



Balanced School Calendar: Key Considerations for Implementation

Presented By: District Management Group

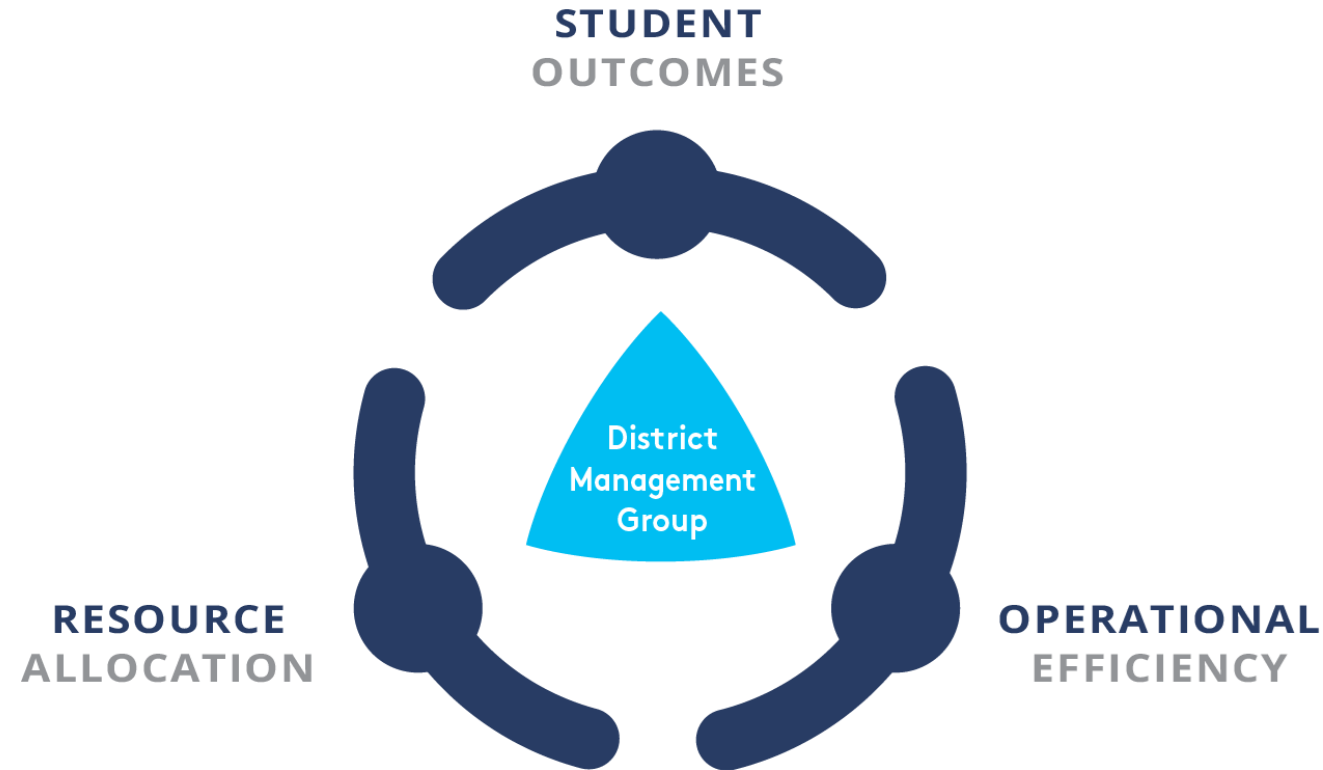
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District Management Group | Helping Schools and Students Thrive

Our mission is to achieve systemic improvement in public education by combining management techniques and education best practices.



We believe that a district must focus on meeting all three of these objectives to achieve lasting results for students.

Founded in 2004, DMGroup has partnered with hundreds of school districts across the US, helping them address their most pressing needs.

All Sizes of Districts



1,700 students
Rural



5,000
Suburban



6,800
Suburban



10,600
Gateway



55,000
Urban



100,000
Urban

Nationwide Experience



California



Minnesota



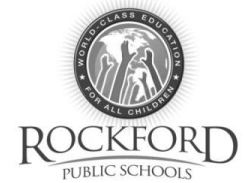
Texas



South Dakota



Maryland



Illinois

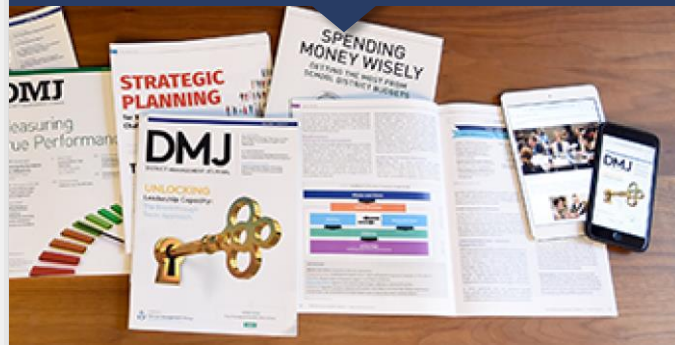
All Types of Districts



Selected DMGroup Partner Districts

DMGroup Offerings

DM Learning



Best-in-class knowledge and professional development, and a membership community of forward-thinking leaders learning, sharing, and making a difference for students.

DM Solutions



Structured and facilitated approaches to deliver tangible solutions to district challenges.

DM Consulting



Customized management consulting support across a variety of practice areas.

Agenda

Overview of a Balanced Calendar

Reasons to Adopt a Balanced Calendar

Considerations for Implementing a Balanced Calendar



A balanced calendar (or year-round education) is an approach to calendaring that reorganizes—but does not increase—the number of instructional days across the year.

Balanced calendar models

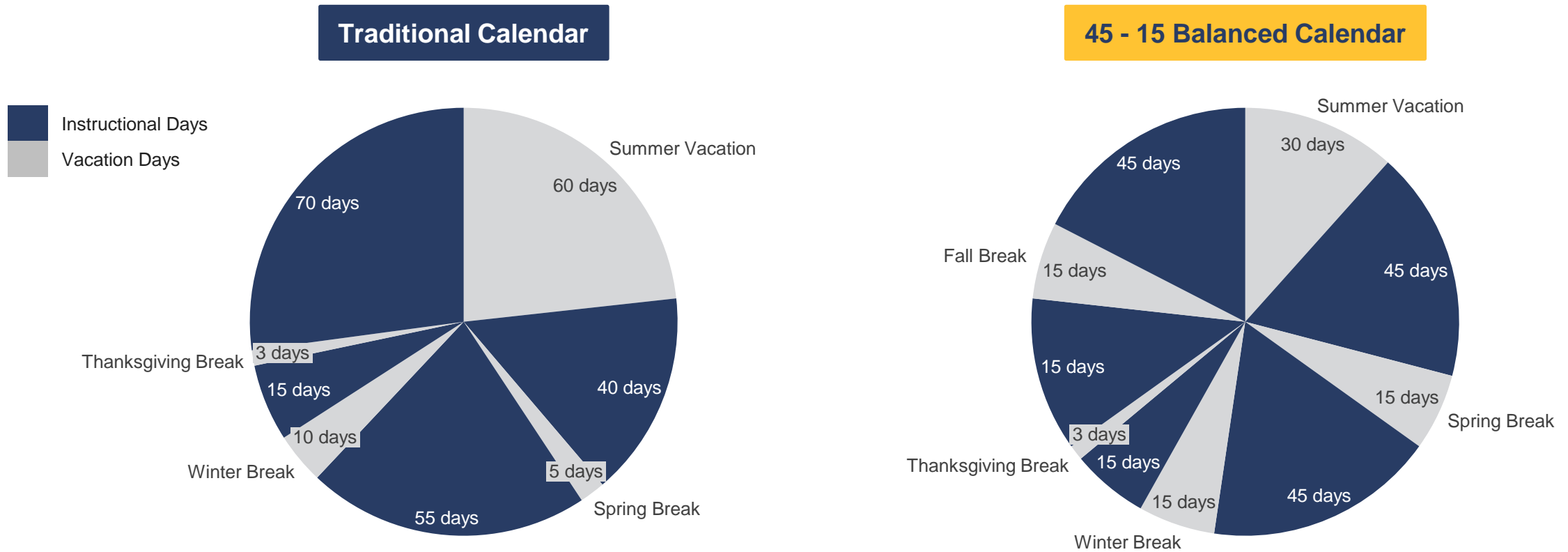
	Single – Track Scheduling Patterns				
	Traditional	45-10	45-15	60-20	90-30
Instructional Days	180	180	180	180	180
Instructional Term Length (days)	45 to 90	45	45	60	90
Length of Intersessions (days)	3-days to 12-weeks	10	15	20	30
Number of Intersessions	4	4	4	3	2
Summer Vacations	12 weeks	5 weeks	5 weeks	5 weeks	4 weeks

Most popular balanced calendar plan

The balanced calendar concept allows for a more continuous cycle of learning by reducing the time students spend on summer vacation.

A traditional calendar and balanced calendar have the same number of total instructional days—the pacing of those days varies, however.

School year breakdown



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Research has shown a balanced calendar improves student outcomes while increasing efficiency of resources.

Common benefits of a balanced calendar

Academics

Districts with balanced calendars report:

- Student increases in academic performance.
- Enhanced enrichment opportunities through innovative programming.

Student Success

Districts with balanced calendars report:

- Improved daily attendance.
- Fewer disciplinary referrals.
- Dropout rate decreases by up to 40%.
- High school seniors pursuing secondary education increases by up to 20%.

District Finances

Districts with balanced calendars report:

- Schools can increase the number of students they serve by upwards of 33%.
- Reductions in building costs, operating expenses, and instructional materials.

Districts that often benefit from a balanced calendar include those that are faced with issues around overcrowding, personnel shortages, and/or supporting high populations of students from underprivileged or low-socioeconomic backgrounds.

Source: LDOE Year-Round Education (YRE) Overview

A balanced calendar approach can also help school districts address some of the on-going challenges and impacts of COVID.

Impacts of COVID

COVID Challenges

Learning Loss

- Students experienced significant learning loss during the pandemic.

Teacher Burnout

- Job-related stress and exhaustion among teachers is at an all-time high.



Balanced Calendar Solutions

Student Achievement

- Increases access to additional learning time provided by content strong teachers during break periods.

Teacher Support

- More frequent breaks help alleviate the stress of teachers and staff.

In what ways could the balanced calendar approach address some of the academic or social-emotional challenges in your district?

What are potential challenges with using a balanced calendar approach in your district?

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Successfully implementing a balanced calendar require a thoughtful, needs-driven approach that is inclusive of all potential stakeholders, including staff, families, and community partners.

Key considerations for implementing a balanced calendar

Assess Need

Assess needs of the district to build urgency and assemble a coalition of stakeholders to research options, build support, and provide recommendations.

Learn From Others









Understand how other districts are using balanced calendars and the implications associated with the balanced calendar approach.

Build Teacher Buy-In

Build teacher investment in teaching during break periods through structuring opportunities for additional pay, prestige and professional development.

Districts should carefully review the potential need and impact of a balanced calendar approach in their district.

Checklist to bring a balanced calendar to school board vote

-  Assess students' academic and social emotional needs. 1
-  Review existing research and learn from other districts. 2
-  Align district leadership around purpose, goals, and a plan for change. 3
-  Establish a guiding coalition and connect with stakeholders to share benefits and gather feedback. 4
-  Draft a balanced calendar document. 5
-  Establish a draft plan for maximizing breaks to accelerate learning. 6
-  Share drafted calendar with stakeholders to refine and finalize. 7
-  Share final draft with school board. 8

Resources

- [DMGroup's Change Management Framework](#)
- [LDOE Guide: Implementing Adaptive and Flexible Staffing Plans and School Schedules](#)
- [LDOE Guide: Balanced School Calendar Model](#)

What steps would you need to take to further explore a balanced calendar approach in your district?

Q & A



District Management Group

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