

Balanced Calendar

Common Questions

What is the difference between a Year-Round school calendar and a Balanced Calendar school calendar?

- The terms "Year-Round" and "Balanced Calendar" are often used interchangeably - both terms refer to the same style of calendar (incorporating multiple breaks throughout the year) and meet the requirements of 180 days of school and 1098 hours of instruction

Does a school need to have air-conditioning to run a Balanced Calendar school year?

- Some common ways to accommodate student learning during warm weather include adjusting school hours, and incorporating a maximum temperature clause (similar to a wind-chill clause)

Does a Balanced Calendar school year impact family travel and/or tourism opportunities?

- A high percentage of students return to their district by August 1 to participate in school extra-curricular activities, thus many choose to travel during off-season dates

Does a Balanced Calendar impact a student's ability to maintain a summer job?

- Students get an extended summer break, during which they may choose to work

Where can I find more information about Balanced Calendars/Year-Round schools?

- The National Association for Year-Round Education has detailed information and research addressing year-round and balanced calendar education (www.nayre.org)

What are "intersessions" in a Balanced Calendar?

- Optional intersessions are often offered during breaks (not including holiday breaks) during which students can report to the school building for social and academic enrichment, interventions, and/or academic recovery

Does a Balanced Calendar school schedule impact the readiness of students taking the M-STEP?

- Balanced Calendar schools cover the necessary curricula in order to be successful on the M-STEP. Because Balanced Calendar school schedules limit summer learning loss, more time can be allocated for curriculum

Do students with special needs receive necessary services?

- Individual student needs are met via plans such as an Individual Education Program (IEP), Individualized Reading Improvement Plan (IRIP), 504, etc., and the Balanced Calendar provides increased stability and routine for students, with less time out of the classroom and school environment

Does a Balanced Calendar schedule impact attendance?

- Balanced Calendars can help limit teacher burn-out, resulting in more time in the classroom. In addition, many Balanced Calendar schools are deep-cleaned during school breaks, which leads to fewer illnesses and increased attendance