

Note! Live Spanish language translation is available!
ALL participants need to select a “language channel” for the duration of tonight's webinar.

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BALANCED CALENDAR

*A Balanced Approach to
Student Success*

11/17/21



Welcome!

TONIGHT'S AGENDA

- Welcome & Initiative Overview
 - **Jessica Vavrus**, Exec. Director, OSPI/AESD Network
 - **Jon Mishra**, Exec. Director of Special Program & Federal Accountability
Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)
- Balanced School Calendars: Is it time for a change?
 - **David Hornak**, National Association for Year-Round Education & Holt Michigan Public Schools
- Q&A with Current & Former Balanced Calendar Parents/Guardians
- Closing & Thank You

JON MISHRA

Exec. Director of Special Program & Federal Accountability
Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)



Superintendent Reykdal's Policy Priorities

January 2021

Substantially **shrink summer learning loss** in the long term, and **learning loss due to the pandemic** in the short term, by **balancing the school calendar...**

Statewide Partners



Modified Calendar Planning Grants & Regional Supports

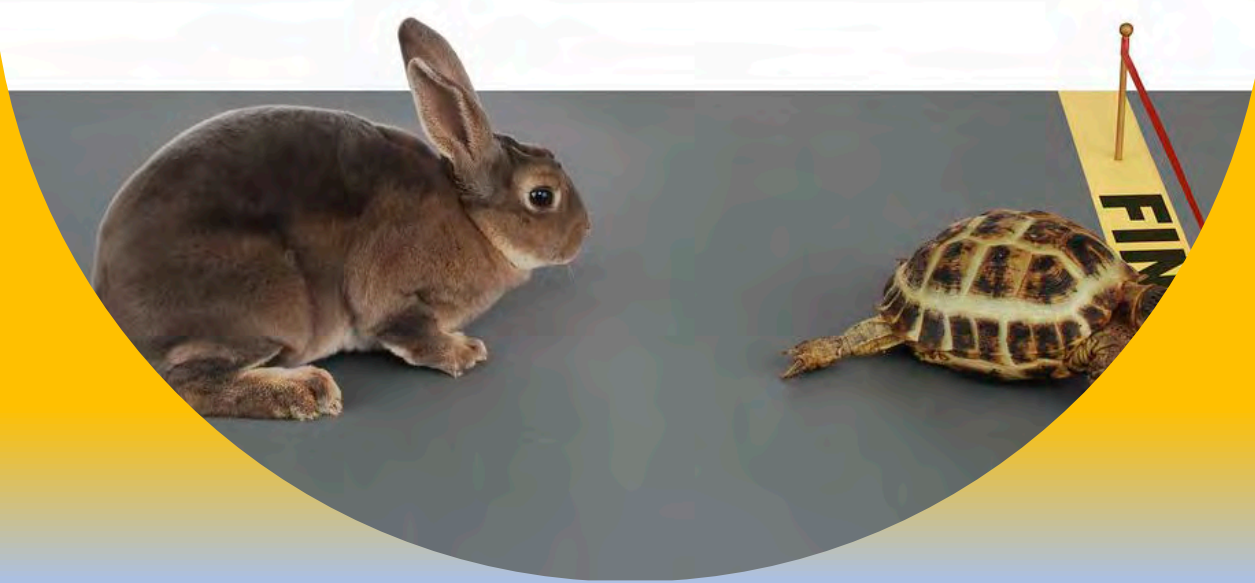
Western WA Region <i>(ESD Regions 113, 112, 114, 121, 189)</i>	Central WA Region <i>(ESD Regions 105 & 171)</i>	Eastern WA Region <i>(ESD Regions 123 & 101)</i>
Regional Contact Dana Anderson, ESD 113 danderson@esd113.org	Regional Contact Kevin Chase, ESD 105 Kevin.chase@esd105.org	Regional Contact Darcy Weisner, ESD 123 dweisner@esd123.org
Crescent Elma Lopez Island Mount Vernon North Thurston Oakville Olympia Rainier Valley Leadership Academy Vancouver Winlock	Highland Kittitas Mount Adams Selah Soap Lake Thorp Toppenish Union Gap Wahluke Yakima	Columbia (Walla Walla)

21 current grantees (funding available for up to 40!)
 Planning Grant Applications open through December - iGrants FB 173
 More information in OSPI Bulletin 060-22 (8/13/21)

DAVID HORNAK

Exec. Director National Association for Year-Round Education &
Holt Michigan Public Schools





Balanced School Calendars: Is it time for a change? November 17, 2021

Balanced Calendar Info Session



Contact Information

David G. Hornak, Ed.D.

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Setting the Stage:

- <http://gohps.net/bcsummerlearningloss>



Calendar Reform

- **You are being asked to remediate the learning gaps that your traditional calendar creates.**

American children spend the least amount of time in the classroom when compared to other countries. Currently, the school year length in the United States is 180 days. Advocates are pushing further toward a 200-day school year, which would align with Thailand, Scotland and the Netherlands, and leave us a close second with Israel, South Korea and Japan, who leads with a 243-day school year. The balanced school calendar does not require more days, but rather reducing the number of days off each summer. With Intersession, students could attend school 215 – 225 days each year.

Country	Days of School
Japan	243
South Korea	220
Israel	216
Luxembourg	216
The Netherlands	200
Scotland	200
Thailand	200
Hong Kong	195
England	192
Hungary	192
Swaziland	191
Finland	190
New Zealand	190
Nigeria	190
France	185
United States	180

What is a Balanced School Calendar?



A balanced school calendar adjusts the traditional 180-day school calendar to keep the learning process continuous. Students have periodic, shorter breaks rather than one long summer intermission.



The most researched model includes a 45/15 model also known as 9-weeks of instruction with three weeks off.



Balanced Calendar districts have several short vacations through the year, rather than one three-month summer break.

The Why...

The amount of knowledge that is lost during a summer break by children is paramount (Cooper, Charlton, Valentine, & Muhlenbruck, 2000).

The extent of summer learning loss becomes more dramatic as students get older (Cooper, 2003).

Hattie (2009), stated with an effect size of **-0.09** summer, has a negative impact on all kids. Hattie also stated techniques at **0.4** or better will have the greatest Impact.

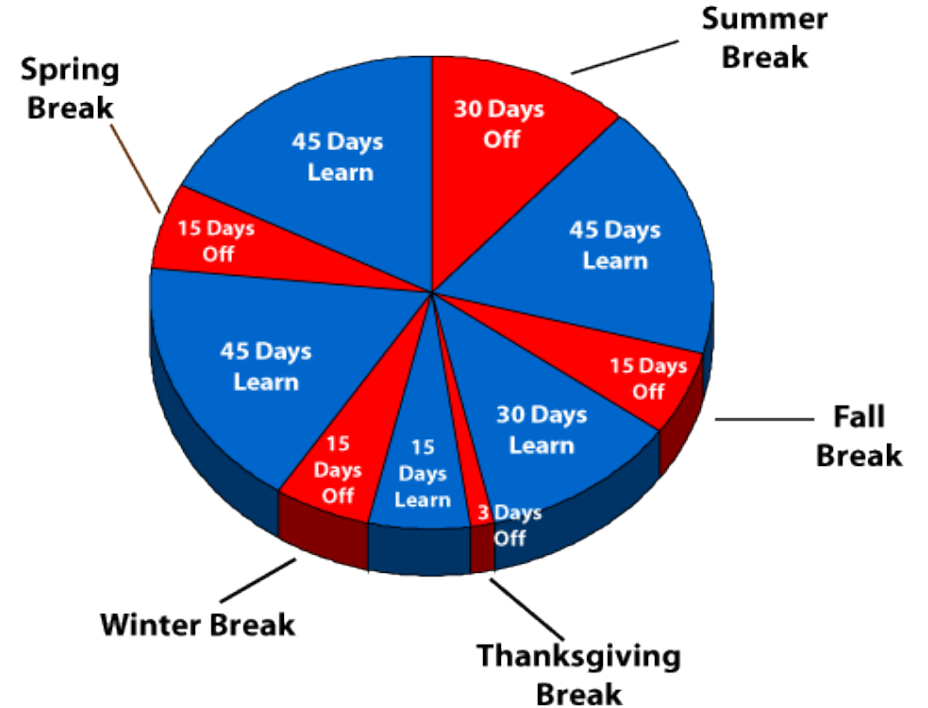
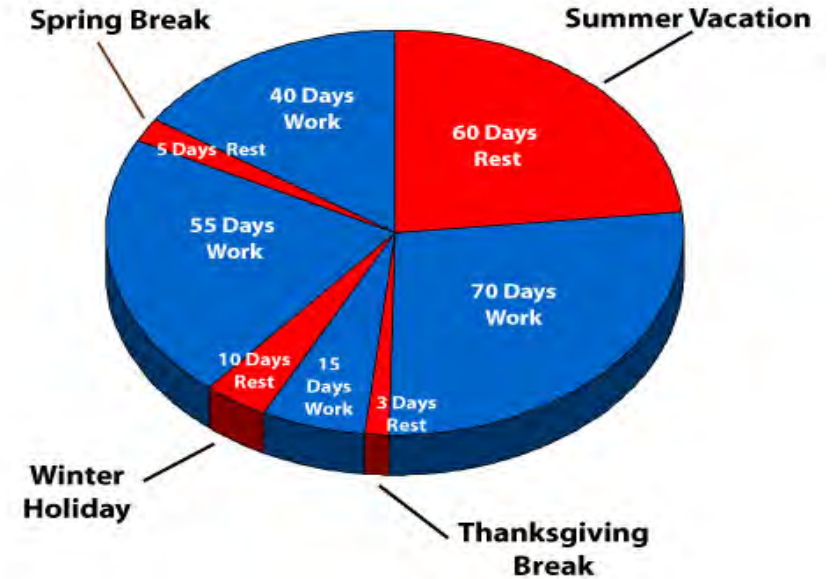
Smith (2012) indicated that two-thirds of the achievement gap in 9th grade can be attributed to the amount of required time it takes a teacher to reteach and review what was learned prior to the summer intermission.

All children attending school on the traditional calendar, according to Cooper et al., (2000) lose an average of 2.6 months of math skills during the summer break annually.

We are being asked to remediate the learning gaps that the traditional calendar creates. School districts across the nation are spending millions of At-Risk and Title funds to help close the learning gaps we are contributing to each year. (New York spends \$2.3 billion each year to remediate the learning gaps created by summer intermission)

Balanced Calendar

- Strengths
 - Continuity of Instruction = Quality
 - Planning and Preparation
 - Intersession for Remediation & Balanced Calendar Enrichment
 - Reduces Summer Learning Loss (Summer Slide)
 - Improvement in Teacher Attitudes
 - Less Teacher Burnout – More Frequent Breaks
 - Positive impact to the nationwide substitute shortage
 - Provides opportunities for learning recovery and to complete unfinished learning (COVID)



What Balanced Calendar employees say is also backed by research!



TEACHERS IN BALANCED PROGRAMS GENERALLY BELIEVE THAT THE QUALITY OF INSTRUCTION IS BETTER THAN IN TRADITIONAL PROGRAMS DUE TO THE CONTINUITY OF INSTRUCTION



THE ORGANIZATION OF THE INSTRUCTIONAL TIME ALLOWS EDUCATORS TO BE REFLECTIVE PRACTITIONERS BECAUSE THEY ARE BETTER ABLE TO PLAN AT REGULAR INTERVALS DURING THE ACADEMIC YEAR WHEN IT IS NEEDED THE MOST



EDUCATORS FIND IT MORE EFFICIENT AND PRODUCTIVE TO PLAN CURRICULUM FOR SHORTER BLOCKS OF TIME AND FEEL THAT THE BALANCED CALENDAR PROVIDES AMPLE TIME SEGMENTS FOR INSTRUCTION.



ENHANCING THE CLIMATE OF PROFESSIONALISM



THE RESEARCH RESULTS CLEARLY INDICATE THAT MOST TEACHERS IN BALANCED CALENDAR SCHOOLS FAVOR THE ALTERNATIVE CALENDAR AND BELIEVE IT SUBSTANTIALLY ENHANCES THE PROFESSIONAL ENVIRONMENT. DUE TO THE FREQUENCY OF BREAKS ON THE BALANCED CALENDAR, TEACHERS EXHIBIT IMPROVED MORALE AND MOTIVATION, AND LESS BURNOUT AND STRESS



IT HAS BEEN REPORTED THAT TEACHERS WERE ABSENT CONSIDERABLY LESS ON BALANCED SCHEDULES (SUBSTITUTE SHORTAGE)

Benefits of the Balanced Calendar



In schools offering intersession programs during the vacation periods, teachers credit the intersession instruction with enhancing and supplementing the regular curriculum (Haser & Nasser, 2005; Quinlan, George, & Emmett, 1987).



In addition, intersession courses provide opportunities for teacher experimentation with different curriculum and grade levels (Haser & Nasser, 2005; Zykowski et al., 1991). Intersession allows for real time remediation and enrichment as well as advanced learning opportunities.



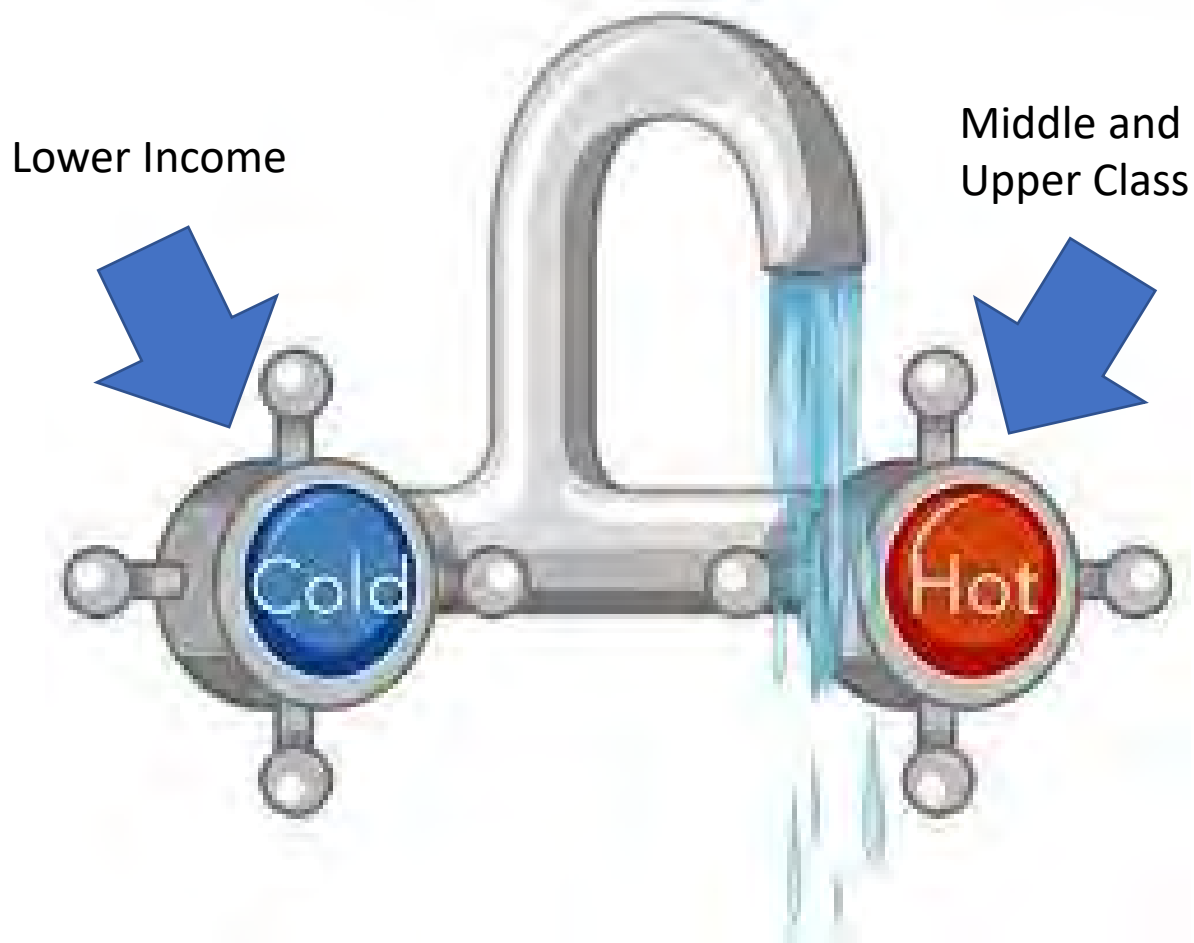
Another advantage for teachers is that less review time is necessary at the beginning of each instructional block, as research has demonstrated that the shorter vacation periods reduce the summer slide.



Researchers claim that this is especially true for the low socio-economic status (SES) level and high-risk students, however, the newest research indicates the Balanced Calendar benefits all students.



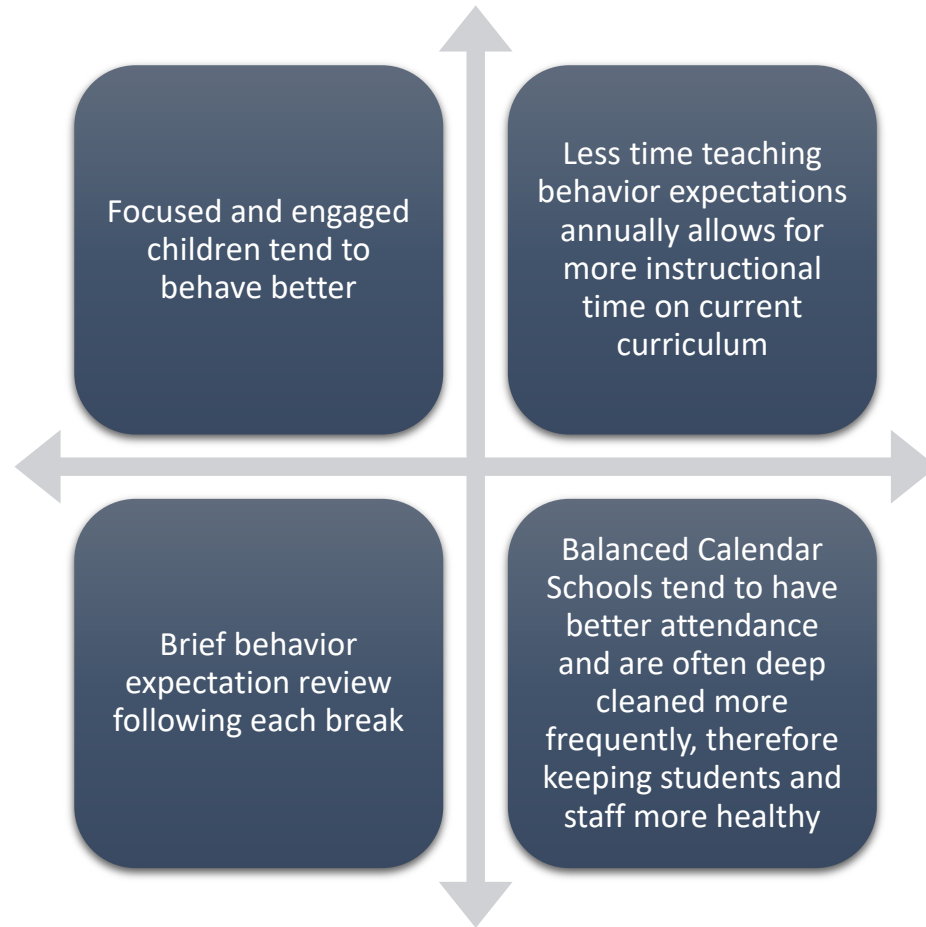
Teachers who teach Advanced Placement and Honors Courses appreciate more time to teach before the required testing period.



Theoretical Framework: Faucet Theory

- When children are in school, all children learn at the same rate. When on a recess (vacation), the middle class/upper class child maintains levels and the lower-class child loses knowledge (Entwisle, Alexander, & Olson, 1997).

Impacting Behaviors and Health

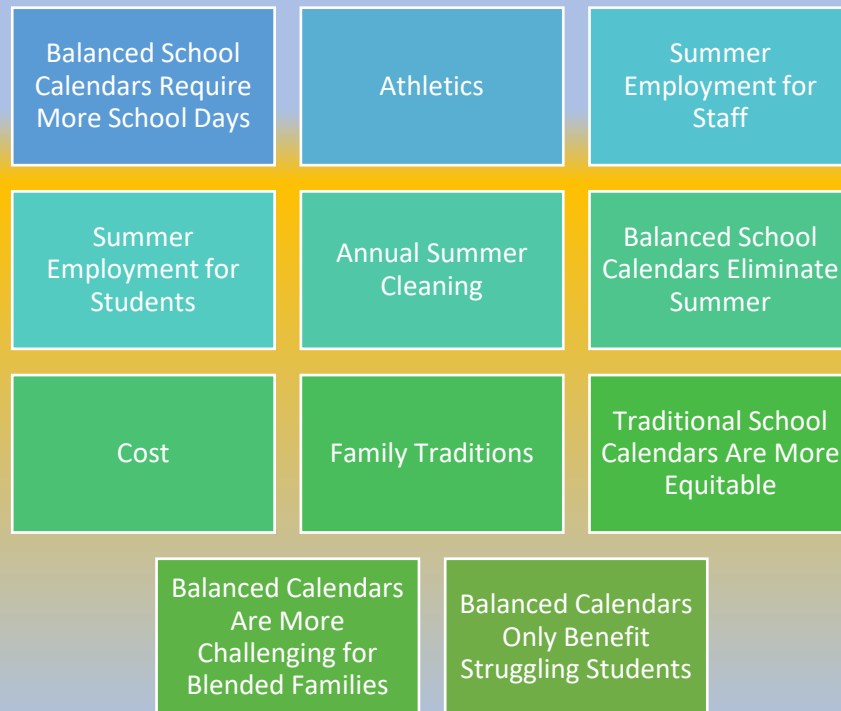


Example Calendars:

- Balanced School Calendar
- Traditional Hybrid Calendar

	Balanced Calendar	Traditional Calendar
First Day of School		August 18
No School	August 13	
No School	August 16	
No School	September 3	September 3
No School: Labor Day	September 6	September 6
No School: Fall Break	October 11-15	October 11-15
No School: Fall Break	October 18-22	
No School: Thanksgiving Break	November 22-26	November 24-26
No School: Winter Break	December 20-31	December 20-31
No School: MLK, Jr. Day	January 17	January 17
No School: Mid-Winter Break	February 18-25	February 21-25
No School: Spring Break	March 25-April 1	March 25-April 1
No School: Spring Break	April 4-8	
No School: Memorial Day	May 30	May 30
No School: Memorial Break	May 30-June 3	
Last Day of School	June 22	June 10

Common Concerns



Questions and Answers with Current and Former Balanced Calendar Parents/Guardians

Kellie Flaminio – Raised in Washington state, lives in Holt, MI, works for the Michigan Department of Education, one student on the Balanced Calendar, one that attended and is currently on our hybrid traditional calendar

Erica Johnson – Lives in Mt. Pleasant, MI, works at Central Michigan University about 80-miles north in a district that is new to the Balanced Calendar, PTO President, has good perspective on the transition and how to support families and staff through the transition

Jennifer Robel – Lives in Holt, MI, current Board of Education member, had two children transition through the Balanced Calendar and both currently attend our hybrid traditional calendar schools, also works for the Michigan Department of Education

Kevin Leonard – Lives in Holt, MI, current Board of Education member, had a child transition through the Balanced Calendar and is currently on the hybrid traditional calendar. He works for Michigan State University as a Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion



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Thank you!

FOR MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.waesd.org/services/calendar/>