Balanced Calendar

Group Members: Kathy Scribner, Jarred Fudacz, Joy Fields, Kim Rivera, Jessa Thomas, Briann Willette, Angela Dyk, Rachel George, Cheanna Siekawitch, Karma Seubert, JT Boitano, Johnny Boitano, and Jessica Hoff
What is a balanced calendar and what are the benefits?
A balanced calendar is one in which districts spread 180 days of school throughout an extended year (instead of the traditional calendar).

Balanced calendars add flexibility for school districts to work within their own communities. With gathered data, as well as, receiving input and feedback from district families – education leaders decide what calendars work best to serve their student learning community.
Benefits

- Students who have consistent access to learning activities throughout the year do better in school.

- Less learning disruption from a shorter Summer (less time spent on “reteaching”).

- Consistent student-teacher partnerships (increased attendance, decreased behavior issues).

- Expansion of curriculum and learning opportunities.
With these understandings...

We have created the following balanced calendar.

We are starting our school year slightly before Labor day (08/28/23), with more breaks throughout the year, taking our school year to the end of June (06/27/24). June could be used for experience based learning, with much of our learning taking place outdoors. This calendar shortens our Summer break – taking us from approximately 11 weeks to 7 weeks to limit student learning loss.
Growth Opportunities
One of the major components tied to student success within a balanced calendar is providing students with enrichment, extension and intervention opportunities.
We have created a second calendar for your consideration. This calendar includes time embedded within the proposed calendar to provide every student with exciting learning opportunities, utilizing Tiger Academy Fridays. Every attending student would take part in one intervention/extension session and one enrichment session each Friday. Teacher’s would have opportunities to create sessions that ignite their individual teaching passions. Lastly, the Tiger Academy schedule provides each student with an opportunity to receive extra hours of instruction over the course of the academic year.

These learning experiences might look like: rocketry, credit retrieval, expressive arts, archery, cooking, math and reading support, sport eligibility support, coding, hiking, let your imagination soar...
How do we make this work?

Approximate Budgetary Considerations:

- Extra janitorial staff within the Summer months = $17,000 (unknown days needed)
- Tiger Academy Needs:
  - Extra Lunchroom support on Fridays. Paraeducator – $70.71/Friday 8am-12pm for a total of 33 days = $2,333.43
  - Extra bus run on Fridays, Driver and bus operation cost is $341.96/Friday for a total of 21 Fridays = $7,181.16

Scheduling Changes:

- No scheduling changes necessary if plan is approved without Tiger Academy.
- With Tiger Academy Schedule:
  - All Students, P-12
    - Monday - Thursday 8:30 am - 3:10 pm
    - Friday 8:30 am - 12:00 pm
  - Students Attending Tiger Academy:
    - Friday 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

*TEA involvement would also be required to develop a final class schedule per union contract.

There is also a potential impact to sports.
Data points taken from: