

BALANCED CALENDAR THEORY OF ACTION

SOAP LAKE SCHOOL DISTRICT #156

March 2023

**What is your Problem of Practice that can be remedied by implementing a Balanced Calendar:** *The Soap Lake School District has two Problems of Practice that we feel may be remedied by implementing a Balanced Calendar. The first is reducing the “summer slide” and the second is the need to have strong interventions in place to reduce the educational gaps. The SLSD gaps may be grouped by ELL, SPED but a more common denominator is poverty.*

<p><b>Activities to achieve this goal</b>  <i>What actions will occur?                      What steps will take place?</i>  <b>Goal 1 – Reducing Summer Slide.</b>   <b>Goal 2 – Decreasing educational gaps.</b></p>	<p><b>Professional Development Strategy or Rationale</b>  <i>How will staff acquire the necessary skills and attitudes to consider and implement a Balanced Calendar?</i></p>	<p><b>Timeline</b>  <i>When will this strategy or action begin/take place?</i>  <b>Who is Responsible?</b>  <i>Who will provide the leadership?                      Who will do the work?</i></p>	<p><b>Resources Available</b>  <i>What are the existing and new resources that we will use to support our Balanced Calendar inquiry?</i></p>	<p><b>Leadership Actions</b>  <i>What specific actions will be done by district and building leaders to “sponsor” this strategy?</i></p>	<p><b>Monitoring Effectiveness</b>  <i>What activities have been completed and what have been the outcomes?</i></p>
<p>Community meetings to explained “balanced calendar”</p>		<p>Superintendent, principals and possibly leaders from teachers and classified.</p>	<p>WA State ESD, Balanced Calendar teams, Sups and staff from other districts already doing it. Similar type schools.</p>	<p>This category is pretty much the same in all areas as our district is small. With less than 500 students, 36 teachers and a total of 77 staff it would be necessary to bring leaders from</p>	<p>Surveys were done 3 years ago and there was overwhelming NO.                       Figuring a new approach to even getting individuals to listen to the idea would be critical and difficult.</p>
<p>In District staff meetings to delve deep into what intersessions are, how they are run, and what would they look like in our district.</p>	<p>Balanced Calendar exploration, meaning and broad knowledge learning PRIOR to getting in the weeds.</p>	<p>Principals and Superintendent.</p>	<p>While same as above. It would be necessary to hear from teachers/classified workers from other districts already doing it. Similar type schools.</p>	<p>the district to “champion the work” to make sure that the same strong, positive message is shared.                       It would also be important to really</p>	<p>Surveying the staff and asking really deep hard questions will be critical.                       Then face to face meetings to listen to ideas, questions and concerns will be critical</p>

				listen to the feedback and thoroughly answer any and all questions, concerns or general comments.	if we were to move forward.
School Board study sessions to discuss pros and cons. This includes budget requirements, funding options, etc.	Study Sessions.	Fiscal/business manager, Federal/State programs director, principals.	Our board would need to hear how the budgets and systems are handled from other school systems.		Hearing the school boards questions and concerns.  Fielding their questions and what they hear in the public.
District and ESD planning sessions to search for funding options and “thinking outside the box.”		ESD support team and Federal/State Programs Director, Sup., Business Manager.	Our team would need to hear from the finance teams in other districts.		Making sure all budget, contractual and relational needs are met and adjusting as needed.
<p><b>SUMMATIVE EVIDENCE:</b> <i>What evidence will show that a Balanced Calendar has made a difference in student outcomes/student learning?</i></p> <p>We are still a very long way from making this a reality. It flopped last time it was presented! It will be imperative to go slow to go far if we are going to try this again.</p> <p>If we were able to move forward, student academic data, parent and student surveys as well as staff input would be used to determine the success of the Balanced Calendar.</p>					