



Balanced Calendar 101

BALANCED CALENDAR SUMMIT

OCTOBER 12, 2022

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER SHORTAGE



IMPROVING TEACHER MORALE

Addressing
**Unfinished
Learning**



150

180

220

Contact Information

David G. Hornak, Ed.D.

Superintendent, Holt Public Schools, Holt, Michigan

Executive Director, National Association for Year-Round Education (NAYRE)

dhornak@hpsk12.net

- ❑ NAYRE.ORG
- ❑ NAYRE on Facebook
- ❑ @holtpublicsch on Twitter
- ❑ Holtpublic on Instagram
- ❑ Holt Public Schools on Facebook
- ❑ Holt Public Schools Communications on YouTube
- ❑ @davidghornak on Twitter
- ❑ David Hornak on Facebook

Setting the Stage

<http://gohps.net/bcsummerlearningloss>



Balanced Calendar Fall Summit

Calendar Reform

We are being asked to remediate the learning gaps that the 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 calendar?



A year-round school modifies 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.

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.

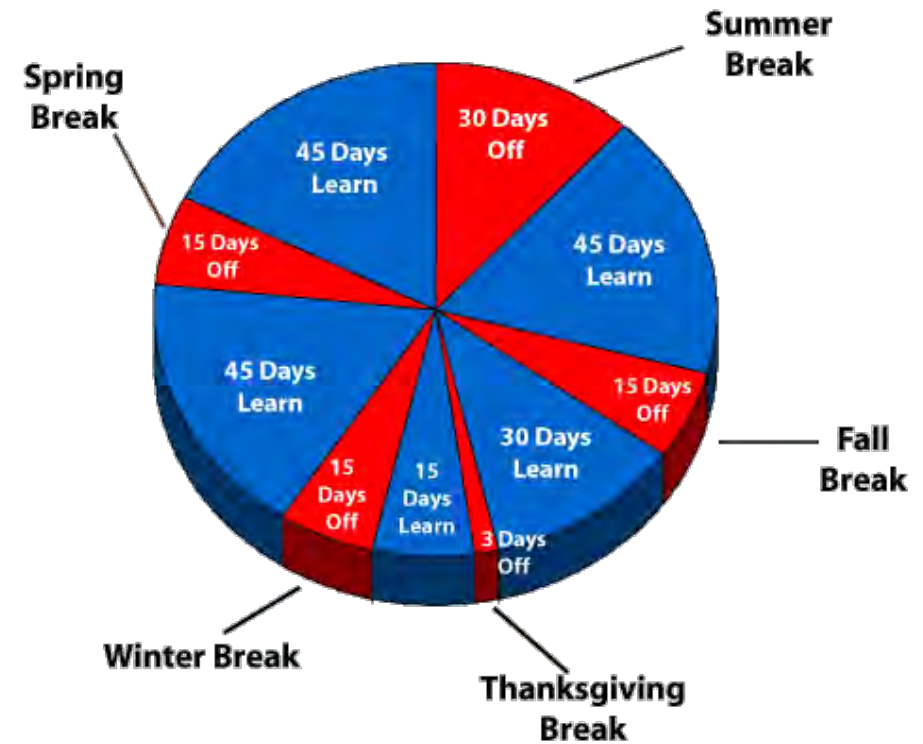
We are being asked to remediate the learning gaps that the traditional calendar creates. School districts across the nation are spending millions of At-Risk and Title funds to help close the learning gaps we are contributing to each year.

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

45/15 Balanced Calendar



What Balanced Calendar employees say is also backed by research!



TEACHERS IN YEAR-ROUND 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



THEY FIND IT MORE EFFICIENT AND PRODUCTIVE TO PLAN CURRICULUM FOR SHORTER BLOCKS OF TIME AND FEEL THAT THE YEAR-ROUND CALENDAR PROVIDES AMPLE TIME SEGMENTS FOR INSTRUCTION.



ENHANCING THE CLIMATE OF PROFESSIONALISM



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



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

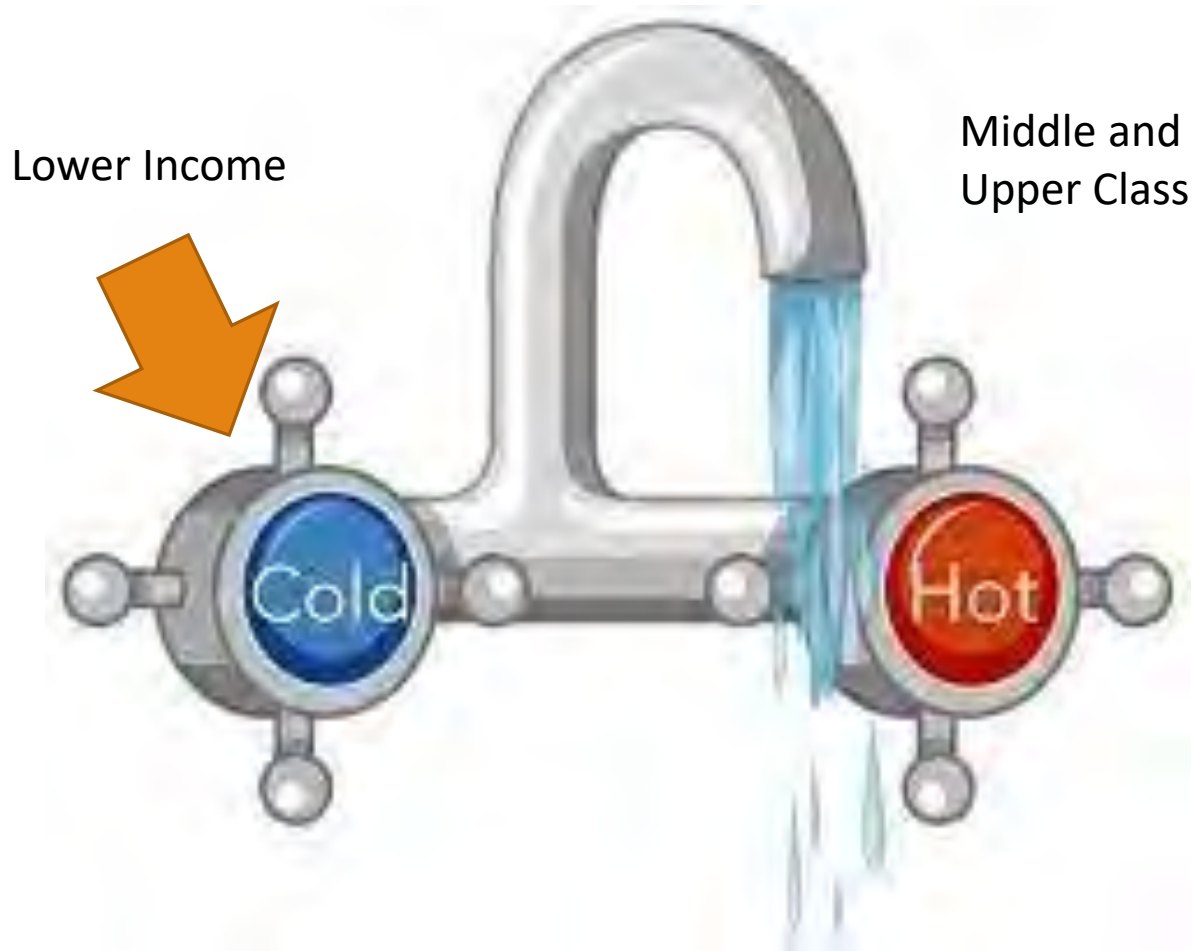
Benefits of the Balanced Calendar

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.

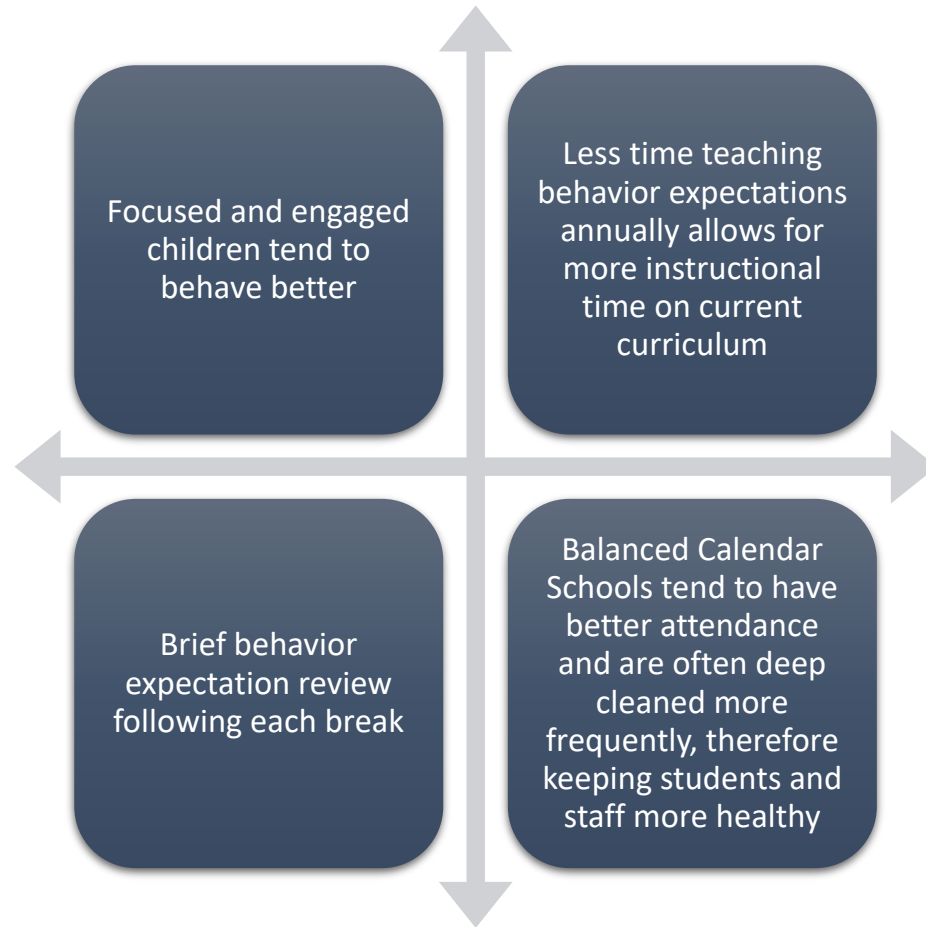
Researchers claim that this is especially true for the low socio-economic status (SES) level and high-risk students, however, the newest research indicates the Balanced Calendar benefits all students.



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 Calendar
Schools & Hybrid
Calendar Schools

2021-22 School Calendars (Tentative and Subject to Change)

	Balanced Calendar	Traditional Calendar
First Day of School	August 3	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

Considerations

Determine	Determine the needs of your environment
Work	Work with the community to ensure students will not be left without intersession opportunities, childcare, summer activities
Work	Work with your educational partners to ensure all children accessing programming outside of the district will not be impacted
Offer	Schools may need to offer Professional Development and community meetings

Frequently Asked Questions

Does the Balanced School Calendar have a positive impact on the children that score within the bottom 30% on standardized tests?

- Faucet Theory
- New research indicates the Balanced School Calendar benefits all students

How would our families manage two calendars if we only had our elementary students attend a balanced calendar?

- Individualized parenting time

Does the entire District need to transition at once?

- No, however, districts are most efficient when operating on one calendar
- Multi-Track and School within a School are also considered at times.

With strong partnerships with the ESD, how would we honor IEPs?

Offer make-up sessions in September and May

Pay an ESD employee to service balanced calendar children/Offer comp time for those working in August/June

Allow families to seek their own services to be paid by the district



Does the balanced school calendar require specific adjustments to employee contracts?

No, the entire Holt district has one contract; however, the contract has two different calendars guiding work time.

More FAQs

More FAQs

If our district/school were to adopt the balanced school calendar, what kind of enrollment numbers do you forecast?

- Waiting list at many grade levels
- Increase in overall numbers
- Better fit with current lifestyles and workloads



Common Concerns



Balanced School Calendars Require More School Days	Athletics	Summer Employment for Staff
Summer Employment for Students	Annual Summer Cleaning	Balanced School Calendars Eliminate Summer
Cost	Family Traditions	Traditional School Calendars Are More Equitable
Balanced Calendars Are More Challenging for Blended Families	Balanced Calendars Only Benefit Struggling Students	



Books to Study

Children, Schools, and Inequality by Doris R. Entwisle, Karl L. Alexander, & Linda Steffel Olson (1997)

Year-round education: change and choice for schools and teachers by Haser & Nasser(2005)

Balancing the School Calendar: Perspectives from the public and stakeholders by Carolyn Kneese & Charles Ballinger (2006)

School calendar reform by Charles Ballinger & Carolyn Kneese (2009)

Summer versus School: the possibilities of the year-round school by James M. Pedersen(2015)

1

Call on a local expert or connect with NAYRE

2

Communicate often

3

Hold informational sessions

4

Link with your local educational partners

5

Connect with local and State level lawmakers

6

Work with and inform your community

Recommendations

Pinterest:

<https://www.pinterest.com/davidghornak/>

Avoid the SUMMER Slide

- 100% of students experience some learning loss over the summer months.
- 25% of students lose 2-3 months of learning.
- 4-6 Weeks of learning loss for most students.
- 2-6 Months of learning loss for some students.
- 2/3 of students lose 3-6 months of learning.
- 3 Years of learning loss for some students.

5 fun activities to avoid Summer Learning loss

1. Read every day
2. Cook with your children
3. Enroll in a quality summer camp
4. Plan a trip
5. Download Mobile Apps

SPLASH MATH
www.splashmath.com

How to Stop the SUMMER LEARNING LOSS

Summer slide has a 20% impact of learning every year during the summer. There are ways to avoid it. Here are 5 ways to stop it.

1. **TALK TO YOUR CHILD**
2. **LISTEN TO OR READ TO YOUR CHILD**
3. **VISIT THE LIBRARY**
4. **READ TO YOUR CHILD**
5. **LISTEN TO PODCASTS ON THE GO**

ReadingMatters.com

Know the facts about Summer Learning Loss

When students return to school after the long summer months, teachers are faced with the problem of catching up for lost time before starting the new school year—as much as 3-4 weeks of learning according to a recent study.

Despite the challenges that summer learning loss presents, a synthesis of 25 studies of summer school programs found that when they focus on retention, improvement, or enrichment, the effects are positive.

1. **If They Don't Use It, They Will Lose It!**
2. **Summer Vacation is 2-3 Months of Lost Learning**
3. **Lower Skill up Year After Year**
4. **Technology Gap**

Summer Learning FACTS

So, What Can be Done?

When considering how to plan your summer school program, take into account the recommendations of the National Summer Learning Association's Summer Learning ABCs.

Looking for Additional Ways to Promote Learning Over the Summer?

- Create a school program...
- Encourage students to keep a reading journal...
- Encourage students to keep a journal...

ReadingMatters.com



Questions?

Once you live it,
you love it!

