

February Care Package

Balanced Calendar & Scheduling



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Bite (5-10 minutes)

Data Scan



Pull up the master calendar for your district for the year and consider some opportunities for adjusting breaks into your calendar or adjusting the length of breaks throughout the school year.

Ask Yourself

- What would need to happen to adjust this schedule?
- What stakeholders would need to be consulted to make informed choices?
- How might you ease into adjusting the schedule, so it doesn't shock your community?
- How might the calendar also be adjusted to ensure adequate time is provided for all students to access academic, career and social-emotional development supports?

OR

Pull up your course catalog and examine the course descriptions. Do they clearly show alignment with course requirements and graduation pathways? Are the available courses supporting students' preparation for postsecondary education and training, especially in areas of high demand within our current workforce?

Ask Yourself

- What current courses, programs or schedules might need to change to meet students' academic needs and career interests?
- How are all students being supported in accessing courses and school-based activities that prepare them for their postsecondary goals?
- What support or training might staff need to offer new academic and extracurricular opportunities within a balanced calendar?
- How might High School & Beyond Plan data inform planning for a balanced calendar?

Snack (30 minutes)

Option 1: Resource Review

Balanced Calendar Initiative

Discuss with Your Team

- Please review the information from [N. Thurston](#)
- What surprised you?



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- What are you more curious about?
- How is this information applicable to your district?
- What do you need more information about?
- If you could ask the expert 2 questions, what will they be?

Option 2: Read an article

- What is a Balanced Calendar and How Does it work?
- What surprised you?
- What are you more curious about?
- How is this information applicable to your district?
- What do you need more information about?
- If you could ask the expert 2 questions, what will they be?

Meal (90 minutes +)

Watch & discuss the February Graduation Equity Webinar

Balanced Calendar & Scheduling



Our school system holds summers in high regard. We want to maintain a break for everyone, but we also face summer learning loss, lack of services, and social disconnection during that time. What if we could adjust the schedule to offer more proactive supports, more breaks to educators, and help kids catch up when they've fallen behind using high interest topics? The balanced calendar is not year-round school. There will still be a summer break, but there will also be longer breaks spread throughout the year that make learning and teaching more humane and consistent. We'll have David Hornak, the Executive Director of the National Association for Year-Round Education, with us to talk about his work, and we'll have a school with us to talk about how this work has impacted them and their lessons learned. We'll also share some perspectives from alternative learning about daily schedules, and from our school counseling perspective on how the High School and Beyond Plan can help you create more meaningful class offerings. Free Clock Hours are available each month. [Register](#) for live content February 8 or watch the [recording](#) on our YouTube channel.

Discussion Questions for Your Team

- What appeals to you about the balanced calendar?
- What are potential barriers?
- Who would you need to recruit?
- What students would benefit the most from this adjustment? Are there opportunities to get their feedback?



Contact Us



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