PORT TOWNSEND SCHOOL CALENDAR

Nov 19, 2022

Staff Survey Report

Survey administered by:

Port Townsend District's School Calendar Survey Group (SCWG)

Respondents:

Port Townsend District's Classified and Certificated Staff (Staff)

Survey Open Dates:

November 2nd - November 18th, 2022

OVERVIEW

The PT School Calendar Working Group (SCWG) launched an engagement process for the 2023-24 school calendar with a presentation at the November All Staff meeting. SCWG members presented summary information gleaned from the Regional Balanced Calendar Conference held in Yakima in October, 2022. A post-staff meeting survey was distributed to the PT School Staff to gather their feedback, insights, and considerations for the 2023 Port Townsend School Calendar.

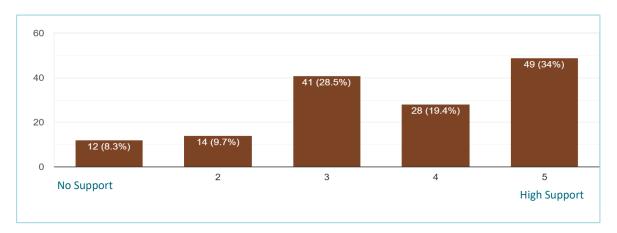
The PT Staff survey had an 81% response rate with a total of 144 respondents who completed the survey out of 176 total possible Port Townsend District staff. This included responses from:

- 55 out of 84 possible classified staff
- 89 out of a possible 92 certificated staff

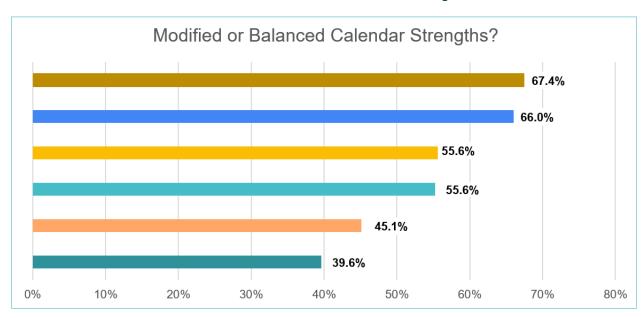
Themes from this survey's responses will be identified by the SCWG. These themes will be employed to anchor discussions at an upcoming Staff Meeting around improving student learning with a modified or balanced calendar.

This school calendar exploration is part of a greater initiative from the Washington State Legislature about learning recovery. We will continue this process of engaging our students, staff, and community prior to finalizing the 2023-24 calendar by April 2023, and beyond, into upcoming school years.

Survey Question 1 Responses - "What is your level of support right now for the general idea to spread out our 180 school days in a modified or balanced calendar?"



Survey Question 2 Responses - What are possible strengths of spreading out our 180 school days in a modified or balanced calendar? Shown below in voted order from highest to lowest.

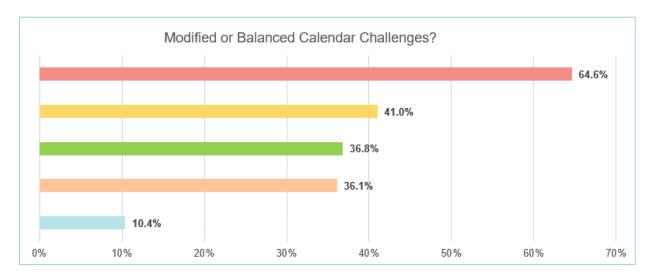


- 67.4% Prevent staff burn out and/or increase staff retention
- 66.0% Positive impact on student learning (prevent summer learning loss, less re-teaching)
- 55.6% Ability to travel at non-peak times
- 55.6% Student access to resources/care are more continuous
- 45.1% Improve student attendance (e.g. appointments, family vacations can shift to breaks)
- 39.6% Possibility of enrichment, intervention & credit recovery during intersessions

Additional Survey Question #2 feedback regarding "strengths" - sorted into themes.

| Opposed | Pro | Non-Committal |
|---|--|--|
| We can still offer enrichment, intervention, and credit recovery with the current calendar. I don't see this making a positive change for travel, staff burn out or improving attendance. | Having increased intervals to perform building maintenance and repairs | There is not enough information to even consider benefits yet |
| I don't think it is going to change any of these things. I think this is well intentioned. | Choose the Quilcene schedule! Make the change for sem. 2, 2022/23! | I'm trying to envision if these are REAL or they sound good. |
| I do not support extending the school year. | Extra earning opportunity for teachers who want to work the breaks. | |
| | TIME FOR CHANGE BABY | |

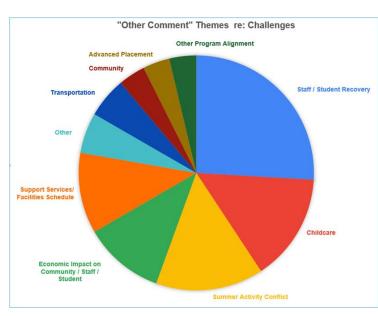
Survey Question 3 Responses - What are possible challenges of spreading out our 180 school days in a modified or balanced calendar? Check all that apply for you.



- 64.6% Shorter summer break
- 41.0% Alignment with my own children's district
- 36.8% Funding for intersession activities
- 36.1% Athletics scheduling
- 10.4% Alignment of calendar with neighboring districts

There were 54 "Other Comments" re: challenges, illustrated by Theme-related Percentages below, and shown in detail on the following pages.

- Staff/Student Recovery 25.92%
- Childcare 14.81%
- Summer Activity Conflict 14.81%
- Economic Impact 11.11%
- Support Service/Facilities Schedule 11.11%
- Other 5.57%
- Transportation 5.57%
- Community 3.7%
- Advanced Placement Prep 3.7%
- Other Program Alignment 3.7%



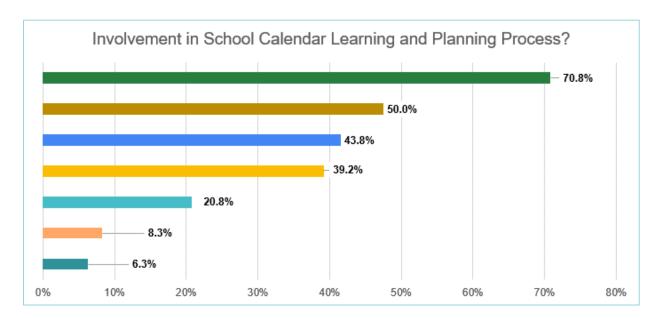
| Theme | Survey Question 3 - Feedback | |
|-----------------------|--|--|
| Theme Staff Recovery | Survey Question 3 - Feedback Not sufficient time for teacher recovery Teachers working beyond their contracts during intersections i.e. teacher burnout because the will be "asked" to work during these times. Student focus during sunny summer days The 1st year or 2 will be difficult for students to adjust to attending school during traditional summer days. I need the entire summer to completely decompress from the previous year and get ready for the new year. Burnout of Sped staff, concern over retention in those teaching areas if sped continues during intersessions Also, if staff are working during intersessions, that doesn't prevent burnout. As students approach the breaks, they often lose focus. I'm concerned about a perpetual loss of focus. With the example 45-day calendar, units of study that begin mid-quarter and last multiple weeks will need to be shorted and therefore not as deep. Teachers will not get a full respite as they will either be grading or preparing units of study for when school resumes. A new kind of burnout. Having staff work longer and more days due to the constant need for credit recovery and interventions. Some people have shared with me that they are concerned that they would be pressured into working intercessions when they don't want to. For example, say you are a SPED para assigned to a student who receives a 1:1but you need the break. I think some teachers are thinking about that, too. Inter-sessions are good ideas, but what if people feel it is politically correct to work them, but don't want to. I wonder, if teachers need the breaks during intersessions, who will be teaching the students? | |
| | How would staffing look? As I usually work 2 weeks before and after school starts and lets out, I'm wondering if I will get any summer break. I also wonder if the staff will get breaks at all if programs for sports, enrichment and intervention will carry through the breaks. | |
| Childcare | Childcare for working families Day Care for Parents daycare during intermittent breaks. Childcare during intercession Childcare Childcare accessibility Childcare for parents. Parents finding childcare | |

| Theme | Survey Question 3 - Feedback | |
|---------------------|---|--|
| | How will staff who need/want to get credits/programs completed be able to do this as we would no longer match to the universities summer schedules. | |
| | Summer here is in July and August, not Juneuary | |
| Summer Activity | Many Cultural Events happen during the summer. | |
| Conflict | I don't want to miss prime SUMMER in PT (Basically August) | |
| | HS student summer jobs | |
| | Scheduling of activities over a shorter summer break | |
| | Our district has not been able to implement robust summer scheduling | |
| | Tough for students that need to work to earn \$\$ for their families, less days to earn \$\$. | |
| Economic Impact | Second jobs for classified staff. A lot of us must rely on jobs during the summer to make ends meet since. | |
| (Personal and/or | Summer job | |
| Community) | Other employment for classified staff and for PTHS students | |
| | Effect on local businesses that depend on student employees during the summer break | |
| | Summer work for high schoolers may not be an issue | |
| | Air Conditioning for Hot Summer Days in classrooms | |
| | Scheduling of support services (camps for childcare, food services, etc.) during shorter breaks might be more difficult. | |
| Support Services/ | Will they have access to food services? | |
| Facilities | Cleaning time | |
| | Difficult to complete regularly scheduled major building improvements | |
| | Being able to perform large scale projects that require increased time of no building | |
| | occupancy. | |
| Other | Alignment with all regional schools. LOTS of us have partners/children in other districts. | |
| Comments | There may be challenges but it is better for staff and students | |
| | TIME FOR CHANGE BABY | |
| Toward and the Co | Transportation | |
| Transportation | Transportation during intersession breaks | |
| | Transportation drivers | |
| | Lost opportunity for community enrichment that usually happens during a longer | |
| Community | summer break like camps | |
| | Accessibility for the community to give input. | |

| Theme | Survey Question 3 - Feedback | |
|----------------------------|--|--|
| AP Exam Prep | A modified calendar looks great, but I worry about AP classes in a balanced calendar. How would we get students prepared in time for an early May exam with so much of our year happening afterwards? Preparedness for AP Exams | |
| Other Program Alignment | Choose the Quilcene schedule! Make the change for sem. 2, 2022/23! Collaborating with other programs like Running Start and West Sound Tech | |

Survey Question 4 Responses

In what capacity would you like to be involved in the learning and planning process about a changed calendar? Check all that apply for you.

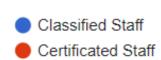


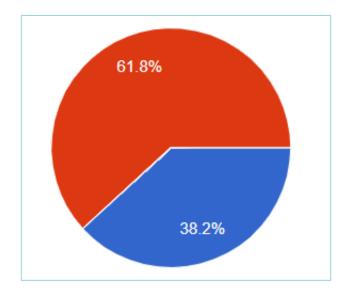
- 70.8% Complete surveys
- 50.0% Read district and union communication about this
- 43.8% Give feedback to working group members
- 29.2% Attend informational meetings and provide feedback/input
- 20.8% No personal involvement trust the process
- 8.3% Be part of the school calendar working group
- 6.3% Be part of a book study (more details to come)

Below are 7 "Other Comments" re: involvement capacity.

- If help is needed, I am willing. I am not sure in what capacity.
- Choose the Quilcene schedule! Make the change for sem. 2, 2022/23!
- Like the Zoom meeting format of sharing Information
- Union directed decision making I wonder if the final decision will involve the two unions or if there is a different method?
- Like to be part of planning, but currently only one one-year leave replacement contract.
- Union directed surveys as well.
- Just keep me informed.

Survey Question 5 Response - Are You Classified Staff or Certificated Staff?





The 144 respondents consisted of 38.2% Certificated Staff and 61.8% Classified Staff.

Survey response rate compared to the total number of staff who received the survey.

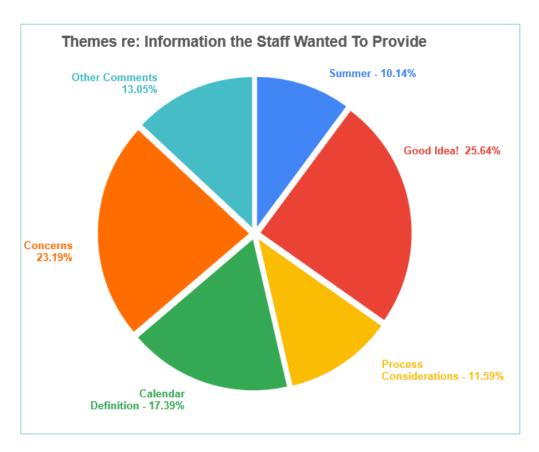
A total of 144 respondents completed the survey out of a possible 180 total Port Townsend District staff.

Below is the number of respondents, broken down by Classified and Certificated, vs. total possible staff who could have taken the survey:

- 55 out of 80 possible classified staff responded
- 89 certificated staff out of a possible 100 staff responded

Survey Question 6 Responses - Is there anything else you would like us to know?

There were 69 pieces of feedback re: thoughts the staff wanted to share. These are illustrated by theme-related percentages below, and shown in detail on the following pages.



- Summer Considerations 10.14%
- It's a good idea! 25.64%
- Process Considerations 11.59%
- Calendar Definition 17.39%
- Concerns 23.19%
- Other Comments 13.05%

Theme **Survey Question 6 - Feedback** • I feel that the summer break should be 6 weeks minimum. 30 days seems far too short- to see family and provide a camp-like activity to our children. I could see something like 6 weeks of summer break, and 3 two-week breaks sprinkled throughout the year? Or a 2-week winter break, a 1 week break in October, a week over thanksgiving, 2 weeks for winter break, a one-week mid-winter break, and a 1 week spring break? But I guess that last idea wouldn't be so good for intersession opportunities. I like the idea of the modified calendar more than a truly balanced calendar in terms of my own needs but I'm not sure that will do anything in terms of changing the analysis on learning loss. I also feel very very strongly that the summer break should involve all of August. Do NOT have us go back to school earlier, instead end school later. June and even early July is often not that great whereas mid-July through Mid-September is glorious. PLEASE do not strip us of our best weather days. 1. Need Classified staff often use their summer breaks to earn more money. Life here is expensive. Summer Summer break should happen when we have actual warm weather in PT--like July I think that people who do not travel (stay home and garden etc.) during the summer - sailing trips, backpacking, international travel, intranational travel etc. may not care when the summer break occurs and may sway numbers when voting comes about. I think that those who make adventure and travel part of their decompression process from school need to be heard from because weather makes a HUGE difference as to what they can do outside or in other places. Not sure how I feel about the shorter summer. As I'm about to introduce a new child into my life, my partner and I would need the longer summer. Have a business to augment my annual salary. I am a paraprofessional and need my summers to earn more money so that I don't have to live paycheck to paycheck. Who would hire me for short term employment? The balanced calendar would allow for a more timely response to certain types of facility maintenance that cannot be done while school is in session. Thank you for your hard work. The data that was shared makes this a priority for our low-income families. This has the potential to help some of those families to break the cycle of poverty. So exciting! No, I'd be excited to try this! Love this idea for so many reasons! Thank you for doing this work. Most balanced models and year-round models are specific to larger school districts. Ours is small enough where this shouldn't be an issue. 2. Good I think it is a good idea to begin with a modified schedule Idea I worked in a balanced schedule when I taught overseas. I loved it. We have used it in our past through Swan School. It was wonderful! • If longer breaks are taken more frequently during the year, the continuity of learning will be interrupted. I support a mid-winter break. This is a good idea. I have worked a similar schedule in the past. • The modified calendar (like Quilcene's) has so many great benefits over our traditional calendar without any of the drawbacks of a fully balanced calendar. Big supporter of that one.

Theme

Survey Question 6 - Feedback

- Love the idea! Thanks for all your work learning about the details!
- I'm all in
- I've worked on a more balanced school calendar, and I liked it better. I could travel during the winter break, and I felt less burn out.
- I'm a big fan of this and would be interested in working intersessions if needed. This change would make the job of teaching MUCH MORE enjoyable and less stressful than it is now. As I'm moving into my older years I'm finding there is a huge penalty for trying to travel on traditional non-school windows (my wife is going alone to Mexico in early January because going a week earlier was \$2600 round trip and so she is going a week later for just \$600 very frustrating!!
- I love the idea of a balanced school year!
- I love this idea and hope the community is open to it

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- This is a decision that cannot (most likely) be undone, we should take more time to bring in appropriate stakeholders and research other districts of our similar size who have chosen this route.
- I think that it helps to emphasize that the proposed schedule change only starts us one week earlier than
 we would usually. I think other teachers are concerned that they would lose a larger chunk of their
 summers.
- I think that we should be looking into having shorter 4-day weeks with 3-day weekends for a more balanced approach. Perhaps this leads to a shorter summer break.

3. Process

- I think it would be easier for people to understand if an example of the balanced calendar was shown for the 2023/24 school year. Show exactly which days would be school days and which days would be break. I think this should be a priority or people are all going to have a different idea what the balanced calendar will look like then when it's decided, it might not go over well.
- It would be good to show potential calendars and how they impact classified staff schedules directly. Who would be on campus for intersessions, etc.
- Based on the wording of the questions, it seems like the decision has already been made.
- My students formerly attended a school with a balanced calendar. As a working parent in this town, it was incredibly difficult. While I think it is a benefit to students (so support it) we would need to organize local organizations to pivot in their scheduling as well for this to really be robust and supportive of our families (NW Maritime Center and their student classes, PT Marine Science Center, 4-H, YMCA, CedarRoot, SBG, Pop Up Movement, Twister's, etc). Happy to brainstorm this challenge as needed. MB
- This seems to be district handed down that this will be happening, and our voices do not matter.

4. Calendar Definition

- Choose the Quilcene style schedule as a first step. This would meet several of the goals, but without creating a radical change with community grumpiness-it would also make AP prep stronger, rather than weaker potentially in a true year-round system.
- We should not get out in June if we modify!
- Given the nice weather we usually have in the fall and the not so nice weather we have in June, I think it makes more sense to start when we have traditionally, then go a little later
- If we do want to move in this direction, I think we would NOT want to change things, or change very minimally for 23-24.

Theme

Survey Question 6 - Feedback

- As a school principal, breaks are important to my ability to refresh and effectively do my job. I would like
 at least July off, and I would not want to have to work all the intersession time to supervise
 students/staff are doing those sessions.
- AUGUST is our best month of summer.
- SPORTS should also drive this schedule.
- Will this affect conference days and can we line up conference days so that they're right after Halloween?
- I'd much rather lose June summer days than start earlier in August. Not only because August is prime vacation time, but the classrooms/buildings will be much hotter in August.
- I believe and extra break between January and Spring break would be helpful as I find myself, and observe students, being a bit burned out around March.
- Very curious what SPED services look like at these schools, how does this affect timelines? How are we planning for burnout in these roles?
- Consideration for SPED: the time needed to establish schedules and routines
- I support a February break around President's Day
- The maintenance crew does the bulk of their work in the summer. How would that work?
- I feel that this is still inequitable for families who are not attending the intersessions.
- Are we assuming that if students/staff are not attending intersessions, they will be on vacation? What will students be doing? Who will be watching them when they are not at school?
- What about food and child-care for kids not participating in intercessions?
- Differences of haves and have nots, with achievements gaps will still be happening.
- While I understand some of the proposed benefits, I think the barriers we have in our district will remain. We do not provide robust year-round resources for families---and I don't think having intersessions would make a difference for any but perhaps decreasing the need for high school credit recovery. A great effort was made this year to provide summer school and the offered activities were some of the best in years but we still didn't have a good turnout of staffing or students.

5. Concerns

- Having taught several summer sessions in the past, it seemed the most we could provide was glorified daycare with a few enrichment activities. Nothing comparable to continuing academic learning with full support services. While tweaking this and that to improve our students' learning outcomes, we are up against figuring out how to try to ameliorate problems that run deep in our community and our larger society.
- Concerned that changing our scheduling will really add to our students' anxiety about school ---they are used to looking forward to a long summer vacation and to change that while they still have not recovered from the last few years seems almost unconscionable. The scheduling changes that are still not fully implemented in our school are causing a lot of anxiety in students and many feel quite discouraged. If we do want to move in this direction, I think we would NOT want to change things, or change very minimally for 23-24.
- I am concerned about the impact a balanced calendar will have on the athletic competition schedule for HS sports.

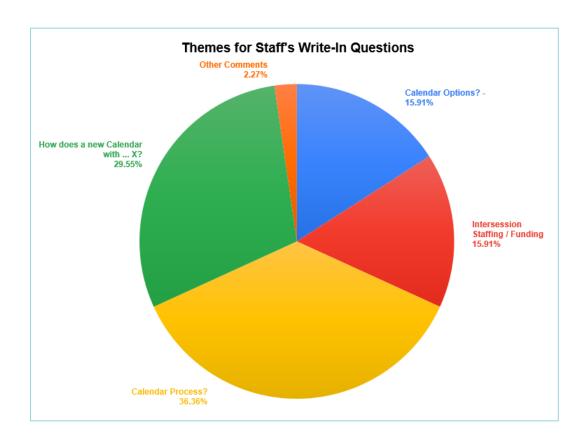
Theme **Survey Question 6 - Feedback** Coming from a district where I had to run "WASL camp" during winter break (100% test prep and pizza), part of the intersession idea concerns me. Though some students may need "more than 180 days" of school, I wonder how we could be sure that all students actually get to attend enrichment activities. • CHILD CARE will be a nightmare. Not every working parent gets the option of these intermittent breaks to spend time with their kids. There is limited vacation days for working parents. Unless the district is planning to provide childcare, kids need a place to go. Especially our elementary kids. • FLU/ILLNESS drives a lot of our absences in the fall, winter, early spring. School helps build the immune system. So, this constant in and out of the building is really going to play a toll on our kids. • I have major concerns around educators not having the opportunity to recharge due to lesson and curriculum planning that will need to take place during the 'breaks' when school is not in session. If longer breaks occur during the year, students will struggle to with continuity of learning. • We are a tourist town that depends on PTHS students for summer employment. Having a short summer could impact our community. I used to be a business owner and couldn't have survived without their Based on the presentation, it seems like the lower-level students will still have trouble accessing the services. It sounded like services would be optional. If there are enrichment options and bus services, food and supervision are not available that would be an issue. If those are available, who is working to provide them? Australia does roughly 10 weeks on, 2 off, 10 on, 2 off, ten on 2 off ten on and six off for summer, that happens to include December holidays and the New year. • I would love to see more equity support for access to museums, camps & other activities regardless of the calendar chosen. Please share all survey results with district staff members. There should be at least equal, if not more, teachers that are part of the calendar working group. • There is not a lot of clarity around this, specifically with the calendar dates. Also, PT really needs to think about how the rest of the peninsula is doing this. Only PA and PT are on the grant, not every district. Therefore, this type of change really needs to benefit the entire peninsula and not just a few select communities 6. Teacher burnout should not be reason for modified calendar...many of us our burnout because of being Other overworked and lack of planning time, or the initiatives that keep getting pushed out on us. Comments How many school days are dedicated to core classes, and how much time is already lost from those classes (smaller class times) due to outside requirements - considering National averages going down in reading, writing, and math. As an employee working in the same school as my child, I would require a schedule to that matches my · We spend a lot of hours at meetings, which takes away prep and planning time. This contributes to teacher burnout, because we then have to put in more hours on the weekends and during breaks. . I see many problems in our current school year where we are not providing the quality of academics

administration, teaching, staff, were operating optimally for our students now.

that students deserve--I wish we could spend more time and energy, money, etc. making sure all levels of

Survey Question 7 Responses — "Is there anything else you would like to ask? Note: questions posed here will not be answered individually. Rather they will be taken into consideration and answered at a later time or considered for Professional Development."

There were 44 questions Staff members asked through this survey. These questions are illustrated by theme-related percentages below, and shown in detail on the following pages.



- Calendar Options? 15.91%
- Intersession Staffing / Funding 15.91%
- Calendar Process 36.36%
- How will Calendar work with...**X**? 29.55%
- Other Comments 2.27%

Theme **Survey Question 7 - Feedback** Has the District ever investigated a 4-day week (longer days = longer weekends)? Will we take local weather patterns into account when restructuring our schedule (i.e. June is freezing so no need to be off, but August/September are often great weather)? Any way to get a full week for mid-winter break this year? "How will this affect different employees with different responsibilities or different days per year contracts? It would be helpful to outline this in each option what the individual impacts are to each 1. Calendar classification. **Options?** Can we get the full week off in February this school year? Maybe by getting rid of our 2 snow days? Teachers and students really need that mid-winter break. Can you please give us the exact dates for the breaks we are proposing? Can we not expand Spring Break? Spring is the best time to travel. Seems like a bummer to have our first break after the snow comes in mid-October. Outdoors people are going want some extra time outdoors- especially if we are talking about mental health breaks. Is there any way that we could make adjustments to the 2022-2023 School Calendar, such as giving us a full week off in February (similar to the Quilcene calendar) in exchange for our two snow days? • During the intersession times, if these are not part of the 180 days for the kids, would teachers get paid extra to work? It looks like students are not required to be there, but teachers are going to be teaching. • Funding for intercessions/intervention? • Who is going to be teaching during the break times? This seems to contribute to burnout. • "Will we be required to do the intercession? Or is this optional? 2. • Who is working the intersessions? What do students do that do not go to intersessions? Are the Staffing/ intersessions going to be achievement gap and enrichment courses? Have you thought about the impact **Funding** of the community during summer (\$ that we pay for summer camps, classes, summer jobs)? When are Interteachers supposed to do their professional development when the times do not line up with the sessions calendar? • I'm wondering if there will be pressure for Special Education staff to attend the intersession. • "As a special Ed para, there is a lot of fear regarding the intersession periods because our students will need to still be at school for catch up work which means that we won't get a break and be therefore very burnt out/won't get the benefits from this schedule. There is a lot of pressure to have to be there, even if I feel like I need a break. How will we check in with students/families that currently rely on the long summer for seasonal work to provide needed income? What do kids think?" 3. Calendar Would the balanced calendar be up for union feedback/approval as has been done in years past (but Process? was not done this year or last)? The most important factor is to find similar sized districts and research their findings or opinions of nonadministrative personnel as to their satisfaction with the changes (certified, classified and families)

Theme

Survey Question 7 - Feedback

- Who, ultimately, makes the final decision regarding specific calendar dates? Is it the calendar work group?
- How will the final decision on this be made? How long will the decision-making process take? How will teachers access summer PD if we don't have enough time to both take PD AND recharge during the summer? Where is the data to support the claims made by the team who presented?
- "I would like to see the data from districts that have implemented this.
- Will our families and community members have the opportunity to voice opinions and concerns around proposed schedules?
- When will be the first try or attempt for this new modified calendar?
- If we are thinking that students will remember less with smaller breaks, what research supports the
 length of these breaks basically, at what amount of time do students start forgetting the material. I
 believe it is less than you might think.
- "What is the transition plan from going from a traditional to a balanced calendar? Would summer 2023 be 1 month before the transition to make the calendar more balanced?
- Is there research that a modified calendar does anything to lessen the learning gaps? What is the
 maximum length of a shorter summer break you can have that would still have a significant dent
 combating learning loss.
- What is specific data in retention? Where is the proof that year-round or a modified schedule really
 helps the discrepancy among various socioeconomic statuses? Do you have REAL data (not opinionbased survey responses) that prove a modified calendar approach works in THE US? Let's NOT compare
 us to other countries, which is often the argument.
- Does our opinion even matter? Or is this already made up by the district? It always feels like this...
- Will families been given an opportunity to give their feedback.
- Can we investigate shorter 4-day weeks with 3-day weekends, with a shorter summer break? This would provide more rest and balance throughout the whole year.

4. How will Calendar Work with...X?

- AP classes seem like they would be negatively impacted (with May test date)?
- I have teachers in my room now worried about how AP would work with this calendar I'm MUCH LESS concerned about the high kids and their curriculum than I am the low kids who really need support (and a balanced calendar) to be successful!
- What about seniors' graduation? Will going longer in the summer hold them up from jobs? Moving to college? Summer study abroad programs? Other?
- Curious about the sports part
- Can the district training be later in the school year instead of being front loaded for a balanced school year (i.e. part of our all district PD on Wednesdays)?"
- How do Federal holidays play into this?
- How are you coordinating with other districts right now?

| Theme | Survey Question 7 - Feedback |
|-------------------------|--|
| | • Impacts for SPED |
| | How would this affect my long summer break as I am usually in 2 weeks before and 2 weeks after everyone leaves. Might it go away? |
| | Also, we have students that take a while to get into the swing of things and having that break in October would be like we just got them going and used to school again and then there's a break where they lose all of the routines that they learned." |
| | How do HS school students get jobs if we opt for the calendar that shortens their summer break? This will help students who regress over the summer, but it will greatly impact local businesses that depend on students during our busy season. |
| | How would this affect the deep-cleaning of the school buildings that takes place over the summer break?How will we ensure that all teachers take time off to recharge? |
| 5. Other Comments | I would like to see us look at different forms of providing education rather than just change the schedule to continue providing the same thing in slightly different increments. We are such a small district that trying to meet all the varying needs may require that we consider consolidating with nearby districts. Repackaging an item in a new package doesn't make the item inside any different. |