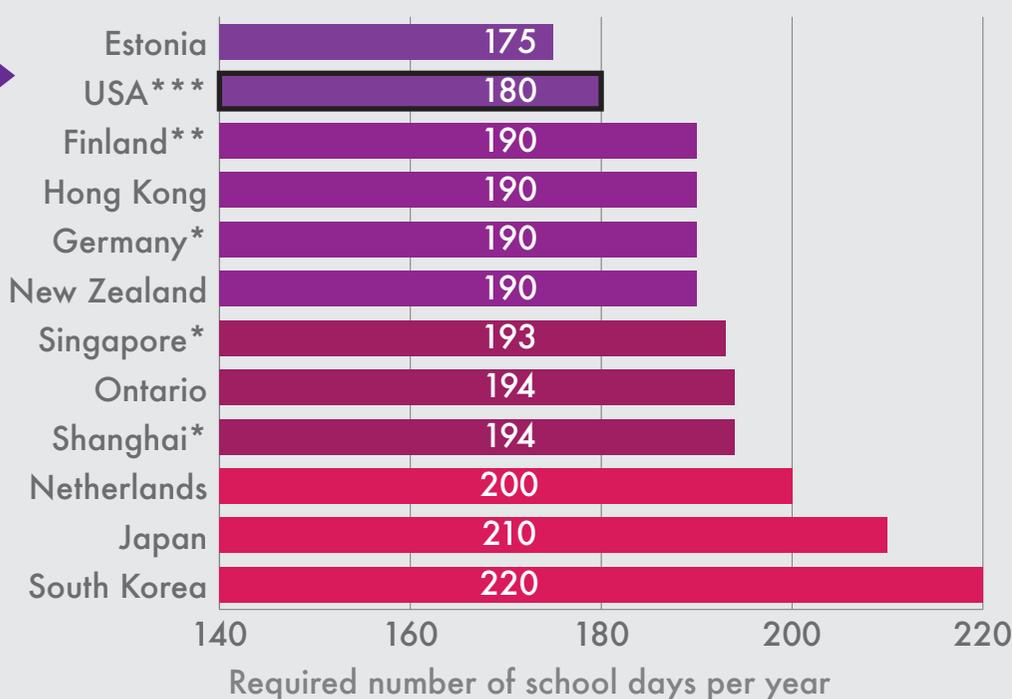


How Much Time Do Students Spend in School in Top-Performing School Systems and the U.S.?

How Many Days Per Year Are Students in School?

The best education systems in the world require students to be in school between 175 and 220 days, or 35 to 45 weeks. This variation suggests that total number of school days per year is not a determining factor in student performance.

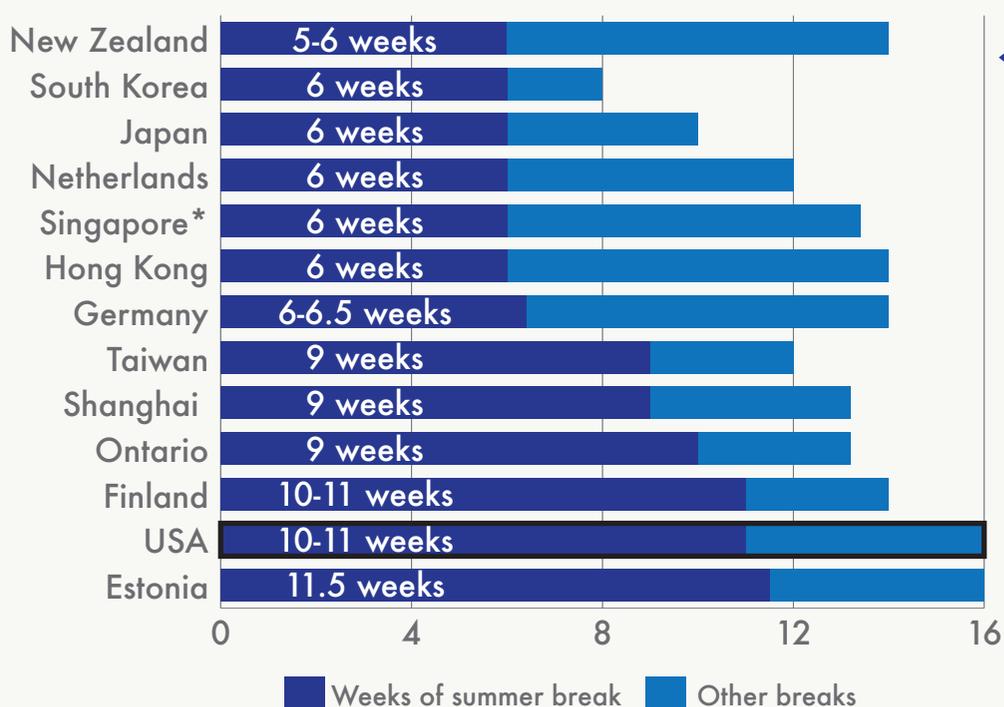


* These are the actual number of school days scheduled for 2017-18, rather than a national requirement.

**Finland sets a maximum of 190 school days per year, most schools are in session for fewer days than this.

*** Requirements vary by state in the U.S., but most states require 180 days.

How Many Weeks Off?



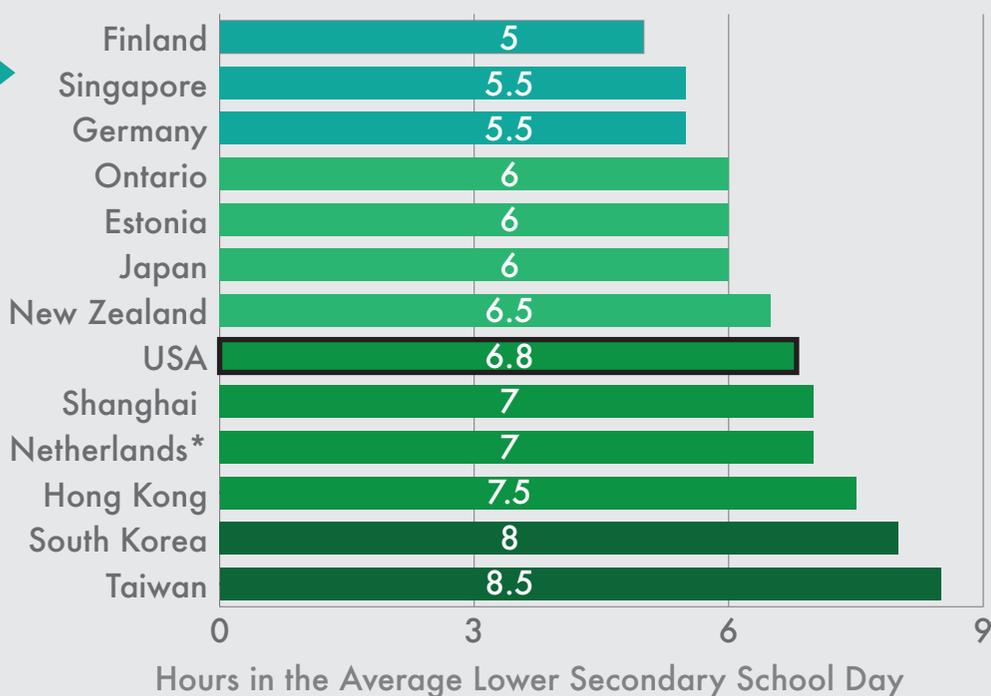
Summer breaks also vary widely across top-performing education systems. Almost half allow between 9 and 11 weeks for summer vacation, while just more than half allow only about 6 weeks for summer break.

Many systems with shorter summer vacations also allow students several smaller breaks throughout the school year, so that total time off is similar to those countries with longer summer breaks.

* Singapore's longest break is winter break at 6 weeks.

How Long Is the Average School Day?

Even the average length of the school day in top performing systems differs greatly by country. Students in Finland, for example, have only about 5 hours per day in school and little homework outside of school. But students in many Asian nations are in school for longer days, and many then attend private "cram schools" for hours per day outside of regular school time.



* Local schools in the Netherlands determine the length of their school day, so this varies widely.

There is no consistent pattern for number of days of school per year, length of school breaks, or even length of an average school day among top-performing education systems.

This suggests that when it comes to student performance, more important than the amount of time students spend in class is how that time is spent.

Read more about how schools are organized in these top-performing education systems on CIEB's website.