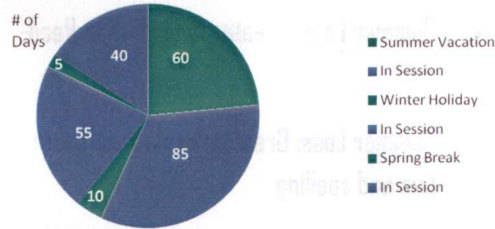
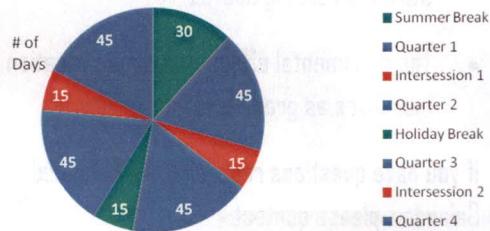


WHAT DOES A BALANCED CALENDAR LOOK LIKE?

Traditional 9 Month Calendar



Balanced 45/15 Calendar



The Traditional 9 Month Calendar was created in the 1800's in order to meet the needs of communities largely reliant upon agriculture. This model has become outdated and the needs of the modern student require less lengthy gaps in student learning. The Balanced 45/15 calendar allows students to attend the same number of school days per calendar year but enhances the number of learning experiences and opportunities for remediation while eliminating the knowledge that is lost over summer vacation.

CALENDAR REFORM

"We can no longer afford an academic calendar designed when America was a nation of farmers who needed their children at home plowing the land at the end of each day. That calendar may have once made sense, but today, it puts us at a competitive disadvantage. Our children spend over a month less in school than children in South Korea. That is no way to prepare them for a 21st century education."

President Obama

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BALANCING THE CALENDAR AN INNOVATIVE APPROACH TO EDUCATION



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WHAT IS A BALANCED CALENDAR?

A Balanced Calendar evenly distributes the days that students attend school and the days they are on vacation across a 12-month calendar.

What is the Educational Value of Balancing the Calendar?

- Continuous instruction and learning
- Less learning loss
- Quicker intervention
- Increased opportunities for planning and preparation
- Higher attendance rates for students
- Fewer teacher substitute days
- Eliminates summer learning loss

What are some of the Extended Benefits of a Balanced Calendar?

- Intersession—The 10-day or 15-day breaks that occur after each 45-day period of school provide an opportunity to offer extra help to students who are struggling. It also allows for enrichment activities for students that cannot be offered during the traditional school day.
- Instruction—The key to quality instruction is planning and assessment. The 45-day periods of instruction would provide teachers with manageable blocks of time for effective unit planning. The breaks offer the time needed to reflect on student progress and to prepare for the next 45-day period.
- Student Behavior—Research studies indicate that students who attend school on a balanced calendar demonstrate improvement in school attendance and behavior as well as academic achievement.

Summer Learning Loss

Statistics show that the traditional school calendar supports summer learning loss.

- Summer Loss: Greater in Math than Reading
- Summer Loss: Greatest in Math computation and spelling
- Summer vacation increases disparities between advantaged and disadvantaged students reading scores
- The detrimental effect of summer vacation increases as grade level increases.

If you have questions regarding the Balanced Calendar, please contact:

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