

Balanced Calendars

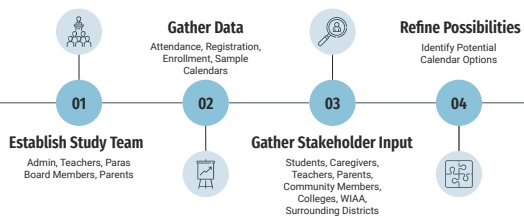
Stakeholder Insights from Planning through Implementation

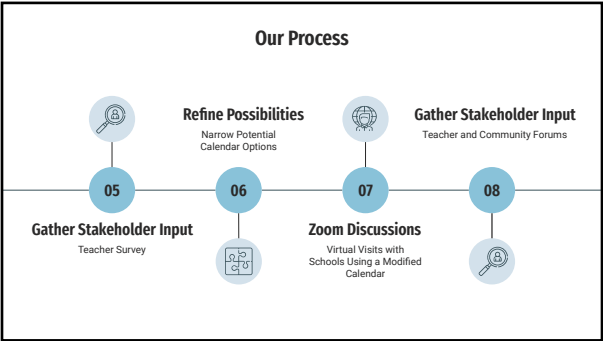
Brenda Mallonee, Julie Schillreff, & Angela Von Essen
AWSP/WASA Summer Conference
2 May 2022

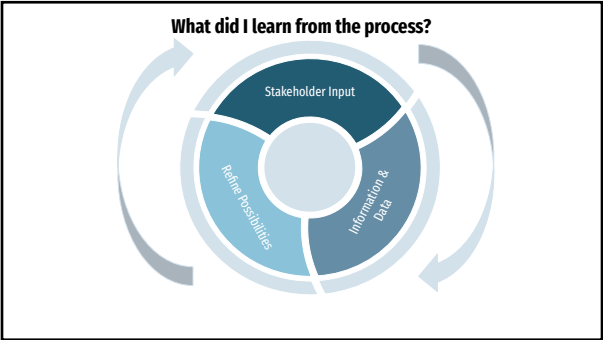


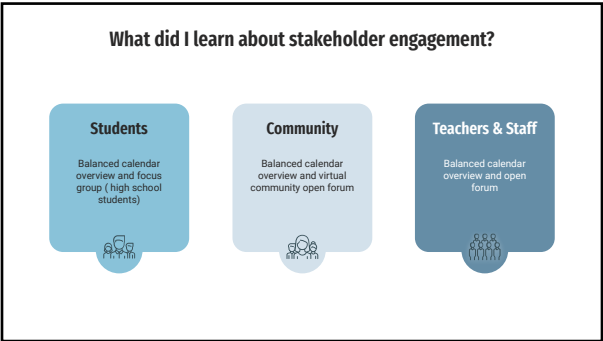
Kittitas School District

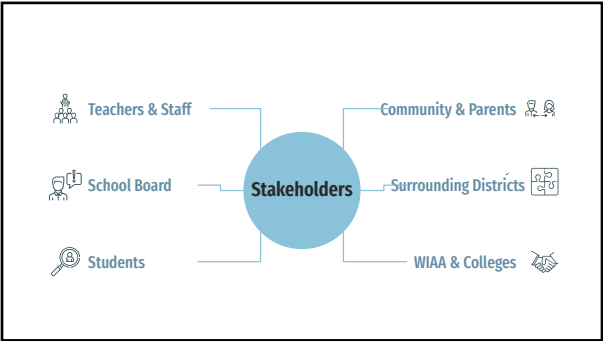
Our Process











Community & Parent Input

"I will have to update my parenting plan and it will be costly."

"Don't shorten Christmas break. We take vacations during that time."

"You can't start before labor day and the week after, because of the kids that show their animals at the fair."

"Are you going to provide child care year round?"

"Kids work on family farms."

Teachers & Staff Input

"We need our breaks."

"You will mess up our scope and sequence (of instruction)."

"We will take another day off if your going to give it to us."

"It will mess with graduation and family plans."

"We are Kittitas and this is not how we've done it in the past."

"How will it impact our student teachers?"

Student Input

"A lot of kids work during the summer."

"Kids that need it should go during the summer."

"My family takes vacations during the summer."

"Will it impact sports?"

A lot of kids are dealing with other issues besides school."

"A lot of my friends are behind and come to school to be with their friends."

Input from Surrounding Districts

"How will it impact games and competitions (sports)?"

"How will it work for Skill Center students?"

"Will you still have the same breaks?"

"You could get subs when school is out for other districts."

"There's too much to do. I don't have time to start another initiative."

Input from Colleges

"When is your graduation?"

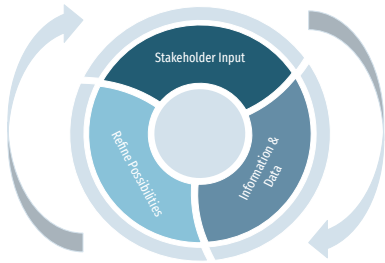
"Are you able to take student teachers?"

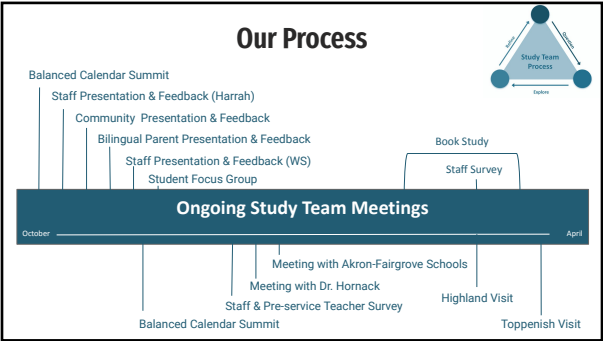
"Please consider how it will impact your Running Start students."

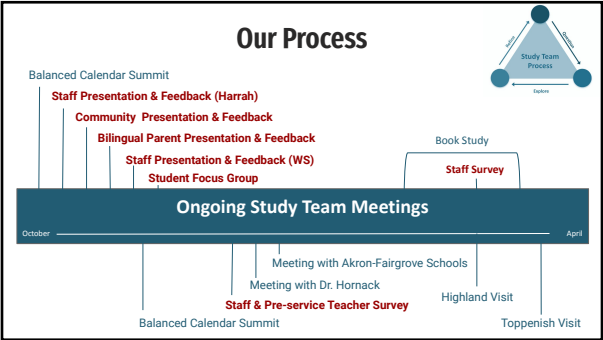
"We need to discuss College in the High School."

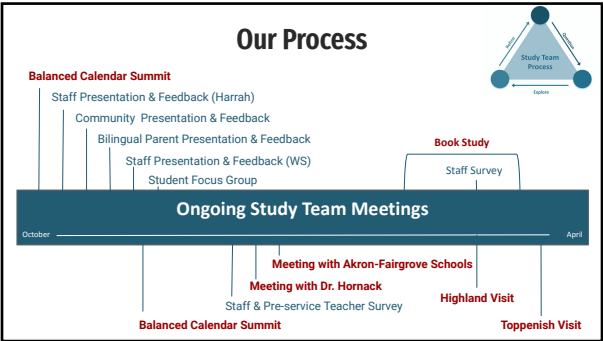
Lessons Learned	
01	Utilize student voice to drive the work
02	Get the union and group of teachers to lead the work
03	
04	

Mt. Adams School District









Stakeholder Engagement

Students

Balanced calendar overview and focus group (middle and high school students)



Caregivers & Community

Balanced calendar overview and virtual community open forum



Teachers & Staff

Balanced calendar overview and open forum



Community & Caregiver Input

Survey Teachers First

Consider Local Traditions

Involve the Tribe
Make Sure Native Voices are Heard

Look at Like Schools for Comparison

Consider Additional Changes

Consider Attendance Rates

Consider Impact on Graduation

Consider Impact on Teacher Turnover

Consider Impact on Special Education Services

Teacher & Staff Input

Consider Additional Changes

Consider Effect on Grading Periods & Credits

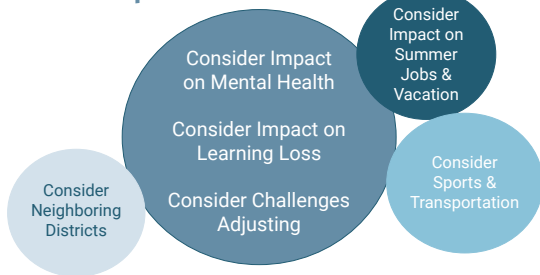
Consider Limits on Facilities & Transportation

Consider Neighboring Districts

Consider Impact on Summer Jobs

Consider Adding Additional Teacher Training Days

Student Input



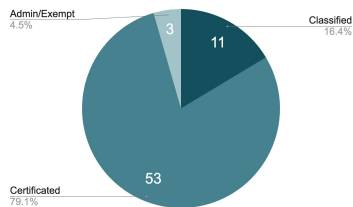
2022-23 Balanced Calendar (Student)

July 2022	August 2022 (15)	September 2022 (15)	October 2022 (15)
Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa	Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa	Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa	Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa
1 2	1 2 3 4 5 6	1 2 3	1
3 4 5 6 7 8 9	7 8 9 10 11 12 13	4 5 6 7 8 9 10	2 3 4 5 6 7 8
10 11 12 13 14 15 16	14 15 16 17 18 19 20	11 12 13 14 15 16 17	9 10 11 12 13 14 15
17 18 19 20 21 22 23	21 22 23 24 25 26 27	18 19 20 21 22 23 24	16 17 18 19 20 21 22
24 25 26 27 28 29 30	28 29 30 31	25 26 27 28 29 30	23 24 25 26 27 28 29
31			30 31
November 2022 (16)	December 2022 (15)	January 2023 (15)	February 2023 (16)
Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa	Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa	Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa	Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa
1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1 2 3 4
6 7 8 9 10 11 12	4 5 6 7 8 9 10	8 9 10 11 12 13 14	5 6 7 8 9 10 11
13 14 15 16 17 18 19	11 12 13 14 15 16 17	15 16 17 18 19 20 21	12 13 14 15 16 17 18
20 21 22 23 24 25 26	18 19 20 21 22 23 24	22 23 24 25 26 27 28	19 20 21 22 23 24 25
27 28 29 30	25 26 27 28 29 30 31	29 30 31	26 27 28
March 2023 (15)	April 2023 (15)	May 2023 (15)	June 2023 (15)
Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa	Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa	Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa	Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa
1 2 3 4	1	1 2 3 4 5 6	1 2 3
5 6 7 8 9 10 11	2 3 4 5 6 7 8	7 8 9 10 11 12 13	4 5 6 7 8 9 10
12 13 14 15 16 17 18	9 10 11 12 13 14 15	14 15 16 17 18 19 20	11 12 13 14 15 16 17
19 20 21 22 23 24 25	16 17 18 19 20 21 22	21 22 23 24 25 26 27	18 19 20 21 22 23 24
26 27 28 29 30 31	23 24 25 26 27 28 29	28 29 30 31	25 26 27 28 29 30
	30		

Staff Survey Insights

Participants

- 69 staff members completed the survey
- 53 certificated staff participated
- 11 classified staff participated
- 3 admin or exempt staff participated

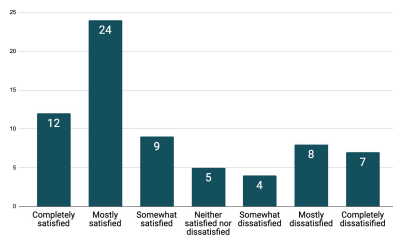


Staff Survey Insights

	Calendar 1 Student Suggestion	Calendar 2 45-10	Calendar 3 30-5-30-10	Calendar 4 Traditional
Positive	65.2%	31.9%	29.0%	50.7%
Neutral	7.2%	14.5%	18.8%	17.4%
Negative	27.5%	53.6%	52.5%	31.9%

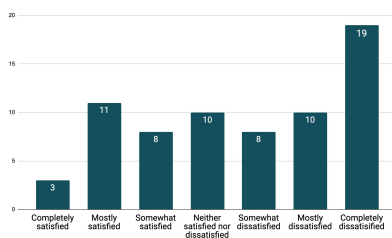
Staff Survey Insights

Calendar 1:
Student Suggestion



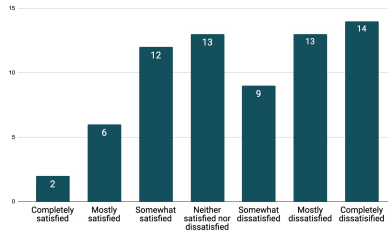
Staff Survey Insights

Calendar 2:
45-10



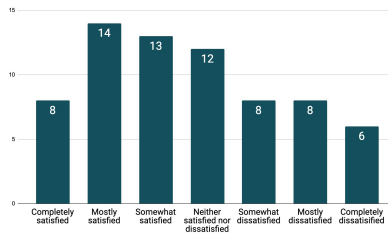
Staff Survey Insights

Calendar 3:
30-5-30-10

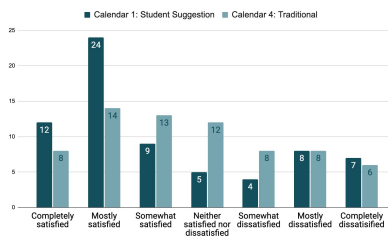


Staff Survey Insights

Calendar 4:
Traditional



Staff Survey Insights



Next Steps

- **Continue** conversation with Toppenish, Highland, Wahluke
- **Hold** parent meeting at the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year to get feedback on balanced calendar and modified schedule
- **Send** stakeholder groups to Highland's first 2022-2023 intercession
- **Structure** conversations to foster use intercession teaching methods during the regular school day
- **Survey** staff, students, and parents after first intercession
- **Consider** how to determine which students will be prioritized for intercession
- **Hold** first intercession in spring of 2022-2023

Lessons Learned

- **Engage** and **listen** to students
- **Create** an inclusive study team
- **Involve** the union from the beginning
- **Look** inward and outward
- **Visit** and **engage** in conversation with like districts

Balanced Calendar Resources



- 12-1-2021 - [Feedback from Initial Balanced Calendar Meetings](#)
- 12-1-2021 - [Balanced Calendar Week Record](#)
- 11-1-2021 - [Balanced Calendar Timeline](#)
- 10-26-2021 - [Balanced Calendars: An Overview \(English Presentation / Spanish Presentation\)](#)

Toppenish School District

Balanced Calendar Journey in Toppenish



2020-2021 (COVID Pandemic)

- 4-day Work Week
- Summer School on Fridays (AM only)
- Waiver from OSPI (167 school days)
- Resolution from School Board



Successful Implementation...

- Ad Team became experts in balanced calendar- Explain the Why!
- Conversations with TEA & PSE
- TEA, PSE, and Admin were the greatest advocates
- Our community follows the guidance of TEA, PSE, and our Administrators



2021-2022

- 4.5-Work Day
- Summer School - Friday afternoon
- We extended the school calendar by adding weeks off throughout the year
- School Board wanted kids in school 5-days a week



2021-22 Staff Survey & Results

- 137 staff members took the survey
- 96% of staff want to keep balanced calendar



Areas of Improvement from Staff

- Fix conferences (Late Wednesday & Thursday- work early Friday)
- Consider more 3-day weekends
- Would like to go back to the 4-day work week
- Transition time is a little rough for staff and students after break-sleeping in
- Difficult to get doctor appointments Monday-Thursday after 4:00
- Flip elementary & secondary start times



Areas of Greatness from Staff

- "I appreciate that I have an entire week to decompress, recover, and recharge. It is helping me with teacher burnout."
- "It is nice to look forward to frequent breaks, it helps lessen the burnout factor."
- "As a parent, the balanced calendar increases time to spend with family. I am able to schedule medical/dental/eye appointments on Friday afternoons."
- "Although the October break was great, it would have been nice to have it a week later, my family hunts." :)
- "As a new teacher, I opted to not teach during Wildcat Academy. This has given me time to lesson plan on Friday afternoons instead of on the weekends."



2021-22 Student Survey Results

- 108 students surveyed
 - Attend Summer School 2020-21
 - Attend Wildcat Academy
- Garfield- 100%
- Kirkwood- 55%
- Lincoln- 100%
- Valley View- 78%
- TMS- 83%
- THS- 80%
- 83% Students support Wildcat Academy



Student Feedback

- "When I was invited to Summer school it felt like it was because I wasn't smart and I don't like to feel that way."
- "Summer school isn't fair because we want to go on vacation too, but we are stuck in school."
- "I like getting help each week and not waiting for Summer school to catch up."



Student Feedback

- "The balanced calendar is better because we didn't have good breaks with the other calendar. The breaks are more peaceful. I don't like that I didn't get to see all my friends during Summer school, I struggle with school, they don't. Wildcat Academy is more better because you get to switch rooms, see friends, and have more choices."
- "The smaller the breaks, the more my brain can remember."
- "I like that everyone is invited to Wildcat Academy. If you don't need help, you can learn something new."



Student Feedback

- "I want Summer school back because I get bored at home over the Summer."
- "I would like a blended model- If you need help, the school should ask you to attend Summer school, or Wildcat Academy. Learning should be open to anyone who wants help. The smart get smarter... We should trust the science behind smaller breaks, if the studies say it is better for kids, we should be using research to guide our calendar, not opinions." -Danny (THS)



Student Feedback

- "I like smaller breaks for learning, longer breaks for traveling."
- "Instead of going to Summer school, we can attend on Friday and have all of Summer off, it is a way better deal. School is stressful, the breaks give you a chance to be home, rest, and recharge so that we can be better prepared to learn."
- "I like Fridays to catch up on missing assignments."



Student Feedback

- "Fridays are better because you get to have a Summer break. All my learning happens during the school year."
- "You get to spend time with people that you know during Wildcat Academy. Summer school wasn't fun because you were in a room with people that you didn't know. I like learning with my friends during Wildcat academy."
- "I reckon for learning, the shorter Summer is better, but I like a long Summer to relax."



Learned Lessons Along the Way...

- Meals should be available for students during all breaks- create the system
- Students want to stay in their own building for Wildcat Academy, or Summer School- They want to see friends and familiar faces- positive learning environment
- Make sure the administration can visit with teachers about the why!
 - Balanced calendar
- Get TEA & PSE buy in
- If you are changing hours to contract- do this before the start of the year, think about optional days, sick days, etc.



Learned Lessons Along the Way...

- Open up Summer school and Wildcat Academy to all students- how you advertise can negatively affect students self-worth
- 4-day work week will work if you have staff living in district or a rotation (on call model)
- 4.5-work day model works better for staff who live out of district.

Thank you!
Questions?

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