and school planning before having to get "back to the grind"</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does not operate within any typical school framework, making it challenging to comply with any state law deadlines</li> </ul>
<b>Year-Round</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No specific start date</li> <li>No specific end date</li> <li>Breaks to be determined by parent</li> <li>Usually contains more than 180 total school days</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allows for ultimate flexibility within the school schedule as there is no definite ending or beginning</li> <li>Breaks can be scheduled at any time</li> <li>There is more continuity in content and routine making it easier for children to stay fresh and in-the-moment</li> <li>More content can be fit into the school schedule overall since there are no definite endings or beginnings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does not operate within any typical school framework, making it challenging to comply with any state law deadlines</li> <li>If your children need more frequent content breaks, this schedule can become tiresome as it could feel like school never really ends</li> <li>Can be more difficult to plan for current or new lessons/curricula since there are no built-in breaks</li> </ul>
<b>Rotating</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No specific start date</li> <li>Has regular intervals of school followed by regular break intervals (e.g., 12 weeks of school, 3 weeks of break; 6 weeks of school, 2 weeks of break; 4 weeks of school, 1 week of break, etc.)</li> <li>Breaks to be determined by rotation chosen</li> <li>Can be similar to either a traditional or year-round approach depending on how you structure your breaks and number of school days</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Has built-in breaks that are not too long, giving your child a chance to rest from the workload without losing momentum</li> <li>Built-in breaks also provide lots of intervals for planning</li> <li>Ideal for unit-study based curricula as you can take breaks after each completed unit</li> <li>Allows for a reasonable level of flexibility within the schedule</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Breaks may not necessarily align with holidays, making it necessary to create workarounds</li> <li>May not operate within a typical school framework, making it challenging to comply with any state law deadlines</li> <li>May be cumbersome to maintain if you prefer to plan only for one approaching school rotation at a time rather than the year as a whole</li> </ul>
<b>No Schedule</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Most commonly known as the Unschooling method</li> <li>No start or end date</li> <li>No concrete lesson plans or structure</li> <li>Contains 365 school days</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allows for complete freedom as there are no restrictions or schedules to adhere to</li> <li>Will reduce school struggles for children who find it difficult to comply with routines or schedules</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will present challenges for children who thrive on routine</li> <li>Does not operate within any typical school framework, making it challenging to comply with any state law deadlines</li> </ul>
<b>Combination</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any combination of the above methods</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completely customized to your child, family, school needs, and/or state law compliance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May be hard to track without a highly customizable lesson planner as schedules and needs will change frequently</li> </ul>