

Board Policy

Code No. 601.1R1

BALANCED CALENDAR

Balanced calendar is a reorganization of the calendar into instructional blocks and intersessions distributed across the calendar year so that learning is more continuous throughout the year. Balanced calendar is an alternative system of public education that helps people individually, and society in general, by providing calendar, curriculum, and family options which more closely fit the contemporary school-family-community needs. Balanced calendar promotes the belief in life-long learning through a structuring of the school calendar.

1. Designation of BALANCED CALENDAR School Sites

- a. The Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, may approve the establishment of a BALANCED CALENDAR at one or more school sites.
- b. Schools interested in implementing a BALANCED CALENDAR must initially apply to the Board of Education at least nine months prior to the anticipated start of the program.

Once initial approval is given by the Board, school(s) will submit a proposed comprehensive BALANCED CALENDAR school plan to the Superintendent for approval by the Board of Education. This plan will incorporate the following: planning calendar; goals and objectives; curriculum and instruction; facility needs; intersessions; family and child care; parental support and involvement; community recreational sessions; staffing and support sessions; budget summary; and program evaluation. It is expected that the school work closely with the District staff, parents, community and other external resources in developing this BALANCED CALENDAR school plan.

- c. The school(s) will be responsible to file for necessary waivers from the Iowa Department of Education.
- d. The BALANCED CALENDAR school program will be consistent with the BEA Master Contract including provisions that allow waiver agreements between the Board and the Association.

2. Student Selection Criteria

- a. Based on Board policy #501.5R1, enrollment in the BALANCED CALENDAR school(s) shall be opened to pupils in the present home attendance area first. Enrollment shall be open to pupils from other attendance areas as follows:
 - Choice enrolled students
 - Administrative transfers
 - Open enrolled students
- b. To the greatest degree possible, student selection will be conducted in a manner that maintains the neighborhood school concept.
- c. Students who live within the boundaries of the BALANCED CALENDAR education site, but choose not to attend the BALANCED CALENDAR site, will be considered for choice transfers if space is available in other sites and the transfer does not adversely affect the grade level enrollment across the district. For those students enrolled prior to the 2005/06 school year, transportation services will continue to be provided at no charge.

3. Support Services
Transportation

- a. Students will be transported to the BALANCED CALENDAR site in accordance with the same State and district guidelines and provisions for those students attending school on the traditional calendar.

Food Service

- b. Students attending BALANCED CALENDAR school will have the opportunity to participate in the school lunch program at current school lunch prices. A before school breakfast program will be available to students.

4. Program Evaluation

The BALANCED CALENDAR school site will maintain an on-going and systematic program evaluation consistent with District policy and evaluation criteria.

Approved: March 17, 1997

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March 6, 2000
July 9, 2007
July 11, 2011*

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September 2, 2014*