

1 foreign language classes, the school does not offer foreign language classes because it cannot afford
2 to do so. Neither of my children has taken a foreign language class because the school does not offer
3 them. I am upset that my children will now have a slower start for meeting university foreign
4 language requirements. Not being able to take foreign language classes also limits Austin and
5 Theresa's overall exposure to the educational benefits of learning another language.

6 **Merced High School:**

7 7. My son Austin will be a freshman in the fall at Merced High School. We've just received
8 our paperwork from the school. We are told that we need to buy a lock for Austin for PE for \$3.
9 I assume we have to purchase the locks because the school did not have enough money and space
10 to purchase lockers that are already equipped with locks. The school is also charging us \$20 for a
11 PE shirt and gym shorts for Austin.

12 **Burbank Elementary School:**

13 8. Five years ago, I taught at Burbank Elementary School in Merced, a school that uses a
14 multi-tracking, year round system. The multi-track, year round system causes kids to lose class time
15 as compared to the traditional calendar. As compared to students on single tracks, multi-track, year
16 round students lose a full six weeks of instructional time. Teachers and students have to spend more
17 weeks adjusting than they would if they were on a traditional calendar because they must shift tracks
18 so many times.


19 9. The first adjustment week occurs at the beginning of each track session when teachers
20 must assess their students, determine what information the students may have forgotten during track
21 breaks, and figure out what information to begin covering in the new session. During this
22 adjustment week, teachers do not cover heavy instructional material, but instead assign lighter,
23 simpler work. Likewise, teachers and students lose a week of instruction time at the end of the track
24 because teachers must assign simple work rather so that students have time to complete the work
25 before they go off track. This means that students from each track lose a total of six weeks of
26 instructional time more than kids from single track schools.

27 10. Also, the multi-track year round system splits up families. I have known families with
28 brothers and sisters on different tracks. One family I know had one son on the D track, while his

1 twin brother and his sister were on another track, and his other brother was on yet another track. The
2 multi-tracking system makes it hard for families to spend vacations and other quality time together
3 because some children in the family are in school at times when other children in the same family
4 are off track and out of school. I know plenty of families who would like to travel together, but
5 cannot do so because the kids are on different tracks in multiple track, year round systems. In order
6 to travel together, the families would have to take at least one child out of school.

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I declare under penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of California and the United States
that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 31 day of July, 2000 in Merced, California.


Keith Ensminger