

Spring 2022 Balanced Calendar Survey Extended Responses

The following are responses to the open-ended question on the Spring Balanced Calendar online survey. For publication on our website, comments that contain accusations/sensitive information, and/or profanity and identify or by nature of the reference could lead to the identification of the respondent or OSD personnel or students, have been removed and noted in brackets. The comments have not been edited for spelling or punctuation.

Please share any additional feedback, questions or comments here:

Balanced calendar is difficult for parents with parenting plans and inequitable to students that need to work in the summer, attend special programs, or play in club sports.

OSD Family Member
Pioneer Elementary

Most people I speak with who have used a balanced calendar have loved it and would hate to revert to a "traditional" calendar.

OSD Family Member
Lincoln Elementary

The data is strong. It is time to make this improvement for stronger outcomes.

OSD Family Member
Jefferson Middle;Capital High

Children and parents are already used to this as it has been like this since who knows when. Or at least since I started going to school. But anyway, a big change like this will impact a lot for a lot of people including my family.

OSD Family Member
Reeves Middle

It's bad enough that this year you forced our elementary students to now have to catch the bus at 7am while their high school counterparts are still sleeping, without any real opportunity for parents to meaningfully weigh in; please stop tinkering with schedules and focus on providing a stable learning environment.

OSD Family Member
LP Brown Elementary

I feel the preliminary committee completely overlooked the science behind a balanced calendar and jumped straight into believing it was beneficial and then focused purely on how to convince everyone else it was. The science behind a balanced calendar should have been the first logical step explored to make sure it was real and was something that was truly beneficial BEFORE exploring how to implement and convince everyone. If you follow the science behind the claims of the benefits and the studies of districts that did implement it as a trial, you will see that the balanced calendar itself didn't actually provide benefit it was the additional programs implemented during those extra weeks off during the school year that provided any measured benefit. The programs would be an additional cost and also something that could be done in summer without all the other negative affects from changing the calendar. Additionally the science behind learning loss says that it becomes a non issue after 1-2nd grade and a quality preschool education was actually more beneficial. If we are truly looking at improving education in an equitable way, then quality preschool for all is where the focus should be.

OSD Family Member

Olympia High;ORLA Montessori

I am concerned about: childcare access for families over multiple breaks, camps that are available in the summertime and led by college students will not be available on a balanced calendar schedule, summer jobs for teens will go away - hard to get short term jobs for the shorter balanced calendar breaks, some high school athletics games already overlap with our current winter & spring breaks not allowing participating students/families to go away for those vacation opportunities - more breaks on a balanced calendar mean more times high school athletics will impede on those school breaks, lack of air conditioning in the schools - will we have 'heat' days off instead of 'snow' days?

OSD Family Member

Washington Middle;Olympia High

I'm excited for these types of changes to keep our kids learning on a continual basis and keep up with the rest of the world on education and learning! The hardest thing will be for high schooler and them trying to work.

OSD Family Member

Roosevelt Elementary;Reeves Middle;Olympia High

Please, I had so many struggles growing up with the current style of calendar. I feel it would be an actual supportive thing to do.

OSD Family Member

Garfield Elementary

The time off from work would be a much bigger hassle and I enjoy the long summers

OSD Family Member

Pioneer Elementary

While I generally support the move to a balanced calendar, as a teacher in a neighboring school district, this move will cause great difficulty unless all districts agree to a balanced calendar. Having a very different school year schedule from my child will cause great problems, so I cannot support the move to a balanced calendar unless I am sure that both my district and OSD will be making the same decision. I also feel strongly that air conditioning systems must be added to all schools if the start date is going to move to August.

OSD Family Member

Washington Middle

There are no studies that definitively show that transitioning to a balanced calendar results and positive outcomes. At best the studies suggest a possibility of. It is inappropriate to experiment on students based off of possible outcomes.

OSD Family Member

McLane Elementary

I'm VERY concerned about the child care issue during breaks. I don't see a solution that will be equitable for all families in our district.

OSD Family Member

Reeves Middle;ORLA Montessori

I would also like to suggest a later start time. Research shows that children do better and learn more with a later start time.

OSD Family Member

Pioneer Elementary

I do not have strong feelings about moving to a balanced calendar or maintaining the same calendar. Because I am in a position of privilege, I would not have to rearrange my life significantly regardless of the calendar. As a result, I am morally committed to supporting the calendar that best supports those families that are less privileged than mine, AND takes into account the preferences of the teachers.

OSD Family Member

ORLA Montessori

Please consider benefits and drawbacks that go beyond academics.

OSD Family Member

Lincoln Elementary;Washington Middle

A balanced calendar would greatly inhibit being with our remote family over the summer.

OSD Family Member

Centennial Elementary;Washington Middle

My children do enrichment programs and travel in the summer. An extended school year would negatively impact our family. Over the summer, my children have the opportunity to participate in activities that expand their learning in more impactful ways than during the school year. Also my children's schools are not air conditioned, so this seems like a very uncomfortable learning environment. If children need extra or extended learning, why not enroll them in the summer school classes that are already available? Please don't change the calendar. It is also a hardship to arrange childcare for working families during the extra weeks of vacation.

OSD Family Member

Jefferson Middle;ORLA Virtual Academy of Olympia (VAO)

If Arizona can do it, so can WA. I have family members who are educators in Australia and they love year-round school.

OSD Family Member

Hansen Elementary

A balanced calendar means more child care issues all year round. The current calendar is easier because all I have to worry about is summer break.

OSD Family Member

LP Brown Elementary

More information is needed.

OSD Family Member

Olympia High

We do not approve of Balanced Calendar. Summer doesn't feel long at all- it feels short- We can't imagine shortening it further! Honestly, if you want to have breaks in the Middle of the year- do both. Have a "long" summer and give one or two more breaks in the year. Even giving families a Monday AND a Friday off more often, for a extra long weekend, would probably help students families get the rest they need to succeed, and help teachers get the rest they need to get through the teaching year.

OSD Family Member

ORLA hConnect

It was shared that the district believes that district learning metrics are impacted by summer melt which they have no control over. This did not come across as student centered, but the use of opportunity gaps to design a new calendar to better the metrics for district and school leadership and not students and families. As I understand it, the proposed solution is to require schooling during the summer with the same assessment and the same pedagogy just now

throughout the year without examining why the melt takes place and the role to re-envision pedagogy, curriculum and assessments to increase learning retention. Further there was a lack of consideration about how this may impact education partners including career learning opportunities and dual credit. Another reason shared were inequities of programming in the summer for historically underrepresented students in the district. The solution again is a balanced calendar for all students instead of working with foundations and local youth programming to remove cost barriers and access to close equity gaps. Students who may be struggling, it was shared, could use the in-between terms to catch up, does this lead to schooling all the time for some students with no breaks. In the presentation we participated in there was no consideration of the social and emotional impact students. Instead the balanced calendar focused on assessment and curriculum instead of the whole student. As a working parent the change to the calendar would reduce the available time I have to spend with my child because of work and employer requirements. Yet there was no discussion about employer engagement. Further as a parent of a student who has experienced bullying, the gap in the summer allows for relief and a mental break. Finally, the panel that presented did not reflect our community, it was an all white privileged panel where experienced was discussed in another state.

OSD Family Member

ORLA Montessori

Need to have a solid plan in place for how families across income brackets, ages and special needs will access childcare during new break times if other districts maintain the current calendar. Concern of serious heat during summers and school buildings are not air conditioned. Will need significant advanced notice, these changes will impact students who regularly spend summers with extended family, sometimes outside of the US, and students with multiple households. Should consult with Thurston county family court to see how extensive the impact will be to changing legal agreements for children with multiple households that are predicated on the current school year calendar. Also concerned about decreased access to enrichment activities through Olympia Parks, etc. For some kids the summer enrichments ability to spend dedicated time on activities and hobbies is really important. If kids can't commit to summer long activities it will decrease their access. Overall I see benefits but it will be a change that impacts many organizations outside the district and should be carefully considered alongside our neighboring districts.

OSD Family Member

Garfield Elementary; Jefferson Middle

Our student participates in extended training in the arts in the summer, and the balanced calendar would prevent him from this vocational training

OSD Family Member

Jefferson Middle

We should be spending our time, money, and other resources on improving current programs right now, such as putting more counselors in schools and lowering class size, NOT on making huge changes like this in an already stressful time. Furthermore, the balanced calendar creates more hardships for families in lower socioeconomic groups. The hardships far outweigh any minuscule benefits the balanced calendar may create. Research does not support this. The research that is being used to support this is not conclusive, is outdated, and does not even show significant gains. Many districts who have switched to a balanced calendar have since switched back because of the enormous problems it creates.

OSD Family Member

Pioneer Elementary

The balanced calendar would be ok with me if the schools will have air conditioning in the classrooms during the month of August. If not, I'd rather just keep the current calendar. Being in a classroom in August with no air condition is not ideal for the students or teachers. They would all be miserable and won't be able to focus on learning or teaching anything.

OSD Family Member

Washington Middle

March ahead with this idea

OSD Family Member

Olympia High;ORLA Montessori

A balanced calendar would create more interruptions, give kids time off when weather is wet and cold, and require installing expensive air conditioning units. It doesn't make sense in our climate.

OSD Family Member

Lincoln Elementary;Jefferson Middle

Sharing research showing better outcomes for students with a balanced calendar would be appreciated.

OSD Family Member

Washington Middle;Olympia High

I feel the balanced calendar makes the school year more inconsistent and therefore more difficult for my kids to stay on track with school. Also, I prefer to have more family time during summer.. That way I can have time to be with family that live out of state.

OSD Family Member

LP Brown Elementary;Capital High

Balanced calendars are better for student learning and the OSD should adopt it.

OSD Family Member

Washington Middle;Olympia High

I am 100% opposed to this idea. Call it what you want-what it means is a large unnecessary and unwanted disruption to families. If the district decides to move forward, I will unenroll my students. The year long school is a terrible idea for our community.

OSD Family Member

Centennial Elementary;Washington Middle

I strongly disagree with a balanced calendar. I think it will make an already squeezed childcare situation when school is not in session even worse. The City of Olympia, literally the only affordable summer childcare in town, relies on college students returning home for the summer to staff their programs. I imagine that they would struggle greatly to pay local adults the living wages they would need to fulfill these childcare positions during the school year. Furthermore, (and this is probably my main issue with the balanced calendar is related to weather). I only get 12 summer breaks with my children. In the PNW we ALL look forward to the dry, sunny season, and use this time to recreate, visit family, vacation if we are lucky, etc. The Balanced Calendar impedes too greatly on family time in the most important part of the year here in our region. I for one, struggle with SAD, and work hard on remaining of sound mental health in the dark, cold, and rainy months of the year. My children are starting to suffer the impacts of SAD too. Having to take work off to care for my children when they are not in session is something that I prefer to do when the weather is nicer. I don't want to be forced to take time off during the crappy weather months of the year just so I can be trapped inside my house with my exuberant children. It's crazy-making, and we've all had enough of that these past two years. I know that the Balanced Calendar is supposed to support lower income families, but exactly how it does that is a hard sell for me. In fact, I tend to lean in the opposite direction, hearing from families at my school that they favor the Balanced Calendar because they ,won't have to take their kids out of school during the year so much for vacation., The Balanced Calendar benefits wealthy families more. I hope you can see this,¶

OSD Family Member

Roosevelt Elementary

1. How many osd buildings have air conditioning? 2. When would HS kids have the opportunity for a summer job? Not all HS kids can afford to get a job during the school year due to the rigor of HS classes. 3. Summer enrichment programs would cut breaks short and may not be as well attended. Meaning kids would lose opportunities for enrichment. 4. Kids that are uncomfortable at school would get even less of a reprieve. I understand the idea and the reason, however, a balanced calendar isn't what is needed right now. We need more mental health resources in our area. Do you know how many pediatric psychologists we have in our area? None. Did you know that every single therapist in our area has a wait

list? This is just not the time for this discussion. We really need to focus our efforts on utilizing new funds to better support kids mental health. Please, please, put your efforts there instead. THAT is what our community needs.

OSD Family Member
Reeves Middle

I have yet to find data that overwhelmingly supports a balanced calendar. So far, it seems that the students most at risk of "learning loss" are those who already qualify for additional assistance such as summer school programs. I have concerns about adequate air conditioning in our schools. I am also concerned about negative impacts on teachers who would no longer have the benefit of a long summer break to rest, pursue continuing ed, and rethink their classroom.

OSD Family Member
Washington Middle;Olympia High

Would like to first see the break dates and how it would affect sport schedules. Would the start times be the same? What do the teacher say? Do they agree? What do the students think? Do they agree? Would like to see input and insight of the people that it would affect the most- (teachers and students) as part of the research.

OSD Family Member
Washington Middle;Olympia High

A balanced calendar school year would negatively impact our family schedules and childcare.

OSD Family Member
McLane Elementary

Summer in the PNW is sacred. Do not ruin this very special season for kids with year round school relabeled as "balanced calendar" schooling. We are strongly opposed to surrendering the summer. Kids need this time to get out, play creatively and to travel with family. It is the only reliably nice season to get out and let kids bond with nature in our beautiful corner of the world.

OSD Family Member
McLane Elementary

Changing the current calendar schedule is a horrible idea. Kids need the current summer schedule, because it's the only time the weather is nice. Also, we have a special needs child who needs consistency in their schedule. More breaks will be diabolical for their mental health. Currently, they take about a week to recover from school breaks. Doing breaks MORE frequently, would cause severe anxiety and depression for our child. Also, our extended family visits us from out of state, every summer. You would be robbing our family of this time with their grandparents, as this is the only time they can come to visit.

OSD Family Member
Thurgood Marshall Middle;Capital High

Creating a calendar that effectively has children in school year round, with only short breaks, makes it harder for families to plan camps, extracurricular activities with their children and visits to relatives that are put off until the extended summer break. The other consideration is that of separated families and court established parenting plans that involve

different schedules for the long summer break. It would effectively make it so that each of those families is forced to revisit parenting plans in a court of law in order to change the schedule.

OSD Family Member

ORLA Virtual Academy of Olympia (VAO)

If we go to a Balanced Calendar, school year should start before Labor Day. Much of the US starts in August. Most childcare camps in Thurston County don't offer one the last week of August. Some don't offer the last two weeks of August. This is because many of the college kids they hire have gone back to school. Our kids in IB and AP classes will also have more time to complete the curriculum. Our late start date right now puts them behind in terms of learning material before the exams. Again, most of US starts in Aug. Mainly, I support this idea because 10 weeks is a long time to go without seeing classmates. My middle schooler really likes the structure and socializing school provides. It would be easier for him to have more breaks during the year and a shorter summer. It would also provide us more opportunities to see family that lives further away.

OSD Family Member

Pioneer Elementary;Jefferson Middle

This looks like a good idea to explore as a working family who has three children in the school system starting next school year. We have seen first hand the need for better continuity between school ending and the next year beginning, especially with two neurodivergent children. Additionally, I see childcare listed as a "con" on the flyer and do not understand why it is listed. We have our children in year-round childcare because we are a working family and a family's childcare situation is unlikely to be negatively impacted by this change.

OSD Family Member

Pioneer Elementary

Please don't take away the nice long summer. We only have nice weather for that period of time and I can't imagine sending my child to school when it's hot to sit in a classroom. Thank you

OSD Family Member

Hansen Elementary

Please don't change the calendar.

OSD Family Member

Hansen Elementary

You just rebranded year round school as "balanced calendar." You take us for fools. You don't care about families. You pretend to through these fake little surveys with no feedback loop then you'll do what you want. It's insulting. If the other neighbor districts aren't on board you think just OSD will drive child care programming for the intercessions? I think not. What about parents who work in other districts that now are on a different schedule than their kids? School athletics? Are you prepared to outfit every school with AC? This model benefits wealth families who can travel during non peak times. Are you really going to report the results of this survey? We don't trust OSD anymore. You've burned through your Goodwill.

OSD Family Member

Centennial Elementary;Washington Middle

What is the shortest summer being considered and what general dates? (Hoping most of July and August would still be summer break)

OSD Family Member

Washington Middle

The current calendar schedule works great. Kids need the time off, especially during the only nice weather months in the NW.

OSD Family Member

Centennial Elementary;Pioneer Elementary;Washington Middle;Capital High;Olympia High

This change would benefit our mental health greatly

OSD Family Member

Hansen Elementary;Capital High

For children who struggle with transition and change, this is too many. Just as you'd get into a good pattern, a larger chunk of time off would happen. Getting the child neck into school routine would be a nightmare. There's also childcare to consider for working parents. It's hard enough to find and secure quality, affordable childcare. It's easier to navigate with a longer summer break and shorter breaks during the school year. School buildings are not set up for hot weather. Many times it can be pure torture for students and teachers in Sept when there can still be 80+ degree weather and no ac in the buildings.

Community Member

There are so many reasons not to do the balanced calendar. I have even talked to my children about it and they don't want it either. They don't want a different calendar than the rest of the state. It would ruin all athletics. It is not a good idea. Period.

OSD Family Member

Capital High

For working families and those who are also teachers in other school districts this would create extreme hardship on my family for childcare as well as excessive stress. Honest, if OSD goes to a balanced calendar I will remove my children from this school district!

OSD Family Member

McLane Elementary

Do all buildings have air conditioning? This is a concern if students will be attending school in the summer.

OSD Family Member

Centennial Elementary

The idea of a balanced calendar should be explored. However, it will impacted the community on a large scale and all of those areas need to be considered. The idea of kids going to school during the summer in Washington is tough, it's when we have the best weather and kids are active. Kids would need more outdoor school options. They need the opportunity to ride bikes, take swimming lessons, playing sports, nature walks and hiking etc,.More concerns I have; Most schools are not equipped with cooling systems that can handle warmer days. There are also parents that depend heavily on summer camps, summer camps depend on high school and college kids to work at them. Colleges will not change their schedules to accommodate a balanced calendar. It feels like the a balanced calendar could work but it feels rushed and it does not look at how it impacts the community as a whole.

OSD Family Member

ORLA Montessori

The positives of a balanced calendar far outweigh the negatives. It will clearly enhance learning retention.

OSD Family Member

Roosevelt Elementary

I sit on a board that both Patrick Murphy and Deb Clemens have presented the Balanced Calendar and the benefits. I think OSD needs to get the message out better regarding students having the opportunity to get additional help during the breaks that traditionally would have to wait for summer.

OSD Family Member

LP Brown Elementary

I believe that the committee has not considered the full impacts of the balanced calendar. It is also viewing the balanced calendar from the lens (and with grant funding) as meeting the SPI's priority of combatting learning loss-- however learning loss from COVID shutdowns is NOT the same thing as learning loss as an entire concept. Because the grant funds for this are from ESSR monies which are directly tied to COVID recovery, OSD should be focusing its efforts on combatting COVID-related learning loss. If, at some point in the distant future, OSD and the rest of WA students have the opportunity to recover from COVID learning losses (as evidenced by back-on-track test scores), the OSD could at that point consider modifications to their calendar. Now is NOT the right time to consider this change, especially with how many significant changes and disruptions students have endured over the past 2+ years.

OSD Family Member

Capital High

If I were living where I grew up, Northern California, I would be more agreeable to changing the calendar. Why? B/c the weather there is more favorable to a year-round calendar. Here? Not so much. Our best weather is during the summer and to take that away just doesn't make sense. Notwithstanding the fact that the buildings that both of my children are in are older and have not undergone a renovation. Are the a/c units up to date? I highly doubt it. From what my 4th grader tells me, on hot days they use fans and open windows if it gets too hot and the room doesn't cool down. That doesn't bode well in July with higher temps. Building updates, specifically HVAC units, would have to happen across the district for year round school to be a real option. There's enough inequity as it is across the buildings, let's not create more.

OSD Family Member

LP Brown Elementary;Jefferson Middle

Balanced calendar would have an overall negative impact on students and staff.

OSD Family Member

Centennial Elementary;Washington Middle;Olympia High

North Thurston school district posted on website some samples. My family and I have seen, reviewed and discussed the potential issues and positives of a change. We all agreed the PROPOSED SAMPLE 45/10 BALANCED CALENDAR A, would work best. Will we be able to vote for a calendar? Since North Thurston is leading this change, I feel slighted and fear we will just adopted what their school district voted rather than have a vote or input of any kind; other than this survey.

<https://www.nthurston.k12.wa.us/site/default.aspx?PageType=3&ModuleInstanceId=43739&ViewID=C9E0416E-F0E7-4626-AA7B-C14D59F72F85&RenderLoc=0&FlexDataID=100868&PageID=25534&Comments=true>

OSD Family Member

Washington Middle;Olympia High

Schools are to hot during summer...no central air or fans 1st day of school 100 degrees this year

OSD Family Member

Hansen Elementary;Thurgood Marshall Middle

Please stop with this. Kids deserve time to be free, to enjoy their summer. Let's instead build programs to reach those that are at risk during summer months. No kid wants a few weeks off when the weather stinks. Finding childcare arrangements for small bursts throughout the year is going to be a challenge for many.

Community Member

I do not believe the balanced calendar will really help those in need. I believe it can be done in the schools following the current calendar. I do not think this is the answer and can really disrupt many families summer schedules.

OSD Family Member

Centennial Elementary;Washington Middle

My highschooler is in charge of her brother during the summer and this would be very impactful having different schedules since he is in a Griffin school district

OSD Family Member

Capital High

I think the current system is working just fine.

OSD Family Member

Pioneer Elementary;Washington Middle;Olympia High

The balanced calendar is a very bad idea. It assumes that there is a parent in the family who does not work at a regular job. This is very rare in our society. It also assumes an urban environment, where children do not work on crops or harvest in the summer. Children and adolescents should be given the summer vacation in order to develop outside of school and to pursue other interests. Young people should be given a chance to hold a summer job. The District also assumes, with the "balanced calendar", that society will remain somewhat the same as it has. They ignore that there are huge forces now underway that are changing out society, as we have seen in the past two years. More changes are coming.

OSD Family Member

Olympia High

Childcare would be very hard during long breaks in school year for single parent families like mine

OSD Family Member

Jefferson Middle

I am a para educator. I work a second job during the summer. If the district chooses the balanced calendar I will not easily be able to find a good paying job for it a few weeks. My family will suffer financially with a balanced calendar. I need to be able to balance my bank account. Please do not adopt the balanced calendar.

OSD Family Member

Pioneer Elementary;Olympia High

I don't see any benefit to balanced calendar.

OSD Family Member

Olympia High

My family has carefully arranged our work schedule to be able to spend more time with our kids during the summer. A change to balanced calendar would not work for our family's schedule and would result in our withdrawal from the Olympia School District.

OSD Family Member

ORLA hConnect

A balanced calendar is in the best interests of students.

Community Member

A balanced calendar is SO incredibly difficult for high school students. They cannot get a summer job, which they need for so many important reasons- to help their family, earn independent money and responsibility, as well as for college applications!! Also, sports will become incredibly complicated, which with the new start times, has already been a

nightmare! My sons have missed more school this year than in their entire educational past combined. Their grades have suffered greatly. With a balanced calendar and sports, they would have to choose between the sport they love and the break they need. I understand the calendar from an equity standpoint and as an elementary school teacher, it makes much more sense at the younger grades. But as a mom, it will be extremely detrimental for high school kids.

OSD Family Member

Olympia High

It is clear that balanced calendars are better for students with access to fewer resources - both regard to reducing summer learning loss and limiting long breaks from school where many students access resources. These are the students we need to center in this conversation. Communities are built around schools. Based on my experience in community organizations - the community will conform to the school schedule.

OSD Family Member

McKenny Elementary;Washington Middle

As an educator in a different district I cannot have one district move forward with a balanced calendar and the other not. I wouldn't be opposed to the idea if all districts implemented the same balanced calendar. Otherwise I would have to move my students to my district so that we could be on the same calendar. I'm worried about the potential loss of funding for Olympia as a whole if they decided to move forward and others do not.

OSD Family Member

Centennial Elementary

Kids have been through ENOUGH. No more change!

Community Member

Living in the Pacific Northwest where nice weather is pretty much only July and August I don't want to lose much of our August. I would be okay extending through June and starting very end of August. I would love a full week off for midwinter break

OSD Family Member

Boston Harbor Elementary;Jefferson Middle

My family travels in Mexico in the summer to help my family with the farming June and August. I do not like the idea of a shortened summer for the schools.

Community Member

My concern right now is the school classrooms are not air conditioned which makes learning harder on warm days. The extra hot days of summer would make it unbearable and frankly unreasonable to think learning and teaching could occur as needed. I do see some benefits to more frequent breaks as I have a student who would have benefited from more school breaks in elementary school. It's important to have staff, student and community support for this to ever be successful

OSD Family Member

Pioneer Elementary;Washington Middle

Please be sure you're widely circulating this survey. It was buried in an email and I'd hate to see this option not explored because people didn't see the survey.

OSD Family Member

Roosevelt Elementary

I am NOT in favor of a balanced calendar and it baffles me what the REAL reason is for for OSD pursuing this. This will adversely impact families in multiple ways, so I'm scratching my head on this. Is it money? Doesn't seem possible it'll

cost less. Want teachers working through the summer? That's a winner. Thinking kids will retain more knowledge? What about when families take off for two-week vacations since we don't have long summers here; who wants to take vacations in November or February? So please just LEAVE THE OSD CALENDAR WELL ENOUGH ALONE!

OSD Family Member
Washington Middle

Other local districts have decided not to do a balanced calendar . I think this needs to be a state wide decision. I have a child that goes to another district and we would not be on the same schedule. It would prompt me to pull my student from Olympia or possibly look for employment at another district. It will also effect summer sports programs and summer programs in our community if not all local areas are participating in the same schedule . My children would miss out on summer activities available in Tumwater or Lacey. What about students from Griffen school district? They too would not be on the same schedule as their peers or siblings. I like the balanced calendar and all of its benefits but think we need to be on pace with other districts in our community for it to work.

OSD Family Member
Garfield Elementary

Absoutley No balanced calendar.

OSD Family Member
Capital High

I will consider leaving OSD if they go to a balanced calendar.

OSD Family Member
Olympia High

It should be statewide, not just a single district. Too many athletics would be impacted.

OSD Family Member
Centennial Elementary

Our family has discussed this at length and if Olympia School District moves do this we will be looking to move outside the district. Our family isn't interested in a balanced calendar.

OSD Family Member
Centennial Elementary;Washington Middle;Olympia High

Even though change is hard and it will be harder for some than others, a balanced calendar is best for kids and their learning. Please move forward with this. It's been so long waiting for thus change. Thank you for pushing it forward.

OSD Family Member
Washington Middle

The issues with a balanced calendar include difficulty with high school sports as other schools in the SPSL are not considering a balanced calendar, also theater arts will be extremely affected as the extended vacations throughout the year impact theater rehearsals/productions. A balanced calendar will also negatively impact the Olympia students taking AP exams as our district already starts school so late now to add extended vacations throughout the year our students are losing even more hours of preparation. You also need to consider high school students using summer jobs to build college resumes as well as put money aware for continued schooling. These students will lose valuable work time. It is extremely difficult to get a job during multiple shorter breaks throughout the year. I feel you also have to consider teachers and the complete revamping that they would need to put in their curriculum to complete unit timelines throughout the year. Many teachers also have students in other school districts who would not be on a similar time line. I truly want to express my concern of the complete lack of insight the Olympia school board has had in other recent major changes that have been implemented. The later start time for high school students had led to a huge

increase in classroom hours missed for sports. My students are currently missing 1-2 class periods at least 3 days a week to be able to participate in the HS baseball season. Despite significant input from parents expressing concern re: later start times the school board, very sneakily, implemented this program while EVERYONES focus was having students in the building regardless of the school hours. PLEASE do not underhandedly make another huge mistake. These students and staff (for that matter) have experienced more than enough change over the past 2.5 years (School held, online school, alternative scheduling to accommodate a return to school, change in school start times, stress of a global pandemic etc) please do not add more drastic change to these students right now. They NEED a period of routine and normalcy to ease stress and anxiety. A drastic calendar change will only put undo stress on students and families and absolutely does not need to be a focus at this time. The school board needs to focus on returning safety to our schools, retaining staff and students in the district and protecting the mental health of our students by maintaining a routine, not implementing more change.

OSD Family Member

Olympia High

Should be implemented sooner than later

OSD Family Member

Capital High

Kids need Summer to explore camps and jobs, other life skills not behind a desk. Sun and warm weather are limited in this state. WA kids will just be distracted if you try to make them stay behind a desk in the Summer. It's a mean move to limit their outdoor season. I don't believe learning loss is that significant that we need to do this to parents and kids. Daycare staffing will also be a challenge. Most run Summer programs designed for Elementary and the kids get learning opportunities there as well.

Community Member

The timing of this transition, coming out of a two year pandemic, needs more consideration including close coordination with employers and neighboring school districts.

OSD Family Member

Centennial Elementary;Olympia High

I believe the balance calender will have negative impacts on those seeking childcare during more frequent breaks, students and staff members seeking summer employment, athletic schedules especially given not all the schools in the conference would be using the balanced calendar, and students who need to retrieve credits (especially given the current Core 24 requirement for graduation).

OSD Family Member

Capital High

Washington has short summers. Keeping kids in school longer when it's nice outside and out when it is not makes no sense whatsoever. Who comes up with these ideas?

Community Member

I do not support the Balanced Calendar. Child care will likely be difficult to obtain during the more frequent breaks. Older students and staff members who work summer jobs will have less availability and businesses who employ those people will struggle to find staff. Credit retrieval for high school students struggling to meet the Core 24 graduation requirement will have less time to access those services. There may also be a negative impact on athletes and coaches given that other schools in the conference will not have the same breaks (games and practices will likely occur during breaks resulting in those students, families, and staff not truly benefiting from said breaks).

Community Member

if you alter the current calendar to be a full year calendar when are the students getting breaks? what about their summers? when do they get time to make up classes since they won't be able to do summer make ups? what about the coaches and teachers getting a break during the summer from teaching and or coaching sports? what about the businesses that rely on the kids working there in the summer to stay open? what about the parents not being able to go on vacations now that their kids are going to school all year and having to be home all the time? So no, don't change the calendar, it's perfect the way it is.

Community Member

The balanced calendar would have several negative effects of families and staff. Parents of younger children will need to find child care during the more frequent breaks or leave their small children at home unattended. Older students and staff members who typically supplement their family incomes during the summer will have a shorter time in which to do so. Athletic schedules will be impacted given the other schools in the conference will not be on the same schedule for breaks (likely games and practices will still go on during the shorter breaks causing them to not be breaks at all for the athletes, coaches or families). Students who need credit retrieval, especially given the Core 24 requirement for graduation, will have less time to do so.

OSD Family Member

Capital High

Please STOP changing the schedules and calendars. It's terribly disruptive for families (especially working parents) and clearly causing logistical issues for activities, athletics, and transportation.

OSD Family Member

Capital High

I think this will cause too much disruption in schedules of parents and families in general. It's hard enough to coordinate family time in the summer and limiting that even further makes less sense, we have so few years with our kids as they grow. One of several concerns I have is that as I understand it, several of the buildings are not equipped with appropriate HVAC which could lead to miserable staff and students in August. I know that the PAC at OHS can get miserably warm and I couldn't imagine students attention would be great. I believe that if you want to pursue a "balanced" calendar, all the concerns of staff (their time, necessity for daycare/other jobs they hold over the summer, etc.) needs to be heard and addressed. I also think to make this decision without convening with the community to see if the desire and need is there would be a huge mistake. I am curious what study we are following to implement this calendar, are we following another state that has had this calendar in play for years/decades or are we utilizing a study that this will tremendously benefit our students (and if so, that study should be shared with us all to review and understand). Thank you, look forward to taking part in this all.

OSD Family Member

Olympia High

When it comes to the core responsibilities of the school district, education of the community youth, I think a balanced calendar is the right thing to do. There is a lot of evidence to support shorter breaks for kids education to help knowledge retention.

OSD Family Member

Olympia High

How is this beneficial for low income families or single parent households?

OSD Family Member

Reeves Middle;Olympia High

This is a terrible idea. The Olympia School District appears to operate like they are the only school district in the area. Unless this was adopted by all school districts in the area, this will fall flat. How do you expect to facilitate students that wish to participate at New Market? The changes to operational hours this year has already impacted one of my children that is attending New Market. That too also affects work hours for students that are able to obtain employment at business that hold traditional \ non-retail hours.

OSD Family Member

Olympia High

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this survey!

OSD Family Member

Hansen Elementary;Thurgood Marshall Middle

I think that all the local districts should have done a joint research project and larger community survey together. With the number of families affected by calendars in multiple districts it's key to have them all working together.

Community Member

I find the balanced calendar to not be a good fit for both families and the community as a whole. I think a better solution for kids falling behind would be to have better programs in the summer. A program early in the summer to catch up where they were having difficulties and another program just before school starts to prepare them for the upcoming curriculum. It doesn't make sense for all kids to be in school during the nice summer days when they are not high risk of falling behind. Give the families with struggling students more opportunities in the summer while giving the families with students that are doing well an uninterrupted summer vacation. Now that we aren't strangers to online learning, perhaps there could even be a virtual option in the summers for students who thrived/did well with that option during our COVID days.

Community Member

There seems to be no concrete data showing that a balanced calendar alone will accomplish the goal of reducing summer learning loss. To this end, it appears that the risks outweigh the benefits and will end up ultimately harming kids and families at this time.

Community Member

I work in North Thurston schools. If they do not do a balanced calendar it would be impossible if Olympia does

OSD Family Member

Hansen Elementary

I will never vote for a levee again if you put through this scam. All research shows that it is ineffective. A solid NO vote for me

Community Member

The "Balanced Calendar" is a stupid idea. Are you trying to save money by using the so called "Balanced Calendar" by not needing to offer summer school?

OSD Family Member

Roosevelt Elementary

Balanced calendar is completely evil. Keep summer break where it's at. This is a disgrace even considering it. Most people on the other calendar were against this balanced nonsense.

Community Member

In our family, both parents' work schedules are drastically impacted by the legislative session in the months of January-April each year. While I appreciate the goals and benefits of a potential shift to a balanced schedule for many students and families, for our family if there is a shift to an additional week or two of time off school during the winter and spring, it will mean increased need for child care/camps that don't currently exist in the community and less actual time for family time when school is out by shifting that from summer to earlier in the year. Obviously a minority of families in the district are tied to this extent to the legislative session, but given that we are the state capitol it's still a significant number. I hope you will give significant consideration to those months when many families might find it very difficult to have schedules change as you weigh options.

OSD Family Member
Pioneer Elementary

My daughter and our family really like the current calendar.

OSD Family Member
Olympia High

My daughter and our family really like the current calendar.

OSD Family Member
Roosevelt Elementary

I observe a loss of stamina as we head into breaks, after longer windows without a significant break, and I wonder if evening out the school year a bit will help with that issue.

OSD Family Member
Washington Middle

I thought this survey would say more about what it means to have a more balanced school schedule. I literally have no idea what this could mean for our family.

OSD Family Member
Jefferson Middle;Capital High

Summer vacation is really important to every child and family we know. Please let us keep it. Thank you

OSD Family Member
ORLA Middle School Academy

Why the re-brand? Why "brand" this at all? Of ALL the times to mess with our kids and families, I can't think of a worse one. Of all the very informed and involved parents, they had no idea about this. It needs YEARS of input from FAMILIES - those that live this day in and day out. Are you going to pay the attorney fees for every divorced family that will now have to completely re-do / re-write / re-submit with the courts the parenting plans? And the time to re-hash it all out for

these families? How about the summer work my son is signed up for this year? Some families count on that. WAY too many questions and not nearly enough answers.

OSD Family Member
Pioneer Elementary;Washington Middle;Olympia High

I am very supportive of the balance calendar concept, and I appreciate the school districts approach to study the issue and seek input from the community. Thank you.

OSD Family Member
Washington Middle;Capital High

Our family appreciates this exploration and we appreciate the chance to share some feedback. We like the idea of a balanced calendar as long as it does not have undue burden and negative impacts for low-income families and marginalized students. Thank you!

OSD Family Member

Olympia High

Please help people better understand that a balanced calendar comes in many flavors.

OSD Family Member

Lincoln Elementary;Jefferson Middle;Avanti High;Capital High

would need to know dates before I could commit

OSD Family Member

Pioneer Elementary;Washington Middle;Olympia High

My whole family strongly prefers the current calendar. Summers are a special time for our family to play, relax, reset, and have hands-on, experiential learning during our family travels and adventures. Summer breaks are an extremely special part of childhood. I strongly oppose taking long summer breaks away from the children in our district. Having more breaks, at other times of year would be a hardship to arrange for our family. I have worked hard to develop a career and a work schedule that closely aligns with the current calendar. I am not concerned at all about any so-called summer slide. I am very interested in paying attention to equity and realize that different families and different learners have different needs, but I am unconvinced that balanced calendars are the change we need. Luckily we have fantastic schools in our district and our students are achieving great learning and life outcomes with our current calendar.

OSD Family Member

Pioneer Elementary

I love it!

OSD Family Member

Lincoln Elementary;Thurgood Marshall Middle

The balanced schedule will not fix the crazy mess the schools are in right now. Behavior issues are through the roof and there's not even close to enough assistance at the school level to give the support needed. I suggest 4 days a week schools instead. Give the kids and staff a longer weekend or a break in the middle of the week. A chance to regroup. It would mean one less day for buses running and less money being spend on that 5th day.

OSD Family Member

McLane Elementary

Balanced calendar is a bad idea and doing it will be awful like bell changes please make sure you do not do it especially if the other neighboring school districts don't do it (which by the way the voted no!)

OSD Family Member

Washington Middle;Olympia High

As long as there is still at least a 6 week summer break

OSD Family Member

Roosevelt Elementary;Reeves Middle

Before convening a group to explore it, the district should be UP FRONT AND TRANSPARENT about how much EXACTLY this change will cost. And where that funding will come from. Tax payers ate taxed out amd struggling. We can't afford more sales or property taxes. I would also like to see the more data pulled that the district is looking at to even attempt

to make such a radical change. Our kids have been through enough the past few years. Let them get back into the swing of things and fix the mental health and violence issues that arose during the pandemic before worrying the students about this. Also please see the survey results from NTPS it looks like their community does not want this to happen so OSD would be the only district in the area with this schedule. 72% of students are against this. The divide is smaller amongst teachers, parents and community members but for now it looks like NTPS is getting major push back.

OSD Family Member

Boston Harbor Elementary;Reeves Middle;Olympia High

My daughter would do much better with a balanced calendar school year

OSD Family Member

LP Brown Elementary

A horrible idea

OSD Family Member

McLane Elementary

As a teacher, this calendar is a nightmare. It's more breaks for kids to lose information and gives them and us fewer opportunities to work in the summer.

Community Member

I feel that a balanced calendar will promote student success, both academically and socially/emotionally.

OSD Family Member

Thurgood Marshall Middle;Capital High

Was excited about the potential programs offered during the breaks. We have had kids in a school with with a two-week Fall, Winter, and Spring break; that worked well.

OSD Family Member

McLane Elementary

Lots of recent research supports a balanced calendar and I hope it is implemented!

OSD Family Member

Pioneer Elementary;Washington Middle

A balanced calendar would limit my children's summer 4-h involvement. They'd have to pass on opportunities to breed and show their animals in a variety of locations.

OSD Family Member

Centennial Elementary;Madison Elementary;Reeves Middle;Washington Middle

Would be nice to have specific hypothetical break dates

OSD Family Member

Olympia High

It is heartbreaking a disappointing to see the teacher community rallying against this. Science and common sense says this is best for student learning, and you would think teachers would prioritize student learning above their precious traditional summers.

OSD Family Member

Centennial Elementary;Washington Middle;Olympia High

Balanced calendar is good option for kids.

OSD Family Member
Centennial Elementary

For our family the benefits FAR outweigh the cons. I am so excited to see OSD considering the balanced calendar and will be crossing our fingers it is approved!

OSD Family Member
Garfield Elementary

I think this change is long overdue and I am happy the district is considering it. This will help all students compete globally and will especially help those students who do not have the resources to access educational tools during the summer.

OSD Family Member
Washington Middle;Olympia High

Waste of time, energy, and resources for the district.

OSD Family Member
Centennial Elementary

As a working family, it is much easier for us to find a summer of childcare than sporadic breaks through the year. I also have a special needs child who finds it very difficult to transition back to school whenever there is an extended break. 3x/year is enough to deal with already. I have also found plenty of data in my research that shows that the benefits to learning loss are inconclusive.

OSD Family Member
Lincoln Elementary;Thurgood Marshall Middle

I am interested in receiving more information about the balanced calendar. It is appealing to me to have more breaks during the year and spread out the instructional time. I'd like to hear more about how and where it would be implemented (individual school trials or district wide) and how our community may be able to support the change (consider camp and child care services for families who need them, etc.).

OSD Family Member
Hansen Elementary

The 'balanced calendar' will create childcare challenges for many families.

OSD Family Member
Capital High

For us a switch to a balanced calendar would be relatively painless I think. It would negatively impact my kids' summer job options and our family vacation options (we camp a lot in the summer). I would be pretty angry about this change especially now that my kids are finally old enough to find summer jobs! Summer is the nicest time to be in the PNW and to be outside! Buildings in the summer would be HOT (the "AC" in schools can't even get it right on warm spring days let alone on a hot summer day). Balanced calendar might be nicer for people that have money A) to ski or B) can afford vacations to sunny tropical locations in the winter and spring....that is not us. Luckily our kids are mostly self-sufficient and I do not have to worry about child care but thought I would comment on my thoughts about this idea and the childcare IMPOSSIBILITY I think it would create. Finding childcare around current school schedules is, at best, a nightmare. Winter break, spring break and student teacher conference schedules were the most challenging times for me as a working mom with young kids. Summer camps are relatively painless to organize but finding stuff for the short breaks sucks. At least in the summer time, you can find relatively inexpensive options (Y care camps!) that include a

lot of outdoor time. You can also coordinate care with family/friends that live out-of-area that also have summer break to share the load. If you piece-meal it, schedules would likely NOT be synched with any other family schedule that would be easy to coordinate (we can't even match spring breaks with anyone in our family). I think it sounds awful to have to find small snippets of childcare during crappy weather that would limit activities and options.

OSD Family Member

Olympia High

My job and parenting plan require coordinating my schedule with the kids' schedules to find a two week vacation over the summer. That becomes much more difficult under a balanced calendar. I don't think a lot of learning will take place during heavy wildfire smoke events or extreme temperatures. These will increase under a changing climate, so that should be part of the consideration in whether classes should be in session over the summer.

OSD Family Member

Olympia High;ORLA hConnect;ORLA Virtual Academy of Olympia (VAO)

Please look into community childcare availability and options on a balanced calendar from agencies, childcare providers, etc.

OSD Family Member

Boston Harbor Elementary

Our family feels strongly a long summer break is important for mental health, summer jobs and proper rejuvenation.

OSD Family Member

Reeves Middle

I don't have a strong feeling one way or the other at this time. I'd appreciate actual dates in play for what a balanced calendar would look like.

OSD Family Member

Centennial Elementary;Washington Middle;Olympia High

Not as helpful as perceived for students, no definitive longitudinal studies on this. Disruptive to teachers who need summer for restoration

OSD Family Member

Olympia High

I think it is a worthy idea to explore if it helps students maintain gains in learning and less likely to lose speed over the long summer.

OSD Family Member

Olympia High

My kids do not want to lose the current summer break. My son earns most of the money he supports himself with for transportation during the summer. He also contributes money to support the family as well. Losing that money would be difficult for us to manage financially. He cannot earn the same money working a couple hours in the evenings on school days, and his work cannot be done that way. He needs to work all day during the summer days outside. He can't do that while going to school in the summer. This new calendar would impact us financially in a negative way. Please don't change.

OSD Family Member

Jefferson Middle;Capital High

I feel summer in the PNW is so important for kids to get a long break. Fall through spring is much better weather to be in school. I think it will reduce mental health dramatically.

OSD Family Member
Reeves Middle

This is excellent and a proven way to maintain knowledge.

OSD Family Member
Washington Middle

Background: I taught in a Jan to Dec system that had about 190 school days. It was divided into 4 terms (quarters). As it was in the Southern hemisphere the December holidays were 5 weeks, Easter two weeks, June/July 3 weeks and September two weeks. a1) Teacher burnout is not a function of teaching length. The job itself is demanding as it requires massive personal input and when one reduces that input there is an opposing stress of feeling that one is not supporting ones students and colleagues. Catch 22 situation that takes a while to figure out the balance. 2) But Teacher and student recovery is a function of restful time. 2.1) The US Christmas school holiday is not long enough to provide the necessary rest. Christmas is already a busy time so a 3 week holiday would allow for the demands of Christmas (shopping, visiting Aunt Agatha, etc) and time for R and R at home or away. This principle applies to the spring break, a two week break allows for a decent amount of time to relax. This means that two weeks would be lopped off the incredibly long Summer holiday which would not lead to the disruption that some people fear. (if there is an overlap with a sports or cultural competition, students could be given time off to attend) The long summer holiday is a time for privileged families to holiday, students to work and opportunities for learning. Shortening the holiday will not disrupt those families plans, and it will help other families who have to come up with two months of activities.

OSD Family Member
Washington Middle;Olympia High

As the parent of an autistic student, the current long summer is very hard on my child. Typical summer childcare and activities are less likely to be accessible to students with disabilities, which is hard on both the children and their families.

OSD Family Member
Roosevelt Elementary;Reeves Middle

Summer in the PNW is short enough. Please don't take that away from us!!

OSD Family Member
Capital High

Local businesses have changed their schedules to meet the needs of parents under the current school calendar. Getting changes made to my work schedule is going to be almost impossible. We need commitment not only from the schools and parents, but employers as well.

OSD Family Member
Madison Elementary

I think outside daycare/camp options will be the hardest thing to fit into a balanced calendar, particularly for elementary school families. However, other areas have done this and I hope we can learn from them (preferably without re-inventing the wheel). I love the benefit of more frequent, but shorter breaks--improved retention (less review when they return) and less time home alone without much to do (so hopefully it'll help keep kids out if trouble).

OSD Family Member
Washington Middle

I'm so happy OSD is considering what is best for student learning!

OSD Family Member

LP Brown Elementary

I have worked in all kinds of schedule configurations from year round to shared building with two schools, to normal schedule. Testing comparisons from my experience really are not that much greater for the balanced calendar concept compared to the disruption to families summer plans and the child care concerns that this causes many parents with limited child care options at present.

OSD Family Member

Centennial Elementary; Washington Middle; Olympia High

Balanced calendar would severely impact my work schedule and any possible vacation times with my child. I do not want to change the current schedule.

OSD Family Member

Washington Middle

I'm torn about this. I see potential benefits, such as spreading out child care costs for families, giving educators and students more breaks in the school year to recharge, and decreasing the time students are away from formal learning... BUT...The local summer camps are already overwhelmed with demand and struggling to find staffing for that child care. I'm extremely concerned a balanced calendar will further reduce the ability of the City of Olympia, the YMCA, and other organizations to staff these summer care programs. I'm also concerned that some of the specialized programs will become even more limited in availability as a result. Further, I wonder how this might impact students who attend long summer programs aimed at the arts (which are woefully underfunded in our schools) or other skilled programs. I have serious concerns that that children who are seeking out these enrichment programs would have to give them up because of school conflicts. Also, I wonder how a balanced calendar would impact AP students in high school - who already take their AP tests with a month less of instruction than students in other parts of the country whose schools open in August, as compared to our later Sept. start dates. There's also the issue of whether our overwhelmed educators will get enough of a break during summer, when they're also often asked to take summer courses, to fully recover from a highly stressful job and prepare for the following year. Lastly, I'm concerned about the impact of homework on old students. We already have teachers who refuse to recognize breaks as breaks for students and use them an opportunity to assign substantial projects that reduce a student's ability to rest and recharge - I'm concerned this problem will further increase and we'll see added stress on a population of young people who are already facing substantial stress.

OSD Family Member

ORLA Montessori

I grew up in Germany where the school calendar is balanced with 6 weeks summer break, one week fall break, 2 weeks Christmas break and 2 weeks in spring (one week before and one after Easter) While I think 6 weeks summer vacation may be too short, I do believe 8 weeks plus 2 weeks spring break and 2 weeks Christmas break would be a great balance. I find one week spring break and Christmas break too short.

OSD Family Member

Capital High

A balanced calendar sounds like a good idea, although I would like to know details as far as what it would actually look like (specific dates).

OSD Family Member

Garfield Elementary

"Balanced calendar" will lead to further disruptions due to multiple transitions. Furthermore, it will make it difficult for family vacations. In addition, the air conditioning in the majority of rooms, especially in the auxiliary buildings would make they actual education done in those rooms impossible.

OSD Family Member

McKenny Elementary

I don't feel that a balanced calendar works for our area. Our buildings/classrooms are not all airconditioned for the hot late summer days that we continue to have more of. The majority of our year is dark and wet, and doesn't lend well to kids or families being able to enjoy the outdoors during the proposed extended periods of time off from school as does our current summer season. There are families who rely on either students working outside of the home during summer or OSD employees who supplement their income with secondary jobs during the summer. Child care becomes more difficult and costly for those needing care during the year and or vacation periods. The added and extended break periods seem to be more disruptive - my son does better with a routine and these interruptions in schooling will be difficult for him and I can see that being the case for other families as well. The continual start, stop, start, stop proposal will be stressful on him and create more difficulties for his learning as well as his mental well-being.

OSD Family Member

Washington Middle

My main drive for hoping the district does not pursue a balanced calendar has to do with our weather and mental health. More days off during dreary, cold, cloudy weather gives our family less to look forward to. I know that long summer days and vacation to explore, play and spend our time in the sunshine strengthens us mentally and gives us more freedom to enjoy the much missed sun. It does wonders for our mental health. I couldn't and wouldn't ever trade days lost in the summer for more days off in the winter- and having family members who are teachers in states who do have balanced calendars, they intimated that the difference (if any) was negligible at best. Please safeguard our kids' childhoods, summer, mental health, and sun over our constantly "trying to get ahead/add to their mental load" attitude when it comes to education. Long summer breaks are enriching for us, moreso than balanced breaks ever could be.

OSD Family Member

ORLA hConnect

Balanced calendar has been amazing for our family in the past! It really helps to have additional breaks throughout the school year, and gives opportunities for family travel that are impossible during the summer when everyone else is also traveling and costs are sky high and everything is jam packed. Additional breaks throughout the year are preferable to our family over an extended summer break, our son seemed to do better with additional opportunities to recharge.

OSD Family Member

McLane Elementary

A balanced calendar will get a lot of pushback, but it's beneficial for students and their learning. I'm supportive of moving forward with exploration of the idea. It's a progressive approach that seems ripe for Olympia to explore.

OSD Family Member

Pioneer Elementary; Washington Middle

I am originally from Germany and had a balanced calendar at school. I would love this for our children and agree 100% with less burnout, and less reviewing material from the year before.

OSD Family Member

Jefferson Middle; ORLA Virtual Academy of Olympia (VAO)

Please do not change what we are currently doing.

OSD Family Member

Washington Middle;Olympia High

The balanced calendar would allow my family more time together throughout the year, and help my student retain information learned through the year.

OSD Family Member

Lincoln Elementary

Obviously, this is yet another attempt to divide families, steal children from parents, and program kids to be good little workers with no time off. Summer vacation is sacred. Family time is sacred. The children do not belong to you. Every single thing you are trying to do (balanced schedule, gender ideology, white privilege, etc), is complete [expletive], and we aren't going to take it any more.

Community Member

We have limited nice weather in this area which is when our family enjoys camping and being outdoors. Having school start during the summer months would greatly impact our ability to enjoy this time.

OSD Family Member

Centennial Elementary

This is a half baked plan that has the appearance of change for the sake of changing. In my own independent research nearly every district that has pursued this has returned to a standard schedule. Nearly every district that pursued this saw no improvement in student achievement. If you really wanted to help students who are struggling or who are not at grade level schools you would either retain or provide more opportunities to learn during the summer. Also things could be done with class size. If students are not ready for high school they should not be promoted. If student can not complete grade level requirements they should not pass classes or maybe not graduate. But the the fact is these meaningful changes would cost money and instead of doing something meaningful the district is trying to do something that looks like change. Over and over across the country this approach has not improved student learning. You should be embarrassed that you would try to rearrange deck chairs on the sinking titanic. Your claims about the advantages of this schedules are propaganda and akin to lying to your community, it is shameful.

OSD Family Member

Pioneer Elementary;Olympia High

I prefer the current calendar and would like the hours adjusted back to the old schedule as does my child.

OSD Family Member

Capital High

It's a no brainer to do it for the kids. Parents and stuff will have the harder time adjusting. As a parent, it makes total sense.

Community Member

I think the resources that would go into implementing the balanced calendar, both the work and the money, would be better used directly for students who need additional support

OSD Family Member

Lincoln Elementary;Olympia High

I strongly support the exploration of a balanced calendar. For our family, this would allow for greater flexibility in travel, allow parents to potentially take time off to spend with kids on breaks, and would prevent schoolyear burnout and summer disengagement. We also understand that a balanced calendar would dramatically decrease summer backsliding and allow for greater educational momentum.

OSD Family Member

Pioneer Elementary

Our children's education has been severely impacted by COVID-19. We must find a way to get student's back on track. I think the balanced calendar proposal is one way to do this. It will help student's overall academic and social-emotional outcomes. I know there are barriers that will have to be addressed to make this happen but it has my full support.

OSD Family Member

Jefferson Middle

My family experienced a balanced calendar while living in the LAUSD. It worked well, but only because of the robust options for affordable childcare during vacations. As a parent here in Olympia since 2018, I do not see the variety of options that made the calendar in LAUSD work. Both my kids were in Y-Care, but that simply CANNOT be the only option outside of the limited volume the Oly Rec Centers can provide. Oly Rec fills up much too fast leaving parents making tough decisions on how to care for children. While I understand these factors are outside of Olympia School District's control, never the less, the must be a consideration to this model.

OSD Family Member

Reeves Middle

Changing the schedule impacts kids ability to work during the summers. Summer employment provides kids with other learning opportunities that are beneficial in their own right. It also impacts the local community that rely on the seasonal employment.

OSD Family Member

Washington Middle

This calendar will not be possible under current district and school leadership. Between internal covid safety mishaps, rogue principles (*cough* [school name]), the inability to see black people as human and the marginalization of para educators and subs - I think we can call this one.

OSD Family Member

Centennial Elementary

I lived in a location with a balanced calendar and my elementary children thrived! For older students involved in school sports it would be very difficult, but for elementary students it allows continuity of learning and lessens the loss of learning and amount of time spent reintroducing topics from the previous year.

Community Member

I'm concerned about childcare. Currently we use summer day camp but with a shorter summer, I'm not sure they would continue and with longer breaks during the school year it would be challenging and may cost more.

OSD Family Member

McKenny Elementary

Please do not change the calendar. Our families depend on the time together and have had our lives disrupted enough

OSD Family Member

Pioneer Elementary

I feel that a balanced calendar would be beneficial but would be very difficult to adopt if the other districts in our area do not adopt it as well.

OSD Family Member

Thurgood Marshall Middle

I am a huge proponent of a balanced calendar. I see no downsides, only upsides. This is the sort of public school modernization that is long overdue. I hope the district will pursue this and do so in a non-protracted manner.

OSD Family Member

Boston Harbor Elementary;Reeves Middle

Please do not change the calendar.

OSD Family Member

Capital High

Please let the kids have their full 10-12 week summer. This is the only time in their lives most will be able to have time to relax and explore. Please focus on helping the individual students that need help.

OSD Family Member

Washington Middle;Olympia High

This seems very inconvenient for working households especially. If this passes, I don't know how we will make this type of schedule work without some kind of financial impact. I feel at this time, we have enough of those.

OSD Family Member

Garfield Elementary

Too many moving parts for the whole community and surrounding school districts to get in alignment. It would be incredibly difficult for many families and staff members to find child care and short term jobs during a balance calendar. Too many people rely on having a second job to make ends meet. Without a long summer break many wont have a decent opportunity to earn a second income.

OSD Family Member

Lincoln Elementary;Washington Middle

This is LONG overdue, and it's almost shameful that you have to tip-toe around even having a discussion of it. If you want to make lifelong learners, the dumbest thing you can do is suggest that learning is something you only do part of the year. There is absolutely no valid pedagogical reason to delay going to year-round; it's just fear of change and absurd nostalgia of some for a long-gone past. Indeed, within a few years, the folks who will howl the loudest against year-round school today will be howling the loudest if anyone suggests changing back. People are simply irrational when it comes to education, believing that they are experts because they were once students or they have raised students -- which is like thinking you're a dentist because you've had cavities. Fix the calendar and at the same time fix the absurd, anti-scientific too-early school start time, which seems to be organized solely to support school sports and bus schedules. Kids in puberty and high school need much later start times, the school day and school year should be organized to maximize student performance as learners, not as zombies in early AM classes so that the few kids who participate in sports teams dictate the schedule for all.

Community Member

Summers are for the outdoors.

OSD Family Member

LP Brown Elementary

What support would children have during thw breaks?

OSD Family Member

McKenny Elementary

Although there are some positives to the balanced calendar, I still like having those two months of no school for vacations.

OSD Family Member
Roosevelt Elementary

I have children in 3 different school districts. Changing one to Balanced Schedule would really throw off scheduling.

OSD Family Member
Olympia High

I grew up with this kind of school calendar and I loved it. As a parent, by having summer shortened there is less financial burden due to having to fill it with camps and classes. I strongly support a balanced calendar

OSD Family Member
McKenny Elementary

Washington state only has three months of good weather. It would be unhealthy to keep everyone inside during that time.

OSD Family Member
Thurgood Marshall Middle

This change is long overdue.

Community Member

We moved from a school district that had a balanced calendar. It was very hard and disruptive to switch the kids from school to day camps during the longer breaks throughout the year. I don't believe there is enough conclusive evidence that the balanced calendar is better for kids and families.

OSD Family Member
Pioneer Elementary;Olympia High

We strongly Prefer the current schedule and would be opposed to a balanced calendar schedule

OSD Family Member
LP Brown Elementary

I think the problem of not all kids having access to enrichment during the summer is a real one. I do not think a balanced calender is the solution. We could provide grants/ scholarships to things like parks and Rec, or creative theater experience programs for kids whose families can't afford them. I know that costs money, but so does year round school.

OSD Family Member
Jefferson Middle

I really hope this works out!!

OSD Family Member
Centennial Elementary;Washington Middle;Olympia High

A balanced calendar would not only benefit our children in their learning goals, it would help them retain so much. My child seems to lose so much information over the summer and then spends all of September in review mode. Plus it would stop the pressure of back to school September because we could just send school supplies quarterly instead.

OSD Family Member
Thurgood Marshall Middle

I attended an elementary school with a balanced calendar and it was beneficial to avoid the loss of learning over the long summer break. I recognize childcare may be an issue so I would recommend the school district work with daycares, ymca and other providers to ensure that option is available

OSD Family Member

Centennial Elementary

It's clear a balanced calendar would be much better for kids and for staff. Why is the approach to feedback on this so different from the approach OSD took with changing to a later bell schedule? We never were given the opportunity for feedback on whether we supported a later bell schedule - which we strongly did not. Our student and family loathe the later schedule, it's very difficult for our IB student athlete to get out of school so late. However, we adapted knowing this schedule is better for the wellbeing of some students. I don't understand why the feedback approach is so different, if wellbeing is truly the determining factor.

OSD Family Member

Capital High

NTPS is recommending against and the only way it makes sense is if the change happens regionally!!

OSD Family Member

Lincoln Elementary;Jefferson Middle

A balanced calendar presents challenges for families with two full-time working parents. Good childcare is already difficult to find and having more frequent, shorter school breaks would add significant stress. It's difficult (almost impossible) to find "drop in" child care when you don't need regular care (i.e. summer break or daily after school care).

OSD Family Member

Centennial Elementary

This would have an immense impact not only on staff, students and family; but also community organizations that support youth with school break programming. The economic and logistical impact on these organizations and businesses should be factored in.

OSD Family Member

McKenny Elementary;Olympia High

People don't like change and while parent's feedback is important - we have to do what is right for students. Our education system has not progressed much in the last 200 years. We have more dual income families who are not home with their children, we have more fear of harm for our children which leads to children staying indoors more often, children are experiencing extremely high volumes of screen time. We need a balanced school system. Change is hard and people will push back but we have to make the change because we know it is the right thing to do for the future of our youth.

OSD Family Member

Thurgood Marshall Middle;Capital High

A balanced calendar is a poor fix towards accelerating learning. Adding more days for students to "catch up" rather than focus on improving intervention supports and strengthening Core instruction during the regular school time is NOT the answer. The focus needs to be on supporting teachers in providing differentiated supports that addresses the needs of EL learners, students with an IEP or 504, LAP students, etc. The district needs to strengthen these systems FIRST before they ever consider "adding more time" where the same ineffective intervention strategies are used. It also creates systems where marginalized students will be disproportionately identified for interventions during the school breaks.

OSD Family Member

Olympia High

I'm not really sure where I stand on moving to a balanced calendar. In theory, it sounds reasonable but I'm not sure about how it will work in implementation. It might be good to start small and move towards this balanced calendar approach over the course of several years. In order for this change to be successful then all of Thurston County schools will need to move to a balanced calendar as well as all of the support services (City of Olympia camps, YMCA, etc.).

OSD Family Member

Boston Harbor Elementary

Changing the school calendar would be stressful and disruptive to many families. Finding daycare would be stressful and costly. Many families, like mine, have court approved Parenting Plans, which are built around the current school year calendar. A different school calendar would require new Parenting Plans, which are very costly, require going to court and can cause emotional duress to parents and children. I spent many years and thousands of dollars to finally get a court approved Parenting Plan. Is the school district going to pay for me and others to get new court approved Parenting Plans? Is the school district going to pay for counselors for parents and kids who have to go back through the financial and emotional duress of getting a new court approved Parenting Plan? This is a BAD option and could cause emotional and financial harm to many parents and students. There are free and low cost summer learning options for students. The school district could invest in more such optional learning options for summer. I stress the word optional as many families (and kids) look forward to the annual summer break to rest, relax, enjoy time together, go on adventures, learn about things they are interested in outside of school, travel, visit family and friends. School dominates family life. A long summer break provides ample time to move out of the school rhythm and into a more restful, family oriented rhythm. Plus, summer is the only time of year when we get the most sunshine and least amount of rain. We need this time to be outside in fresh air, getting sunshine and making vitamin D and getting exercise! There are students who would benefit from summer learning opportunities. I invite the school district to create and support accessible learning opportunities over the summer for students who choose so and NOT inflict pain and financial hardship on families who do not support or need such learning opportunities. Plus, the court system will have quite a backlog of Parenting Plans to modify. I urge you to take seriously what I have shared on behalf of my family and many families that I know! Sincerely, A loving & involved Mom On behalf of the thousands of families with court approved Parenting Plans & the families that rely on the long summer break to rest, rejuvenate, get sunshine and so much more!

OSD Family Member

Pioneer Elementary; Washington Middle; Olympia High

School districts should not attempt to equalize student outcomes by "leveling down." If it is true that higher income students do better because of the programs they are involved in during the summer, the school district should spend its time trying to find ways to find resources to provide summer enrichment programs to disadvantage children; not, take away the opportunity to participate in enrichment programs from higher income children. Furthermore, I am concerned about the competitiveness the high school graduates of OSD at competitive colleges if they are not able to participate in these summer enrichment programs while their competitors will. Finally, children participating in running start will have a difficult time arranging their schedules if the OSD calendar is even further away from the college calendars. Put simply, this is too much disruption and chaos for only minimal and theoretical gains of a small minority of students.

OSD Family Member

Jefferson Middle; ORLA Virtual Academy of Olympia (VAO)

I have worked in a district with a balanced calendar and the students still lost just as much content knowledge over summer even though it was shorter. Please keep the calendar as is.

OSD Family Member

Capital High

There does not appear to be a benefit in changing the calendar. There does seem to be a benefit in providing enrichment activities, especially tutoring, to students. I am interested in meaningful reform. The evidence in the

educational research literature does not support a conclusion that changes in calendars lead to better student performance. What does impact student performance is increased academic support, more instructional days with fewer testing days, and teacher training.

OSD Family Member
Capital High

I support the balanced calendar but wonder how it would impact students participating in HS sports.

OSD Family Member
Olympia High

Or would be easier if the entire country was looking at making this change. Many family members live in different states and it may make it difficult to see family if our schedules don't align.

OSD Family Member
Olympia High

single mom and this would make it so I can't work my summer job in eastern WA losing a lot of \$

Community Member

If the goal of a balanced calendar is to offer more learning support- that support must first be offered within our current calendar to see if that makes a difference. AC must first be in all buildings before pursuing this.

OSD Family Member
LP Brown Elementary

OPTION #1, PLEASE! Also, aren't we all past the Race / Ethnicity questions?... especially when yourself, spouse, and kids are all mixed ethnic backgrounds, and were raised in culturally diverse areas of the world or with culturally diverse families? How do these questions matter when we're all just humans?

OSD Family Member
Washington Middle;Olympia High

I'm unsure, but I know my student is adamant that OSD should NOT change the school year.

OSD Family Member
Capital High

I would prefer a shorter school days or weekdays, but if the days are shorter I would use it for community service around the school. Like half a day a week dedicated toward in-school help through mentorship, study groups, cleaning, recycling, etc. The children should be shown early on to appreciate their surroundings, not just people.

OSD Family Member
Pioneer Elementary;Washington Middle

I know that test scores and learning stats are all down in general. I'm sure that the state of the world is a contributing factor to the issue as well as the state of the economy. Having continual learning sounds like a logical combatant to battle to summer slump.

OSD Family Member
Olympia High

We live in an area where the majority of our nice weather is in the summer months, to shorten that means I will be pulling my kids out of school more often to continue to be able to go camping, vacation and take advantage of the nice weather

OSD Family Member

Centennial Elementary;Olympia High;ORLA Middle School Academy

The current bell changes were due to a "study" several years ago stating older children needed more sleep. Be it as it may.. there are no more hours in a day. Kids starting school later are at school longer, then any after school programs, or after school sports, or clubs. That makes it later still, then by the time they study then bed times fall later. Being no more hours, just readjusted hours. " Balanced calendar" is now going to be presented as a bus driver shortage. At least that is how Seattle SD is reporting via local news channels. Yes, OSD has had driver shortage issues as well. I do not think the balanced calendar school year is going to help this issue. The current bell changes were due to a "study" several years ago stating older children needed more sleep. Be it as it may.. there are no more hours in a day. Kids starting school later are at school longer, then any after school programs, or after school sports, or clubs. That makes it later still, then by the time they study then bed times fall later. Being no more hours, just readjusted hours.

Community Member

Love it

OSD Family Member

Hansen Elementary

If you change to a balanced calendar we will relocate

OSD Family Member

Roosevelt Elementary

I think my primary concern is that a lot of the enrichment activities (summer camp through parks and recreation, the children's museum) depend on several school districts following the same schedule. If a school district follows a different schedule than the surrounding districts, those children will not have access to the enrichment activities. This will disproportionately impact lower income children, regardless of whether whether they attend via a scholarship or with out of pocket payments. Wealthier families will still go on vacation, hire nannies, etc.

OSD Family Member

Roosevelt Elementary

I think it is a good idea, if it is staff supported and can be made to work even if neighboring districts keep the current calendar.

OSD Family Member

Lincoln Elementary

I prefer the model with a slightly longer summer break

OSD Family Member

Roosevelt Elementary

Our good weather window is so short here in western washington, the kids deserve to spend as much summer time outdoors as possible. Not less!

OSD Family Member

Roosevelt Elementary

I sure hope the Board actually LISTENS and is transparent about these survey results. I work for NTPS and was blown away by their thoughtful process and conclusion given community and stakeholder feedback. I have little faith the Oly Board will do the same.

OSD Family Member

Centennial Elementary;Olympia High

For multiple reasons I prefer to keep the calendar as is. These include, vacations with family, coordinated vacations with

out of state extended family, summer job options for kids, the small amount of actual sunny days our area gets- these have to be part of the extended summer vacation- a long enough break for kids so they actually feel like they got a break- small breaks never feel long enough or full enough, there is an adjustment period for families as kids transition into and out of summer break that takes a few weeks to get into a routine- the multiple small breaks in a balanced calendar would constantly feel like adjustment periods instead of the chance to settle into a routine, the constant adjustment to working parents schedules as every few months they have to adjust and find daycare for their kids instead of just the summer, as a future empty nester- I look forward to being able to take vacations and know the times I can go and not have a lot of families and kids around (mostly adults) :). There are many reasons I prefer to keep the calendar as is- these are just a few that come immediately to mind.

OSD Family Member

Washington Middle;Olympia High

Daycare issues, weather in WA is best during June-Aug so longer summer allows my family vacation and do things outdoors.

Community Member

-Families already struggle with childcare options, the balanced calendar makes it more difficult for parents who work for other nearby districts. Calendars are not aligned now and will be more problematic if this proposal passes. -Some families travel internationally and the shortened time does not allow for their student(s) to attend summer school and visit their relatives overseas. -High school students need summer jobs and they need more than just 6 weeks to be accepted at a job place. Other students need to do internships and this shortened schedule will not allow for them to work, rest, and be ready for next year. -There needs to be a better way to serve students during the current school year and summer school. Maybe the resources can go towards more fun activities like parties, movie nights, extra curricular activities for all, not just for the average and high achieving students.

OSD Family Member

Roosevelt Elementary

Speaking as the parent of a child on the autism spectrum, this change would negatively impact my child. The behavioral issues that would arise with too many breaks, change in routine and then going back to the school structure would be a detriment to both her well-being and her education. Additionally, I am a single parent already struggling with child care. This change would further compound that and potentially put my employment in jeopardy.

OSD Family Member

Roosevelt Elementary

I would be okay with a more balanced calendar if other area school districts also had the same calendar.

OSD Family Member

LP Brown Elementary

Family time is precious and short lived especially here in the PNW. When the weather is nice, kids should be outside being kids, not cooped up inside.

OSD Family Member

Centennial Elementary

It sounds like a great idea! I'm all in for balanced calendar!!

OSD Family Member

Roosevelt Elementary;Washington Middle

[name removed- no comment given]

OSD Family Member

Capital High

The balanced calendar limits job and supplemental development and college preparation opportunities available in the summer.

OSD Family Member

Olympia High

The reason I selected undecided and unsure is because I believe this decision MUST be approached as a broader community and not just as a single SD. There should be a committee exploring that represents our cities Lacey, Olympia

and Tumwater as this will impact our community and not just our individual SD. The stats are clear it IS better for students, however, if you have a community that is NOT on board then that is NOT better for students. I don't believe this is a trail blazing issue, but one that requires community collaboration and buy in.

Community Member

Transportation played a crucial role for any changes to kids calendar so I really hope all are in sync otherwise any new changes will affect families commuting from long distance

OSD Family Member

Roosevelt Elementary

I think the community needs North Thurston, Olympia, and Tumwater districts to make a collective decision about this.

OSD Family Member

Roosevelt Elementary

It would be nice if you provided some examples of possible balanced calendar options.

OSD Family Member

Thurgood Marshall Middle

If the board researches this topic, I would like the impacts on child-care providers, like camps, being available during the longer break periods spread throughout the calendar year to be explored. Additionally, if pursued, I would like the board to explore the impact on high school student opportunities in internships and part time jobs.

OSD Family Member

Roosevelt Elementary

There is a lot of misinformation out there about what a balanced calendar is. A student asked me: is it true this is our last summer and then they're going away?! When I drew a picture of what a balanced calendar was, they were on board! It made sense to 4th graders!

OSD Family Member

Garfield Elementary

No, please do not pursue a balanced calendar!!!! Keep as is! Our family feels strongly about this.

OSD Family Member

Roosevelt Elementary

Do not change the current calendar

OSD Family Member

Roosevelt Elementary

Having so many breaks causes an undue hardship looking for someone to watch the kids while I'm at work. Also cuts into summer time with their father, who they live with out of state.

OSD Family Member

Pioneer Elementary;Washington Middle;Olympia High

Let the children enjoy the outdoors while we have nice weather and spend the rainy seasons inside. Our area has limited number of months where the weather permits this. It would be sad for them to miss it.

OSD Family Member

Washington Middle;Olympia High

I like the idea of more breaks during the year. I'd still want a decent summer break (a month?) with the kiddos! So I'd definitely need to see what that would look like to be able to form an actual opinion.

OSD Family Member

Roosevelt Elementary

Thank you for your work in constantly looking for new ways to make our awesome district even better! I'm really excited about the possibility of a balanced calendar.

OSD Family Member

Roosevelt Elementary

The balanced calendar, though it has some benefits I am sure, is not well suited for a climate such as the Pacific Northwest where we spend most of our outdoor family and recreation time in the summer. We also live in a community with strong community programming during the summer months to support families with children out of school who need child care. We don't want our families time off from school to occur in months where the weather is not conducive to outdoors and children being outside. The balanced calendar would have reverberating impacts for regional summer camp and programming opportunities as well as created schedule conflicts for families with siblings both in private school, OSD, and college. When balanced calendar talks about learning loss it seems it's focused on academic learning loss. But there are many other important things for children to learn that occur when they are on summer break in the Pacific Northwest. Please do not move to a balanced calendar. I am strongly opposed to balanced calendar.

OSD Family Member

Boston Harbor Elementary;Olympia High

Growing up in Germany, our schools followed a , "balanced calendar". The summer break of about a month and a half, is just the right amount of time off for children to prevent retention loss. At that point kids are ready to go back to school. Also, having breaks throughout the year gives kids more resting periods. As a kid, it was nice being able to look forward to the next break throughout the year and it gave families the opportunity to go on vacations at different times of the year besides just a big block during the summer. I recommend studying other school districts/countries that have been implementing the balanced calendar for a length of time to study benefits/downsides and compare to the benefits/downsides to our current traditional calendar here. Thank you for your consideration and keeping our children's best interest at heart!

Community Member

Concerns about some groups finding the support and financial assistance needed to adjust to the balanced schedule. Also concerned about how this might interfere with how our school articulates with other schools in the area (sports, band, national competitions, CiHS, AP). Finally, I am not convinced that the reasons for pursuing a balanced calendar actually address the inequities or concerns it is supposed to alleviate.

OSD Family Member

Olympia High

In support of this change

OSD Family Member

Boston Harbor Elementary

<https://nbalancedcalendarwaschools.wordpress.com/>

Community Member

Does the "balanced calendar" solve an issue being experienced in the district by a majority of families or is it a fad? Children look forward to summer vacation, it's a time when they can just be kids with no worries. That has value. Is "learning loss" in our district so severe and so difficult to overcome that we need to deprive children of summers?

OSD Family Member

Pioneer Elementary

Leave it as it is.

OSD Family Member

Washington Middle;Olympia High

This is a great idea and the district should definitely do it, but it's scary until people have learned more about it. Why hasn't there been any push to educate the community before putting out a survey? That seems like failure by design, which is what just sunk the idea in Lacey.

OSD Family Member

Lincoln Elementary;Washington Middle

I would fully support and actually preferred a balanced calendar if there is community support such as YMCA Camps or Olympia Park & Recreation Camps that is integrated to the balanced calendar schedule.

OSD Family Member

Roosevelt Elementary

I understand children need help during the summer with meals and education, but then there should be MORE FREE PROGRAMS available in the communities during the full summer not institute balanced calendar.

OSD Family Member

LP Brown Elementary

I really think the focus should be on how this change would impact low-income families, BIPOC families, families living with disabilities, and families experiencing homelessness. They are the ones who rely on the school district to provide schooling and child care. Non-marginalized families have the means to hire childcare or send kids to private school or do homeschooling.

OSD Family Member

Roosevelt Elementary;Jefferson Middle

I think it's easier for families where all of the adults leave the house for work to keep the summer break. It's easier to figure out how to manage a big block of time (summer break) than it is to work around a consistently broken schedule (one with more frequent, smaller breaks). Plus, seriously, the summer is the time to have off in the PNW, obviously.

OSD Family Member

ORLA Montessori

I think a balanced calendar makes the best sense. Having MONTHS away from school is a challenge when they return to school every FALL. Having a more consistent access to education throughout the year would be a great option to have.

OSD Family Member
ORLA Montessori

I'd like to see more information on the positive impact of a balanced calendar sent to the public, thank you.

OSD Family Member
ORLA hConnect

We fully support Balanced Calendar and believe it would be beneficial for our children's growth and learning. Thank you!

OSD Family Member
Madison Elementary

Im interested in a balanced calendar if other local school districts make the switch too. It would be difficult for parents working in a different school district than their child to have a different schedule.

OSD Family Member
Pioneer Elementary

My child would not be able to work during the summer which would significantly impact our ability to afford college.

Community Member

I think kids would really benefit!

OSD Family Member
ORLA Middle School Academy

I appreciate OSD's willingness to even start this conversation. At this point, I believe I would prefer to move to a balanced calendar, but I know that the process of considering one will prompt valuable reflection on our collective goals.

OSD Family Member
Roosevelt Elementary

I think a balanced calendar would have a disproportionately negative effect on lower-income families that are already struggling with managing day-to-day family commitments. The more frequent breaks could potentially add additional mental and economic strain as families have to continually compete for limited childcare spots. In addition, athletes would not get the same types of intended breaks, as sports competitions in the rest of the region/state would continue. I also believe the wider community would be dramatically affected - ranging from childcare and camp programs not having enough staff during the non-summer breaks (because they often depend upon college students) to businesses that depend upon summer customers not getting the same income stream due to a shorter local vacation season.

OSD Family Member
Olympia High

As a result of COVID, there has been enough change for teachers, students, and families these past two years. Another change with the calendar is not wise during a time with so many are struggling to get back to "normal" and regain the lost ground. OSD should be more focused on fundamental learning, retaining staff, reinstating proper boundaries and discipline and creating a secure and safe environment rather than pursuing the Balanced Calendar. This is not the right time. I hope the OSD leadership listens to the community voices. The community has lost trust in the board and leadership with other bad decisions like eliminating SRO's and not returning to in-person school sooner and now our community is feeling the pain of those decisions.

OSD Family Member

Capital High

We are already seeing a negative impact of changing the time of day. Many high school athletes have felt a significant impact to their learning having to miss so many afternoon class periods to attend meets and competitions. Kids with after school jobs are no longer as employable due to reduced availability. And let's face it, no one is going to bed earlier. Not only would this change impact our students, but it would have a devastating impact economically on our community. I don't have to tell you how many folks participate in summer programs, how many college students return home to work those programs and nanny for the summer, how many families save on child care, and how many kids just flat out need a break.

OSD Family Member

Reeves Middle;Avanti High;Olympia High

We have been in a district with a balanced calendar in the past. It was extremely helpful for the summer learning loss, helped with easier transitions back to school after time off and helped the entire family feel less fatigued by the end of the year. However, it was a difficult transition for our family to figure out summer trips and childcare for the longer, mid school breaks. After COVID, many people are still working from home, which provides some easier childcare for some families (mine included), and my kids are old enough now to be home alone. My husband's work schedule is tied to the collegiate school calendars, so it would be good to take those into consideration when scheduling a condensed summer break, so at least some of the time off falls at the same time.

OSD Family Member

Roosevelt Elementary;Washington Middle;Olympia High

Summer is a time for students to get out and be outside. It is the nicer months of the year in Washington. Instead many students would be inside a classroom for a number of hours. Nicer days often means students staying up later and having less sleep which could mean less learning because of tired students.

OSD Family Member

ORLA Virtual Academy of Olympia (VAO)

I think moving to a balanced calendar is silly....plus didn't North Thurston's committee reject the idea of a balanced calendar??? and what's the point. Just seems it was one board member's idea to move forward on something that interested him.

OSD Family Member

LP Brown Elementary;Jefferson Middle

The experience I have with balanced calendars in another state shows tremendous benefits to the students and their progress. I will always support the shift to a balanced calendar.

OSD Family Member

Avanti High

Thank you for starting this important conversation.

OSD Family Member

ORLA Montessori

DO NOT pursue this shift in calendar. It benefits only the entitled, well-traveled families in our community who can just take off from work and travel with their kids. It's outrageous. Those of us who have jobs that do not allow for such time off, travel and we (and our kids!) work in order to even PAY our BILLS would be burned once again.

OSD Family Member

Washington Middle;Olympia High

Myself, my husband, and other parents I have spoken with on this topic are very, very strongly opposed to this concept

being implemented in our school district. We request that the OSD not pursue this concept in relation to our children's schools. This concept would have a very negative impact from our perspective.

OSD Family Member

Lincoln Elementary;Washington Middle;Olympia High

Longer breaks are harder on younger kids. They forget so much. Plus I worry about the at risk youths in our community who use school as a safe place where they can easily get meals and healthy social experiences

OSD Family Member

Roosevelt Elementary

While I have the privilege of working from home with extreme flexibility, I know that secondary consequences for other families will be challenging to schedule extra curricular camps and child care when those experiences are often staffed by students and those needing more consistent employment during the summer. If this issue could be resolved I'd be in favor of the year-round schooling option.

OSD Family Member

Boston Harbor Elementary;Reeves Middle

I vehemently oppose the balanced calendar at this point in time for the following reasons: I believe our students have had enough change and upset in their schooling over the last two years due to the pandemic, and it would be harmful and unfair to ask them (and their families) to make further changes at this time. My family's experience has been difficult, between online school, going back to school for one child last year, with the other staying home all year, so that neither child has had a full middle school experience, nor a usual start to high school for our oldest child this year. I do not support a balanced calendar for this group of kids and would like for them to have as normal a schooling experience with as few changes as possible for the rest of their middle and high school years. We all need more normal right now and bringing in more change via a balanced calendar is not welcome. School is about more than just education; it is about social growth, executive function development, trust and safety, and yes, it is free childcare for our elementary-aged children that allows their parents to work. It influences the parents and families of school-aged children in their ability to work, based on school schedules and breaks. Many families lack the resources to hire childcare for the breaks in the school year and lengthening them makes it even more difficult. For those families that hire college-aged nannies or babysitters for the summer, it becomes even more of a challenge for them to find someone to do that for only a month. School is also an institution that directly impacts its surrounding community as it influences area athletics and extra-curricular activities, such as dance, martial arts, tutoring programs, and more. Tumwater School District has apparently voted against the balanced calendar, which means that our community will be broken, with some families experiencing the challenge of a parent working in one district on one calendar and their children in another district on another calendar, or vice versa. Neighborhoods would also be split between districts, causing some children to miss out on breaks with their friends and neighbors. It seems an absurd situation to have some, but not all, area districts participate in this change. A balanced calendar poses many other logistical challenges that we may not be able to overcome. It makes it nearly impossible for high schoolers to have summer jobs, do international language exchange programs, or national summer internships- all of which may be beneficial or necessary to them being able to continue on into higher education. It also makes it very difficult to coordinate with our area's private educational institutions, such as NOVA or our religious schools, for camps, sports, or classes. Many area camps rely on high schoolers to help facilitate their programs, and if the summer break is only one month long, when will those student-workers be trained, and how will camps be able to operate without them? Will national camps that come to our area to offer specialized programs to our children stop coming because our children are in school and are unable to participate, or will they come anyway for those students not in public school at OSD, causing OSD families to have to make the choice between a special experience or sending their child (ren) to school? No one has mentioned the timing of the summer break, but I imagine it would naturally fall around the fourth of July, which is not our best summer weather. August is our best and hottest summer weather, which is when many families want to take vacations, go camping, spend time together outdoors, etc. Are all our schools outfitted with air conditioning? If students are to be expected to be indoors during this hot time of

year, learning in the classroom, will the buildings be cool and comfortable enough for this to happen? How much money has been put aside to retrofit all classrooms and buildings with adequate cooling for summer learning? Furthermore, as a working parent forced to change my work schedule a minimum of four times last year, and again with later start times this year, it is imperative to me that no more schedule changes occur. It is difficult to maintain customers/patients with so many interruptions to the flow of normal business, and it puts undue burden on the co-workers of parents of school-aged children. I think we are all tired of things constantly changing and are looking for some stability and consistency to the structure and timing of school, which is as important to students as it is to parents. Knowing how my children react so adversely to change, I adamantly refuse to support a balanced calendar within the next six years and ask that this initiative be tabled until those that began middle school during the pandemic are through with high school, allowing us all to settle back into a routine of normal for a few years before turning everything upside down again. I urge the consideration of the above points and hope that no further school schedule changes will occur in the futures of these pandemic-disoriented students and their families.

OSD Family Member

Washington Middle;Olympia High

Instead of spending money at the district level, allocate more funds/staffing for the buildings. Balanced calendars are a distraction which will not resolve any fundamental issues, despite what your cherry-picked research indicates.

Community Member

How would this affect students with IEPs that need an extended school year?

OSD Family Member

ORLA Montessori

Summer is very short already and I am concerned that having the kids in school later and starting sooner will take away from their ability to be free and unencumbered when the weather is nice. Being in a classroom all day while it is nice outside is not easy, nor is going to bed when the sun is still up. I would recommend easing into this thing. A week or so on either end with a week or so added to Spring break and Winter break. That's my gut reaction at this time.

OSD Family Member

Centennial Elementary

Balanced calendar will be a disaster unless the employers of our student's families are entirely on board. The child care providers I rely on to cover school vacations and closures don't see a way to continue operations under a balanced calendar. They rely on outdoor locations and also on filling the rest of the calendar with preschool programming. A statement from the Chamber of Commerce isn't enough--we need the top 3 employers in the county to lead by adopting specific policies to address how parents can meet their kids new needs under a balanced calendar. The issue for families with the current school calendar is that it doesn't relate to the amount of time that parents are required to work at a full time job. 180 days that are 6.5 hours in length is much shorter than 260 days that are 8 hours in length (plus lunch and travel time). Families with means make up the difference with quality care that provides additional growth and learning opportunities. And even those families are scrambling--sometimes daily--to get child care covered so they can work. 180 days of formal instruction is great; we need another 80 days of quality care, plus before/after school enrichment.

OSD Family Member

Roosevelt Elementary

We firmly support pursuing a balanced calendar.

OSD Family Member

Pioneer Elementary

NO BALANCED CALENDAR!

OSD Family Member

McLane Elementary;Thurgood Marshall Middle;Capital High

Impacts child custody arrangements

OSD Family Member

Roosevelt Elementary;Reeves Middle

I love this idea and I think it would be beneficial for working families who struggle to find child care during the summer months

OSD Family Member

Roosevelt Elementary

Equity. How will random 2 weeks off periodically affect the lower income population? Will it be a challenge for those families to get childcare so the parents can still work? How about special needs students? Finding qualified care givers is difficult especially for short bursts of time. For these kids whose parents work they will be stuck inside during our 9 months of rainy weather. Let the kids enjoy the small amount of beautiful weather we have here. Which also gives clearly marked time for structuring care for both lower income families as well as our sped students. Test scores don't matter in the long term for any student. But the summer memories made and enjoyed being them back refreshed and ready to learn again.. even if a small amount of time is to refresh end of year content. Keep the calendar the same.

Community Member

Length between breaks is too long and breaks are too short.

OSD Family Member

ORLA hConnect

It might be something in the future but right now OSD has got to get the violence at school under control. Most pressing issue is getting an officer at the school, holding kids accountable and making Capital HS a safe environment. My older 2 children loved Capital. The oldest who graduated from Capital 5 years ago is starting medical school this June. He got an amazing education, safe, happy and thriving environment. Unfortunately, it is not the same for my daughter. Students are not held to the same high excellence any longer and there is a lack of happiness with students and staff. There is so much that needs to be addressed and changing the calendar is not where our efforts and energy need to be placed at this point. We have a great school and need to bring it back and get the students, teachers and administrations to feel there is hope and it is worth fighting for. Please put your energies in making the campus safe for faculty and student as the main goal and from there the strong academics can hopefully start to come back as well. We owe it to our future generations.

OSD Family Member

Capital High

In talking to people who have lived with a balanced calendar in California, they unanimously report that the balanced calendar only works if one parent stays home. If both parents/guardians work, the schedule is to the student and family's detriment. Who is to care for the elementary school aged students during the multiple extended breaks when both parents work? This feels like it is only benefits families who can afford to keep a parent home. Don't discriminate against our students of low income.

OSD Family Member

Washington Middle;Olympia High

Two of our children are in college, so we wonder about the impact it would have on our OSD student not having the same summer break as his older college siblings. However, we do like the idea of having the opportunity to take vacations at other times of the year which would likely make them more affordable. I think we would be inclined to support a balanced calendar school year if it meant the high schools would switch to a quarter or trimester system rather than semesters. We do not like the semester system because it's too many classes at one time and too short of

blocks. It's overwhelming for the students and feels never-ending. Plus, all of the public universities and colleges in our state (with the lone exception of WSU) are on the quarter system. Switching to a quarter system would also align better with SPSCC for families who have students doing Running Start. If moving to a balanced school year would allow the high schools to be on a quarter or trimester system that aligns with colleges, then we will be all for it! Thank you.

OSD Family Member

Olympia High

Stop trying to shove year round school down our throats. I hated it when I lived in CA. Just let the students and teachers recover from COVID and get academics caught up. We don't need the stress of more BS changes. Just get the teachers in the classrooms, get the busses staffed, and keep the free lunches for kids. Start more prevention type programs for high schoolers, especially in summer, for teens to learn something new and spend time outside in a group. We don't want year round school and neither did North Thurston. Stop wasting our tax money researching what parents DO NOT WANT!

OSD Family Member

Capital High

Regardless of reactionary voices in OSD and NTSD, a balanced calendar is long overdue. We do not live in a 19th century agrarian society.

OSD Family Member

Lincoln Elementary

Long summers are rejuvenating for everyone. After a long summer break, everyone is ready to go back to school. Summers are the best time for traveling and family time/reunions and spending time outside. The pacific northwest region's summer conditions are too good to be spent indoors/schools!!!!

OSD Family Member

Capital High

it seems like a bigger committee should be doing this work that includes people from North Thurston & Tumwater

OSD Family Member

Lincoln Elementary;Jefferson Middle;Avanti High;Capital High

My children are at Griffin middle and elementary students so will be OSD students for high school. It would be great if you'd let us register as in district, since Griffin usually follows OSD models and most kids will be there for high school. Right now, with all things covid and behavior issues, it seems a hard time to make a change as big as one that switches to balanced calendars. That said, it is never going to be an easy switch for families, so you'll have to bite the bullet sometime if you're going to do it. If the science says it is good for kid's learning... we should probably do it. But if you're going to lose a lot of teachers and family~ maybe not. Hard choice!

Community Member

As a single working mother, the "evenly distributed" breaks - would cause financial hardship (due to the need of full time care during those breaks). Plus, I feel like the kids AND teachers deserve the long break during the summer. To rest, recharge & prepare for another school year.

OSD Family Member

Centennial Elementary

I very much support the balanced calendar. Both my husband and I work and trying to find care for 3 months in the summer is incredibly difficult and expensive. I would much rather have shorter breaks throughout the school year that

are much more manageable and will allow us to take more family trips and not just on spring break and summer, when prices are extremely high and places are very crowded.

OSD Family Member
Madison Elementary

The balanced calendar will make it so much easier for working parents ! More time to take family trips that are less expensive than the spring break/summer / winter break times. Also helps kids not go so long without being in school . Very very supportive of the balanced calendar!!

OSD Family Member
Madison Elementary

I think instead of investigating a calendar change you should invest time in finding a more relevant, less capitalistically ridiculous test than the SBAC and it's bogus "advantages". The only "advantage" the SBAC has is to line corporate wallets not assess the comprehension and learning of the students. Put the students first for a change and leave the calendar alone.

OSD Family Member
Capital High

My daughter will be going to a Jewish camp for the first 3 weeks of summer that includes campers from all over the US and Israel and I would not want her to miss out on the opportunity for 6 or 7 weeks of camp for future summers

OSD Family Member
ORLA hConnect

My kids like to have summer jobs, attend camps, and go on family vacations during the summer months.

OSD Family Member
Olympia High

Given that students rarely have summer jobs anymore, I think it would help families plan vacations and time off. Currently all trips are smooshed into one time period where every other family in America is also traveling. Potentially it would cut down on student absences if families can parse out their trips.

OSD Family Member
Washington Middle;Olympia High

We are NOT in favor of the balanced calendar. As a parent who works full time, this would have a major impact to work/life balance and my student prefers having a longer summer break.

OSD Family Member
Capital High

The balanced calendar idea is terrible and if OSD adopts it we will likely move our child to a school out of the district. It makes childcare a headache, club sports participation will be harder or impossible if there is school during the traditional summer break months, teachers would not have the complete relaxation period they need each year (have you noticed how many teachers are still working a week or more into summer break to catch up and prepare to leave their classrooms for break? The balanced calendar would not allow for this decompression period), and schools in our district are not equipped to be in session in extreme heat which seems to be more and more likely in July/August. The balanced calendar will not provide more instructional time for struggling students, it just changes things for everyone, somewhat like a shell game, just mixing things up Andreas of actually addressing needs. Use the research time and money to figure out how to get meaningful additional instructional time for students without overworking current teachers. Please.

OSD Family Member

Pioneer Elementary

A balanced calendar is a terrible idea in my opinion and disrupts learning. This will cause a real burden for working parents as well.

OSD Family Member

Centennial Elementary;Washington Middle

A balanced calendar would make childcare difficult for families. Please don't try to "fix" what isn't broken.

OSD Family Member

Centennial Elementary

I think for the mental health of the students and the school staff the balanced calendar would be a great change. I also believe it would be more equitable for lower income students.

OSD Family Member

ORLA Montessori

Balanced calendars are best for students, and that should be the primary consideration.

OSD Family Member

Centennial Elementary;Washington Middle

Balance calendar will have a huge negative impact on single parent households who need childcare and needs their older children to have summer jobs!

OSD Family Member

Jefferson Middle;Capital High

You will still have loss of learning with 2 and 3 week breaks! Don't punish those who need summer jobs, do sports over the summer, or need reliable child care throughout the year.

OSD Family Member

Hansen Elementary;Thurgood Marshall Middle;Capital High

A "balanced calendar" seems unrealistic given our weather, lack of air conditioning during summer months, and having extended time off when the weather is bad. At least one other school district is not going forward, and having to coordinate summer activities when the schools are not in sync would seem like it would hurt availability for all students.

OSD Family Member

McKenny Elementary

How could you even consider moving forward without NTPS and Tumwater? Do you think Olympia alone will drive much needed childcare options during the intercessions? Upper middle to upper class families stand to benefit the most from a "balanced" so they can take their kids on non peak time vacations during the breaks. I teach in North Thurston. If you move forward neither my spouse nor I (both educators) will have the same schedule as our kids. Stop the shenanigans, OSD. After all you've put families through over the past couple of years, are you kidding me right now?

OSD Family Member

Centennial Elementary;Washington Middle

Although I understand the concerns about students backsliding in maintaining their skills/knowledge over the long summer vacation, as a former teacher, I never found that to be a major concern. Quick initial reviews of previously taught topics before initiating new ones always seemed to be enough to get students up to speed. More importantly, the longer summer break gave both students and teachers the much-needed breather that a shorter 2 week break would not provide. The impact of a "balanced" calendar seems to open up so many problematic issues for scheduling, taking summer classes (teachers), summer jobs for teens, and on and on. I'm strongly opposed to changing the calendar.

Community Member

I have 2 students and they are different genders so I could not answer that question.

OSD Family Member

Hansen Elementary

Let's keep the current calendar

OSD Family Member

Capital High

Please keep the current calendar.

OSD Family Member

Centennial Elementary

Look at the survey from NTPS. The committee was a waste of time. The community did not support the balanced calendar. OSD families, more likely than not, will want to have the same calendar as NTPS. Many staff from OSD have students that attend NTPS or staff from OSD with parents working for NTPS. Not sharing a calendar with the neighboring districts would be awful.

OSD Family Member

Boston Harbor Elementary;Reeves Middle

This would greatly disrupt summer programs and schedules. Strongly opposed to this idea, and will explore homeschooling if it passes.

OSD Family Member

Centennial Elementary

We live in western Washington, where we only get camping/hiking/outdoor rec weather in the summer. If you went to balanced calendar, all families would be fighting for those couple weeks off for family events. As a store manager, that would make it very hard to have adequate staff, or families would miss out on a vacation that year.

OSD Family Member

LP Brown Elementary;Jefferson Middle;Capital High

My kids spend August playing outside the majority of the day. This outdoor play with their friends is a crucial aspect of their childhood. They swim at the lake, build forts, play sports, and hang outside. They play with friends, attend sports camps, and enjoy camping trips and hikes at our state parks with grandparents and cousins. Having school start in August during the beautiful weather in the Pacific Northwest will be detrimental to our family. We have limited sunshine in the Pacific Northwest, and my kids need to be able to enjoy July and August without spending all day inside at school. It is crucial to our mental health. Moving the breaks to the cold, rainy weather in the fall or spring will deny my children this crucial outdoor play and outdoor experiences in nature with their family. Please don't take away their August outdoor playtime. As we all know, play is crucial to childhood development. I am aware of our privilege and acknowledge that not all children spend these summer months in the same way that my children do. The school district/state should provide robust summer school options and outdoor learning experiences for students who would benefit. If summer learning loss is the concern, then provide support to these students during the summer months.

OSD Family Member

Centennial Elementary

We will struggle as a family with multiple ages in the home to be accessible to our children with different, longer school breaks broken up throughout the school year. I am concerned for the break in education repeatedly after children become so dependent and thrive better with structure. It would also not benefit the students to have school breaks when parents aren't off work, the weather is crummy, the resources that are provided to them in normal summers

aren't available {camps/jobs}, etc. How would my teen hold a consistent job to earn money with such a varied schedule? How could this affect the students socially as so many important social-emotional skills are developing at this age when around same-aged peers? Keep it consistent and let's not reinvent the wheel with this new plan/calendar.

OSD Family Member
Capital High

With all of the set backs in educational learning, and mental health challenges due to the pandemic, now is the perfect time to reimagine the school year.

OSD Family Member
Olympia High

As an educator in another district this would have a significant impact on our family costing us tens of thousands of dollars in child care. We would have to strongly consider switching districts with our children.

OSD Family Member
McKenny Elementary

I feel like I've been hearing about this group/work for years. I don't understand the need to keep surveying. I'm ready to move forward. Please prioritize this work so our kids and families can start to reap the benefits. At the current pace my last child will be out of school before we make any kind of shift. Thank you for the work you do. So much appreciated.

OSD Family Member
Washington Middle

As a teacher in another district that is not considering a balanced schedule, it would be necessary (for childcare) to have similar school schedules. I'm also curious about collaboration and involvement with local daycares/childcare programs since many families will need childcare during breaks. As an educator I am open to consideration of a balanced schedule, but I feel there needs to be a lot of work with parents and the community to ensure they're being supported with such a big decision that could greatly effect them.

OSD Family Member
McLane Elementary

Is this just another annoying add-on to detract from actual teaching in the classroom? Let teachers teach, trust them!!!

Community Member

I think a balanced calendar makes more sense for primary school than secondary. I hope the committee will consider lots of options with this and not rush to any decisions. The change in school times has had many negative, unintended consequences (which I know as a parent and employee), and I hope there is an effort with this project to anticipate and weigh out some of those ahead of time.

OSD Family Member
Madison Elementary

I work in another school district and not being on the same school calendar would pose a hardship for me and my family.

OSD Family Member
Olympia High

Balanced calendars give more stability to those in need. Schools fill many needs for families and having more spread out days helps them. More breaks also helps our students with disadvantages.

OSD Family Member
Madison Elementary

Is this still feasible since North Thurston is a NO

OSD Family Member

Jefferson Middle;ORLA Montessori

I believe the school year should stay the same as it has been, kids and families have been through too much change the past couple of years.

Community Member

This is ridiculous. The kids who don't come to school aren't going to come because you change the calendar. Maybe a consequence would be an idea, like not passing a grade. Just like changing the bell times was gonna make my middle schooler get more rest- nope, she just stays up later. If you want to fix something how about not having my bus route cancelled every other day or two hours late. Hire some drivers and get kids to school. Once they are there, make them behave. I am tired of hearing my child talk about the behaviors and wasted time in class when she is there. How do you think all of us who work will find child care? It as an employer at the second largest business in town, how do you want me to staff the place knowing now I have 6 weeks to get summer vacation in (although I do believe people will still take kids out whenever.) Who will pay for all the parents like me to go back to court and re-do out parenting plans? This will likely mean new curriculums- who is gonna pay for that? My children participate in athletics and other school activities- how are we gonna play sports as the only school around on the schedule? It likely doesn't matter to the board because their kids all go to the alternative schools. Let's just focus on fixing what is already broken and not break the one thing that works. 100% against this nonsense.

OSD Family Member

Centennial Elementary;Washington Middle

Our family favors the balanced calendar because, potentially, there is less loss of learning if the summer break is not as long. Also, the longer breaks at other parts of the year may helps students recharge to the new quarter.

OSD Family Member

Capital High

I would need to know the proposed schedule (ie vacation times) to be able to judge the impact.

OSD Family Member

Thurgood Marshall Middle

Do not go to the new calendar

OSD Family Member

ORLA Montessori

I am beyond supportive of a balanced calendar. I think it is SO much better for the kids and it gives families more opportunities to spend time together during the year. 100% yes yes yes for a balanced calendar.

OSD Family Member

Garfield Elementary

I have a parenting plan so it's makes things difficult

OSD Family Member

Hansen Elementary

A traditional calendar is better for working parents and consistency with children. Have random breaks would be difficult.

OSD Family Member

McLane Elementary

I worry about doing a balanced calendar when other local districts don't- how does that work for sports, etc? It seems like a larger community change that would need to take place. I also wonder about what childcare services would be available on breaks

OSD Family Member

Roosevelt Elementary

I feel like this is a BIG change and needs to be done in concert with the community as a whole. With that in mind, it's my understanding that nearby districts have already ruled this out, so I am of the mind that we follow suit. However, I was personally a proponent of exploring these options in an effort to make sure that kids don't get lost during the summer - socially, economically, and academically.

OSD Family Member

Washington Middle;Olympia High

As a working set of parents with two kids in Elementary school, our primary concern is whether our current support care facilities will accommodate this shift.

OSD Family Member

Centennial Elementary

Your going to impact thousands of parenting plan in family court. Did you consider the impact of divorced, single parents who have to survive on one income that don't qualify for free and reduced lunch. This will drop child support for single Income parents!

OSD Family Member

Jefferson Middle;Capital High

This is a BAD idea. Please do not pursue this. Awful!

OSD Family Member

Thurgood Marshall Middle;Capital High

Kids and teachers need their break

Community Member

Please pursue the balanced calendar.

OSD Family Member

Pioneer Elementary

I don't think it's worth time, effort, money to continue to pursue if North Thurston and Tumwater don't do the same. It is my understanding North Thurston is further along and have determined they are not pursuing a balanced calendar. OSD should abort mission!

OSD Family Member

Pioneer Elementary;Washington Middle

A balanced calendar could make sense but only if it is done in accordance with other Washington school districts. I work at a neighboring school district and it would be very inconvenient if my child had a different calendar then I did.

OSD Family Member

Jefferson Middle;Capital High

For our family such a change would be no big deal, we are white, affluent, and have one stay at home parent. Studies show learning loss is much reduced with a balanced calendar. However, I am concerned about the impact of such a

change on families who are more marginalized. Considerable community resources would need to be stood up to address childcare and other needs that would result from such a change.

OSD Family Member

Madison Elementary

I feel that a balanced calendar would make situations more difficult for families as far as childcare, summer jobs, etc.

OSD Family Member

Jefferson Middle;Capital High

We went through Covid, and then a new start time at school. ENOUGH! We are a family that would prefer the school calendar year as it currently stands.

OSD Family Member

Washington Middle;Olympia High

I like the current calendar. I like the longer summer breaks. I don't need to find weeks of intermittent random care for my child during the year as opposed to readily available summer camps. My child has shown no signs of fatigue but his teacher sure has by taking off what has to be a record number of days off for everything under the sun. You don't live in the real world of actual work. You'll do what you want to so I'm not sure why you are sending us this survey.

OSD Family Member

Pioneer Elementary

I'm only interested if all schools in the county follow the same calendar. As a parent in one district and an educator in another it is crucial that they are similar. I would say the same for community and childcare services

OSD Family Member

Washington Middle;Olympia High

Balanced calendar is a great idea, just do it.

OSD Family Member

Boston Harbor Elementary

Need dates of the time off to understand more of the implications

OSD Family Member

Olympia High

Wonderful Idea!!!

OSD Family Member

Boston Harbor Elementary;Reeves Middle;Olympia High

A balanced calendar will make it very difficult for my child who struggles with transitioning and schedule changes

OSD Family Member

Thurgood Marshall Middle

I feel hesitant toward change, but I believe that is a typical response to it. I am simply used to working with the current calendar, but I believe we could adjust if that is what the majority wanted to do.

OSD Family Member

Centennial Elementary;Olympia High

The loss of learning time in summer is regressive so the poor are more greatly experiencing setbacks than wealthier counterparts.

OSD Family Member
Reeves Middle

I need an example of what a balanced calendar school year would look like. Ex: when would school possibly start, when would there be possible breaks, and when would school end?

OSD Family Member
Boston Harbor Elementary;Reeves Middle;Olympia High

The only drawback for us is that summer camps offer more outdoor time than the regular school year. It would be ideal to have more outdoor learning options through the school district.

OSD Family Member
ORLA hConnect

I think it depends on when the calendar would fall, as parents we have to keep our jobs in mind and most families dont have the luxury of a single working parent.

OSD Family Member
Centennial Elementary;Washington Middle

You need to provide data that showcases the pros and cons of a “balance schedule”. Hard facts because without data it's mostly hearsay and theory. For most of us we lived with the longer summer breaks that were look forwarded to for students, faculty, and most family. We've made it work for generations. I don't see the need to change at this time.

OSD Family Member
Pioneer Elementary;Washington Middle;Olympia High

There does not seem to be a lot of information to are a decision on other than the comment in the video attached to the survey that research says it is helpful. By how much? How does the impact families with fewer resources? Is there an equity lease been used in developing plans or determining what metrics are necessary attain minimal description to our most vulnerable families? These kind of question should have been asked and answered prior to asking families to engage in their interest. We are being asked to make an uninformed decision.

OSD Family Member
Garfield Elementary;McLane Elementary

I will almost certainly withdraw my family from the district if the school switches to a balance

OSD Family Member
Lincoln Elementary

I'd rather you increased the number of school days, rather than spread the same amount out.

OSD Family Member
Centennial Elementary;Jefferson Middle;Olympia High

Balanced calendar is a disruptive idea. We are against it completely for a multitude of reasons.

OSD Family Member
Centennial Elementary

I believe the summer break is already too short.

OSD Family Member

Boston Harbor Elementary

not a good idea unless the rest of the things that happen in the summer change as well.

OSD Family Member

My main concern will be childcare concerns in a balanced calendar scenario. I require before/after school and summer childcare.

OSD Family Member

McLane Elementary

Will leave district if balanced calendar is adopted.

OSD Family Member

Madison Elementary

I would like more information including the length and timing of the breaks before I can have an opinion. I do like the idea of additional longer breaks in exchange for a shorter summer, as long as the organizations that usually provide childcare during breaks would also provide childcare sitting the balanced calendar breaks.

OSD Family Member

Roosevelt Elementary

I hope the district is courageous enough to pursue the balance calendar it makes sense for so many reasons

OSD Family Member

Olympia High

I love the idea of a balanced calendar. Everyone I speak to who has used on loves it.

OSD Family Member

Lincoln Elementary;Jefferson Middle

Balanced school calendars will force divorced families back into court to create a new parenting plan that would be expensive and take a long time to resolve.

OSD Family Member

ORLA Virtual Academy of Olympia (VAO)

It would help greatly with parents who have to work and find people to care for their kids like medical professionals that don't work bankers hours.

OSD Family Member

Garfield Elementary

Thank you for adding the optional statement to the offensive questions. It's a great first step. A great second step would be to never ask questions like that.

OSD Family Member

Centennial Elementary

I'm all for balanced calendar. I feel like it will be easier for child care, give us more opportunity for family vacations throughout the year & NOT such a big gap for learning retention.

OSD Family Member

Centennial Elementary

As a house with two full-time working parents with limited availability of childcare during the summer, we would wholeheartedly welcome a balanced calendar. We could plan vacations easier and spend more time with out-of-state

family. Our children would miss less school and not be so burned out at the end of the year. We would also feel less guilty about potential summer knowledge loss. I've done research and cannot personally find any negatives to moving to a balanced school year. I hope you overcome the ingrained culture around the school schedule and push this forward as a true benefit to the kids and the community.

OSD Family Member

Boston Harbor Elementary

Do you know how hard it will be to take time off work or find childcare for short periods of time more often than we already need to with the breaks we already have, than it will for one summer period at a time? So no summer vacations or camps? Let the kids have a break and enjoy life for more than a day or two at a time. We all know as an adult you don't, why would we take that from them ?

OSD Family Member

Roosevelt Elementary;Olympia High

This will have a big impact on our family and most families in split households who have a parenting plan that includes school breaks. Litigating a parenting plan costs thousands of dollars, can take several months, and can cause a tremendous amount of stress for both parties. Not to mention the disruption is causes for the children involved. If you implement the proposed changes to the school calendar, many families will need to re-litigate their parenting plans. Does the district plan to reimburse families for this added expense? Put bluntly, this new "balanced calendar" plan is a terrible idea. It will cause far more issues than it will solve and it needs to be put out to pasture for good.

OSD Family Member

Jefferson Middle

I like the idea and tend to think I would like to see it implemented. However, I haven't heard enough information about the real pros and cons of the balanced calendar to know for certain. I would love to have more information.

OSD Family Member

Boston Harbor Elementary

Go with a balanced calendar but don't start it until 23-24 school year.

OSD Family Member

Pioneer Elementary;Washington Middle

I would like Christmas break to go a week into January. So a three week break. The winter is the time I see my kids needing more of a break. I'd add a week at the end of the school year, not in August.

OSD Family Member

Centennial Elementary;Washington Middle

Do not let the naysayers sway you. If it is good for the kids then let's do it! the breaks in the middle of the school are going to help with taking time off. I'm sure people protested against seat belts too so I'm hoping we do the right thing for the kids and not bow down to the people who think school is their personal babysitter.

OSD Family Member

Hansen Elementary

The current school calendar is out dated and does not keep with the standards of our current society.

OSD Family Member

Roosevelt Elementary;Reeves Middle

I read in the Olympian this was already shut down. Why are you readdressing this issue? A lot of claims were made that cannot be proven, students do not want it, many parents do not want it, child care becomes an issue as well as sports,

camps, etc. if you are worried about the loss of learning during the summer, develop a program to address this issue with additional summer learning opportunities. Please just drop this! A tax was just passed to add arts programs over summers, already.

OSD Family Member
Capital High

My kids need summer employment to afford college.

Community Member

For a lot of parents that have existing parenting plans, any changes will force parents to go back to court due to the changes made in a school calendar. Please think clearly on it.

OSD Family Member
Olympia High

We count on our daughters summer job to contribute to paying for school fees - annual, sports, asb, ect

OSD Family Member
Olympia High

I wouldn't be opposed to the balance calendar if every school installed air conditioning in each classroom for the hot summer months.

OSD Family Member
Washington Middle

Keep the current calendar, as it makes our lives and routines easier. If it isn't broken, it doesn't need fixed. And the school doesn't have air conditioning in the classrooms and gyms. . Vote NO for a balanced calendar!!

OSD Family Member
Capital High

Please do an exploratory survey with community agencies in regards to childcare as I feel this will be the biggest concern parents and families have.

OSD Family Member
Boston Harbor Elementary

Ultimately the teachers should make this decision. No one else.

Community Member

I would like to see some examples of a balanced calendar. Actual dates of when they would be in school and when they would be off. Then I can determine if it's a good fit. I also think each student is different on what would work best for them. It would be great if they had an option to pick what schedule would work for them. I also think special education students should be accommodated on an individual basis.

OSD Family Member
Washington Middle;Olympia High

The kids lose so much over the long summer, it's a waste to keep doing the same thing every year

OSD Family Member
Garfield Elementary;Jefferson Middle;Capital High

Do it. Please! Balanced calendar please.

OSD Family Member

McKenny Elementary

I do not want a change to the schedule. I enjoy having my children home and traveling during the warmest months in Washington.

OSD Family Member

Hansen Elementary

I feel the research showing the benefits to learning retention for the students far outweighs the few potential negatives I've heard. People will adjust to the change and the students ability to learn and retain should be the priority.

OSD Family Member

Centennial Elementary

So many changes

OSD Family Member

Garfield Elementary;Jefferson Middle

I've done it before and it's a great system. Excited to see this progress

OSD Family Member

Pioneer Elementary

Must announce by December 2022 what the plan is for the next two years.

OSD Family Member

Washington Middle;Olympia High

I am interested in a balanced calendar but believe it needs support and a community oriented approach. With the current calendar, during summer we have the opportunity to enroll our children in camps and other activities for their education and general life exposure and experience. A balanced calendar may make these opportunities less available if coordination is not done with other community services.

OSD Family Member

Garfield Elementary;Lincoln Elementary

Two extra weeks of school in June/July isn't going to make a big impact on student learning. However, the change would negatively impact my family. It's just the cause of the day. Move on to the next one.

Community Member

If the whole state of Washington would consider Balanced calendars then this would make sense. However this is not the case.

OSD Family Member

Jefferson Middle;Capital High

How would this change effect students who also attend New Market in Tumwater district

OSD Family Member

Olympia High

100% against changing the school year.

OSD Family Member

Washington Middle

If OSD changes to balanced calendar model I would likely request to change the district for my student.

OSD Family Member

Olympia High

This balance calendar idea is stupid and a waste of time. You've already created more than enough chaos with the existing calendar! 1/2 days for spring conference all week followed by another week off for spring break..... who's the fool that thought of that? Then you want to have longer breaks for fall, winter and spring breaks..... [expletive] no..... bad idea from the get go!! I have a better idea, quit screwing with Somerton that's worked just fine for the last 50+ years..... instill some discipline and responsibility and the student will be just fine, these liberal teaching are making the student dumber by the day..... but then again, this is OSD..... would you expect anything else from this leadership group?

OSD Family Member**Hansen Elementary;Jefferson Middle**

I would want to know more about the community's ability to provide child care/camps with more frequent school breaks and potential costs to families, especially middle income families that won't qualify for reduced cost child care. I'm interested in a balanced calendar, but would need to know more about the impact on working families.

OSD Family Member**ORLA Montessori**

A balanced school year impacts families who have members (parents/siblings/stepchildren) who work or attend school in a different district that is on a traditional calendar schedule. Also, extended breaks during the fall/winter/spring don't allow kids opportunities to be outside as a longer summer break does-we simply don't have the climate in western Washington to take advantage of the outdoors in the same ways as southern states who utilize balanced schedules. I also wonder how this will impact classified staff who depend on summer work to supplement their income, not to mention students who may do the same. Obviously, I am not a supporter of this proposal, as both a parent and educator-it seems that a major change in our calendar is one more disruption after several years of uncertainty. I also don't think it's going to help with staff retention or recruitment.

OSD Family Member**Olympia High**

Balance calendars are only good for working professionals. It will hamper family time and put more stress on the family core. Our children will learn such a schedule when they graduate and enter the adult work force. They are not employees of the school district.

OSD Family Member**McLane Elementary;Thurgood Marshall Middle**

Please don't change the current calendar. It's been more than great.

OSD Family Member**Centennial Elementary;Washington Middle;Olympia High**

I think this is a time for the kids, parents and/or different siblings have to enjoy for longer period together without worries of schedule very need it time after all the effort they put that's why I don't agree with balance schedule.

OSD Family Member**McLane Elementary**

A change in the calendar will have a massive negative impact on our family with running start, employee for my teen, and childcare for my younger children.

OSD Family Member**Olympia High**

I've seen & understand the benefits of this change & some of the challenges, but i think it would ultimately benefit everyone involved.

OSD Family Member
Roosevelt Elementary

Prefer a year round school year. Free summer school for who any who qualify. And pay as you go for those who otherwise send their kids.

OSD Family Member
Centennial Elementary;Washington Middle

I have significant concerns about need for more child care during longer breaks (or even shortened school weeks) with work hours.

OSD Family Member
Hansen Elementary

PLEASE don't change our childrens schedule!

OSD Family Member
Hansen Elementary

I think, at this time, it is more important to focus on energy on finding more money to support students and staff directly. I'm disappointed with the school district wasting energy on this, when staff, who work directly with our students, our children are being cut. Seems like we should be focusing on how to get more money into programs that directly impact education.

OSD Family Member
Roosevelt Elementary;Olympia High

Changing the calendar would cause more harm then good.

OSD Family Member
Pioneer Elementary

We definitely do not want a shorter summer. You have whittled away their recess, have taken away time from their lunch, have done away with PE down to once a week and have the lowest standard of learning. At least when the children are home in the summer they are playing outside spending time exploring and having a great quality of family and friends time. If the calendar changes we will definitely look at private schools or home school. We don't need a babysitter.

OSD Family Member
Lincoln Elementary;LP Brown Elementary

Eliminates teenage summer jobs, makes childcare more difficult during breaks, forces parents to take vacation during times of poor weather.

OSD Family Member
McKenny Elementary;Pioneer Elementary

We do not have the infrastructure to conduct things well as they are. Now is not the time for change. And I'm positive there is no extra funding in the budget to retrofit air conditioning, which is the smallest of my concerns. This will affect relationships with: college in the high school, New Market Skills Center, Running Start, every single community based summer program which rely both on returning college students and existing k-12 students to be free during this time period. In addition, this does not take into consideration that for families with small children day care facilities do not

generally enroll for 45 day periods. Families would be paying a 12 month expense to keep their spot in a day care/after school care facility, when currently they can drop for the summer and only incur a 9 month expense. It is short sighted and insensitive to so many groups on so many levels.

OSD Family Member

Avanti High;Olympia High

This will create more stress for families as they have to find multiple different childcare options throughout the year rather than just the traditional breaks and summer.

OSD Family Member

Garfield Elementary

Do not agree with balanced calendar

OSD Family Member

Boston Harbor Elementary

If all the other area districts were to switch together it seems more feasible. Has the consideration been made about parents who are staff in other area districts that wouldn't be switching to a balanced calendar and how that impacts childcare coverage? Should be something to be considering.

OSD Family Member

Centennial Elementary

Factors to be addressed: no air conditioning in the school buildings during summertime, more difficulty finding childcare throughout those short break periods vs a whole lump summer, a 3 wk break every 9 wks seems like it could be disruptive to learning. I'm also a bit concerned about having my kids home on breaks during the yucky times of the year where they will be stuck inside. I'd love to see detailed accounts from schools that switched to see more of the benefits of a balanced school year. Specifically data around IEP students/adhd students to see if this could negatively or positively impact them.

OSD Family Member

McKenny Elementary;Pioneer Elementary

I am a paraeducator and thus am not earning a living wage. That being said, I thoroughly love working with children and my job allows for my family to be covered with Health Insurance, Dental and vision that has been pivotal for us this past year, as my husband has been struggling to maintain employment through Covid. That being said, my second job is being the coordinator of a large community garden that donates 10% of the produce to the Food Bank each year. I could not shift to accomodate this schedule. My third job is more flexible.

OSD Family Member

Olympia High

Summer is time for our family to enjoy the best weather the Pacific Northwest has to offer. A Balanced calendar is a ridiculous idea for the life style of the people of the Northwest and for families that plan summer vacations.

OSD Family Member

LP Brown Elementary;Jefferson Middle

Would like to have more information and options for calendars including options for day care with balanced school options for working families.

OSD Family Member

McLane Elementar

Summer feels too short already, but having more downtime during the year might be worth the trade-off. We are so beyond burnt out.

OSD Family Member

Hansen Elementary;ORLA iConnect

Now is not the time. The research disputes whether a balanced calendar really works or not in increasing learning. As well, there have been too many changes with COVID and later start times. A semblance of normalcy is what our student need. Lastly, North Thurston already overwhelmingly rejected this proposal among parents and teachers. I believe it was said we would only pursue this in Olympia if all the other area schools were doing it.

OSD Family Member

Capital High

Please please please YES on a balanced calendar!!

OSD Family Member

Hansen Elementary;Thurgood Marshall Middle;Capital High

I think the biggest problem here is that the OSD administration, like all bureaucracies, lives in its own little feedback loop. You are now having a case of the clevers. Stop, you're messing with people's schedules and their lives, and there is enough chaotic uncertainty and external forces of change aimed at all of us right now. Think for a minute about our teens who work, and their employers. Summer employment is often the best time they have for exploring work options. Employers will be impacted by this as well; "short hires" can be hard enough for some businesses, and even those businesses who look forward to providing employment opportunities for our teens will be adversely impacted by making those employment schedules shorter.

OSD Family Member

Olympia High;ORLA hConnect

Please don't disrupt our students again. You already changed the start and end times for them which has made things so difficult. ¶

OSD Family Member

Capital High

Since I teach in North Thurston, it would be very important to me that all school districts in the area all switch to the balanced calendar.

OSD Family Member

Washington Middle

1) I think the benefits for learning are great, but worry about whether other sectors of society will likewise shift to accommodate ,I cannot do this in a silo. 2) I hope OSD will bring more voices to the table, particularly those who have been historically excluded. Not just a representative group, but targeted over sample for the voices not heard.

OSD Family Member

Lincoln Elementary

It should be about learning. If research shows that a balanced calendar helps students learn, it is incumbent on the grown ups to make that happen.

OSD Family Member

Lincoln Elementary;Capital High

Child care would be a minor issue

OSD Family Member
Hansen Elementary

The balanced calendar / year round program is a step in the right direction for the future of K-12 education if the necessary infrastructure is in place to ease adoption of the system.

OSD Family Member
McLane Elementary

Balanced calendar would create too many vacation and child care issues

OSD Family Member
Washington Middle

This balanced calendar would impact student's ability to have summer jobs.

OSD Family Member
Olympia High

I think this is a good time to make this change. Post covid is a good time to make a structure change like this. I know teachers want summer breaks, but for the rest of the workforce that doesn't get summer breaks - this would be a good move in the direction to make things more manageable. Some parents like summer breaks and the vacation time and that will still be available. For families that can't afford to have one parent stay home full time a balanced calendar is very welcome start as we hopefully move to more year round school. Summer camps will adjust and summer jobs will adjust. That shouldn't be given a significant amount of weight in the decision about this. We have learned from the pandemic that everything can adjust and this is a good time to make a small step towards a more regular calendar for all the other jobs that are year round!!

OSD Family Member
Washington Middle;Olympia High

While I think a balanced calendar could be beneficial I think it would drive a lot of teachers from the profession and make finding childcare even more difficult. Many providers hire college students for their programs and this would not match that schedule.

OSD Family Member
Pioneer Elementary

My preference for keeping the calendar the way that it is currently has to do with the financial impact of a balanced calendar on families. Our family, like many, has our students work in the summers to save money for college. Having that three-month window of time is really important in order for them to save enough.

OSD Family Member
Olympia High

The balanced calendar would make college student care of younger children/availability for summer camps less available. As a working parent with two jobs it is already very stressful to find care for days like Juneteenth, June 23 and 24 due to no YCARE, the day off in October, The Wednesday before Thanksgiving, Martin Luther King Monday, Presidents' Day Monday. Having an extended 2 week period in the middle of the year is troublesome to find care. I work in healthcare. We don't get days off for these events. Nor are there many options. My family lives 200 miles away so I can't rely on them for care. There is not point to move forward unless the City of Olympia, the YCARE and other care providers can provide care on the days school is not in session.

OSD Family Member

LP Brown Elementary

You are out of your minds. Seriously. My kid misses a ton of classes already due to the late start schedule that you promised to revista (and haven't). I refuse to let your ridiculous decision making screw up their summer college class options and extra curricular summer programs too.

OSD Family Member

Pioneer Elementary;Washington Middle;Olympia High

This affects our entire family dynamic. I need my high schooler to be home with their younger siblings (Griffin School) during summer break, holiday break, etc. Changing up the dates and length of breaks would not only affect that significantly, but it also would inhibit their ability to hold a consistent job during the summer months to save for a car/college/etc.

OSD Family Member

Capital High

I am very much against changing the current calendar.

OSD Family Member

Thurgood Marshall Middle;Capital High

The district we used to be in tried this and it failed. They stopped after 1 year. It was difficult for the kids to transition in and out of learning so many times in one school year. It was HORRIBLE for kids with disabilities. For typical developing kids in stable homes it was a better experience. But it became an issue for families that suddenly had to find child care in multiple 3 week increments instead of over a single 8 week summer.

OSD Family Member

Centennial Elementary

A balanced calendar would significantly impact parent's ability to work, virtually inviting increased levels of poverty.

OSD Family Member

McLane Elementary

Any changes to the calendar need to be made in concert with all local districts (families work and school across district lines, and community organizations offer childcare across multiple districts).

OSD Family Member

Centennial Elementary

I feel this balanced calendar format would result in challenging circumstances and create hardships for families who require child care, as there would be extremely limited options outside of the normal summer break.

OSD Family Member

Centennial Elementary

It's a good idea, but we need to explore the possible negatives more deeply.

OSD Family Member

Lincoln Elementary;Olympia High

My kids have significant learning loss in the fall when returning from summer break. I am fully in favor of anything that will get kids shorter, more frequent breaks.

OSD Family Member

Washington Middle

When I first read about the balanced calendar, my knee jerk reaction was negative. As I learn more about it I feel more positive about the idea and am open to it, just not yet ready to commit to an official opinion. Thank you for your time!

OSD Family Member

Roosevelt Elementary

Balanced calendar provides greater learning equity. Let's do it!

OSD Family Member

Lincoln Elementary;Jefferson Middle

My family would enjoy a balanced calendar.

OSD Family Member

ORLA hConnect

I think we should stay on the same calendar as the other districts in our area

OSD Family Member

Lincoln Elementary

the courts (to support parenting plans and custody issues).

OSD Family Member

Boston Harbor Elementary

Lack of opportunities to invest in outside activities.

OSD Family Member

Washington Middle

As long as we have longer Christmas- Spring Break and at least 7 weeks of summer off

OSD Family Member

Capital High

Before making my decision, I would like to see a sample calendar, not a pie chart. Seeing the actual dates may help me discern if it aligns with my family.

OSD Family Member

Centennial Elementary;Washington Middle

Balanced calendars show positive student outcomes, which should always be the number one goal. Balanced calendars may also better assist families in need of additional child care and services. Valences calendars are the better equity option.

OSD Family Member

Washington Middle

OSD keeps making changes and it is hard on families. We have an award winning school district with world class education. Please keep the current schedule. If the worry is retaining learning over the summer, please consider sending home resources or at the very least, ideas for kids to keep their brains sharp. But regardless, please do not mess with the calendar! OSD is amazing and There is so much history here and so people who have chosen to stay in Olympia because of this incredible education. Sometimes making Big changes in response to a concern will create many more problems than it solves. Please please no changes! Not now, not in the future. We want our grandchildren In the future to choose Olympia schools instead of opting for private education or moving to different district's.

OSD Family Member

Olympia High

Moving forward with Balanced Calendars should only be considered if ALL neighboring districts align at the same implementation time and same calendar. Also, minimal loss of August weeks preferable. I.e. reduce from 11 to 8 weeks in summer

OSD Family Member**Boston Harbor Elementary**

Calling a new schedule “balanced” already creates a bias for individuals to suggest moving forward with it. Further, there are no longitudinal data that indicates the “balanced” calendar's effectiveness. I don't see it as beneficial for students, families, teachers, or the community.

OSD Family Member**Olympia High**

Kids need more experiences than just school. They need enough time in the summer to relax and also to have a summer job

OSD Family Member**Avanti High**

I prefer to keep the current calendar. You've already created a massive headache by switching up the start times of elementary and middle/high school students...do not do this to us!

OSD Family Member**McLane Elementary;Thurgood Marshall Middle;Capital High**

Why change the calendar. Doesn't make sense. You'll disrupt families schedules.

OSD Family Member**Olympia High**

I believe children need more time to play and expand upon their own creative initiative. I see less and less free time available to students. Elementary students receive only 30 minutes of play time per day and middle school students receive zero recess and minimal time to even feed or water their bodies. Not encouraging movement or adequate time to rest, play or eat sends a terrible message to students that they do not have time to care for themselves. We are seeing increased mental health issues in students and I believe lack of play supports this in addition to other factors. Summer offers children a real opportunity to fully immerse in play. I understand there are socio economic realities that benefit from having school available as much as possible as some children are safer and have more access to food and supportive adults in school than they might at home. I understand there are many factors that our school district has to consider, but I personally am feeling strongly about removing my children from this school calendar all together.

OSD Family Member**Lincoln Elementary;Washington Middle**

Educators are to take classes, earn credits, complete programs and do trainings all summer and that has not been taken into account. This is also incredible challenging for parents who have to come up with ways to attend to their children when other businesses don't follow that calendar. Additionally, you are narrowing the ability of families to travel during an affordable time. In my family, these travels are an essential part of education. As a lifelong educator and longtime parent, the importance of having one long break, in addition to the other holiday breaks, is extremely important for the brain to refresh, body to grow and long term rest to occur.

OSD Family Member**Capital High**

I would like to go back to the starting time of high school first, then middle school, and last elementary.

OSD Family Member
Capital High

Our family is against the ,”balanced”calendar. My son also informed me that he does not want to continue at Oly HS if this type of calendar is adopted.

OSD Family Member
Olympia High

I still have to see the Calendar. My Son joined OSD in the middle of the School Year.

OSD Family Member
Jefferson Middle

Summers are so important! Some kids spend the summer months with their mom or dad in a different state. This would require court costs to change parent plans.

OSD Family Member
Pioneer Elementary;Washington Middle

I can truly appreciate what the district is trying to do. However, our daughter is an athlete. One that plays competitive volleyball and goes to many camps and showcases for recruitment opportunities. These dates that come up for these opportunities, are in summer months. SO for us, it would not help and we would end up having to pull her out of school to attend these events.

OSD Family Member
Capital High

I currently prefer keeping the schedule the same in order to fully enjoy our short summers here in the northwest. I do not think this is an inconsequential consideration. However, I am interested in learning more about the possible benefits.

OSD Family Member
Capital High;ORLA Middle School Academy;ORLA hConnect

Some children may rely on school and food security, support, additional programs. Balanced calendar could be key for all youth in our community to succeed. Parents that look to traditional calendar for travel should be able to do a home study until they learn the benefits of a balanced calendar. The world is changing and that means adapting our childrens education to meet the times.

OSD Family Member
Avanti High

I think this will be very beneficial to the kids academically as well as beneficial to the family for less crowded vacations!

OSD Family Member
Capital High

I'm excited about the balanced calendar for our children

OSD Family Member
Roosevelt Elementary;Reeves Middle

We would leave the school district if they adopted a balanced calendar

OSD Family Member

Olympia High

I prefer to keep current calendar, but would appreciate more information and opportunities to discuss

OSD Family Member

Pioneer Elementary

My kids no longer need childcare so that isn't an issue for me, but I know a lot that it would be an issue for having smaller breaks to try to find care. My oldest is graduating so it won't affect him. It will affect my younger with having a summer job. She doesn't like the idea of not having a larger break from school either. School is stressful at times and she likes having the longer break from school.

OSD Family Member

Thurgood Marshall Middle;Capital High

Do it!

OSD Family Member

Olympia High

Family care is an issue. We care for elderly family in another state in the summer. A shorter summer would make that less possible. My children also really thrive in the summer and need a break from the fast pace and intense atmosphere that occur at school and during the school year. The quiet and self directed pace that summer invites as well as the autonomy and time in nature are essential for my children's social and emotional well being.

OSD Family Member

Lincoln Elementary;ORLA Montessori

It would cause numerous childcare issues for families. It would also cause difficulties for vacations for families with students in more than one school district.

OSD Family Member

Jefferson Middle

The balanced calendar should not move forward when other local districts are not doing it. There are too many unforeseen consequences for families that have students in OSD and work in other districts.

OSD Family Member

Boston Harbor Elementary

Year round school would be better

OSD Family Member

Boston Harbor Elementary

Keep the same school calendar. No changes please.

OSD Family Member

Olympia High

Even if the rest of the district does not adopt the balanced calendar, it would be wonderful for Virtual Academy kids since the dates are more flexible anyway

OSD Family Member

ORLA Virtual Academy of Olympia (VAO)

So far I am very interested in a more balanced approach

OSD Family Member

Roosevelt Elementary;ORLA Montessori

Support concept since it benefits my special education child

OSD Family Member
Centennial Elementary

Don't change it!!!

OSD Family Member
McKenny Elementary;Washington Middle

[name removed, no comment given]

OSD Family Member
LP Brown Elementary

I am very opposed to the balanced calendar. I see this as completely disrupting the lives of families and students by not being on a calendar that is synchronized with the rest of our state or even neighboring districts (is this being considered by Tumwater School district?). Who will hire teens during the summer if they are only employable for a handful of weeks? What about children who spend the summer months with parents in another state? Should they be shuttled back and forth multiple times a year? How about families who have parenting plans in place that will need to re-work them in court -at whose cost? Find another way to pick up the lost time for students who need it. If schools won't hold back students who are not meeting grade expectations, perhaps mandatory summer school? Or give families a choice between summer school and repeating a grade. I am starting to feel like we are constantly lowering the bar and that is not why I chose to raise a family in the Olympia School District. I'm also disappointed in what feels like a real lack of transparency about what "balanced calendar" means and the role families should have in deciding this. A massive change like this should be given a major spotlight and families should have been reached out to repeatedly with the message that this survey and their opinions are important, from the district, through our neighborhood schools, to hand outs going home with students. Instead, this feels like it's being shuffled quickly through and as a parent that feels deeply disrespectful.

OSD Family Member
Roosevelt Elementary

As a working parent, my greatest concern is finding activities for my children during the breaks.

OSD Family Member
Centennial Elementary

No need to change. At all.

OSD Family Member
Washington Middle

The points are valid, however the length of each break and when it will be is my concern. Our family enjoys our summer and camping at the lake when the water is not sub zero. We would never want summer break in June and early July when it's still cold. Late July and August are optimal. So it depends on that if we would agree to these changes. These kids need outdoor fun and our family enjoys this time together. I would never want that to change, for my family or others in the lower grades.

OSD Family Member
Capital High

A balanced calendar offers many positives: less lag time for students means they are not subject to long learning gaps. It benefits the economy as resort /vacation related businesses because they have year around customers and don't have

to rely on summers only for income. The start up costs for school districts are less because teachers and administrators don't have to spend as much time preparing for school starting.

OSD Family Member

Boston Harbor Elementary;Reeves Middle

There are a lot of concerns with changing our calendars and other school districts and states not doing so. We travel out of the state for summer breaks and meet up with other families and relatives. This has potential to impact this. Also concerned with increase in flights and hotels because of limited timing of vacations and increased demand on resources. Also big concern with increased difficulty in planning for childcare throughout the year as opposed with having the current ability in lumping it together all during the summer. The proposal may seem like a good idea for retaining information, but is an increased demand in parents attempting to do more scheduling and paying for goods and services. Why not instead lengthen the school year by shortening the summer break. Have kids go to school until end of June and return mid August. Do 210-220 days of school. That would decrease costs of child care for parents and eliminate the planning for individuals.

OSD Family Member

Thurgood Marshall Middle;ORLA Montessori

The only sun we get is in the summer! Having to retract expectations after every break would be cumbersome and negate the idea of learning loss. District should provide more interventions, summer school over summer break to address deficits before switching the whole calendar

OSD Family Member

Avanti High

Stop. Just stop on this. It's a good idea in general but guinea-pigging it out to just a few school districts is the wrong way to do it. By putting Olympia or whatever other district out of sync with almost every other school district locally, regionally, state-wide and nationally, it creates an incredible burden and an inequitable mess of logistics for students, parents and staff during this "experiment." And what happens after the experiment--go back to the old schedule and create even more chaos? No. No. No. What students, parents and staff need from their school district is consistency, not experimentation that is going to throw the entire district into turmoil. And, again, the largest burden is going to be on the students and parents with the lowest means to make changes to their schedules because it is more difficult and expensive for them. So this has a potentially huge negative impact based on demographics, economic level, race/ethnic origin that is completely contrary to the continuing mission of improving equity, inclusion and diversity in the district. Let's give it a try when a majority of school districts in the state do it. Oh, and, it's also going to be really expensive because you are going to have to open up the schools for some activities when they are closed on this new schedule so that students can participate in practices, performances and competitions for sports and other activities that are scheduled on the normal calendar. This is not the right idea at the right time for Olympia Schools. Let's get better at what we need to improve in the district rather than throwing a huge, complicated, expensive, disruptive monkey wrench into the works that is going to make everything more difficult. We're barely back to "normal" after the disruption of the pandemic. Can we please just try and keep that "normal" for a while instead of creating unnecessary problems for every single student, parent and staff member of the district?

OSD Family Member

Olympia High

I strongly oppose the balanced calendar. It is not in the best interests of students, families, or the community.

OSD Family Member

Washington Middle

Im so angry this is even being discussed. How dare you even make this suggestion after everything the children have been through the last couple years and try to call it "balanced". Balanced is summers off with their families. Extreamly disappointed in the osd right now!

OSD Family Member

Madison Elementary;Reeves Middle

Why do you want to know my gender and race and if I take free lunch. Look in the mirror. This has nothing to do with a balanced calendar and it's out of line.

OSD Family Member

Capital High

I support the district looking into new ideas and am interested to learn more about how much the current calendar would be impacted. I value summer with my kids, so don't want to see that greatly diminished. I also would be interested to know how the district might address school heating and cooling for the extended times as well as outdoor options for the summer.

OSD Family Member

Hansen Elementary

The pacific north west does not have enough sunshine to justify a balanced calendar.

OSD Family Member

McLane Elementary;Capital High

As we live in a state where we receive very little sunshine, I believe switching to a balanced calander would greatly reduce the amount of time our students get to enjoy the good weather and sunshine with their families during the nicest months for our state (late spring through early fall). I believe that switching to a more balanced calendar would also create a lot of problems for child care solutions for families like mine who rely heavily on our ability to provide for our families. For my family, finding extended child care for longer breaks throughout the year would be more difficult and costly than during the summer months.

OSD Family Member

Garfield Elementary

My kids feel burnt out by the end of the school year. They love school in the Fall, but after January they are feeling burnt out and drained. Having more and longer breaks throughout the year would greatly improve their emotional and academic state.

OSD Family Member

Roosevelt Elementary

I support shortening summer breaks and spread them evenly throughout the year, so my children do not forget all they learnt over a very long summer break. My Daughter goes backwards after her summer breaks.

OSD Family Member

McLane Elementary

I would support a balanced calendar for my children. The idea of less summer learning loss and slightly longer breaks throughout the year sounds hopeful.

OSD Family Member

Roosevelt Elementary

Too many changes over the past couple years. Asking students and families to once again make a major shift in schedules is overwhelming. This is all causing too much anxiety.

OSD Family Member

Centennial Elementary;Washington Middle

My biggest fear of a balanced calendar approach is burn out! By the end of the school year I find both of my kids are desperately in need of a break and look forward to their summer activities, as well as I see teachers losing patience and needing a break by the end of the year. My kids are always excited for the beginning of the school year after a nice long break, and to lose that excitement of a return will be harmful to their relationship with school and eagerness to learn. They do not have the same response and excitement for going back after the shorter spring break.

OSD Family Member

Pioneer Elementary;Washington Middle

childcare and better reliable transportation need to be a big part of your solution

OSD Family Member

Boston Harbor Elementary;Jefferson Middle

The traditional calendar has worked for decades. It also matches what most school districts across the state and country have, which makes coordinating vacations and trips with other family and friends much easier. Kids have always enjoyed having long summer and winter/Christmas breaks, and it makes sense to have those longer periods of time between starting a new grade and new semester. Longer breaks at other times of the year might adversely affect learning curriculum and momentum for many children. Let's stick with what has been tried and true for many generations of students AND teachers.

OSD Family Member

McKenny Elementary

We really need a balanced calendar

OSD Family Member

McKenny Elementary;Olympia High

Many challenges with this idea: Teachers with second incomes Students who attend 4-6wk summer camps/programs Children in same county; different calendars I am not a fan of this idea!

OSD Family Member

Lincoln Elementary;Thurgood Marshall Middle

Don't waste time. The surrounding districts already explored the idea and shot it down. People will be even less likely to want a balanced calendar if NTPS is not shifting.

OSD Family Member

Boston Harbor Elementary;Reeves Middle

There are quite a few reasons for not adopting a balanced calendar. First of all, our state's weather would not suit a change. Our weather is just nice during a couple of months, so cutting back on vacation time in the summer will reduce quality family time to be outside, travelling and just spending time together. In addition to that, our summers are getting hotter, so attending school during that time of the year will impact our students negatively, and it would be even worse in classrooms without AC. Another factor to consider is the more frequent interrupted learning time. Longer breaks for students may contribute to the lack of consistency for students learning. Last but not least, it is my understanding that

there is not research that proves that there has been significant gains in students' performance in those places where similar changes have been made.

OSD Family Member

Washington Middle;Olympia High

We ARE NOT in favor of the BALANCED calendar at all. Changing to the balanced calendar would impact club teams, select teams, all-star teams, church camps, young life camp, and bible camps. Our kids would be on different schedules from surrounding schools and schools in our league. You say there will be longer breaks but there will not be breaks for athletes. Those student athletes will still need to stay home to be available to play their sports during the longer mid-year breaks because the other schools in our league will not be changing their calendars. Athletes will be required to be "ON" longer throughout the year if you start them earlier because there are no breaks built in when everyone isn't doing it. Also, going to school in the best weathered month of the year sounds like torture. Our kids live through rain 10 months out of the year and the thought of having them sit in a hot classroom without a/c during August sounds very unfortunate to me and contradictory to learning. I strongly hope OSD does not move forward with this.

OSD Family Member

Pioneer Elementary;Washington Middle;Olympia High

Since this change will not mirror other aspects of life, this will represent a hardship to families. The recent school start change is a classic example of the district ignoring family needs. I hope we will not be Rail roaded again by switching to balanced calendar.

OSD Family Member

Washington Middle;Olympia High

Appreciate if we can get a printed copy of this plan and also one of the biggest concern regarding transportation if any.

OSD Family Member

Centennial Elementary;Roosevelt Elementary

Transitional students like military connected students have different situations and times of moving in or out of schools. I need to learn about the balanced plan for them.

OSD Family Member

Olympia High

Concern for childcare during break times

OSD Family Member

Centennial Elementary

Equity for kids living in poverty is the central motivator for me.

OSD Family Member

Lincoln Elementary

It is far better for our family to have shorter breaks throughout the year with a longer summer break. A shorter summer break disrupts visitation, summer work and extracurricular plans, and our family vacation traditions.

OSD Family Member

Olympia High

A balanced calendar serves to educate all children better and therefor should be perused. Change is difficult for most of us but this discomfort shouldn't be the end all in determining best practices for children.

OSD Family Member

Avanti High

Work for college so have less need for school in summer but it also makes sense for less break between learning

Community Member

I believe summer intern and summer work opportunities will decline with a balanced calendar thus causing an increase of students working part time jobs during the year to make up for lost opportunity during the summer. This will cause an increase of distracted/busy/financially stressed students throughout the year. The solution is a 170 day school year.

OSD Family Member

Capital High

Summers are time to explore additional interests and enjoy the glorious PNW weather.

OSD Family Member

Pioneer Elementary

If there was a balanced schedule program for voluntary students/families to sign up for, that would be cool, but I don't think mandating it across the district is desirable. I could see that some students would definitely benefit from this sort of schedule, but the impacts to family schedules (trips) and sports programs would make this a massive change to implement across the board.

OSD Family Member

Centennial Elementary;Washington Middle;Olympia High

You did not consider that a lot of people have parenting plans that would have to be changed thru the courts causing financial hardship and emotional upset

OSD Family Member

Olympia High

We live in the PNW where there is only two months out of the year where it's hot and sunny. Having school go through summer months and having our children inside a building instead of being outside exploring our state and taking a break from the "constant" of school would drastically increase the already astronomical depression rate in kids.

OSD Family Member

McKenny Elementary

Please don't take away their summer break

OSD Family Member

Hansen Elementary

Looking at calendar examples from other balanced calendar schools, it doesn't seem that different. Syncing sports schedules for games with other schools or would be my biggest concern. Is intercession also a break if a student is not behind?

OSD Family Member

Reeves Middle;Olympia High

I think there needs to be another school board meeting to inform parent more about this possible change. Including examples of areas in the state of Washington that have a balanced calendar already being used and what that school district saw as beneficial or difficult for families and staff members.

OSD Family Member

Jefferson Middle;Capital High

While I think it's a good idea, I'm concerned about working parents and how it will impact their schedule. I'm sure it will cause some stress trying to figure out the new calendar.

OSD Family Member
Roosevelt Elementary

I think anything to help struggling students balance their home and academic lives is a good idea.

OSD Family Member
Jefferson Middle;Avanti High;Capital High

There isn't sufficient regional or societal support at this time to pursue a balanced calendar. If we are actually serious about the supposed goals of a balanced calendar, what would really be best for our kids' educational attainment, learning retention, and global competitiveness would be to move to a minimum of 200 school days per year from 180. This would necessitate a rethinking of the calendar as well. 200 days per year would move us closer to the median learning days of our peer advanced industrialized countries, provide more opportunity for meaningful engagement, and decrease opportunity for learning loss through extended summer breaks.

OSD Family Member
Garfield Elementary;Jefferson Middle

I would like to see evidence based scenario planning with a SWAT analysis on the pros and cons of different possible schedules.

OSD Family Member
Centennial Elementary

Year round schooling or "balanced calendar" as you call it is the optimal learning schedule for both students and teachers. It should be mentioned that this is fact, proven in multiple University studies in the US and abroad. The old long summer system no longer works and is not equitable for working families.

OSD Family Member
ORLA Middle School Academy;ORLA hConnect;ORLA Virtual Academy of Olympia (VAO)

We live on steamboat island. My property taxes fund OSD yet I have no say. My third child will be still at Griffin if this idea is done. With two kids at CHS. The fact that Griffin isn't even listed on the school list shows a lack of concern for an entire group of stakeholders. Tax payers, parents and students part of Griffin school district that are also part of OSD for high school. I will not have two kids on balanced and one kid not on this schedule. I have reviewed the materials and do not recommend this plan.

OSD Family Member
Capital High

Prefer balanced calendar to help prevent learning loss over the summer.

OSD Family Member
Centennial Elementary

I have been able to see presentations on ideas from North Thurston and I wish more parents had these opportunities to learn about what it would mean in a live or zoom setting so they can ask questions. Parents are so busy I don't think many read things sent out and then end up trusting the word-of-mouth info they get from whom ever they talk to. Kids too. My daughter liked the idea once I explained the options of how it could work.

OSD Family Member
Capital High

My home state has moved to a balanced calendar and it has worked out very well for students especially students who need extra help/resources. It tends to keep them more focuses and has lesser restart/review period when beginning school after a break.

OSD Family Member

Centennial Elementary;Washington Middle

It rains most of June and half of July. August is our only nice month for camping and out door activities. Putting kids in school in August takes away most of our nice weather!

OSD Family Member

ORLA hConnect;ORLA iConnect

I believe that a balanced calendar is better for a student's education, and I hope that OSD pursues a balanced calendar.

OSD Family Member

McKenny Elementary

The high school I attended used a balanced calendar (we called it year-round, I think), and it was so helpful for me as a student, and as a stressed out youth. I feel like it would help my kids.

OSD Family Member

Olympia High

This proposal appears to be a good way to address summer learning loss. I also appreciate the added flexibility from the adjusted breaks schedule (easier to plan family trips).

OSD Family Member

Centennial Elementary

I would also like to see a longer school year generally (more days of school)

OSD Family Member

Pioneer Elementary

My kid and so many others need this to progress in their education especially since we had the shutdown.

OSD Family Member

Roosevelt Elementary

I think the balanced calendar idea sounds like it has potential but the "elephant in the room" is how dysfunctional the schools are (independent of when the kids are there) and how many distractions are being let into the school with social and LGBTQ concerns. It's seems to my kids that learning has taken a back seat to teacher needs/causes and social justice issues. Doesn't matter when the kids are there if the school system doesn't work. Get control of the classroom please and lets get back to teaching basics!

OSD Family Member

Thurgood Marshall Middle;Capital High

All data point to increased retention of learning for all students with more frequent but shorter breaks. Students' learning should trump convenience and resistance to change!

OSD Family Member

Olympia High

I can see benefits of balanced calendar, but families have planned around the current calendar and could have trouble finding child care during smaller break periods. So, there needs to be more discussion and weighing of the options.

And, families and community/camp providers will need time to adjust (possible need to phase in if larger changes are made to the calendar and/or 2 year notice)

Community Member

First fix the schools safety then move to the next step. Hansen playground is pretty open for any intruder to take or harm them. Marshall has had teacher and students bullying students they brush it off as a misunderstanding. Fix that first.

OSD Family Member

Hansen Elementary;Thurgood Marshall Middle

I am an EL teacher and a parent of a student needing Special Education services. I recognize the significance of the academic "slide" and loss of routine when students experience extended breaks from school. My own children are strongly opposed to changing the calendar, but I feel that a more balanced calendar can be an opportunity to really support students who are most marginalized.

OSD Family Member

McKenny Elementary;Washington Middle;Olympia High

BC too difficult for working families and single working parents. Strongly against.

OSD Family Member

Jefferson Middle;Capital High

What funding/solutions will there be to assist with childcare concerns and the lack of AC in schools. If there are adequate solutions to the associated concerns, then I support the balanced calendar.

OSD Family Member

ORLA Montessori

The balanced calendar looks like a possibility with great potential. As a parent, summer is so long. This makes the transitions tough. Learning loss is also our concern. We take visits to see family around other times of the year. It would allow us to line up our visits during other times rather than summer. My greatest concern are similar to the challenges that already exist in child care for working parents. Parents have to already be on top of getting into camps and there are not enough spots available and the cost is a burden. Will there be staffing for the already needed camps during the school year? Who works at those camps? If it is college students they will potentially not be on the same schedule as the elementary students. My greatest priority when exploring a balanced calendar would be pairing that decision with solving the need for decent child care. This would include childcare options that you didn't have to only sign up for 4 months in advance.

OSD Family Member

Garfield Elementary

A balanced calendar makes sense. However, if this isn't something nationwide it will affect those families who travel out of state to see their extended families and they may not have the same days off and therefore would keep families from seeing each other.

OSD Family Member

Olympia High

I feel like it's a great idea I think they don't need so much time off in the summertime and you can add time off throughout the year and they'll be just fine it'll take a little bit to get used to but I think it is a good idea

OSD Family Member

Lincoln Elementary;Washington Middle

I actually had a preference for the balanced calendar; however, I do not feel it wise to move forward with that option when no other area districts are.

Community Member

Would like more information on when the breaks would be to even consider thinking about this. It is not easy finding childcare to for several breaks compared to summer break.

OSD Family Member

LP Brown Elementary

There is no Gender X. Stop with the nonsense. It makes you look not smart.

OSD Family Member

Olympia High

I do not understand what my race or gender has to do with this survey. Please keep future survey questions relevant to the topic at hand.

OSD Family Member

Capital High

I love the idea. I would be happy if it was implemented.

OSD Family Member

ORLA hConnect

I would like more information on the impacts to school sports. I would also like more information on heat relief during summer.

OSD Family Member

Washington Middle;Olympia High

It will affect a lot of Parenting Plans negatively and impose a cost to have them changed.

OSD Family Member

Olympia High

We know from the pandemic that public school schedules do NOT exist in a vacuum. A big change like this will absolutely impact working families work and family schedules. While this change may be useful for some, it will also likely negatively impact others. I said I was 'unsure' about building a "representative committee in the fall to more formally explore the concept and potential calendar options" because I would only support this idea if it were truly representative of the school districts' families' needs. How would the representative committee be formed? How many members? From which aspects of our OSD community? Is this sort of change subject to impact bargaining by Union-represented staff? If so, how will their Unions be included in these conversations? How will the committee be made accessible enough to ensure access from OSD community members that may not have the resources needed to engage fully?

OSD Family Member

Roosevelt Elementary

N/A

OSD Family Member

Olympia High

We spent half of the school year in a State that uses a balanced calendar and we really loved it. It gave us more time to do quality time family activities.

OSD Family Member

Lincoln Elementary;ORLA Montessori

I prefer the current calendar, but I do not feel absolutely against a balanced calendar, both have advantages.

OSD Family Member

Roosevelt Elementary

Please consider staying aligned with the other local school districts and making the decision based on what is best for students and student learning.

OSD Family Member

Olympia High

If other school districts in our area (N. Thurston, Tumwater, etc.) do not change their schedule then there is no real hope of outside school activities such as childcare, music, sports, arts, other clubs to be lined up with the Olympia schedule. This could shift a large burden on to families in terms of both money and time. These burdens could easily outstrip any gains made academically. In the proposed fall/spring extended breaks under a balanced calendar, our students run the risk of having no real options during the day to fill their time appropriately. If this is the case, they will be at home by themselves or enrolled in very expensive day time camps (which may or may not exist). Summer camps rely on college students who are not here in those weird times. If camps do spring up, they will likely be very expensive. Also if Olympia's summer break under a balanced calendar is also not lined up with other districts, our students cannot start or finish certain camps. Families to me have effectively less meaningful time off to enjoy under a balance calendar approach. Please remember too, that depending on the days chosen in the fall and spring our weather can be awful. Outside opportunities could be non-existent and further compound students just sitting in their homes waiting for a parent to arrive home from work. Lastly, many of my comments are being made without a lot of detail that specifically matters to families. I would highly encourage a link on this site to an Olympia school district specific mock-up of a balanced calendar. The other district links are not helpful. The other district documents use terms that are not defined, or they are school specific to them. When N. Thurston was entertaining this idea, they provided a N. Thurston specific schedule. To put it differently, I feel like I am being asked to buy a car but have no ability to test drive it first.

OSD Family Member

Jefferson Middle

This is a great idea. I am strongly supportive!

OSD Family Member

McLane Elementary

I would want to know how much shorter the summer would be. Given that our weather is most enjoyable in the summer, this gives our family greater flexibility to schedule outdoor family activities. I'm assuming the two periods that would grow in size might be winter break and spring break. Is that the case? By how much would the change occur? Would there be other adjustments as well, such as scattered days off? I get the concept and I'm not sure if I would want the change, especially if the change is dramatic. I suppose shortening the summer break by a small amount, such as two weeks and adding one week to each of the other two major breaks might be a more modest approach, but I'm undecided without more details. Have any other schools experimented with this approach or are you wanting our students to be the guinea pigs? I'm also curious what the "source" of the research might be. After crippling our student's education first with the cancellation of school, followed by remote learning, and then a short-term hybrid approach, I remain skeptical to experimenting with education.

OSD Family Member

Washington Middle

A long summer break allows for longer, multiple vacations.

OSD Family Member

ORLA Virtual Academy of Olympia (VAO)

I do not support exploring this change.

OSD Family Member

Boston Harbor Elementary;Reeves Middle

I like the idea. I still think summer should be mostly time for fun and vacation, but a mix of school days sounds excellent. I am quite certain my daughter would enjoy that.

OSD Family Member

ORLA Montessori

My children are nearly finished with K12. It is a shame that the balanced calendar will not be in place for either of them. More than a shame, actually. It is inexcusable. The balanced calendar is clearly a better option for all students.

OSD Family Member

Olympia High

Calling it a Balanced calendar is just a way to "sell" it because who can argue with the idea of balance. But the reality is it should be called disruptive or disjointed calendar. Summer is the only time for decent weather that kids can be out playing in; camps are available for working families; families can send their child to stay with relatives (they cannot pay for flights 3-4 times per year); take a vacation during good weather (they cannot take multiple vacations throughout the year); and some people have farms or other businesses that are not in town that must be worked during summer and families rely on those months off of school in order to do so. In addition, the amount of wasted time before and after a break amounts to more than the summer slide. Every break the school and teachers do parties, and this and that, and the week before. And then transition back after break. This all adds up to more than the slide during summer. On again, off again is impossible for working families.

OSD Family Member

Centennial Elementary

While I see the potential benefits to academic growth, I am not yet convinced those benefits are worth losing a long summer break. As it stands, OSD's summer calendar is already short compared to schools in other states. There is something to be said for those long, lazy days of summer. Children deserve time to just be kids. There is merit to the adventures they can get up to when given the time to get creative. Constantly scheduling their lives seems like we're asking them to become little adults.

OSD Family Member

Thurgood Marshall Middle;Capital High

My family prefers the traditional school calendar year. I think for this change to be successful in our community, North Thurston and Tumwater school districts need to also have balanced calendars. That way, community resources and employers could align to the breaks. Without that it seems potentially problematic for families to adapt to the changes.

OSD Family Member

Centennial Elementary

Balanced calendar is a misnomer. It is a burden on families. It would not work unless all schools did it in area, not just OSD but all schools and districts in the region. There would be no camps or child care during fall or spring breaks and would be expensive for families if they were offered. This doesn't work for working families, the broader system we

work in does not provide flexibility needed to be able to take time off at random times of the year to participate. Finally, OSD is not being transparent about this, especially given we have not been provided an OSD specific schedule.

OSD Family Member

Jefferson Middle

My immediate reaction is that it sounds terrible, but I can also see potential benefits. Need more info.

OSD Family Member

Roosevelt Elementary;Reeves Middle

LOVE the idea of a balanced calendar. Better for student learning and retention.

OSD Family Member

McLane Elementary;Olympia High

Please! This is an equity issue. Please treat it appropriately as such. We need this change.

OSD Family Member

Roosevelt Elementary

I feel a change in the school calendar is unnecessary. If students need additional help there should be resources offered to them. I, and my children, feel changing the current school schedule would be a major disruption in many ways! If a change in the school calendar is made we will most likely leave the school district! On top of the items listed as cons, we here in western Washington have such a short summer, weather wise. I feel a school calendar change would also be a financial burden on families in the shorter breaks to possibly travel away from western Washington to enjoy their time off, as we all know the weather here in the fall, through the winter is not pleasant. Please consider rejecting this idea.

OSD Family Member

McKenny Elementary;Washington Middle

Given the fact that North Thurston has declined this option, it would be difficult for OSD to be on a different schedule. Why are we pursuing this? Our test scores are good, so if it's not broke don't fix it?

OSD Family Member

Reeves Middle;Olympia High

I can see the benefit to both kinds of school calendar. I know that my student likes the current one, and it works better with our family's work schedules. We also like being in school when it's raining and cold and being out of school when it's sunny in WA.

OSD Family Member

Capital High

Balances calendar Seems more consistent for kids so that seems best

OSD Family Member

Lincoln Elementary

I feel that there are certain people whom this change would not impact, and that is those of us that can weather lots of changes because of our resources. I'm sure you will research how this could be more detrimental to those who are impacted by even a slight change. Let's not continue to make things harder on those who are already doing all they can and still struggling.I attended 'year around' middle school in the 80's and my experience was positive. My recollection was the more frequent breaks didn't impact my education. I don't know that they held my interest in school more, but it didn't hurt. The only down side for me at that time was if my friends were in a different track, we wouldn't have break at the same time. That could be more of an issue for younger kids, middle school or younger.I think the later start time this year is beneficial to high schoolers, however the bus situation is not tenable. Please explore, for those who would

be coming into this calendar and needing bus transport, if this type of calendar would worsen the bus situation. Perhaps it could improve it, and that would be fantastic, but if not please consider that. A change that doesn't improve our students experience at getting to school on time seems foolish since that is so clearly an issue right now. Make the changes that benefit the kids. We have opportunities to improve things for them (not ourselves) and that should be the focus here - what makes it better for the students. Then consider how can you establish consistency for parents. I don't want to remove the educators from this equation, but we sometimes tend to focus on the wrong issue when it comes to public schools. Thank you for this opportunity to voice my opinion.

OSD Family Member

Olympia High

I would like to know more about when they will have time off. Will there be a calendar example presented soon. I saw the examples of other districts but they look different so it's hard to say which one you are going to use.

OSD Family Member

McKenny Elementary; Washington Middle; Olympia High

It sounds like research on this topic is sparse and unsettled so far. I prefer for Olympia School District to table this discussion until more research supporting a balanced calendar emerges. It looks like studies have shown that the positive effects are negligible or neutral and that any gains are the result of students attending enrichment/continued learning programs during the breaks (i.e. more hours in class) rather than an improved classroom experience overall. Moving to a balanced calendar would be a sea change and I'm not sure it would benefit students as much as some suggest. Because parents have little in the way of support when students are out of school, it seems this just shifts the difficulty of finding child care to different times of the year, without obvious benefits to students. I found these studies helpful: <https://eric.ed.gov/?q=source:%22Stark+Education+Partnership%22&id=ED594427> and <https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/43618209.pdf> Based on our experience at the high school, I think boosting resources for under-achieving students could go much further toward improving achievement than a modified schedule could. True, it could be one future part of a strategy to improve education in our district, but I don't think it's the silver bullet that some hope it will be.

OSD Family Member

Olympia High

My son enjoys his summer break, always has. This would be a disruption of a routine that he has had all of his life, the pandemic provided a lot of challenges and changes as it was, this would be another one for children to swallow. This could have a negative impact on their mental health.

OSD Family Member

Thurgood Marshall Middle

If our district is supporting this idea, are we going to guarantee air conditioning in the school buildings? The classrooms get HOT!

OSD Family Member

Centennial Elementary

We only have so many sunny summer days in the NW. I appreciate the thought out idea of a balanced calendar, but we live here so we can enjoy these perfect summers after enduring rainy winters.

OSD Family Member

Madison Elementary

I support this approach. The kids seemed so burned out during spring semester. Having the year more divided would be very helpful.

OSD Family Member

ORLA Virtual Academy of Olympia (VAO)

Unless the whole region moves to this model I don't think it's a good idea. Too many disruptions

OSD Family Member

Washington Middle;Olympia High

Both my husband and I work full-time and need childcare for our children when the kids are not in school. In our experience, high-quality childcare at an affordable price is very difficult to find. What would childcare for working families look like with a balanced calendar? Would there be options so that working women's careers won't be put in jeopardy?

OSD Family Member

Centennial Elementary

The balanced calendar saves teachers at least a month every beginning of the school year, to review what they have learned last year. And less burn out on both sides. I love the idea of a balanced calendar.

OSD Family Member

Jefferson Middle;ORLA Virtual Academy of Olympia (VAO)

I would like the elementary school we go to start an hour later in the day. I don't know if thats an aspect of this survey or the balanced calendar, but something I want to ask somewhere. 8am is ridiculous for getting very young ones and young families out the door and to actually learn anything at that hour. Please start later. Thanks.

OSD Family Member

Centennial Elementary

For the way our family lives, a balanced calendar would be wonderful. My kid's sport arranges its tournaments, etc around a traditional US school year; I don't know how a balanced calendar would be affected by that. And my kid is worried that he will not have enough time in the summer to get his business up and running.

OSD Family Member

Olympia High;ORLA hConnect

Having more breaks through the year means more gaps, one of the intention of the balance calendar is to reduce the gap after a break, having smaller breaks means more gaps in within. It is better to have one big gap at year that many small ones. At the end all add up considering they they already have small breaks and make even worse for them who can not actually take a good break and enjoy. As parent I will scramble to find just temporary daycare, it is easy when it is a big block of time and not just few weeks here and there. Also limits when we can go on vacation as a family, in country and when we ant to visit family overseas. We can not afford to go just for a week or so, it is not feasible. These and more things will scramble our situation, stressed family will just prompt to have stressed kid and the learning is not even at the level that we had before all those changes, if done.

OSD Family Member

Pioneer Elementary

All the changes and problems the families will have to face will unintentionally trickle down to the kids, economic impact for parents trying to find child care for the kids. Also the highschoolers won't be able to get summer jobs because they

won't have summer breaks that will allow them to get experience and also save money for their college, or volunteering, during the summer. See changes are good, but other ones are no needed.

OSD Family Member
Pioneer Elementary

I am a substitute paraeducator. Currently students have trouble focusing a few days before and a few days after a vacation. This would be happening throughout the year with small vacations spread over all 12 months. Also, the schools without air conditioning would be too hot to function in during the summer months. This is an added expense to buy and maintain a/c units in all schools.

Community Member

I believe with North Thurston voting against a balanced calendar, it would be best to NOT move forward with a representative committee to formally explore the calendar change.

OSD Family Member
Pioneer Elementary;Olympia High

I almost selected that a balanced calendar is a good idea. Only reason I didn't is because I feel a lot more work needs to be done to be able to implement it. Specifically, I believe we should only go to a balanced calendar if Tumwater and North Thurston also do so; and I believe it should be planned with other community organizations such as child care centers, YMCA and the like, Olympia (and Tumwater, Lacey) Parks and Rec departments, potentially local soccer, baseball, basketball, etc clubs, potentially private schools, etc.... Nothing will make everyone happy, but the more coordination the better. It's a huge change and more than just school, teacher, and even parent jobs should be considered. Generally speaking, though, it seems like a very good move.

OSD Family Member
Washington Middle

A balanced calendar would be beneficial in so many ways. Please implement!!

OSD Family Member
Olympia High

The word in the street is that OSD has limited support staff and subs due to decisions made by administration. It is also known that there are several rogue principals that refuse to follow district standards when they are presented. There is also the district confusion on whether or not black students are human. I don't think under any current administration that this plan will be successful given how many leadership layoffs were missed over the past couple of years. That being said, your teacher union will also make this eay harder than it needs to be.

OSD Family Member
Centennial Elementary

I am 100% for the balanced calendar and hope we can move to it ASAP!

OSD Family Member
Pioneer Elementary

I liked Davison's calendar buildup better than Highland's. Christmas break doesn't need to be 3 weeks long, it would be better to have that time off (1 week) in June.

OSD Family Member
Pioneer Elementary

The decision for a balanced calendar should be made based on what is best for the students. The personal preferences and desires of the teacher union are irrelevant.

Community Member

The OSD school district is a complete joke. You care crap about our kids education and it shows. I'd love for my child to learn reading, writing, arithmetic instead of garbage like teaching Kindergartners that it's ok to change your sex. The school board has no right to teach any of that. Or race. My child is a human. And will treat everyone exactly the same regardless of color. Pointing out a child's race, and or color is racist itself. Calendar all you want... OSD is a disgrace and I thank the heavens above I have only 1 left in your crap system.

Community Member

we have previously attended a school with a balanced calendar and it works very well for the kids and the family! fully support this

OSD Family Member

Roosevelt Elementary;Reeves Middle;Olympia High

If all the local districts choose the same path, this would be great to explore. If Tumwater and Olympia SD end up with significantly different calendars it will be a nightmare, as my wife works in Tumwater and our child attends an Olympia school

OSD Family Member

Hansen Elementary

The idea of a balanced calendar is a thoughtful one that deserves full exploration. I hope the district considers it seriously and that it works to build significant public knowledge and support for the concept.

OSD Family Member

Garfield Elementary;Jefferson Middle

A balanced calendar might better serve students' learning and support mental/ emotional health. As an employee in a nearby district, I am concerned about being on a different schedule than my child.

OSD Family Member

Hansen Elementary

In addition to the listed Cons section found in the flyer I would also like to add the impact on divorced families. This change in calendar would result in the need for assisted mediation and modification of legal documents for our circumstances. In addition to the financial hit a return to the legal system would be it would be coupled with an increased in expenses (childcare/camp) or a decrease in finances for modifying work to accommodate child needs.

OSD Family Member

Jefferson Middle

Summer break is too long and the school year is a grind. Let's balance it out so our kids stay engaged and parents have more support in the summer.

OSD Family Member

Pioneer Elementary

The current calendar year doesn't reflect the needs of modern families. It is a convention that served its purpose for bygone times. Now we need to modernize to meet a different reality.

OSD Family Member

Pioneer Elementary

The school district is not prepared for retrofitting the school facilities to withstand heat. The school district is not prepared for handling high heat days in the same way it handles snow days. Furthermore, there is no teacher or staff union on-board with these plans. Let it go and stop wasting time on this futile gesture.

OSD Family Member
Washington Middle

While a balanced calendar is intriguing, due to the fact that neighboring districts have abandoned their pursuit of the balanced calendar, I feel it would be considerably difficult if OSD were to go that direction. It could affect sports schedules, student families who may spend time with one parent in OSD and one parent outside AND have siblings that attend another district, as well as teacher schedules when a teacher lives in OSD boundaries and their children attend OSD schools, but they teach outside of OSD. This decision is one that will impact our greater community and I feel that the community needs to be aligned in this decision. I do see the benefit to teacher and student schedules with more frequent breaks, but I also grew up in Southern California when balanced calendars/year round schools were very popular. As the daughter of 2 reading specialists, I know that that schedule did NOT accelerate learning in the way it was intended. Rather than looking at schedules, perhaps the district might consider doubling down on cultivating high quality and highly effective systems, such as the AVID College and Career Readiness System, and initiatives such as the Science of Reading, to truly align the work and advocate for what students need to be successful.

OSD Family Member
Jefferson Middle

none

OSD Family Member
ORLA Virtual Academy of Olympia (VAO)

Changing to a balanced calendar will create new challenges and with all the changes recently we should stick to what we have been doing with the traditional longer summer. Please do not change to a balanced calendar.

OSD Family Member
McLane Elementary;Thurgood Marshall Middle

I appreciate that you are collaborating with childcare partners. Impacts to families with limited resources should be of primary concern, but I do also hope that breaks will be long enough to allow for travel not just in the summer.

OSD Family Member
Lincoln Elementary;Washington Middle

Does every school site have the infrastructure in place to allow for adequate ventilation and cooling for every classroom? If not, that should be necessary before implementing a balanced calendar.

OSD Family Member
Washington Middle;Olympia High;ORLA Virtual Academy of Olympia (VAO)

The start time change really messed up my children's ability to play sports and do well in school. Sleep schedules have been thrown off due to the need to stay up later to complete homework and wake up at the same time to prepare for school. Another change to their schedules would not be welcome.

OSD Family Member
Olympia High

I want to see conserved effort to address after child care to assist service industry and lower income families that will be most affected by this change. Supports must be in place.

OSD Family Member
Olympia High

Can we get an example calendar of a typical balanced calendar year?

OSD Family Member

McKenny Elementary

I am a teacher in a neighboring district (North Thurston) and see both the benefits and challenges of the balanced calendar. My biggest concern is that we are aligned with neighboring districts. If my district moves to a balanced calendar and Olympia does not, or vice versa, I will need to seek a new job. I hope the local districts are in talks with each other about this.

OSD Family Member

Lincoln Elementary;Thurgood Marshall Middle;ORLA Montessori

Currently leaning toward Balanced Calendar but want more info on impact for underprivileged families/alignment with youth camps/lunch program access etc.

OSD Family Member

Jefferson Middle

We have experienced this as a family abroad and they had longer school days as well (8am - 4 pm) which allowed for a more relaxed schedule with 15 min breaks between periods and also one hour forty five minute lunch and recess which really improved student performance and decreased stress. The lessons weren't rushed and the students had access to teachers for help with their assignments. It allows families to reduce or eliminate child care as well since they return home at about the same time as the working parents which boosted family life as well. A homework was assigned outside of required reading daily and students for more sleep and had more time for reading or activities after school without worrying about additional studying. The balanced calendar helped a lot with that as well because parents didn't have to quit jobs or find temporary care during the breaks as they more naturally aligned to holidays and time they took off. It is easier to take smaller chunks of time from work three times per year versus three months at once. I fully support balanced calendar. Teachers will also have a more steady income and work schedule and time to grade and work in their classrooms this way as well.

OSD Family Member

McLane Elementary

I have advocated for such a change for a long, long time. The summer slide in learning alone is reason enough but then add in the extreme costs of summer camp and it becomes even more logical. Thank you for seriously considering this change.

OSD Family Member

Thurgood Marshall Middle

I am an OSD staff member & parent in the district, in surveys especially ones like this there needs to be an option for both on the first page. There are a lot of OSD employees who also have children in the district.

OSD Family Member

Reeves Middle;Olympia High

I think there are some important questions to consider (such as does every school have air conditioning) when thinking about a balanced calendar.

OSD Family Member

Lincoln Elementary

Our family enjoys traveling and we travel extensively during the summer and winter breaks. I believe that our time spent traveling and engaging in other family activities over the summer is invaluable and therefore do not support the new calendar.

OSD Family Member
Jefferson Middle

I work for a school so that my kids and I can be off/have vacation days during similar timeframes. It would create a childcare hardship for our schedules to not match up.

OSD Family Member
Garfield Elementary;Capital High

I think childcare would be more difficult for some families with the balanced calendar and local businesses(ymca and camps) may lose income

OSD Family Member
ORLA hConnect;ORLA iConnect;ORLA Virtual Academy of Olympia (VAO)

I've thought this since was a good idea since i was a student in the 80s. just don't spend much money on researching it. talk, decide, do it and track results. don't make a big deal out of it. the fact that you asked me my race and gender is the beginning of unnecessarily making a big deal of it.

OSD Family Member
Washington Middle;Olympia High

Please do not do this. It is nice that one neighboring school district is also looking into it, but under no circumstances should we even consider this unless ALL neighboring counties, not just districts, are switching to a balanced calendar. At a MINIMUM, we would need to work in tandem with every single district in Thurston, Pierce, Lewis, and Mason Counties and have all districts switch at once. I am a family law paralegal with 17 years of experience, and I also have about a decade of experience volunteering on PTA and similar boards, and getting to know numerous teachers. If only OSD, or possibly OSD and North Thurston went to a balanced calendar, that would automatically create tens of thousands of scheduling conflicts for families who have children in different school districts, as well as problems for teacher spouses who teach in different districts. In addition to the practical aspects of schedules not lining up, you have to think about the legal aspects. Every single parenting plan for the balanced school districts is going to be partially unworkable, unenforceable, and obsolete. Parents are going to argue and fight over how to arrange time with their children and non-custodial and low income parents are going to take the biggest loss because they will be at a disadvantage in terms of trying to get into Court to change their parenting plan. Conversely, some non-custodial parents will take advantage of it and get more days. Imagine a parenting plan that gives the non-custodial parent summer time from the day school gets out to the day before Labor Day. It won't matter if Labor Day is now in the school year, that parent will still have their child during a time of year that was not intended. Or other breaks that are only supposed to last one week, such as spring break, might automatically be extended to three weeks or however long the new break is for. And it won't end up evening out because parenting plans are worded so differently. Some say a child spends break with the non-custodial parent from the day school is released from break to the day before it reconvenes, while others list specific dates. The parents who can afford an attorney are going to make the Court's case load explode right away, followed close behind by self-represented parents who take up twice as much of the Court's time presenting their case since most don't know what they are doing. We are already in a position where the Thurston County family law calendars are booked out over a month, which is way too far. Thankfully, you wouldn't have to work with the Washington State Courts to update the pattern parenting plan form since it has enough flexibility it could still work, but it will still be a nightmare for so many individual families whose parenting plans will immediately be set up completely wrong. If this study makes it past this survey, you should add five family law professionals who have at least ten years of experience to your panel, given the huge impact this would have. I recommend one judicial officer, two attorneys, and two paralegals. I know OSD is a progressive district that considers new options, such as starting the middle schoolers later due to studies on adolescent

sleep schedules, but please skip this change. I also know you had to look into it because you received the funding as part of a package, but please say no regardless. It is not worth it at the expense of so many families. The only way it could possibly work is if you decided now to do it but then set the starting school year about five years out to give families who litigate between now and then a chance to set up a tiered schedule of how things look now compared to how they will look when the new schedule takes effect, and that will also spread out the tens of thousands of families who would need to get into Court to modify existing plans. Setting aside the family law aspects, this is a bad idea in my book for several other reasons. Right now students just forget learned material over the summer. If you make all of the breaks longer, they are going to forget material four times each year. In addition, families enjoy having a real summer vacation. I would absolutely hate having to essentially have a first day of school four times per year and never feel like any school year truly gets over. People like to get things over with and have a true break. There is a reason employees who work eight hours per week, Monday through Friday, often jump at the chance to work four tens, Monday through Thursday. They want to get it done in a shorter amount of time even if it means working longer days during that time. Conversely, have you ever heard of someone asking to work 5.7 hour days, seven days per week? No, and you never will because that would be absolutely miserable, to feel like the work-week never ends. People like to get the work done in less time and then get a big break. This applies to school years just like it applies to work-weeks. Thank you for considering my input.

OSD Family Member

Jefferson Middle

We live in an area with limited nice weather. I prefer to have those summer months with nice weather available for family outings and camping. I also love having those summer months available for my kids to try new things through summer camp experiences.

OSD Family Member

Centennial Elementary; Olympia High; ORLA Middle School Academy

I believe that a balanced school year provides the best structure for students. I hope OSD adopts the balanced calendar.

OSD Family Member

McLane Elementary

As a single parent I'm wondering if you are going to pay for me to take my ex back to court to have our parenting plans re-written? Our plan is predicated on the current school schedule. Will you pay fees to offset my pain and suffering of having to face my abuser in court to rewrite the plan? And if we reopen the plan it gives him grounds to re-open other issues. And, how am I to find childcare during intercessions if TSD and NTPS are not pursuing this? Do you think OSD alone will drive childcare programming during intercessions in our community? Think again, OSD. Your privilege is showing once again. You talk ad nauseum about equity but your actual practices are quite the opposite.

OSD Family Member

Centennial Elementary; Washington Middle

The "summer slip" always has a negative impact on my students learning.

OSD Family Member

Reeves Middle

My daughter will be a senior next year so I am not sure now is optimal for our family. In general, I think balancing an academic calendar to avoid learning loss over the summer is probably a good idea.

OSD Family Member

Olympia High

The balanced calendar is a horrible option for working parents (as most are) and is simply unnecessary. I wish the olympia school district would focus more on academics and less on progressive education.

OSD Family Member
Washington Middle

Yes please!

OSD Family Member
Lincoln Elementary;Thurgood Marshall Middle

Balanced calendar would be beneficial for all. Need longer breaks spread out through the year which will also keep teachers ans staff fresher.

OSD Family Member
Capital High

My research regarding balanced calendars has shown that this choice is implemented in very few districts nationwide. Of those utilizing this option, many made this choice due to districts having student population sizes too big to accommodate in existing buildings on traditional school year schedules. They therefore switched to balanced calendars to utilize available buildings year-round and placed students on rotating tracks to serve a greater number of students than would have been able to be accommodated with a traditional calendar. In fact, in some cases those that implemented a balanced calendar reverted back to traditional calendars within a few years as populations changed and they saw no significant change in academic outcomes after a number of years while on the balanced calendar. In addition, at this point with all the variation of school schedules relating to the last few years of covid I know my child and her friends have strongly wished for just some "normal" school years. This is just as important to kids' mental well-being to have the return of some "normal" school years. Also, as a family we all look forward to summer and August weather and would be very disappointed to have school in session during that time of year. Likewise, the idea of school extending any later into July if that were the option then significantly impacts kids in their senior year making a transition to college over that summer. I don't see this as a change if it ever happens as something that should happen on a small district level, rather a large region or statewide level as there may also be impacts to kid/family schedules with athletic and school schedules not aligning with the rest of the region if only Olympia makes this change. I am concerned that we will lose exception staff to neighboring districts who are not changing schedules and lose students to private school on traditional schedules and lose high school students to running start that still offers a more traditional school calendar. Furthermore, our schools offer many opportunities for students to be successful and get extra help. Having intersession learning opportunities does nothing to guarantee that those students that need extra help would even take advantage of those opportunities. I am opposed to the balanced calendar idea.

OSD Family Member
Olympia High

The school needs to give homework for students as to review what they have learned at school.

OSD Family Member
ORLA Virtual Academy of Olympia (VAO)

Could Balanced Scheduled ease rising student mental health concerns?

OSD Family Member
McLane Elementary

Finally! What a fantastic idea!

OSD Family Member
ORLA Virtual Academy of Olympia (VAO)

please think about associated afterschool/summer care.

OSD Family Member

ORLA Virtual Academy of Olympia (VAO)

I do not believe that the , "balanced" calendar is very balanced at all. Also, I think it would be a tragedy to steal the few months of good weather time where students can actually go outside and enjoy our beautiful state and force them inside, sitting all day at a desk. Even with the extra breaks throughout the year, it cannot replace the outside time July and August provide. Please leave it alone.

OSD Family Member

Centennial Elementary, Washington Middle

Having breaks more frequently throughout the year would help with fatigue for everyone involved, from students to staff. The only complaints I have seen or heard are all personal matters that could easily be remedied. Some people complain about summer camps, but I guarantee they would adapt and possibly even start offering "winter camps" which would be great. A balanced calendar is in the best interest of students' learning and their retention should actually improve! Plus, the beginning of the school-year would be much more useful because less time would be needed to review content from 12 WEEKS AGO resulting in a less stressful curriculum due to more time to cover tested content and state standards. As students move up in grades, a balanced calendar would also better prepare them for the "real world". It is only education where you get an extended vacation during the summer. Most jobs run 48-50 weeks out of the 52 and kids (high school specifically) should be accustomed to that.

OSD Family Member

Garfield Elementary

Big fan of balanced calendar. Students lose too much over the summer. More frequent breaks would be better and would make it easier for those families wanting to travel during non-summer months.

OSD Family Member

Hansen Elementary; Capital High

there are such few good sunny days here, I would prefer to keep the kids out doors and exploring during the long summer - I also don't know how we would adjust our work schedules to accommodate more breaks during the rest of the year, I'm afraid the kids would just end up watching tv for days on end during those additional breaks

OSD Family Member

Garfield Elementary; LP Brown Elementary

When my children were in elementary school, I noticed there was learning loss over the summer and that they had trouble readjusting to the school routine after such a long break. Also, it was expensive to find them care for such a long time. At the higher levels, they could use longer breaks as the learning gets tougher and they need more frequent complete breaks for their mental health.

OSD Family Member

Avanti High; Olympia High

I need to know all of the pros and cons.

OSD Family Member

LP Brown Elementary

I personally think there are many benefits to a balanced calendar. However, I have older children that do not require childcare and I have a job that allows flexibility in scheduling. I believe that the concerns/opinions of parents of school-age children and those with less flexible jobs outweigh my preference.

OSD Family Member

Capital High;Olympia High

I cannot give my opinion about a balanced calendar without more information of what that would look like

OSD Family Member

Roosevelt Elementary

I like the idea of a balanced calendar.

OSD Family Member

Garfield Elementary;Jefferson Middle

Summer is too short as it is! August is the nicest time of year to be outside with family and friends. So much learning happens outside of the classroom during this time. Also, as my own kids got older, they had trouble squeezing jobs, camps, volunteer opportunities, events and travel into our already-too-short summers. In my opinion, summers were their main opportunities to pursue their own interests and prepare for life beyond school.

OSD Staff Member

McKenny Elementary

I think a balanced calendar will significantly impact the ability for students to work over the summer. As a Middle class family we rely heavily on the ability of our children to be able to work over the summer to save money for college. I believe this would impact many families financially, both Middle class and those in poverty.

OSD Staff Member

McKenny Elementary;Washington Middle;Capital High;Olympia High

Air conditioning in schools is a problem, especially in the summer months. Kids will be limited on summer camps and activities.

OSD Staff Member

Centennial Elementary

Our district claims to want equity. This seems to create a lot of inequities. Students at New Market will not have transportation and will have different breaks at each school. Low income families will need to find childcare when daycares can't support flexes and there will not be summer programs. Typically high school students and college students return home to provide a lot of these workers through the summer but it won't be possible. Students in sports will struggle with summer ball and will not have breaks when others do because sports will continue through the breaks. None of the other districts are thinking about doing it so we will be different than our neighbors and families will have vastly different breaks. I have not heard positives from students or families about our change in start times. We don't need more change. We lived through 2 years of a pandemic--1 when we left school mid year and one when we returned mid year. If that wasn't enough, we changed our start times. I don't think we want to add another change to staff, students, or parents. It is too much right now. Please don't make this change anytime in the near future.

OSD Staff Member

Olympia High

Please don't mess with my summer. I think school is too long already.

OSD Student

ORLA Virtual Academy of Olympia (VAO)

I look forward to summer activities. Especially since I cannot do these activities as they are not offered during school. I also need a break from school just to be a kid.

OSD Student

ORLA Montessori

A balanced calendar takes away some of the most meaningful professional development opportunities for teachers that only occur in the summer. It also takes away opportunities for teachers to supplement their dismal income. Most importantly, now is NOT the time to be making more enormous changes. Our district has made so many huge changes in the past two years - two years which have been the most unspeakably difficult years of our careers. As a teacher, it is absolutely devastating to think of our district wasting money on making such widespread changes at this point. Please spend money on paying our bus drivers a decent wage, increasing sub supports and pay, and putting more teachers and counselors in buildings so we can better serve our students. Can we please just catch our breath before making any more big changes??

OSD Staff Member

Washington Middle

Please do not make any more changes for teachers right now. We need our summers to recover. Smaller breaks throughout the year will not provide this. We need to be able to access supper professional development opportunities and supplementary income opportunities outside of education. We need to be able to take advantage of the best weather of the year in the PNW. Please do not put us in classrooms in hot weather with abysmal HVAC systems.

OSD Staff Member

Centennial Elementary

I am so excited for a balanced calendar!

OSD Staff Member

Madison Elementary

Every other school in the state would need to do it too. Otherwise it would be chaos for all of us.

OSD Staff Member

Olympia High

It's a wonderful idea and will enhance learning opportunities, increase health in all areas of wellness and make for greater opportunities for all.

OSD Staff Member

Roosevelt Elementary

The balanced calendar affects the ability for staff members to pursue outside or even internal summer employment to supplement their income, something that MANY families depend on. If the calendar is switched to the balanced model, the wages of all staff members (teachers, admin, and support staff) must be raised to compensate for the lost income abilities.

OSD Staff Member

Washington Middle

Summer break is too long, knowledge loss and too much time for games.

OSD Student

ORLA Virtual Academy of Olympia (VAO)

I think change is hard for most of us but with this change of a balanced calendar I feel staff and students wouldn't burn out as easy. I also feel students wouldn't have such a huge loss of learning with summer lasting so long. Social skills are also lost with such a big gap of school. I'm working at a title 1 school our students really struggle with daily life and school is where they need to be.

OSD Staff Member

LP Brown Elementary

Adding extra learning opportunities must first be done with the calendar we have(if learning gains are the main reason for changing the calendar). After school tutoring and activities should be added to help with learning loss.

OSD Staff Member

LP Brown Elementary

I am also a OSD parent. I think some questions were irrelevant (school, grade level, gender, race....at that rate, why not also ask for income and age?) because we are not in the position to cater our calendar to any of these subgroups.

OSD Staff Member

Centennial Elementary

Given our climate in the PNW, I firmly believe we need our summers kept intact. All of us need that time outside as much as possible, not inside a classroom on our most beautiful days. Notwithstanding the fact that many schools do not have adequate a/c. If we were to shift, would those units be updated BEFOREHAND?? I highly doubt it given the cost. I also keep thinking of our low income families and how they would be impacted by a shift. Many families need their older students to work during the summer (or that older student needs to work for themselves to provide for their own basic needs). Schools with low income families, also tend to experience an uptick in behaviors prior to any extended break, which is exhausting for the staff and stressful for the students. To add more frequent breaks would exacerbate that issue.

OSD Staff Member

Centennial Elementary

Want No part of a balanced calendar

OSD Staff Member

Capital High

I support the idea.

OSD Staff Member

Centennial Elementary;Washington Middle

If you truly care about more strongly serving disadvantaged students, you will redesign the summer school program and dedicate more resources into the buildings (counselors, reading specialists, etc.). The balanced calendar is a recycled idea from 20 years ago that never caught on for many valid reasons.

OSD Staff Member

Jefferson Middle

If we are exploring starting school in August, air conditioning in ALL classrooms MUST be considered essential.

OSD Staff Member

Thurgood Marshall Middle

I will be looking for a new career if we switch to a balanced calendar, and that is unfortunate since this is the first year I was feeling inspired by my professional outlook as a teacher in over a decade.

OSD Staff Member

Washington Middle

[name removed, no comment given]

OSD Student

Washington Middle

I feel like callender is good we dont need change something that is good Nick is good

OSD Student

Washington Middle

I DONT WANT TO CHANGE CALENDER.

OSD Student

Washington Middle

KEEP THE CURRENT CALENDAR PLEASEEEEE.

OSD Student

Centennial Elementary;Garfield Elementary;Washington Middle;Olympia High

i want to keep current calender

OSD Student

Washington Middle

I don't think a balanced calendar would be fun.I would rather have a longer summer so I can hang out with my family who live far away, and that's how me and my family usually hangout with my family who live in different states.

OSD Student

Washington Middle

I think the new calender is going to mess up schedules. I dont want this to happen

OSD Student

Washington Middle

I do not want the balanced calendar because I would like a longer summer.

OSD Student

Washington Middle

I like longer and warmer breaks.

OSD Student

Washington Middle

IF we switch to balanced im going to die.

OSD Student

Washington Middle

The balanced calendar is stupid just keep it the way it is.

OSD Student

Washington Middle

it was great and i dont think that it need any changes for my opinion

OSD Student

Washington Middle

here are some reasons I don't like the balanced calendar. "More difficulty scheduling meaningful family time."

"Possible child care challenges, if the care options in your area follow a traditional school track."

"Fewer unique learning opportunities that come with traditional summer vacations."

OSD Student

Washington Middle

I think that if we change the calendar it will do more harm than good, I know because multiple articles state the pros and cons and it seems to have more cons than pros.

OSD Student

Washington Middle

Why are we even looking at a different calendar shouldn't we just stick with what we have instead

OSD Student

Washington Middle

In the article that the school board wrote I personally think it would be better to have the survey links at the top not the

bottom, because I bet that some parents will be looking at the article and read for a while then just if they can't find it they might just not do the survey because they couldn't find it. Thank you.

OSD Student

Washington Middle

I think that it would be a bad idea because for kids with divorced parents they might not be able to see their other parents and it leaves less time for summer camps and other learning styles. It also makes it harder for parents to find child care if not all of the school districts are changing to a balanced calendar. So overall, I think it is a bad idea.

OSD Student

Pioneer Elementary;Washington Middle;Olympia High

I think that a balanced calendar would not be good for the community and the students and staff that will use it. I think this way because numerous schedules will have to be changed, breaks disrupt units and lessons in school and we don't have AIR CONDITIONING meaning that if we were to move to a balanced calendar kids and staff would have to sit in school all day with no ac in the summer. I personally think that we should stick to our regular calendar based on the fact that it is working and had proven to be very efficient over the past years.

OSD Student

Washington Middle

Well, I have a grandma who is a retired high school and Middle school math teacher, she live in California. In California they tried the Balanced Calendar and it caused problems for students, community members, and teachers. The balanced calendar messed up work schedules for adults and teachers would have to make sure each student went home to a adult. This ended up becoming more of a struggle than help so they dumped the idea. This is one reason of mine I do not enjoy the balanced calendar another would be that it interferes with outside of school sports and camps so me and other kids would have to quit. I also have more personal reasons like seeing family but that does not affect everyone. I thank you for reading my opinion and I hope it is taken into consideration.

OSD Student

Pioneer Elementary;Washington Middle

I don't think that we should have balanced calendars because it would change people's schedule and having more breaks means you can't have summer jobs. Kids also have summer camps and kids also would forget what they learned over the breaks. It also wouldn't be helpful if the parents can't take their kids somewhere to go. Kids also learn a lot through the summer and life lessons that could help them.

OSD Student

Washington Middle

I think we should stay with the current calendar because there will be more difficulty scheduling meaningful family time. Family's need to be with each other or else the relationship weakens and that is not good at all. Possible child care challenges, if the care options in your area follow a traditional school track then all of a sudden it is screwed up. If you have a child you could have this person and it works out but then all of a sudden it changes now they have to fix so much and it makes their life so much harder. Fewer unique learning opportunities that come with traditional summer vacations. Like summer camps those are so fun but then take away weeks then the camp is not as long so then the camp might just not do it because of money and financial reasons. Summer is a fun time and Kids should not miss out on the fun. Summer is the best time of year for me because I get to travel around with my family playing baseball and so many other fun things.

OSD Student

Washington Middle

I am unsure about if the Olympia School District should do this because it could be a good idea to switch so students would have more breaks to prevent becoming bored with coming to school. I also think that the school district should only switch to this if every district switches because without every district switching students could not have as much interaction with students from other schools. I also say it is not a good idea to switch to a balanced calendar because,

kids in higher grades would be sitting in a classroom while it is sunny out. With the normal calendar kids in any grade could be outside and enjoy the sun.

OSD Student

Washington Middle

I don't understand the reason for this idea, I know it could help but I like the standard calendar

OSD Student

Washington Middle

Moving to a Balanced Calendar would not necessarily meet the needs of our most struggling learners. Who would be providing the instruction during breaks? It is likely with a shorter break certificated teachers would not want to give up much needed time off. The instruction provided would be computer/program based and not align with supporting in class instruction. Whenever students come back to school from a break, teachers need to "re-start" and go over norms/expectations again. We need to reconnect students to each other and get them ready to learn. Having even more starts would not be beneficial for student learning. With the change in start times at the Middle school level this year I am more exhausted and impacted more than ever. I feel as if I am burning the candle at both ends because by the end of the day I am not in a place to do my best work. Many teachers still come at the regular start times from previous years. We are putting in too many extra hours and then behind when we get home. If OSD moves to a "Balanced Calendar" it would force me to move districts. OSD will lose many quality teachers who do the best for students on a daily basis. Students can be supported throughout the summer and Instructional Coaches could provide instruction without a computer program. These struggling learners deserve QUALITY instruction that meets their needs and aligns with core classroom standards.

OSD Staff Member

Washington Middle

Unless we are able to have air conditioning, I don't think it's a good idea. It is already really hot in June and sometimes September. If that matter can be resolved, I think a more formal exploratory committee would be a good idea. I would want an opportunity to give input on actual proposed calendar(s) (i.e. how much longer/shorter are breaks) before a decision is made.

OSD Staff Member

Capital High

If this was pursued, I would seek work in another district.

OSD Staff Member

Jefferson Middle

none

OSD Student

Washington Middle

I don't have anything

OSD Student

Washington Middle

By schooling during a majority of the summer, this may prevent summer slides, specifically for low-income receiving students. But how will students be able to experience outside of school? How will they view new learning, besides academics? Especially for the youth, their minds continue to develop, and other learning would support the fact.

OSD Student

Washington Middle

what would we get out of it?

OSD Student

Washington Middle

We should not change are calendar

OSD Student

Washington Middle

I want a longer summer break, yes the week brakes are nice but it gives me almost nothing to look forward to in the summer because of how short it will be

OSD Student

Washington Middle

I hate the idea of the balanced calendar!!!

OSD Student

Washington Middle

I hate the idea of a balanced calendar!!!

OSD Student

Washington Middle

I don't want to do the balanced calendar because it can mess up so many things that people have already gotten used to with the regular traditional calendar.

OSD Student

Washington Middle

I am kind of in the Middle because, I have a lot of things in the summer that I need to do or get too, and it takes a lot of time. But it would also be kind of good if, there could be more learning involved. But because of what I need to do, everything for me is still undecided. I would need a more valid reason or statement to decide.

OSD Student

Washington Middle

i don't want to go to school for 180 days and have 1 month and a half of summer break but get a extra weeks off for no reason

OSD Student

Washington Middle

The summer will be shorter and that doesn't sound like a big deal does it, but it is. With shorter summers kids wont get the as much summer school for the ones that need it, people who get summer jobs for college or family problems with money might need to chip in and wont get as much money. When I was reading some of the websites one of the pros is kids would miss less school but I don't agree with that because with the kids that travel over the summer they might have to miss more school days. Starting earlier with no AC will be hot but if they take out money to put in air conditioning teachers might not be payed until later on or they might get payed less.

OSD Student

Washington Middle;Olympia High

Kids have sports Behavior issues Childcare Trips Strese Summer school

these are all the reasons that kids in my peer group hate the balanced calender idea, we like having littler breaks during the year, and a long summer.

OSD Student

Washington Middle

PLEASE DO NOT!!! CHANGE TO A BALANCED CALENDAR IT WOULD MAKE MY SCHOOL AND SPORTS SCHEDULE SO MUCH HARDER

OSD Student

Washington Middle

I definitely think we should NOT do a balanced calendar. Because more breaks will disrupt learning, kids could forget what they have just learned because they are too busy whatever they are doing during the break. They could also be in the Middle of learning a lesson then have to come back to it after the break while they have already forgotten what it was about. another thing is child care problems, most parents have to work every week day and this could affect their work schedule, having to take their little kid to work or hiring someone to watch their kid while maybe already being low on money. Also if you have a little kid you would think most people would not leave them home assuming they can't cook for themselves and someone could steal them or something. It costs more to have school all year around because its in full use plus school buses and all the other things piled on top of it. Teachers will not have a lot of time for one subject sense there's breaks, it rushes the teachers. The school is fine the way it is there is no point in changing the program we have is enough already you can cause many problems changing it. Parents also plan things during summer because its nice out specially in washington it rains so summer is the only time kids can relax and stuff. PLEASE DON'T CHANGE IT.

OSD Student**Washington Middle**

I don't like the balanced callender.

OSD Student**Washington Middle**

The Olympia School District should not change the schedule to a balanced calendar for the 2023-2024 school year. It would cost more with a balanced calendar because of air conditioning in schools. Now the district wouldn't just have to pay the staff at the school but it would have to pay for air conditions for all the schools in the OSD. After school activities and sports schedules will get messed up. Lots of students play sports or have extracurriculars they participate in. If Olympia is the only school district that has this balanced calendar then sports with more members from other school districts would be able to go to practices on time but those days schools like WMS could still be in school.

OSD Student**Washington Middle**

i hate balanced callender

OSD Student**Washington Middle**

some people have sports in the summer or other things they also need to travel somewhere some times.

OSD Student**Washington Middle**

Olympia School District should not change to a balanced calendar. Students should have one long break instead of short breaks. Breaking a routine that most people have had all their life would not be a great idea for the sake of the Olympia school districts mental health.

OSD Student**Washington Middle**

commenting on the last question I'm undecided on the balanced calendar thing.

OSD Student**Lincoln Elementary;Washington Middle**

The balanced calendar is a bad idea, It distracts students from other activities that they do. With shorter breaks students have less time to relax and it feels like school is never over

OSD Student

Washington Middle

I don't want the balanced calendar because kids should have a break from working 9 months straight. Also, what's wrong with the calendar that we have now?

OSD Student

Washington Middle

my sister sent me this

OSD Student

Washington Middle

I like having a longer summer

OSD Student

Capital High

love the balanced calendar idea, however will there be options for families to enroll their children into other programs for each "break" in the calendar. Many families will need to have a back up plan for each of the breaks within the balanced calendar. parents work all year round and may not be able to take time off.

OSD Staff Member

Knox 111 Administrative Center

I believe balanced calendar is going to lead to more missed school due to traveling for sports or actives that happen every year. The balanced calendar will also lead to struggle for families with demanding jobs that they might have.

OSD Student

Washington Middle

I have no questions.

OSD Student

Washington Middle

Are we just going to do this for the 2023-2024 school year?

OSD Student

Washington Middle

men

OSD Student

Washington Middle

how will this affect snow days

OSD Student

Washington Middle

students will have a hard time coming back to school from each longer break. With a balanced calendar that will happen more often than with our current calendar. Parents will need to find care more often. Staff who relies on income from a second during the summer months will not have that opportunity anymore. A better way to support families would be to offer more programs and activities, free to families on free/reduced lunch

OSD Staff Member

Reeves Middle

I've had a balanced calender for the whole time i've been a student in the OSD district. A change in calender would be very confusing and frusturating to me. I like how the calender is right now.

OSD Student

Washington Middle

I think OSD should keep our current calendar. It makes the Summer shorter for families. MY family likes to go on trips and not have to go on short. Dad/Moms work so it is harder, this summer is our break. Balanced calendar is just adding 1-2 more small breaks.

OSD Student

Washington Middle

I could understand why some people think it would be good because you have longer breaks throughout the school year because people can really get burnout from a bunch of school then short breaks, but i am still against it because me personally have a hard time with change then summer is super important to me and i would rather have a longer summer

OSD Student

Washington Middle

I believe that we should keep the normal school year because my family likes to go to other places in the summer to see family and if we were to change this calendar then it would make it a lot harder to see them I understand that this can help us with the "Summer slide" but I hope that you take my point into consideration.

OSD Student

Washington Middle

I do not want the balanced calendar. Although it make give more salary, it costs more and there is less time for sports, or family activities. There is also a problem I've noticed where there is no air conditioning, making it hot during August/September. This is why I do not want a balanced calendar.

OSD Student

Washington Middle

No

OSD Student

Washington Middle

The Olympia school District should not move to a balanced Calendar for 2023-2024

OSD Student

Washington Middle

i want burger

OSD Student

Washington Middle

I feel that I do not want a balanced calendar for the 2023 - 2024 school year.

OSD Student

Washington Middle

No Change!! Please have your committee take a look at school start times again!! Buses/Traffic have such a huge impact on WMS families! North st/Cain Rd is a nightmare before and afterschool -

OSD Staff Member

Washington Middle

You need to consider a three term calendar instead of the four term calendar. There are too many transitions with four terms. It takes time to get classes going again after long breaks. I taught in a three term system where every term was 95 days and all breaks were at least three weeks. Within this school year there was an Independence Day extended weekend and an extended Easter weekend so these would be comparable to ours with Thanksgiving and others. I believe you need to consider the health and well-being of your staff as well as the students. We do need to change from the current practice of first semester ending after winter break with no break in between semesters.

OSD Staff Member
Capital High

I am strongly against the balanced calendar. It would have a negative impact for all involved.

OSD Staff Member
Washington Middle

nein

OSD Student
Washington Middle

no

OSD Student
Washington Middle

How would the balanced calendar affect parents jobs and they wouldnt be able to take car of children

OSD Student
Washington Middle

I think that the OSD school district should change to a balanced school year.

OSD Student
Washington Middle

They should not change from the traditional school calendar to the balanced calendar.

OSD Student
Washington Middle

the Olympia school district should not switch to the balanced calendar for the 2023 2024 school year. Because the money,sports and it will mess up holidays

OSD Student
Washington Middle

Ok

OSD Student
Washington Middle

My reason for choosing to look into a balanced calendar is because switching to a balanced calendar allows students to look forward to breaks in each season, allowing students a motive to keep going through school. These breaks resemble a Checkpoint to allow students to gather up their information and regain lost learning time if absent. Checkpoints also prepare each student for the next days of school after the break.

OSD Student
Washington Middle

changing the calendar is simply not a good idea

OSD Student
Washington Middle

I think that it is not good because it can ruin plans

OSD Student
Washington Middle

For the 2023-2024 possibility of moving to a Balanced Calendar, the Olympia School District should not switch to a Balanced Calendar. With year round learning, many schools in the state of Washington are not equipped to operate during summer months. And even if they were to install air conditioning, that would be costly. By having more breaks throughout the year, this disrupts learning and students forget what they learn and teachers get less time to focus on a

certain subject. Even with mini breaks, teachers still have to work, planning what to do next. More school will be missed with more mini breaks cutting up the year along with a shorter summer and families who have a different summer schedule. Christopher Newland, a researcher at Auburn University, said that year round schools do not help students learn. So why change the calendar now when it works just fine? There are also good reasons why a Balanced Calendar is a good idea. I can see both opinions in good and bad ways. I can understand why some people agree with a balanced calendar - Of everything, the Balanced Calendar could also be good because: Having breaks from school work can be good for learning. More time for vacations without having to miss school (short vacation). Having a shorter summer can lead to less boredom. This is true although I still disagree to move forward with the balanced calendar.

OSD Student

Washington Middle

for all of the optional questions there is no point for that and shorten the sentences so people get what your saying and your saying more of the pros than cons.

OSD Student

Washington Middle

I think that the district should NOT move to a balanced calendar due to the Summers being shorter, which would affect summer trips. It would also affect the parents schedule (important meetings, business trips, work schedules, etc, etc.)

OSD Student

Washington Middle

I think they should continue their research because you are asking kids to rearrange their whole schedule for a silly thing that you're hoping will work. Who will have this effect other than us? My family? Time with friends? Vacations ? Are you asking us to give up time with family and friends so that we can change our schedule to go to school? I think they should work on more resources before trying to tell us to change our life schedule.

OSD Student

Washington Middle

Why in the world do you need information about my race and other personal information?. That's wrong in my opinion. Also, I think that we should not do the balanced calendar. My reasonings are that the balanced calendar can effect how kids live their lives. Why the heck do you need my gender and race for this?. That's so stupid. My race and gender should not be involved in my decision on the balanced calendar. What does my gender and race have to do with what I think with the balanced calendar. Also, why the heck did you make the questions so hard to understand?. What if I dont speak english?. I wouldnt understand that. This is dumb.

OSD Student

McKenny Elementary;Washington Middle;Olympia High

for the 2023-24 school year, the olympia school district should not move to a balanced calendar. Summer can be very hot. Many schools don't have air conditioning. How can students learn in a hot classroom? We would have to spend money on ACs. Also, most families plan vacations over the summer. Year-round schools restrict summer family vacations. They also don't allow students to go away to camp or take on summer jobs to earn money for the future. Possible child care can be a problem, if the care options in your area follow a traditional school track. Child care, vacation and hot weather are only a few reasons why we should not move to a balanced calendar for the 23-24 school year.

OSD Student

Washington Middle

Although I know that having a balanced calendar does have its cons, I think that there are more pros than cons. The main reason being that students have a higher chance of forgetting what they learned the previous school year after a long summer break. I know that with me, every time summer break ends, I tend to forget at least 50% of the things we learned, and so it takes me a couple of days to catch up again. Also, teachers and students won't be as stressed out because there's more/longer break (except for summer, which will still be pretty long).

OSD Student
Washington Middle

I think it is a good idea to switch to a balanced calendar because it helps prevent learning fatigue. We will remember what we learned and this can allow teachers to use the first month of school, for instead a review of what was previously taught, for new learning since students would remember what they had learned and there would be no need for a review. Not only does this allow students to remember what they learned, if we switch to a balanced calendar it will give students stability in their environments for students who don't have supportive or safe/stable homes. It will also keep the positive attitudes and emotional health students keep while at school. For these reasons, I think we will move to a balanced calendar.

OSD Student
Washington Middle

i think that you should not be asking so many personal questions and the optional questions should not even be in this and the questions should make sense because some people cant or wont understand .

OSD Student
Washington Middle

I feel strongly that a balanced calendar would help reduce burnout and improve learning outcomes.

OSD Staff Member
Garfield Elementary;Jefferson Middle

summer is a great season to spend outside lessons would be broken up summer vacation is need for everyone costs more

OSD Student
Washington Middle

The OSD should not move to a balanced calendar because students can't enjoy summer fully, it costs more to run a year round school, and teachers and students need all of that time in the summer to reset and get ready for next year.

OSD Student
Washington Middle

dont pursue this idea it sux and i want i big summer

OSD Student
Washington Middle

Some parents will have trouble with childcare and with different schedules mean difficulties finding babysitters or nannies while they might be at work. Summers have long been a light at the end of the tunnel for teachers after an intense school year. Summer is like the best time of year for vacations and family time.

OSD Student
Washington Middle

The Olympia School District should move to the Balanced Calendar plan for the 2023 - 2024 school year. The Balanced Calendar Plan shortens summer break. This helps solve the problem of students forgetting a lot of what they learned the previous year. This would affect the next year by allowing teachers to spend less time on review.<https://www.care.com/c/the-pros-and-cons-of-year-round-school/>

OSD Student
Washington Middle

If we do the balanced calendar will there be any other changes beside the breaks?

OSD Student
Washington Middle

I want to get the current calendar that we have right now because i want to have a longer summer then have break

between the school year. and to have time with your family and have a longer summer i do not want a sorter summer.

OSD Student

Washington Middle

In my opinion, I think that we should keep our normal school year as it is. I say this because people have different family plans and kids like a lot of summer.

OSD Student

Washington Middle

I think the OSD school district should move to a balanced calendar. There are many pros and cons to it but i think there are more pros to changing than to staying with the original one. For example, the breaks you get throughout the school year with a balanced calendar makes it so more learning gets done because when you have such a long summer people will forget more stuff that the learned from if you had a shorter summer. However there are also cons for example we would miss a lot of our good weather. But overall there are more pros to the balanced calendar than to the one we are used to.

OSD Student

Washington Middle

Listen to students more

OSD Student

Washington Middle

The Olympia School District should move to a Balanced Calendar for the 2023-2024 school year. Evidence says, “If your child doesn’t have a long break, it helps prevent summer learning loss,” says Carol Lloyd, the executive editor at Great Schools. “Summer learning loss is a major issue for kids. All children — no matter their economic level — experience a slide in math” over the summer months.” The slide varies for other subjects. Source: <https://www.care.com/c/the-pros-and-cons-of-year-round-school/>

OSD Student

Washington Middle

The Olympia School District shouldn’t move to a Balanced Calendar for the 2023-2024 school year. I think this because people value their summer, the breaks during the balanced calendar are in the Middle of the year when it’s not sunny, and if parents work during those breaks in the Middle of the year there will be childcare challenges for everybody.

OSD Student

Washington Middle

People have lives other than school and switching to the balanced calendar would be very hard to do, since some people have sports for instance against other teams from different areas, where the balanced calendar would not be in place. Also, lots of people have vacations planned, such as flight tickets bought and hotel rooms reserved.

OSD Student

Washington Middle

🙄🙄🙄🙄🙄🙄🙄🙄🙄🙄🙄🙄🙄🙄🙄🙄🙄🙄🙄🙄🙄🙄🙄🙄

OSD Student

Washington Middle

The Olympia School District should not move to a balanced Calendar for the 2023-2024 School year. Moving to the balanced calendar would cause many issues including child care issues, hot classrooms (not in a comfortable environment to learn), and extra curricular sports activities. During the school year sports are planned out for a specific time, moving to the balanced calendar would extremely effect school sports. There are many more reasons why moving to the balanced calendar would not be a good decision in my opinion, but those are just a few.

OSD Student

Washington Middle

i think the Olympia school district should not do a balanced Calder because, a lot of kids really wanna use their summer to not have to worry about finishing homework or just stressing over school. They might just wanna spend time with family and friends and not do work, people always say they want kids to have fun but cutting our summer short just for us to do more school makes us bored and for the people the wanna be at school the let them have summer school to maybe be caught up on there school work Questions i have: why do they want us to have a balanced calendar? why do they want to cut our summer up and make us have a longer spring break?

OSD Student**Washington Middle**

The Olympia school district should move to a balanced calendar for the 2023/2024 school year. Over summer break, students forget some of what they learned the prior year because of summer brain. With a balanced calendar system, there would be less time over summer to forget knowledge of the last year. This is the first reason to swap to a balanced calendar. Instead of having a long time of working everyday and getting burnt out, there is more learning in short bursts. There are more breaks meaning less stress, and more time to relax over the year. This is our second reason to swap to a balanced calendar. Because there are more breaks, it is much easier to organize time with your family throughout the year. This also lets parents build deeper relationships with their children over breaks. This is the third reason to switch to a balanced calendar.

OSD Student**Washington Middle**

This will have an extreme impact on how our students and families are able to be a part of the community when the other neighboring districts are not participating in the program.

OSD Staff Member**Roosevelt Elementary**

Many staff members have summer jobs that they need to survive because they are under paid as it is. A balanced calendar, without a dramatic increase in pay will result in lost opportunities to make a living

OSD Staff Member**Centennial Elementary**

Without NT participation or air conditioning I don't think OSD should pursue the balanced calendar

OSD Staff Member**Boston Harbor Elementary;Centennial Elementary;Garfield Elementary;Washington Middle**

I believe it should be ALL school districts across the state making the change; or none.

OSD Staff Member**ORLA Montessori;ORLA Middle School Academy;ORLA hConnect;ORLA iConnect;ORLA Virtual Academy of Olympia (VAO)**

I have two concerns with this; one, there are some schools that do not have air conditioning and it is nearly impossible to be in those spaces in the hottest times of the year. We need to be sure there is adequate access to air conditioning. Second, we need to be sure we partner with the community organizations to ensure we have childcare for families.

OSD Staff Member**Centennial Elementary;Hansen Elementary**

I really like the current calendar.

OSD Student**Olympia High**

I and our family really like the current calendar.

OSD Student

Capital High

I really like the current calendar.

OSD Student

Washington Middle

I and our family really like the current calendar.

OSD Student

Centennial Elementary

With North Thurston already saying no to this topic, I don't think it makes any sense to pursue this topic right now.

OSD Staff Member

Roosevelt Elementary

You'll lose a lot of staff. A lot.

OSD Staff Member

Washington Middle;Olympia High

The balanced calendar idea is TERRIBLE! I DO NOT support the balanced calendar. A balanced calendar schedule would create a huge hardship for my family as my spouse works in a neighboring district that follows a more traditional calendar. If OSD went to a balanced calendar, I would look for employment elsewhere. DO NOT SWITCH TO A BALANCED CALENDAR SCHEDULE!

OSD Staff Member

Roosevelt Elementary

This is the right choice for student long term success. We should pursue it and put pressure on other parts of community to deal with drawbacks-changes in child care, summer jobs, etc. I see a place for the high schools to have a different alignment that matches Running Start, etc.

OSD Staff Member

Roosevelt Elementary

I still believe that a long summer break is important for teachers to recharge, at least 6 weeks.

OSD Staff Member

Roosevelt Elementary

I foresee this issue being split among staff higher up on the pay scale and those of us just beginning; we use the long summer break to supplement our income in order to keep teaching during the traditional calendar. I imagine taking away the longer summer to be the final nail in the coffin of attrition. We are already experiencing significant staffing shortages that impact us.

OSD Staff Member

Madison Elementary;Roosevelt Elementary;Washington Middle

One of the reasons for having a Balanced calendar is to benefit students who need less time off in the summer. This impacts students in poverty, houseless, and students with IEP. Why not offer summer school for those families?

OSD Staff Member

Lincoln Elementary

I am in favor for a balanced calendar. I believe the extra school break would be beneficial for students and staff alike.

OSD Staff Member

LP Brown Elementary

Need to consider how to support low income families when extended breaks happen. Child care will be an issue for families.

OSD Staff Member

LP Brown Elementary

Absolutely not. Terrible idea.

OSD Staff Member

McLane Elementary

I think we need to closely look at how other districts are using a balanced calendar. I have two friends from other states that work in a balanced calendar school, they enjoy it, but their districts are very large and offer families both traditional and balanced calendar. In addition, no high schools in either district are able to do a balanced calendar, it is only done at the elementary and Middle level, which is why parents are given a choice of traditional or not. I do not think our district is large enough to do balanced calendar in a way that serves our entire community effectively.

OSD Staff Member

LP Brown Elementary

As a staff member, I see that this calendar has many benefits for students. I am concerned about child care for families during the breaks and whether families can adapt to the changes. I also see benefits for staff in terms of reduced sick leave and burnout. If there is a change to a balanced calendar, I will work longer for the district.

OSD Staff Member

Roosevelt Elementary

I think that distributing breaks more equitably throughout the year is a great idea. I believe that this could help reduce academic regression as well as potentially reduce incidents of staff burn-out.

OSD Staff Member

McKenny Elementary

This calendar gives students and teachers regular, longer, much-needed breaks. Our summer break is antiquated and makes it hard to get back in the swing of things. I feel burned out with so few substantial breaks throughout the year. I believe the same is true of my teenaged daughters. If N. Thurston and Tumwater are shelving this for now, who is to say we cannot take the lead on this and be the trailblazers? Please move forward!

OSD Staff Member

Capital High

I think there are other ways the district could better meet student needs than by altering the calendar.

OSD Staff Member

McKenny Elementary

My request is that Olympia coordinate with neighboring districts to keep on the same "new" schedule.

OSD Staff Member

Capital High

I don't think we are ready for this step. We may be in the future at some point, but I don't feel like now is the time.

OSD Staff Member

Capital High

Research indicates that balanced schedules are not necessarily impactful. After 3 decades in education, I still see the tap dance around the core issue: some educators are not effective, nor do they wish to be. Yet they remain in core subjects. The big tech throw-in didn't change outcomes - poor teaching is still poor teaching regardless of the machinery being used. It's like buying a poor driver a better car. I've been able to wander the halls this year and often times pass by classes where a good number of students are allowed to sleep. A schedule change will not alter that classroom ethos.

OSD Staff Member

Capital High

I like a balanced calendar, but just tweaked a bit... a week off for thanksgiving, three weeks for Christmas/new years, 1 week for a late midwinter break, 2 weeks for spring break, last day of school July 15th, first day of school Sept 21th. If

the district is worried about disadvantaged kids, make fun, laid back summer enrichment activities with a lunch and dinner included, and recruit anyone who's not on leaving town. The Christmas break is a deal breaker. If you take away Christmas break, talent will flee Olympia.

OSD Staff Member

Capital High

I am worried about the lack of employment opportunities for students to have summer jobs if they have a shortened summer. They compete with students from other school districts and they will be at a distinct disadvantage if they have a shortened summer unless all of the other local school districts do it as well.

OSD Staff Member

Capital High

Some of the research/ information presented about the balanced calendar mentioned that students who were behind when a break arrived could receive extra help to get caught up. What was missing was the part about who would be providing this help or how it would be given. I am sure that struggling students would be more successful if they were never out of school, but I have no interest in teaching 12 months of the year.

OSD Staff Member

Capital High

Personally I love the idea! However, I know that this has a significant impact on others. It would be helpful to fully understand the pros / cons, especially the possibility of being on a different schedule than the surrounding districts.

OSD Staff Member

Capital High

Academically - there is a substantial number of studies conducted by researchers with no vested interest in either supporting or opposing year-round schooling which conclude that there appears to be no significant difference in achievement between students attending year-round schools and students attending traditional-calendar schools. Financially - the traditional school calendar includes a lengthy summer break which allows older students and paraeducators time to get summer jobs. Socially - summers in the Northwest allow children the opportunity to spend more time outdoors playing with others (something that is rather difficult to do during the cold and rainy months).

OSD Staff Member

Boston Harbor Elementary;Centennial Elementary;Garfield Elementary;Hansen Elementary;Lincoln Elementary;LP Brown Elementary;Madison Elementary;McKenny Elementary;McLane Elementary;Pioneer Elementary;Roosevelt Elementary;Jefferson Middle;Reeves Middle;Thurgood Marshall Middle;Washington Middle;Capital High;Olympia High;ORLA Virtual Academy of Olympia (VAO)

I would love a balanced calendar. I would more so love to go back to an earlier start time for schools. This year has been a struggle for many students and staff!

OSD Staff Member

Capital High

I attended this type of schedule in a public school system as a kid in Southern California. I liked it. Good opportunities to take more frequent breaks but not too long of a break.

OSD Staff Member

Capital High

Some teachers depend on the income from summer jobs, that would not be possible with a balanced calendar.

OSD Staff Member

McLane Elementary

none

OSD Student

Washington Middle

Cats are better than dogs, prove me wrong.

OSD Student

Washington Middle

The Olympia School District shouldn't move to a Balanced Calendar for the 2023-2024 school year to make less difficulties for families and staff when schedules change. There could be challenges with parents for their jobs if the school and their work calendar don't line up. Especially for elementary schools who can't be left home alone. Parents wouldn't want to pay extra money for a sitter or for childcare. That just brings up more difficulties. Students also wouldn't get to spend as much time with their family when most of the year they are still in school. The extra breaks help with that but summer is when the weather is best for vacation. If the summer break is cut off, some family vacations may be cut off as well. To conclude, if we are still in session during the summer, our school would need to install an AC unit for the entire school or else it will get way too hot in the building. This makes it more difficult for OSD staff families because it will cost more money.

OSD Student

Washington Middle

Olympia School District should do a traditional calendar rather than a balanced calendar. Summer break is longer in traditional than balanced calendar. Summer break is 8 weeks or less longer with a traditional calendar than balanced. family's have to pay more for year round school. families will have to pay 3% more. families will have harder time finding family time. Families are going to only weekend time to have family time.

OSD Student

Washington Middle

Olympia School District should not change to a balanced calendar for the 2023-24 school year because of schedule changes and traditional summer activities. It would disrupt the schedule of many students' families for vacations and camps. "With most schools on a nine-month schedule, extracurricular activities have learned to plan their programs accordingly. Therefore, students at a year-round school may not have availability to experience certain outside activities like summer sports teams or camps." American College of Education. Too many breaks can make teaching a topic harder and more time consuming. "Too many breaks disrupt learning. The breaks allow teachers to focus on a topic for only a few weeks. During mini-breaks, students are away from school long enough to forget what they learned. In schools with a long summer break, lessons are not broken up by frequent breaks. Teachers can spend more time on one topic. Teachers also don't have to plan around as many breaks." ReadWorks.org. School during summer would affect students' learning because of the heat. Schools would have to pay for expensive air conditioning in every room. "Summer can also be very hot. Many schools don't have air conditioning. How can students learn in a hot classroom? ReadWorks.org.

OSD Student

Washington Middle

Since there is no air conditioning in the classrooms at wms, it would be extremely hot and uncomfortable in the classrooms. It would also make kids focus less, like they wanna go outside after school and then get lost in their thoughts. Not a comfortable environment for students, and even teachers

OSD Student

Washington Middle

the osd should not move to a balanced calendar system because all the cons that come with it and the cost of money for the school and the things that you can learn during summer, also why would we be changing something that has been working for so long

OSD Student

Washington Middle

Some people have stuff during breaks and it would be really hard to change schedules and plans that people have.

OSD Student

Washington Middle

All the OSD schools should not be changed to a balanced calendar. There are some pros to this calendar but also some cons.

OSD Student

Washington Middle

Claim: NO,they shouldn't have a balanced calendar because 8th grade is hard already making the breaks shorter will put stress on the students.8th graders will have there normal long summer break having fun with their friends being able to sleep in go on trips,and spend a lot of time with their families

OSD Student

Washington Middle

Washington Middle school shouldn't be year round for 2023-2024

OSD Student

Washington Middle

So many students have sports and jobs. They rely on the summer time to participate in those things. A lot of teachers rely on this time for continuing education as well.

OSD Staff Member

Capital High

The cons of changing the schedule is that in the Middle of the school we will forget more because we have longer brakes. People also look forward to their summer break. Summer is much needed for teachers and students so taking that away can harm a lot of things. When you shorten the schedule it will affect the sports in the summer.

OSD Student

Washington Middle

I am wondering if this balance calendar is because we had the pandemic? In a normal scenario, what data we need to analyze in order to make this change. I would like to have more information.

OSD Staff Member

McKenny Elementary

I feel that we should have the normal calendar because we haven't had problems with it. Students would most likely be skipping school more often. Some people have traditional trips they go on with their family. Every summer my family would go on a trip to Canada and we go for 2 weeks 2 times each summer, that means we would be skipping a lot of school and that could affect learning. If we had longer winter breaks and spring breaks then it wouldn't be helpful for our learning, cause we would forget many things we learn about, because spring break is only a week long, me and other students still forget things, winter break is 2 weeks long, if that was any longer then it would be even harder for some people to come back and remember anything we had learned about. So I think if we had a "balanced" calendar that it would affect students learning and could affect how families do specific things. So I just feel that we should stick with the traditional calendar because we haven't had a lot of problems and if we went to the "balanced" calendar that it could mess up a lot of peoples traditional schedules.

OSD Student

Washington Middle

It is hard to say yes or no to the idea of the balanced calendar without having a better idea of what the lengths of each portion would be. Do breaks occur every 10 weeks? How long does each break last? Would we stay on the semester system or shift to something like trimesters? Does this make it easier or harder for students to switch classes if something isn't working?

OSD Staff Member

Capital High

Teachers & staff have a much needed break on summer break and it is a really good thing to do

OSD Student

Washington Middle

The Olympia School district should move to a Balanced Calendar for the 2023-2024 school year. 1. students on the poverty line. The current calendar during the long summers parents do not have the money to pay for daycare for around two and a half months, taking kids to the zoo and to California, is just too expensive for some families, during summer break students along the poverty line experience the "summer slide" drastically more than Middle class too upper class families. During short summers there are less long periods of time where children are left unstimulated. In the current calendar teachers are paid for their time which is typically fair, although if the Olympia School District decided to change the current calendar to the new Balanced Callender teachers would be paid more for the same number of days. Teachers may feel that the balanced calendar will help them earn more of what they deserve. With the balanced calendar teachers will not need to spend the first month or two reviewing what students learned the school year before.

OSD Student**Washington Middle**

Less time away from structured learning will greatly improve learning opportunities for the early elementary kids. We have to spend too much time re-learning or catching up after long breaks.

OSD Staff Member**Roosevelt Elementary**

I say see how it goes for the next 2 or 1 year(s) and then see if people want to keep it going to stop. If most people want to stop, then we can go back to the Traditional. If they like it and want to keep going, then we can keep it going with the balanced Calendar.

OSD Student**Washington Middle**

They should not have a balanced calendar for the 2023 - 2024 school year .Because summer helps with stress and author things even though teachers have to take the first month off school reteaching us.And they have to pay teachers more often that can cuse the school disterect more money.

OSD Student**Washington Middle**

I only know you are meeting and have some ideas about this topic. Other than that, I don't know what you are proposing or how it might impact our school schedule.

OSD Staff Member**McKenny Elementary**

:)

OSD Student**Washington Middle**

we should not change to a balanced calendar because there will be less family time and the trips wont be as long and it would be much harder to get a babysitter every other week instead of one the whole summer

OSD Student**Washington Middle**

I think we should invest in vr so we can play vr and learn it is benefical because you are able to do things that werent possible at first for example go into a cell and see how it works or become really big and see space.

OSD Student**Washington Middle**

i do not not really no but we should invest in vr head set

OSD Student

Washington Middle

No questions for now I think.

OSD Student

Washington Middle

The Olympia school district should not have a balanced calendar for students in the school year 2023-2024 or any years. There will be less family time during the summer break, and traditions including traveling for a certain time frame. Grandparents and other older relatives are waiting all year for students to come visit them. There would be less time to prepare for the grade you are going into. If you are an eighth grader during the time of this balanced calendar, you would have to prepare and become a high schooler in a matter of weeks. This would put more stress on everyone, especially when you are coming to a new school. Having a balanced calendar would mean that many afterschool sports and devoted activities that students enjoy would be affected. For example, I practice 4 ½ hours of my sport monday-friday, and during the summer, 5 ½ hours monday-friday. If the summer is shorter, we won't be able to have a longer summer practice, which for my sport, we need.

OSD Student

Washington Middle

yes

OSD Student

McLane Elementary

This won't work for all the folks (teachers, students, paras). who work over the summer. And for goodness sakes, give the office staff a contact .

OSD Staff Member

Lincoln Elementary

Does anyone read this.

OSD Staff Member

Capital High

Longer summer break, ore time to rekax,more school time,

OSD Student

Washington Middle

If a Balanced calendar is recommended it should come from OSPI, so we are not making these changes in isolation. Changing the calendar would impact our students fartherest from educational equity the most. For instance our students trying to attend New Market to learn a trade would be drastically impacted. I fear we would loose good staff that would move to a neighboring district that did not change the calendar.

OSD Staff Member

Capital High

I really haven't seen any information on this other than the video. I would need much more info on what it would look like and also the pros and cons for students and teachers.

OSD Staff Member

Lincoln Elementary;McKenny Elementary;Roosevelt Elementary

I definitely prefer to keep the current calendar. If a change must happen, I prefer the balanced calendar option that keeps as many weeks of summer as possible. This is what works best for my family, and is one of the reasons I chose to work for the school district.

OSD Staff Member

McLane Elementary

I do not feel this is best for the students. I am concerned that families will struggle with all the transitions. I am also concerned about pacing and having breaks in the Middle of a unit. I feel the transitions with all the breaks will be challenging for the students that struggle and need consistency. I have questions regarding students that need to work in the summer to help support their college tuition. Many of the families in favor feel this is best for child care, vacations, and their student needing breaks. These families are mostly white families of privilege. I am concerned about the lack of air conditioning in buildings. I am also concerned about the air quality in the summers now with the fires. The past two years have been challenging for educators and one more major shift seems like too much, enough to push more teachers out of the field. I think additional support for at risk students during the summer is more beneficial. Many of these families have a hard time getting their children to school with the current schedule, I feel it will be more challenging if it changes.

OSD Staff Member**Lincoln Elementary**

I like my summer. I know people who have summer jobs to earn enough money for college. I also really enjoy my summer and the good summer weather. In ELA we had a debate between balanced and traditional calendar. 90% of the class wanted Traditional while 10% wanted traditional. That is why I think that a Traditional Calendar better.

OSD Student**Washington Middle**

None

OSD Student**Washington Middle**

i think the balanced calendar is not a good idea i think this because It messes with summer school programs for families that might need them and with the breaks children will still forget what they have learned in school and it would not change much

OSD Student**Washington Middle**

I think that the Olympia School District should not move to a Balanced Calendar for the 2023-2024 School year because it would mean not being able to plan family time, not being able to find a caretaker for your child, and teachers would be working longer because they already work during vacations. 1. Parents might have a hard time taking off 3 weeks of work to spend time and take care of their child. Most parent's jobs don't even allow you to take that many days off in a year. 2. For summer camps, the camps are mostly run by high schoolers and college students but they wouldn't be able to run the camps since they would still be in school. Without the summer camps, some kids wouldn't have anybody to take care of them while their parents are at work. 3. Teachers already work during the summer to get ready for the beginning of the school year and continue to take additional classes and required training for work. By adding more breaks, instead of lessening the workload, it will just add more work for teachers over time.

OSD Student**Washington Middle**

The Olympia School District should require kids to attend a summer activity that is set up by the district with a wide variety of options including art camp, backpacking/hiking, traditional summer camp, arts camp, sports camps etc. Kids will learn different things then they would in school at the camps and still most likely have fun. also Kids' social/emotional health could be damaged without a full summer break because of not getting enough family time. Finally kids who do enriching things such as camps over the summer end up doing better in school the next year while kids who sit on the couch playing video games and watching tv do not remember as much and do worse in school the next year.

OSD Student**Washington Middle**

I am strongly against the balanced calendar and would not continue to teach. There are many reasons. One, children struggle to get back into routines every time we have a break of even 2 days. All of the stopping and starting would make it difficult for children to have a stable routine. Child care in fits and starts over the winter would be difficult for families. College students provide a large amount of the child care in our town, they will be in school during the fall and winter. I would not have the stamina to go year round. I work part of every break and vacation to prep for our return. I would end up working during every break and I would not be able to actually have a break. As it is, it takes at least one or more weeks to put my classroom "to bed" for the summer. I spend 2 solid weeks getting my classroom ready in August. I don't feel like I am truly off until July and I need a chunk of time to step away, let go and relax. This job is a 50 hour a week job, where we get paid for 30 hours a week. I am not willing to give more unpaid time to this job due to a change in the calendar. Having the summer off to be in my garden, be with my grandchildren, travel makes this job work for me. I work 6 days a week solid, I need those months off. I know there are many others who feel this same way. We are just coming out of 2 years of Covid teaching, which has been so incredibly exhausting. Now, we are talking about making another big change? Why? Can't we just have a moment to recover? I said "yes" to a representative committee convening. Honestly, I think it should not even be a discussion. When will the district put teachers first?

OSD Staff Member
Lincoln Elementary

Reason 1: Evidence: One of the cons is the negative effect it can have on families. Lynch says "the major drawback is the assumed detriment to family structure". During summer break more families go on vacations. Source: care.com

Reason 2: Evidence: Finding child care that works well with year-round school is often another challenge for parents. This is difficult because not all parents can find sitters or people to watch their kids during break. Lynch says "Child care could also become a concern, particularly if multiple, shorter school vacations are scheduled throughout the year, at times when parents are working." Source: care.com

Reason 3: Evidence: Summer vacation provides a much-needed break for teachers and students who need time to refresh and rejuvenate after working hard for nine straight months.

OSD Student
Washington Middle

Olympia should not move to a balanced calendar for the 2023 2024 school year. To just make it easier, many students have been doing the traditional calendar for a long time parents have schedules that could easily get messed up by this calendar.

OSD Student
Washington Middle

The Olympia school District should not move to a balanced calendar for the 2023-2024 school year so students can focus more. First Summer jobs, providing less time for summer jobs restricts high school students with summer jobs to gain more money for future things like collage, and collage is a big step in your life that is expensive, so they should get max amount of time to receive Max amount of money. lastly, The breaks can disrupt students learning, sure the breaks are

nice, but constantly leaving can make students forget much more often than just forgetting on summer break. I think that the Olympia School District should keep the traditional calendar for a more focused learning.

OSD Student
Washington Middle

no!@\$%^&*((&^%\$ haha

OSD Student
Washington Middle

There are some real positives with balanced calendar, but there are also some real negatives. I need to know more

about how this would impact our community (percentages that work during summer, how child care options might expand, etc.) before deciding.

OSD Staff Member
Lincoln Elementary

before I can formulate an opinion about this I will need to see all of the purposed calendar dates. When will each break begin and end?

OSD Staff Member
Roosevelt Elementary

I want a summer break, it is stupid to take some of that away.

OSD Student
Washington Middle

I don't think that the school district should change to the balanced calendar because change is hard for a lot of people, especially me.

OSD Student
Washington Middle

THE OSD SHOULD NOT US THE BALANCED CALENDAR. Because the summer is like the time that feels normal to us students because we and bearth like we have more space to move were not in class all day and we can see friends that live far away on the week day.

OSD Student
Centennial Elementary;Washington Middle;Olympia High

It would not be good to move to a balanced calendar due to the facts such as people see summer as the light at the end of the tunnel and without that they would have to look forward to the more frequent short breaks.

OSD Student
Washington Middle

The balance callender is a bad idea that's what keeps me going in school just waiting for summer break and even if i lose one less second of that imma be really angry no one wants to do work for 270 days out of a year. Also the school district will lose money on teacher/staff pay,electric bill food. Teachers and students will need a good long brake to be refreshed when going to the next grade. Around 75% of people that want same calendar as students and 51% of teacher wants same calendar why change something if most people like it already and kids look forwards to summer and maybe it makes more kids depressed and for six grader next year have do more work in a new school and have more classes and less summer.

OSD Student
Washington Middle

I think the current calendar is the best option in my own opinion because it is simply more helpful in time and expense reasons for my own family.

OSD Student
Centennial Elementary;Washington Middle

I think that the current calender is best because it is just easier to do what you have been doing your whole life. The current calender makes it so I can play baseball tournaments in the summer without missing school.

OSD Student
Washington Middle

No

OSD Student

Washington Middle

Even if we stick to the balance calendar how well would we adjust to this new environment when we stick to the same calendar for about 10 years.

OSD Student

Washington Middle

There needs to have fun activities for 6th graders as well.

OSD Student

Washington Middle

Will you force summer camps to change their schedule

OSD Student

Washington Middle

The Olympia School District should not move to a balanced calendar for the 2023-2024 school year.

OSD Student

Washington Middle

The Olympia School District should not move to a balanced calendar for the 2023-2024 school year. I think that we should keep our current calendar because people are used to the current calendar, parents might have trouble finding places to drop their kids off and there would be less time in summer to do activities that are mainly for summer only.

OSD Student

Washington Middle

I don't have any feedback but okay

OSD Student

Washington Middle

Olympia School District should continue with the current school schedule because of financial reasons as well as the community's sake. 1. Lighting and heating would be more expensive with a balanced calendar 2. Child care would be difficult to find especially for parents who work 3. Summer businesses such as water parks and over night summer camps would see a decrease in income 4. Family trips and vacations would be much harder to plan and would have to be shorter 5. Teachers deserve time with their families as well instead of constantly having to multi manage school and family life 6. Everybody looks forward to summer and hanging out with their friends and it has come to be an important part of American culture. To rob the community of that would be cruel.

OSD Student

Washington Middle

Wut

OSD Student

Washington Middle

I would not like to switch to a balanced calendar. I think the current calendar is perfectly fine as it is and if my summer gets shortened down I will not like it. I love the summer and I would not like it if my summer got cut short, I would have less time during the summer to relax after a long school year and be able to hang out with my friends and go on vacations with my family. I normally have a lot of plans during the summer and if it gets shortened down I will have to worry about not being able to go to school and having to catch up with things more often. Even this year my family and I have a lot of plans for the summer and I would not like it if we had to cancel some of these things or miss school because there wasn't a long enough break. I know that there will be more breaks in between the years if we do switch to a balanced calendar but I feel like the best time to go vacation is around summer time. In my personal opinion I would not

like it if we switched to a balanced calendar.

OSD Student

Washington Middle

I don't think we should switch to the balanced calendar because summer is a time for fun and a long break to follow up the school year which is exciting to the majority of kids. It would make planning vacations more difficult and kids may skip more school to go on vacation during school because that may be the only time that works for their families. Many kids see summer as the light at the end of a dark tunnel. School districts would have to spend more money on air conditioning during the hot summer days. I believe kids would rather be out playing in the sun then sitting, sweating in a hot classroom during 90 degree weather. Also, I'm not sure if this is relatable or relevant but summer is kind of like a hype build up for kids for the next school year. In conclusion, kids should have the right to get a long break to have fun with their friends or family. They should have the opportunity to go on a vacation. It would just be inefficient and unfair to students and/or family.

OSD Student

Washington Middle

The balanced calendar would decrease the amount of time I get to spend with my dad in the summer. That's not fair! That's not what I want.

OSD Student

McLane Elementary

Too many changes too fast. Address transportation issues. Change when other districts in the area are also prepared to change.

OSD Staff Member

Capital High

It would be more realistic to change to a 4 day work week vs balance calendar. There is a huge financial impact across the board if we move to a balanced calendar. Too many moving parts.

OSD Staff Member

Lincoln Elementary

One of the biggest attractions to teaching is our summer breaks. As a para educator my pay is pretty low and I depend on my summer break to augment my low school pay with the higher wages I receive working trades during the summer months. Changing the calendar without upping our para compensation to a livable wage will limit my ability to do my trades profession during the summer months and likely force me to leave education all together.

OSD Staff Member

Capital High

I have lived in countries with a balanced calendar and it works well for students and staff. Less needed excused time out of school. Ample time for vacations and at times that are less expensive. Child care will adjust. This works well for retention of students knowledge and routine. Please please please do what is studied and is proved to work through research.

OSD Staff Member

McKenny Elementary

I am concerned about the air temperature in the buildings in the summer time.

OSD Staff Member

Lincoln Elementary

I'm concerned about the impact of children losing educational time before and after breaks. They tend to check out before and it takes time to get back in the flow after. Also I wonder about the childcare facilities adapting to the change. Also what happens with the surrounding school districts.

OSD Staff Member

McKenny Elementary

I want to know if research has been done on extended the school year and balanced calendar and if the number of extended school year students have increased due to not meeting goals or expectations with missing school for three weeks at a time.

OSD Staff Member
Roosevelt Elementary

It will get rid of my precious sunny time in summer. It will create more problems for families for childcare. More breaks mean more time for students to forget how to learn effectively.

OSD Student
Olympia High

We are not ready to move to this school calendar in Olympia.

OSD Staff Member
Olympia High

I love summer, so much I get time to get creative, and take a break to persue other hobbies, I think it is REALLY important for everyone to keep the current schedule, If anything a longer summer and no midwinter break! PLEASE KEEP SUMMER!! Thanks!!!(:

OSD Student
Reeves Middle

The district implemented a later start without input from me, a working single mom, and now I can't drive my kids to school. My kids are missing school and getting behind and I can't do anything about it. Thanks a lot! This later start is NOT helping my family. And I suspect the balanced school year will be the same. OSD will pretend to solicit my opinion and then just do what they want.

OSD Student
Jefferson Middle

I think it will be important to coordinate calendars with nearby school districts, North Thurston and Tumwater, to support staff/families that have members in different school districts.

OSD Staff Member
Lincoln Elementary

You plan to insert long breaks throughout the school year will make it impossible for me to teach a coherent science class. Each time there is a break it take days if not weeks to get my student back to where they where before the break. For instance I gave a quiz of declarative information before winter break and the class average was a 84%. I told students they would take the same quiz when they returned after winter break. The class average after a short 2 week break was 68%. And You want to have more breaks throughout the year that are longer? Progress made in class would be undone by you mid-term breaks. This schedule would make it impossible for me to continue my relationship with the UW. I would have stop offering UW credit with my classes. If you want to help some students get caught up then provide them with additional meaningful learning opportunities. Stop impeding the learning of most student just to help some students. My program significantly prepares student to succeed in college level course you balanced calendar would have a significant negative impact on my ability to prepare students for the highest level of success. I am an award winning teacher. I have earned 10's of thousands of dollars in grants. I have conducted scientific research in my field, I spend my summers teaching other teachers, I am nationally board certified and I have more than 20 years of teaching experience. I am a uniquely qualified teacher who is accomplished and recognized as being of the highest quality. If you continue to pursue the balanced calendar I will lose faith in the district's desire to do what is best for student learning. I would be forced to consider looking for employment in district that valued student learning and achievement.

OSD Staff Member

Olympia High

The current school calendar is an outdated model. With research showing the benefits of a balanced calendar, it should absolutely be considered.

OSD Student**Centennial Elementary**

Start the traditional school year a week EARLIER to shift to early/mid June release.

OSD Staff Member**Capital High**

This would impact my family tremendously if it changed and how would this work for running start students

OSD Student**Capital High**

Does not apply to me as I will be graduated before the balanced calendar takes place.

OSD Student**Olympia High;ORLA Virtual Academy of Olympia (VAO)**

It sounds like there are plenty of unanswered questions like climate control in the buildings.

OSD Staff Member**Lincoln Elementary;Avanti High**

I am concerned that many variables that impact students and parents that are economically disadvantaged are not being considered in this process (daycare, summer jobs, ability to adjust to a different schedule) and that a small percentage of community members are pushing this agenda through without the consensus of the community. I also feel that there might be undue pressure to adjust the schedule from the state and/or surrounding communities.

OSD Staff Member**Olympia High**

The increased challenges to proper deep cleaning (especially floor maintenance plans) need to be addressed. Summer cleaning schedules are vital to a healthy school building.

OSD Staff Member**Lincoln Elementary;McKenny Elementary**

Concerned with lack of details presented, conflicts with summer care, Programs, sports and the lack of state wide schedule changes.

OSD Staff Member**Hansen Elementary**

This will only work if ALL school districts around us participate, New Market Vocational skills Center would become unavailable if we went to a balanced calendar and Tumwater did not .

OSD Staff Member**Avanti High**

Unless our buildings HVAC systems are in good working order, I do not see this as a viable option. Summer heat is not conducive to the teaching and learning environment. Everyone suffers in the heat of late spring and summer.

Another consideration is that students will not be able to have summer jobs that help many pay for further education.

OSD Staff Member**Capital High**

summer is best weather for WA state folks, need to preserve this time outside, also classrooms are not air conditioned and would be miserable for many folks, no time for credit retrieval, no time for camps outside of Olympia for kids (which would be running on traditional summer schedules) lack of hours for HS students to earn \$ at summer jobs

OSD Staff Member
Pioneer Elementary

I am open to the idea of a balanced calendar IF the district installs AIR CONDITIONING in all buildings. My classroom is already uncomfortably hot during most of June and early September. It would be unteachable during July or August.
NO AC = NO BALANCED CALENDAR

OSD Staff Member
Thurgood Marshall Middle

Balanced calendar is not good for the majority of students or families in Olympia. Kids don't need more time off in winter, they need it when weather allows them to be outside, which is limited in our climate. This also will affect the ability to attend summer camps, hold summer jobs, and it will make child care much harder for families.

OSD Staff Member
Olympia High

The late start times have been terrible. As a business owner who's clientele are school age children my business suffered greatly because of losing the hour of after school time for high school kids which was one of my main revenue streams. Athletics also took a hit for programs as distribution of gym times became even more difficult to allocate as there was an hour less and became unfair to certain teams. Not only did it become evident that certain programs took priority it became harder for athletes who were forced to do the late night practices. As a parent, I have 3 kids on different school time schedules and none of them made sense. I am strongly against the balanced calendar as it affects outside programs, athletics, and schedules. This is a nightmare for single and working parents and business owners whose clientele are school age children.

OSD Staff Member
Reeves Middle;Capital High;Olympia High

In addition to students retaining knowledge over a break, teachers and other staff regularly forget a LOT of work details that cause significant errors, delays and confusion at the start of each school year which absolutely impact student learning. Less time away could mean they retain that information and school starting back up goes more smoothly.

OSD Staff Member
Boston Harbor Elementary;Centennial Elementary;Garfield Elementary;Hansen Elementary;Lincoln Elementary;LP Brown Elementary;Madison Elementary;McKenny Elementary;McLane Elementary;Pioneer Elementary;Roosevelt Elementary;Jefferson Middle;Reeves Middle;Thurgood Marshall Middle;Washington Middle;Avanti High;Capital High;Olympia High;ORLA Montessori;ORLA Middle School Academy;ORLA hConnect;ORLA iConnect;ORLA Virtual Academy of Olympia (VAO);Transition Academy;Transportation;Support Service Center;Knox 111 Administrative Center

Would like to see an actual example of a calendar that would be used with actual dates/timelines marked out that would indicate when and where the extended breaks would fall, and how long the breaks would be. That would make a difference on if I personally would vote to have the balanced calendar or not.

OSD Staff Member
Hansen Elementary;McKenny Elementary;Roosevelt Elementary

Given that we only have two "nice" months (July and August) in the PNW I find it unconscionable that we would ask students and teachers to spend that time indoors, learning. Furthermore, our schools lack air conditioning. My classroom gets hot (80+ degrees) on warm June and September days... The afternoons are unbearable. It would not be productive to have students in classrooms during this time of year.

OSD Staff Member
Pioneer Elementary

Any changes have a large impact on everyone. Special Needs most of all. These kids depend on consistency more so than anyone else. The impact of families will huge. Families already had to adjust to rearranging the order students go to

school. Many depended on older siblings to get younger ones off the bus. In my opinion, Balanced Calendar changes will make daycare more difficult for everyone.

OSD Staff Member

Transportation

If we do balance calendar, what about staff who has children out of the district? Do we have the priority to transfer our children in OSD?

OSD Staff Member

Olympia High

The lack of air conditioning in our buildings our buildings are not prepared for working in the summer months that are much hotter.

OSD Staff Member

Centennial Elementary

I am in favor of a balanced calendar to provide students and staff with adequate time to recharge and prevent burnout. My only concern would be for my children, who attend a different school district (Tumwater) and having our schedules no longer align. If all of the area districts adopted the balanced calendar I would be all in.

OSD Staff Member

McLane Elementary;Jefferson Middle;Olympia High

I am concerned about AP and College in the HS deadlines if we move to the balanced schedule. I am concerned about summer professional development if we move to the balanced schedule. I am concerned about the lack of air conditioning in the school. I am concerned that this will actually result in a LOSS of class time because of the extra review I would have to do after each log break. I am concerned this will limit student and teacher summer job opportunities. I believe the balanced schedule will increase my feelings of burnout. I am concerned from the districts who could not make a balanced schedule work in HS...why do you think we can make it work.

OSD Staff Member

Olympia High

No air conditioning = no learning!

OSD Staff Member

Pioneer Elementary

We cannot restructure the calendar without radically restructuring other parts of the education system. This "fix" is just a bandaids that helps temporarily cover much larger systemic issues.

OSD Staff Member

Olympia High

I strongly believe a balanced calendar is NOT a good idea.

OSD Staff Member

1. I understand that the district is still very early in the process of making this change, but it is very difficult to have an informed opinion about this without more detail. Hearing that "there are a lot of different ways we could do this" does not inspire confidence or help me give valuable input into this process. 2. One of the rationales for the balanced calendar given at the community town hall was to create greater accountability for student learning. This was presented in a very condescending way, and I would encourage OSD to re-think any messaging that suggests that teachers are not doing their best to help every child learn, regardless of the calendar. Even if it turns out that a balanced calendar is in the best interests of students and families, please recognize that the teachers and staff of OSD are working incredibly hard to ensure positive learning outcomes for all students under the systems we currently have in place.

OSD Staff Member

Olympia High

There are too many negative impacts on family, teachers, students, and community. I feel the district is already promoting this as I've already seen this in district emails to families. More positives than negatives are presented. It is very disheartening and clearly reveals the districts agenda. Does our input really matter?

OSD Staff Member

Olympia High

Many businesses depend on student workers. Child care would be a difficulty for families. Teachers would never really be FINISHED and be able to REST!! There are many negative points to this balanced calendar that the district are not putting forward. It is very obvious what the district position is. Do our voices even matter?

OSD Staff Member

Olympia High

Teacher burnout is real, especially in the younger and very exhausting ages of K-5. Maybe this could help?

OSD Staff Member

Centennial Elementary

This will only be successful with HVAC updates to all school buildings.

OSD Staff Member

Washington Middle

I think it's important to hear feedback from low income families. I feel like having more frequent times off could be harder for childcare than one longer summer. I am also concerned that the "time off" will be used frequently for academics and may mean that some teachers and students won't really have any time off. Some of our students (and/or families) already feel pressure to get ahead and may try to use these breaks for squeeze in even more learning. At the high school level these are precisely the students who need a spring break or winter break due to struggling with anxiety and stress due to such full academic schedules.

OSD Staff Member

Olympia High

The reasons for doing this do not seem to be real from my point of view.

OSD Staff Member

Olympia High

As a para educator what will be done since we won't be able to take summer positions

OSD Staff Member

Boston Harbor Elementary;Pioneer Elementary

Madison Elementary becomes unbearably hot on any warm day. Students are unable to learn. Sometimes it even feels unsafe for them to be in such a hot space. I cannot imagine learning here during the summer unless the district installed air conditioning.

OSD Staff Member

Madison Elementary

There are too many issues for families. The only way it could work, is for all districts in Thurston county go to it and have the SAME schedule.

OSD Staff Member

Madison Elementary

There are lots of pros and cons to both calendars. The financial cost for both types of calendars should be taken under consideration for both staff and parents, particularly those that have to pay daycare costs. I am wondering if the school

day would be longer or shorter, will the number of school days change, or what will the configuration for breaks would look like.

OSD Staff Member
Centennial Elementary

It is a good concept, but the district seems to make changes without considering enough time for all of the impacts (athletics, union contracts, childcare, jobs, etc.). It looks like leadership wants to make changes to be the first. We have had so many changes with COVID and later time start, dealing with lack of bus drivers, and students not having timely transportation. Why don't we focus our efforts on student's mental health needs and other barriers. Just because North Thurston is doing it does not mean it will work for our district. OHS is the only 4A school and it will impact athletics which was already negatively impacted by a later start time. Keep out the politics and really consider all of the impacts and take care of what the students need today.

OSD Staff Member
Olympia High

Please keep in mind that students in advanced classes such as AP and IB need a certain amount of days of study prior to the exams.

OSD Staff Member
Capital High

Great idea to align our calendar with neighboring districts!

OSD Staff Member
Knox 111 Administrative Center

Being a school bus driver I believe we need the calendar the way it is. We all need summer break

OSD Staff Member
Transportation

Using a balanced calendar childcare will be an issue, transportation with parents. However I believe that the students will absorb more with a shorter period in the summer. It will give the students time to adjust thru out the various holidays.

OSD Staff Member
Jefferson Middle

My biggest hesitation regarding the balanced calendar has to do with the long grey days we often have in the PNW region and by contrast, the amazing summers we love. I worry that time off during the grey days will be spent indoors and staff and students will be losing the opportunity to enjoy summer. I have concerns there will be a net loss of physical activity and engagement with the natural world for both staff and students. I also wonder about the carbon footprint aspect of this possible shift to a balanced calendar. Given the increasingly hot summers, will there be air conditioning running when school is in session during the summer?

OSD Staff Member
Knox 111 Administrative Center

What about the transition into college and the workforce? When students get into a rhythm of expecting time off after every few weeks, they're going to struggle with going to college or going to work with a traditional schedule. They're going to expect time off every few weeks.

OSD Staff Member
Washington Middle

The district has stated they will not provide air conditioning for district buildings. Currently, the building I work in does

not have heat and has not had heat since February. I am not willing to work in a building where basic working conditions are not satisfied.

OSD Staff Member
McLane Elementary

I am a huge supporter of this and have seen the positive impact in 2 other districts. I wonder about the opportunity for high school students to earn credits on the "breaks" by supporting tutoring and mentoring programs at lower grade levels. Could staffing be staggered to allow for these opportunities to offer a similar experience to PLU's J-Term? Or could community groups like the Y, Boys & Girls Club, Arbutus Folk School, etc. provide mini-camps during the breaks to bridge the childcare gap? Also, would it have to be all schools and all levels that switch or could only some schools be switched? In one district where I worked, only 1 school had a year-round calendar because it made more sense for that building.

OSD Staff Member
Avanti High;Olympia High;ORLA hConnect;ORLA iConnect;ORLA Virtual Academy of Olympia (VAO)

Parents I have spoken with feel blown away by considering another change in routine just on the heels of Covid shutdowns. I think for the mental health of our community, this is an ill-timed conversation. Our parents should have some resemblance of normality for at least a year.

OSD Staff Member
Lincoln Elementary

deep cleaning the schools will be different

OSD Staff Member
Roosevelt Elementary

I have worked with type of Calendar and it did not work for the School District.

OSD Staff Member
Capital High

I love summer!
OSD Staff Member
Capital High

nonononoononononono actually don't swifffh the calender, I need to hang out with my friends and stufy plaeease dont takr it away no nnonoonononononononononnn

OSD Student
Washington Middle

I think it could be a good idea as long as surrounding districts are also on board so that local orgs that offer programming can offer things equitably to surrounding districts. I do have concerns about losing the hours that I get working my summer jobs when school is out. I am a para educator so I have to supplement my district income because we are not paid enough. I like the sound of more breaks throughout the year because burnout is Real!!

OSD Staff Member
Garfield Elementary

I feel it's too warm in August to be in school without air.

OSD Staff Member
ORLA Montessori

I think it is important that our district make an independent, informed decision not based on what neighboring districts have already decided to do. A big change such as this is at first glance intimidating and overwhelming, but a more formal investigation in Fall 2022 would allow stakeholders time to adjust and contemplate the many benefits that do outweigh the initial shock/impact of change. A more balanced calendar strongly supports the District's board approved

Student Outcomes and mental health/well-being of staff. Though I did not have the option to select more than one relationships I answer as both a parent of an OSD student and a teacher in the district.

OSD Staff Member

ORLA Montessori

Knowing what the school district tries to accomplish with this balanced calendar can give the public an idea of whether the use of time, energy and resource on this study is necessary.

OSD Staff Member

Capital High

Very little needs to be adjusted to make a better calendar. Summer can be shortened by 2 weeks with very little disruption.

OSD Staff Member

Pioneer Elementary

While teachers and families may be resistant to more change after the insanity of the last 2 years, that is not a good reason to stop the process of exploring a balanced calendar. If the calendar is lined up in a way that allows staff and families access to the best of the PNW summer and provides longer breaks throughout the year, it will be a much more humane system for everyone involved. We shouldn't let the least imaginative people prevent us from progress.

OSD Staff Member

Reeves Middle

I cannot make a decision on the balanced calendar until I know what calendar model the district is looking at. I know a 5 week summer break does not give teachers enough time to put closure to one school year, physically and mentally, and then get ready for the next school year.

OSD Staff Member

Centennial Elementary

An important consideration is air conditioning and being able to handle the heat in summer. As an educator, I can see how a balanced calendar could benefit families that might struggle with adequate cooling during the summer (as well as the benefits of decreased learning loss...etc.) Unless we have air conditioning in the buildings, we won't be able to handle the summer heat waves.

OSD Staff Member

McLane Elementary

Children need time to process their learning, A balanced calendar provides that additional time and is supported by research. Students in the USA do not perform as well on international measures, the countries that do the best are on balanced calendars.

OSD Staff Member

Reeves Middle;ORLA Montessori;ORLA Middle School Academy

In western Washington, summer is usually the best time to be outside with nicer weather. We change that and more people will be in doors longer during those nice months where they could be outside. Buildings would all need air-conditioning. The days are longer and kids often stay up longer so they may be coming to school with less sleep. Parents will have to find childcare for those random times in the year which could also be challenging. As a teacher, I would be spending more on childcare and may look for another job outside of teaching as having the summer "off" is one perk for being a teacher when I have time to spend with my family and destress.

OSD Staff Member

ORLA Virtual Academy of Olympia (VAO)

There are so many issues that are more important than changing the school calendar right now that the district should be focusing on. First, stop hiring a multitude of coordinators and directors downtown. The schools need support, boots on the ground. It is clear that the district is not listening to the staff in schools or their needs. Stop making it a fight to get

support for students. Don't tell parents that there is more mental health support in buildings. JMS has one of the neediest populations in the district and we have a school social worker one day per week (same as before) and Together program (which the district didn't renew the contract with).

OSD Staff Member

Jefferson Middle

We would need to work with the community to make sure that childcare needs are met with a balanced calendar.

OSD Staff Member

Hansen Elementary

I do not believe a "balanced calendar" is in the best interest for high school students given the multiple areas students would be negatively impacted, including AP testing, athletics, summer opportunities (working, academic programs, athletics, arts), etc. Our late start of 8:55 am already forces students to miss several afternoon classes in order to travel to their sporting events. This is a huge stress on both students and teachers. Furthermore, this type of calendar would be another push for students to enroll in running start programs where the school year would be shorter (or similar to what it is now) than the "balanced calendar" that is being proposed. We are already losing enrollment due to running start and this would push even more students that direction. Our school buildings are not setup for the heat of summer. We would need to outfit our buildings with new improved HVAC systems as well.

OSD Staff Member

Olympia High

My room is in the upper 80s on hot days. Really. No air conditioning.

OSD Staff Member

Pioneer Elementary

Stop making changes!

OSD Staff Member

Olympia High

Even as nearby districts decide against further study on this idea, I feel strongly that our students, families, and teachers will ultimately benefit from a balanced calendar.

OSD Staff Member

Reeves Middle

The balanced schedule would be detrimental to so many families and students that rely on the summer schedule to work and earn money. I work at the high school level and many of my students, especially my students of color and of low economic status rely on their summer jobs and their earnings to carry them through the school year. We also have students that spend the majority of summer playing Club, AAU, Select, etc. sports which is where exposure for college recruitment is crucial. This is not just for our upper class privilege students, but also for our students that have received scholarships to play within these organizations. Finally, we would lose an incredible amount of high school students to the Running Start Program which would continue to operate on the 'traditional' calendar for the above reasons. As a

parent and educator I have never entertained Running Start for my own children, but this would be absolutely considered for my family if this were to happen as would many, many other families. I am wondering if another option would be to have an optional summer session for students that could benefit from this?

OSD Staff Member

Olympia High

I am absolutely against a balanced calendar model!

OSD Staff Member

Pioneer Elementary

I prefer to keep the current calendar as both a teacher and as a parent of a student in the Olympia School District.

OSD Staff Member

Jefferson Middle

Changing the calendar impacts secondary students and their extracurricular activities; this is not a decision that can be made hastily. The calendars of the WIAA and districts in the SPSL (athletics) conference drive the athletic seasons and competitions. The later start-time (while beneficial in many ways) has negatively impacted athletes and 5th and 6th period teachers. This calendar change would have an additional barrier for athletes and coaches, and also students in classes with missing athletes and teachers who have high absentee rates in 6th period. I am also unsure teachers in this district can weather one more massive change in their working conditions. It has been a rough few years. We need to stop changing for the sake of change.

OSD Staff Member

Olympia High

There are too many major changes happening in our district. I am still trying to learn who works at the district office and what they do. We had a major bell schedule adjustment that has impacted many families and staff members. We just got out of a pandemic and people's lives are still very much impacted. Now you want to change the entire school calendar. We still have kids who regularly get to school late because of our buses and it is the teacher's responsibility to catch those kids up. Maybe we should focus on that first.

OSD Staff Member

Olympia High

Until the state of Washington moves to a balanced calendar, OSD will not be in line with other districts, therefore we should wait until it is aligned with others as staff have to figure out their own family needs with such a different schedule

OSD Staff Member

Centennial Elementary;LP Brown Elementary;Madison Elementary;McLane Elementary

I know there are challenges to change. And, I believe that breaks spread out in a balanced way is beneficial for students and will reduce teacher burnout.

OSD Staff Member

Olympia High

As North Thurston has decided against changing to a balanced calendar I feel Olympia should not. Many families are connected through many different districts in many different counties and being on such different calendars is detrimental to family routines and needs.

OSD Student

Washington Middle

I have experience with a balanced calendar in another state with incredible success. I have been an advocate of a balanced calendar for years, and will continue to support it.

OSD Staff Member

Garfield Elementary

My mom would be messed up

OSD Student

Madison Elementary

I think that if we should have teacher/staff input as to the timeline for breaks throughout the year. I would prefer August, as it is typically the hottest month, to not be in school. I also think that this is an entire Thurston County issue not just a singular school district as we need the entire community involved. Child care impacts the community at large. We need district partnerships (youth camps, YMCA, etc.) to help families with the transition when it comes to child care.

OSD Staff Member
McKenny Elementary

Concerns about time needed for students to transition to the next grade level and allowing teachers time to prepare?

OSD Staff Member
Roosevelt Elementary

Since North Thurston just announced yesterday that they aren't pursuing a balanced calendar any longer, I think we should follow suit. I think that the only way a balanced calendar will work is if the entire state goes to it at the same time. Too many district to district conflicts.

OSD Staff Member
Olympia High

I believe that the current calendar does maximize students learning opportunities because they are given ample breaks throughout the school year. The current summer break also gives families time to recreate together without having to worry about completing missing assignments.

OSD Staff Member
Jefferson Middle

I spent one year teaching at a school that was finishing a pilot program for year round learning. The model was very similar to the Balanced Calendar. Unfortunately, we could not get our neighboring feeder schools to join us, so we went back to the traditional calendar. Some benefits included: more opportunities for "enrichment opportunities" during short breaks (which were referred to as intersessions), opportunities for teachers to earn extra money teaching during intermissions, a well rested staff and student body, opportunities to plan meaningful units of study.

OSD Staff Member
LP Brown Elementary

A.C. units are a MUST if we transition to a balanced calendar. If AC units are not provided, then this idea would be incredibly cruel to consider for our students and teachers.

OSD Staff Member
Madison Elementary

If a balanced calendar goes forward, EVERY classroom, including portables, needs reliable, adequate air conditioning.

OSD Staff Member
McKenny Elementary

As an educator, I'd like to see the specific breaks throughout our year before making a decision.

OSD Staff Member
Roosevelt Elementary

Air conditioning not in all buildings. Other districts have chosen not to do a balanced calendar that have thoroughly researched it and polled their community.

OSD Staff Member
Centennial Elementary

The proposed balanced calendar would have massive negative impacts on our high school students. Matching sports and activity schedules with other schools in our area and AP testing dates would be almost impossible. With the new start times, our high schools are already at a disadvantage, to add this new calendar would be devastating.

OSD Staff Member
Washington Middle

I have friends and family in other states that have had balanced calendar for quite a while. They have liked the change. I am open to exploring it further as a parent and district employee.

OSD Staff Member

Transition Academy

This is silly. Several schools have tried and reverted back to traditional calendar. Offer better summer programs, options and family support and resources to reduce learning loss.

OSD Staff Member

Thurgood Marshall Middle;ORLA Montessori;ORLA Middle School Academy;ORLA hConnect;ORLA iConnect;ORLA Virtual Academy of Olympia (VAO)

i don't think a balanced claw dad would be smart, as so many family incomes depend on their kids working summer jobs. i also think students, parents, and staff should be more included in decisions such as admin, policies, schedules, etc.

OSD Student

Capital High

Air conditioning is crucial, alignment with neighboring districts seems vital, and contractual conversations regarding leave and trainings seems important as well. Without more information, I don't have an opinion. Without these factors, I don't see the benefit to learning, community engagement, and teacher retention.

OSD Staff Member

Lincoln Elementary

While I think pursuing a balanced calendar is a good idea, unfortunately, now that NTPS have declined to explore it further, it doesn't seem in the best interest of our community to head in this direction. I always want OSD to be a leader-district and not a follower-district, but a change like this is even bigger than start times and I am too worried about the negative impacts of having our neighboring districts, which we are so closely tied to in community, not making the shift as well. Should we continue to explore it? Sure. But I have lost confidence in the exploration going anywhere. Maybe we try again in a few years.

OSD Staff Member

Knox 111 Administrative Center

Unless it is possible to install air conditioning in all buildings prior to introducing a balanced calendar, it will be impossible to prevent serious heat related issues in schools. We close during the hottest parts of the year for a reason. In order to ensure safety for staff and students and prevent heat related injury, this is something that needs to be taken into consideration. Additionally, many staff members including paraprofessionals work alternative jobs over the summer to pad their paychecks and make working for less do-able during the school year. This removes this as a possibility for many support staff. If pay raises can offset this then I think it will be a good idea to pursue. For now, the cost to make these changes does not seem probable.

OSD Staff Member

Boston Harbor Elementary

a long normal summer break is very calming

OSD Student

Capital High

After conducting my own research into the long term effectiveness of a balanced calendar, one comprehensive study stands out for me, that of Jennifer Graves and Paul von Hippel. I don't believe enough data is out there to support this change in our calendar and feel there are other ways to address the inequities the balanced calendar initiative seeks to address.<https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2018/09/18/back-school-year-round-calendars-decrease-student-achievement-column/1084813002/>

OSD Staff Member

ORLA Middle School Academy;ORLA hConnect

air conditioning is a major concern

OSD Staff Member

Thurgood Marshall Middle

If it was a small change (two weeks or so distributed to add to already existing smaller breaks) I think the change to summer would not be noticed and it would make a huge impact on social emotional health and burnout for teachers and students.

OSD Staff Member

ORLA hConnect

I worry about the lack of air conditioning in the summer as my building does not have it when we would be starting school. I also do not know the plan for staff development/work days prior to school starting each new school year. Our best weather is in July-September so starting school in August would be challenging for many as this is normally a traveling time. I would like to be on the same schedule as other districts.

OSD Staff Member

Pioneer Elementary

I would love to keep the long summer break. Long summer breaks are rejuvenating for everyone. Both students and teachers are energized and ready for a new start in the fall. A more helpful change would be to just add a few more 3- or 4-day long weekends during the winter-spring time. The longer weekends are refreshing but still allow a quick return to school work/regime.

OSD Staff Member

Thurgood Marshall Middle

Balanced calendars work in a lot of situations and can serve students well, but it adversely impacts teachers who rely on additional summer incomes with other jobs. It also requires installing AC systems in older schools without it. Finally, the northwest summer weather must be enjoyed — sounds trite, but it's not.

OSD Staff Member

Pioneer Elementary

This decision needs to be a grassroots community-based effort. It impacts families in so many ways that all support systems, including the low-wage employees who care for children. They need to be considered, otherwise it will break our community even more.

OSD Staff Member

Reeves Middle

I think this would be an excellent opportunity for community.. would help with learning loss over the summer, help ease transitions. It allows staff more time with their families.

OSD Staff Member

ORLA Montessori

As an OSD staff member I feel that it this is an essential direction to go for many reasons. One, it would prevent burnout. Already it feels like most OSD staff right now are crawling to the finish line. Then once Summer begins they will have to take most of that summer to catch up on what they couldn't do during the rest of the school year. I also believe the atrophy of knowledge that occurs during Summer break is well documented and known to be decremental to the students. The balanced schedule would also allow families to travel easier in other times besides the Summer, which makes going to the Southern Hemisphere tricky. Right now school feels like a gauntlet of attrition to see if you can make it through the non-stop pace of the school year. I feel the balanced schedule would help OSD retain more staff and students. I support this transition to a balanced schedule as an OSD staff member and as a family of a child who is enrolled in the OSD.

OSD Staff Member

ORLA Montessori

I think whatever steps are made should be done in concert with the surrounding districts - North Thurston and Tumwater

OSD Staff Member

Capital High

I'm a parent and staff member and would like more of a balanced school year for summer cost of child care and kids who fall behind with longer summers. I also think our mental health needs longer breaks during the school year.

OSD Staff Member

Avanti High

I have worked in a system with a balanced calendar and think it is wonderful for learning, especially for low income families who may not be able to afford summer learning activities. My only reservation is the wonderful summer weather verses kids being home in the rainy weather. I believe this might outweigh the benefits,

OSD Staff Member

ORLA Montessori

If, we can get the entire community on board, I think a balanced calendar would be a great fit for the Olympia School District and surrounding districts.

OSD Staff Member

ORLA iConnect

My concern is that I have children in different districts and I would like all districts to adopt the balanced calendar, not just our district. I think we should consider what other districts are doing so that it is a universal shift.

OSD Staff Member

ORLA Montessori

Many questions need to be addressed that haven't been covered in the Frequently Asked Questions page. Our students are subject to schedules outside of OSD, and those will not change even if we switch to a balanced calendar. Students in AP classes cannot afford to take long breaks throughout the school year. The College Board has strict AP timelines and we take valuable weeks of study away from AP students if we insert extended breaks into the school year. The same is true of many students taking College in the High School courses, who have to adhere to the strict schedules of the colleges offering the course.

OSD Student

Olympia High

Balanced calendar is a really good option. Do it, and NTPS will go along.

OSD Staff Member

Capital High

Changing to a balanced calendar will disproportionately affect our lower income families that already struggle to find child care for the breaks we currently have. Breaking it in to more chunks will also make it more difficult for credit recovery as we won't have as long a summer break.

OSD Staff Member

Olympia High

It is better mentally for student and staff. It is also better for family to reconnect with each other!

OSD Staff Member

Knox 111 Administrative Center

I want to know that the balanced calendar will reflect respect for our teachers' mental health and time and families, our regional weather patterns (five weeks off only works if it is during our WESTERN WASHINGTON summer in August/September) and our students' growth and development. I am not sure I have confidence that these will be the guide posts used.

OSD Staff Member

Centennial Elementary

A balanced schedule will mess up my sports schedule and my sleep schedule so please don't do it. I prefer to keep the

calendar now because to my knowledge students are in a beneficial place.

OSD Student

Washington Middle

I would prefer to keep the current calendar because I feel like it has worked well and satisfied lots of people's needs. It will be a better fit for many students to stick with what we have now and I think that will overall be a better choice.

OSD Student

Washington Middle

While I like the idea of a balanced calendar, it seems only reasonable to pursue it if we are in partnership with other Thurston County Schools.

OSD Staff Member

Knox 111 Administrative Center

This is a horrible idea. The late start for high school is bad enough, please don't make us go through another useless change.

OSD Student

Olympia High

Paraeducators who currently work multiple jobs would be far less able to have two jobs with a balanced calendar. They should be compensated more and/or have reduced work week to 4 days with better pay/full benefits.

OSD Staff Member

LP Brown Elementary;Madison Elementary;Roosevelt Elementary;ORLA Montessori

Balanced calendar is big stupey. No, no, no.

OSD Student

Olympia High

I think that the current calendar is good and the balanced calendar would mess up a lot of things.

OSD Student

Olympia High

Changing the schedule will only cause havoc on children and teachers. Many students will become more stressed and unable to complete summer jobs, sports, and other plans that have been created. This will also mess up college applications and preparations, giving students less time to feel prepared. Overall, it causes way too much bad compared to good and it's best just to keep it as it like the other schools.

OSD Student

Olympia High

I believe that this will have a negative impact on the average students drive to learn.

OSD Student

Olympia High

The balanced calendar is a mess and should not be implemented. If done so, people would lose their summers and the opportunity for summer jobs and drivers ed and vacations that many people rely on for mental health and gaining money/experience. Most freshman/sophomores get summer jobs in order to save up for a car, but without that critical opportunity to join the work force, many people would not be able to afford a car unless it is in a privileged household. At that point it becomes a class issue. People who do not need to work in the summer because they are financially well off will probably prefer the balanced schedule but there are too many people who need the summer and the time off for their family in order to provide.

OSD Student

Olympia High

Please stop this because no one will enjoy it and think about the child care, jobs, drivers ed, internships, summer camps.

Having a balanced school year will make more teachers retire because the majority of teachers teach for the summer vacation so overall it's a bad idea.

OSD Student

Olympia High

summer jobs and activities are very important to me. there are lots of things i want to do that i can't while i'm in school

OSD Student

Olympia High

I think that it's going to mess a lot of things in day to day life at school. I know what I've had the school schedule that we have right now for as long as I can remember. For my class, class of 2024, we have gone through too many schedule changes since starting high school and I for one would like to just have a normal high school without changing anything. It also messes with the amount of time that both students and staff get to reset during the summer. It also makes the amount of time that most Juniors have during the summer to look at other colleges and take tours to only two months which I don't believe is a good amount of time to give someone to make a good decision. I have an older sister that when we looked at colleges over the summer we took the whole three month time to look. It was really nice because we had the time to go back and look. A change in schedule also limits the amount of time that students get to reset over the summer. It's something that all students look forward to and it's a big motivator during the school year. I don't believe that it's healthy to just have school for most of the year. You have to have a break and taking away something that a lot of students use to talk and meet with friends or hang out with their family is just making school something that kids dislike more. Also as a student who had to take a class over the summer, taking away that time and limiting the amount of time that I would be able to use to make up the class would just stress me out more and maybe be a reason that I failed the class again. Most students take this time over the summer to make up class because it's a time of the year where they don't have any other classes and it's also long enough that when they finish the class they also have enough time to enjoy their summer however they wish.

OSD Student

Olympia High

I believe having a shorter summer will not be beneficial for students. Not only does it affect summer jobs but it also interferes with summer school for those who need extra help. I also have divorced parents, this means the summer time is the only time I get to spend any time with my dad. Otherwise, I rarely see him. I also disagree with having longer breaks during the school year because it is very difficult to remember lessons from before breaks. I also think summer time is a very essential break for students. My classmates, friends, and siblings and I all experience intense stress from keeping up with school. Summer break has always been a time for rebuilding and preparing our mental health for the next school year.

OSD Student

Centennial Elementary; Olympia High

Balance is a word we need in all areas. Other districts have adopted this schedule that looks beyond the historical farmer's schedule. The cons listed above can be worked with. Some other benefits, would include shared parenting, traveling, long school stretches without breaks, less frenzy about the beginning and end of school. History should not continue to shape the educational schedules. Higher achievement for students however is a reason no educator should argue with.

OSD Staff Member

ORLA Montessori

The changes we have gone through the last couple of years have been very challenging. I believe that more changes are not advisable at the moment.

OSD Staff Member

ORLA Montessori

The impact of the balanced calendar would have a big effect on high schoolers. For Olympia High School most of the

building doesn't have AC which would make being in school during August miserable. With climate change the weather is getting hotter and hotter during that time of year. Along with that it would be harder to have a summer job because we would only have it for a very short period of time. As an athlete it would affect summer tournaments for many sports including soccer and basketball.

OSD Student

Olympia High

A balanced calendar would be better for students and staff. I hope this is explored!!

OSD Staff Member

Thurgood Marshall Middle

Students need several days of readjustment and review of school/classroom norms after even a week break. Adding another transition after break to the school year will cause greater disruption.

OSD Staff Member

Roosevelt Elementary

Balanced Calendar is what would be best for students. Students would get used to it. Adults/parents are the ones who will be hard to convince since they all have their experience with public education and it wasn't that way when they were kids. Change is hard. I truly believe that balanced calendar would help kids, especially elementary students where teachers spend the first 2 months reviewing everything. (My first 16 years was in elementary) Bridging the education gaps would be greatly improved.

OSD Staff Member

Reeves Middle

When I lived out of state, the school district we were in had an elementary "School of All Seasons" that used the balanced calendar format. It was an optional program within the district. It served both students who needed it to retain learning growth and the families who preferred that schedule. I think this option should be considered especially as the district already runs a lottery for other specialized programs. I think it could work well to have LP Brown converted to this format. I see many children and families who would benefit. I also think it would create a draw to the school. The very strange district boundaries for elementary schools on the Westside could be revised in the process in order to have students attend their neighborhood school (one that is more walkable/closer to them).

OSD Staff Member

LP Brown Elementary

I think that the balanced calendar is less convenient for families dealing with financial insecurities. It gives high school students less time to work during the summer if they choose to do so and requires parents to take more time off during the school year as it does not typically line up with most work schedules.

OSD Staff Member

ORLA Montessori;ORLA Middle School Academy;ORLA hConnect;ORLA iConnect;ORLA Virtual Academy of Olympia (VAO)

If OSPI was not offering money to support this, would the OSD still be interested in investigating it?

OSD Staff Member

Olympia High

I have heard people respond negatively and some like me , it would not effect.

OSD Staff Member

ORLA Virtual Academy of Olympia (VAO)

It would be most helpful to have a sample of what that new calendar might look like before I can make an informed decision.

OSD Staff Member

Reeves Middle;Capital High

This will negatively impact so many families with summer visitations, high school students with jobs and extra curricular activities for all students.

OSD Staff Member
Madison Elementary

NTPS already dumped the idea...there's no reason for us to do this. It would cause chaos. Much like the bell schedule changes you implemented. It was and is a horrible idea with late buses and constant interruptions from activities and athletics in the high school. Maybe you should take a look at the impact of that before moving on to the next big change you want to implement.

OSD Staff Member
Olympia High

I am all for a balanced calendar. Since ntps is not moving in the direction of a balanced calendar, it makes more sense to support this initiative at a state level, working with our reps in the 22nd and 35th legislative districts to move a statewide plan for a balanced calendar. With no surrounding districts moving in this direction, it would take an act of the state to make it happen effectively. I think that our efforts should be combined with other districts that got the money from Ospi to look into this and we need to testify next session on why this is best for all students not only in osd but across the state.

OSD Staff Member
Knox 111 Administrative Center

I think students need summer breaks to spend quality time with family

OSD Staff Member
Washington Middle

We are no longer an agrarian society and should not be bound by an agrarian calendar year any longer. While COVID was devastating, it demonstrated that things can be done differently in ways that still benefit and exceed previously held education dogma. It is definitely time to explore the overwhelming social, emotional, and academic benefits of a balanced year schedule.

OSD Staff Member
Thurgood Marshall Middle

seems to me that child care and programs/sports will be greatly effected with a calendar change.

OSD Staff Member
Thurgood Marshall Middle

The summer months are the best time for families to bond through vacations and leisure activities. Also, if the schools were to operate during the hottest days, is the district willing to spend a considerable amount of money in A/C for all

classrooms. Also, if neighboring districts did not pursue the balanced calendar, but OSD did, how would this work with the McKinney-Vinto students and others that we transport outside the district?

OSD Staff Member
Hansen Elementary;Roosevelt Elementary;Thurgood Marshall Middle;Transition Academy;Transportation

I would need to see the schedule, meaning specific days of school and off days. "Balanced" could mean lots of different schedules.

OSD Staff Member
Hansen Elementary

No balanced calendar. Stop considering it & move on. Terrible idea with too many cons that out weigh any pros.

OSD Staff Member
Olympia High

The race questions in this survey do not accommodate families where children are of different races. There are three different ethnicities in my household.

OSD Staff Member

Hansen Elementary;Thurgood Marshall Middle;Capital High

The cons out way the pros

OSD Staff Member

Reeves Middle

With the challenges of finding daycare that this would bring, and the fact that NTSD has decided against moving to this model, I do not support it. I also think that children benefit from extended breaks, and even boredom, as it develops their skills in self directed play and discovery.

OSD Staff Member

Roosevelt Elementary

If it is decided to not pursue a balanced calendar, what other avenues of support will be explored for equity purposes for supporting our most struggling learners from low-income homes? Summer school that does not provide transportation for low income students is not a supportive intervention.

OSD Staff Member

LP Brown Elementary

The older format of longer summers is becoming onerous on the modern family; with both parents working and the increase costs of travel and activities, it makes more sense to have shorter break times.

OSD Staff Member

Thurgood Marshall Middle

This would be a horrible move by the district and I can guarantee you will lose a lot of employees, including me. WHY??

OSD Staff Member

Olympia High

The summers are perfect for outside activities. It would be a shame and hard to spend days inside schools during that time.

OSD Staff Member

Thurgood Marshall Middle

I believe as a junior currently when this is enacted I will not be here but it seems like a good idea for students that will be here

OSD Student

Olympia High

Having more breaks puts a stressor on childcare needs

OSD Staff Member

Garfield Elementary

Covid is on the rise. I think this should be taken into consideration. The more time we spend in doors, the more it will spread.

OSD Staff Member

Hansen Elementary;LP Brown Elementary

it seems good

OSD Student

Garfield Elementary

No balanced calendar please

OSD Student
Capital High

I need more time for a summer job.

OSD Student
Capital High

No balanced calendar

OSD Student
Olympia High

I'd like to hear what teachers think about the change.

OSD Student
ORLA Montessori

after changing so much last year and JUST coming back to school, it would just add so much more confusion and chaos. Changing it would also be awful for sports, and we would be the only one on the Destroy to a change calendars. don't make things even harder than they already have been, please listen to the kids

OSD Student
Capital High

The balanced calendar is not a successful model. The late start schedule has not been good for HS extra curricular activities. I see the same issues with the balanced calendar

OSD Staff Member
Olympia High

I would only consider if spring break - Christmas and summer is at least 7 weeks! I am already a burnt out bus driver...

OSD Staff Member
Transportation

If moving to a balanced calendar I will remove my child from the school district and explore other options and virtual if needed. This will impact the needs of our family.

OSD Student
Capital High

It is a good idea if the balanced calendar is applied to entire state of Washington and not only to OSD.

OSD Student
Washington Middle

If we do balanced calendar, can staff have priority to transfer their children at OSD from home district? That way, the staff and children are at home during the breaks.

OSD Staff Member
Olympia High

Standardized test results and competitive academic benchmarks should not be the only basis upon which the community defines student success. A balanced calendar would significantly reduce leisure time, social and work opportunities which are critically important for health, learning and lifelong achievement.

OSD Student
Lincoln Elementary;Washington Middle

I believe we need to explore new avenues to academically support our students who lose the most ground over the summer break.

OSD Staff Member
McKenny Elementary

I think that this is best for students but for many teachers who rely on a long summer break for income it would be a problem. If we can find a way to mitigate the latter I think it would be a win for all!

OSD Staff Member
Washington Middle

I think this is a waste of time

OSD Staff Member
Reeves Middle

Change is not always the best solution. Also, our school year should start earlier (late august). We are ending so late in the year that the last month is quite in-effective.

OSD Staff Member
Reeves Middle

I don't see how it is feasible to implement a different calendar than the rest of our geographic region. It would be detrimental to so many things: activities, athletics, summer camps, child care etc... I also have no faith the district would set us up for success: facilities, ac, instructional support, communication etc...

OSD Staff Member
Olympia High

Disruption of norms and schedules has played havoc with the progress of our students over the last two years. More 'change' is not what is needed right now.

OSD Staff Member
Jefferson Middle

Improvement in test scores, focus, and motivation

OSD Staff Member
Capital High;Olympia High

I believe the balanced calendar year would be very beneficial for both students and staff but I would only support this if central air conditioning was installed in all schools within the district.

OSD Staff Member
Thurgood Marshall Middle

I attended "year round" schooling (aka balanced calendar) Not a good experience on many levels for students, staff, families and the district reverted back to traditional calendar.

OSD Staff Member
Reeves Middle

I believe that we need to do what is best for students. This should drive every decision. So, if we can make changes that better support a certain population of students and has little or no impact on the quality of education on other students, then I think we need to seriously consider it. Inconvenience is not the same as inequity. - Quote me on this! :)

OSD Staff Member
Capital High

I think it is a horrible idea to deprive kids and staff of what very little summer we have in this state.

OSD Staff Member
Boston Harbor Elementary;Capital High;Olympia High

I would like to move to a balanced calendar, however I do think it would be difficult if we are the only local district doing so.

OSD Staff Member
Garfield Elementary

I think as a parent who works for the school, on the school schedule, I love the concept of the balanced calendar. I really do think that with the balanced calendar we will see improved behavior and academic progress with our students. I can also see the side of a family that is unable to be home with their child(ren) or afford childcare when school is not in session. I think with having kids out of school and parents needing care it opens opportunities for more camps to be held and used as childcare during those times, affordability still being a potential problem.

OSD Staff Member
McLane Elementary

OSD has more important issues than pursuing a balanced calendar.

OSD Student
Capital High

If this supports student learning, then I am an advocate and agree with the change.

OSD Staff Member
McKenny Elementary

It would need to happen all over western WA to have day care available (shortage now), not interfere with music and sports teams (scholarships), and jobs for teens to save for college. You also would need air conditioning in all the schools. I do not think it will work yet. Additionally, three week breaks (my understanding of proposed break time) is too long, many SPED kids will just keep going backwards at that time and it will be like starting over and over again most of the year. Personally, I would like it but it has to work for our families and students .

OSD Staff Member
Pioneer Elementary

I see teachers and staff are stressed and on the verge of burn out, I could see more week long breaks peppered in throughout the school year allowing for staff to recharge and have more productive school years.

OSD Staff Member
Garfield Elementary

My children were in a balanced calendar school in grade school and I think it was beneficial to them and their learning. This was many years ago, but I think the concept is better for the students.

OSD Staff Member
Garfield Elementary

I think we should only do this if all local districts do it as well- Tumwater, North Thurston and Griffin.

OSD Staff Member
Capital High

no

OSD Student
Boston Harbor Elementary;Reeves Middle;Olympia High

balanced calendar is a stupid idea it would make summer jobs almost impossible along with some longer trips

OSD Student
Olympia High

It is not smart to do a balanced calendar, we should keep the current one. The only thing I look forward to is summer, I wouldn't be able to do a summer job or explore the world in the 3 months of summer.

OSD Student
Olympia High

Why would you change the schedule?? That would be messing with so much stuff!

OSD Student

Olympia High

We should not have a balanced calendar because then summer jobs and long vacations would be out of the picture, and even though there would be more time for schooling I don't need it.

OSD Student

Olympia High

THIS IDEA IS TERRIBLE AND YOU SHOULD FEEL TERRIBLE ABOUT MAKING THIS IDEA!!!!

OSD Student

Olympia High

I think we should take a week off of summer and then add those days for three day weekends instead

OSD Student

Olympia High

Having a balanced calendar would interfere with summer jobs and extra curricular activity's as well as not giving students proper downtime from school.

OSD Student

Olympia High

I prefer long summer over more breaks during the school year.

OSD Student

Olympia High

Please keep summer the same. summer is a time were people can rejuvenate and enjoy the sun that we barely get to see. What will teachers and students do when they cant have a summer job? What about students who failed a credit they need and dont have enough time to complete summer school? during the year if we have more breaks, our teachers will assign homework even if we are on a break, which will essentially cause us to not be able to focus on our mental health. What will people do during the beaks when it is cold and rainy outside and their parents cant pay for a fun trip? Please do not change the schedule.

OSD Student

Olympia High

It's not a bad idea, but I feel like we need to be further away from the pandemic before we make changes. Our students and families have had enough changes and need to settle back to normal before we are able to consider such a big change.

OSD Staff Member

Pioneer Elementary

While the idea is good in practice, and is used all around the globe. Our district is functioning well within the current calendar. If we are truly interested in exploring a balanced calendar, we should have the ability to do a trial run rather than just making the choice one way or the other.

OSD Staff Member

Roosevelt Elementary

If airconditioning was put in every building then I could see the conversation moving forward.

OSD Staff Member

Knox 111 Administrative Center

There are pros and cons to both sides of this argument, but only having four weeks of summer break is the main thing I take issue with. How are students supposed to get jobs during the summer if the break only lasts a month? It makes the proposed schedule unethical, some students may need to work for multiple months and would not be able to do so

under the balanced schedule. Additionally, I think that the rough three months of summer is a valuable growth-time for students. If the break is only four weeks, students will graduate one grade and move on to the next as the same person, with little time to rest and change. And the majority of the world does not run on this schedule, meaning OSD students could miss out on amazing opportunities because the balanced schedule does not align with the rest of the world. For example, I was accepted into a two week long writing workshop over the summer, and if school ran on the balanced schedule, I could miss my chance to be part of this amazing academic experience because I would be missing school. The balanced schedule is based on good ideas, but cannot be practically applied without impeding on important aspects of student life.

OSD Student

Olympia High

None at the moment.

OSD Student

Olympia High

The breaks would help with burnout, scheduling appointments/vacations. I would also hope it would decrease absenteeism since longer breaks would be scheduled so far out in advance that family could plan vacations or appointments over the scheduled breaks.

OSD Staff Member

Centennial Elementary;Pioneer Elementary;Knox 111 Administrative Center

If no other neighboring district wants to consider a balanced calendar right now, it doesn't seem prudent to pursue it in Olympia.

OSD Staff Member

Garfield Elementary

I think the balanced schedule is not a good idea. There are way more cons than there are pros. Some of these uncountable cons include lack of normalcy, messed up sports schedules, change to students work lives, and the loss of students. First, for me and my class, we will not have one "normal" year of high school. My freshman year was online. My sophomore year was masks and social distancing and weird protocols. Most likely, my junior year will not be normal, as there will still be some sort of restrictions with covid. That would leave the only hope of having my senior year be the only normal year of my high school career. If you put in place this balanced schedule, that would ruin my senior year. I would have no senior summer. By the time I would graduate, I would be leaving for college in less than a month. Not to mention the fact that students already hate school. If you put in place a year-round schedule, the number of students that are going to skip school and hate school even more than they already do is going to be enormous. I have talked to my peers and every single one of them has said that this schedule is a horrible idea. They said themselves that they would skip school in July and August because they want a REAL summer. Because of the lack of normalcy and the complications this schedule would cause, it is a bad idea. Secondly, if you put in place a balanced schedule, sports schedules would be all messed up. Our breaks wouldn't line up with other schools breaks and our athletes would never get an actual break. Even now, with the way the schedule is, I know that basketball has games over winter break. As an athlete myself, not having a break from sports but having a break from school is really annoying. There is no real break. Preseason and postseason would look completely different as well. With the suggested schedule, it gives less time for sports to train and become stronger in the off season. As I have experienced from playing soccer at OLY, the preseason/postseason really helps improve the program. The balanced schedule would take away from a lot of this time that is helpful for the program to improve its athletes. Because of the way sports schedules would change, the suggested calendar is a bad idea. Next, the new balanced schedule would cause detrimental changes to a student's work life. Countless students work summer jobs. If this schedule was put in place, so many students would lose work time and needed money. Not to mention the fact that the businesses that hire these high school students would suffer tremendously as well. In addition to students work lives being messed up, teachers work lives would change. A lot of teachers may take on a summer job as well to make more money. They would also lose that money and work time if the schedule changed. These changes in pay could be extremely hard for people to adapt to. Many families rely on their high

school student to bring in some sort of income for the family. The new schedule would not only harm the students and the teachers, but the families of each and the businesses that hire them; therefore, the suggested calendar is a bad idea. Finally, the number of students that would leave the district would be countless. If able, students would transfer to other districts or private schools that are not doing this schedule. In addition, the number of juniors and seniors that would go to full time running start would be countless. I personally would do full time running start. Even if I wanted to take classes at OLY, I would not because of the atrocious suggested schedule. All of these students leaving would have a bad impact on the district as well. The less students you have, the less money you are bringing in and the less funding you have. Teachers would also leave because having summer off is one of the big perks of becoming a teacher. It would be even harder to find teachers AND substitutes than it already is. Students and teachers leaving the district would not give anyone any benefit, and it is sure something that will happen if this new schedule is adopted. On the other hand, some people may say there are pros. The only pros are year-round childcare and help with learning loss. But even those pros have cons. The childcare facilities around Thurston County are going to lose a lot of money because a lot of kids are not going to be enrolled in their program. This is going to harm them and their business. For the learning loss part, I personally think that anything more than 2 weeks is pointless. I would lose the same amount of learning after 2 weeks of break as I would over a 2.5 month summer break. Not to mention the amount of recovery time after each extended break that would be needed. When you go back after summer, there is always those few days/weeks of review before you jump into anything new. Now imagine that every few months after a break. It would really not save any time or learning loss. Even these pros would not have any benefit in the end. In conclusion, the balanced schedule is not something that the district should proceed to adopt. The lack of normalcy for all the students would just add to more mental struggles than there already are and add to more absences. The sports schedules are destined to be messed up and would not allow for our athletes to have any real break. High school students, teachers, and their families would all suffer so much from income loss with job time loss. The number of students and teachers that would leave the district would cause for less money and funding to go to the Olympia School District. All of these reasons show that there are too many cons to allow this schedule to happen. There is no logical explanation for the support of this schedule. Even if there was, it would not take into consideration all of the important factors contributing to student lives. Therefore, the new suggested balanced schedule should not be considered any further by the Olympia School District.

OSD Student

Olympia High

N/A

OSD Student

Jefferson Middle

My own research has shown there is not enough significant impact to warrant the need to change our existing calendar type. This is something that should happen on a large region or state level rather than a single district level. I have concerns about maintaining and recruiting quality staff who would prefer the traditional school calendar. There are impacts to staff who obtain summer employment if this change is made. There are impacts to our community partners like New Market Skills Center if we make this change without all other districts in our region making this change too. Kids and families don't want more change after all the crazy schedules of the past few years. I am concerned about the heat of summer and lack of adequate air conditioning in our buildings and also adequate cool outside play spaces if we are in school in August. Not to mention all the families who plan summer fun in August since it is our most reliable warm dry summer month possibly amounting to kids missing a number of the first days of school which are so critical in setting the tone and schedule of the classroom and building. Our focus would be better served simply keeping our existing calendar type.

OSD Staff Member

Pioneer Elementary