

Balanced Calendar Journey

Capital Region ESD 113
Board Meeting
5/10/23



Our Process. . . How did we get here. . .?

-In 2019, 2 board members attended a workshop on Balanced Calendar and became interested in exploring it as a possibility for Oakville.

-In 2021, the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction offered districts the opportunity to apply for a \$75,000 planning grant, which based on the Board's direction, Oakville applied and were awarded. We have 2 years to spend the money. In 2022, we applied for \$40,000 more, which we were awarded.

-In 22-23 We had 5 community meetings and numerous staff updates

-In the fall we sent 7 staff to Yakima for the Balanced Calendar Summit

-Committee has continued to meet monthly to plan.

-Reached out to Toppenish, Mt. Adams, Wahluke, Highland and Winlock to do Zoom sessions

-Staff Presentation

-Committee had steps in a plan

- Book Study -- All were Welcome to participate
- Student Presentation
- Regular Committee Meetings w/Staff and Community (tonight)

Why would Oakville consider changing its calendar?

A variety of reasons:

- Even with our preschool opening 3 years ago, 40% of our students start with no pre-kindergarten school experience. This means these students enter our system 1-2 years behind, as we start.

Smarter Balanced Assessment Scores:

24.3%

Met ELA
Standards

11.8%

Met Math
Standards

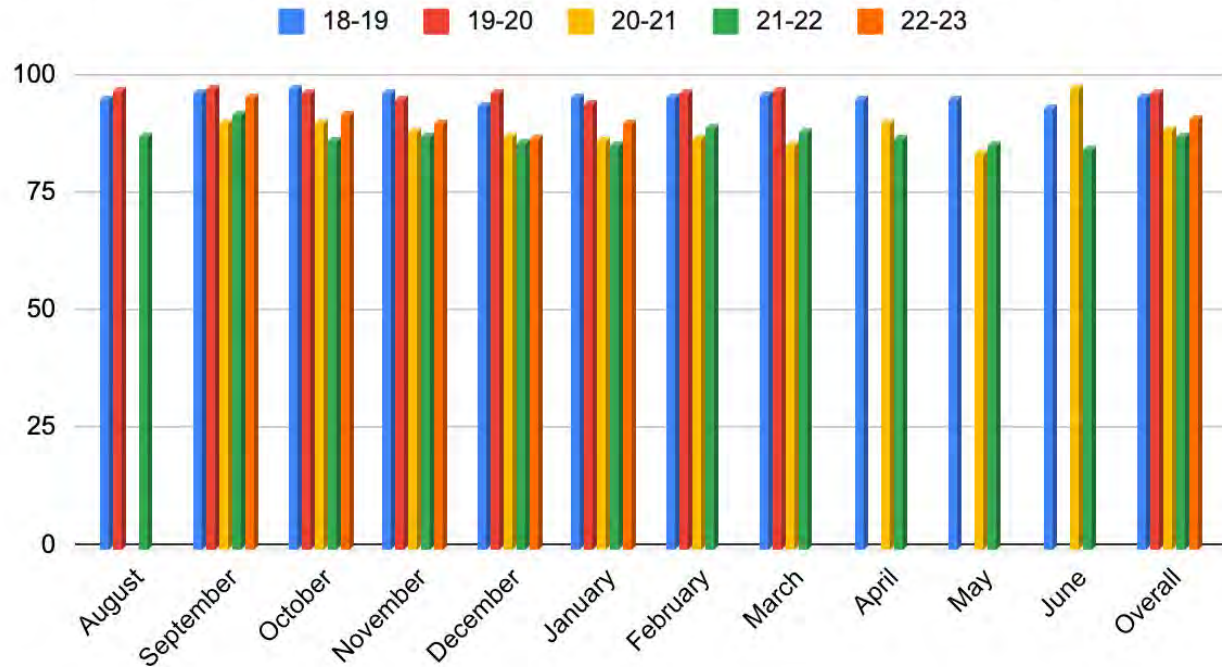
39.1%

Met Science
Standard

Fall 2021

Why would Oakville consider changing its calendar?

Oakville School District Attendance Rate (as percentages)



What Modified Calendar employees say is also backed by research!



TEACHERS IN MODIFIED 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 MODIFIED CALENDAR PROVIDES AMPLE TIME SEGMENTS FOR INSTRUCTION.



ENHANCING THE CLIMATE OF PROFESSIONALISM



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



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

Benefits of the Modified 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.



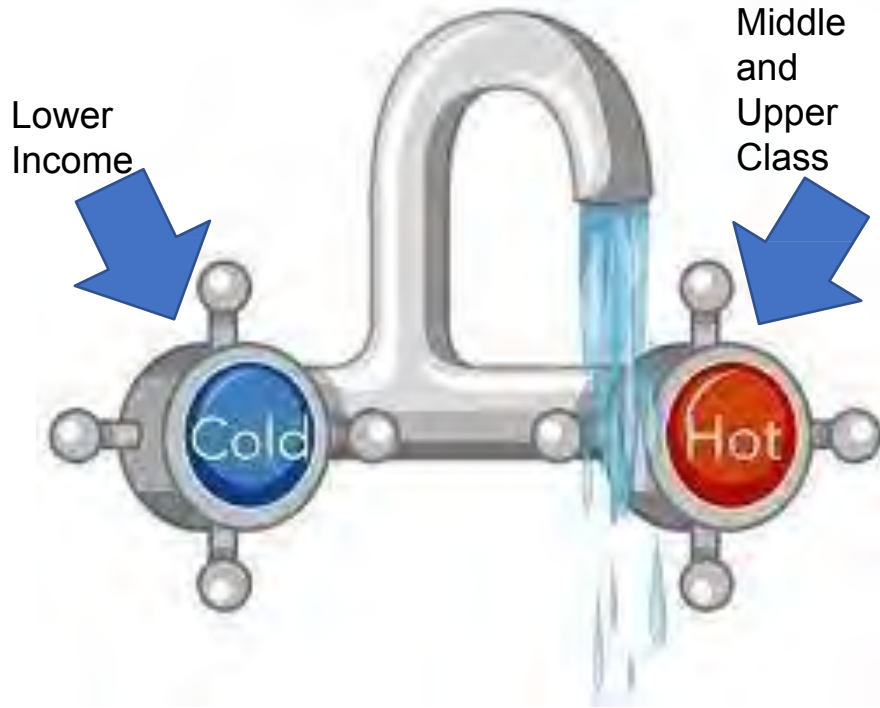
Another advantage for teachers is that less review time is necessary at the beginning of each instructional block, as research has demonstrated that the shorter vacation periods reduce the summer slide.



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 Modified Calendar benefits all students.



Teachers who teach Advanced Placement and Honors Courses appreciate more time to teach before the required testing period.



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

Focused and engaged children tend to behave better

Less time teaching behavior expectations annually allows for more instructional time on current curriculum

Brief behavior expectation review following each break

Modified Calendar Schools tend to have better attendance and are often deep cleaned more frequently, therefore keeping students healthy

Common Perceived Barriers

Modified School Calendars Require More School Days

Athletics

Summer Employment for Staff

Summer Employment for Students

Annual Summer Cleaning

Modified School Calendars Eliminate Summer

Cost

Family Traditions

Traditional School Calendars Are More Equitable

Modified Calendars Are More Challenging for Blended Families

What is your initial reaction? What questions do you have?

Major March Milestones. . . .

Major Milestones:

- Staff Informational Meetings
 - Vote 3/1-3/10
 - Major Obstacles addressed
- Labor Management sign-offs
 - MOUs and Contract Language changes
- 2023-24 & 2024-25 Calendar developed
 - Calendar usually goes to Board in March
- Community Informational nights
 - Vote 3/1-3/10
 - Major Obstacles addressed
- Student Buy-in
 - Vote 3/7-3/10
 - Major Obstacles addressed
- Tribal presentation
 - Major obstacles addressed 3/23



Draft -- Option 1

- The goal of this calendar was to never go more than 3 consecutive weeks without (at least, except Sept/Oct) a 3-day vacation.
- It builds in a ton of potential snow/make-up opportunities.
- It has 2 weeks (October and February) for Intercession weeks.
- It also has a 3 day 'jump start' to begin the school year in August.
- Winter Break is Wednesday to Wednesday in this calendar.
- This would be considered a Balanced Calendar-lite.

Draft -- Option 2

- This calendar is similar to Option, though it doesn't have as many 3 day weekends.
- It starts basically the same week as Option 1.
- It also has 3 weeks (October, February & May) for intercession weeks.
- It does NOT have 'jump start' to begin the year in August.
- The other major difference is Winter Break being 2 M-F weeks.
- This also would be considered Balanced Calendar-lite.

Draft -- Option 3

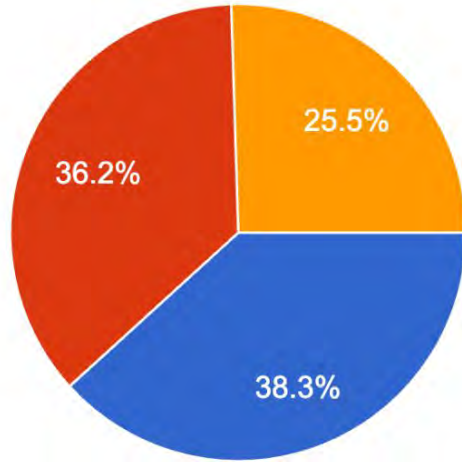
- This calendar is a traditional calendar with no intercession weeks.
- It has all the traditional breaks and other than that it follows the normal calendar rules.
- This would be NOT be considered a Balanced Calendar.

Balanced Calendar Results



Which Calendar do you prefer?

149 responses



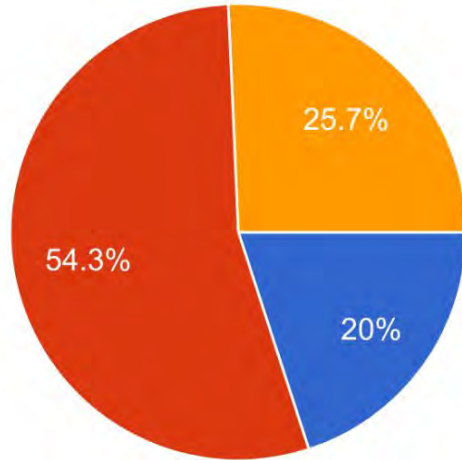
- Option 1
- Option 2
- Option 3

Students



Which Calendar do you prefer?

35 responses



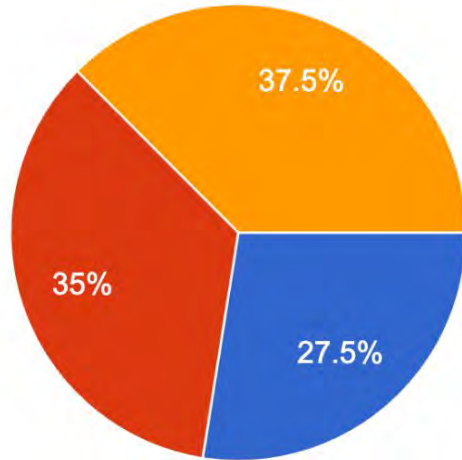
- Option 1
- Option 2
- Option 3

Staff



Which Calendar do you prefer?

40 responses



- Option 1
- Option 2
- Option 3

Community/Parents



Committee Conclusions/Analysis

- 1) Over 72% in each of the respondents support some form of Balanced Calendar
- 2) Parents and Staff now have the same #1 choices for calendars, and it was a close #2 for the students.
- 3) Our survey results on individual community members mostly support implementation of a Balanced Calendar.
- 4) We are never going to get everyone to agree on one calendar choice.

Recommendation #1

#1 Implement Balanced Calendar #2 for 23-24 and before the end of the year commit to a Balanced Calendar for 24-25.

Rationale: If we are going to make the change, let's make it and deal with the consequences.

Totals

	1	2	3
Students	57	54	38
Parents	11	26	15
Staff	7	19	9
Total	75	99	62
	31.78%	41.95%	26.27%

Questions?

