

Knox County Schools Calendar Survey – Spring 2015 Results

Overview

Due to the community interest expressed last year during the strategic planning process, the Knox County Schools (KCS) is investigating the possibility of implementing a balanced calendar. A survey was created in order to solicit stakeholder input. The survey was a voluntary response survey. This means that the results reflect the opinions of the survey takers who may or may not represent all citizens. Survey Monkey was the platform used for the survey, but the questions were designed by a committee that included people from the Executive staff, the Family & Community Engagement department, and the Research, Evaluation and Assessment department. A web link was sent to parents, KCS employees, and students for whom an email address was known and the Chamber of Commerce sent the link to its membership. Another link was placed on the KCS website. This means of dissemination was used to garner broad opinions. The results were anonymous, but time stamps and internet protocol (IP) addresses were collected to check for obvious abuses. We found fewer than 200 suspect entries out of 15984 results. As this was not enough to sway any result significantly (by more than a half of a percent in a category), all results will be included this report.

Stakeholder Position

Participants were asked to state their position relative to KCS. Two options allowed for positions as Parent/Guardian and either KCS Employee or Community Employer. In these instances, tallies were made for each category. The number of unique respondents is therefore smaller than the sum of the category numbers in the following chart:

Respondents by Category	
Note that some respondents claimed more than one category	
Category	Number
KCS Parent	11098
KCS Employee	4454
KCS Student	532
KCS Community Employer	783
No KCS Affiliation Given	1608
Number of Unique Respondents	15984

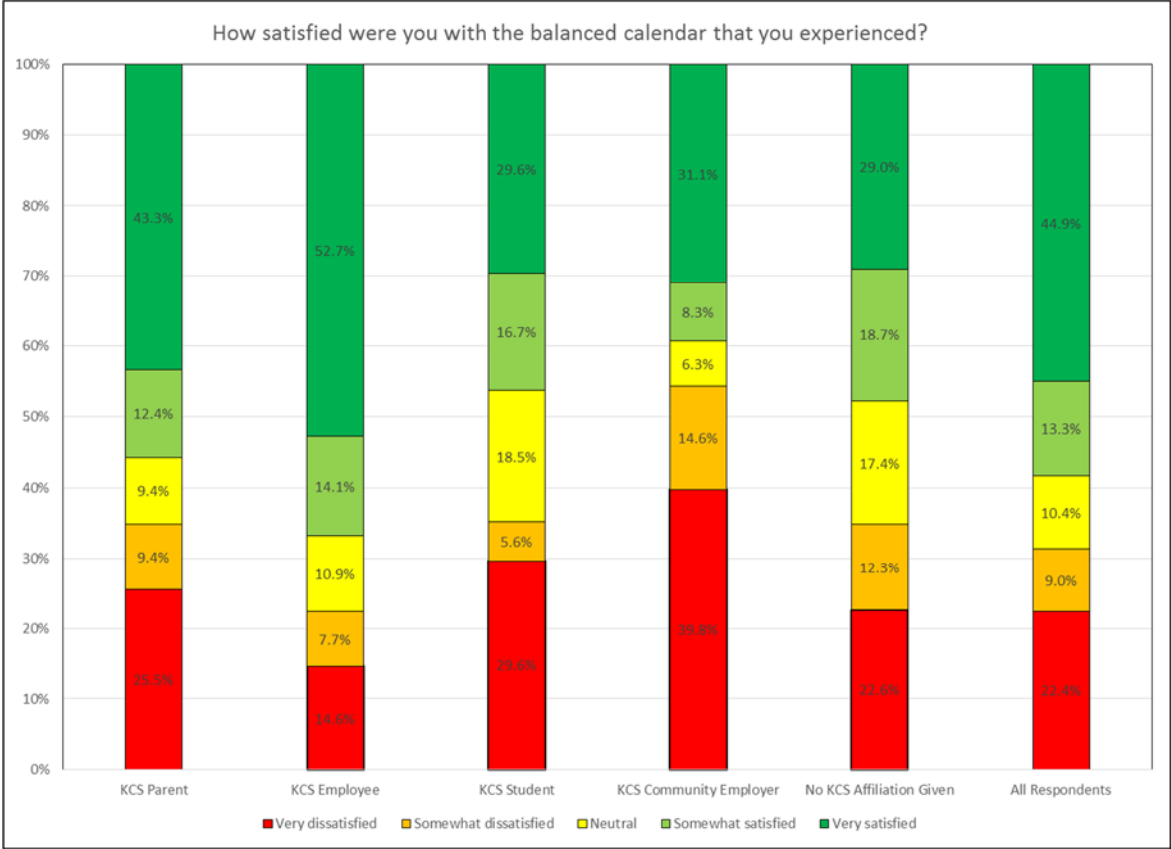
Past Experience with Balanced Calendar

Three questions were in this section along with the opportunity to leave comments. The comments for past experience can be found on page 20.

	Are you familiar with the idea of a balanced calendar?	
	No	Yes
Are you familiar with the idea of a balanced calendar?	7.5%	92.5%
Do you have personal experience with a balanced calendar as a student, teacher, parent or community member?	85.9%	14.1%

Do you have personal experience with a balanced calendar as a student, teacher, parent, or community member? 14.1% of those who responded replied, “Yes”. This was followed with a question of how satisfied they were with the balanced calendar they experienced. These results by category can be found in the following chart and graph:

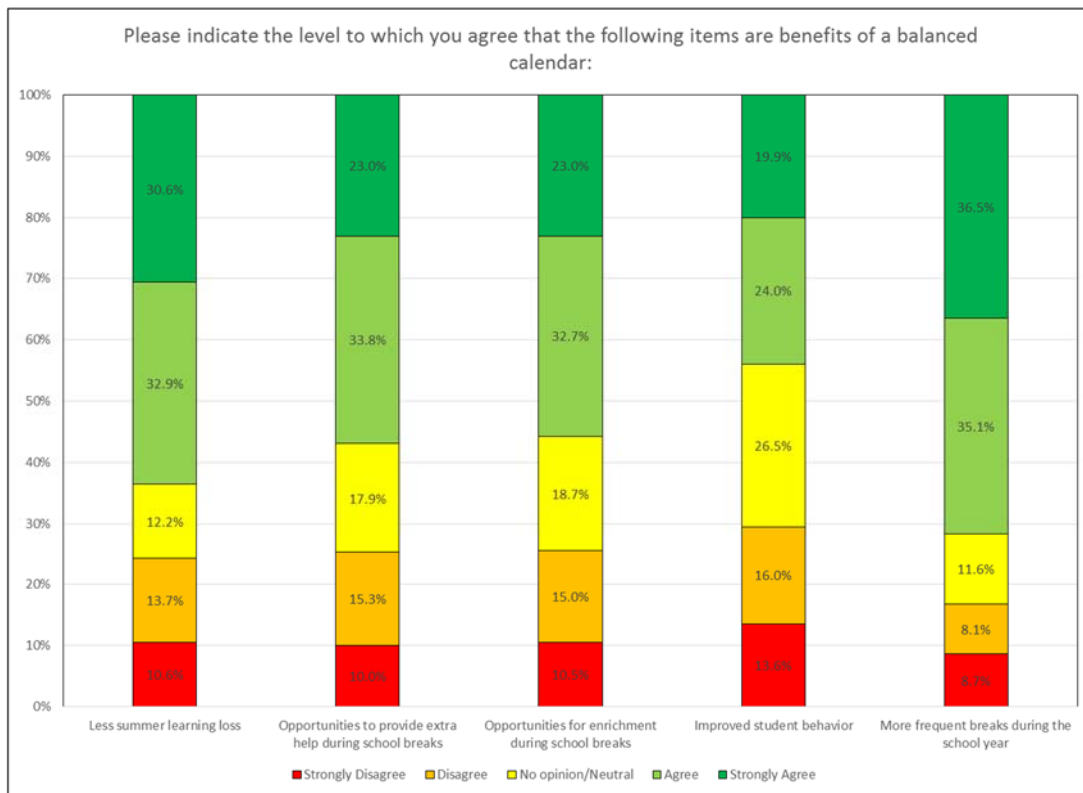
	Number	How satisfied were you with the balanced calendar that you experienced?				
		Very dissatisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Neutral	Somewhat satisfied	Very satisfied
KCS Parent	1547	25.5%	9.4%	9.4%	12.4%	43.3%
KCS Employee	725	14.6%	7.7%	10.9%	14.1%	52.7%
KCS Student	54	29.6%	5.6%	18.5%	16.7%	29.6%
KCS Community Employer	206	39.8%	14.6%	6.3%	8.3%	31.1%
No KCS Affiliation Given	155	22.6%	12.3%	17.4%	18.7%	29.0%
All Respondents	2214	22.4%	9.0%	10.4%	13.3%	44.9%



Potential Benefits of a Balanced Calendar

Respondents were asked to indicate their level of agreement with a series of potential benefits. These results are contained in the following chart and graph while more detailed charts and additional comments on other potential benefits can be found on page 77.

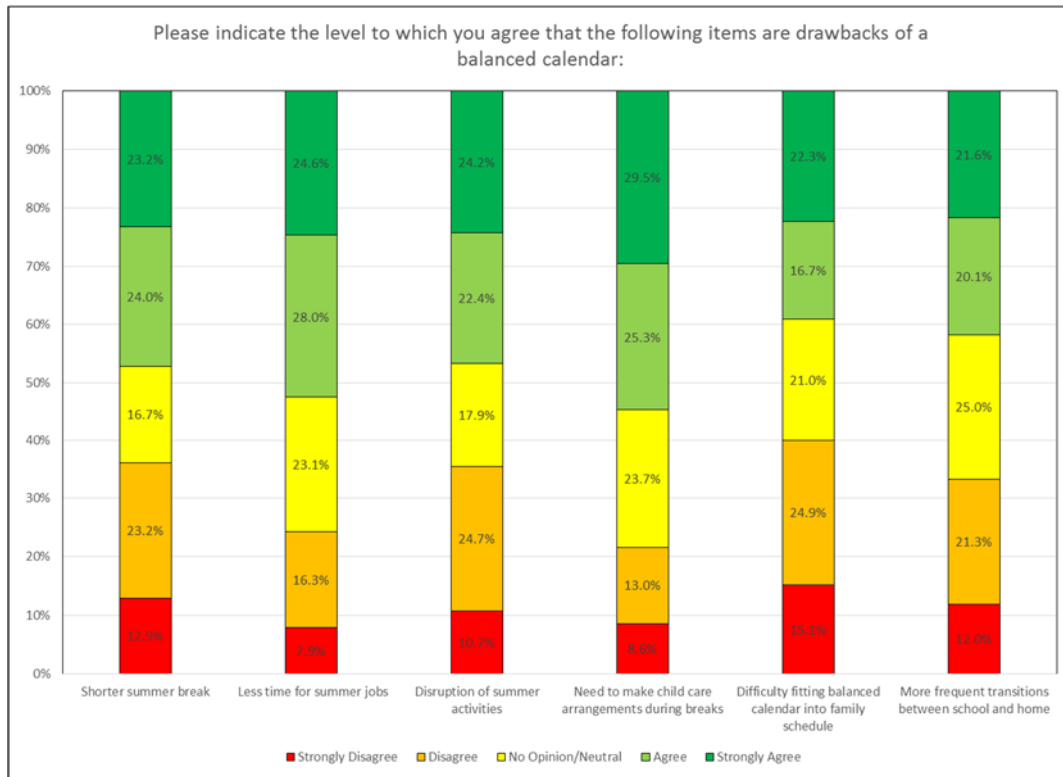
Please indicate the level to which you agree that the following items are benefits of a balanced calendar:	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	No opinion/Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Less summer learning loss	10.6%	13.7%	12.2%	32.9%	30.6%
Opportunities to provide extra help during school breaks	10.0%	15.3%	17.9%	33.8%	23.0%
Opportunities for enrichment during school breaks	10.5%	15.0%	18.7%	32.7%	23.0%
Improved student behavior	13.6%	16.0%	26.5%	24.0%	19.9%
More frequent breaks during the school year	8.7%	8.1%	11.6%	35.1%	36.5%



Potential Drawbacks of a Balanced Calendar

Respondents were asked to indicate their level of agreement with a series of potential drawbacks. These results are contained in the following chart and graph while more detailed charts and additional comments on other potential drawbacks can be found on page 184.

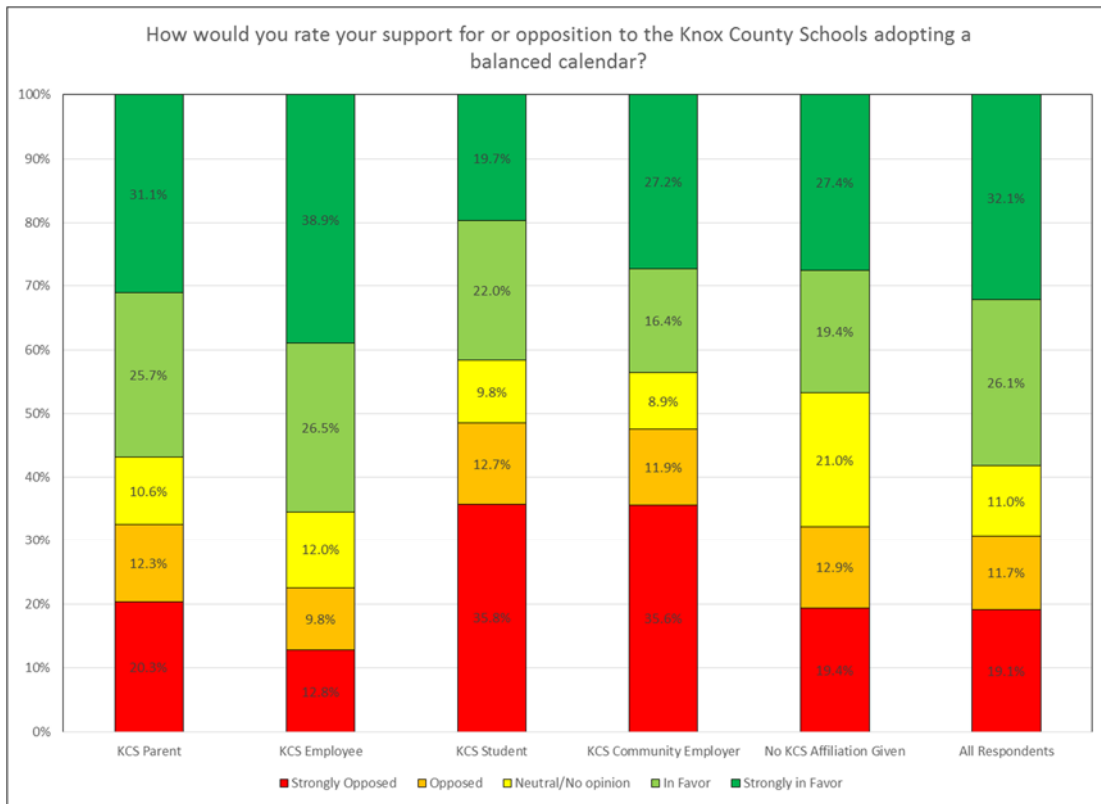
Please indicate the level to which you agree that the following items are drawbacks of a balanced calendar:	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	No Opinion/Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Shorter summer break	12.9%	23.2%	16.7%	24.0%	23.2%
Less time for summer jobs	7.9%	16.3%	23.1%	28.0%	24.6%
Disruption of summer activities	10.7%	24.7%	17.9%	22.4%	24.2%
Need to make child care arrangements during breaks	8.6%	13.0%	23.7%	25.3%	29.5%
Difficulty fitting balanced calendar into family schedule	15.1%	24.9%	21.0%	16.7%	22.3%
More frequent transitions between school and home	12.0%	21.3%	25.0%	20.1%	21.6%



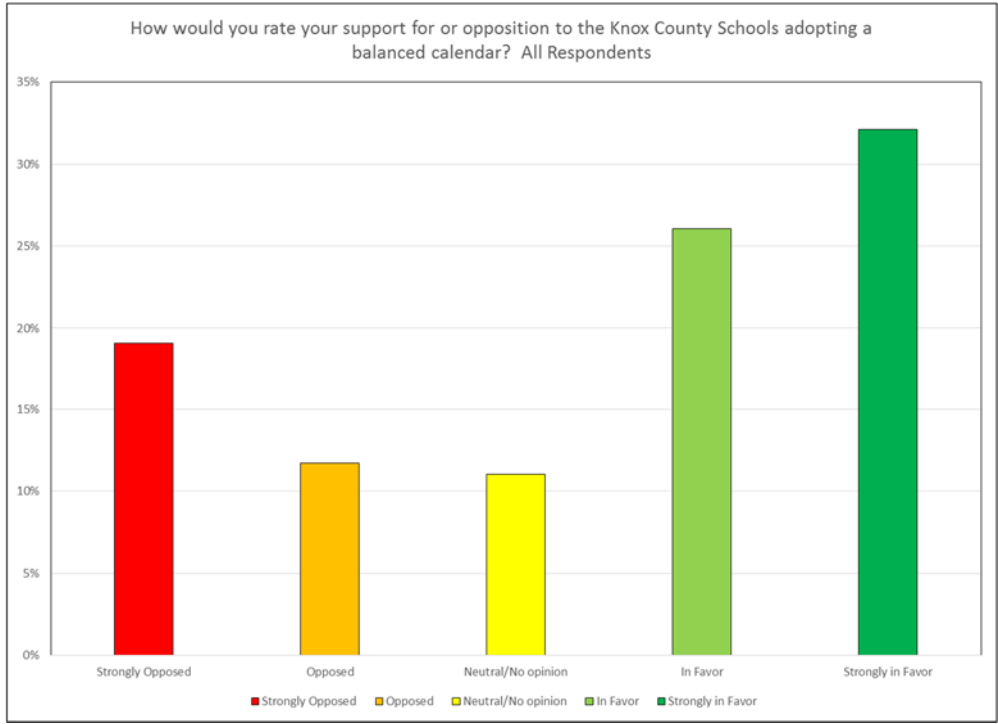
Support for a Balanced Calendar

Respondents were asked to rate their support for or opposition to a balanced calendar. These results are contained in the following chart and graphs while more detailed charts and additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar can be found on page 335.

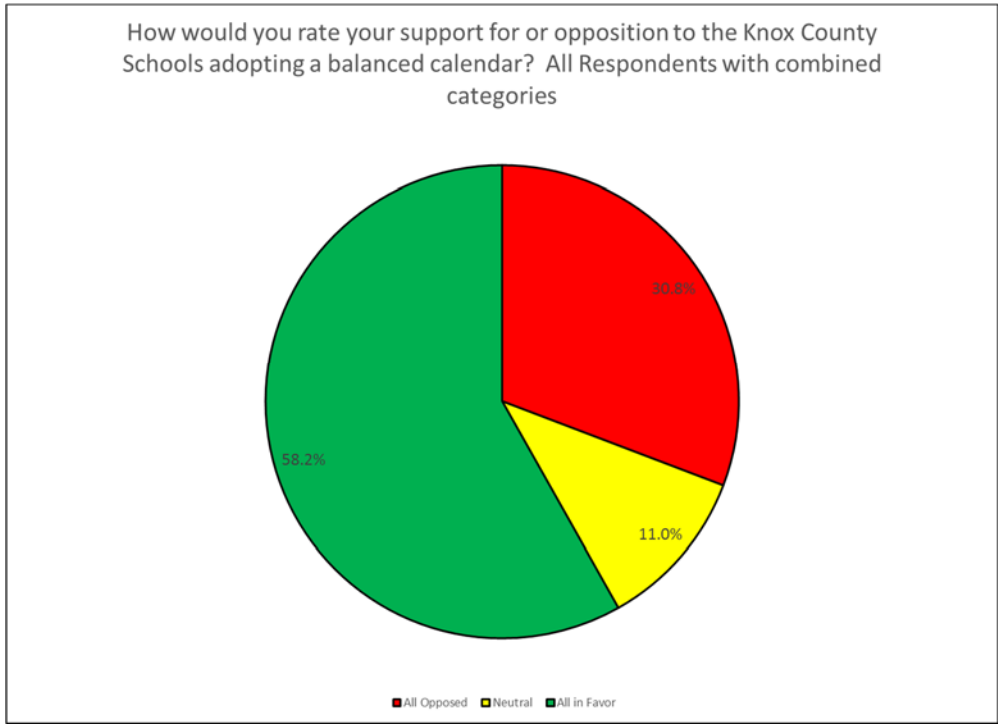
	Number of Respondents	How would you rate your support for or opposition to the Knox County Schools adopting a balanced calendar?				
		Strongly Opposed	Opposed	Neutral/No opinion	In Favor	Strongly in Favor
KCS Parent	11038	20.3%	12.3%	10.6%	25.7%	31.1%
KCS Employee	4434	12.8%	9.8%	12.0%	26.5%	38.9%
KCS Student	528	35.8%	12.7%	9.8%	22.0%	19.7%
KCS Community Employer	766	35.6%	11.9%	8.9%	16.4%	27.2%
No KCS Affiliation Given	62	19.4%	12.9%	21.0%	19.4%	27.4%
All Respondents	14353	19.1%	11.7%	11.0%	26.1%	32.1%



For an additional perspective, a bar graph of all respondents is below.



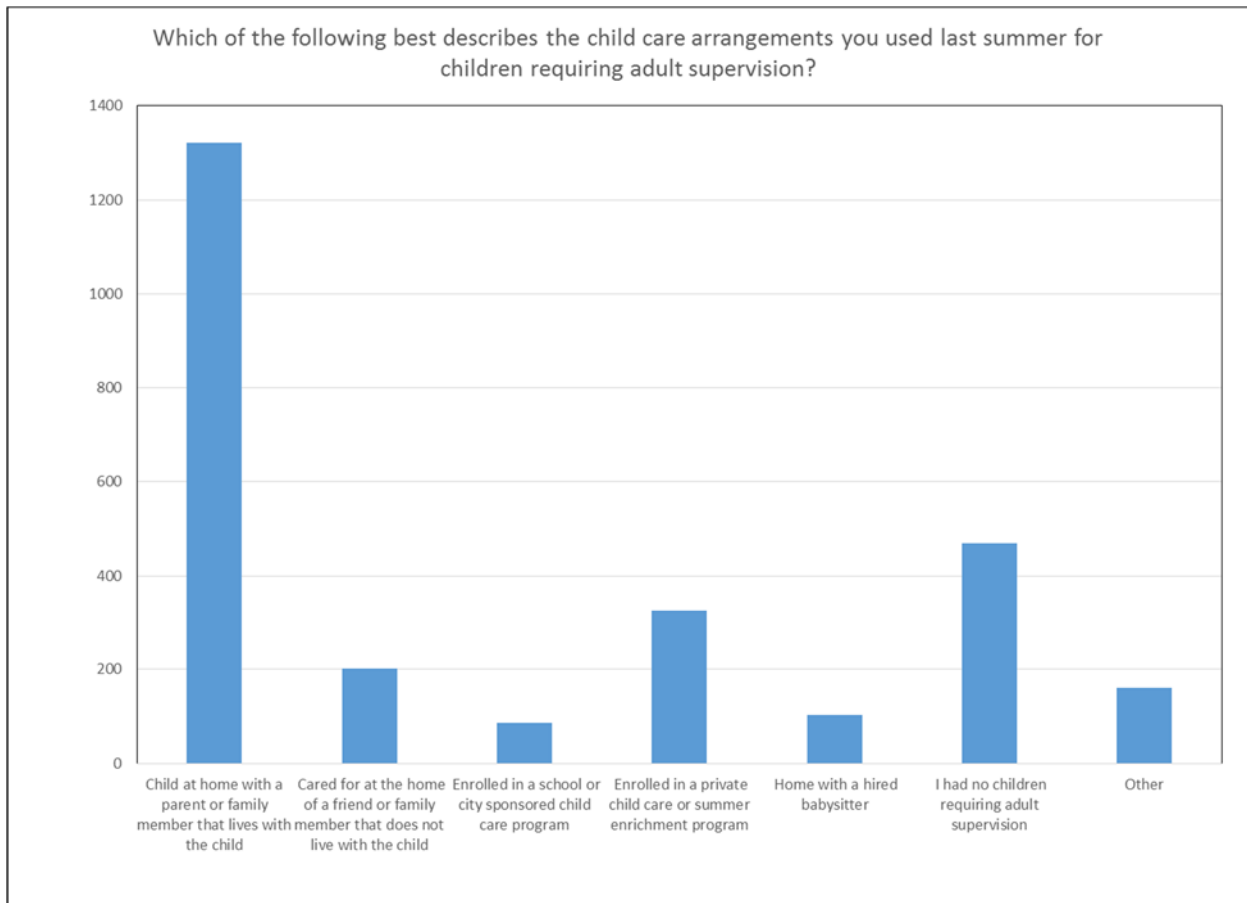
The pie graph below combines both of the “opposed” choices into one category and both of the “favor” choices into one category.



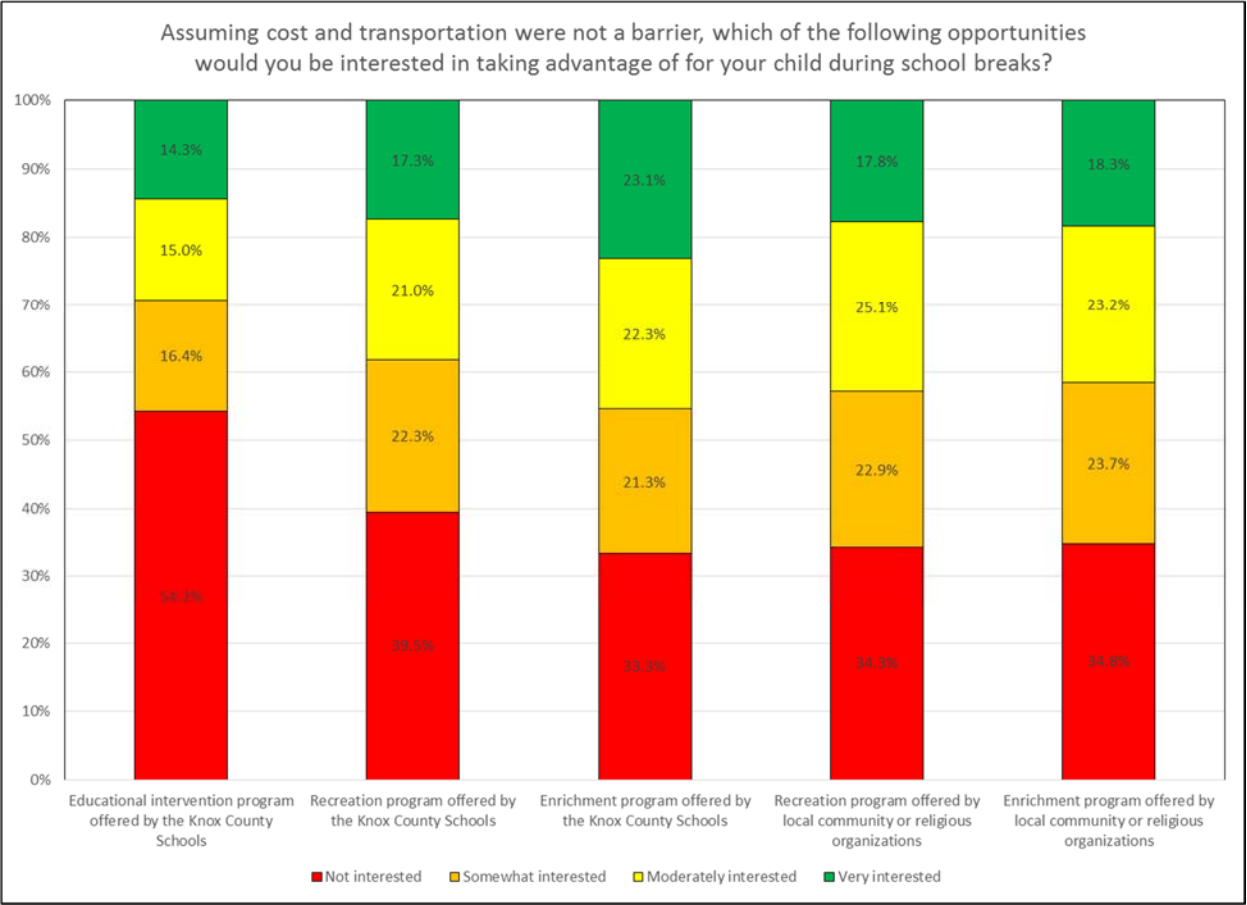
Additional Questions for Parents/Guardians

Respondents who indicated that they were KCS Parents/Guardians were asked a series of questions about child care, potential enrichment activities, and about how a balanced calendar would affect various aspects of their lives. The results are provided in the following charts and graphs while more detailed charts and additional comments be found on page 502.

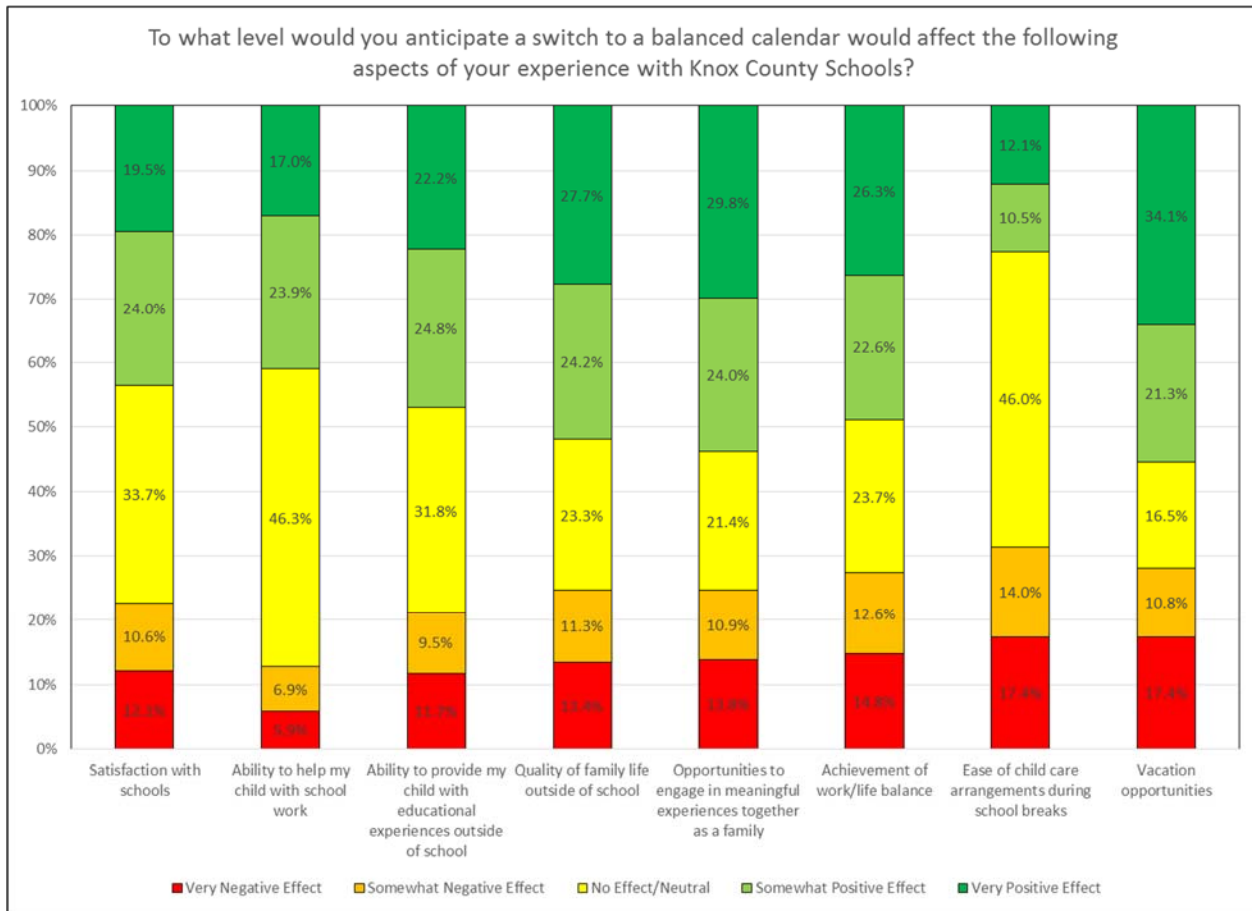
Which of the following best describes the child care arrangements you used last summer for children requiring adult supervision?						
Child at home with a parent or family member that lives with the child	Cared for at the home of a friend or family member that does not live with the child	Enrolled in a school or city sponsored child care program	Enrolled in a private child care or summer enrichment program	Home with a hired babysitter	I had no children requiring adult supervision	Other
1322	202	87	324	104	469	160



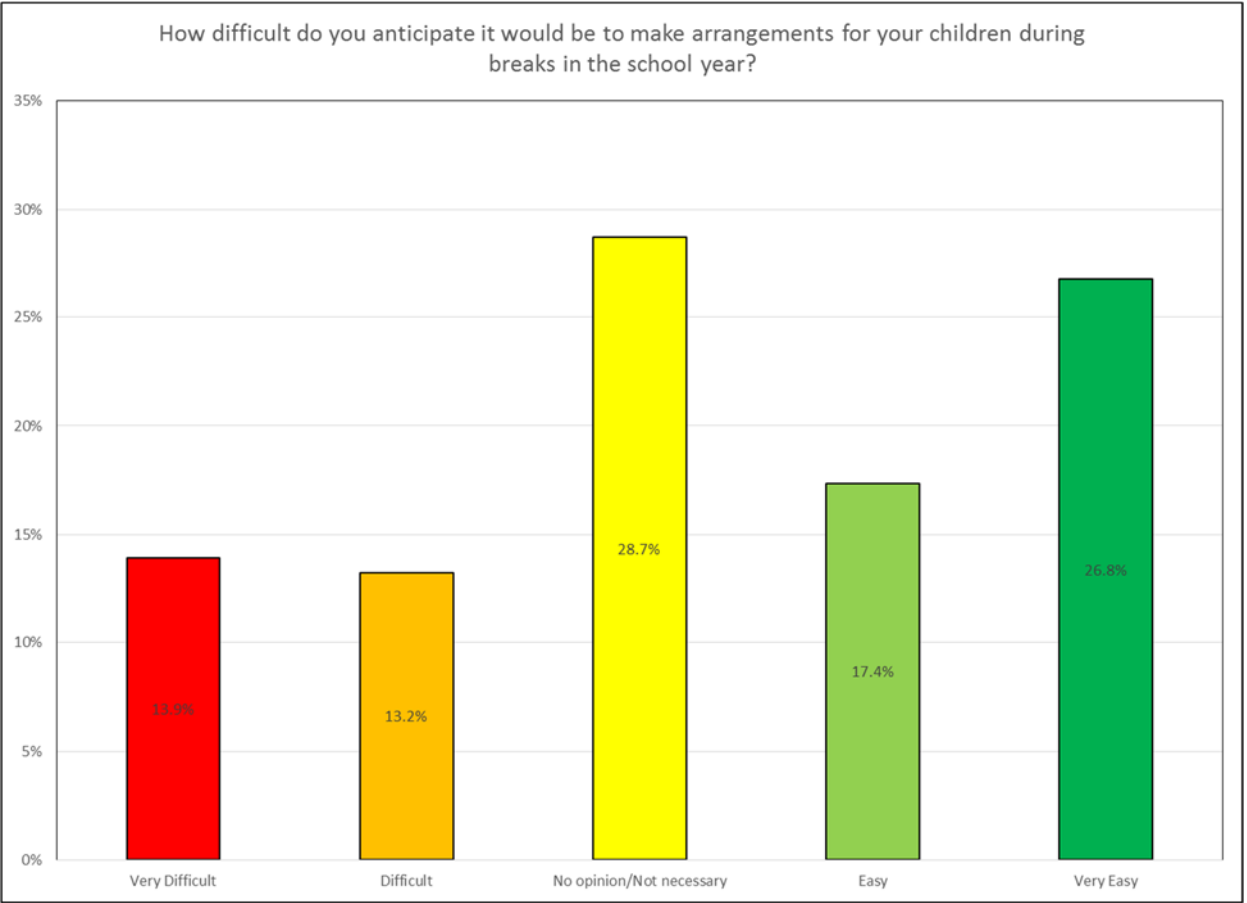
Assuming cost and transportation were not a barrier, which of the following opportunities would you be interested in taking advantage of for your child during	Not interested	Somewhat interested	Moderately interested	Very interested
Educational intervention program offered by the Knox County Schools	54.2%	16.4%	15.0%	14.3%
Recreation program offered by the Knox County Schools	39.5%	22.3%	21.0%	17.3%
Enrichment program offered by the Knox County Schools	33.3%	21.3%	22.3%	23.1%
Recreation program offered by local community or religious organizations	34.3%	22.9%	25.1%	17.8%
Enrichment program offered by local community or religious organizations	34.8%	23.7%	23.2%	18.3%



To what level would you anticipate a switch to a balanced calendar would affect the following aspects of your experience with Knox County Schools?	Very Negative Effect	Somewhat Negative Effect	No Effect/Neutral	Somewhat Positive Effect	Very Positive Effect
Satisfaction with schools	12.1%	10.6%	33.7%	24.0%	19.5%
Ability to help my child with school work	5.9%	6.9%	46.3%	23.9%	17.0%
Ability to provide my child with educational experiences outside of school	11.7%	9.5%	31.8%	24.8%	22.2%
Quality of family life outside of school	13.4%	11.3%	23.3%	24.2%	27.7%
Opportunities to engage in meaningful experiences together as a family	13.8%	10.9%	21.4%	24.0%	29.8%
Achievement of work/life balance	14.8%	12.6%	23.7%	22.6%	26.3%
Ease of child care arrangements during school breaks	17.4%	14.0%	46.0%	10.5%	12.1%
Vacation opportunities	17.4%	10.8%	16.5%	21.3%	34.1%



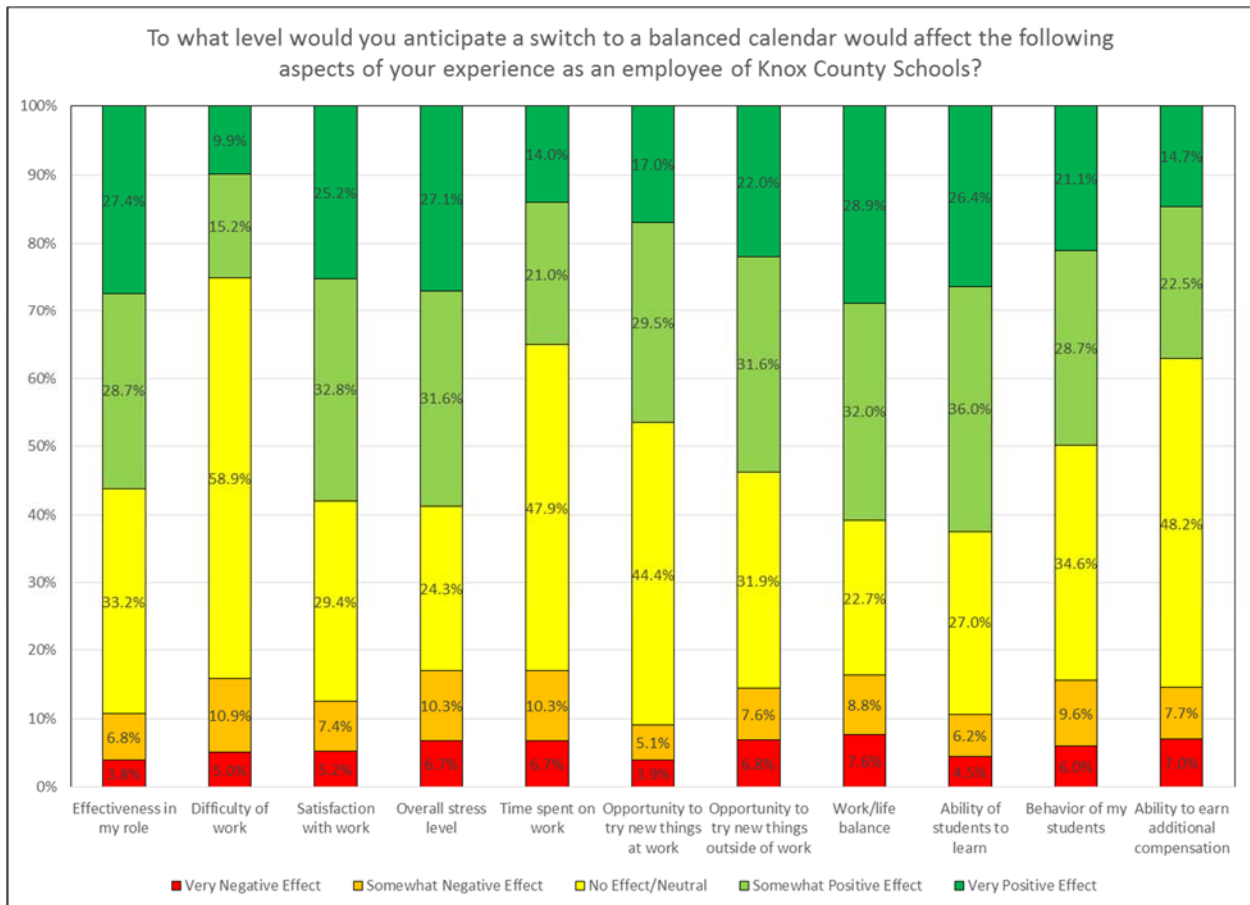
	Very Difficult	Difficult	No opinion/Not necessary	Easy	Very Easy
How difficult do you anticipate it would be to make arrangements for your children during breaks in the school year?	13.9%	13.2%	28.7%	17.4%	26.8%



Additional Questions for KCS Employees

Respondents who indicated that they were KCS Employees were asked how a balanced calendar would affect various aspects of their life and work. The results are provided in the following chart and graph while more detailed charts and additional comments be found on page 529.

To what level would you anticipate a switch to a balanced calendar would affect the following aspects of your experience as an employee of Knox County Schools?	Very Negative Effect	Somewhat Negative Effect	No Effect/Neutral	Somewhat Positive Effect	Very Positive Effect
Effectiveness in my role	3.8%	6.8%	33.2%	28.7%	27.4%
Difficulty of work	5.0%	10.9%	58.9%	15.2%	9.9%
Satisfaction with work	5.2%	7.4%	29.4%	32.8%	25.2%
Overall stress level	6.7%	10.3%	24.3%	31.6%	27.1%
Time spent on work	6.7%	10.3%	47.9%	21.0%	14.0%
Opportunity to try new things at work	3.9%	5.1%	44.4%	29.5%	17.0%
Opportunity to try new things outside of work	6.8%	7.6%	31.9%	31.6%	22.0%
Work/life balance	7.6%	8.8%	22.7%	32.0%	28.9%
Ability of students to learn	4.5%	6.2%	27.0%	36.0%	26.4%
Behavior of my students	6.0%	9.6%	34.6%	28.7%	21.1%
Ability to earn additional compensation	7.0%	7.7%	48.2%	22.5%	14.7%

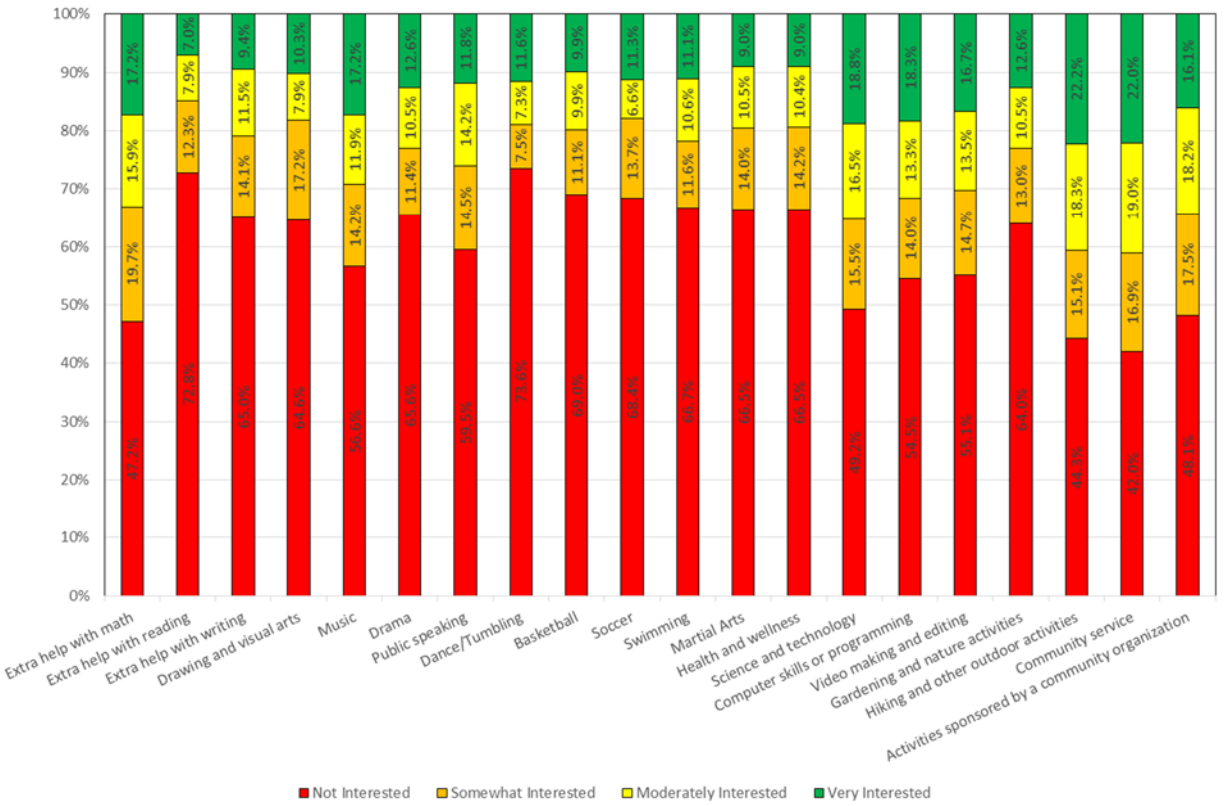


Additional Questions for KCS Students

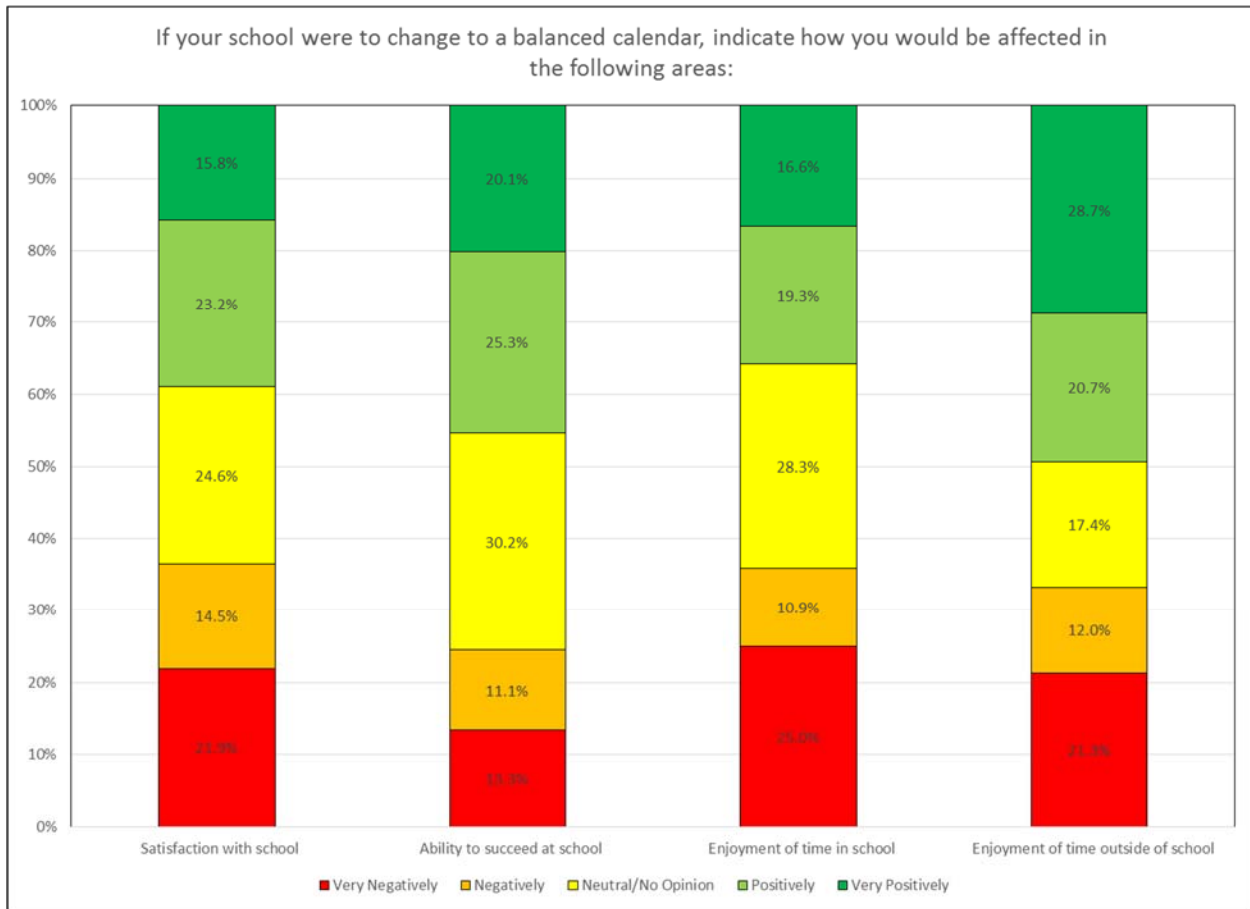
Respondents who indicated that they were KCS Students were asked two series of questions. One was about potential enrichment activities and the other was about how a balanced calendar would affect various aspects of their life and studies. The results are provided in the following charts and graphs while more detailed charts and additional comments be found on page 553.

Assuming cost and transportation were not a barrier, which of the following extra help or enrichment programs would you be interested in taking part during school breaks?	Not Interested	Somewhat Interested	Moderately Interested	Very Interested
Extra help with math	47.2%	19.7%	15.9%	17.2%
Extra help with reading	72.8%	12.3%	7.9%	7.0%
Extra help with writing	65.0%	14.1%	11.5%	9.4%
Drawing and visual arts	64.6%	17.2%	7.9%	10.3%
Music	56.6%	14.2%	11.9%	17.2%
Drama	65.6%	11.4%	10.5%	12.6%
Public speaking	59.5%	14.5%	14.2%	11.8%
Dance/Tumbling	73.6%	7.5%	7.3%	11.6%
Basketball	69.0%	11.1%	9.9%	9.9%
Soccer	68.4%	13.7%	6.6%	11.3%
Swimming	66.7%	11.6%	10.6%	11.1%
Martial Arts	66.5%	14.0%	10.5%	9.0%
Health and wellness	66.5%	14.2%	10.4%	9.0%
Science and technology	49.2%	15.5%	16.5%	18.8%
Computer skills or programming	54.5%	14.0%	13.3%	18.3%
Video making and editing	55.1%	14.7%	13.5%	16.7%
Gardening and nature activities	64.0%	13.0%	10.5%	12.6%
Hiking and other outdoor activities	44.3%	15.1%	18.3%	22.2%
Community service	42.0%	16.9%	19.0%	22.0%
Activities sponsored by a community organization	48.1%	17.5%	18.2%	16.1%

Assuming cost and transportation were not a barrier, which of the following extra help or enrichment programs would you be interested in taking part during school breaks?



If your school were to change to a balanced calendar, indicate how you would be affected in the following areas:	Very Negatively	Negatively	Neutral/No Opinion	Positively	Very Positively
Satisfaction with school	21.9%	14.5%	24.6%	23.2%	15.8%
Ability to succeed at school	13.3%	11.1%	30.2%	25.3%	20.1%
Enjoyment of time in school	25.0%	10.9%	28.3%	19.3%	16.6%
Enjoyment of time outside of school	21.3%	12.0%	17.4%	20.7%	28.7%



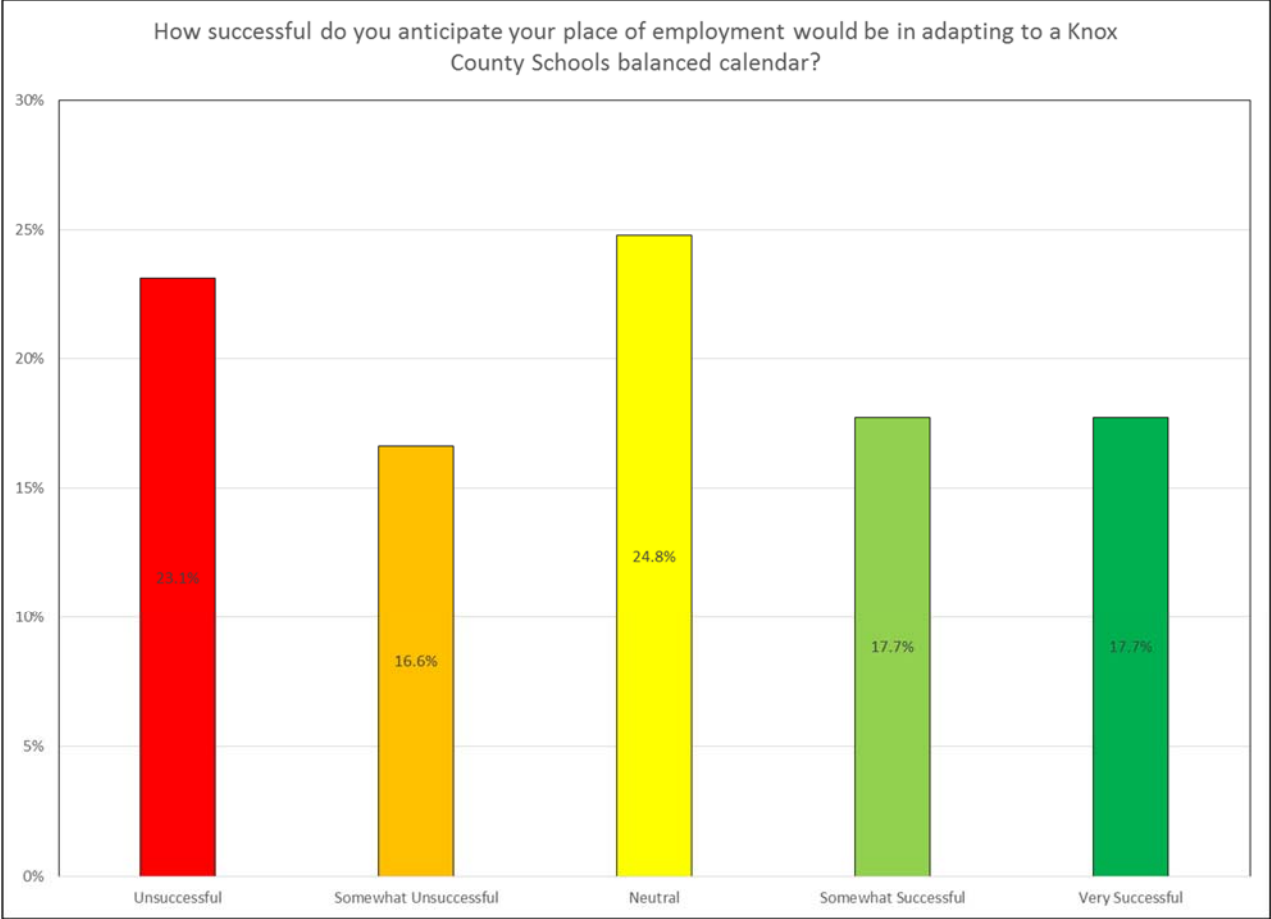
Additional Questions for Community Employers

Respondents who indicated that they were KCS Employees were asked how a balanced calendar would affect various aspects of their place of employment. The results are provided in the following charts and graphs while additional comments be found on page 560.

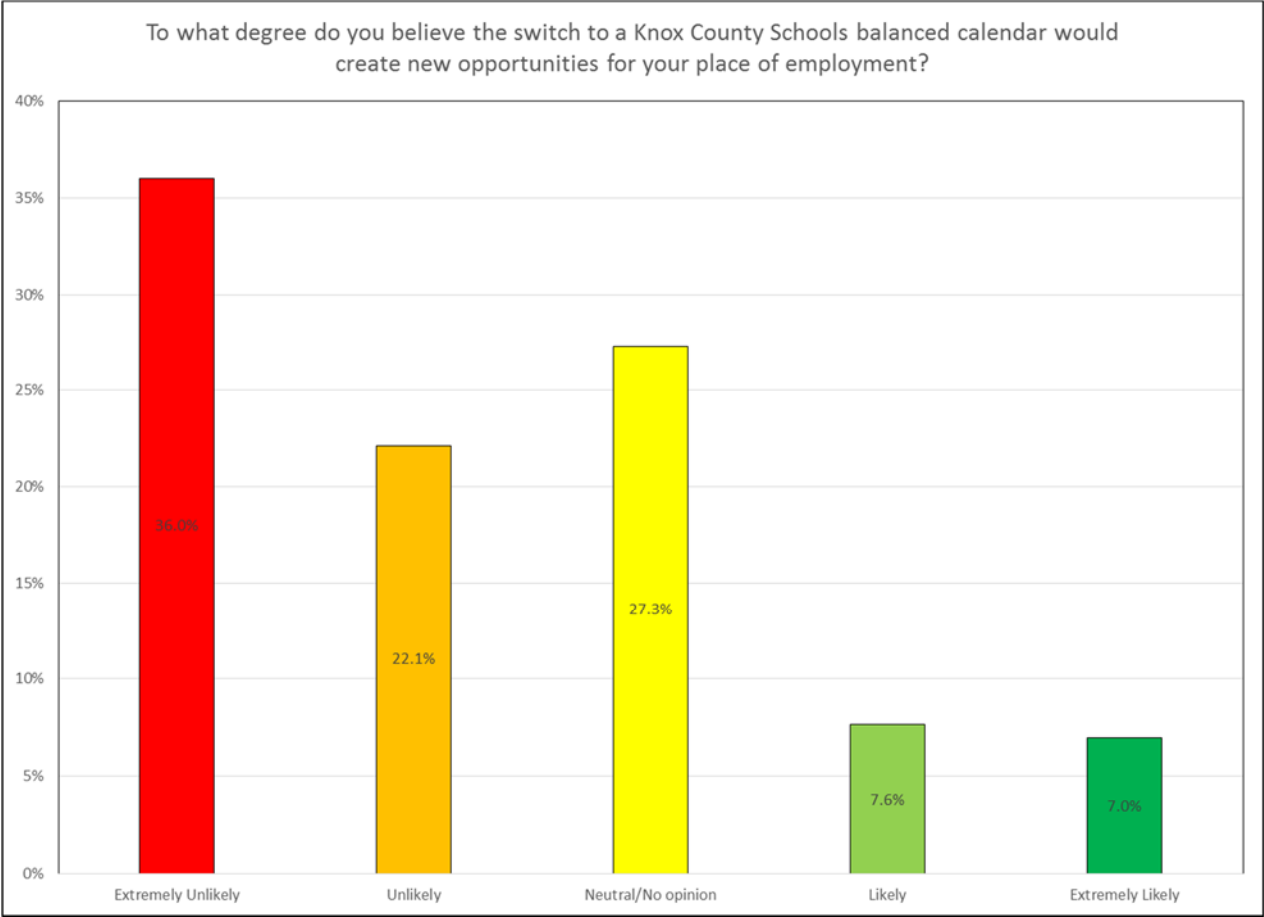
What type of effect would a balanced calendar have on your place of employment?				
Very Negative Effect	Somewhat Negative Effect	No Effect/Neutral	Somewhat Positive Effect	Very Positive Effect
Count	Count	Count	Count	Count
174	214	219	65	50
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
24.1%	29.6%	30.3%	9.0%	6.9%



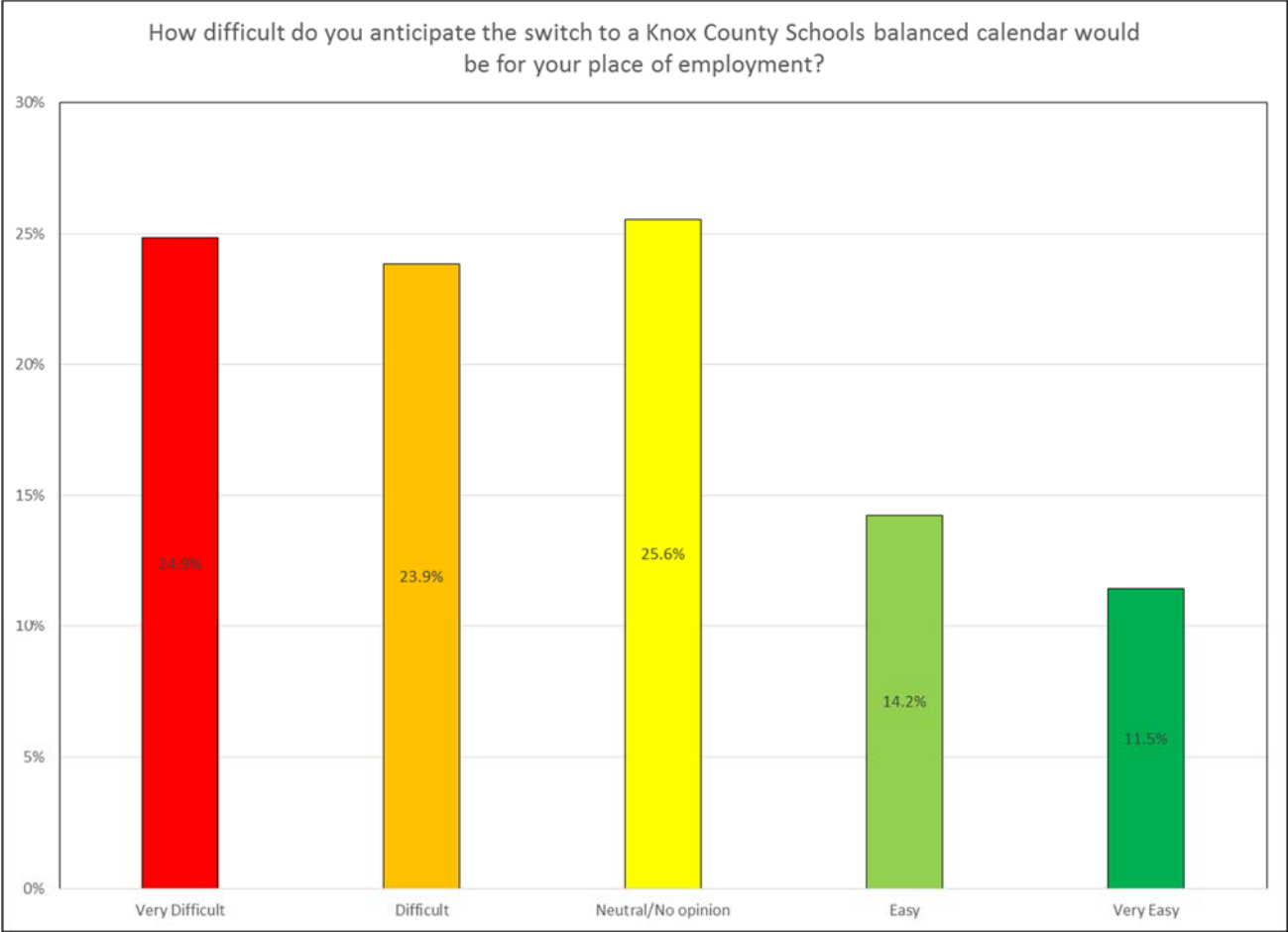
How successful do you anticipate your place of employment would be in adapting to a Knox County Schools balanced calendar?				
Unsuccessful	Somewhat Unsuccessful	Neutral	Somewhat Successful	Very Successful
Count	Count	Count	Count	Count
167	120	179	128	128
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
23.1%	16.6%	24.8%	17.7%	17.7%



To what degree do you believe the switch to a Knox County Schools balanced calendar would create new opportunities for your place of employment?				
Extremely Unlikely	Unlikely	Neutral/No opinion	Likely	Extremely Likely
Count	Count	Count	Count	Count
259	159	196	55	50
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
36.0%	22.1%	27.3%	7.6%	7.0%



How difficult do you anticipate the switch to a Knox County Schools balanced calendar would be for your place of employment?				
Very Difficult	Difficult	Neutral/No opinion	Easy	Very Easy
Count	Count	Count	Count	Count
178	171	183	102	82
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
24.9%	23.9%	25.6%	14.2%	11.5%



Previous Experience Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please make any additional comments about your previous experience with balanced calendars.
Parent & Employer	4 years ago, we lived in Iowa where the balanced calendar was used. It was a positive experience and the kids felt like they had extra breaks during the school year. Which in turn gave them a more positive attitude and could have more down time. As a parent, I felt the summer was still long enough and gave us other opportunities to take trips during different times of the year.
Parent & Employer	affects the business community
Parent & Employer	All of my nieces and nephews have experienced the balanced calendar up north. After 3 years, every school system has now changed back to the original school calendar because test scores were at an all time low under the balanced calendar plan
Parent & Employer	As a child in Northern Virginia in the 70s and 80s, experienced year-round calendar (4 cycles of 9 weeks in school, 3 weeks off, only one week between grades) 1st through 10th grades.
Parent & Employer	As a parent, it greatly limits the opportunities I have to do things with my children due to work schedules and other issues. I hate that school starts before September anyway. I prefer having my kids available to do things in the traditional summer break of June, July, and August. I am an educator as well and I know that others use the summer months for taking vacations and picking up odd jobs to supplement their income. This throws a kink into that process and may prohibit teachers from taking certain odd jobs like coaching or umpiring summer sports.
Parent & Employer	As a working parent, the balanced calendar made daycare/babysitting/after school a logistical nightmare. There were parents sending their children to the free enhancement classes given at the school during the 2 week break just as a free 'babysitting' service. Schools today are always stretched to the limit with budgets and resources, and having to open the schools for the 2 weeks for enhancement really put a strain on the budget and existing resources. And the children really didn't get a 'break' because most of them were at the school anyway for 'enhancement'. It was a waste of time and added stress for the parents.
Parent & Employer	As an employer of parents, it is very hard to schedule business with all the times off during the school year. It is easier for companies and families to accommodate a longer summer period than multiple times off throughout the year.
Parent & Employer	Balanced calendar is great for younger kids...however due to extracurricular activities at the high school levels it just means less opportunity for families to get away and spend time together. I am AGAINST a balanced calendar.
Parent & Employer	Being that so many families and friends live out of state and some out of the country the traditional calendar works best. As to provide ample time for visits and international vacations, summers with grandparents, etc.
Parent & Employer	Better vacation times
Parent & Employer	Calendar requires teachers and students to attend more days, impacts summer employment for teachers and students, it limits students from extra summer activities, and doesn't allow teachers to take summer classes. However what I've learned from Knox co is you can ask for our input but you will do what you want.
Parent & Employer	Child care difficult to secure and pay for.
Parent & Employer	Child care is impossible to coordinate as a working parent, the extra time off during the fall and spring is a complete waste of time for the kids because of the weather, lack of things to do, and working parent schedules. It cuts down on true family time and the ability to give this kids other experiences over the summer - camps, travel, family, etc. IT IS HORRIBLE!!!
Parent & Employer	Child care issues as a parent and an employer are the main concern.
Parent & Employer	Child care was a problem and we missed the long summer off. Also, the argument that students forgot less was not our experience. The kids forgot a lot the 10 days they were off between quarters. I don't think that is a valid reason/benefit for switching to a balanced schedule.
Parent & Employer	Childcare barriers

Previous Experience Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please make any additional comments about your previous experience with balanced calendars.
Parent & Employer	Children and students did not burn out. Children retained more over a shorter break. I did not have to spend the first 4 or 5 weeks re teaching at the beginning of the year.
Parent & Employer	Didn't work with work schedule and summer activities
Parent & Employer	Difficult planning with low community resources during off times. Shortened summer was an issue in coordinating with college age students and doing summer activities such as gardening (for preserving food for the year), mowing, and obtaining summer jobs.
Parent & Employer	Do not see the advantage. Instead working about schedule. Find better way to teach, not all kids are the same
Parent & Employer	does not give older students a chance to have a summer job or ample time for family vacations.
Parent & Employer	Easier to plan activities so they don't interfere with school time
Parent & Employer	Excellent opportunity here. Balanced calender rocks!!
Parent & Employer	Excellent plan
Parent & Employer	Extremely difficult on single parents. It is also complicated on a child whom is accustomed to a certain routine which in turn makes it difficult on the parent.
Parent & Employer	Finding childcare for the extended breaks in spring and fall was difficult. It took my daughter longer to settle in and get back into a routine after each extended been between quarters
Parent & Employer	Great for my son. We were in Johnson City. The shorter breaks reduced loss of learning and our school was proactive to provide some "camp" style enrichment learning during intersession periods. Both parents and teachers liked the schedule and day care and after school all adjusted to support the school.
Parent & Employer	Hard to make plans with family friends and relatives not on balanced calander
Parent & Employer	harder for child care at younger age, and harder for summer job opportunities at an older age for my kids.
Parent & Employer	How do you provide child care, take time off work or activities with that many days off at random times of the year?
Parent & Employer	I am familiar with a semi-balanced calendar. Henry County Schools in Georgia. School is in session for 6 weeks then off a week. On 6 weeks, off 1 week. Then had a summer.
Parent & Employer	I feel like summer break is something that all children look forward to and should not be shortened. If it's not broke, don't fix it.
Parent & Employer	I grew up on a balanced calendar, and though I never saw a problem with it, I do remember it causing child care issues for my parents, as both worked full time jobs.
Parent & Employer	I know from past experience in our previous school district, the almost year round school Did Not increase learning and created much distress for me as a single mom who does not have a father locally or involved.
Parent & Employer	I like the idea as an educator, however as a parent it poses challenges in terms of childcare, scheduling, etc.
Parent & Employer	I lived in a cool climate where there was nothing to do with my children during long fall and spring breaks. Summer is the best time for children to be out of school!
Parent & Employer	I think it would be hard for working parents.
Parent & Employer	I used to work for a system that used a balanced calendar. I felt that the children I worked with didn't need as much review time after summer and the students were better behaved. This was before I had children, however, and can see how this could potentially be a problem for working parents, the need for childcare, school sports teams, and working teens.
Parent & Employer	I wish Knox county had it. I have experienced from both a teachers and students perspective and both were positive
Parent & Employer	If this is implemented, I will pull my child out of Knox County Schools. Many schools will be happy to have an "A" student. Why don't you all fix the lunch program before parents have to file suit to make High Schools open campuses for students to leave for lunch.

Previous Experience Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please make any additional comments about your previous experience with balanced calendars.
Parent & Employer	It actually is easier for parents to plan vacations during the fall and spring. It gives the students a better chance to get breaks throughout the year. I believe child care facilities will be flexible when Knox County goes to this calendar much like Blount Co is.
Parent & Employer	It allowed me to concentrate on the courses in front of me, knowing there was a sufficient break once the material was covered.
Parent & Employer	It completely messed up my 50/50 shared custody agreement!
Parent & Employer	It did not improve education
Parent & Employer	It disrupted many activities the families participate in!
Parent & Employer	It had nothing to do with better educating children! The school system that Knox County claims to want to reach there level of success do not have "balanced calendars" ie year round school
Parent & Employer	It is difficult for parents to find child care & still work with so many extended breaks from school.
Parent & Employer	It is difficult for working parents, it is difficult for teachers, impossible for summer vacations and jobs for high school students and many opportunities available to high school students to experience during the summer. It may be great for little kids but by the time you reach middle school, no way. Experienced it in Florida and they dropped it right away. IT WAS AWFUL!
Parent & Employer	It is difficult to balance extracurricular activities, travel, and jobs with high school students. Additionally the RTI 2 & 3 work is ineffective during the intercession period unless it is mandated.
Parent & Employer	it is very difficult for many reasons and numerous parents and children have plans for years in advance and the idea is not beneficial in any way for parents or children or members of the community

Previous Experience Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please make any additional comments about your previous experience with balanced calendars.
Parent & Employer	<p>It limited opportunities for students to be with family, hold internships, complete summer camp/programs and the students didn't experience the summer break rejuvenation in complete freedom from school work. Instead, they always had pressure of school assignments that were due when they returned from their time-off. PLEASE do not change the calendar. If there are no significant differences in time-off, then leave the calendar as it is today. There is so much pressure on rehabbing the test scores and curriculum. So much money has been invested in the new curriculum and I do not think we will see any advancement in standardized test scores until the special needs students are removed from the class room. My daughter has 3 students—who never stop talking—in her class this year. We had to supplement curriculum at home all year so she will be ready for her standardized testing and also prepared for 3rd grade next year. The 3 special needs kids were a constant distraction. The teacher is retiring because she doesn't have the support she needs to teach 14 kids while baby-sitting the 3 special needs kids. And Knox Co. wants my child to be in "class" all year!? 9 months is long enough for my child to suffer the daily battle of attempting to ignore the special needs distractions. If I saw that my child was going to be in a class/grade for 12 months with one of these three children (much less all 3!), I would request a school transfer. If the transfer was denied, I would seriously consider home-school. Other objections I have to year-round school is the effect on family vacations (travel/camping, etc.). Our family is already unable to travel during basketball season because of Saturday games. Increasing the time-off during basketball season will not increase our ability to travel since we are already committed to Saturday game days. However, decreasing the summer time-off will definitely limit the ability for us to travel. We already struggle to pay cash for our family vacation (we have no debt) and by decreasing the summer break, the supply/demand of beach rentals will only make it even more expensive and competitive to schedule our family vacation in the summer. We are under no illusion that year-round school is equivalent time-off and are totally opposed to this proposal. As stated in the Knox County Board of Education, Family and Community Engagement, General Expectations For All Schools (excerpt included below), parent support and commitment are expected. I don't need to explain to the Knox County Board of Education, that 85-90% of our elementary school parents do not meet the listed expectations. The Knox County Board of Education is already well aware that a mere 15-20% of parents are doing all the work to uphold the standards. Year-round school for the students means year-round school for the parents. Our family cannot afford year-round school and the increase in parent resources and parent fund-raising that our elementary school will require. The 15-20% of parents that exceed the standards listed in the General Expectations For All Schools, will be expected to volunteer more of their time and donate more of their money. No, thank you.</p>
Parent & Employer	It negatively impacted the availability of childcare for the two weeks that the students are out of school. The local tourism or economy was impacted.
Parent & Employer	It was disruptive to family life.
Parent & Employer	It was sold as a way to keep spending down; spending instead rose dramatically.
Parent & Employer	It's merely a scheduling change that has little increased educational value. Some states used to adopt balanced calendar changed back to traditional calendar due to various reasons.
Parent & Employer	It's much harder for families to schedule vacations if everyone at a job is asking off the same week so kids end up missing class for family vacations
Parent & Employer	Keep the current traditional calendar
Parent & Employer	Less 'forgetting' over the summer. Less pressure to arrange out-of-school programs for the kids More flexibility for travel and other enrichment experiences during the rest of the year (currently there is almost none for our family because of personal circumstances).
Parent & Employer	Less learning loss over summer
Parent & Employer	Like longer summers for working teens.
Parent & Employer	Longer breaks were nice.
Parent & Employer	Loss of momentum with balanced calendar because of extra breaks. Will greatly affect those in music, adjudication/festivals would have to be reimagined.
Parent & Employer	Loved balanced calendars was easier to keep my children focused on learning.
Parent & Employer	Minister in the community. Made programming easier.

Previous Experience Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please make any additional comments about your previous experience with balanced calendars.
Parent & Employer	My children could not supplement their education by attending certain camps through the summer.
Parent & Employer	My experience with balanced calendars resulted in a great deal of conflict between the difference in scheduled breaks between the 'balanced' calendars employed by my employer (an educational system), the educational system my children attended, and the university class schedule of my child care provide. The result was a constant scramble to arrange daycare because I was working when my children were on break.
Parent & Employer	My friends who have kids in the balanced calendar are always bragging about how great it is and that their children are smarter but I see most of that time during the 10 day breaks her bringing them to work. Meanwhile while my kids are out for the summer, we have them in educational summer camps and such when we are not taking a family vacation. My hubby works most of the summer so we have taken trips in the summer without him (I guess my husband's work follows the balanced calendar!) so for my family I can't say that a balanced calendar would make that much difference schedule wise. I would just hope that for working parents that something other than leaving your kids at home watching TV or taking them to work which is disruptive for other staff and probably boring for them.
Parent & Employer	My high school went to a year-round schedule of in 9 weeks out 3 weeks in the mid-90s. I loved it.
Parent & Employer	My oldest child started her educational career in Maryville City schools on a balanced calendar. We appreciated the advantages to us a family and to her as a student.
Parent & Employer	Our balanced calendar was such that summer break was essentially the same length as our other breaks. It was wonderful not having to waste time reviewing concepts that we had learned but forgotten from a long break. As a parent, students in need of interventions benefit from balanced calendars and it removes a lot of the necessity of summer school for students who face significant regression.
Parent & Employer	Our taxes had to be increased multiple times to pay for it, my wife was always working because she had complete trainings when she was on break, less family time
Parent & Employer	Parents who work had a difficult time finding childcare for their students during extended breaks.
Parent & Employer	Placed an undue burden trying to cover childcare. Also caused undue stress with employer.
Parent & Employer	Some difficulties for parents. Negative impact to existing summer programs. Better continuity for students.
Parent & Employer	Summer breaks were too short to allow students adequate time for parent- and self-directed learning experiences such as summer camps, summer jobs, internships, sports camps and family trips. Community programs in the summer such as pools and summer camps were negatively impacted.
Parent & Employer	The 2 week breaks are a long enough gap that review time is required after them. Shortening the summer to 8 weeks does not eliminate the need for extensive review in the fall. The review time increases with the balanced calendar and actual instruction time is lost. Additionally, the classroom time in late spring/summer that occurs after finals(EOC's) is increased and is very unproductive- basically it is trading a week of instruction that students would have had to prepare for their exams for a week of babysitting after the exams.
Parent & Employer	The balanced calendar will interfere with summer travel sports.
Parent & Employer	The breaks were too long between marking periods.
Parent & Employer	The business community as a whole is not geared towards multi-week breaks during the spring and fall, making it difficult for working parents.
Parent & Employer	The children and parents did not like the balanced calendar because it is too much to keep up with!
Parent & Employer	The cost in another system was too much of a strain on their systems budget.

Previous Experience Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please make any additional comments about your previous experience with balanced calendars.
Parent & Employer	The entire district was not on the same plan so it made it very difficult when you had younger children on the balanced calendar and older children on a different calendar. Made it difficult for day care as well as family vacations.
Parent & Employer	The longer time off in the fall and spring has the effect of a full start up i.e. loss of classroom time with students...
Parent & Employer	The name says it all. I feel the students would learn and retain more as well as enjoy the longer breaks. I also believe the more balanced schedule would decrease stress.
Parent & Employer	The result of the longer break time during the school year was detrimental and caused focus issues. The shorter summer meant trying to focus on classes while enduring unfavorable heat and humidity conditions as well. I also attended a year round school and found I spent the majority of my time focused on the next break rather than my studies. We would return from a break, take time to get settled and lo and behold just as we were learning it was break time again. At the time that was celebratory until I was in a traditional school calendar setting. Then I realized how much "goofing off" we did because of the focus on vacation times. I was on the west coast and being in school during summer meant lots of heat, trouble walking from class to class outside when it was close to 100 degrees but that was still better than here because we didn't have the humidity. We had some classrooms that were in trailers as well that NEVER were cool enough. We would end up with school canceled if it was too hot, another distraction. This "balanced calendar" did not help but hindered my education and I know that the "year round" school I was in was ten times worse but this seems to be a possible precursor. If you plan on using ten days of the summer you will run into heat issues, air conditioning issues and needing to reschedule. It happened when I was in school and we had more favorable weather than Knoxville.
Parent & Employer	There was less loss of learning with the balanced calendar approach. Teachers and students, alike, get a true refreshing with balanced calendar breaks. The single drawback is childcare for parents who rely on it during the summer. It would be terrific if the school system offered care during these off weeks. In my experience, there are enough teachers who could use the extra money to do a mini camp during the breaks.
Parent & Employer	They used a voluntary balanced calendar where I went to high school. It didn't help any of the kids involved and stopped the program after no one volunteered
Parent & Employer	Too big a burden on our family with arranging care for the kids when school was out
Parent & Employer	Too difficult for families to operate on a different schedule than extended family, child care etc. Summer is too short for meaningful job experience, travel, family time.
Parent & Employer	Too hard to arrange care and vacation times
Parent & Employer	Very difficult for parents that work, or students that want/need to work.
Parent & Employer	Very difficult to have students get back on task after two weeks off and we as educators know how excited they get before the breaks
Parent & Employer	very hard to arrange for the multiple out of school care for our kids
Parent & Employer	Very hard to staff for after school age children with the balanced calendar as it does not follow with college workers schedule.
Parent & Employer	Was involved with balanced calendar in Johnson City school system. It was great. Continuity in learning helped the children and parents. Parents greatly supported the calendar.
Parent & Employer	We are looking at a balanced calendar from other people's eyes mostly from school's staff and one's that do not have clock in to work If a person jumps off a bridge are we all going to follow I've heard and Experienced from family members about having more time off its bad enough now trying to have as many days off to be with your children when its just More expensive for daycares and after school care and this will mean ditching out more put yourselves on our shoes if you didnt have a job in the school system does the majority of you think you will have a job that will let you have so many days off with pay(which you will need if you can't afford the astronomical day care fees).

Previous Experience Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please make any additional comments about your previous experience with balanced calendars.
Parent & Employer	We found at our previous school district that our kids preformed 10% better with the balanced school calendar.
Parent & Employer	When assisting with the running of geographical summer camps (camps that served multiple counties in the same area), the students and families in the school systems that implemented balanced calendars had several difficulties that were not experienced by the students and families in school systems under the traditional calendar. One of the difficulties included having trouble finding available spots for the students since they were in school longer and started back sooner. Thus more students were competing for a reduced number of available spots. Another difficulty arose in trying to find counselors. The counselors were expected to work for the entire camp, which precluded any students in the school systems using the balanced calendar. This opened up more counselor positions for students in the traditional calendar, but reduced the available pool of counselors. This affected both our camp and our need for counselors, and the students who desired to work during the summer but could not due to being under the balanced calendar. One last issue we faced was the unintended consequence of more parents not wanting their students to attend camp due to the camp taking up more of their summer than it had in the past.
Parent & Employer	Work in the acloa school district
Parent & Employer	Worked very well for me as a single father
Parent & Employer	Working parents will struggle with the balanced schedule. There is also a negative impact on summer camps.
Parent & Employer	Works well for students and families. Childcare and camps will follow.
Parent & KCS	1) Less retention, not more for all the interruptions/breaks 2) No true break because assignments are made over three of the four "breaks" 3) Babysitting/after-school nightmare for those "breaks" 4) High cost for hiring retention tutors or "camps"
Parent & KCS	45-10 is the best way to go! 45-15 just didn't work for me.
Parent & KCS	A balanced calendar allows for less academic loss over the summer.
Parent & KCS	A balanced calendar helps to keep teachers and students refreshed and ready to learn. As a retired KC teacher, I know how burned out students as well as teachers get. If a balanced calendar had been implemented the last time it was considered I would not have retired when I did.
Parent & KCS	A Balanced Calendar will benefit all of our students, especially those who experience the greatest learning loss over the longer summer break. The intersession will allow for those students most at risk to get the interventions they need when they need them.
Parent & KCS	After school programs did not get in sync with the schedule. This was in another county.
Parent & KCS	Allowed for breaks that were convenient for family vacations at alternate times throughout the year. Allowed students and teachers a break this preventing mid semester burn out
Parent & KCS	As a member of the community where year round and traditional schools were both offered in the district, childcare options were more difficult for parents in the schools that were year round. Most child care programs operated on the traditional school schedule. I think it would be better to have the entire district operating on the same schedule, then child care providers can adjust accordingly to accommodate all their children, not just a handful.
Parent & KCS	As a parent, it is nice to schedule a family vacation in October. We've gone to Disneyland, and most of the children who live in California are in school since they don't start until September. Traveling is a lot easier and there are fewer crowds. This equates to happy family memories.
Parent & KCS	As a parent/employee of the county, i like that the children have a long summer. It gives them the opportunity to relax and enjoy being a kid. They dont have to stress over tests and teachers struggling to teach them the common core. I feel that the balanced calendar should stay as it is with no changes. It is beneficial to our children.

Previous Experience Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please make any additional comments about your previous experience with balanced calendars.
Parent & KCS	As a pre-k and elementary parent I think the transition is good. Because upon my high school graduation and my transition into college it was a little difficult because my college had a very similar schedule as the proposed schedule. After time I made the adjustment!
Parent & KCS	As a student, I was able to experience a balanced calendar for a portion of high school. The longer breaks throughout the year were beneficial and provided time to complete projects as well as work after school to save for college. The shortened summer helped me to stay connected from year to year.
Parent & KCS	As a teacher dealing with balanced calendar, I found that after each break one had to re establish discipline all over again. Our county threw out balanced calendar and went back to a traditional school calendar so students could get the wiggles out over the summer.
Parent & KCS	As a teacher, when I worked for another system, I loved the balanced calendar. As a parent, it allows for more time off with the family throughout the year. I believe the students benefit both academically and socially from a balanced calendar.
Parent & KCS	balanced calendar helps spread the year out and provides the students with more continuity. Also allows students to get much needed breaks between quarters and gives teachers a "refresh" period. This also allows teachers to have more time for planning and preparing curriculum.
Parent & KCS	Balanced calendar made sports, band, and summer jobs nearly impossible for high schoolers.
Parent & KCS	Balanced calendar will give our students/children the support they need for better retention.
Parent & KCS	Balanced calendars benefit students, families, and staff. The shorter summer break prevents increased educational loss that is seen during longer breaks, students and staff have breathers throughout the year to refresh and reenergize, and families have the opportunity to vacation in fall and spring without pulling their children from school to do so.
Parent & KCS	Breaks are good for teachers and students, but two weeks at a time is too much to expect students, especially LD students to get back in the swing of things when they return to school.
Parent & KCS	Breaks seemed to come just as we needed them... natural times to stop and rest.
Parent & KCS	By 6 weeks of summer, my kids are ready to get back to something. Fall break and Spring break for 2 weeks.
Parent & KCS	Difficult to make child-care arrangements, esp. for companies that are in a different county
Parent & KCS	Difficult to manage family and work schedule
Parent & KCS	Don't wish to see it here
Parent & KCS	Each time there is a significant break, students lost reading comprehension. Summer reading loss is problematic, but the balanced calendar made it a year long start-over process for struggling readers at all grade levels.
Parent & KCS	Every 2 to 3 week break it was like starting the school year over just like after winter break.
Parent & KCS	Everyone that I worked with was refreshed after each break and the teachers noticed a reduction in behavior problems.
Parent & KCS	Extra-curricular activities were difficult to schedule.
Parent & KCS	family time and/or vacation to visit grandparents possible throughout the year, summer vacation still long enough for extracurricular activities, weeklong break offers time to "refuel" before next section starts, breaks are for downtime to reflect on lesson learned and time to apply new knowledge each season can be experienced, not only summer vacation
Parent & KCS	Frequent breaks makes it very hard for my children to adjust to a time schedule. It also totally ruins their summer sport activities.
Parent & KCS	From my experience, the children really retained knowledge better with the balanced calendar.... Daycare and after-school programs were more than happy to provide childcare even with the calendar change. I think you should try it.... you might like it! :)

Previous Experience Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please make any additional comments about your previous experience with balanced calendars.
Parent & KCS	Getting reasonable daycare services sporadically throughout the year and so often was/is a problem for many states/people. If the child doesn't already attend a care location its extremely hard to get your child I for just 10days because this temporary child could put a long term potential child out. Not many daycares services would rather a temp over a potential permanent child.
Parent & KCS	Good for kids. The community will adapt to the changes in schedule.
Parent & KCS	Great for teacher not so good for families and students.
Parent & KCS	Have you considered what this will do to the economy in the Knoxville area!!!!? Sieverville/Pigeon Forge and Gatlinburg rely heavily on tourism from Knoxville during the summer, essentially, you will be cutting their revenue in half!!!! (Splash Country, Dollywood etc.)
Parent & KCS	High school students who needed to work to earn monies for school were shorted hours they normally earn with a longer summer break. Many students wanted to only work in the summer and focus on their studies during to school to obtain the best grades. This hindered many families. Summer camp experiences were omitted due to the change. Missed opportunity for students to experience and grow in a different arena.
Parent & KCS	how would sports schedules be accomodated to fit within the balanced calendar
Parent & KCS	I am happy with the traditional calendar we currently have and use!
Parent & KCS	I attended 2 different schools as a child and teen that had trimester systems with 3-week intercession breaks. Children who needed tutoring were able to get help during the breaks to catch up with their peers, and families were able to travel during breaks.
Parent & KCS	I became familiar with the balanced calendar as a student teacher at the Oak Ridge Preschool in Spring 2009.
Parent & KCS	I believe once the students and parent experience it they will like it. Students will retain more.
Parent & KCS	I cannot wait!! Although it is no magic wand, it is better for families, teachers, and students.
Parent & KCS	I did not feel that the balanced calendar was beneficial.
Parent & KCS	I do not like going to school in July and August
Parent & KCS	I enjoyed the balanced calendar. The weather is much better in the fall and spring for outside activities. Being in school during a few extra hot summer days allows families to experience fairer weather conditions for outdoor activities in the spring and fall.
Parent & KCS	I hate it
Parent & KCS	I have family members that live in districts that have balanced calendars.
Parent & KCS	I have friends who teach and who are parents of students in Maryville, Alcoa, etc., who really love the balanced calendar.
Parent & KCS	I have friends who work in school districts with balanced calendars. They speak very positively about it.
Parent & KCS	I interned as a teacher at willowbrook in oak ridge which is a balanced calendar school.
Parent & KCS	I like that Fall and Spring break are longer during the calendar year and Summer is shorter.
Parent & KCS	I like that there are more breaks in between and that students get back to learning sooner
Parent & KCS	I like the breaks after each 9 weeks and a shorter summer. Most students are ready to return to school after about 6 weeks of summer. My children enjoyed the 2 week breaks when we were in a system that had a balance calendar.
Parent & KCS	I liked a 3 week break at Christmas with 2 weeks the other breaks (spring/fall)
Parent & KCS	I liked having multiple long breaks throughout the year.
Parent & KCS	I liked the fact there was a break for recharging after every 9 weeks. Also the summer was shorter so learning loss was not as significant
Parent & KCS	I LOVE the balanced calendar! The kids are less stressed throughout the year. And it leaves us more options for family vacations.
Parent & KCS	I loved having my students skills maintain.
Parent & KCS	I loved the equal amount of breaks for students and staff. Both parties seem to come back refreshed. Teacher and student burnout also seemed less evident.

Previous Experience Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please make any additional comments about your previous experience with balanced calendars.
Parent & KCS	I only know about the balanced calendar - have not experienced it as a teacher or a parent of a student
Parent & KCS	I taught under a Balanced Calendar for two years in another state.
Parent & KCS	I think a balanced calendar is great. As a teacher, I enjoyed working during the breaks, or intercession times.
Parent & KCS	I think that balanced calendar is what is most appropriate for student retention of knowledge.
Parent & KCS	I thought it was a great plan for elementary school.
Parent & KCS	I vote Traditional calendar, but add back a longer Fall Break.
Parent & KCS	I want a longer time with my kids in the summer. Too many breaks in the school year makes it hard to refocus kids.
Parent & KCS	I was an intern in Johnson City and one of the schools piloted a balanced calendar. It ended up being so popular that the next year the entire school followed the same calendar.
Parent & KCS	I was more satisfied with the balance calendar than with the traditional calendar; however, it was not a systemwide implementation, which impacted my satisfaction rating above.
Parent & KCS	I went to school in England for elementary school, and we have a year-round calendar. I do not remember the start of school being such a big deal because we had only been away a short while. My parents are often nostalgic for a calendar that allowed frequent breaks, but none too long.
Parent & KCS	I worked for The Boys and Girls Club in Alcoa. Students did not have a hard time adjusting to the schedule, and they appreciated the frequent time off.
Parent & KCS	If we as a district are going to delve into having a balanced calendar, we need to include ALL schools not just a few.
Parent & KCS	In my experience, the balanced calendar model is more costly and less efficient for both student and employees. Retention rates are not improved based on studies I have read and through personal experience
Parent & KCS	In other counties and states who use this calendar, teachers were "forced" to work during the two week breaks. It was not a choice as some stated during these information meetings. They have been told either do this enrichment or intervention program or you don't have a job. My fear is that our teachers in Knox County will be treated the same way. Teacher are overworked and exhausted as it is. They do not need to have breaks taken away from them. Also, some of the teachers who have been in these balanced calendar systems don't even get extra pay for working these extra weeks. How unfair is that?!?! Our teachers need the break just as much as our students need them.
Parent & KCS	In Texas, we tried a "balanced calendar". After a few years, because of parent dissatisfaction, they went back to the traditional calendar.
Parent & KCS	In Wake County, North Carolina, they use a year-round calendar to alleviate overcrowding in the schools. Their longest break was about three weeks--much more evenly spaced than this proposed balanced calendar.
Parent & KCS	it blows
Parent & KCS	It cost the district more money, teachers didn't get to have a break because they were in training or working extra hours to enrich students who weren't at grade level, students had more difficulty starting over each time they went back to school, test scores didn't improve
Parent & KCS	It did not improve student achievement. There was not sufficient outreach for students who lost skills during the breaks. There was initial funding for some students to receive programming during the breaks, but once that ended on students who qualified for ESY received anything. It was also very disruptive to our parents who worked minimum wage jobs as they could not afford child care & those family members who could come take kids for a summer vacation could not afford to come every few weeks to take them to their homes.
Parent & KCS	It did not really matter school was school when I was younger. I loved learning.
Parent & KCS	It helps students and teachers to be more successful.

Previous Experience Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please make any additional comments about your previous experience with balanced calendars.
Parent & KCS	It is a nice schedule. After adjusting to the schedule, parents loved it. The community will adjust. It does take some time for sports teams, summer employments, summer child care, etc. to adjust. Once that happens, everyone will love it.
Parent & KCS	it is very difficult to find child care and staff do not get a real break as they always take work home over break periods.
Parent & KCS	It ruins summer camps, swim teams, sport camps for children. Children need summer!!!!
Parent & KCS	It was amazing. Family time increased because we all knew when the next break was and we were able to make plans because there was enough time (instead of 2 days). We love to go to Gatlinburg but when the whole county is out for 2 days, everyone is there at the same time. This leads to frustration. When we had it before we had time to plan and time to do things with our family. The teachers were more positive and didn't seem as stressed. My husband and my employers worked with us on scheduling and it was perfect!!
Parent & KCS	It was costly and students made NO significant gains.
Parent & KCS	It was difficult to have students who go to daycare. Students that were to receive remediation during breaks didn't always show up. Hard to staff during breaks.
Parent & KCS	Its not proven to be effective in surrounding counties and is an upset to the structure and routine that the kids are used to. Show me where in our area it has worked before Mr. McIntyre and maybe then you'll get better results
Parent & KCS	Just through family not my own children
Parent & KCS	Knox County School Board will do what they want to
Parent & KCS	Less summer helps the kids keep memory on what they have learned! Having long summer kids loses the information they hav learned because they r not being taught or refreshed at home
Parent & KCS	Love the two weeks. Did it in another county.
Parent & KCS	Makes it hard to arrange daycare during those multiple times students are off throughout the year
Parent & KCS	Many expectations were unrealized once it was implemented. More change will not increase learning.
Parent & KCS	Much less transition time at the beginning of the school year. Students stay focused in a more positive way during the year with longer breaks during the year. I feel a balanced calendar is mutually beneficial for students and teachers. I wholeheartedly support a balanced calendar for our school system.
Parent & KCS	My biggest issue is that the calendars match surrounding counties. That becomes an issue when teachers live outside the county you have to figure it out for their families.
Parent & KCS	My children and my family LOVE the balanced calendar. It has given my children time to rest between quarters. It has also given my children an opportunity for enrichment or remediation. It provides students and their parents the opportunity to take time to make college visits during the fall.
Parent & KCS	my concern is that teachers will loose time with their families due to one week of the time off being for intervention so really teachers will be working more days. I have seen this happen in other schools and teachers were told that they would not receive additional compensation and that if they did not want to do it that they could move to another school. I value my time with my family.
Parent & KCS	My daughter plays travel softball. We made it to a World Series which was the last week of July and one of our better players had to decide between going to school or letting her team down.
Parent & KCS	My daughter went to "Year round" school in Maryville City Schools. The teachers reported feeling refreshed and better able to cope with the demands and stress of work.
Parent & KCS	My experience was a a student. It was great to enjoy breaks regularly without losing the materials previously learned.

Previous Experience Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please make any additional comments about your previous experience with balanced calendars.
Parent & KCS	My family in Indiana has had this for two years. Last year they took one of the weeks from spring break away to make up snow days. This was a disaster. The HS choir was on a choir tour and missed schools days. Some parents had made long trip plans they went ahead and took the trip and students missed school. Snow days should remain built in or the school day needs to return to its short version. Teachers are working the extra hours, so the snow days need to be built in.
Parent & KCS	My hometown and the next town over from ours uses a balanced calendar. All the teachers I have talked to love it, most parents, once all their fears and child care issues were resolved, liked it.
Parent & KCS	My oldest daughter attended Alcoa City Schools. I loved the year round school model. I also worked for Blount County Schools under a similar schedule and loved it! The staff and teachers loved it as well.
Parent & KCS	My schools during my own K-12 experience were on a trimester system with 3-weeks to 1.5 month breaks.
Parent & KCS	My teenagers were unable to obtain summer jobs because of the abbreviated summer break. Employers want help for the 10 weeks high schoolers are out, not 5 or 6.
Parent & KCS	My wife works at a school in the area that has a balanced calendar and I think it would be a blessing to my family, to me as a teacher and to my ELL students.
Parent & KCS	Not enough time for kids to enjoy the summer. Penalizes any students who do sports or band during the times when there are extended breaks.
Parent & KCS	One thing I did like was how the balance calendar also helped local community business thrive . local Gyms, specialty camps, childcare , saw increased revenue to accomodate the needs of working parents during these breaks. However, as an educator , I often sought employment during the summer months at specialty camps and saw a decrease in my income because it ws hard for them to employ me in a summer job that only lasted less than 1 month which effected my budget for the school year.
Parent & KCS	Only one school in the system (Oak Ridge) used a balanced calendar. It made it hard on parents who had kids at more than one school. It would need to be an all-or-nothing balanced calendar in Knox County for me to support it.
Parent & KCS	Please begin a balanced calender it benefits parents, teachers, and students.
Parent & KCS	Prefer only the 43 day summer balanced calendar NOT the 30 day summer option.
Parent & KCS	pros: less summer learning loss, more time for teachers to grade at end of grading periods, more chances for students and teachers to refresh and recharge. cons: conflict with others in family working or going to nearby schools with different calendars, child care, compensation, students still attending school during the hottest months (hard to concentrate)
Parent & KCS	Ramp up time, loss of time getting back into subject
Parent & KCS	Snow days were never accounted for and Spring break was always being taken for makeup days. People finally just stopped planning trips at Spring break because it was always shortened. Child care expesexpenses went up dramatically.
Parent & KCS	Students and teachers were much more relaxed and calm due to the breaks within the year.
Parent & KCS	Students had more time for interventions.
Parent & KCS	Students seemed to come back refreshed after the breaks and were ready to resume their studies. Plus, it permitted families to take vacations at other times of the year, allowing them to save money by traveling "off season" and by increasing the opportunities of different seasonal experiences.
Parent & KCS	Teacher and student benefit from the break as a chance to re-energize.
Parent & KCS	The baanced calendar allowed the teachers and staff, as well as the parents and students to unwind and recharge. The community, once they became familiar with the calendar, was better able to prepare for vacations.
Parent & KCS	The balanced calendar allows kids to retain knowledge.

Previous Experience Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please make any additional comments about your previous experience with balanced calendars.
Parent & KCS	The balanced calendar that I experienced in FL involved only elementary schools in the district and had different groups of sessions.
Parent & KCS	The balanced calendar that I've had experience with allowed 3 weeks per break and shorter summer breaks. The shorter breaks in the summer improved scores on standardized test because there was less time to forget imparted knowledge.
Parent & KCS	The breaks during the year were too disruptive to the continuity of the lessons and plans and it took longer to get students back on task and focused after every long break. More frequent, shorter breaks worked far better both academically and psychologically. It was also much easier on teachers. Parents complained about interruption to their annual summer plans (especially camos) that have gone on for generations. Many families moved out of the district when it changed to the balanced calendar. After a couple of years, the district listened and switched back to a traditional year. Grades actually went UP when switched back to the traditional year. Parents, teachers and students were much happier and much more productive on the traditional calendar. After that experience, if Knox Co went to balanced, I would remove my kids from Knox Co schools. The balance calendar created too much negativity and did nothing to improve academics. Having been through it before and seeing the problems it created, I will not stay, either as a parent or a teacher, stay in a district which follows a balanced calendar.
Parent & KCS	The calendar given was not the calendar that was presented and approved!
Parent & KCS	the community steps up and offered camps during the break times. It actually helped some businesses because it gave them steady enrollment and not just summer.
Parent & KCS	The community supported the change and camps and care were expanded to adjust to the balanced year.
Parent & KCS	The longer breaks in between are necessary for students and teachers to relax, unwind, and refresh.
Parent & KCS	The purpose was to prevent learning loss over the summer. However there was not much difference in having a 55 day d break and having a 45 day break. It seemed that anything over a month break would result in learning loss.
Parent & KCS	The school district was the only one in that region that had a balanced calendar. It was difficult making plans with family outside of the school district due to conflicts with other school calendars. However, most importantly, there were issues arranging child care.
Parent & KCS	The school system I was in as a student had more frequent breaks and longer ones built in. Summer break was only about 6 weeks - that is a little too short. It should be at least 8 weeks.
Parent & KCS	The school system I worked for was comparable in size to Knox county. The community had adapted to it and I heard no negative comments about it. The longer breaks were nice.
Parent & KCS	The students forget in 2 weeks the rules and expectations. They are so ready by May 1 to exit, prolonging it was torture for the students and staff.
Parent & KCS	There was still learning loss even with smaller breaks. It will happen no matter how long. I also knew teachers who were so unsatisfied and upset by it that they went to another county or in one case another state.
Parent & KCS	This does nothing but hurt achieving students. Would love the district to provide studies showing how it benefits all students. Perhaps instead of trying to adopt a decade old idea, district leaders should look at what high performing States are doing rather than adopt old ideas that show little success.
Parent & KCS	This is a effective balance and use of school days and gives a break to both kids and teachers without losing what they are learning.
Parent & KCS	This type of calendar does not significantly help students retain material. However, it does inhibit teenagers ability to get summer jobs and learn responsibility; it does inhibit hobbies such as sports, dance, cheerleading, etc.; it does inhibit a student's ability to explore other classes at UT or other places.

Previous Experience Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please make any additional comments about your previous experience with balanced calendars.
Parent & KCS	This type of calendar is a win win situation. The students receive small breaks throughout they year helping with motivation. These breaks can be used for reteaching and enrichment. It is also helps with losses that occur over the summer.
Parent & KCS	Those 2 week breaks recharge the batteries.
Parent & KCS	Two weeks off takes a long time for students to adjust to going back to school. Kids who struggle in school just have a lot of difficulty in getting back into the grind and remembering what they've been taught.
Parent & KCS	Very hard to get students back on track after 5 days; let alone 10 days.
Parent & KCS	We are not an agrarian society any more.
Parent & KCS	We had 3 weeks at Christmas break instead. However, what I noticed, as a teacher, was that whenever the children and teachers were in need of a break, it was time for one. Everyone came back after breaks refreshed and ready to learn.
Parent & KCS	We loved it!
Parent & KCS	We loved it! We could spend time together as a family at various times of the year. As a teacher, I had time throughout the year to rest and recharge.
Parent & KCS	We LOVED the balanced calendar at Fort Craig School of Dynamic Learning in Maryville City when my kids attended. We missed a few weeks in the summer, but it was worth it to have the extended breaks throughout the year. My kids, including my autistic son, thrived on this type of schedule, and as a parent, I loved it! I can't wait for Knox County to transition to this type of calendar!!
Parent & KCS	We were a pilot school in south Florida years ago. Not everyone was in the same schedule and it made it difficult in that capacity. Seemed good for the kids!
Parent & KCS	When working in a balanced calendar system, the breaks were spread apart more evenly and allowed me time to relax and have time to reflect on my teaching practices and implement new ideas into my lessons. I need the down time to think and let the creative juices flow.
Parent & KCS	With the rigor, a possible 10 week break is very beneficial to the students.
Parent & KCS	Works well for elementary, not middle or high schoolers
Employer	A balanced calendar boosted both teacher and student moral.....students were absent less frequently
Employer	As a student from a school on a balanced calendar, I can personally say I learned and retained more of what was taught. The breaks throughout the year give students something to look forward too and also helps eliminate stress. The shorter summer allows students to remember more information from the previous year, therefore less time is spent on review at the beginning so there is more time to move forward with lessons.
Employer	Did not work well since the majority of the area was not year round.
Employer	Difficult for child care for longer spring and fall breaks which you cannot get off work for. Since I can't get off, kids are just left being babysat - not having fun family time. I am also a community member that worries about those kids in fall/spring break who won't get fed for almost two weeks since they rely on school meals.
Employer	Huge disruption to the community businesses and no measurable positives
Employer	I enjoyed working with students in a balanced calendar (3 week holiday at Fall, 2 weeks at Winter, 3 weeks at Spring and 4-5 weeks at Summer. It is the best model for my students who are classified as "at risk". We have much less stop and start, as we take 3 weeks for refreshing and then come back and hit the same routines and work we left behind. I prefer this calendar.
Employer	I live in Oak Ridge where two schools have had a balanced calendar. The entire system will be balanced this fall. The day care agencies have made accommodations and the schools have enrichment weeks for students.
Employer	I refuse to participate in this rigged survey. You should lose your jobs for this.

Previous Experience Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please make any additional comments about your previous experience with balanced calendars.
Employer	I reside in Oak Ridge and two of their schools have had a balanced calendar for several years. The staff and families love it!
Employer	It was more difficult to transition young children back to the routines after extended breaks. The extra time for spring and fall breaks was nice.
Employer	It's a good balanced break for all year
Employer	Just as a coach with kids at Alcoa
Employer	Our school system in FL tried it and it was a disaster. No gain in achievement, escalating costs, and many unintentional consequences especially for high school students. We moved here because we were pretty sure they wouldn't try something so dumb on Tennessee. Guess I was wrong
Employer	Reduced summer work time.
Employer	The longer intermediate breaks allow for a meaningful recovery from education fatigue. I felt more productive when returning to classes after a longer rest. The shorter summer break is more conducive to retaining mathematical concepts repeated in following years. A shorter summer break may mean less opportunity for students to find employment and set aside savings to pay for education or living expenses.
Employer	We moved away from Knoxville for about 18 months and our kids went to a school that had this exact balanced schedule. Our entire family loved it. We particularly enjoyed the 2 week Fall Break. We were able to enjoy nice, warm vacations without the summer crowds. I don't feel like my kids were affected academically in any negative way at all. In fact, I feel they were more refreshed and less burnt out because of the longer Fall and Spring Breaks.
Employer	Went to Alcoa City and loved the balanced calendar. There is less learning loss over breaks and more time family trips over fall break in turn reducing absences around fall break.
KCS	356U Valley View School District Romeoville Chicagoland. 1970-1981 due to overcrowding
KCS	A balanced calendar allows students and teachers to rejuvenate between grading periods.
KCS	A balanced calendar is very effective because it eliminates the large gap in the summer for reading loss. As an educator, we work all year to raise reading levels. It is heartbreaking to see students lose the gain he or she has worked so hard to achieve during the school year.
KCS	A balanced calendar makes perfect sense. It gives teachers and students a break just when they need one.
KCS	A balanced calendar was implemented in one of four elementary schools in my community. The students made more gains in the first two years of the balanced calendar than in any previous years.
KCS	As a former student and teacher of the balanced calendar plan, my family greatly benefited as a child and as a teacher, I saw greater retention per student.
KCS	As a Knox County teacher living in Maryville, I struggle because my son has a balanced calendar and I do not. I've had to miss spring and fall break travel opportunities because there is no alignment. I would love the balanced calendar to match my son's.
KCS	As a newly divorced parent when I moved to Oak Ridge, the "year round" option, which was really closer to a balanced calendar, made the custody division of breaks much more equitable and far less stressful on our son. That said, it doesn't make sense if only some schools in the district are on one calendar while others aren't.
KCS	As a parent it is not good when so much time is spent on break and students forget what they have been studying
KCS	As a parent of a student in a system that uses a balanced calendar, I appreciate the opportunity to travel at different times of the year and it keeps my son from getting "burned out" at school.

Previous Experience Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please make any additional comments about your previous experience with balanced calendars.
KCS	As a parent of elementary children, I thought the balanced calendar was good, because it kept their level of learning up and reduced summer boredom. As a teacher, I was continually frustrated with having to start work in July. Since the hottest days of summer (swimming season) are in July and August, every year I felt deprived of my summer activities. I would suggest a modified calendar, starting school in August, with a one week fall break and a 3 week winter break (since we tend to have snow days in January anyway).
KCS	As a private school administrator I used the balanced calendar for two years. It was a success in every way; the only reason we changed back to the traditional calendar was because our school was located in a public school district that was on a traditional calendar which caused too much family/school conflict
KCS	As a student I remember it being a great time to "reboot". As a young student it was difficult to listen and focus for the extended period of time throughout the year that we still currently experience. I am now a teacher and remember the benefits as a student and now see the benefits as well as a teacher. I feel that it would cut down on teacher absenteeism and give both students and teachers a time to reboot and find the focus they need for instruction.
KCS	As a student, I liked that we had shorter intervals between breaks.
KCS	As a student, it was beneficial because we were able to rest before returning to a new quarter.
KCS	As a teacher and parent on balanced calendar I feel it is the best for the students and teachers. I feel students are more successful and teachers have more energy throughout the year.
KCS	As a teacher I felt like the breaks were refreshing and kept me from experiencing exhaustion or burnout throughout the year. When I was a student we transitioned to the balanced calendar when I was in middle school. I felt like the breaks gave me both a mental break and my family time to take more vacations at different times of the year. Long Summers became boring, so I appreciated going back a little earlier.
KCS	As a teacher in a balanced calendar school system, I found that I spent less time reviewing material and was able to spend more time teaching new material. As a parent, I enjoyed being able to plan family vacations in off peak times.
KCS	As a teacher, I and the students were more rested and renewed for learning. It was very beneficial for myself and the students to come back to school ready to learn and work harder for the next 9 weeks.
KCS	As a teacher, it allows for you to reflect, retool and adjust during the course of a semester. As a parent of students involved in sports and other activities, it was nice to have a break in the middle of things with not school work to attend to.
KCS	As I teacher I found that my students maintained previous learning which allowed me to reduce review time and move onto other material.
KCS	As student in high school, my family and I loved the balanced calendar. It gave my younger sister and I breaks in-between the hectic 9 weeks of honors and AP classes. It also allowed my family to travel and visit relatives more throughout the year. Now, as a teacher, I see the benefits of the balanced calendar. It excites me at the prospect of students retaining information from grade-to-grade with a shorter summer and the much needed breaks between.
KCS	As the parent of a special needs child, I felt the balanced calendar was very instrumental in helping my child stay on point academically and greatly improved his retention of skills. When we transferred to Tennessee and this was not an option, I saw my child's skill retention down grade tremendously - to the point that I began to use a tutor during the summer to eliminate loss of skill. Additionally, he felt a considerable more amount of stress on the traditional calendar due to a lack of rest time during the school year.

Previous Experience Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please make any additional comments about your previous experience with balanced calendars.
KCS	Balanced calendar is AMAZING for what it does for both the students and the teachers. I cannot speak enough of the benefits. My concern would be that teachers will need to restructure their curriculum to allow for the two week window. This would mean students will need to take initiative and increase academic integrity so as to not "forget" all of the content from before the break. While I saw this a challenge at first, students realized quickly which teachers would allow and enable this behavior and which teachers would maintain accountability.
KCS	Balanced calendar is much better!!!
KCS	Balanced calendar seems to keep up teacher moral and lessen teacher burn out.
KCS	Balanced calendars are very harmful to performance oriented arts classes and large-project-based CTE courses. Also, you only provide two calendar options here; the concept of a week-long break is very sensible for spring break and fall break, but you just completely skip it. I don't understand your decision to omit that option, or to mention that there are other ways to arrange the time (3 week breaks, which are worse, but still an option to be discussed).
KCS	Balanced calendars do not save money for school systems, and are not a solution for students lack of retention. If nothing is wrong with our current calendar, then we should not try to "fix" it. Our current calendar has been working for years and has never been the issue for lack of student progress.
KCS	Balanced calendars just make sense. Those that argue about daycare, sports, etc. are being short sighted and just afraid of change. This calendar will be best for student learning because there will be less loss over the summer and students can be tutored as the year progresses rather than cramming it in to a four week period.
KCS	Balanced calendars will not increase retention of student learning. "Summer loss" can happen over a weekend...
KCS	Being an hourly worker not subject to the consequence annual teacher raises, the Balanced Calendar effects me greatly. It means going longer periods without a pay check. Knox county should be looking into moving into a balanced calendar as other surrounds counties have already advanced to this process. However, the school board must also be willing to look at how it will effect hourly workers which it seems to this point has not been factored in the decision. There are various departments that can ill effort to go 30 days or more without a check which actually means 30 plus two weeks which is 45 days of no pay. This gap in some way has to be discussed to prevent major hardships on long time employees.
KCS	Both teachers and students experienced less stress throughout the school year due to the breaks.
KCS	both the students and staff need a break loved it
KCS	Breaking up the schedule allows for S to "detox" or de-stress, as well as teachers.
KCS	Children need time to be kids in the summer. Camps that kids go to for weeks of fun or child care, use college age people to run the camps. They would not have the staff to operate those kinds of things in the middle of the year because college age people would not be available. Also I work at a high school. Many of our students depend on summer jobs as family income and for their car and college savings. Employers are not going to hire students for that short of a time. It has been said that we have to lose teachers and secretaries because of budget issues. If we can't fund what we have now, we surely can't fund the staff all year long. I am totally against the balanced calender (aka year round school)
KCS	Community member
KCS	Data does not support balanced calendars making a difference with regards to academic progress of students. It really is just a matter of personal preference, not a decision supported by proof that the balanced calendar improves student progress or performance.
KCS	Due to family and sports schedules, the balanced calendar will cause difficulties.
KCS	Enjoyed the balanced calendar.
KCS	Experienced it while student-teaching at Alcoa elementary

Previous Experience Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please make any additional comments about your previous experience with balanced calendars.
KCS	Faculty, staff and parents eventually determined the 2 week breaks were too long and the systems (2 of them) went back to a traditional calendar, except they increased the fall break to a full week.
KCS	good
KCS	Great for kids - our most important commodity!
KCS	Great for teachers having time off. Bad for teachers having to reteach after the breaks.
KCS	had to shorten the season for sports or eliminate any non conference games
KCS	Hard on teachers and parents
KCS	Have kids that attend Alcoa City Schools.
KCS	haven't yet and it doesn't make a difference anyway it is going to happen
KCS	High school kids needing to work jobs longer in the summer. Child care was hard.
KCS	HVAC was an issue during hotter weeks and expense was an issue. Kids who need intervention ought to be given transportation for intercession to truly make a difference, and that does take money. Enrichment programs that partner with the community can be wonderful opportunities, but should be offered to all students, not just ones who have great test scores. I would advise going with two two-week breaks rather than three and having an 8 week summer if we do this.
KCS	I actually taught for a school system that implemented a year-round model, which I know is different, but there are many similarities.
KCS	I aint sendin my child to a school system wit a this balanced calander. my child aint attending school with dis shiz. LISTEN TO MY NEW MIXTAPE. http://itapez.com/mixtapes/dancehall/ijah-iba-forever-blaze-hosted-by-bobby-konders/ SEND ME FEEDBACK TOO!! FREAKY FREAK FRESH CRACKAS. PEACE OUT. WORD.
KCS	I am a retired teacher from California but now work with the ESL program associated with Knox County Adult Education program so I am probably coming from a different perspective. During my thirty year career I taught using a balanced calendar. The calendar I experienced had an even shorter summer-children seemed to retain much more and it was much easier to resume the year without taking so much time to get into the "school" routine as well as better for second language students. Best change ever! I have heard the arguments about private summer camps, activities, child care etc. It does take time to realign the aforementioned but they certainly would adjust just like any business. This would also spread out the cost for parents on a limited budget. On a personal note I was excited to take a vacation at a different time of year, avoiding the crowds and hot weather of summer. Never understood why schools here start in the hottest month of the year-always felt for the football teams, bands having to play/practice in the high temperatures. Thanks, Linda Meier
KCS	I appreciated the 10 day breaks, but I also appreciated a full summer. It was optional to teach intervention during the 10 day breaks.
KCS	I attended South College and this was our schedule; I greatly enjoyed this.
KCS	I did a practicum experience at an Oak Ridge School which had balanced calendar. The staff loved it and said they would never want to return to previous traditional schedule.
KCS	I do not think it is beneficial for students with special needs. The calendar we have now allows students 9 months of continuous learning with a few breaks. The balanced calendar allows for short amounts of time for my students to learn but the retention will be less due to the more frequent longer breaks. I am very concerned about this.
KCS	I enjoyed having the breaks for rest and time to refocus. There was still time in the summer for traditional summer activities as well as time during the year for vacation. The students seemed to grow accustomed to this. Also, the teachers created units of study for each nine week period. This gave the students an overall focus that they knew would be mastered in that nine week instructional block. A balanced calendar seemed to offer a fresh start each nine weeks. The students were excited and always eager to learn.
KCS	I enjoyed the long fall and spring break, but I dreaded starting school in July.

Previous Experience Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please make any additional comments about your previous experience with balanced calendars.
KCS	I experienced a balanced calendar with Murfreesboro City schools. The students, parents, and teachers really liked the calendar. As a teacher, I felt that everyone came back from breaks more refreshed. After a break, I was able to pick up where we left off with the curriculum. I did not feel as though we spent so much time reviewing at the beginning of the school year. Daycares and afterschool care adapted to the calendar with very few hiccups.
KCS	I experienced balanced calendar as a student in Maury County TN. I loved it! Having the extended breaks during the school year was wonderful for vacations and I feel like I retained more after the summer break.
KCS	I experienced it as a student and as a student teacher. As a student, the first week was used as a time of enrichment or extra help if we were falling behind in class. It was my freshman year and I was failing freshman english. I was able to go in the first week of fall break and do extra work and get extra help from my teacher enough to help my grade come up to a B. As a student teacher, the opportunity was granted to me to come in and work that first week with students who needed extra help or those that needed enrichment activities. I absolutely loved all of this!
KCS	I feel it is best for the students and the teachers to have a balanced calendar. That 2 or 3 week break is a mental break that is needed by both parties. I have seen increased success and motivation in both teachers and students when a balanced calendar is in place and done well. Let's do it!!!
KCS	I find the extra time to have been used very poorly. Essentially the kids just had a longer break, and parents had to worry about how to take care of them during the extra time or some remained in school (fancy daycare) doing some offered program to address the child care problem for younger children. If a vacation were planned at that time, it was nice to have a longer time. The kids did seem to be able to adjust to being back again without any difficulty. My kids will go on to college and I am somewhat concerned that it will be an adjustment back as the college calendar does not have the extended breaks between quarters, but typically does have a long break between semesters.
KCS	I first experienced the balanced calendar at Willow Brook Elementary as a student. The balanced calendar used there was the 9 weeks on, 3 weeks off model. The 3 weeks break was too long. I also experienced the balanced calendar used by Alcoa City Schools when I interned there during the 2012-2013 school year. The balanced calendar used there was the 9 weeks on, 2 weeks off model. This is by far my favorite balanced calendar model. The breaks are very helpful to staff members, as I was able to schedule doctor's appointments and vacations during a time that was less crowded. The 2 week breaks also helped rejuvenate the staff members, and the students seemed much more cooperative for longer.
KCS	I grew up with a balanced calendar. We still felt we had a long summer break, but the rest of the year was not so exhausting.
KCS	I had a good experience with a balanced calendar as a student and look forward to adapting this model as an educator!
KCS	I have family who are in a school district that is on one
KCS	I have heard that retention rate is much better for students with the short summer breaks. My nephew is on the balanced calendar schedule and it has helped with his grades according to my sister. Lastly, teachers that I have spoken with have been in favor of it because the extended breaks after each quarter re-energize them as well.
KCS	i like pussy cats
KCS	I liked the fact that the intersessions between each nine week period allowed students more and better times opportunities to make up work, recover points, etc.
KCS	I live in a community that has a balanced calendar. So I know many families that are currently on a balanced calendar, and they highly recommend it. I am currently only somewhat satisfied because trying to schedule with those on the balanced calendar doesn't always work well with my schedule being on the traditional calendar.

Previous Experience Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please make any additional comments about your previous experience with balanced calendars.
KCS	I lived in NC and it was an option.
KCS	I love having something to look forward to.
KCS	I love the balanced calendar both as a parent and a teacher. It gives both students and teachers a rest. It also gives teachers a chance to re-evaluate and plan for the next quarter!!
KCS	I loved having longer breaks between 9 week quarters. It allowed for a smoother transition.
KCS	I participated as a student. At first, I did not like the idea of a balanced calendar because I thought that it would ruin my summer, but once it was in place, the breaks helped me focus better as a student. I think that our students could benefit from a balanced calendar because it provides necessary breathing room within their education.
KCS	I participated in a balanced calendar schedule when I was in junior high school in the 70s.
KCS	I personally love the idea of a balanced calendar. It gives time during the school year to take vacations at different times of the year.
KCS	I really enjoyed the regular breaks throughout the school year. I also appreciated not having such a long break in the summer when the students can really forget skills learned in the previous school year, especially in an urban school where I work. Having shorter breaks allows for a break in routine and time to travel, but not so long for students to get bored and forget as many skills learned.
KCS	I really like having a longer break every quarter.
KCS	I taught at Willowbrook Elementary in Oak Ridge, TN. I like the schedule. I liked it. Students had less time over the summer to forget skills. Students with poor home lives spent less time at home at during the summer school. The first week during spring and fall breaks, the school offered enrichment classes that students could take that were taught by teachers and community volunteers. The teachers were nicely compensated. The difference the calendar is that they had 15 days of for fall and spring break.
KCS	I taught for several years in Las Vegas on a year-round "track" system. I did not think it was good for children. It was also hard for families and teachers felt like they were never truly "off".
KCS	I taught in a school system that adopted a balanced calendar prior to teaching in KCS. I participated in a "pilot" program before the system adopted the balanced calendar. I am in favor of a shorter summer break so that students will not regress so much. The balanced calendar graphic which was displayed with this survey reflected 2 week breaks. This will not shorten the summer break as much as a 3 week break would. I think a 3 week break after each quarter would be a better choice, based on my 8 years of experience with a balanced calendar.
KCS	I taught in Murfreesboro City Schools. My children went to MCS and that system offered the balanced calendar.
KCS	I taught in Putnam County schools and they have year round school "balanced calendar"
KCS	I taught in the Cypress-Fairbanks ISD in Houston in which they were trying the Year Round Calendar
KCS	I taught under a similar model in another city many years ago. It was beneficial to both students and teachers.
KCS	I taught with a balanced calendar in Texas and loved it greatly, as did the students and parents.
KCS	I think its a good idea!
KCS	I think it's a wonderful idea.. It gives both the children and teachers a well deserves break a few times a year. I've worked a balanced calendar as well as have children at Alcoa schools and their grades are much better than their other school in another state with traditional calendar!

Previous Experience Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please make any additional comments about your previous experience with balanced calendars.
KCS	I think the balanced calendar is an excellent idea. My husband currently works in a school system where they use the balanced calendar. From his experience with it, it has proved to be extremely beneficial, as it allows for more enrichment and intervention opportunities during the school year. It also gives both students and teachers a refreshing break that has them both motivated for positive learning when they return. With the balanced calendar, it still allows ample time in the summer for families to enjoy their summer vacation but there is not such a significant amount of summer learning loss.
KCS	I was a student in a balanced calendar situation and absolutely LOVED it!
KCS	I was a student in a balanced calendar system and it was very well received by families and teachers
KCS	I was a student in another state and we were on 9 weeks rotation and off 3 weeks year around. I think the new schedule is a more realistic choice than the one I was on.
KCS	I was a student in balanced calendar school district from middle school through high school. All schools in the district were on the same break schedule all year.
KCS	I was a student in the Valley View 365U District, Romeoville, IL (suburb of Chicago) which participated in the 45-15 due to overcrowding. Our system adopted the plan to rotate four tracks of students in order to alleviate overcrowding. So, in my experience 25% of my classmates were always on vacation. This was not as effective as our proposed balanced calendar. My family and I enjoyed vacations throughout the year. Sports and Scouts worked around the calendar. My husband employed students according to their school schedule. Childcare adapted to fit the needs of the client. It worked.
KCS	I was a student of balanced calendar in a different county and as a student I enjoyed longer breaks during the school year and a shorter break during summer. I feel it helped me have mental breaks and broke up the monotony of long school year with short breaks. And it also allowed me to not forget as much information over the summer.
KCS	I was a student with a balanced calendar. It was fine, neither better nor worse than what we have now.
KCS	I was an intern at Alcoa Middle School and very much enjoyed he balanced calendar. The 2 week break in the fall allowed me time to recoup from the first 9 weeks and prepare for the second 9 weeks. We were even able to take a fall vacation when rates were lower and the temperature was cooler! Also, students that were struggling were caught and provided support earlier in the year which helped those struggling students keep from getting behind even more.
KCS	I was in junior high 30 years ago. I enjoyed having breaks at different times of the year.
KCS	I was on the balance calendar in Cherokee County, GA for a year. We had one week breaks and it was WONDERFUL.
KCS	I was on the balanced calendar in Maryville and I found it actually provided more time for families to vacation in the off season. The day care providers adjusted.
KCS	I went to a school with a balanced calendar. I liked having longer and more breaks.
KCS	I went to Alcoa City Schools and we had the Balanced Calendar. I really enjoyed the Balanced Calendar because it gives breaks at Students and Teachers breaking points.
KCS	I worked in the Alcoa City Schools for 7 years. At the start of the year was an adjustment being it was July just a mental state once Aug begin everything was ok. It allowed Teachers to make extra money for teaching intercession classes.
KCS	I worked in the Los Angeles Unified School District at a school with a balanced calendar. We were able to meet struggling students' needs more efficiently and parents appreciated being able to take longer trips at multiple points during the school year.
KCS	I worked with a balanced calendar in Japan. I thought they were great for the students because they didn't forget the concepts learned during their spring semester. Instead of spending weeks going over what they had learned in the spring, they might have spent just a day or two quickly refreshing the students' memories.

Previous Experience Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please make any additional comments about your previous experience with balanced calendars.
KCS	I worked year-round but I knew this going in. It was not changed while I was there. I am not in favor of switching calendars now.
KCS	I WOULD HATE A 28 days summer but the 9/2 format wasn't too bad with some advantages and disadvantages.
KCS	I would love balanced calendar
KCS	I'm a product of a balanced calendar schedule as well as a teacher here in Knox County. With the balanced calendar schedule, the summers always seemed so short and the intersessions/breaks were just long enough to get out of a routine. Academically, I don't feel anyone gained or lost anything by participating in the balanced calendar schedule. I feel that students are often left unsupervised during the two week breaks, which could bring a lot of unwanted trouble. Also, students who have to work during the summer months lose out on that extra money they could be earning to go toward school materials, car payments, athletic fees, etc.. I went to a very old middle school and high school, and when we would start back to school in JULY it was always so hot outside and the classrooms couldn't cool off, resulting in a terribly hot learning environment. As you can see, I do not support balanced calendar.
KCS	I'm familiar with the balanced calendar in another school district where my daughter worked in a special education self-contained classroom. She found that her students were less likely to lose critical learning over the shorter breaks than over the longer summer break.
KCS	I'm for balanced calendar
KCS	In Henry County, GA, they have been used a balanced calendar for over five years or more. I liked it because there was a five day Fall break, a week at Thanksgiving, Winter break, February break for five days and Spring break for five days. It was wonderful to have a break in-between semesters.
KCS	Increased retention of information when returning from breaks
KCS	Intersessions are a great motivator for failing students. Love the two week breaks!
KCS	interferes with summer activities, such as family trips, camp, jobs, and pool
KCS	It consisted of a 2 week fall and spring break and a 3 week winter break.

Previous Experience Comments

<p>How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?</p>	<p>Please make any additional comments about your previous experience with balanced calendars.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>It doesn't take a long time for students to get used to the relaxed and many times unstructured days out of school. Whenever students are out of school for an extended period (i.e.- 2 weeks), upon their return to school, teachers have to spend time making reminding students about our schools' routines, expectations, and rigor. Basic math and reading skills are not a part of many children's day when they are not in school and reading/math fluency tends to decrease. In the proposed Knox County balanced calendar, one week of the three-week break would be used for intervention if needed or enrichment. Being outside and playing with friends is beneficial to the development of a child. The summer break would be cut down to 30 days. This would impact the amount of time/ opportunities families would have to be able to engage in such activities. We know many teachers have spent this "snow break" catching up with paperwork or just catching up with work in general. If we have those 3 weeks "off", I know many teachers will need to use that time to grade, deal with paperwork, and research/plan for the challenges our classes encounter, leaving little to no time for an actual break from work itself. In the proposed Knox County balanced calendar, one week of the three-week break would be used for intervention if needed or enrichment. There will be a need for teachers to plan for the students who will need the reteaching or enriching for that 1 week. We need to realize that time will be needed to grade the work done that week and analyze data gathered that week. Again, little to no time for an actual break from work. Besides, those students end up resenting being at the school while their friends are not. I can't help of also think of the meetings we have had regarding money and saving energy. Keeping schools open during the summer months at temperatures that are comfortable to students and staff during the summer months will be an enormous expense and I can't see it being energy efficient running a building for a fraction of the students we usually have. summer break allows me to spend time with my family. Also, summer is a true break filled with PD and also personal time not spent entirely on school work. If we had the balanced calendar, I would work nonstop on planning, paper grading and retrieving materials for my students (which I tirelessly do now)! Summer provides a substantial break to focus on family. Teachers need a break!</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>It gives the students and parents an opportunity to maximize their time and effort with both educational and personal life</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>It is brutal for parents with all the breaks getting child care</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>It is great to have time off after quarters to rest and go on vacations during off seasons. The students benefit from it as well to retain knowledge .</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>It made planning and learning easier with less reteaching.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>It reduced loss of learning over the summer, allowed the students a "brain break" so that after the break, they were ready to learn, and quite frankly, it was refreshing for the teachers.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>It was a wonderful idea. There wasn't so much time spent reviewing from the previous year and less "burnout" in February by both teachers and students</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>It was awesome!!</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>It was difficult to take college courses in the summer and focus on just that or any course of study because I was always working and tired. Some course like in culinary arts are 12 weeks long and rigorous. The long down time is one of the big bonuses for teachers because of this flexibility with time.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>It was great in terms of providing teachers with some time to really re-group and plan for the upcoming sessions, provided you didn't do intervention. As a parent, it provided the kids with some much needed time off.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>It was not good because it messed with summer vacations for planned activities for working families.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>It was unpopular at first, but now is preferred by most families.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>It wks</p>

Previous Experience Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please make any additional comments about your previous experience with balanced calendars.
KCS	just want to make sure security doesnt go to long with out pay cause we need to be able to pay our bills and put food on the table. Maybe between breaks if we can have some extra training days so we can keep getting paid and not miss pay days.
KCS	keeps you working the same as your mate. it is better for most kids. it worked well for my children
KCS	Less time reteaching; School year broken into 4 even quarters.
KCS	Love it.
KCS	Love the additional days off to re-charge!!!
KCS	Loved the breaks in the school year!
KCS	Many of my peers could not get summer jobs to supplement salary. Also it did not seem to help students with retention.
KCS	My 15 year old son has been on a balanced calendar throughout his school career. As a teacher in systems that have not had a balanced calendar I must say I have been envious of the schedule he has had, and have been hopeful that Knox County would make the switch as soon as possible.
KCS	My brother attended a school with this calendar. It worked for him but I, as a teacher am concerned that it is not right for our school.
KCS	My child goes to school in a district with a balanced calendar. I am a Knox County employee.
KCS	My children are on a balanced calendar and we love it! It provides a much needed rest after a tedious nine weeks. Our summers are just long enough for family vacations and quality time. I am very thankful for this calendar and the much needed "re-charge" time it allows for my children to rest and return to school ready to give it their all!
KCS	My children enjoyed the breaks in between the nine weeks.
KCS	My daughter attended Willowbrook Elementary School in Oak Ridge, TN. She was a 4th grader the year Willowbrook Ele. piloted the program.
KCS	My daughter attends Alcoa City Schools. We LOVE the balanced calender. It really gives the students a chance to refresh. There is less negativity with staff and students due to a balanced calendar.
KCS	My daughter is a student at Clayton Bradley Academy in Blount County. We love a balanced calendar. More information is retained by students and the staff love it as well!
KCS	My daughter's attend Maryville City Schools and they've been on a balanced calendar for the past several years and we love it! My children need a few weeks off after a long, intense, and tedious semester; as I parent I welcome the min-vacation that will give my children the recharge that they are in desperate need of. The summers are just long enough that we are able to plan vacations and spend quality time together before the school year begins again. I would love to experience the balanced calendar from a teacher's perspective as well.
KCS	My family loved the balanced calendar. We found that the balanced calendar gave you more time to make plans throughout the year.
KCS	My father was a vice principal when I was a child. They were on a balanced calendar. It wasn't really a big change for him.
KCS	My high school (Dyersburg High School) was on a balanced calendar when I was a student. The breaks made it more manageable to stay motivated, while providing enrichment and intervention during the two week breaks.
KCS	My high school adopted the balanced calendar for my last 3 years of high school. I enjoyed having the longer breaks throughout the year & would come back rested and ready for the next quarter. The summers being shorter were worth the longer breaks throughout the year.
KCS	My husband works as a teacher at a school system that uses a balance calendar.
KCS	My kids go to the Maryville School System and they tend to retain more of what they learn during the year. It also gives us the time during a different part of the year to travel and not just during the Summer. Would be nice if Knox Co went to the same schedule as Maryville.

Previous Experience Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please make any additional comments about your previous experience with balanced calendars.
KCS	My mother was a teacher of an elementary school on balanced calendar. They were on the 45/15 schedule with a short summer vacation. She did say she enjoyed it for retention of information by the students; BUT her summers WERE NOT the amount of time advertised. Once you factor in professional development and the fact that teachers report back early, teachers summer's are IN NO WAY CLOSE to the amount advertised.
KCS	My oldest and youngest brothers were on the balanced calendar format for a portion of their education. Their is an 18 year difference between the two, and they both said they loved the experience.
KCS	My previous experience included a break before and after the summer period - the summer break in that case was not long enough to decompress. This scenario is better.
KCS	My previous experience was in a different state. The schedules did not run the same for elem. & high school students. That was very bad. I am concerned about extra cost in utilities that might be incurred by holding class during more of the warmer time of the year.
KCS	My school district went to balanced calendar while I was in High School.
KCS	My son attended a school in Blount County and the balanced calendar was a successful for my child and our family.
KCS	My son has attended Alcoa City schools for several years. They use a balanced calendar and we have been very happy with it.
KCS	No time for summer activities; too much school scheduled during the little time off
KCS	None, just reading
KCS	Not feasible on a medium to larger district scale. Students forget too much over breaks (lots of reteaching). Also hurts sports. We could balance the calendar at least to a week off in fall and week off spring. It also isn't good for those who need childcare
KCS	Not for the balanced calendar
KCS	One child was on a balanced calendar and the other was not. They were not out at the same time most of the time. It caused issues with vacations,camps, bible schools etc. I think its nice for the teacher and staff to have the summer off. They can take the summer and spend time with the family doing family stuff, not grade papers etc.. Now on breaks teachers work because they have so much to do they have to. I am afraid if we go to a balanced calendar then teacher will be working all the time and burn out even faster. It would be more expensive to go year around because of cooling the schools. I think it is a very bad move to do the balanced calendar.
KCS	Our calendar had 4 weeks off during the Christmas break...that was too much! But the proposed schedule with two weeks off then would be better.
KCS	Our neighboring county and many friends are on the balanced calendar. Everyone we know is very happy with it.
KCS	Please keep a traditional calendar.
KCS	Research and colleagues
KCS	Some of the things to consider from previous experience. During the two weeks off, tutoring was offered in various buildings across the district (elementary). High School students were able to complete credit recovery during the intersessions. The two week intersessions were ultimately discontinued because of the community's struggle with where to place students during the intersessions. The district attempted to accommodate this by utilizing the tutorial services and other programming (see above). In the end, the cost of the balanced calendar may have been slightly more than the traditional calendar because the buildings were opened for an increased amount of days. There were added cost in providing staffing for the programming during the intersessions.
KCS	Sports seasons were shortened so that students could actually enjoy a break. In a nearby district that never happened and students were still locked into going to school for practices during all of their breaks.

Previous Experience Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please make any additional comments about your previous experience with balanced calendars.
KCS	Student performance increased, suspensions decreased Intersession provided great enrichment experiences as well as remediation opportunities
KCS	Students had difficulty maintaining skills after the breaks. Many students that needed intersession did not have the resources to attend.
KCS	Students on balanced calendar do not have summer employment opportunities. Our students are very dependent on the "summer jobs" in this area (Sevierville, community pools, ballparks, lawn services)
KCS	Students retain more. It gives the students and teachers much needed breaks and time to prepare for next quarter.
KCS	Students' retention is better, teacher morale is better and parents were happy with the multiple vacation options.
KCS	Students seemed refreshed after each break. No loss of learning was noted. Planning time during breaks was very helpful.
KCS	Students were able to retain more information over the summer break. There is still time for summer school. Families enjoyed being able to travel on off-peak days saving them money.
KCS	Teacher morale and student energy were positive outcomes of the balanced calendar.
KCS	Teachers and students were less stressed due to the frequent breaks.
KCS	Teachers did not truly get the breaks. They were asked to present and/or attend presentations. If you restricted PD and inservice days to within the instructional calendar (instead of the 'breaks'), then the balanced calendar might be a fair possibility.
KCS	The balanced calendar gives a break when students (and teachers) need it most. It helps everyone get along better. It also gives the opportunity for additional enrichment opportunities.
KCS	The balanced calendar helps with student retention of the curriculum, rules, and helps with behaviors. All that are involved do not get as burned out with school or work. Which makes school a better place to be for all.
KCS	The balanced calendar in a county in which I previously lived was hard on working parents. It was difficult for them to find childcare during the two week intersessions. Also, many families commented that it was difficult for the children to begin school after the shorter summer.
KCS	The balanced calendar was very well received. The students were more focused and the teachers were more rested. The school atmosphere was calmer.
KCS	The breaks built into the school year provide access to opportunities for remediation
KCS	The breaks every nine weeks did not involve students or teachers working for an intersession week. It was a true break for all. Students and teachers responded well to that. I do not feel that would have been the case if students or teachers were in sessions or classes during the two week breaks.
KCS	The calendar allows the perfect amount of time for a brain break for students and staff.
KCS	The entire community embraced the calendar. They still have that calendar. Best thing ever!
KCS	The expectations of the teachers for the periods of intersession are not being properly discussed. Any questions that I have directed are being answered by "we do not know"....if we do not know how this enrichment will take place and where, and how we will get the students to these schools for enrichment, then we are not ready to implement this .
KCS	The intersessions are not what they are touted to be. In my experience, those intersessions became a waste of good teaching time and were eliminated after a time (I can't remember how long.). Eliminating two weeks (or so) time in the summer is not the problem. This seems to be another red herring of sorts that skirts the real issues at hand.
KCS	The kids do not adjust well
KCS	The longer breaks within the school year as well as the shorter summer break, allowed the students to refresh their minds and take appropriate breaks from academic stress. This calendar has worked well for Alcoa school system for years.

Previous Experience Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please make any additional comments about your previous experience with balanced calendars.
KCS	The only drawback was when calendars were completely out of sync with other calendars in the area (I work in Knox County, but my child goes to school in Maryville), causing child care issues. I do not know how intervention was handled, but there was very little enrichment available for students who are performing on grade level.
KCS	The school district that I worked for prior to moving to Tennessee, had what they called modified year round school. Real similar to the balanced calendar that you are presenting. It worked very well for families, because they could plan vacations during the year besides the summer. The daycare's, adapted and worked around the school schedules and it never became a real issue. and because the summer break was shorter, the daycare expense was minimal. And the students won because they were not out too long to miss much of what they learned. It really is a win-win situation!
KCS	The school system should most Definitely go to the balanced calendar. You will get a lot of pushback from parents, teachers, and students; however, after it is in place EVERYONE LOVES IT AND THE KIDS RETAIN MUCH MORE than the traditional calendar. I have seen it happen in multiple locations along with the effect of it and I would STRONGLY suggest that you ignore everyone complaining about it, implement it, then after a couple years EVERYONE WILL BE SINGING YOUR PRAISES for going to go to the balanced calendar, and then all of the haters will saying that they were for the plan the whole time and it should have been implemented years ago. The general public is scared to death over change in ANYTHING and this is progress/change so they will flip out when it is brought up and call you every horrendous name under the sun and your name will be dirt for a short period but the respect and support you will finally get from them will be worth every name because you will be seen and respected by those people who had no respect for you to begin with or from the people who were neutral to you
KCS	There was not enough research to find unquestionably that all students benefited from the balanced calendar. At risk students did show that it was of benefit. Child care was a serious problem for working families. Too many students will be left unsupervised in off time. Hungry children will be a problem in off time.
KCS	This calendar allowed for a break when needed and then back to school when boredom started. Not too big of a break that skills were lost.
KCS	This is how a taught in Scotland many years ago!!!
KCS	To long of a break in the Fall and Spring. Students forgot a lot of information and I had to waste time reteaching
KCS	Too many breaks
KCS	We all know that students come back from breaks with and have to be reviewed over material covered, every where this schedule is tried student test scores go down. Why do something that fails and other districts have abandoned.
KCS	We lived in San Diego, CA and it was nice because we could take family vacations at various times of the year.
KCS	When working year round, the expectations were quite different each quarter. Summer was more of a drill/practice/special activities time. Honestly the year round academically exhausted me but our students scored in the top 15% nationally on the ACT in reading and math.
KCS	worried about teacher burn-out and do teachers get the time off that the students get.
Not Answered	A balanced calendar would help a lot of our students with summer learning loss. It would also have these students in school more often and they would less likely get into trouble
Not Answered	As a family, it is nice to have a balanced calendar because we can go on vacation as a family when other districts are in school. Places such as Disney World are a lot less crowded in October.

Previous Experience Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please make any additional comments about your previous experience with balanced calendars.
Not Answered	As a former teacher, the breaks were a perfect reprieve that helped to encourage motivation and energize higher learning for both students and staff while maintaining student retention of previously learned objectives.
Not Answered	Being able to get affordable child care for the short amount of time needed is nearly impossible. Not to mention it is harder to plan vacations. We travel when the kids are off during the summer.
Not Answered	Better family vacation time, kids retained more info when they went back to school earlier. Less time off in summer was just better overall. The longer fall break is fantastic-vacation time in Florida is dirt cheap and non-busy unlike spring break.
Not Answered	Blount county seems to have had great success with the year round calendar. My brother in law who was in education implemented this into his school and the results were quite positive.
Not Answered	Child care
Not Answered	childcare was expense. There were "camps" for the time school was on break. The first week back was used to review material from last session. Instruction of new material did not begin immediately. For students, who were just beginning to master skills, had the momentum of learning halted by the break.
Not Answered	Day Care Centers not opening in time enough to balance work schedules. I had many family members lose job due to timing
Not Answered	Difficult to accommodate all age groups
Not Answered	Employees that worked for me called in more often on the "Balanced" calendar. They would claim difficulty with child care. It was bad for business & that's how it directly impacted me.
Not Answered	Extend the hours of the days to 8:30-3:30. Data at least supports that change.
Not Answered	Having a balanced calendar prevents children from being burned out and helps them stay motivated. They seem to retain what they have learned better as well.
Not Answered	Horrible, can't have international trips in summer or go to grandma'
Not Answered	I completed my practicum experience in a school that used a balanced calendar. At the time, I was most impressed by the enrichment activities that the school was able to offer during the breaks.
Not Answered	I feel as if we should stick with a traditional calendar instead of a balanced calendars because the balanced calendar don't worked as plan whenever their are weather hazards or such as students shouldn't have such a long fall or spring break due to it will affect them when it comes to going back yo school.
Not Answered	I grew up with a balanced calendar and loved it.
Not Answered	I have taught for the past 5-6 years in a year round school. We are changing to the balanced calendar next year 15-16. I will have shorter breaks, b/c I'm used to the 45/15 schedule but im looking forward to a longer summer and 2 wk break (10 days) is plenty of time for intercession, vacation, rejuvenating and getting ready to head back to school with a great attitude!!
Not Answered	I interned at Alcoa Middle School 2001-2002 and LOVED the balanced calendar!
Not Answered	I loved the balanced calendar at Fort Craig School of Dynamic Learning in Maryville, where my kids attended until it was closed a few years ago. It was a few weeks that we didn't get in the summer, but there was the possibility of taking vacation in the fall and still having time off to rest and relax. They also offered "3D," or Dynamic Discovery Days, where they had thematic units of study for children who enrolled. They would have different options for K-2 and 3-5, and were very fun, scientific and educational. I would LOVE to be on a balanced calendar again, and cannot wait until the implementation of this in Knox County!!
Not Answered	I miss having a real summer. It burns kids and adults out not having it.
Not Answered	In addition to the obvious educational reasons, the children actually like it better too. They admittedly get bored during long summer breaks.
Not Answered	Interrupted employee scheduling.
Not Answered	It gives the kids a bit more of a break all year instead of just in the summer
Not Answered	It seemed unorgan

Previous Experience Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please make any additional comments about your previous experience with balanced calendars.
Not Answered	It's easier for the kids to learn and stay focus all year long.
Not Answered	It's great as long as it is true break with no work or assignments.
Not Answered	My children's father and I are split up our children go to him for the summer which allows adequate bonding time. This will take that away from them also for those of us who work this will be very difficult for our work schedules! I have experienced this prior in ga and hated it I also lost my job due to not being able to pay for childcare on the breaks. In the summer my kids go to their father so the only time I need to find adequate childcare is during spring and winter breaks. Not as much as I would after every 9weeks. This is too much for single parents to have to mess with. Perhaps if the teachers werelike they were when I was in school the children wouldn't need more time in school. This isn't fair to the kids. Why can't we just leave things alone?
Not Answered	Some of the things to consider from previous experience. During the two weeks off, tutoring was offered in various buildings across the district (elementary). High School students were able to complete credit recovery during the intersessions. The two week intersessions were ultimately discontinued because of the community's struggle with where to place students during the intersessions. The district attempted to accommodate this by utilizing the tutorial services and other programming (see above). In the end, the cost of the balanced calendar may have been slightly more than the traditional calendar because the buildings were opened for an increased amount of days. There were added cost in providing staffing for the programming during the intersessions.
Not Answered	Spring Break is when you go and have fun so it should have the most because you often go to vacations that you shouldnt have to limit for only a couple of days. Winter break also.
Not Answered	The balanced calendar is fine for parents that don't work-- however, if both parents work, this will be next to impossible. It will also economically impact kids that work in the summer. Overall, the economic impact will be felt with families and kids trying to save for college.
Not Answered	The short summer interferes with summer activities.
Not Answered	The students I taught seemed to benefit greatly from the balanced year. Those who were falling behind were given an opportunity to catch up periodically rather than struggle throughout the year and then spend the bulk of their summer break trying to relearn the material. Also, students returned to school from each break refreshed and ready to learn.
Not Answered	Too many long breaks between learning..
Not Answered	Very disappointed with extended periods between quarters. Makes child care more inconvenient for families.
Not Answered	While in Australia our son attended schools with a balanced calendar. We enjoyed the opportunity to schedule vacations any or all of four times a year. Our son looked forward to a break to recharge between each session. The Australian lifestyle is one of working hard, and earning the reward of time off to relax and refresh. It seems to work quite well for most people.
Parent	"Balanced Calendar " is the same thing as "Year Round School", which I'm AGAINST.
Parent	2 months only summer break is standard in Europe. T. Quis
Parent	a 45/10 will be good but if we do 45/15 that is to long of a break and takes away to much of summer availability for other opportunities.
Parent	a balanced calendar helps a child retain information
Parent	A balanced calendar is very difficult for a working parent. When school is closed I have to take time off work. I do not have that much time available to me and no immediate family to help.

Previous Experience Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please make any additional comments about your previous experience with balanced calendars.
Parent	A balanced calendar leaves very little time for family in the summer after camps and summer sports are attended. Taking two weeks out of the summer is taking two weeks away from families. Teenagers need this time to hold a job. My biggest memory is the interruption of families to teach children seasonal work habits, such as yard work, planting and maintaining a garden, learning to swim and having enough down time to read what they choose rather than what they are assigned. I noticed children losing a love for reading due to assigned reading and not enough time to leisurely enjoy their books with no assignments attached to them. All of these losses are an immeasurable educational loss to our children.
Parent	A balanced calendar was preferred by our children, as well as, by us (the parents), as it reduced retention loss over the summer, made the school year less of a grind, and gave us improved family vacation flexibility so that we weren't stuck only vacationing over the summer with all of the other families.
Parent	Affected summer travel plans.
Parent	Allows kids to recuperate and recharge between shorter, perhaps more productive teaching semesters
Parent	Although summers are somewhat shorter the breaks in between more than make up for it. It gives plenty of opportunity to schedule vacations and visit family during these more frequent breaks without havin to wait for summer or having children miss school. I support this 100%.
Parent	Although the idea of year round learning is attractive, I worry about finding decent care for my middle school child during breaks. I can't take all those days off and don't want him alone in the house watching TV all day.
Parent	As a child living in Southern California a balanced calendar was very common in most schools. It was well excepted by students and parents. The shorter but more frequent breaks from school reduce boredom.
Parent	As a child, I was a student in the first year round school district in the nation. (Francis Howell School district in Missouri, near St. Louis). We used a 9 week on, 3 week off model. My family loved this model.
Parent	As a college student, I worked in Rutherford County where many families spoke very highly of having a balanced calendar.
Parent	As a community member, the balanced calendar has several cons that most people of voting age don't consider. They forget what it was like as a teenager and having a summer job to have money. With the balanced calendar, these kids have less time for summer work and therefore, less money saved for college or less money to do something with their time while on breaks from school. With parents at work, what do teenagers do best when they have no money and nothing to do? They get into trouble. In addition to the balanced calendar being not ideal for teenage students, selfishly, it also affects adults who like to go to a public pool in the summer time. These pools typically employ teens as lifeguards. With kids going back to school in August, they pools have no choice but to be closed in August and September, when it is still quite warm out. What are people with kids that are not yet school-aged to do on a hot summer day, if we can't take our kids to the pool to cool down in the middle of August?
Parent	As a piano teacher I find that students progress much faster in the fall if they have not been away from their practice regimen for more than a month. The students I have which come from a balanced school system in Blount County are very happy with the program and especially like the fact that the balanced calendar gives their families have more opportunities to vacation together.
Parent	As a student I enjoyed it. I felt refreshed with more little breaks throughout the year and that I absorbed the information better.
Parent	As a student we were on a
Parent	As a teacher I was not made to do tutoring or other training during the intersessions unless I chose to do so.

Previous Experience Comments

<p>How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?</p>	<p>Please make any additional comments about your previous experience with balanced calendars.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>As a working parent I found it more difficult to plan activities and vacations for the kids during the 2 extended breaks in the fall and spring as my work schedule did not accomodate for additional school year breaks. Also my older child did not benefit from the longer breaks in the fall/spring due to continuing school band and sports commitments and expectations from the coaches and directors.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>As an educator and parent I would like to see a balanced calendar. When teaching in Arizona I experienced a balanced calendar and liked the breaks and time spent on education. There was also less time spent on reviewing content that is experienced with the traditional calendar.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>As an employer whose employees had children in school systems with balanced calendar, they did have difficulty with child care during extended breaks.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>As contracted worker at the time (who divided my week between multiple school systems), it was difficult when one school system was on a break but others were not. Also more difficult when you have a child on a balanced (45/15 at that time) but the parent was on a traditional.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>At that time, I was working in my daughter's school and daycare was not an issue. I liked the extended time in between semesters. I was a good break to be refreshed, then ready to begin learning again. I was a Title 1 Tutor so from a teacher standpoint, I was a wonderful break !</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>Balance calender is a positive experience for the kids. It allows them to have the necessary breaks and yet fully maximize the time in the class room. The balance calender also gives the parents what they have been asking for the past couple of years - longer fall break. I am 100% for the balance calender and fully support the change.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>Balanced calendar experience was in college, not at the grade levels being proposed here. At the advanced level it worked fine but I am concerned about the impact it will have on working families.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>Balanced calendar is a great way to maximize teaching time. It provides teachers and students with time to plan and reboot during off weeks between sessions, affords additional opportunities for traveling during breaks, and allows for more continuity from year to year.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>Balanced calendar is not aligned with many other activities esp. during summer.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>Balanced calendar make our family event arrangement smooth and most important make the students well recharged during the Spring and Fall school semesters</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>Balanced calendar propositions are often amended to further reduce the children's break and recreational time to meet interests of others and organizations. This leads to increased time in school in the summer months and raises cost associated to maintain the schools a/c units and buses.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>Balanced calendar seemed to enhance my oldest son's ability to learn and retain. It also allowed breaks along the year which seemed to help recharge his battery, where as a longer summer seemed to drain him.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>Balanced calendar will hurt anyone who has a Knox county parenting plan. Summer break will be harder to plan when you can only take 2 week non consecutive vacations and they have to be over your weekend. Also it will give the parent who had fall break 10 straight days w the child and depending on the weekend could give them 12-15 days. The parents who do week on week off could get up to 17 days w the child or children. That is too long for a child to go without seeing the other parent on a 50/50 parenting plan. Same thing could happens with Spring Break as well.</p>

Previous Experience Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please make any additional comments about your previous experience with balanced calendars.
Parent	Balanced calendars sound good on paper but my experience has been that the longer delays between quarters actually make it more difficult for a student to want to return to the 'school mindset' . Keep in mind that there are many students who need that educational structure they get with having shorter times off during the actual school year. The traditinal calendar provides this plus leaves a nice block of time at the end of the school year for those students that need to work and make extra money, want to take advantage of family and educational experience vacations, want to enjoy an experience at various camps, even as counselors, and yes want to have time to relax, socialize, and have a good time too.
Parent	Better for the student (less retention loss and less of a grind) and better for family vacations
Parent	Better retention of material.
Parent	Both my children and I as a parent prefer the balanced schedule.
Parent	Both myself and my children miss the balanced calendar. It gave adequate time for family vacation while also providing much needed breaks through out the year.
Parent	Both of my kids had that when we lived in California. It allowed you to travel at different times of the year. The kids were more active in school, we seen that with all there friends as well.
Parent	Breaks during the school year are too long. Difficult to schedule child care during those breaks. The summer is too short with the balanced calendar. If participating in activities with those not involved in balanced calendar, it is hard to schedule with the shortened calendar.
Parent	By switching to the balanced calendar you are making things harder for parents that work.
Parent	Cause too many problems with scheduling. Sports schedules are affected tremendously and it takes two weeks out of the summer where students can not work summer jobs. I have had students turned down for summer employment already.
Parent	Causes many summer difficulties, students do not like it. Benefits are insignificant.
Parent	Childcare
Parent	Childcare
Parent	Childcare for the time off is difficult. Summer is too short. how is it funded? I do not want a balanced calendar.
Parent	Childcare problems and vacation issues
Parent	Children are well rested and eager to go back to school after 2 weeks of breaks
Parent	Children do not get burned out on school and are more eager to learn with a a balanced calendar
Parent	Children moved along quicker with studies and they retained more. Less time wasted reviewing in the beginning of the year. Also we loved having the time off thru out the year.
Parent	Children need to be children (not robots), they need that full summertime to Heal, recouperate,explore , grow,& connect with other various learning cultures& experiences outside of the classroom structure which is already too rigid in teaching methods.Summertime is the busiest time of the year for Indigenous cultures as far as religious ceremonies & business entrepreneurship.
Parent	Children were not so stressed. They consumption rate of information is at a more intentional pace. The year round schedule allows for greater school/family balance. The miniterms allowed for exploration of interest by taking 1/2 day classes in different topics instead of adding another class to an already long school day.
Parent	Coming from California we had a "year round" school year. I have no negative feelings toward it. Being a working mom I prefer a shorter summer even if by only 12 days
Parent	Coworkers with children in a balanced calendar district speak highly of it
Parent	Create significant issues in scheduling child care when school is not in session.
Parent	Daycare issues for working parents

Previous Experience Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please make any additional comments about your previous experience with balanced calendars.
Parent	did not allow for proper schedule during the summer for childcare. Did not allow teachers who relied on summer jobs to earn income. Students got out of their routines and had to start over after each mini-break. Did not see an improvement in student abilities. Breaking up the year caused more distractions throughout where students had to catch back up on what they had previously learned a few weeks beforehand.
Parent	Did not enjoy extra days off with poor weather.
Parent	Didn't have children then so it didn't make much difference, it was a job. Now that I have children, I can see disadvantages as well as some positives to the balanced calendar.
Parent	Difficult to find child care during weeks off at a time.
Parent	Do it!
Parent	Does not conform to current schedule needs
Parent	Does not improve retention. Impacts family life - work balance. Impacts work schedules such as summer camps as not all surrounding counties will have a different schedule. This Knox county students will be missing opportunities that others in east TN will have.
Parent	Enabled my family with young children to take family vacation in October resulting in visiting beaches, Walt Disney World, and other attractions during "off season" resulting in lower hotel costs and reduce crowds.
Parent	Even though we had the shorter summer, my boys enjoyed the nice breaks throughout the school year. You don't really notice the shorter summer, as most kids can start getting restless/bored, especially with working parents.
Parent	Excellent gains seen in student retention, student fatigue, as well as Teacher fatigue. As a school counselor in Oak Ridge I could not recommend the Balanced Calendar more highly.
Parent	Excellent move forward to have a Balanced Calender!!!! Thank you for your efforts, and I trust it will be approved!!! Just like when you study for a test, you take frequent time-outs to rest and go back to your studies. Students and teachers need more frequent time-outs to obtain help during weak times and mental health days. Students are in great need of attention to mental health as well as grade performance.
Parent	Extended summers provide students with exceptional opportunities to learn outside the classroom. Students can gain real world experience, through work, travel, community service or a number of other ways to explore the world beyond school. In fact, students need some down time as well.
Parent	Extra child care and/or cost when kids are out longer during the year.. They need to be in school more..
Parent	Extreme dissatisfaction with the conflicts in schedules this caused
Parent	Family members' children go to schools in the area with the balanced calendar. They like the added breaks for the students, and feel it is a benefit to the students-allowing them the time to process the things they have been learning.
Parent	Family members, several with a positive experience. None directly, 2 sons currently 13 and 16.
Parent	Felt like you have more time off just when you need it...Also less time in summer to forget
Parent	Finding options for full time working parents is the hardest part I had during the breaks
Parent	Fine if you have a stay at home parent during the off times
Parent	For a working parent, the costs associated with the balanced Calendar are overwhelming for child care. Additionally, it conflicts with working parents work schedules. Compared to the current schedule at least we can plan on a consistent care facility, adding 8 extra days in between quarters makes it tough to find short term care!
Parent	Gave children more time for breaks and did nit notice or miss loss of week in summer
Parent	Gave more time for family vacations and time together, especially with a student athlete.
Parent	Gives teachers and students time to decompress and prepare for the next quarter. Better teaching from less stressed teachers and students.

Previous Experience Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please make any additional comments about your previous experience with balanced calendars.
Parent	Giving longer breaks throughout the year provided needed time to refresh and refocus my attention. My grades improved as a direct result.
Parent	Good for educational process. More frequent breaks keeps students and teachers fresh.
Parent	Good work/life/family life balance. Translated into better academic performance than "Non-balanced" calendar
Parent	Great for kids learning but hard for parents to find childcare-unless all surrounding counties were doing a balanced calendar, it makes it hard on childcare providers and parents.
Parent	Great idea!
Parent	Great way to be able to rest and regroup to be ready to learn more and the teachers to be more effective!
Parent	Hate it!
Parent	Have friends in other county and states that have better grades and not near as stressed with more time off throughout the year
Parent	Having 10 days for spring and fall break is of know value. About the only thing I think will happen is kids will get out of their routine. It's bad enough the way it is with kids going to school for the full five days in a week on so many weeks. Through in a couple 10 day breaks and that is even more disruptive. I would prefer 3 days fall break, 5 days spring break, and a little longer in the summer.
Parent	Having a balanced calendar makes it much easier to plan vacations and travel at times of the year that are more convenient for my family.
Parent	Having a High School age student athlete who is pursuing college opportunities, the proposed calendar would eliminate opportunities for those kids to participate in the highest level athletics programs, exposure camps and tournaments as we would be back in school. Having block scheduling also means a student could have a full year without looking at a subject. That being said, how can a balanced calendar undo the brain drain you experience over months of lack of instruction in a subject. It is up to the student and their families to work hard to succeed. Intercessions when needed should be done before or after school not in a 10 day window of a newly created break that affects everyone. Tutoring is available for those students who wish to have it during the normal school week.
Parent	Having the balanced calendar (year round school) allowed additional education opportunities through travel without being forced to travel during the hot summer months.
Parent	Helps kids retain more of what they have learned over a shorter summer break and gives them time between semesters to get a breather
Parent	Helps students to learn and retain better. Less stressful. No breaks should be more than 30 days.
Parent	http://www.ewa.org/sites/main/files/nonblind.pdf , http://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1301&context=etd , http://www.summermatters.com/rejects.htm , http://www.elon.edu/docs/e-web/academics/business/economics/faculty/rouse/2011-02-14%20The%20Impact%20of%20year%20round%20schooling.pdf , http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2007/08/070811151449.htm Please read these articles and enlighten us as to where you are getting your information.
Parent	I am "for" a Balanced Calendar Option for Knox County Schools to start in 2016-2017 school year.
Parent	I am a contract physical therapist for a school system that uses a balanced calendar.
Parent	I am a parent of 3 knox county students and I love the idea of having a balanced calendar. I will be able to vacation with my kids at different times of the year instead of just winter and summer. Please make this happen!

Previous Experience Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please make any additional comments about your previous experience with balanced calendars.
Parent	I am from France where the balanced calendar is used. As a student, I experienced the balanced calendar through elementary, middle, high school and university. As a parent, I am now experiencing the traditional calendar. The learning periods in the traditional calendar are long, the breaks are short. Both my kids and my husband and I are working hard to keep up the good work at school but we are all tired. I am in favor of the balanced calendar.
Parent	I am glad to finally understand what the " balanced calendar" is exactly.
Parent	I am in favor of the balanced calendar.
Parent	I am mostly for the balanced calendar as it gives the student equal time off but spreads it out evenly meaning that they don't forget everything over the summer
Parent	I am not in favor of the balanced calendar.
Parent	I attended "year round" school in middle and high school, which was similar to the balanced calendar. I found it convenient to have longer breaks off throughout the year and for summer to not last as long. It is disruptive to sports, however.
Parent	I attended a school that had a balanced calendar and I really liked it. I know some parents now that have children attending schools with the balanced calendar and they love it! My daughter is very excited about this so I hope it passes!
Parent	I attended an elementary school with a balanced schedule when I was in 4th-5th grade and loved it. With longer breaks scheduled throughout the year, I didn't feel as burnt out by the end of school and the summer was long enough that I didn't miss not having those last few weeks. The administration took advantage of the unique schedule and offered a variety of interesting and engaging programs. Of all my years of schooling from elementary to high school, those two are the most memorable. I think moving to a balanced schedule is a great idea as long as it is implemented thoughtfully.
Parent	I believe that giving kids a 2 week break every 9 weeks is a poor idea because many kids have problems getting motivated again after having such a long break. For example, the 2 snow weeks we had this past winter. It took my child several days to get back on track. Also, summer is a time for family and fun. Also, there are many programs during the summer such as Duke programs etc that if we were on the new schedule many prevent kids who wish to participate in these programs would not be allowed to do so. Also, many kids have to work during the summer to help their families with bills, etc. This would be an issue for those families. I understand we have to compete with the world as a whole but we push our children beyond what is fair at times. There is no chance to be a child taking away the summer is a huge mistake in my eyes.
Parent	I believe that shorter summers allow better retention of information for our students.
Parent	I believe this approach is more efficient and effective for faculty and students alike as it allows students to remain engaged and there appears to be more retention of material.
Parent	I believe, as an early childhood educator, that the balanced calendar keeps a better continuum of learning & retention of skills, knowledge, & routine that benefits the student.
Parent	I can appreciate better an extended winter break period due to family travel.
Parent	I checked 'no experience' but the survey is asking me ??'s as if I checked 'yes'
Parent	I completely agree with the balanced calendar and am in support of it.

Previous Experience Comments

<p>How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?</p>	<p>Please make any additional comments about your previous experience with balanced calendars.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>I definitely do not like the idea. Other places have tried this approach and it has not worked as expected. There is no real loss of student knowledge during breaks. And if so, it is because they were not properly taught to begin with. The traditional calendar provides opportunities for work (summer) attending camps and could have an impact on other areas such as scouting, scout camps, etc. The traditional calendar worked for a long period. Since the late 80's / early 90s when school systems and nationally, education approaches changed and the larger institution of standardize testing (and teachers graded on standardize testing) did we see a decline in the US ranking. With each change we have gotten worse, not better. Let teachers teach students to think, not teach to a test. Reward good teachers and replace poor teachers. Just as any manager knows the good employees from the bad without a standardize test), Administrators should be able to do the same. If not then the administrators are not capable of doing their job. That is the solution not reshuffling the schedule</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>I did my practicum experience in an elementary school that used a balanced calendar. at the time, I was most impressed by the enrichment activities that were offered during the breaks.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>I did not like the balanced calendar. I prefer and feel that the teachers and students benefit from the break time being more consistent, as far as number of days together, and I feel that the instruction is more beneficial, because the teachers can build a better foundation when those days are together, instead of broken up.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>I disagree with a balanced calendar based on having to find extra child care during the middle of the year. At foothills in maryville city schools they had their brakes start in the middle of the week and end in the middle of the week causing day care expenses for three weeks when the kids were really only out two weeks. It is still hard to find a daycare that will take children for two weeks in the middle of the year. My children had to miss extra days because they went to their grandparents house for the break since we couldn't find daycare that we could afford. I think this will also have an impact on students with disabilities who have a hard time adapting to change in their routine. Missing two days for a break is different than missing 10 days when they are used to going to school and as soon as they adjust they have to start back with school.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>I do not believe it added a great deal to the success of the school district or the happiness of students, parents or teachers.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>I do not desire to have the "new" calendar implemented.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>I do not like the 3 week break option at all. It makes the summer to short.</p>

Previous Experience Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please make any additional comments about your previous experience with balanced calendars.
Parent	<p>I do not support this calendar for several reasons. 1) The most troubling problem with this proposal is the argument that shorter summers will result in less "forgetting"; I cringe at the thought that education professionals with advanced training in educational psychology are promoting this. The issue is and always will be "learning" not "forgetting." The so called balanced calendar simply transfers forgetting to other parts of the year. For K-3 children, the time off will require major remediation after every break. The best scholarly article I have read that debunks this argument of the short summer is "Academics, the Year-Round Calendar, and the Color of the School Buses" by Auburn University psychology professor Christopher Newland (a simple google search will access it). 2) This calendar will cost the district a lot of money, which it does not have. I know first-hand that KCS cannot afford to buy books for high school classes, which I find unbelievable. How will it ever afford to pay for the remediation of low-performing students when any available money will be used simply to keep schools open? A much better model is found in other states. In Kentucky, teachers have been paid extra money to tutor lagging students after school throughout the year; this should be mandatory for any student who falls behind, in addition to mandatory summer school for students who fail classes (like in Alabama). These are quality uses of available resources. As Dr. Newland notes, it is doubtful that any short-term remediation (two to seven days in some East Tennessee balanced-calendar schools) will result in any meaningful gains for struggling students. 3) I totally disagree with shortening the summer break. Some of the most meaningful educational experiences of young people are found out of school during the summer, including camps, sports, outdoor activities, and social activities; most troubling is that Knox County students will be at a disadvantage for summer jobs (yes, jobs are VERY educational) for which they will not be available as early to be hired and must quit earlier than others on a traditional schedule. Teachers who supplement their income with summer jobs or take graduate course work will experience similar problems. 4) Assuming that the breaks will be used for remediation of students, the rest of the student body will simply be out on the street for several weeks with little to do; working parents with young children will be forced to pay for child care for short periods of time—if they can find it. In conclusion, I don't see how Knox County can afford to spend money on something that has not proven to improve educational achievement and in the big picture will reduce educational opportunities for the majority of students in the district. This year's two weeks of snow days should be a warning to parents of the problems that will come.</p>
Parent	I do not want a balanced calendar in place for Knox County schools.
Parent	I don't think it is good for our kids just my opinion. To many changes brings lot of confusion, frustratoin.
Parent	I enjoyed a balanced calendar as a student that had additional short breaks throughout the school year and a shorter summer break (only 32 days). This worked very well since it prevented burn-out by allowing for short recovery periods (sometimes just a day or two).
Parent	I experienced the balanced schedule while stationed in Germany. I was very pleased with the academic results. Students retained more and progressed quicker. That calander was slightly different than the one proposed. The breaks were balanced meaning that summer, fall, winter and spring break were all about three weeks rather than having summer break equal to a school quarter.
Parent	I feel like the children retained more over the shorter summer break
Parent	I feel the kids need their summer.
Parent	I felt like it seemed a little better for my kids. We lived in another county and they loved the long spring and fall breaks.
Parent	I felt retention of information and transition of promotion to grade level seemed much smoother with balanced calendar.
Parent	I felt that it made the school year go by faster. I loved having a longer fall break. My children experienced this in Blount County.

Previous Experience Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please make any additional comments about your previous experience with balanced calendars.
Parent	I find that working parents have issues with extended child care for fall and spring break. If families plan vacation time to be off work the extra 5 days can be a hardship. Employers also have workforce issues if several employees need the same time off due to childcare needs.
Parent	I found a balanced calendar easier to work with because by the time my children were getting tired of school it was time for them to break and so learning was easier for them.
Parent	I grew up in a country using a balanced calendar very similar to the one proposed here. It was always painful for everybody. It was like constantly turning an engine on and off, very inefficient and wasteful. Lots of time and energy spent coming back to a good learning rhythm after the extended breaks. When an engine is warm and running don't turn it off.
Parent	I grew up in Europe and never knew any other way
Parent	I grew up in Germany, where summer break is typically only 607 weeks.
Parent	I grew up in the German school system, with a "balanced calendar". The winter break was about three weeks long, summer break 6 weeks. In between there Fall and Spring break of about 2 weeks as well as a few days here and there. I am very much in favor of shortening the long summer break TN has and breaking up the school year a bit more, so students don't burn out toward the end of each semester.
Parent	I grew up overseas and had more of a year round school. I don't feel that it served any better or worse than the current schedule Knox county uses.
Parent	I HATED the balanced calendar. Our extended family plans & summer camp schedules were ruined by part of the kids being on a balanced calendar. Summer camps were missed. Family time was cut short. I wholeheartedly intend to home school my children if Knox Co. adopts a balanced calendar. The balanced calendar I experienced was the exact same time schedule that Knox Co. is proposing -- 10 days for the fall break, 10 days for the winter break, 10 days for the spring break & a 43 day summer. Let me reiterate:I HATED the balanced calendar!!
Parent	I have a child who doesn't do well with transitions. When he did balanced cancer it was a nightmare due to more transitions. Additionally, children who are very bright catch on easily and do better with the extended break over summer as opposed to do many shorter breaks. I am very opposed to balanced cancer based on my pay experience with it for 4 years and damage it caused. Traditional is far better and should be kept.
Parent	I have experienced both types of calendars and greatly prefer the balanced calendar.
Parent	I have family in Alcoa Schools. I have seen the failure of the system there. I am sure it works for a select few, however many divorced parents have schedules and parenting plans that would casue nothing but havoc for the families and the poor defenseless children. I am sure someone thought this schedule is a goof idea on paper. We can not forget that the Titanic and the Hindenburg both looked great on paper.
Parent	I have found for my son (who is already on a balanced calendar) that he retains more information and generally seems happier with it.
Parent	I have friends in other school systems that have a balanced school year. Their kids do not experience the burnout and loss of interest in school and they retain more during the summer.
Parent	I have friends with children in the Alcoa and Maryville City Schools. I think it is a great idea overall. My only concern is childcare during the breaks. Thanks!
Parent	I have known many families with children in the Oak Ridge schools that use this calendar. The children stay involved and each school year is better than the last for them.
Parent	I have not actually experienced a school year under the balanced calendar, but a number of years ago, I co-produced a TV show about the topic working with schools in the area who had integrated it into their systems so I am somewhat familiar with the basics of how they work.
Parent	I have not actually had children attend schools with the balanced calendar, but I have had several family members that have children in one and they love it... it allows for families to schedule vacation at times of the year when the parents job may not allow for the spring break vacation.

Previous Experience Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please make any additional comments about your previous experience with balanced calendars.
Parent	I have worked a balanced calendar and I have a friend who has worked one for 5 years. The biggest issue I have is beginning in Mid-July. To me the cost of cooling buildings or dealing with air conditioners that do not work properly is a struggle that some of the older buildings have. This is not a good working or learning environment.
Parent	I haven't had experience with it but in the graph I really do not agree with it. Pretty much because I feel 10 days for fall break is silly however I am neutral over the rest of the schedule.
Parent	I highly recommend the balanced calendar. Children retain more knowledge, and they also have an opportunity to get caught up if they are behind.
Parent	I know a similar calendar from my family members both here in the US as well as in Europe. The balanced calendar approach allows teachers to continue the education rather than spending alot of time in review.
Parent	I like it as a kid because there were longer breaks and I think I will like it as a parent because less time for my kids to forget what they have learned during the school year
Parent	I like the ideal of the kids having a break about every 2 months. They don't get bummed out over school and are willing to do more which makes them better at everything. I just wish that summer break could stay the same, but it is only a week that would be taken from the kids.
Parent	I like the way the breaks are broken up as a parent. As a child I see how the excitement of looking forward to an extended break would distract the children from learning.
Parent	I liked it because as a students I felt refreshed from the breaks which prevented me from feeling burnout. I want my children to have the same experience I did
Parent	I liked it.
Parent	I liked that the children were offered additional opportunities during breaks to try to catch up if they needed extra tutoring. I like that less time is spent reviewing at the beginning of the school year. I also like that family vacations are not just restricted to the "peak" times during the summer months.
Parent	I love balanced calendars
Parent	I love the idea
Parent	I loved it when I went to school...I never got tired of going to school or being off for too long...it was awesome... And plus, some kids may forget what they learned over the summer.
Parent	I loved it!
Parent	I loved it. I like the 2 week breaks throughout the year. It increases our opportunities for family vacations and we still have a good Summer. It also gives the students a break throughout the year and helps them from getting burnt out. We always enjoy the 2 weeks off at Christmas Break.
Parent	I noticed as soon as my children started a balanced school year, when they attended Maryville City schools they did much better academically.
Parent	I only remember discussion about another school system doing this when I was a young person. Don't have any personal experience.
Parent	I personal think this is great idea. With having the summer breaks 55 days the students lose what they learned the year before and that makes the next year's first 9 weeks a recap, when they can be learning so much more.
Parent	I personally believe in year round school the way my daughters Montessori school did it when she was younger. (The Giving Tree)
Parent	I prefer the balanced calender over traditional. I went to school on a balanced calender and it felt more organized than when i was on a traditional calender.
Parent	I really feel that this schedule would benefit the children and staff because the beginning of the year will not have to be spent recapping previous lessons and exercises
Parent	I saw both pros and cons. Child care facilities made the necessary adjustments for the balanced calendar. Working parents, however, had a difficult time during the spring and fall breaks.

Previous Experience Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please make any additional comments about your previous experience with balanced calendars.
Parent	I served as an intern supervisor for a local college and was in schools that utilized the balanced calendar. The teachers, interns, and students seemed to like it and appreciated the consistency of instructional time.
Parent	I spent less time reviewing info taught from the previous year and after breaks kids were well rested and easier to get back in class mode.
Parent	I talked to many parents who dealt with a balanced calendar or year-round school, and many were displeased to the point of pulling their children out and home schooling. It is not a convenient schedule for most working families, and makes them have to shuffle around resources to address the new schedules that do not coincide with the traditional calendar.
Parent	I taught in a school system that utilized balance calendar. The breaks were a strain on working families. The shorter summers limited enrichment opportunities for those who sought them. I did not see any significant change in academic performance (more review time was necessary.)
Parent	I taught in a school that used a foreign calendar. My family makes international trips in the summer to visit family. A shorter summer vacation makes international trips more difficult.
Parent	I taught second grade in Utah. We had a 45/15 schedule with a three week summer. The summer was too short. I would prefer the 9 weeks of school with the 2 week breaks.
Parent	I teach at Alcoa High on a balanced calendar. I had taught for years on a traditional calendar and had my reservations about the change. I LOVE the balanced calendar! In the fall just when the students are sick of you, they are sick of each other and quite honestly you (the teacher) are ready to pull your hair out...you all have a little break and come back refreshed and ready to learn. It has done more for my mental health than anything in my teaching career. I am a better, more patient and more effective teacher!
Parent	I teach in Oak Ridge and I will be following a balanced calendar. I'm excited about the new schedule.
Parent	I think children should have a balanced calendar as it helps to retain knowledge and less likely to loose knowledge.
Parent	I think it would be better changing to a balanced calendar so the children lose skills over a lengthy summer vacation
Parent	I think it's a great ideal especially for parents that have children with learning disabilities this will help those students stay on task and keep them from getting behind.
Parent	I think some students are hard to get back into thd groove. It takes days to re-adjust to starting back each time. It makes it difficult for summer camps, swim teams, and summer work. I have heard many say it promotes more burn-out. Dyersburg, TN did it for years and went back to traditional bc it was more costly and did not show any positive results in retaining information.
Parent	I think that the children loose so much information over the Summer! It is also very hard to get them re-accustomed to getting to bed early, etc.
Parent	I think this is a wonderful option for all families. I work full time and see no problem with this schedule. Be easier on us.
Parent	I think this is very difficult on the parents, as well as the students. You are asking for them to have weeks off and on throughout the year, but forgetting you are in the middle of teaching subjects that the kids will easily forget by not having a structured schedule. In addition, they need their summer breaks for extra activities and high school students working jobs, as well as the parents need it with their children. That is a good time for parents to have optional weeks to take off thru the summer. Now, if 5 or more people in the office have to deal with this schedule for their children, then someone isn't going to get approved to spend a vacation with their children.
Parent	I think we should go back to a traditional calendar with the start date in September and end date in June. It was previously this way years ago and the studies have proven that a balanced calendar does not increase the amount of retained knowledge.

Previous Experience Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please make any additional comments about your previous experience with balanced calendars.
Parent	I thought it was a good thing from the students' perspective, however, if you have children on other schedules/calendars, it makes it very difficult for family vacations/time. Additionally, now that I share custody for my son, this does pose some added conflicts potentially with the time I get with my son and with the current custody arrangement.
Parent	I used a balanced calendar in the years home schooling my son and I noticed an increase in his retention of material over a shorter summer break. As a former teacher in public and private schools, I can see how shorter summer breaks would aid in better retention of materials from one school year to the next.
Parent	I want the 2 week break in between. 3 weeks is too long and makes your summer too short!!
Parent	I was a stay at home mom when experiencing a balanced schedule, so childcare was not a problem. I am working now and am concerned with childcare.
Parent	I was a stay home mother then. Now I am working outside my home. I don't know how I'd manage it now.
Parent	I was a student and experienced this calendar. I am very in favor of this change.
Parent	I was a student and it seemed very chaotic for parents who had joint custody me I personally didn't mind but what about kids who see their parents and grandparents during summer break and single parents who work and struggle to find sitters during breaks there are too many struggling
Parent	I was a student and learned better, retained more, and burned out less. I loved being off of school for differing seasons!
Parent	I was a student at that time. It was a good break from school for me.
Parent	I was a student in a balanced calendar. It was a terrible burden to my working parents, it robbed us of extended family time in the summers and forced us to live on a completely unmanageable schedule. All enrichment that extended summers provide was gone. The school completely took over family life year round. That's why it used to be called "year round school". Because that's exactly what it is.
Parent	I was a student under my personal version of a balanced calendar. I was an older collegiate student and still found it difficult to stave off burn-out. Our students need a longer summer break, not a shorter one. The balanced calendar is too short by half, and results in lower performance overall.
Parent	I was a teacher in LA, CA. With inner city students, the schedule worked well. It was important for language learning as it was a multi lingual community. However, I don't feel our community needs it.
Parent	I was a teacher in Utah. We had 45 days of instruction and 15 days for school break, also known as 9 weeks on and 3 weeks off. The summer break seemed too short. It was less than 4 weeks.
Parent	I was an elementary school student on a balanced calendar. But the middle and high schools were not. So for our family it meant our family had difficulty coordinating schedules. It was a source of stress for my parents. And I didn't like the breaks between quarters myself. Just when you got used to being off it was time to go back and vice versa. I didn't feel a value as a student.
Parent	I was born and raised in Lexington, KY. Lexington's school system tried this system with only a few schools for 2 years. They had a lot of negative feedback because of daycare issues, parents having to be off work more often, etc. I think Knoxville should get some feedback from systems like Lexington to fully get an understanding of parent and teacher views.
Parent	I was in a test market for a balanced program in California. I remember the teachers slowing down over a week ahead at the end of each session then taking lots of time to "restart" the curriculum. I felt there was a lot of wasted time in the school year.
Parent	I was in the 45/15 program in elementary school, and I preferred it. Unfortunately, that was untenable because not every 'cycle' had its breaks at particularly good times.

Previous Experience Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please make any additional comments about your previous experience with balanced calendars.
Parent	I will not stop here...In another five years our families will be forced to serve our children up even more, so that the state can receive more federal funds...Give an inch and the government will always take a mile. I personally will not stand for it, and I will remove my children out of this compulsory system, and provide them with a proper and private education at any cost.
Parent	I work in Oak Ridge City Schools and we use a type of balanced calendar for the school I work at and it works really well. The kids enjoy attending intercession because they are able to participate in more hands-on science activities that they wouldn't have the opportunity to be apart of during the regular school year.
Parent	I worked in a Blount County afterschool program when the balanced calendar was introduced. The schedule was difficult for working parents (particularly if no after school is offered) of younger children. However, the students seemed to respond well to this schedule.
Parent	I worked in a special education school for many years before moving to the area. We had an ESY (extended school year) program for students to continue to utilize the knowledge and skills they learned through the school year and to inhibit regression. Pre- and Post- testing validated the efficacy of a balanced calendar.
Parent	I would like Knox County to stay with the traditional calendar because of the hardship it would present to our family vacations.
Parent	I would love it Knox co goes to a balance calendar
Parent	I think kids should go all year long with no breaks but Christmas and summer break so they can enjoy their time out
Parent	If all schools in the area aren't on the balanced calendar then some can't participate in all sporting events. An entire team may want to go to a sport camp but the different schedules makes it more challenging.
Parent	I'm all for it! Sounds great to me!
Parent	I'm From Slovakia, the country with similar calendar.
Parent	I'm ready and it's better for the kids! Let's do it!
Parent	In Europe they have had balanced calendar for many many years and it has always worked very well. I personally had balanced calendar during my school years and I believe it helps with not getting overwhelmed with school and not having a longer summer helped with still remembering lessons from the previous year. If you look at European schools their education and standards are far superior than us. They also require children to wear school uniforms which helps with respect and school spirit.
Parent	In my experience, the balanced calendar has kept the kids more focused on school.
Parent	In my personal experience a balanced school calendar benefits everything ne involved but most importantly students. Shorter summer breaks mean lesson learning loss and longer breaks throughout the year keep students and teachers from getting burnt out, allow teachers more student driven prep time, and give families more diverse opportunities for down time together.
Parent	In Putnam County they are on a balanced calendar which i experienced while young to school.
Parent	In the district we lived, only one school operated on the balanced calendar. The families who sent their children to school there and the teachers loved it. They understood it benefitted all children, especially children struggling the most academically. The problem was the entire district did not operate on the schedule and this did create problems for families with students at different schools and levels and teachers whose children went to schools that were not on a balanced scheduled.
Parent	In Utah they started with a balanced calendar and it morphed into a mess where different schools got out at different times and families with children in different schools were never off together. This is the beginning of a downhill slope.

Previous Experience Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please make any additional comments about your previous experience with balanced calendars.
Parent	Issues between academic calendars at middle school to high school transition due to sporting events.
Parent	It
Parent	It allowed the children time to recoup after busy school periods.
Parent	It allows for necessary breaks through the year and reduces skill loss over summer.
Parent	It allows more family vacations during the school year because as a parent I'm not competing with coworkers for the same time off if spring or fall break is 2 weeks long.
Parent	it allows the children to receive a well needed mental break. not to much that they forget but just enough, to go back to school ready to learn. it also allows the parent to be more involved with the daily assignments. the teacher, student and child keeps in touch with each other via email. to element the i forgot my homework excuse. due to the fact the teachers email a copy to the parents as well.
Parent	It did not change learning retention
Parent	It does create some challenges in childcare.
Parent	It does not allow families to spend the summer together. I also did not see improvement with retention.
Parent	It doesn't give the kids an adequate break to develop other interests. Kids need some time away from school.
Parent	It doesn't help at all in ANY way
Parent	it doesn't work!!
Parent	It further prepares young people for what it's like to be part of a workforce or any long term endeavor for that matter. Constant engagement no matter the phase of life keeps us challenged, learning and evolving as a whole. It blends well.
Parent	it helps curb regression from Student
Parent	It hurts kids it takes away summer vacations that we as children learned to love and if this takes place we are teaching our kids that family time isn't big any more and it will be a sad day for Knox County
Parent	it increased my costs with childcare and made it more difficult to plan a whole family vacation in the summer months
Parent	It interfered with family plans during the summer
Parent	it is better for children since they do not have as much time off in the summer to get out of the habit of studying. It is also better for families when it comes to taking vacations. They do not just have to rely on the summer time to take them when the majority of people are vacationing
Parent	It is difficult for parents to have childcare or services to help them watch their children during the two week breaks from school. The summer provides camps, programs, and opportunities to have a safe and fun environment for children and teenagers to spend their time, that is difficult to find in the middle of the year.
Parent	It is extremely hard for working parents to cover child care on these extended spring and fall. Many working parents hire college students to care for their children over summer breaks. Unfortunately, this will not be an option for these 2 weeks fall and spring breaks b/c the colleges and universities don't follow these schedules.
Parent	it is great for children
Parent	It is harder on sports and parents with athletes. I haven't seen any data that proves it is better. A neighboring school in my previous district went back to a three month summer break and their test scores improved.
Parent	It is much better for the kids. They can relax between periods. They are more focused when it is time to learn. It is easier to start school again after summer time
Parent	It is much more convenient for the parents to schedule activities this way
Parent	It is so wonderful for the kids to get a nice break from the classroom/homework and recharge before buckling down for another semester.

Previous Experience Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please make any additional comments about your previous experience with balanced calendars.
Parent	It is taxing on teachers and students to go to school all year long . the studies of year long schools are at most inconclusive to increased benefits. In addition increased costs to have school in the summer. Increased health problems for students exposed to excessive heat in summer. What benefits do you gain if you lose one child due to heat stroke. Potential for multiple law suits for exposing children to over heating. Not all schools are not adequately equipped to hands adequate cooling. Parents can't always get the time off to take vacations when the school dictates .
Parent	It is very nice that it opens up family vacation possibilities at other times besides just the summer.
Parent	It limited opportunities for students to be with family, hold internships, complete summer camp/programs and the students didn't experience the summer break rejuvenation in complete freedom from school work. Instead, they always had pressure of school assignments that were due when the they returned from their time-off. Also, traditional Vacation Bible Schools or other church related events suffered lower attendance because the families had less time to squeeze family time/travel into the shorter break. PLEASE do not change the calendar. If there are no significant differences in time-off, then leave the calendar as it is today. There is so much pressure on rehabbing the test scores and curriculum. So much money has been invested in the new curriculum and I do not think we will see any advancement in standardized test scores until the 'no child left behind' students are separated from the other students. Nine months is long enough for my child to put up with the daily battle of attempting to ignore the 'no child left behind' distractions. Other objections I have to year-round school is the effect on family vacations . Our family is already unable to travel during basketball and football season because of games on Saturday. Increasing the time-off during basketball & football season will not increase our ability to travel since we are already committed to Saturday game days. Decreasing the summer time-off will definitely limit the ability for us to travel (we have no family here) and to relax and have people in town to visit. We are under no illusion that year-round school is equivalent time-off and are totally opposed to this proposal. As stated in the Knox County Board of Education, Family and Community Engagement, General Expectations For All Schools (excerpt included below)*, parent support and commitment are expected. I don't need to explain to the Knox County Board of Education, that 85-90% of our elementary school parents do not meet the listed expectations. The Knox County Board of Education is already well aware that a mere 15-20% of parents are doing all the work to uphold the standards. Year-round school for the students means year-round school for those parents. Our family cannot afford year-round school and the increase in parent resources and parent fund-raising that our elementary school will require. The 15-20% of parents that exceed the standards listed in the General Expectations For All Schools, will be expected to volunteer more of their time and donate more of their money. No, thank you.
Parent	It made child care more difficult, compressed our summer vacation schedule negatively, Made it harder at work because team members were more frequently gone or team members were working from home or on shorter work days to care for the kids.
Parent	It made classes more difficult for my children. Especially with block scheduling.
Parent	It made it difficult to plan time visiting with family that does not live locally
Parent	It made the planning for the teachers somewhat hectic and made the students equally dissatisfied with the amount of work they had to experience
Parent	It makes it hard on working people to find babysitters when the children have 2 weeks off at a time.
Parent	It makes it hard to get some one to watch our kids when we work
Parent	It makes it VERY difficult to find child care for short weeks on break
Parent	It makes sense for learning, most importantly...but quite frankly, I also enjoyed the longer breaks in the fall and spring.

Previous Experience Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please make any additional comments about your previous experience with balanced calendars.
Parent	It makes the kids more excited for school and vacations easier for family time
Parent	It may help kids recall what they learned the year before after the summer.
Parent	It places extra burden and costs on families that have both parents working or are in single parent households. I would be more in favor of a longer day than the balanced calendar. Research points to this being more crucial to skill development and retention than shortening the summer break.
Parent	It really benefits the students. The students are able to retain what they have learned with this type of calendar.
Parent	It was actually nice having options to take family vacations in the Fall and Spring.
Parent	It was excellent for both children and parents. Stress level for both is significantly less due to the balanced breaks. Children do not lose so much retention over summer break as well.
Parent	It was great having longer fall, winter and spring breaks throughout the school year. They made me more rested, rejuvenated and ready for the next quarter. Shorter summer was great too, as I did not forget as much of the learned material and did not have time to get too bored with the long summer.
Parent	It was great!! Had more time in spring and fall to plan.
Parent	It was hard going from the traditional to balanced calendar, and the teachers didn't even like it and moral was bad after the switch to balanced calendar. And after that learning and education went down as well.
Parent	It was horrible my kids absolutely hated it.
Parent	It was incredibly more difficult to find childcare for my special needs child under the balanced calendar schedule.
Parent	It was nice to have a fall break, sometimes there's too much going on in the summer months to do family activities, and the kids responded well to this. They missed it when we relocated.
Parent	It was not a perfect balanced calendar. the year ended 1st Friday in July start up 1st mon in sept. with a long Christmas and Easter holiday plus carnival time off and many days off here and there. we liked it.
Parent	It was ok. With the kids it was fine but it shortened our family options because the Fall and Spring breaks conflicted with my wife's work. So it made family vacations harder to do.
Parent	It was tried in TX and did not work.
Parent	It was while attending an international school- it permitted us to vacation more during the year, with a less lengthy summer break, preventing summer boredom
Parent	It will be very inconvenient for families who have time share for summer vacations, and families who regularly spend time with out of state family members. Also, will create a more of a need for child care and more expense for child care.
Parent	It worked well for everyone.
Parent	It worked well for me.
Parent	It would be harder for working parents to figure something out for their children on the extra days off.
Parent	It's nice to have vacations other than just in summer.
Parent	It's really difficult when you have to work and try to find child care for 2 weeks instead of 1week
Parent	It's somehow what we have in France. Summer holidays are a little shorter, but fall and spring break are 2 weeks, it helps making a little break during the years to rest and enjoy seasoning stuff.
Parent	Kids are happier on a balanced calendar.
Parent	Kids have less time to forget where they left off from the previous scholarship year..
Parent	Kids stay focus and learn more
Parent	Learning loss is greater not lesser surrounding breaks. Child care is a nightmare. Family routines are systematically impossible. In short- it wreaks havoc with daily life.
Parent	Less loss of learning
Parent	Lets do it!

Previous Experience Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please make any additional comments about your previous experience with balanced calendars.
Parent	Limits summer time for cultural travel. Also having children no close in age, limits family time.
Parent	Long breaks between quarters can make scheduling childcare difficult.
Parent	long breaks during semester hinder learning progress. it only takes up valuable times to review after each break.
Parent	longer breaks between sessions slow down learning because students and teachers still have to review previous lessons
Parent	Longer breaks were helpful for recharging and less Spreading of germs.
Parent	lost spring break time and went to school on Saturdays to make up winter inclement weather.
Parent	Love it
Parent	Love it, really enjoy a true spring and fall break, shorter summers are not s big enough change to even be a big deal
Parent	Loved it
Parent	Loved it as did my parents the only thing is day care concerns during off periods since both myself and wife work.
Parent	Loved the year round school.... kids get much needed breaks throughout the year and didn't get burned out as easily.... also it helped with them not getting "bored" during the summer as well. All for balanced calendar!
Parent	Makes child care very hard
Parent	Makes childcare very difficult
Parent	Makes total sense for contiguous learning for our kids
Parent	Many employers are not willing to work with parents on the schedule changes this necessitated
Parent	Maury Co schools for two years. Kids liked it better and so did my wife and I
Parent	Military schools are done in a balanced cycle. I personally like that system better than the big summer break.
Parent	More frequent breaks keep students refreshed. Lessens the mid-semester drag.
Parent	More needed breaks during the year, but less learning loss over summer
Parent	Much better retention of student knowledge
Parent	Much easier to plan vacations around work schedules without students having to miss school.
Parent	My child retained what she learned better over the summer. We appreciated the longer breaks between grading periods for travel.
Parent	my child was enrolled at Willowbrook Elementary in Oak Ridge and that was several years ago...she remembers it being a wonderful experience and she still to this day remembers how much she retained from one grade to the next grade.
Parent	My child went to Blount County schools which was a balanced calendar system, she went there from K-4th grades, I never had any problems with this schedule. I was a stay-at-home mom, so it didn't really effect me and my schedule. I never heard any negative talk about the schedule from any of the working mothers that I was friends with. It was actually more flexible for our family to plan vacations.
Parent	My children are ADHD and a balanced calendar would greatly benefit them.
Parent	My children attended a year round school on Fort Carson in Colorado Springs back in the 90s that was a different version from what is proposed here (an 8 week break in summer). There were difficulties with child care during the breaks which did not match the times I could take off. As far as better retention and teacher burnout, I did not see a difference that I could attribute to the calendar.
Parent	My children have been on both a traditional and balanced calendar over the years. Honestly I did not see any significant difference (bad or good) with either one. They both seem to work just fine.
Parent	My children liked the idea of longer breaks in between semesters. They still had plenty of summer vacation and didn't complain as much.

Previous Experience Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please make any additional comments about your previous experience with balanced calendars.
Parent	My children lose a lot of their knowledge over the long summer break and they get very bored about halfway through summer. I fully support going to a balanced schedule. I also like the idea of not being married to a school schedule when we are trying to plan vacations.
Parent	My children went to a different school system that used the balanced calendar, Our family enjoyed the longer breaks through out the school year.
Parent	My children were too young at the time, but I wished that Knox County would have been on it when we moved here.
Parent	My concern with a balanced calendar are external to the school system. I worry about summer camps, summer activities, etc.
Parent	My concerns lay in the buses without air conditioning running in the summer and the shorter amount of time teenagers will have to get a summer job. My experience with the Balanced Calendar found employers not wanting to hire for such a short time I needed to earn money for all my extra curricular activities. Also, can we be assured that our children will not be given assessments over thees Fall, Winter & Summer breaks?
Parent	My daughter attended a middle school with the balanced calendar , shotet summer and longer breaks between grading periods, the students, faculty and administration , as well as parents, all loved it and were well rested and ready to tackle next grading period. I am all for it!!!!
Parent	My daughter attending Alcoa city schools for 4 yrs and their calendar is very similar to the proposed. We liked the shorter summer (she was usually bored and ready to go back) and the longer spring and fall breaks allowed for more family travel.
Parent	My experience was good, but it was in England, where the attitude towards school breaks is different. During our breaks, there was NO school-related activity (no sports games/practices, band competitions, etc.). The British are very good about letting breaks be actual breaks where families can vacation or do things together. That is not true here, where I know we will still have games, practices, competitions, tournaments, etc., and no kid who is involved in those sports or extracurricular activities will actually get a chance to have a break. I liked it in England but I do not like the idea of it in America - I'd rather have the time off in the summer when we can actually do things as a family without having to be at a school-related sports event or practice!
Parent	My experience with a balanced calendar was tagged "year-round" and was nine weeks on and three weeks off. I do however strongly favor the balanced calendar proposed here.
Parent	My kids like the longer summer break. I actually asked them.
Parent	My kids seem to be more interested in school and their grades were better
Parent	My nephews live in Maryville and have loved the balanced calendar. All the students and parents I've talked to in Maryville have had very positive feed back about it. I think it's a wonderful idea for Knox County Schools.
Parent	My niece and nephew have it in Georgia, and I know it makes family trips outside the hot summer months a lot easier. I asked my sister for her feelings on it and she said, "I'm always ready for a break from homework and studying, and I hate the kids sitting at home all summer. Camps are expensive now that they've aged out of daycare, and it gives you other options for taking vacations too."
Parent	My position as a college administrator working with pre-service teachers allows me the opportunity to be involved with most school systems in the East Tennessee area. In my opinion, Maryville City is a top notch school district that has taken a balanced calendar format and used it to realistically assist their entire student population. I believe a lot could be learned by adopting this some of the other best educational practices used by our next door neighbors who are repeatedly ranked in the top percentile both within our state and nationally.
Parent	My previous experience and satisfaction or dissatisfaction with it have no bearing on my current life situation and opinion regarding a future change.

Previous Experience Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please make any additional comments about your previous experience with balanced calendars.
Parent	My sister teaches at and both nephews attend a modified 9 and 2 week balanced calendar school, it is wonderful. My sister loves it from a teachers perspective and a parents. I have always been jealous of their school calendar.
Parent	my sisters kids that usually spent the summers with there dad had to cut short there visit and there condo time share in florida was then useless because of the shortened summer break
Parent	My son, now graduated, attended Erma Siegel Elementary in Murfreesboro TN. They were on a balanced calendar at that time. I loved it.
Parent	My step-daughter attended Blount County schools when she first started school (she graduated from Hardin Valley Academy 2012). At the time, it was hard for us to take off of work to travel so extra vacations werent an option. She ended up staying most of the time in the extended after school program. The crazy school year was one of the reasons her mother moved to Knox County. It was easier for her to be on the same schedule as our children. All the kids just spent more time in childcare or alone at home. Not all parents can stay with their children when they are out of school. Plus when they go back, there is a re-learning period each time.
Parent	My step-daughter goes to Alcoa City Schools and they are under a balanced calendar. Even though I do think that the extra time off during semesters is a good thing, it is very hard for us to all do a vacation together. I know that seems very strange but my daughter plays competitive travel softball, has some D-1 offers as a Freshman; therefore, we are playing all summer long to get her to the best college showcases around and that runs through the end of July, thus we cannot take a family vacation until the first week of August and my step daughter has already been going to school for several weeks and cannot miss class. If we go to a balanced calendar you will be greatly decreasing the amount of softball scholarships that Knox County kids will be able to get. USA/Junior Olympic Nationals are always the last week of July into the first week of August and the Panama City World Series' tournaments start around July 13th and run for an entire week. These are huge college exposure atmosphere tournaments for high school softball players. I know sports are not everything but when you have a dream to play college D-1 softball and a future PRO/Olympic team, this is what you have to do to make that dream come true.
Parent	my stepson was on a balanced calendar in Wilson county. It's much more convenient for planning vacations and other things.
Parent	My students could not go to summer camps, could not get summer jobs, and it was incredibly challenging to find and pay for child care for my younger students for the extended "Spring", "Winter", and "Christmas" breaks.
Parent	Need summer breaks
Parent	Nephew in NC is on a balanced calendar, as well as friend who attends school in Blount County. I have not heard any negative comments from either.
Parent	Nephews had balanced calendar and seem good.
Parent	nice to have time off with you kids in the fall and spring.
Parent	No balance! It's bad
Parent	No benefit whatsoever
Parent	Not a good idea
Parent	Not good for the students, but it is the equivalent of starting and stopping schools 5 times in a year.
Parent	Oak Ridge school system. I liked the fall break. It works out for my situation.
Parent	Obtaining adequate child care for a balanced calendar proved to be very difficult and although our current superintendent states that, "People will just have to adjust" is an easy statement to make but much more difficult for implementation that he has no control over. Secondly, for older students who wish or need to work during the summer break, a balanced calendar cuts down the days in which this can be accomplished.

Previous Experience Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please make any additional comments about your previous experience with balanced calendars.
Parent	One of the perks is supposed to be that students don't lose information learned during the school year during the summer with the balanced calendar. My child (honors) lost information with each 2 week break. It was like starting and ending the school year several times a year. It was ridiculous.
Parent	Oppose it. Do your teaching as it is now. A balanced calender is a joke in every way.
Parent	Other school districts and countries have successfully worked with a balanced calendar for decades. What is taken so long?
Parent	Our experience was actually with a year-round program very similar to balanced, but incorporating 15 day breaks instead of 10 school days. The extended breaks during fall and spring were enjoyable for our family. It was a chance to experience some daytime activites that are usually only possible during summer, and gave my child a mental break from school activites and time to unwind. She was still able to fulfill any assignments over the break at a leisurely pace. This led to an eagerness to return to learning and seeing her classmates. I can't say enough good things about this type of system. I can only imagine the teachers enjoyed these much needed mental breaks as well. Coming back refreshed to the classroom is good for everyone.
Parent	Our experience was actually with year-round school. We liked it very much. Our (hard to readjust back to school after a break) child transitioned back in more easily. We were able to take vacations during non peak seasons. Shorter breaks left less time to forget material from the previous school year.
Parent	Our previous school district implemented the balanced calendar and then switched back after the students were having adjustment issues after each break. It was also difficult on working parents.
Parent	Our son attended school in Australia for two years, and they used a balanced schedule. The kids looked forward to the break after each term to recharge and prepare for the next term. We had four choices for timing of family vacations. We loved the family time, and our son enjoyed learning for shorter time between breaks.
Parent	Our son went to school in Las Vegas Nevada where they changed for a traditional calendar to what was called a 12 month calendar. Initially we didn't think were would like the change but it turned out it was great. The longer breaks in between semester's work to our benefit so we were able to travel during breaks. The shorter summer break was helpful in our son retaining more of what he had learned in the previous school year and less reviewing in the first semester. I believe children do better with structure and the balanced calendar supports more structure.
Parent	People with timeshares purchased for certain dates to coincide with summer breaks will be screwed!
Parent	Performed better academically with having the breaks in between and a more continuous education
Parent	Please know this effects other support business. Summer care summer camp, dance camp, etc
Parent	pros: shorter ramp up period between school years. Cons: harder to plan for child care Overall: Prefer balanced calendar if local childcare facilities can accommodate or assist.
Parent	Reduced stress on student. Better retention of information. More affordable vacation opportunities.
Parent	Seemed to be a better learning schedule for the children. Childcare in that community adapted to the schedule. It worked very well. Was originally a trial then it became the norm.
Parent	Seems like a great idea!! The less days the children are out of school the less time teachers would have to spend re-teaching lessons that the children had forgotten!! Their is not to much of a difference!:)

Previous Experience Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please make any additional comments about your previous experience with balanced calendars.
Parent	Several schools in our previous school district had balanced calendars. Our family did not attend one of those schools. The primary complaints I had were from working parents. I think many of those issues would be alleviated if the entire district moved to a balanced calendar. Camps and summer programs, for example, would likely make themselves available for the breaks outside of summer as well.
Parent	Shifting some Summer days to Fall And Spring makes much more sense, to us. This leaves less time to forget subject matter between grade years and allows more flexibility for families to vacation together. Having experienced this schedule previously, we are 110% supportive!
Parent	Short summers and difficult for working parents
Parent	Shortens time away from school and keeps students in a "learning" mode.
Parent	shorter summer holiday is a good idea.
Parent	Simply don't like it.
Parent	Snow Days and other make up days were a nightmare.
Parent	Some of the breaks (fall) are too long.
Parent	Some summer internships can be challenging with the shorter summer break. Otherwise, it is a very positive plan in terms of reducing regression during the summer.
Parent	Son attended Alcoa for a year. Love their calendar. I like this option for a balanced calendar -- not the one with the really, really short summer, but the two weeks at fall, winter, spring, is great.
Parent	Sports are a problem with balanced calendar. You want to be able to take trips during your breaks, but you cannot when you have to attend sporting events and practices. Also, if the goal is to give students a short break, you are unable to do that when they have required sports practices and games. So instead, it makes it feel like a longer school year when you are unable to have a true break. Also, as a teacher who has taught in a balanced calendar system, I enjoyed the break, but felt that it was hard to reign in the students after such a long time off.
Parent	Statistically speaking, it's better for almost all students.
Parent	Students become very bored when school is out for summer for the traditional time off. The long time off was scheduled 100 years ago so that young people who are strong could work in the fields. NOW, we do not need young people to work in the fields so this old schedule NEEDS to be adjusted. Students need more time to relax and regroup through out the school year, NOT one long summer that was meant to work on a farm.
Parent	Students need a break from each other and teachers so it's good to have 2 weeks off. Teachers get a break and reflect and enjoy their time off. It's a win win for both teachers and students.
Parent	Students spend less time reviewing and more time learning new material.
Parent	Students with special needs suffer with the extended breaks. This is due to the lack of retention skills, structure, and consistency. Even with the intervention during the off weeks, their retention level is negatively impacted causing additional stress on the student and teacher.
Parent	Summer break is long enough. We can't meet up with our families because they get out in June and we go back soon after that.
Parent	Summer break is too long
Parent	Summer break is too short for important family trips and spring/fall break are so long that they throw off normal schedules. Two straight weeks of snow days during this school year (representative of what a longer break might be like) didn't make parents all that thrilled from what I saw.
Parent	Summer breaks too short
Parent	Summer is too long.
Parent	Summer too short
Parent	Summer was much too short. That is an important time for family, among various other concerns.

Previous Experience Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please make any additional comments about your previous experience with balanced calendars.
Parent	Summers are too short as it is - not to mention that starting school in early Aug is ridiculous! It is difficult to fill time during extended fall/spring breaks - weather is always iffy. Getting out of school in early June is awful for family trips, etc. Our children attended a "balanced calendar" school in another state for the past six years. We moved to TN and into the Knox school system this past Oct.
Parent	Taught school with balanced school calendar for several years Clark county Nevada.
Parent	Teachers waste valuable teaching time after long breaks reteaching. Having a shorter summer break with longer breaks throughout the year will help with teaching time. In addition, students (and teachers) typically need a recharging time every few months and the balanced calendar provides this time.
Parent	Teens struggle with summer jobs- Missing 2 weeks opportunity for working then trying to work too many hours and go to school to make up for it. Athletes didn't get a break. No time for rest and recovery.
Parent	Ten days off in fall and spring break is too long
Parent	Test scores were higher in neighboring district without a balanced calendar.
Parent	The balanced calendar serves no academic purposes. It allows too much time during the winter to forget valuable information needed in the spring
Parent	The balanced calendar allows the student to retain more knowledge by not being out of school as long during the summer. It also allows for the students and families to take trips places during non-peak periods of the year without missing any school. Colleges on quarter systems tend to do better on retention due to more often breaks at shorter intervals.
Parent	The balanced calendar benefits both students and teachers in that they get two week breaks at regular intervals and also a significant summer break that is only 12 days shorter than our current summer break. Having regular two week breaks for the fall, winter, and spring allows time vacations that are not currently available in our traditional schedule.
Parent	The balanced calendar gives families the opportunity to take trips at other times other than the summer break (which is when everyone in the country is going). The summer is still a nice, long stretch, but not too long. We had a balanced calendar in a different county, and we loved it.
Parent	The balanced calendar gives me more options for cheaper vacations in the fall. I also enjoy having 2 weeks off every 9 weeks.
Parent	The balanced calendar gives the children a much needed rest, throughout the school year. I noticed that my children were more engaged on the balanced calendar schedule and more worn out or less energetic on a traditional schedule working at the honors level.
Parent	The balanced calendar is a bad idea.
Parent	The balanced calendar keeps my step-daughter from playing in College Showcase, World Series and the ASA/USA JO Nationals in the summer because these softball tournaments run from July 15-August 1st. It keeps her from being seen by colleges during the peak of their recruiting season.
Parent	The balanced calendar makes it easier to schedule work and time off and balance funds to support childcare.
Parent	The balanced calendar provides some needed breaks within the school year to allow the kids and teachers time to recover and come back fresh for the instructional time.
Parent	The balanced calendar that I experienced and worked in was great for what it was designed for. It was used only for an inner city elementary school where the students did not have opportunity to expand their learning experience during the long summer break. The balanced calendar was a great enrichment experience for these students including during the breaks and also with the shortened summer break. The students were able to retain learning at a much greater rate than with the traditional calendar.

Previous Experience Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please make any additional comments about your previous experience with balanced calendars.
Parent	The balanced calendar we had in northern Virginia was excellent. During the intercession the children could stay home or go on vacation or they had the option to attend an intercession at the school which was a specialized activity in the arts or sciences or whatever the child's interests were. The balanced calendar is not only great for the students but also the parents. It provided a flexible vacation schedule, but most importantly the children had better retention. Loved it!!
Parent	The breaks are too early. Example spring break in February and fall break in early September
Parent	The breaks between semesters help to reenergize the students mind. It also helps parents to spend vacations outside the summer months with children without missing school days.
Parent	the budget was not sufficient to cover expenses. Students that do poorly in school do not come to school extra to learn.
Parent	The Calendar was effective but the issue ran into most of the time was that of childcare during the longer breaks for fall and spring. Would like to sww more Community Centers get involved to help during those weeks so that parents can still work
Parent	The discussion was always about moving to an "even more" balanced calendar with as few as four weeks break in the summer.
Parent	The experience has been as a community member. Alcoa school system has been a balanced system for a while now and the parents seem to adjust well with the new calender.
Parent	The Fall Break is especially nice. If too many snow days occur, time can be taken out of that 2-wk Spring Break. I like the shorter summer and longer breaks during the year -- both as a teacher, parent, and community member.
Parent	The fall break is too long and breaks the start of the year not allow for a smooth transition.
Parent	The families I work with from Alcoa schools love the balanced calendar, so I have heard positive feedback from them.
Parent	The high school I attended implemented a balanced calendar school year and it worked out very well. It's especially beneficial for students who come from a split family as it provides longer time for them to visit with loved ones during breaks.
Parent	The high school that I attended implemented a balanced calendar school year and I thought it worked out well. Especially for those students who had split families and had to visit the other parent for holidays. I think it's a wonderful idea and I believe Knox County Schools should look into trying it out!
Parent	The idea of school year round, regardless of how its diagramed out is an exhausting to parents and students. Why try to fix what isn't broken.
Parent	The intercession times were great because the school offered enrichment activities at the school for the children.
Parent	The kids that I took care of seemed to like it very much. The only drawback was getting care for their children while on one of the breaks.
Parent	the knowledge retention seemed improved with the balanced calendar.
Parent	The logistics of childcare for working parents was a nightmare, not to mention the impact on teachers who have to hold extra jobs over the summer to earn enough money to stay in teaching.
Parent	The longer summer break disrupts students' learning, resulting in a period of 'catch up' or revision at the beginning of the following school year, thereby lessening the actual number of educational learning days for that particular year.
Parent	The main issue is with daycare for the single parents who work to find someone for the extra.time
Parent	The mental fatigue it imposes not only on the children but also the parents. Childcare becomes a burden and may not be acheived throughout the year. In todays times both parents usually work. The logistics become at times impossible.

Previous Experience Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please make any additional comments about your previous experience with balanced calendars.
Parent	The best way for our children to learn and not forget what they learned over long summers great calendar choice
Parent	The only challenge we had was keeping a consistent work schedule, as we don't have child care outside of myself and husband. I think kids need more total days in school, and that even 44 days in a row off is too much for children with various learning or social challenges.
Parent	The school and local daycares provided care during the two week breaks. The school had camps that people could pay to attend.
Parent	The school system, which implemented a balanced calendar, ultimately returned to a traditional calendar (one week spring break, one week fall break, two week winter break, and traditional summer break) several years ago.
Parent	The shorter summer break was helpful, b/c at the beginning of the new school year you didn't have to repeat everything from the previous year.
Parent	The so-called "balanced" calendar favors school administrators and teachers over families. It reduces student satisfaction and results in less learning.
Parent	The supposed academic benefits were not apparent and the family and extracurricular losses of summer were profound.
Parent	The timeframe allowed my son to take a bigger break in between quarters which helped him adjust and prepare for the next segment of instruction
Parent	The way you are looking at doing the balanced calendar is great. Keeps the kids from getting burnt out. Im all for it.
Parent	There are certain sports which take place during summer months and summer sports camps that will not work with a balanced calendar. These are important activities for students who want to further their education by obtaining a sports scholarship and count on exposure camps and competitive travel team participation.
Parent	There are many reasons the balanced schedule impacts families and businesses. It is hard to enumerate them all in a small space.
Parent	There is still too long of a time out during the Summer break. I think for it to be truly 'balanced' it needs to be continued through the entire year with more frequent small breaks between. That way there is less of a chance of burnout and less chance of the Summer loss of skills.
Parent	There was a balanced calendar in my hometown for around 3-5 years. It was so unpopular, they went back to a traditional calendar.
Parent	there were more days for fall and spring breaks, with less time available for a summer break (3 weeks worked out great). The schools divided their years into A, B, C, D and ran year-around, with teachers on one of the year schedules and getting the same breaks. As long as all of a families' students were on the same schedule, most families were very happy with the schedules.
Parent	There were sometimes scheduling conflicts when our son was out of school on breaks with my husband working and myself in school full time.
Parent	They do not promote sports and events
Parent	they kids need to have their summers.
Parent	They're about money not achievement.
Parent	This has intended positive affects but interrupts family social life.
Parent	This is a bad idea. KCS would not manage this appropriately. What about parents who work? What about childcare and summer programs? What about teachers who need to work over the summer because they are so underpaid? Some high school students also need to work. Have you thought about them? Please reconsider and don't do this.
Parent	This is an unnecessary change
Parent	This is very inconvenient for working families. Due to the fact it is harder to have and find child care for those longer breaks such as spring break and fall break.

Previous Experience Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please make any additional comments about your previous experience with balanced calendars.
Parent	This method shortens the summer break which is a time for numerous outdoor activities not available during colder months. Also the school system that uses this type of calendar in West TN seemed to have trouble getting the students that needed the extra help/tutoring that was offered to attend. This appears to be a great idea to some but if the students that is really trying to help doesn't take advantage, then we are no better off than where we are now.
Parent	This schedule is a nightmare for parents who have to work and coordinate child care.
Parent	Time is much better divided between school time and break time. Students benefit more from longer 10days breaks. Summer break is still long enough
Parent	timing for family events and extracurricular activities was destroyed utterly. budgetary requirements for school system increased dramatically. a failure that no one wanted to admit to.
Parent	Too hard for student child care and special activities such as summer sports training and competitions.
Parent	Too much time off in cold weather. Eliminates the summer sports leagues which are important for their physical well being.
Parent	Traditinal calendars are much less stressful on students in the long run.
Parent	Transitioning a child from vacations to back to school is extremely difficult, let alone weekends. On balanced calander schedules there are more transitions making it so much harder. That will never change and never get easier and nothing can be done to assist it making it easier. I also witnessed so many other parents struggling with child care issues whether it was looking for babysitting or camps during this time or some other means. Summer there generally is much more opportunities to find such, even if they have to look out side of the community to meet the need. Where as on a balanced calander many of those opportunities were ONLY available during the summer time.
Parent	Unfortunately there are quite a few children that are part of a divorced family. Many of these children spend summer break with one of their parents. I understand the break would be 55 days. Just throwing out a thought that the shortened break might cause problems with this situation.
Parent	Until this year, our son had attended school on Cherokee count, GA, where a very similar calandar was in effect. We loved it. While it only seems like a small change to the summer vacation, there seemed to be less of a 'return to school' curve than experienced elsewhere. Parents were also better able to plan vacations and family activities with longer spring and fall breaks, with more options available to parents for their vacations. We are 100% for a balanced calandar.
Parent	Vacation timeshare lost due to stupid balanced calendar.
Parent	Very difficult for young students to get back in routine and refresh where they left off. Like starting over each time you have these mutiweek breaks.
Parent	very disruptive schedule
Parent	Very interested in calendar my only concern is that it may take 5 years to implement. Wish change could be sooner.
Parent	Wake Forest, NC has a balanced calendar and we felt it didn't benefit the learning experience.
Parent	Was easier to plan vacations without missing school.
Parent	Was the worst experience as a student. I have zero interest in it for my children.
Parent	We are from the UK where pupils have 6 weeks off in the summer and regular breaks throughout the rest of the year. This works well for working parents and ensures that students do not forget what they have learned.
Parent	We believe it is the best choice.
Parent	We experienced a "balanced" calendar for grades K5-6 in Georgia's Henry Co School System. There was a week break after every 6 week grading period. Unfortunately, I believe the Knox Co's proposed 10 day breaks are too long/intrusive.

Previous Experience Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please make any additional comments about your previous experience with balanced calendars.
Parent	We had 9 weeks on and 2 weeks off. We like the extra time at Fall break though missed the longer summer break.
Parent	We had a balanced calendar in Arizona School District.
Parent	We had balanced calendars in Las Vegas, NV
Parent	We had the same thing in California and I liked it because it keeps a better routine, kids forget less over the summer and we enjoyed vacations during the breaks.
Parent	We loved it and our kids did not like returning to the traditional
Parent	We moved away from the district that had "balanced calendar" because it eliminated our typical summer break options.
Parent	We moved here from the Mount Juliet school system which had adopted the balanced calendar. We found that it gave our boys a more consistent annual educational experience. The summer break here is too long. It also allows more for our family to spend together throughout the year versus having them out for a longer break over the summer.
Parent	We need longer summers for vacations and rest.
Parent	We prefer the standard school calendar. Child care is a huge concern. Not to mention that most parents do not have the flexibility to be off with their children on this calendar schedule. They will either be in child care or sitting home alone during the extra time out of school. We do not see any benefit in that situation for our children.
Parent	We really liked it. Perfect time for a summer break and longer options for vacations in fall and spring.
Parent	We take long vacations and I work through the week and would not have anyone to supervise the children during the spring or fall. This would not work for us.
Parent	We were on a balanced calendar at our previous school system in Middle Tennessee. We loved the flexibility the calendar gave us for traveling. Also, having a two week break every nine weeks was a welcome reprieve from the everyday school hustle and bustle.
Parent	We were on a balanced calendar when we lived in another state. It worked very well and was nice to have time off between each semester.
Parent	Went to school in the UK great to have a longer break in the Fall
Parent	When I lived in California my husband had nieces and nephews in schools that used the balanced calendar method. It worked well.
Parent	When I was a student living in Southern California most of the school systems had a balanced calendar. It was well accepted by students and parents. The shorter, but more frequent breaks, allows the students to enjoy their time off without getting so "bored" from long stretches of time out of school.
Parent	When I was in school (in the 1990's) we got out of school in June & went back to school at the end of August, similar to the proposed balanced calendar
Parent	While a longer inter-session break seems, at face value, to be a good idea, it was a nightmare for our family. The breaks were just long enough to change our routine and make going back to school a chore for everyone. Changing schedule was very hard on my children who have a strong need for routine. It also put us out of school during times when weather was unpredictable or predictably poor, meaning instead of enjoyable outdoor time--which we experience in traditional summer--everyone was stuck inside. Also, we live far from all our family. The only time we can get together is summer. As the calendar stands RIGHT NOW they get out much later than us and we start much earlier. Balanced calendar will throw this further out of sync. If balanced calendar is implemented we will end up having to choose between visiting with family or attending school. We did not experience any positive effects due to balanced calendar. We did not see evidence of "retained learning", if there was a bump in their retention, it was far outweighed by the many negative consequences and added stress upon our family. School with multiple children and schools is hard enough. Please do not change the current system.

Previous Experience Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please make any additional comments about your previous experience with balanced calendars.
Parent	While I am familiar with both calendars and they work equally well, I prefer the traditional calendar.
Parent	While my daughter was not apart of the balances calendar, I've had friends as well as a friend whom was a teacher in a school with a balanced calendar, and they all loved it!! The students enjoyed it and performed more consistently due to more frequent breaks and a shorter summer break. It seems like I remember their summers being 30 days vs the proposed 45 days.
Parent	Willowbrook in oak Ridge
Parent	Wilson County School System had balanced calendar. Allowed parents to provide children with real life opportunities to learn by either far away or local (in town) travel in the middle of learning, instead of trying to do it all in the summer.
Parent	With most of the world (other counties, colleges, camps, etc.) on a different (traditional) schedule it was difficult to deal with. Also made extracurricular activities schedules difficult to deal with.
Parent	Work in a community with balanced calendar
Parent	Worked better with retention and overall attitude towards school. Nothing negative to say about it.
Parent	Working parents do not want longer breaks during the regular school year. There are lots of childcare options and camp during summer vacation, but working parents do NOT want to have to identify and line up frequent child care with friends/family for 10 days or so throughout the school year. Also, it breaks the children concentration on learning and have to review when go back from breaks. It does NOT enhance learning!
Parent	Works well, students perform better
Parent	Would love for the Balanced Calendar to happen !!!!!
Parent	You did not tell what the cost would be. I was told 55% of teachers were for it, but I have yet to find one. I have talked with other teachers from Anderson county. They even disagree with balance calendar. I feel that you will change come hell or high water and your not telling all the truth.
Parent	your argument is to shorten the summer break, when the actual summer break for a balanced calendar is ONLY 12 days shorter. But adding days to spring and fall breaks which disrupt parent's arrangements to provide childcare. we have our child complete workbooks to retain the information and to prepare our child for the upcoming fall semester.
Parent	Your calendars are confusing.....Why do they only add up to 250 days? What do they look like on a real 365 day calendar? I really like the calendar Maryville City Schools has adopted. You should consider their calendar. It seems to be working over there.
Parent	Your proposed "balance schedule" will do very little until you can get 6-12 grades attending class for a minimum of 200 days, preferable about 210.
Student	as a student, I feel it is essential to have "breaks" but when we came back to school, I felt like I lost a lot of material we learned before.
Student	Assigned work during breaks, so there wasn't a chance to spend time vacationing.
Student	I attended Alcoa City Schools, with a calendar very similar to the one proposed. I liked the layout of the calendar, but I did not like that I had to miss out on activities that my friends in other counties had the opportunity to participate in. In addition, I could not enroll in summer long programs (i.e. Volunteering) because school started back before the programs ended. I believe in order for the calendar to be successful, a community shift is required.
Student	I enjoyed the balanced calendar so much that when we moved I complained to my parents about the school calender a lot. I found it hard to do my best because I thought that I would never get a break. I support a balanced calendar and always have.
Student	I was a little younger at the time and I didn't have any knowledge of a block calendar at the time.
Student	I went to a balanced Calender in Nashville and personally hated the short summer.

Previous Experience Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please make any additional comments about your previous experience with balanced calendars.
Student	I'll make a comment. Comment Made
Student	In Germany, most of the schools have 6 weeks summer break, 2 weeks winter break, 2 weeks spring break and an additional autumn break between 1-2 weeks. Additional there are a few more federal holiday days during the year. As a student, I felt it was way less stressful, because of the bigger breaks during the year. Also, you don't forget that much during the summer break.
Student	It is stupid that kids can't have a summer break
Student	It was nice to have a shorter summer break so you didn't forget as much. However, my family takes a vacation at the end of summer break, and we can't with the balanced calender. Also, the spring and winter breaks were too long. Most kids wanted to go back to school just to have something to do.
Student	Juniors who will already be having a hard time with act and graduating will need the summer to get a job for college/ car/ life. And some teachers who also relie on the summer for the extra money don't have time for it.
Student	My kids went to Willow Brook in Oak Ridge several years ago and it was year round, I liked it because it didn't keep them away as long to get them out of routine.
Student	My memory of what I learned in school did not change going from a school system that had a banned calendar to one that had a traditional calendar. I remembered what I learned just as vividly, making that argument invalid. Having a more "balanced" school year is pointless and only makes things more hectic, especially to parents over the summer. Why change something that doesn't need to be changed?
Student	Okay so with the balanced calender thing i have neutral well kind of i dont really agree with the new rule yall are deciding on is the one year round school i dont think we should do that because i mean it gives us less time to spend with our family and soend time with everyone i mean on summer we have to have summer break like we use to i mean it just wrong to go to school on summer summer is the time to spend time to spend with my family
Student	They are fine, stop changing stuff up. Summer is good how long it is. Don't change it. A long spring/fall break will affect many sports activities and completely through off scheduling. Keep things how they are and stop getting in everyone's business.
Student	This calender rocks harder than diamond.
Student	To however this may concern: I highly disagree with the balanced calander! 10 days does not make a difference in a child's loss of memory. I am a student and over the two weeks off of school due to weather I feel like my classmates and myselfe lost more memory of previous skills learned than over summer break. Having random breaks over the school year you would have to review right after you come back because students would just forget. Why fix something that's not broken. Thank you for your consideration.

Potential Benefits of a Balanced Calendar

	Number Responding	Please indicate the level to which you agree that the following items are benefits of a balanced calendar: Less summer learning loss				
		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	No opinion/Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
KCS Parent	11045	11.1%	14.1%	11.6%	31.9%	31.2%
KCS Employee	4439	7.3%	12.2%	12.8%	36.4%	31.4%
KCS Student	524	20.2%	17.6%	14.9%	26.3%	21.0%
KCS Community Employer	763	18.5%	17.4%	13.2%	22.3%	28.6%
No KCS Affiliation Given	495	13.1%	15.8%	18.0%	31.9%	21.2%
All Respondents	14792	10.6%	13.7%	12.2%	32.9%	30.6%

	Number Responding	Please indicate the level to which you agree that the following items are benefits of a balanced calendar: Opportunities to provide extra help during school breaks				
		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	No opinion/Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
KCS Parent	11030	10.8%	15.5%	18.1%	32.6%	23.0%
KCS Employee	4431	6.7%	12.9%	16.0%	39.1%	25.3%
KCS Student	525	18.3%	18.7%	17.0%	29.9%	16.2%
KCS Community Employer	767	19.2%	18.8%	15.0%	26.1%	21.0%
No KCS Affiliation Given	493	10.3%	20.7%	23.9%	29.4%	15.6%
All Respondents	14772	10.0%	15.3%	17.9%	33.8%	23.0%

	Number Responding	Please indicate the level to which you agree that the following items are benefits of a balanced calendar: Opportunities for enrichment during school breaks				
		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	No opinion/Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
KCS Parent	11024	11.4%	15.2%	18.5%	31.8%	23.1%
KCS Employee	4433	6.9%	12.7%	18.2%	37.5%	24.7%
KCS Student	520	20.2%	18.8%	20.6%	23.5%	16.9%
KCS Community Employer	766	19.3%	19.5%	15.7%	22.8%	22.7%
No KCS Affiliation Given	491	10.8%	20.6%	24.6%	28.3%	15.7%
All Respondents	14761	10.5%	15.0%	18.7%	32.7%	23.0%

	Number Responding	Please indicate the level to which you agree that the following items are benefits of a balanced calendar: Improved student behavior				
		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	No opinion/Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
KCS Parent	11029	14.1%	15.4%	26.7%	23.7%	20.0%
KCS Employee	4429	11.2%	16.6%	24.8%	26.7%	20.7%
KCS Student	523	25.0%	21.8%	20.7%	17.0%	15.5%
KCS Community Employer	765	23.3%	19.0%	24.6%	14.6%	18.6%
No KCS Affiliation Given	489	15.5%	17.2%	30.7%	20.2%	16.4%
All Respondents	14764	13.6%	16.0%	26.5%	24.0%	19.9%

	Number Responding	Please indicate the level to which you agree that the following items are benefits of a balanced calendar: More frequent breaks during the school year				
		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	No opinion/Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
KCS Parent	11014	9.5%	8.8%	12.0%	34.7%	34.9%
KCS Employee	4422	4.6%	5.6%	8.3%	37.6%	43.9%
KCS Student	524	13.7%	8.0%	12.4%	27.7%	38.2%
KCS Community Employer	764	17.5%	11.3%	17.1%	22.6%	31.4%
No KCS Affiliation Given	488	11.3%	9.8%	17.6%	37.7%	23.6%
All Respondents	14747	8.7%	8.1%	11.6%	35.1%	36.5%

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent & Employer	"summer slide" is replaced by "bigger brake slide" of 3 times vs. just the fall
Parent & Employer	10 days' difference will NOT prevent so-called 'summer slide' (NOT at 2 months vs 2.5 months off!). Besides, review and repetition enhance learning. What students need is MORE RECESS and CREATIVE PLAY! They are being robbed of this in school! Balanced calendar COULD be beneficial but sounds like an open door to keep kids in intervention year-round. Education is so, so, so important, but so is BEING A KID and being allowed CREATIVE PLAY! Enrichment is good, but again, this is NOT time-off for kids, but more school. Further, balanced calendar robs other agencies of business, ie. summer camps, outreach education programs, etc. and puts STRAIN on working parents. Here you will say 'not if enrichment programs are provided', but this is where it turns into 'more school'. 'More' does not equate to 'better'.
Parent & Employer	12 fewer days of summer break poses no meaningful reduction in learning loss. Enrichment and intervention are already offered within the current structure. Intervention is traditionally not well attended. I seriously doubt students nor parents would elect to leverage a 'break' for this over the methods currently offered.
Parent & Employer	Ability to travel to popular destinations in off season (like Disney in the fall!)
Parent & Employer	Absolutely NONE! This is nonsense and ridiculous. The calendar has been in place for many, many years the way it is. The calendar is not the problem. - low funding and bureaucracy is the problem! Leave our children and family lives alone and spend time supporting and paying excellent teachers for our schools!!!
Parent & Employer	Allow parents and kids to do more educational trips at non-peak times such as only during summer vacation, longer Fall Break instead of 2 days.
Parent & Employer	allow teachers to attend conferences or extended education and implement learnings sooner
Parent & Employer	As a divorced, single parent I am constantly struggling with only getting my daughter for spring break every other year. This calendar would allow me to have her for 5 days for both Fall and Spring and for her father to have her 5 days for both Fall and Spring breaks. I really like this and would welcome the opportunity to experience a balanced calendar. I also hope that the Christmas break has an equal amount of time before Christmas as it does after Christmas - Jan. 2. I truly miss getting to spend time before Christmas with my child and doing the fun activities before the holidays are over. Let's face it - they are over on Christmas day after lunch! Let's try to let kids enjoy the season in advance of the holiday and go back to school right after New Year's instead of Jan. 9. That is just absurd and I know it has to do with the school testing but kids are missing out on the celebrations of the season when they get out a day or two before Christmas.
Parent & Employer	As a parent and educator I do not agree that the balanced calendar would create benefits for children. You can spin things to make them sound great when in reality there is no reason to change. Has anyone thought about the 51% of the population who are divorced? These parents will have to spend thousands upon thousands of dollars to rewrite parenting plans. Although this doesn't affect me it will affect many that I know. I teach younger children and I can tell you they do not need a 2-3 week break every nine weeks. They need a longer summer break. 2-3 weeks every nine weeks is too hard on them to come back. We have to reteach routine, review, readjust to crying for mom, etc. Why does Knox County have to jump on band wagons for change? Another question, who plans to do all these camps, extracurricular, tutoring? Most teachers I know need a break just as much as the students. As an educator and parent I am standing for the traditional calendar!
Parent & Employer	As with any process or change there are pros and cons.
Parent & Employer	Balanced calendar has not been proven to improve educational outcomes for average or above average students in nonovercrowded school systems. The extra "learning time" will most certainly have extra cost for the district, teachers will not be working for free during breaks, occupied buildings will cost in utilities and custodial expenses.
Parent & Employer	Balanced calendar would potentially provide families extra vacation/travel "enrichment" opportunities, hopefully allowing for more economical Fall and Spring travel dates.

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent & Employer	Based on the information and questions that you just gave us, it shows that you have already decided
Parent & Employer	Better attendance overall.
Parent & Employer	Better financial opportunities for families (especially with multiple children) to afford enrichment opportunities when they don't all occur at the same time (summer).
Parent & Employer	Better opportunities for families to take holidays together.
Parent & Employer	Better planned time with family throughout the year. More focused time by planning vacations throughout the year instead of wasted weeks of summer.
Parent & Employer	Better retention of learning from year to year..less time to acclimate to environment due to shorter down time.
Parent & Employer	Break for a the teachers.
Parent & Employer	Breaks provide healing time during heavy flu seasons.
Parent & Employer	Children benefit from extended time off with longer breaks to play video games. Really??
Parent & Employer	do not agree with the benefits mentioned
Parent & Employer	Easier for parents to schedule around school calendar but parent flexibility for coordinating travel and vacation is just as important as scheduled time. Expectation that all family travel scheduling should be coordinated around school calendar seems arbitrary. Are teachers and administrators expected to schedule around school calendar, or are they allowed to utilize paid time off during the school year?
Parent & Employer	Easier schedule for full time working parents.
Parent & Employer	Every Child is different and have different Abilities its not measured By Time
Parent & Employer	Extra help and enrichment can be offered on regular calendar during summer.
Parent & Employer	Families would be able to spread out vacation time. People whose families live far away would have more opportunities to visit.
Parent & Employer	Families would have time to vacation in the fall and winter! Also, medical appointments could be scheduled during these breaks rather than missing instructional days in the traditional calendar.
Parent & Employer	Family enrichment opportunities. Less loss of learning summer breaks
Parent & Employer	Family vacations during "off" season with cheaper rates. Help prevent burnout throughout the year.
Parent & Employer	First, please let me point out that the "frequency" of breaks would not change... only the duration. Who edits this stuff? Can he/she read English? Are you hiring? Will you The big benefit I see here is for some people/businesses to cash in on new "enrichment" camps.
Parent & Employer	For educating children-Nothing, no benefits. For burearcatic education administrators- scheme to try to raise taxes and school funding while raising cost.
Parent & Employer	For our family, it created many difficulties.
Parent & Employer	For our family... we are ready to get back to school after 2 months. We are excited about the longer fall and spring break to travel when it's "peak season". I'm interested in the enrichment opportunities as well.
Parent & Employer	For parents who have their children in healthy educational programs this might disrupt their systems.
Parent & Employer	For those students who have alternative, noncustodial, or other living situations; the students would have more frequent opportunities for visitation with the alternative parent. Another benefit would be that students and their families would not be limited to Summer trips/vacations. Also, students could have doctors appointments scheduled during breaks so that students would miss less class time.
Parent & Employer	From all of the teachers that I have spoken with, they are very much in favor of a balanced ..calendar...also parents are excited that they can take vacations when prices are cheaper
Parent & Employer	gives students and teachers needed breaks to absorb the previous learnings
Parent & Employer	Higher teacher morale

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent & Employer	Honors students would have less stress during longer instructional periods they currently experience.
Parent & Employer	How would it improve student behavior? Really? I think they focus on the break and not on school.
Parent & Employer	I am a single mom working full time. I like the idea of my daughter having longer breaks throughout the school year, this will give me a better opportunity to schedule time off to spend with her. 2 days in the fall is tough I like 10 days as an option to improve family/quality time while still short enough that she won't lose important focus on current modules being taught during that quarter
Parent & Employer	I am a supporter of a true, year-round, school calendar. Knox County's balanced calendar plan does not reduce summer vacation enough.
Parent & Employer	I believe it will keep the kids focused while in school, instead of getting "bored" with learning.
Parent & Employer	I believe that a more balanced calendar offers a better learning experience for children to become ready for the future work schedule (as an adult and young adult) and be ready for not having a long summer break or one at all. I also think that in the long run it will also help give parents a better grip on their child's education in sections and better time management for family time. We also have a split family and this schedule offers both sides of the family time with our children throughout the year rather than a, one time, hectic summer break.
Parent & Employer	I believe the balanced calendar will be a positive change for students and teachers. Breaks are well earned. What I don't like is the idea of pushing more standardized testing and using the balanced calendar as a way to hopefully bring up test scores.
Parent & Employer	I cannot think of any benefits. This system is going to be terrible for students who need to work summers, particularly for those who are saving money for college. Certainly it would have been a major problem for me and my wife when we were young. In addition, this system will have a major negative impact on businesses who count on summer labor, such as Dollywood, and the Knoxville Racquet Club. In addition, I am a very involved parent who grew up traveling about nine months of the year. I know that a child's life can be greatly enriched by extensive travel during the summer, and this plan is going to limit those opportunities. All in all, I think this is a terrible idea and I'd have to consider a private school if Knox County goes to this plan.
Parent & Employer	I could list some potential problems...
Parent & Employer	I do feel that this schedule would be good for the students and that is really what it should be about however I think it DOES present a problem with most families that have working parents. As a child care director, it may mean changes for us that I am willing to make if this schedule is best for the students.
Parent & Employer	I do not agree with balanced calendar. Do not do it. It is a disruptive calendar!
Parent & Employer	I do not have any benefits because I have not witnessed a Balanced Calendar. I do not have any studies that would indicate so. The only one I can think of is a convenience for the faculty/staff/administrators since they are the ones that want this. I haven't been told via research or some sort of independent study that would definitively point to changing the entire social system of Knox County that this would be worth the risk associated. I attended the presentation on this matter and it was clear that this is the way Dr. McIntyre wants is to go. So, in a sense, unless I see a study or some sort of case history (and they should be available to educators though Knox County did not show any) demonstrates a benefit, then I am 100% unqualified to say.
Parent & Employer	I do NOT see any benefit to a balanced calendar.
Parent & Employer	I don't buy the 'summer slide' from 6wks to 8wks... is the difference really statistically significant? Also suspect 'enrichment' will be logistically more difficult since students are not in school (central location) during breaks.

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent & Employer	I don't know how or with what money the school district thinks it will have "enrichment" for at risk students. Why are we Not already targeting at risk students w more programs? And will the parents of at risk children participate in enrichment courses during the breaks when the students and possibly the parents already view school as an antagonist environment or even a dead end no win situation?
Parent & Employer	I don't see any benefits.
Parent & Employer	I don't see any benefits. Why? because given recent budget discussions - I truthfully don't see that the school system has funding to provide any of the services or enrichments mentioned above.
Parent & Employer	I don't see any!
Parent & Employer	I don't see many benefits since nearly all colleges have moved away from a quarter based system.
Parent & Employer	I feel the balanced calendar will also help parents that have to find child care during the summer.
Parent & Employer	I firmly believe a balanced calendar will benefit the children in more ways than just academic. With the breaks planned they will actually have time to decompress and get back on task.
Parent & Employer	I have researched this subject pretty thoroughly, and most of the benefits ascribed to year round school have not materialized. Test scores (on average) have dropped in many cases. Furthermore, Summer learning loss has not been measurably decreased. On top of that, it actually adds additional learning loss due to the longer disruptions throughout the year.
Parent & Employer	I really do not see a benefit to balanced calendar as defined by the diagram provided, especially when we remain in block scheduling for high school students, and still risk more than 1/2 the calendar between work on various subjects (such as successive levels of math, successive levels of science and also foreign language. None of the learning loss or "slide" necessarily experienced by 6-8 month breaks between classes taken in a block scheduling format are addressed by the proposed balanced calendar.
Parent & Employer	I really don't see benefits. Who is providing the extra help? who is providing the extra enrichment? Today most parents work. Who is taking care of the children during these more frequent breaks? Who will pay the students for the weeks of lost summer pay? Who will feed the children during these more frequent breaks?
Parent & Employer	I really see it having more negatives than benefits.
Parent & Employer	I still am not so sure about how student behavior will be when coming back from breaks for the younger grades. I know that just after Fall break, Winter break and snow days the first several days sometime a week were rough behavior wise.
Parent & Employer	I think it would provide opportunities for children to "recover" from their Spring Break trips which we all know can be very exhausting. The additional time allows for some rest time.
Parent & Employer	I would strongly agree with the enrichment and extra help, but I'm not sure who would own making this happen. If the school is going to be accountable for making these things happen, I agree. I'm all for it. If the school is just hoping other facilities will step up then I don't think it's fair to count this as an asset to the cause if the school can't guarantee it and be measured by it.
Parent & Employer	If summer learning loss is the argument FOR a balance calendar, 12 less days of summer break are NOT NOT NOT going to make that big of a difference in summer learning loss, but will add additional stress to working parents. I only get 2 weeks of vacation, so I don't have the availability of time off during the 2 week breaks and don't have the money to pay for added childcare during the 2 week breaks either. This would be a VERY big problem for our family.
Parent & Employer	If the kids went to school on a balanced calendar, it would be really hard on the parents to find and plan child care.

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent & Employer	If you are suggesting balance breaks for teachers and students (#5) fail to see how and who will be teaching the children who have fallen behind in academics. The social promoting of students should stop. The behavior will not improve (#4) because we have no control on the home lives many of our most disruptive students come from. As for summer slide (#1) we continue to recap after each break on the traditional calendar as is so this would be no different except with the two week gaps several times
Parent & Employer	If you struggle in school, a balanced calendar is not going to make a difference. All it does it take away part of the joy of childhood.
Parent & Employer	I'm all for opportunities for enrichment during school breaks, but where will these services come from and at what cost? Transportation? Meals? Qualified staff? If I had good solutions to these issues I'd be more open to the idea. My son hates it when he doesn't get to see his friends for an entire summer and then "has to start all over again" and he's a social little guy.
Parent & Employer	I'm intrigued by the "extra help" and "enrichment" that could be added, but what does that cost and how will you pay for it?
Parent & Employer	I'm sure the enrichment you would offer would be great but would also cost money so for that reason I stay neutral. I will not pay for activities during breaks. I do think another pro is more choices on family vacations. Going to beach in off peak days would be cheaper and less crowded. Planning a fun winter vacation. Also for this who work in office where several have kids not everyone can take off having more weeks allows all employees to choose a week and with kids.
Parent & Employer	Improved family life in form of more balanced time to spend together as a family.
Parent & Employer	Increased opportunities for educational trips at different times of year. Would give more flexibility to schedule extended field trips in spring or fall, perhaps allowing for greater attendance and perhaps lower cost.
Parent & Employer	Increased taxes on the community to pay for the additional air condition expenses required during the hotter time.
Parent & Employer	It actually does none of the things listed above. Knox county struggles to provide enrichment and targeted instruction now, it will only be worse with a balanced calendar
Parent & Employer	It would allow families who usually can't afford vacations a chance to vacation in off-season which is more affordable. Valuable family time will likely overflow and cause positive changes in the classroom.
Parent & Employer	It would be beneficial to those of us whose children have medical issues that cause them to miss frequently. We could plan medical procedures and treatments during the breaks.
Parent & Employer	It would give teachers and students a much needed mental break. Teacher and student absences would decrease. You could schedule appointments and vacations during the breaks.
Parent & Employer	It would give the teachers much needed breaks as well.
Parent & Employer	It would offer families opportunities to travel in the fall and spring when rates are typically lower (ie, the beach). It also may be helpful for working parents whose jobs may not fit to take vacation days in the typical summer months.
Parent & Employer	It's nice to have the breaks for students and teachers, period. I just wish we left it at that, instead of quoting other "benefits" that not are absolutely unproven, re: "less summer learning loss".
Parent & Employer	Leave school how it is
Parent & Employer	Less long of a summer
Parent & Employer	Less time away from routine. Children need the stability & consistency offered to them during the school year. It becomes difficult to return to the routine when it has been such a long break between classes. This will also benefit the teachers as well as administration. The breaks, a variety of seasonal breaks, Enrichment & assistance for targeted areas.
Parent & Employer	Lots of families find themselves in a divorced parent situation and increasingly deal with out of state parent. This would allow better parent custody agreements.

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent & Employer	Many after school and summer programs don't charge by the day it's by the week or month, so please keep this in mind when switching to calendar that parents may have to fork out a little more for care. Please do not make it where there off days cut in the middle of the week either be in school ALL week or be out ALL week. Families will also be trying to schedule things and would be easier if they had the whole week and weekend to plan short gets aways.
Parent & Employer	More and less expensive family vacation options when available other than summer.
Parent & Employer	More engaged students & families.
Parent & Employer	More family time throughout the year is possible with extended family out of town.
Parent & Employer	More Family Travel Flexibility
Parent & Employer	More frequent breaks during the school year will likely many more hassle for many families. The children being off does not mean the parents get to take time off, so they will have to be shuffled to child care or to relatives house . For some who cannot afford childcare, and do not have local family to assist in childcare, these children will either become latch key kids, or one parent is going to have to take time off in order to care for the child during these longer breaks. The current calendar places the bulk of the off time during the summer, when vacations can be taken, or there are camps available at a reasonable rate.
Parent & Employer	More like the regular work world and parents' schedules.
Parent & Employer	More opportunity to take vacations, sorry bit of sarcasm. I do not believe that 10 days less of summer makes or breaks the ability to retain information from previous school year either.
Parent & Employer	More options for family vacations
Parent & Employer	More rest from the stress of tests for students.
Parent & Employer	More time for teachers to prepare for grading periods. There is no benefit for families.
Parent & Employer	More time in the classroom.
Parent & Employer	My child is thriving in the current system. Please don't change the current system.
Parent & Employer	My support of the balanced calendar initiative is contingent on improving student performance throughout the system. If there is going to be a change, then please make a substantive change to raise the bar and prepare our students for a very competitive environment.
Parent & Employer	No benefit
Parent & Employer	No benefits
Parent & Employer	No benefits to list.
Parent & Employer	None
Parent & Employer	None
Parent & Employer	None
Parent & Employer	None
Parent & Employer	None
Parent & Employer	NONE
Parent & Employer	None
Parent & Employer	None absolutely none
Parent & Employer	None I can think of at all. As a scout leader and active parent of a straight A student it would throw our life into turmoil.
Parent & Employer	None we would switch to homeschool if this happens
Parent & Employer	NONE WHAT SO EVER. It is a horrible idea.
Parent & Employer	NONE!
Parent & Employer	NONE!
Parent & Employer	NONE!!
Parent & Employer	NONE, except for teachers to have more regular pay periods
Parent & Employer	None, let the kids have a summer break.
Parent & Employer	None.
Parent & Employer	None.

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent & Employer	None. It would add a severe burden for child care and work schedule. It would destroy he ritual summer swim teams, sailing teams and summer camps that are staffed by high school and college students.
Parent & Employer	None. This is no qualitative data suggesting this is in the students best interest. It's more work for teachers who are already at a breaking point. We will consider moving or taking our children out of this system if it were to be actual used. It is very disappointing that it is even under consideration.
Parent & Employer	Not really a fan of changing something that has been this way for as far back as I can remember.
Parent & Employer	Once again focusing on the bottom 8 percent of students. Students are not going to come during structured breaks if they do not attend during regular school why would they come when it is not mandatory. How will tutoring be done? Pay how? Who picks teachers? Teachers picked surely will be ones who attend certain academies or who do not speak out with there own opinion. What are you doing for the child who is average or above? They seem to be doing just fine so you take away a summer job or more time to enjoy Family and the outdoors because they are doing the right thing.
Parent & Employer	Opportunities for family vacations throughout the school year
Parent & Employer	Opportunities to have a real fall break. Taking advantage of off season vacation destination pricing
Parent & Employer	Opportunities to take family vacations during off peak times
Parent & Employer	Opportunity for higher teacher compensation and overall school spending. This isn't really a benefit but I am sure the school system sees it as such.
Parent & Employer	Our teachers need mire frequent breaks and opportunities to regroup. The students can only learn what the teacher can teach. We need them.at their best!
Parent & Employer	Parents could plan trips throughout the year without student missing a week of instruction.
Parent & Employer	Planning for parents who work could be made easier with a balanced system.
Parent & Employer	Potential for family activities and travel during non-peak times means a more balanced work-life schedule for both students and parents.
Parent & Employer	Prevent staff burnout Opportunity for teachers substitute teach during breaks and earn additional money
Parent & Employer	Prevention of teacher burnout Prevention of student burnout Families could take vacations during times of the year that aren't so hot and expensive
Parent & Employer	Problems for our family and NO, I repeat, NO benefits for us.
Parent & Employer	stupid. name of initiative is bureaucratic at best. fire McIntyre.
Parent & Employer	Summer/Fall/Winter breaks pose a child care issue for us. Not sure which child car provider will be willing to have a 2 week fall camp? We go to Webb now for summer break.
Parent & Employer	Teachers have less stress due to less preparation and instruction needed for classes held after EOC"S since students just watch videos on their laptops or videos as a class
Parent & Employer	Teachers may not be available to work summer jobs, including summer school.
Parent & Employer	teachers want this...not the parents or students....we pay for the teachers and schools..why fix something not broken....we have the choice to move our student somewhere else.
Parent & Employer	Teachers would have a week to have a break then most would spend part of the next week prepping for the nine weeks to come. It would be great for teachers' emotional stability.
Parent & Employer	The balanced calendar is a bad idea!
Parent & Employer	The breaks would be actual breaks with ample time to rest and recuperate, rather than simply amounting to extended weekends.
Parent & Employer	The kids would have a less chance of being bored with the balanced calender and it would give them something to look forward to.
Parent & Employer	The most beneficial would be the improved opportunity for continuous learning rather than a consistent focus on reaching the next summer break. I believe this best prepares students for competitive, long term educational goals at elite universities and careers.

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent & Employer	The only way you will improve lower scoring students is to force low achiever's to go to an intensive 90 day summer session to bring them up to grade.
Parent & Employer	The summer break proposed In The balanced calendar is 11 less days of break, how can you expect us to believe that 11 days will help memory retention? Those two weeks are gonna be some magic pill that helps keep info in? In my opinion this makes you all sound like you haven't even thought your reasonings through. In my opinion when you list this as a valid benefit (learning loss) it makes me wonder if kids are being encouraged to retain info or memorize!!
Parent & Employer	There are no additional benefits, only wording designed to make parents believe an even shorter summer for children to simply be children during warm summer days is somehow beneficial. Longer breaks in colder times will only encourage children to stay inside and get even less exercise and sunlight sitting in front of video games, tv, computers, and phones.
Parent & Employer	There are not any. The schools and sports will fill every holiday weekend and break with tournaments, or practices as they do now.
Parent & Employer	THERE ARE ZERO BENEFITS TO A BALANCED CALENDAR!
Parent & Employer	There is no benefit if kids lose what they learned the previous year because of 12 days in the summer, seems like they haven't Brent taught to begin with
Parent & Employer	There is no information about what "studies" you are referring to. If you are going to tote research backing up an idea, please provide some references. I do not agree or disagree, but would like to see the research referenced.
Parent & Employer	There will apparently NOT be more frequent breaks during the school year.
Parent & Employer	This does not change student behavior and what higher learning institution follows this??
Parent & Employer	Travel for vacations would be more varied and possibly less crowded.
Parent & Employer	We provide learning opportunities for our children during the summer break and the change you are indicating is not significant enough to impact this issue even if one agrees it is a problem. Therefore, I am not concerned about learning loss. Opportunities to provide enrichment and extra help can be offered in summer. More frequent breaks during the school year creates significant problems for working parents who do not desire to leave their children home unsupervised. There are many summer programs for my children that are excellent and proved learning, physical activity, social, self-esteem enrichment and many other activities.
Parent & Employer	When one adds up the days on both charts, the numbers do not add up to 365. It appears some very inconsistent math is being used to advance an agenda.
Parent & Employer	Year Round / Balanced calendar doesn't create boredom because the next break is always on the horizon. Also, we are assuming that teacher inservice would occur during these breaks meaning that parents aren't finding child care randomly throughout the school year...just for scheduled breaks and federal holidays
Parent & KCS	"Brain Break" for students.
Parent & KCS	.Boost teacher and student morale.
Parent & KCS	1.more vacation opportunity . provide childcare jobs
Parent & KCS	14 day break would be better for teacher planning and this would not interrupt the summer schedule to much.
Parent & KCS	A Balanced Calendar will allow teachers more time to recharge between sessions.
Parent & KCS	A time to recharge for both the teachers and the students so they can perform at their best. High schools could use the breaks as a time for job shadowing/internships providing multiple opportunities to experience different areas.
Parent & KCS	A wonderful opportunity for families to have time together throughout the year and a chance for teachers to "recharge" and be energized to return to the classroom.
Parent & KCS	ability for families to travel at other times of the year other than summer.

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent & KCS	Ability to better integrate community into the school (with a balanced calendar, non-school events may more often occur at school sites during breaks). Better quality of life for students and staff.
Parent & KCS	All BS
Parent & KCS	Allow opportunities for parents to holiday during the school year without loss of school time.
Parent & KCS	Allows for students to maintain stamina for learning each quarter.
Parent & KCS	Allows more time for cultural and family enrichment throughout the year.
Parent & KCS	Although I believe that the Balanced Calendar can be beneficial, I worry that parents will have a hard time finding child care if there are more breaks in the school year.
Parent & KCS	Are you asking teachers to teach during their breaks or teacher work days? That doesn't seem fair.... Booooooooooooo!!! IF the school calendar still has 180 instruction days... that's when the intervention/enrichment should be.
Parent & KCS	As a teacher, I am VERY concerned that you are selling the value of a balanced calendar as the opportunities for extra help and enrichment during the school breaks. Where will that money come from? Who will do all of that? A lot more is being asked of teachers and we already are paid so little that we would qualify for food stamps. This is embarrassing and horrible!
Parent & KCS	As a teacher, I feel the learning will be enhanced during the instructional days. In other words, I believe the fact that the students are only in school for the 44-45 days prior to the break will enable them to focus better and for teachers to waste less time and use better instructional methods.
Parent & KCS	As an elementary school teacher, I would LOVE the balanced calendar. There is not enough time in the day to get everything done that is required of us. For this reason, we often have to plan lessons quickly and they may not be the most well thought out lessons. We also do not have time to reflect on lessons we have taught. The balanced calendar would allow us to take the time to plan QUALITY lessons and reflect on what might need to be adjusted to promote student achievement. I also believe that a balanced calendar would improve teacher morale and lessen teacher burn out.
Parent & KCS	As staff of Knox Co with a student in school also, it allows time to refresh - feel more caught up or on top of things, keeping everyone involved in more of a routine w/ rest or to clear our heads - being able to catch up on things in regards to appts during breaks, things w/ family & home. I can see how once everyone is used to it, it would benefit academically & on the home front.
Parent & KCS	Avoid both teacher and student fatigue.
Parent & KCS	Because of the rigor and testing in schools, the balanced calendar would provide a well needed break for both students and teachers throughout the calendar year.
Parent & KCS	Being able vacation more throughout the school year.
Parent & KCS	Besides family vacations, I see having more time off during the year as a positive. When both teachers and students get run down, sickness occurs. Having more time off will relieve stress and could lead to better attendance.
Parent & KCS	Better for teachers as they need more than a 4 day weekend to recover between quarters.
Parent & KCS	Better moral.
Parent & KCS	Better opportunities for families to take vacations when prices are lower because it is not the peak of the season.
Parent & KCS	Better opportunity for families to to have time for vacations an spend quality time with longer breaks
Parent & KCS	Better planning time for teachers
Parent & KCS	Better student and staff morale.
Parent & KCS	Better student/staff attendance because they will know that there is a break in the near future
Parent & KCS	Better times to vacation on "off season" prices!

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent & KCS	breaks mean teachers are more refreshed as well which could mean less disciplinary problems
Parent & KCS	Breaks provide a rest/refresh for students, however through all the discussions and questions raised, the "intercession" for intervention and enrichment, does not allow for teachers to refresh and recharge. If teachers will be working through the breaks AND only 55% of teachers are in favor of a balanced calendar, strictly from a business standpoint (which education IS a business) the balanced calendar is not worth the price, monetarily, emotionally for teachers, and educationally for students. Not enough data for me to agree
Parent & KCS	Burn out
Parent & KCS	Can break the subject into quarters instead of semesters.
Parent & KCS	Can help with spread of illness and allow for students to recover.
Parent & KCS	Cannot think of any. I can truly only think of cons.
Parent & KCS	Children are "burned out" due to the rigor and speed with which skills are taught. This would provide them an opportunity to "recharge" before they began back with learning new skills.
Parent & KCS	Children who attend churches or are involved in other activities in other counties would miss out on some activities, which they really enjoy, due to a shorter summer break. As a teacher, coming back from the two weeks off during the ice/snow this year, it was difficult to get my students back on track and focused. I can't imagine how hard it will be having to do that 4 times a year instead of just two like we do now.
Parent & KCS	Children will have more time spread throughout the year to spend time with their families.
Parent & KCS	Claims about lessening learning loss are not supported by the preponderance of recent research. While the balanced calendar divides the calendar differently, learning loss, in total, is not significantly changed. Right?
Parent & KCS	Does Knox county schools have the resources to pay teachers who will teach intervention? Is intervention going to be required? Will bus service and lunch be provided? There are many unanswered questions that need to be addressed before people can make an informed choice. I believe behavior will not improve after breaks. Especially the younger grades because teachers have to re teach rules and procedures every time they are off for several weeks. I would much rather stick with the traditional calendar but change fall break to a week.
Parent & KCS	Enable teachers to earn additional money during breaks. Staff development may be able to be held during these breaks.
Parent & KCS	Fall break would be nice that's it!!!
Parent & KCS	Families could travel during less busy seasons and more affordable times of year
Parent & KCS	Families who desire to participate in extra circular academic activities could be provided with those opportunities during breaks which would lighten the academic work load for students.
Parent & KCS	Families with school children have better vacation options. Older students have less (even though it isn't much less) time during summer break to get bored and get into trouble. Longer breaks during the school year will be welcomed as learning is more intensive.
Parent & KCS	Family time, giving students and teachers much needed breaks so they are excited to return to school, and its the same amount of days!
Parent & KCS	Family vacations
Parent & KCS	For some high school students, it is very difficult to get to school outside of official school days. Many of them need to use every day off to work because it is necessary to earn income for their families. Therefore expecting these students to show up during breaks for enrichment or extra help is unrealistic and these are usually the students who need it the most.
Parent & KCS	From what I have read, there is no strong research to support less summer learning loss due to the balanced calendar.
Parent & KCS	Gives students and teachers a chance to "regroup" from the demands our curriculum places on them. Also, I feel absences and illnesses would be less frequent with a balanced calendar, both for students and staff.
Parent & KCS	Great for students and teacher's moral. Great for testing purposes.

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent & KCS	Greater opportunity for quality PD during breaks because teachers can use the information presented in a timely fashion while they have time off for planning higher quality lessons. Often, learning during the summer is too far removed from implementation for teachers, and PD on inservice days are rushed because teachers are too overwhelmed with their current situations to focus on improvement for a single day.
Parent & KCS	Ha! I'd love to know whose pockets are going to be lined after this calendar is shoved down our throats regardless of taxpayers' opinions.
Parent & KCS	Having a balanced calendar I feel would allow students especially high school to understand the true meaning of working all year. Where does anyone get a full summer break? If students aren't in school most are in daycare or some sort of child care. A more balanced calendar would allow the parents to be able to have more of a vacation option. If students are taking more breaks throughout the year hopefully they wouldn't get burn out as easily.
Parent & KCS	Help students to better absorb material that may be challenging and assimilate it and be better prepared for testing and allow them and teachers a chance to recharge more often during the year.
Parent & KCS	Help to not spread sicknesses as much...better student attendance. Less teacher burnout...
Parent & KCS	Helping staff from being burned out
Parent & KCS	Helps the staff out from being stressed out.
Parent & KCS	Higher learning ability..teacher wouldn't have to go back and refresh..they can learn the kids more!!
Parent & KCS	Hopefully less retention in elementary grades.
Parent & KCS	how and where do the children get extra help ???????? not from parents and who will pay for that ?
Parent & KCS	How are you going to fund enrichment when you can not give teachers a 4% raise.
Parent & KCS	How will it be paid for since we continue to cut staff?
Parent & KCS	How will the students get to school during the breaks for enrichment or help? Many of the low students don't come to school as is how will you get them to school on a break? For working parents this will be very hard to find childcare, have you worked with local daycares to see if they will adjust afterschool care? Many are staffed by college students that will still be in classes when knox co is on breaks.
Parent & KCS	I believe that though this calendar might help a majority of students it would cause issues with others. Those students that fend for themselves will have more breaks to get into trouble and get lost without someone looking over them.
Parent & KCS	I also feel it will help with teacher burn out.
Parent & KCS	I am just worried as a teacher we would be required to have more inservice days during the year. This would create a problem with childcare with my own children.
Parent & KCS	I am not sure why the balanced calendar would be any different. I have yet to see any solid evidence on how it impacts student achievement. There should be many statistics available in various areas across our state and country at this point. I am worried that we continue to change things to say we are trying, yet have no evidence for the change. The one benefit is providing enrichment, but if we are cutting teachers now, how would the county pay extra for teachers to be at schools to provide the enrichment? Is enrichment required? If not, and if parents aren't making their children go, then what benefit does that actually provide?
Parent & KCS	I believe that not only do students come back from the two week breaks more refreshed and in better frames of mind to learn, but the teachers, who have incredible amounts of pressure upon them, as well returned refreshed and ready to give their all for the betterment of their students.
Parent & KCS	I believe that staff who already take work home over breaks will not have a break at all with the balanced calendar. Summer is the ONLY time I do not have to take work home and spend a significant amount of personal time on school related work. Please consider taking better care of the staff. Almost everyone I know is burnt out!!!!

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent & KCS	I believe that the closer the breaks the worst the behaviors get, because they know its a break coming up. But I agree with the breaks after each grading period. As a behavior assist in the system. It is very much over dued for the students of the age and time frame. They seem to be burnt out more quickly than ever over the past years.
Parent & KCS	I believe the 10 days off gave parents, teachers and students a taste of what a balanced calendar could feel like. Students seem so rested and teachers had time to catch up on necessary planning, grading and strategizing for the remainder of the year.
Parent & KCS	I believe the balanced calendar gives teacher more time to plan for amazing classroom experiences and project based learning can occur during the enrichment times.
Parent & KCS	I believe the kids need more recess time as well as keyboard ing, computer and typing classes.Balanced calendar is nit the problem
Parent & KCS	I cannot think of any
Parent & KCS	I can't think of a single additional benefit. And, I would LOVE to hear more about how KCS is planning to provide intervention during these breaks. I'm not holding my breath on that.
Parent & KCS	I do feel strongly that the balanced calendar has some REAL benefits for students and educators on a whole . I feel the 3 areas I hope to see improvement personally are : More enrichment opportunities outside of school for students who excel in other areas besides academics. I hope the business/ social service / local universites/fine art communities will step up to provide these oppourtinities at affordable costs to the students in public education during these breaks (the possibilities are endless and I truly believe will be what enhances the benefits of educating the whole child on a balanced calendar.) #2: I hope to see all students from every economic status benefit from the consistency a balanced calendar would provide. (I personally worry about my students who do not have structured home environments during long breaks) school provides much more than academics for those kiddos... It is becomes a place that provides warmth , nourishment, & security .#3 - enhanced performance and decrease burn out levels for teacher's during the school year. meaningful professional development , building level team building , TIME: effective time IN classroom for teachers to spend getting ready for their students, NOT THE DISTRICT , NOT ON DATA , for THEIR STUDENTS to make each day meaningful. TEACHER WORK DAYS ARE EFFECTIVE and when YOU HAVE A DAY TO PLAN AND PREPARE , you will see an INCREASE in HIGHLY EFFECTIVE TEACHING !!!!!
Parent & KCS	I do not believe that there is "summer learning loss" from students. I believe that parents need to get and stay involved with their children. Take responsibility for their children, get them on a small and simple reading program, maybe some sort of work at home things to do. "Help during school breaks" means what exactly? Teachers working during their break? And then, they get paid more for working during their break (not that they don't deserve it, because they DO!!) but that puts more output of money from the budget. Where does that come from? certainly not from the 6 figure salary of Mr. McIntyre or the others living high on the hog. It would come from the "non-essential" like Band or other music programs, or art programs, or driver training programs. What kind of "enrichment"? Things that the parents need to take their children too? UMMM go back to my first statement! They aren't involved now, they certainly won't take them somewhere. "Student Behavior" again.....parent involvement. I have seen MANY students who are in trouble daily at school since I have been a sub. Not one of them has a parent that is willing to step up to the plate and be responsible for their children's actions. All they ever say is "I know, I get the attitude at home too". But not one of them is willing to take action.

Potential Benefits Comments

<p>How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?</p>	<p>Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.</p>
<p>Parent & KCS</p>	<p>I donot see a benefit in spending money that has no proven effects to the children even doing better in education .It is not even known the cost for the balanced calendar, and at our school we have an empty computer classroom because we do not have enough money from the school system to afford a computer teacher. Plus the balance calendar would negatively affect the lives of people who have custodial issues already due to the breaks that the balance calendar would have. Parents would have to send kids back and forth from home to home which disrupts learning time more. The cost for child care would rise for families due to the increase of breaks through out the year. It also affects working parents with school age children because it would be hard to hold down a job due to the fact that someone has to watch the children when they are not in school during breaks and having to change work schedules around these weeks off would cause people to lose their job. The cost of electricity will also affect our school budget due to students being in school during summer months as well as the cost of keeping our buses in good running order due to the summer weather because of overheating and keeping buses cool for children.</p>
<p>Parent & KCS</p>	<p>i dont feel that this is a good thing for students, staff, or parents. the children are already burnt out, and want the break. they are over worked and stressed. It is truly stressful for high schoolers. The pressure is really to much, and the parents cant always take the time or have the money to help there kids get the help.</p>
<p>Parent & KCS</p>	<p>I don't see the benefit in the balanced calendar. I do not believe shifting 12 days from summer break would have a significant impact on students learning. I do believe it would have a negative impact on students who have standing summer jobs. Also, I believe it would have negative consequences on families who have planned annual vacations. In my opinion there are no real academic benefits, and therefore it is unnecessary to cause other conflicts for families.</p>
<p>Parent & KCS</p>	<p>I feel it would be excellent for teachers as well as students. I feel like my kids' teachers at Cedar Bluff would be more energized and ready to work and help all of their students if they had extended breaks and were happier and more well rested. Don't get me wrong, they are AMAZING already!! But I feel like it would do a lot for teachers' moral.</p>
<p>Parent & KCS</p>	<p>I feel like during the break teachers assign so much work, students do not get a break and teachers use the entire time trig to catch up grading or prepping so it is not used to rest in any form as it should be.</p>
<p>Parent & KCS</p>	<p>I feel that it would keep both the students and teachers more refreshed and they wouldn't be burnt out on school work by the time TCAPS come around.</p>
<p>Parent & KCS</p>	<p>I feel the breaks as just as important for staff as teachers. Teachers would come feeling refreshed which would lead to more creativity and engagement. More engaging, creative lessons could lead to better student scores and attitudes. If professional development, meetings, and such are mandatory during the break, then I am not sure we would be getting as much time off for the same amount of pay.</p>
<p>Parent & KCS</p>	<p>I honestly believe they cons outweigh the pros in implementing a balanced calendar. I understand the thinking behind it but do not really believe all the "hype" of what we are being told</p>
<p>Parent & KCS</p>	<p>I honestly don't care either way, but I think the key is that teachers no longer have "work days" in their rooms. That effects me more than anything. I feel like my instruction suffers because I have no time to work in my room.</p>
<p>Parent & KCS</p>	<p>I like the balanced calendar for the consistency it provides throughout the school year. Students will hopefully work really hard for the nine week periods knowing that a generous break will follow.</p>
<p>Parent & KCS</p>	<p>I like the idea of 10 day fall and 10 day winter break. It will allow for more flexibility when planning family vacations.</p>
<p>Parent & KCS</p>	<p>I like the idea of longer breaks during the school year (always something to look forward to). I think it will help alleviate "burnout" for students AND employees/staff</p>

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent & KCS	I only agree with "opportunities to provide extra help during school breaks" IF KCS FUNDS THE INTERCESSION! Also, teachers should NOT be required to work during the breaks.
Parent & KCS	I personally know the struggles that students have after summer, spring, and fall breaks presently so I'm not looking forward to the longer breaks that a balanced calendar shows. This is a concern for sports programs, daycare, and less breaks for teachers but much more work with no more pay.
Parent & KCS	I really don't see the benefits at all!
Parent & KCS	I strongly support a balanced calendar for Knox County.
Parent & KCS	I teach special education and feel the balanced calendar would greatly benefit students with special needs by giving them more frequent breaks.
Parent & KCS	I think staff would have an opportunity to make dr. appts, and other regular appts. during the time off.
Parent & KCS	I think it would be easier to motivate hard work for 9 weeks if you knew there was a 2 week break coming up.
Parent & KCS	I think it would help kids Focus better.
Parent & KCS	I think parents should have the responsibility to work with their child over breaks.
Parent & KCS	I think teachers and students would benefit from more frequent breaks. Plus, an added benefit would be the opportunity to take family trips at other times of the year besides summer or spring break.
Parent & KCS	I think the balanced calendar looks very beneficial. It creates more lengthy breaks where students and staff may start to feel burn out. Everyone needs a break to regroup and be prepared to perform at their best level.
Parent & KCS	I think the balanced calendar will help with attendance. If parents and students know a break is coming up soon, they may be less inclined to stay home when they aren't really sick.
Parent & KCS	I think the benefits clearly outweigh the disadvantages. With more breaks during the school year there will be more time to rejuvenate the mind, especially for teachers and staff. The students will definitely benefit from the fresh learning experiences the teachers will be able to provide given the time off after grading periods
Parent & KCS	I think the idea would be great for Special Education students.
Parent & KCS	I think the students and staff grow weary and need a full summer break offered in the traditional calendar.
Parent & KCS	I truly believe that a balanced calendar will be a huge asset to Knox county.
Parent & KCS	If low performing students are required to attend remediation sessions between quarters, there might be greater motivation to strive harder during regular class sessions.
Parent & KCS	Illness may decline. A two week break at those particular times may stop the spread of many viruses that tend to generally increase at those times. I also feel that student unexcused absences due to family vacations may decrease if given the opportunity to go during these breaks.
Parent & KCS	Improved morale and health due to rest between school time.
Parent & KCS	Increase in student achievement and teachers' morale.
Parent & KCS	Increased staff stamina
Parent & KCS	Increased student and teacher morale with more frequent and longer breaks during the school year.
Parent & KCS	Increased travel opportunities for educator staff. Less opportunity for students to miss during school days due to travel as they will have more options.
Parent & KCS	Increased travel time for families of students and employees during the longer breaks.
Parent & KCS	Intervention and Enrichment would only be benefits if students still went to school during the breaks which would then cancel out the whole idea of it helping with behavior problems (those that need intervention are usually those with behavior problems). They would not have a break to look forward to.
Parent & KCS	Is there actual peer-reviewed evidence that a balanced calendar provides these benefits???

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent & KCS	It allows there to be healthy opportunities for students to have breaks and time with families.
Parent & KCS	It is great to make students take classes all year including breaks. Children need creative, play time.
Parent & KCS	It just makes more sense! The only reason we had a full summer time off was because of farming. That is not a huge issue in most places anymore.
Parent & KCS	It makes it hard for single parents. The extra days out will make it hard to find care for kids.
Parent & KCS	It over works teachers-huge down fall
Parent & KCS	it sucks
Parent & KCS	it will be the same
Parent & KCS	It will only work if students are held accountable rather than continuing to coddle them so that graduation rates don't fall.
Parent & KCS	It would allow families time to vacate other times than summer. There would be less of a chance for students to lose what they had previously learned.
Parent & KCS	It would be a big help to special education!
Parent & KCS	It would be great for student and staff morale.
Parent & KCS	It would be great to be able to have time to plan in chunks. It would also be nice to be able to have time to decompress.
Parent & KCS	It would element teacher and student burn-out.
Parent & KCS	It would give teachers the opportunity to plan better lessons. Teachers would have time to really think about each lesson and better incorporate differenciated lessons.
Parent & KCS	It would give us back the fall break that we never wanted gone to begin with. But we only wanted a week.
Parent & KCS	It would not benefit my family. I am strongly against this idea!
Parent & KCS	It would prevent teacher burnout
Parent & KCS	It's hard for me to think of any benefits of a balanced calendar.
Parent & KCS	its shorter periods to forget stuff
Parent & KCS	Keeps the teachers and students rested and refreshed
Parent & KCS	Kindergarten one on one assessments could possibly by scheduled over a couple of days of the Fall, Winter, and Spring breaks to reduce the amounts of instructional time teachers have to give up to complete them during school time.
Parent & KCS	less "competition" for family travel,
Parent & KCS	Less absences for employees and students.
Parent & KCS	Less burn out for teachers, most likely less sick days used for students and staff.
Parent & KCS	less burnout for teachers/staff
Parent & KCS	Less discipline problems
Parent & KCS	Less reteaching at the beginning of the year could be a potential benefit also.
Parent & KCS	Less retracting of materials especially at the beginning of the school year.
Parent & KCS	Less sick days as the longer break will allow viruses to die out without spreading through a school AND better rested teachers have better immune systems!
Parent & KCS	Less staff and student absences.
Parent & KCS	Less stress for admin, teachers, students and even bus drivers. Families can vacation at other times of the year other than summer
Parent & KCS	Less stress on teachers
Parent & KCS	Less stress on teachers.
Parent & KCS	less student and teacher burn out
Parent & KCS	Less student and teacher burnout
Parent & KCS	less student/teacher burn out vacation options for families
Parent & KCS	Less student/teacher burn out of school!
Parent & KCS	Less students taking school time for personal vacations
Parent & KCS	Less summer learning loss. Time to rest & recharge
Parent & KCS	Less teacher and student burnout

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent & KCS	Less teacher burn out! Teachers will be recharged after each grading period.
Parent & KCS	less teacher burnout
Parent & KCS	Less teacher burnout and decreased staff absences.
Parent & KCS	Less teacher burnout. More student productivity.
Parent & KCS	Less teacher burn-out/fatigue
Parent & KCS	Less teacher stress
Parent & KCS	Less teacher stress
Parent & KCS	less teacher/student "burn-out"
Parent & KCS	Less teachers leaving the profession
Parent & KCS	Less time in the summer for our children to get involved in bad activities or behavior.
Parent & KCS	Long school sessions contribute to teacher/student burnout. A balanced calendar would help by adding a break at just the right times throughout the year.
Parent & KCS	longer breaks
Parent & KCS	More available family vacation times throughout the year. Parents take kids out of school during the school year for vacations in the fall and spring. Balanced calendar will allow set vacation weeks for families.
Parent & KCS	More balanced home life for families with children
Parent & KCS	More breaks for school staff - admin, teachers, even custodians, and bus drivers. (custodians get time away from students) Dr. Brian Bell - Director of Alcoa Schools- says when he took his the Director's position that the majority of his emails were from parents asking him to keep their Balanced Calender. A teaching peer from West Tennessee said they say a dramatic decrease in student behavior issues
Parent & KCS	More business for the day care centers. More business for the criminal justice system.
Parent & KCS	More chances for retainage of curriculum.
Parent & KCS	More family time. More flexibility.
Parent & KCS	More flexibility for personal/family events within the school year
Parent & KCS	More frequent breaks would be good for students...and for STAFF!
Parent & KCS	More natural breaks in instruction.
Parent & KCS	More opportunities for families to take vacations, due to more frequent and longer breaks.
Parent & KCS	More opportunities for professional development activities for staff. Extra money for teachers to earn doing enrichment and remedial work during breaks.
Parent & KCS	More opportunities to vacation across the nation during times of the year that are more comfortable weather wise.
Parent & KCS	MORE OPPORTUNITY FOR FAMILY VACATION AND NOT MISS SCHOOL DAYS.
Parent & KCS	More productivity from students, school is much more demanding than it was 10-20 years ago. Students need the time.
Parent & KCS	More quality family time during the year. Ability to travel.
Parent & KCS	More refreshed faculties and students should produce better results
Parent & KCS	More time for family vacations in the lower-cost seasons (fall and spring break)
Parent & KCS	More time for planning for teachers
Parent & KCS	More time for teacher rest and recovery early in the year.
Parent & KCS	More time to elevate our minds as teachers and parents
Parent & KCS	Motivation to push self anticipating a break.
Parent & KCS	My children could experience vacation other than summer and thus more heightened knowledge of seasons other than Knoxville.
Parent & KCS	My husband travels all over the US for work and we go with him every summer all summer long. I know quite a few other moms in the same boat as me with this. They only see their husbands in the summer and no other times really. Instead of our family only being together in the summer we could see each other all year round for 2 weeks at a time.Also everyone I have talked to in other districts (Oak Ridge) love the balanced calendar. Especially families that have custody agreements.

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent & KCS	No benefits in having balanced calendar.
Parent & KCS	No research shows any academic benefit to a balanced calendar.
Parent & KCS	None
Parent & KCS	none
Parent & KCS	None
Parent & KCS	NONE
Parent & KCS	None
Parent & KCS	None
Parent & KCS	None
Parent & KCS	None
Parent & KCS	NONE
Parent & KCS	none
Parent & KCS	None
Parent & KCS	none
Parent & KCS	none
Parent & KCS	None
Parent & KCS	None
Parent & KCS	None !
Parent & KCS	None at all it sucks
Parent & KCS	NONE!!
Parent & KCS	None. All the research that KCS posted indicates this is little difference, so why change?
Parent & KCS	None. But you can create disruption and numerous steps backwards through out the year.
Parent & KCS	None. I am against a balanced calendar.
Parent & KCS	None. I saw that after 2 weeks of snow, the students I work with were lagging when they came back. Personally, I would LOVE to see Knox County do what they did in TX ...school would go until shortly after Memorial Day and not start until the week before Labor Day
Parent & KCS	NONE. Kids who need enrichment can't be forced to come.
Parent & KCS	None.....do not agree with this....
Parent & KCS	Now, I find myself getting "burnt out" trying to meet all of the demands of reflecting and evaluating lessons and data, planning, and grading. Between doing actual school work and the volunteer work I do with the school club I sponsor, I have very little time to spend with family or frankly just much needed time for myself. I know there are several other teachers in the same situation. A break in between grading periods would give teachers opportunities to take care of both professional and personal needs.
Parent & KCS	Nutritional meals for kids in need provided more frequently.
Parent & KCS	off season Family vacations will be easier to plan
Parent & KCS	opportunities for family vacations at other times of the year than just the summer
Parent & KCS	opportunities for maintenance or other facilities needs without students present
Parent & KCS	Opportunities for students and teachers to "refresh" between quarters.
Parent & KCS	Opportunities for teachers to take family vacations throughout the year = improved employee morale
Parent & KCS	Opportunities for vacation other than peak summer.
Parent & KCS	Opportunities to create jobs for the community in the childcare/camp sector. Opportunities for teachers/ea's to earn extra income.
Parent & KCS	Opportunities to travel throughout the year during off-peak times.
Parent & KCS	Opportunity for a more traditional class day. (6-7 periods) The extra periods will allow discussion on (last period of the day) athletic classes. Starting athletics/extra-curricular activities earlier will allow these students to be home earlier to eat, study and rest.
Parent & KCS	Opportunity for families to go on vacations during other times of the year. ONLY if you make sure teacher inservice days are not in the break times.

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent & KCS	Opportunity to vacation at different times in the year so parents would not have to have their child skip school to get extra days for travel.
Parent & KCS	Parents and teachers have more flexible schedules to incorporate family activities such as vacations.
Parent & KCS	Parents have to compete with coworkers to get time off during summer break for vacation since there is only ONE time frame in which students are out. With more breaks, parents (and their employers) would have an easier time trying to get vacation time since there would be several opportunities within the school year. Also, you wouldn't always have to go during summer months when rates are often higher.
Parent & KCS	Parents paying for increased childcare during school breaks would be able to split the financial hardship throughout the year.
Parent & KCS	Pay increase?????
Parent & KCS	People that get part time jobs, Divorced visitation, Summer school make up passing, Failure from geto.
Parent & KCS	Possibly too disruptive during school year. Hard for math teachers to make modules fall at right times for testing.
Parent & KCS	Potentially creates opportunities for high school students to work with elementary school students during breaks. This could mean money for the older students and care for younger students during school hours.
Parent & KCS	Potentially less stress with more frequent breaks. Potentially less opportunity for students to get far behind in their work if they have frequent breaks in which they can catch up.
Parent & KCS	Problems for working households to provide care for children at home. Teachers who have to work during those breaks to provide intervention/enrichment.
Parent & KCS	provide family opportunities during the fall season
Parent & KCS	Provide students with time to study for high stake national exams and provide seniors with time to fill out college applications and write college essays.
Parent & KCS	reduced teacher apathy and burn out...opportunities to grow teachers
Parent & KCS	Refreshed students AND teachers; always a light at the end of the tunnel.
Parent & KCS	Research does not support this claim, please site the specific research you are referring to in your conclusions.
Parent & KCS	rested teachers
Parent & KCS	Safer amount of travel time for holidays, so families are not rushed to return for the start of school.
Parent & KCS	Scientific studies have been mixed and there is no definite proof that it increases student learning.
Parent & KCS	see my answers in the previous box
Parent & KCS	set vacations for families, less daycare bills, the school would assist in paying for enrichment instead of me
Parent & KCS	Some parents are worried that they will have not place to take their children during the breaks. Would it be possible for the after school programs to be open at the schools during those breaks?
Parent & KCS	Splitting the fall break between traditional fall break and Thanksgiving holiday would be more beneficial as many students miss school during this time for travel.
Parent & KCS	Stability of social service support for families of low socioeconomic status. Free and reduce lunch/breakfast help meet basic needs of students in addition to supplemental food programs such as Second Harvest Backpack buddies. Balanced calendar would help insure fewer and shorter gaps in services.
Parent & KCS	STAFF MORAL

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent & KCS	<p>Student behaviors will not change just because they get a few extra breaks during the school year. There is really no data to support this - it is just a theory. (I have done research in this and I can't seem to find the same studies you mentioned at some of the meetings and in the reading material above. I would like to see this data.) The students who will benefit from this are the ones whose families don't get involved with their education to begin with, which tells me we are trying to solve the worlds' problems with the education system rather than addressing the real root of the problem. Why don't we try to find a way to get these parents interested in their child's welfare and well-being rather than making our teachers suffer with six more weeks of working without more pay. The students who have families who are involved will see to it their child does not suffer from "summer learning loss". They will see to it that the enrichment is there for their children. They will take trips (even if it is just a day trip to the mountains) and provide summer camps. I don't think those of us who are trying to raise our children and be involved should suffer and have traditional school taken away just because there are those in our community who are not doing what they should be doing for their children. I do agree with the time off to rest and recharge, but again - most systems are forcing their teachers to teach these extra help and enrichment programs. The result is more tired and exhausted teachers who never have a break in the near future. I do think intervention is important and necessary. However, it does not seem to be important to Knox County school officials. They will not even pay their certified teachers who are currently working as an interventionist or TA assigned to intervention certified teacher pay. They are paid the same and in some cases less than regular TAs in the system. This clearly tells me intervention is not an important concept in our county. Let's get our priorities straight first and solve some of our current problems with struggling students before we try a balanced calendar and force more weeks of school on the teachers and students. Exhausted and tired teachers can not plan effective lessons to meet the rigor our county is promising to parents and students. This puts many of our top students at a disadvantage when they try to get into college and transition to the work force.</p>
Parent & KCS	Students and teachers need the breaks during the school year.
Parent & KCS	Students need the structure of a regular school year. Behavior becomes more of an issue when students know a break is coming up. You can manipulate any study to show what you want. I'm sure that is what was intended with the student behavior that is being referenced above.
Parent & KCS	Summer learning loss maybe an issue however with most kids it does not take a summer break for them to forget what they learned. I think changing the criteria with which we consider retaining a student would help summer learning loss more than a shorter summer. Offering extra help during breaks only means that students have a shorter summer and will not get the breaks either. Same opinion for enrichment during breaks. As a substitute teacher behavior is only worse when the students know a break is coming soon.
Parent & KCS	Teacher and student break time. Time to rest and relax and prepare for the next session of learning. My students always come back as eager learners after a break.
Parent & KCS	Teacher enrichment and development. Vacations during a cheaper time of year.
Parent & KCS	teacher morale will improve. Teachers would be able to balance their home lives and take care of their other responsibilities.
Parent & KCS	Teachers can take vacations at more affordable times in fall and spring.
Parent & KCS	Teachers have a renewal period to refresh and not feel so overwhelmed! The break that we got for the "snow-cation" was such great renewal, but it was unplanned, which made it stressful. A planned break sounds great!
Parent & KCS	Teachers have time to thoroughly plan in advance.
Parent & KCS	Teachers that are refreshed and energized after having more frequent and longer breaks.

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent & KCS	Teachers would be able to teach another 4-6 weeks after students take the State EOC tests. This would greatly reduce the curriculum that could be covered before the State EOC test. Thus reducing teacher incentive bonuses, but the potential benefit is that teachers could work during their time off for intervention and make up the money that would be lost because the State EOC test is given in the middle of their class instead of at the end.
Parent & KCS	Teachers would have more personal prep time to plan and be prepared for each quarter.
Parent & KCS	Teachers would have more time to plan, collaborate, and make changes to instructional program to better meet students needs. In addition, a balanced calendar would reduce teacher burnout throughout the year. I think teachers would be more refreshed and happier with longer breaks between grading periods, and that can only benefit our students.
Parent & KCS	Teachers would have the opportunity to pick up with new material vs spending more review time.
Parent & KCS	Teachers would have time to analyze student data to plan the next quarter.
Parent & KCS	Teens who work summer jobs. Parents who enjoy the longer summer with their kids. Teachers have to work during breaks.
Parent & KCS	The benefits are based on the facts, not on matters of opinion such as whether anyone agrees or disagrees. The only factual benefit is the frequency of breaks.
Parent & KCS	The breaks as shown would allow better parent planning for those breaks. A two day hassle for child care may be more easily planned as a vacation trip.
Parent & KCS	The cost of summer childcare would be spread throughout the year for parents instead of all at once.
Parent & KCS	The difference in the number of days over the summer is not likely to make much of a difference in lessening learning loss. It is a long break still. Who provides extra help during breaks? Will the teachers ever have a real break?
Parent & KCS	The kids would not get so burned out
Parent & KCS	The more frequent breaks would allow for much needed rest at semester end for both students and teachers.
Parent & KCS	The questioning for this is not giving an accurate portrait of our current schedule versus a balanced calendar. It is presenting questions in a manner of pro-balanced calendar rather than from a neutral stance.
Parent & KCS	The shortened time in the summer would be beneficial to children that do not eat very much or at all outside of school. Less time away from school means these children will receive more nutrition.
Parent & KCS	The term break means break from academics, sports, and clubs. Students and staff need to rest. Staff are overworked with meetings and additional required programs, and students are in classrooms from 8:00-3:30 with no breaks, no recess, and at related arts time-they are in remedial classes. Enough! There are many ways to stimulate the mind: movement, recess, music, band, technology, and a longer lunch with movement (not 25 minutes). Please consider conducting research on how children learn best and at what times. Learn to make use of the time you have now and allow disruptive students to be disciplined. Learning will increase greatly.
Parent & KCS	There are more breaks but they are too long. More frequent shorter breaks work MUCH better.
Parent & KCS	There are NO benefits to this calendar!
Parent & KCS	There are none
Parent & KCS	There are none
Parent & KCS	There are none.
Parent & KCS	There are not more frequent breaks, there are only longer breaks. For children with behavior problems that rely on a routine, this could be detrimental.
Parent & KCS	there is no benefit to a balanced calendar if the summer is only shortened by 7 days in contrast to traditional calendar

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent & KCS	There is no evidence that a balanced calendar lessens summer learning loss. In fact, several districts who have tried this schedule, have changed back to a traditional calendar.
Parent & KCS	There would be mor family time throughout the year, not just in the summer. Students would have time for intervention and enrichment.
Parent & KCS	This is great!
Parent & KCS	This survey seems quite biased to me. It's obvious which calendar Knox County wants. However, if students won't come during those enrichment opportunities, it does no good. Also, paying teachers to work an extended term will be costly to Knox County residents, and on our nation, which is already hopelessly deeply in debt. I do not want the balanced calendar. And I am a teacher!
Parent & KCS	This would help prevent teacher burnout and would be good for everyone.
Parent & KCS	Time for doctor and dental appointments that are usually made during the school day while in session for both students and faculty.
Parent & KCS	Time for doctor appointments, etc. with out having to miss school.
Parent & KCS	Time for families to enjoy off-peak pricing by vacationing in the fall or spring rather than summer.
Parent & KCS	Time for rest and rejuvenation
Parent & KCS	Time for students and teachers to catch up and recharge; Opportunity for students who are struggling or being to catch up, without getting further behind
Parent & KCS	Time for students/teachers to get healthy during widespread outbreaks of flu/colds/stomach virus.
Parent & KCS	Time for teachers to regroup and plan for the next quarter.
Parent & KCS	Totally agree with a balanced calendar if there are truly funded opportunities for extra help and enrichment for the students.
Parent & KCS	Travel possibilities during the off-season (less expensive times).
Parent & KCS	Use on-line classes for those whom are targeted as learning loss and keep overhead building costs down due to summer months air condition and safety issues for schools gyms that don't have air condition. Benefit....KCS keeps teachers in the building and more bang for the buck without pay raises.
Parent & KCS	Vacation during non peak seasons
Parent & KCS	vacation/travel opportunities at less crowded and less expensive times of the year. I think the "balancing" should go further and shorten the summer more.
Parent & KCS	Vacations in off times when less school systems are out.
Parent & KCS	Varied breaks throughout the year.
Parent & KCS	We appears that we would not have as many random breaks due to holidays. It is always disruptive to have 4 day weeks because it changes the routines at home and school.
Parent & KCS	We no longer live in an agricultural based economy. It is past due that we should adapt to the current/modern world. It is how pretty much the rest of society runs.
Parent & KCS	While I agreed with some of these being benefits, I'm also wary that what is a benefit to some is a punishment to others. The benefit of extra help, for example, benefits the kids but requires the teachers to feel pressured to work it. I realize there would be compensation for such work, but the fact remains that teachers would be expected to work more.
Parent & KCS	While I would love to BELIEVE that extra help COULD be given during the breaks to students with learning disabilities FUNDING usually does not allow for it, though it should and students could most certainly benefit from it. Students who have behavior issues have them for a variety of reasons and having a balanced calendar will not necessarily make it better nor necessarily make it worse for them.
Parent & KCS	Who is going to pay for the enrichment activities? Student behavior and attendance might improve, but a good place to start would be enforcing attendance through the courts. Behavior could be better controlled by the school.
Parent & KCS	Who will be teaching these intervention/enrichment groups? I do not want to work the breaks.

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent & KCS	With the slightly shorter summer and longer fall break, the Balanced Calendar offers less Teacher burn out and would attract Educators to the area.
Parent & KCS	Would enrichment programs be of cost to parents?
Parent & KCS	You still have the same amount of instructional days.
Parent & KCS	Your wording is misleading. I am all for kids retaining what they learned but there is NO evidence tho support this with a balanced calender. Extra help for kids is great but at what cost. I just invested over 250 hours in 4 months doing fundraising for my childs school because you can afford general basics.
Employer	Additional or varied professional opportunities for faculty and staff.
Employer	As a teacher I do not agree that less learning is lost! It is only 12 days of a shorter summer I dont think 12 days well be that much of a difference is loss of learning. You are adding 2 weeks off in the fall and I know ls teachers are more worried about learning loss over that time that a whole 12 days in the summer.
Employer	Better off days
Employer	Both teachers and students will be able to participate in a more intensive, and less drawn out learning experience. Breaks in the rigors of teaching/learning should prove to energize and provide reinforcement for better achievement.
Employer	Children in poverty would have less breaks at home and would be able to eat at least 2 meals a day at school.
Employer	Could easy go on vacation during any of the 3 breaks as they are 10 days long instead of only having winter or summer as a vacation option.
Employer	Does you point above mean school will be open for those needing help/tutoring? That would impact my views. But who chooses?
Employer	Give teachers a time to recharge during the school year
Employer	Happier teachers because they need the breaks as much as the students. Happy well rested teachers make learning happen much easier than an exhausted one.
Employer	I refuse to participate in this rigged survey. You should lose your jobs for this.
Employer	I'm not experienced enough in this area to give feedback.
Employer	More money for childcare centers?
Employer	No compelling evidence for a balanced calendar. Even among lower income children, the balanced calendar is not the solution that research data supports. Intervention with supplemental learning is the key according to the research...not the balanced calendar. KCS appears to be putting the cart before the horse. First fund intervention into at risk students.
Employer	No research supports that a balanced calendar will raise test scores. Metro Nashville is doing a modified balanced calendar with 2 two week breaks and one 1 week break saving millions of dollars. Lets study this model.
Employer	None
Employer	None
Employer	None
Employer	None
Employer	NONE. ITS A TERRIBLE IDEA.
Employer	Opportunities to provide extra help during school breaks ~ You say time off for teachers and students would be good then say that the breaks will provide for extra help to the students. This is very contradictory. I hope you do not expect the parents to be "teaching" during break as most are ill-equipped to do so.
Employer	Our most impoverished students would be able to eat two meals a day and receive snacks on the weekend more often with a balanced calendar
Employer	Possibly fewer students needing special education if they are caught up during the breaks. Good for students, good for budget.
Employer	Probably less "I'm bored" feelings with fewer days' vacation in the summer.

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Employer	Students with food insecurity are faced with smaller stretches of time throughout the year to subsist.
Employer	summer jobs; custody issues; summer course work; music camps; pool schedules
Employer	The "Balanced Calendar would impose hardships on the family unit and would reduce the quality family time available under the current calendar.
Employer	The number of breaks appear to be the same in your example. Although the opportunities exist the cost and implementation are doubtful. Unless you are willing to reallocate all of your funds and eliminate enough to pay for this idea I am 100% against it. I think the cost outweigh the gains.
Employer	This survey is complete BS. Where is the option that Dr. McIntyre promised, for the current calendar with a one week break?
Employer	What benefits? The KCS budget would increase for this change. The individuals who have brought this to the table and the ones that will eventually vote on this item, probably 99% of these, attended a traditional school year. The public has been told that "TN schools are the most improved in the nation", why would anyone want to disrupt students, families, extra curricular activities, sports, community, businesses with a change in the calendar year that is working. Just because you plan the "extra intersessions" doesn't mean students will use them wisely. Once the school year begins the students fall into a daily routine and disrupting this routine more often requires the school level personnel and parents to have to retrain the students so time is lost that is needed for advancement. I am a parent, grandparent and graduate of KCS traditional calendar. KCS has not failed the students yet so don't start now. Thank you
Employer	with only a 12-day difference between the two summer calendars, you're not going to have much impact on summer learning loss.
Employer	Would be a nice resume item for Dr. McIntyre which I suspect is the only reason this is being pushed.
Employer	Would strongly benefit students with disabilities. May help decrease the regression over summer break.
Employer	You haven't told us HOW you plan to implement any of the above items or how much they will cost. How can I give an opinion when I don't have this information?
KCS	- no documented evidence in any studies that a shorter summer break leads to less learning loss (if it is lost that quickly, was it really learned?); opportunities for extra help and/or enrichment would be a benefit, but is that necessarily included in the balanced calendar proposal? And if so, what is the additional cost?
KCS	"Guaranteed" rest time during the year which helps pooped out teachers!
KCS	"Some studies have found that discipline problems are reduced when students are aware that there is a break in the near future." You are officially out of your minds. You either don't have children, or are never around children. I hope the person who created this survey is appropriately dealt with.
KCS	..more opportunities for college visits for high school students, less absences due to family vacations, because there would be more opportunity for trips.
KCS	?
KCS	A balanced calendar has proven unsuccessful in many school districts. Do your research.
KCS	A balanced calendar will help with teacher burnout.
KCS	A balanced calendar would allow students to begin the next quarter well-rested and ready to learn. It would also allow the teachers to begin well-rested. The potential for students be more successful in school is supported by a balanced calendar.

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
KCS	A balanced calendar would allow teachers to grade and plan more efficiently because every 45 days, teachers could reevaluate where their students are and where they need to be--and then have 10 days to modify lesson plans to best fit the needs of students. Under the traditional schedule, teachers often fall under time constraints which don't allow for effective reflection and evaluation of student progress and lesson effectiveness.
KCS	A balanced calendar would offer more time for teachers to plan for each grading period.
KCS	A balanced calendar would provide teachers will additional time to plan lessons and focus on the needs of the children after each quarter.
KCS	A better learning enviorment
KCS	A break for the teachers and students gives time to reflect and rejuvenate.
KCS	A chance for a better variety of learning opportunities during enrichment breaks as well as a better variety of intervention breaks.
KCS	A chance to "breath" and refresh!
KCS	A greater feeling of mastery for students.
KCS	Ability for families to plan vacations during the cheaper "off seasons."
KCS	Able to take vacations when it is cheaper to travel.
KCS	absolutely none
KCS	Absolutely NONE.
KCS	Additional opportunities for staff to earn additional compensation
KCS	Additional time for teachers to plan/reflect.
KCS	Additional time for teachers to reflect on student progress and look at gaps in student learning and plan rigorous lessons to lessen gaps.
KCS	After a two week snow break...Students were frazzled and disoriented. It took my class a week to recover from the long break. No benefit to balanced calendar.
KCS	After breaks from snow, Easter, Xmas the children come back blank , it's like starting over again. I think this is a bad deal for parents an children.
KCS	Agree that the year long calendar would provide extra oppotunities for help...if funded! That is a big if.
KCS	Allow parents with more flexibility with family vacations. Gives teachers an opportunity to have more in depth planning for each quarter.
KCS	Allows both staff and students time to assimilate/ plan new information. As well as, it provides for reteaching of skill.
KCS	Alternatives for vacation during crowded summer months.
KCS	Although I agree it provides extra help and enrichment opportunities, I do not believe many students who need the extra help or want the enrichment will take advantage of it.
KCS	Any benefits for additional instructional support or enrichment will only happen if the school system funds these programs and if parents support them. At this time, a major concern on mine is parent apathy. As far as student behavior, those that behave will, and those that will not, won't.
KCS	Are there studies showing improved attendance?
KCS	As a contractual employee, would give me an opportunity to work longer
KCS	As a special ed. teacher, I especially see the "slide" for my students and would welcome the opportunity for them to get extra help during school breaks. I have always supported the implementation of a balanced calendar. It would greatly benefit my students. That's what this should be all about, benefit for students, not convenience for adults.
KCS	As a teacher, a balanced calendar would provide a better oppotunity to close out one quarter and prepare for the upcoming quarter in a realistic time frame.
KCS	As a teacher, balanced calendar provides more frequent opportunities to rest to avoid burnout

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
KCS	As a teacher, I can tell you that the major learning loss is not so much during the summer. It is the block schedule. If Little Johnny takes English I during Fall of one year and does not take English II until Spring of the following year, then Little Johnny has not been in an English classroom for a year. THAT is learning loss. So, if this balanced calendar is going to include a block schedule for classes like it is now, there is no point in changing the schedule. So, the benefit would be to have the classes over a longer period of time so the students really have the time to learn the material.
KCS	As a teacher, I strongly believe this will benefit our students academically, emotionally and physically. The school year is filled with challenges and expectations that students need to thrive in. I believe the most effective way this can happen is with added enrichment and breaks throughout the year.
KCS	As well as less learning lost in the summer and greater enrichment activities. A balanced calendar is more realistic to how having a job outside of education would look. This also gives parents more opportunities at different family vacation times.
KCS	Attendance is better overall due to the fact that parents can schedule vacations, dr appts and other necessary days away from school during the break times and not interfere with the regular school days.
KCS	Avoid burnout
KCS	Avoidance of teacher burn out
KCS	Balance is good in every aspect of life.
KCS	Balanced calendar allows for more balanced teaching. Would allow us to plan better, assess, and reteach.
KCS	Balanced calendar only helps the lower level students according to research...no effect for the regular and advanced. Costs will be associated with "enrichment" or intercession...money we don't have...
KCS	Balanced calendar would be very difficult on students who are in special day schools, I.e. Special needs children.
KCS	Balanced calendar would have the added benefit to families of being able to take relevant, educational trips during the intercession. Educators could participate in extended professional development and planning time. This would strengthen all of our pedagogy.
KCS	Balanced calendars will not help in student behavior (negative)...every return will create another period of acclimation to routines and procedures. And, students will take a few days to reacquaint with friends, which will detract from learning opportunities. We already have frequent breaks with the current and past calendars. Add in "snow days" and there are even more additional breaks.
KCS	Based on the 2 weeks we lost this term it is obvious that there is little retention of subject matter before break. We spent several days reteaching materials on top of the the 2 weeks lost.
KCS	Better attendance
KCS	Better attendance for both staff and students.
KCS	Better opportunities for family travel at times other than summer. Potential for extracurricular activities during "breaks" which could enhance learning in the school setting.
KCS	Better planning opportunities for teachers during intersessions.
KCS	Better teacher morale (more time to plan and get caught up) which will more than likely lead to better lessons and more student growth. Also the opportunity to help students get caught up before they are so far behind it seems overwhelming.
KCS	Burn out for teachers, staff, and students would be much less a problem with breaks throughout the school year.
KCS	Can not think of anything good about doing a balanced calendar.
KCS	cheaper vacations throughout the year
KCS	Child care issues.

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
KCS	Children in Knoxville can not play outside much in the summer because of the heat. They might get outside more and get more exercise at different times of the year.
KCS	Consistency for students especially special education students Opportunities for families and staff to take vacation during 'off season' with lower rates/costs Opportunities for high school students and families to visit colleges
KCS	Consistency throughout the school year. Less down time
KCS	Day cares will need to step up to the plate or parents will have problems. Students who need to work in the summer will have shorter time to do so. I also think students learn at their own pace and I would hope those students aren't pushed when other students are off enjoying this breaks.
KCS	Decrease in staff burn-out (improved staff morale)
KCS	Decrease in teacher burn out.
KCS	Decreased teacher burnout.
KCS	Don't know of any
KCS	Don't think it will be beneficial.
KCS	Due to the inclement weather we had this year Knox County schools were closed for 2 weeks. The time to rest and rejuvenate was wonderful however I heard several teachers say that they had to reteach or start over in some instances after the 2 week break. I think the younger grades will be impacted in a negative way due to the continuous loss of teaching. Kindergartens, in my opinion will loose continuity and will have difficulty catching up and relearning the patterns of school they had just begun to learn and implement. I also think teachers would benefit from the break to rest and rejuvenate, however I think the breaks could end up being times they are expected to catch up on their work. That being said, it seems that there would be an expectation for them to continue to do school work on noncontract time and could be percieved as another way to impose on teachers and their home life.
KCS	easier to clean and maintain school facilities
KCS	easier to organize curriculum into four evenly balanced sections.
KCS	Enrichment and extra help may be possible if extra funds are available, but since there is no cost estimate provided for this survey, one must operate under the assumption that no funding will be provided, and therefore there would be no opportunities for enrichment and extra help.
KCS	Especially beneficial for students with special needs/ESY.
KCS	Everyone gets to reenergize.
KCS	Everyone is more relaxed and refreshed, ie.teachers are not as burned out as they are now towards the end of the school year. You will gain more actual teaching time because you do not have to "refresh" the students of what they learned last year and with the calendar the way it is now there isn't much going on in school after Tcaps or the other end of year assessments because the teachers and students are so stressed by all the information that has to be shoved down their throat so the test scores are good. I could go on and on about the benefits of this; IT NEEDS TO BE IMPLEMENTED!!!!!!!!!!!!
KCS	Everyone, students and staff alike, have the opportunity to de-stress, and recharge their mental/physical batteries.
KCS	Extra income potential for teachers IF!!!!!!!!!!!!!! They wanted to work a camp enrichment activity
KCS	Extra planning time for teachers between each quarter and teachers can attend more professional development that will enrich student and teacher development.
KCS	Families and teachers can go on vacations during non-peak times throughout the year.
KCS	Families are able to make quality time plans more frequent. Children will have a better school routine and recharge.
KCS	Families can plan vacation
KCS	Families can vacation at other, desirable times, and would not be restricted to summer vacations. (Fall hiking trips when the leaves are beautiful and weather is cool, Disney trips at other/less crowded/less busy times of the year instead of the overcrowded summer time)

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
KCS	families can vacation without hitting the normal peak seasons and humid weather that most vacation spots experience.
KCS	Families could plan trips at different times of the year, teachers could refresh at the end of a grading period and plan for the next one and truly be better teachers. Students would have some down time to refresh and come back ready to learn.
KCS	Families could take vacation time during "off times" like the fall and this would greatly reduce student fatigue and summer slide.
KCS	Families could take vacations at different times of the year. Less learning time lost teaching students routines at the beginning of the year.
KCS	Families could take vacations at other times of the year other than the summer months, less teacher stress
KCS	Families will not be confined to vacations only in the summer. This is beneficial if families live great distances apart. Thanks
KCS	Families would be able to travel during all seasons and would likely be able to take advantage of lower rates during non-traditional travel times.
KCS	Famy time throughout the year. Not just in the summer.
KCS	Fewer student/teacher absences
KCS	financial opportunities for teachers
KCS	Flexibility to schedule doctor appointments
KCS	For Special Education students, any break is difficult. However, the routine of the breaks--all 10 days, regular intervals, etc.--seems like it would benefit our SpEd kiddos.
KCS	Frequent breaks for students which would result in positive outlook on school.
KCS	Fresh starts and new beginnings are often invigorating for all.
KCS	Give teachers time to get caught up on mountains of paperwork.
KCS	Gives teachers more uninterrupted time to continue working on creating, designing lessons for classroom use.
KCS	good teacher
KCS	Great idea however many disagree
KCS	Healthier teachers
KCS	Higher academic scores
KCS	Hopefully, teachers could complete at least one day of professional development during a fall or spring break instead of trying to fit all professional development during the summer or after school.
KCS	I think a balanced calendar would benefit both the teacher and student reducing burn out on both sides.
KCS	I agree that the breaks provide for better student behavior and less "end-of-the-year" apathy. I feel that there is still some "summer loss" even during the 10 day breaks. We always spent time in review the first few days back from a break.
KCS	I agree that this calendar would improve student behavior, but I believe it would reach farther than that and benefit teacher morale. As students' behavior and attention spans deteriorate, so does the patience and mental health of teachers. I believe more frequent and significant breaks would help with teacher burn-out.
KCS	I agree with less learning loss. Good luck getting anyone to work during the 2 week period unless required.
KCS	I also believe that the provided breaks will help the teacher focus on offering each student their best effort. Frequent breaks can be positive motivation and also provides space for teachers to actually attend professional development sessions.
KCS	I am concerned that in the future, teachers will be "pressured" to support the enrichment or intervention periods as part of their evaluation process. I am also concerned that in the future, the summer will gradually be "cut into" to eventually greatly diminish these needed days for teachers and students.

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
KCS	I am not sure about the opportunities for intervention or enrichment. In the high school level, where I am, I do not see students voluntarily coming to enrichment activities. In order to provide extra help you need teachers. Are you going to be paying teachers extra if they offer to help; and if so, where is that money coming from?
KCS	I am opposed to a balanced calendar and would not be interested in pointing out any potential benefits of adopting it.
KCS	I am unaware of any other benefits to the balanced year other than a longer break to wind down and perhaps take a different kind of vacation that otherwise could not be done with a shorter time.
KCS	I believe a balanced calendar would encourage the student/guardians to place more value on the educational process . As opposed to the school year being looked at as something you "have to do" or "have to get through", it places a year-round value on learning and the culture of educational appreciation.
KCS	I believe families will benefit from the two week breaks throughout the school year to take trips without their children being absent from school. A longer Fall Break allows parents to vacation in the off-season, thereby saving money.
KCS	I believe it would give teachers time to recharge and to reflect on the previous quarter .
KCS	I believe moral will be improved for students and staff. There will also be less time spent on closing down a school year and classrooms as well as less time needed to start up again. That allows more time for what is most important, time with the students.
KCS	I believe students would retain so much more with a shortened summer break.
KCS	I believe that they are good for mental breaks. Because it can be draining at times and then it'll decrease the amount of days that faculty and staff will take off from work.
KCS	I believe the balanced calendar would create a beneficial environment for children by creating a positive and more structured environment on a more basis level.
KCS	I believe the number one benefit is the opportunity to rest, for teachers and students, which would be something everyone can look forward to. We can do anything and give our best effort if we know a decent rest is right around the corner!
KCS	I completely agree with the above mentioned. I feel that it would benefit all students and staff tremendously. I feel that parents might dislike it at first, but when it is completely implemented I feel that everyone will love it!
KCS	I did not see the success with the Special Education population.
KCS	I do not believe any of these are TRUE benefits without more data and details as to how they will work or be implemented.
KCS	I do not see any
KCS	I don't know if I can give an informed opinion about the balanced calendar since I haven't actually experienced it. I do know that teachers and students get stressed and exhausted during the school year and having breaks would relieve that stress. If you take the lower achievers and make them continue while everyone else is on break, I think you would be creating a problem. When would they have an opportunity to "recharge."
KCS	I don't see any benefits to a balanced calendar.
KCS	I don't see how making a break longer changes the fact that a student may see a break coming.

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
KCS	I doubt that a summer that is only two weeks shorter would make that much difference in summer learning loss. Will enrichment/intervention be provided during the breaks? How will KCS pay teachers for working that extra time? Everyone in Knoxville knows that Mayor Burchett and Dr. McIntyre are not on the greatest of terms; extra funding for intervention won't necessarily be approved by County Commission (and the Mayor), even if the Knox County Board of Education approves a balanced calendar. Will intervention be optional or mandatory? Will buses run for intervention? The parents of students who need intervention most may not be able to provide transportation. Will lunch be served? The bottom line is cost. Please provide real numbers for cost.
KCS	I feel like a balanced calendar would give teachers time to not get "burned out," as well as give students time to allow information to sink in with a huge brain break!
KCS	I feel teacher morale and attendance would be increased which would also help increase the level of instruction happening in the classrooms.
KCS	I feel that having a balanced calendar would also help prevent teacher and student burn out.
KCS	I feel that it would bring teachers to a more common pacing in their material. They have set breaks that they need to be completed by.
KCS	I feel the Balanced Calendar would be a great benefit for teachers, students and families. The schedule would keep students more focused and morale for staff would be better with the breaks to re-energize from the hectic days of school environment. I am totally for the Balanced Calendar
KCS	I find attendance (unexcused absences) to be the number one issue as to why students don't learn and struggle. The struggling students who need to be at school during the two-week breaks won't be there; they don't come to school during the regular sessions.
KCS	I have not seen peer-reviewed research that supports ANY of the above "benefits." Certainly the studies posted on the KCS website do not support this idea.
KCS	I have read that absenteeism is much less of a problem for staff and students with the balanced calendar.
KCS	I have read the studies cited on the KCS page, and could not find any strong evidence of retention of knowledge with the balanced calendar, or Year Round School as most researchers referred to it. I see no way to avoid increased expenses, and change simply to change is not a benefit to anyone. While top level administrators may be able to point to this change as implementation of an action plan, it is a poor one.
KCS	I haven't seen any data saying this is an improvement. I feel the supporters of this would do well to study the Hawthorne effect: are we just changing for the sake of change? I am also concerned about the opportunities to provide extra help during school breaks. Are teachers going to be paid more to do this? More frequent breaks may seem nice, but I feel like more work will be placed on teachers for these inter-term weeks. This could be a subtle but insidious factor.
KCS	I hope we can finally make the balanced calendar happen in KCS!
KCS	I just think that it the balanced calendar will be very beneficial to our students because of that less learning summer loss. That is what has always concerned me.
KCS	I like the idea of a balanced calendar as long as the breaks are the same amount of days, just spread through the year. I don't think teachers or students should be made to stay extra.
KCS	I like the idea of having more frequent breaks. This makes school not quite as daunting knowing that a break is right around the corner. Frequent breaks would certainly help with teacher and student burn out.
KCS	I think if they had lesser summer break they would benefit more on there learning plus working for food service they would not have such a long time without pay I also think they should spread there paycheck's out like managers receive and it would keep more employee's

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
KCS	I think it allows for a more consistent schedule and flow. I think having the 2 week breaks in between is just enough time to allow them to rest and relax, but not forget the things they have learned. I would not like have a 3 week break in between. That would be too long without instruction and too inconsistent.
KCS	I think it promotes year round learning at the post secondary education level as well. Our students will be more likely to take advantage of summer school opportunities because they are used to this schedule. This will help them finish early and enter the workforce more quickly.
KCS	I think it will be beneficial all the way around!!
KCS	I think it would also be beneficial for teachers. As an educator, I think having those breaks throughout the year would allow us to be rested and possibly prevent sick days from being used.
KCS	I think it would be helpful for everyone involved to have more frequent breaks throughout the school year. It would be nice to get longer breaks throughout the school year, because it gives more time for vacations as well as time to catch up and recharge for the next 9 weeks. It would be very helpful for students, but also for teachers to prepare and relax for each 9 weeks of school to do their best teaching possible.
KCS	I think it would help teachers with their stress levels.
KCS	I think it would work out great. I am in Child Nutrition. I think the children will stay refreshed and ready to learn.
KCS	I think that some businesses (ones that do most of their business during summer break) might benefit from having revenue spread out over the entire calendar year. I also think that a shorter summer break might be better for many of our students that do not get regular hot meals. Going 3 months without regular meals can take a toll on anyone, and having a shorter break might help some of these students get regular meals with more regularity.
KCS	I think that students and teachers will be able to work harder and increase rigor when they know a break is coming and when they are rested from a break.
KCS	I think that the calendar is fine the way it is. Why not take three days away from the summer break and add that to the fall break? That alone would be enough recharge time for students and teachers without us losing our summers and burning out during the fall? I'd be for that!
KCS	I think that the idea of the balanced calendar is great! Just during the snow vacation I noticed more positive behavior among teachers and students.
KCS	I think the calendar shoul be left alone - or - if anything, beging after Labor Day an en at Memorial Day. Quantity is not the answer, but quality.
KCS	I think the longer breaks at the end of the 9 weeks grading periods will have "the light at end of the tunnel" idea behind it for students.
KCS	I think the two week off model is more consistent with the other surrounding counties.
KCS	I think/agree that teachers and students have a chance to get more rest/relaxation throughout the year and therefore more likely to be more motivated and excited to teach and gain during the year.
KCS	I would like to see 200 days in school ten week quarters. Students are still out of the classroom too much . Four more weeks could take a lot of the stress that comes with trying to pack too much curriculum into days already divided in too many ways.
KCS	I would see a benefit to some of the lower quartile students . I do not see any benefit academically to those in the upper quartile.
KCS	If funded properly, benefits through enrichment and intervention options could provide opportunities for teachers and staff to earn extra money while supporting students who ate in need of extra support.
KCS	If would give teachers time to get caught up on administrative work and planning as well.
KCS	I'm hoping people will take advantage of the breaks and not pull their children out for vacations as often.

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
KCS	I'm not 100% sure I agree with "Summer Learning Loss", but it would remove that potential "excuse" for teachers.
KCS	Improve teacher morale
KCS	Improved attendance for both students & staff.
KCS	Improved mental health for teachers. Opportunities for vacations at different times of the year.
KCS	Improved staff morale
KCS	Improved student and teacher morale.
KCS	Improved student behavior is not true. Some students become quite anxious just before a break because school is the safest place in their lives. They sometimes make poor choices as a result. It is my experience that behavior issues escalate just before a break.
KCS	Improved teacher and administrator morale
KCS	Improved teacher morale with decreased opportunities for burnout.
KCS	Improved teacher morale. Opportunities for family travel with cost effectiveness. Prevention of summer "boredom".
KCS	improved teacher planning, unit planning
KCS	In the past when we had enrichment Wednesdays, and then early dismissal for those with satisfactory grades our students who needed to stay would be checked out. We did not have the extra time with them after all. If you have enrichment weeks I think you will find that those students will not show for extra enrichment. Elementary may have better results. High school will not participate.
KCS	Increased opportunities for families to take a fall vacation when rates are lower and temperatures are cooler! More "quality family time" throughout the school year! Also, as a teacher I would hope that the balanced calendar would provide families the time to take those vacations that they cannot schedule during the summer so that they would STOP taking their children out of my classroom for a week at a time for their own personal vacation. Even a "good student" will miss some key concepts if they lose 7.5 hours of math instruction during one week.
KCS	increased overall morale and happiness for teachers and staff
KCS	It just makes sense
KCS	It also cut down on teacher burn out and teacher absences.
KCS	It also cuts down on teacher absences!!
KCS	It better prepares high school students for "real life".
KCS	It could possibly help with burn out of teachers and students.
KCS	It gives teachers and students a break to enable them to come back refreshed (or caught up on learning skills).
KCS	It gives the students more opportunities to make a "fresh start" if they had a previously rough period in school for either academic or social/emotional reasons.
KCS	It helps with family trip scheduling as well.
KCS	It is hard enough getting Kindergarteners focused and back in routines after spring break...I can't imagine doing that several times during the year
KCS	It provides a much needed recharge for the students and the teachers and helps prevent "burn-out".
KCS	It seems that it would help single parents or those who are both working and have trouble finding or affording child care in the summer. It would shorten or eliminate the need for long periods of time for child care and decrease the number of "latch key kids" that are largely unsupervised.
KCS	It will create a "buffer" for teacher burnout.
KCS	It will help with teacher and student burn out.

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
KCS	It will provide extra breaks for students who do NOT need enrichment or remediation. The students who struggle, are in school more stretched over the year instead of during the summer. It may feel to them that they never get a break. I do think this time provides intervention, but I do not know the effect. If intervention is working, it will increase their self-esteem, if not it may add to their already fractured outlook.
KCS	It would allow high school baseball teams the opportunity to play in 2 tournaments during Spring Break. Plus, families could take a weeks vacation and not have to go back to school the very next day.
KCS	It would also help the teachers knowing that a break is coming.
KCS	It would be MUCH nicer for teachers!!!
KCS	It would create a time period for teachers to reflect and prepare for the next 44 days, but also, time for relaxation.
KCS	It would give families a chance to take vacations at different times of the year without the children having to miss school.
KCS	It would make it easier to plan vacations in times of the year besides summer
KCS	JUST DO IT!!!!!!!
KCS	Just the opportunity for students and teachers to reset and recharge. While it is a smaller system, Alcoa has been using this for years and is considered one of the best in the state. Absenteeism may improve especially for those who take vacations. If there is a remediation/extra help available, it may be just enough to help those kids that are on the bubble or need just a little more time for particular skills.
KCS	KNOX COUNTY SCHOOLS PERSONNEL SPEND DAYS PACKING UP FOR SUMMER AND THEN COME BACK AND UNPACK AND RESET THE ROOM.WASTED TIME STUDENTS SHUT DOWN THE LAST MONTH OF SCHOOL BECAUSE TO THEM THE YEAR IS OVER AFTER T-CAPS WHEN SUMMER BREAK IS OVER AND STUDENTS RETURN IT TAKES SEVERAL WEEKS TO GET THEM BACK ON TRACK A BALANCED CALENDAR WOULD BENEFIT STUDENTS
KCS	Lack of student and teacher burn out because they anticipate a break coming soon.
KCS	less absences due to family vacations, oppurtunities to vacation during less peak times.
KCS	Less absences for students and teachers- more spread out opportunities for doctor appointments, vacations, etc.
KCS	Less burn out for staff and students
KCS	Less burnout for teachers and students
KCS	Less burnout for teachers, parents, and students. Opportunities for community activities to be provided at different times besides the summer, ex. sports camps, scouting, mission trips, etc. Opportunities to take vacations in the off season. Parents comment about how they can't wait for school to start at the end of the summer.
KCS	Less burnout.
KCS	Less challenging for parents who have to find child care during a long summer break
KCS	less illness & sickness teachers & students reduced burnout/fatigue
KCS	Less learning loss during the summer.
KCS	Less learning loss for students. More frequent stability.
KCS	Less regression for students with special education needs
KCS	Less stress for everyone with the exception of child care.
KCS	Less stress for teachers! :)
KCS	Less stress on everyone
KCS	Less student absences due to family trips or medical procedures during the school year. They can be planned during breaks.
KCS	less student and staff fatigue, better student behavior, more professional development opportunities, and more community development opportunities! I am in love with the balanced calendar! I would love to see it implemented.

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
KCS	Less student and teacher stress
KCS	Less teacher and student burnout
KCS	Less teacher burn out
KCS	Less teacher burn out
KCS	Less teacher burn out
KCS	Less teacher burn-out = more effective teachers.
KCS	Less teacher burnout and less student burnout.
KCS	Less teacher burnout. We need breaks, too!
KCS	Less teacher burnout/fatigue
KCS	Less teacher stress, professional development for teacher opportunities
KCS	Less time for low SES students to be without a warm meal during summer break
KCS	Less time for some kids in the projects to be at loose ends during the summer?
KCS	Lessons/units easier to pace and plan with the 4 quarters.
KCS	listen to my mixtape. pls... http://itapez.com/mixtapes/dancehall/ijah-iba-forever-blaze-hosted-by-bobby-konders/
KCS	longer "breaks" for more opportunities to vacation instead of all KCS looking to vacation on the exact SAME WEEK, more frequent breaks could create an environment that is more positive in the classroom because the learning stretch will be shorter than before
KCS	Longer breaks to allow time to rest and teachers to plan
KCS	Longer Fall and Spring Break.
KCS	Longer fall break would be great...our community has a beautiful time of year that much tourism is based around. Our kids and their families should enjoy it, too.
KCS	Love the less time to lose skills
KCS	Lower teacher burn out
KCS	maybe less illness among students & staff; Also less burnout among students & staff (a chance to rest & come back refreshed)
KCS	Mental rejuvenation is extremely powerful in academic success, both for students and for teachers.
KCS	More academic exposure like in Southeast Asia
KCS	More engaged learning.
KCS	More engagement for students and teachers.
KCS	More Family Vacation opportunities besides just Summer.
KCS	More frequent breaks for teachers and students preventing burnout!
KCS	More opportunities for families to plan their time together. Let's be honest, summer is when families take their big family vacations. Due to the volume of people taking summer holidays, the hotel and airline industry often raise their prices. Plus many parents have difficulty competing for vacation time at their workplaces with other fellow parents. I think having more breaks could give these parents a break when it comes to planning the time and expense when it comes to making fun family vacations that will leave lasting memories and positive experiences for the students.
KCS	More opportunities for families to take vacations during non-peak seasons, when rates are reduced at popular vacation spots.
KCS	More opportunities for families to vacation at different times of the year in different places.
KCS	More opportunities for student travel at the middle and high school levels.
KCS	More opportunities for teachers to earn extra pay throughout the year instead of just during a "summer school" scenario
KCS	More opportunities for unscheduled in-service during the school year.
KCS	More opportunities for vertical planning.
KCS	more opportunity for balancing vacation time.
KCS	More options for family vacations.

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
KCS	More planning and reflection time for teachers to incorporate data and gather professional development.
KCS	more productive and better planning by teachers between the nine weeks
KCS	more rested
KCS	More time for teachers to plan throughout the year. The opportunity to take vacations during different seasons and during less traveled times. Breaks would help possibly with sickness (less spreading of viruses).
KCS	more time play with pussy cats during scool year
KCS	More time to travel during different times of the year.
KCS	More time to visit other places over important holidays. Less expense for Summer care. Far less boredom with students. Therefore win win for everybody.
KCS	Most parents will not encourage school work during breaks. If children are going to have a loss of learning during summer break it will happen regardless of how many days we are out. I do agree with more frequent time out of school during the school year. It seems like it would give students and teachers alike to "recharge"
KCS	My sister taught on a balanced calendar in Georgia. She said that absentism dropped for both teachers and students.
KCS	Need more information to accurately answer. Enrichment classes would be nice if they are offered for all areas and not to exclude related arts.
KCS	Neutral
KCS	No "teacher burn out"
KCS	No benefits
KCS	No opinion either way.
KCS	None
KCS	none
KCS	None
KCS	None
KCS	None
KCS	None
KCS	None
KCS	None
KCS	None
KCS	None
KCS	None
KCS	None
KCS	None
KCS	None
KCS	None
KCS	None
KCS	None
KCS	None
KCS	None Many try but later reject year-round schooling programs
KCS	NONE - no improvement in scores
KCS	NONE!
KCS	Not as much "burn out!" of both students and teachers.
KCS	Not enough data to support learning loss and especially behavior or attendance. Changing the calendar doesn't change a kid and their motivation!!
KCS	not just more frequent breaks, but the intersession breaks will be of a duration that will provide good rest and a true break instead of two days, as in the current fall break or five days, as in the current spring break.
KCS	Not sure
KCS	On a personal level,....it's cheaper to spend with the family. Booking agents/flights are more expensive with the current calendar. I can have more time with my family and afford to do more with this schedule. Example: fall break with the current schedule cost about \$500 more than having a balanced calendar.

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
KCS	Opportunities for families to take Non-Traditional family vacations; opportunities to move extended student trips such as Williamsburg, Washington, DC, and other historical or scientific trips during breaks instead of missing instructional time. Opportunities for Juniors and Seniors to take extended college visits.
KCS	Opportunities for families to travel during breaks instead of taking a week of during the school year. This has particularly become a problem around fall break. 2 days does not give families the time to travel to visit family and go on vacations.
KCS	Opportunities for staff to earn extra money
KCS	Opportunities for staff training.
KCS	opportunities for students and staff to refresh after a consistent period of instruction
KCS	Opportunities for teacher professional learning during breaks that is deeper & more substantive
KCS	Opportunities to provide teacher development that is ongoing when they are "fresh" (all day rather than after school when they've already put in a whole day's work). It could also be job embedded through each break. This also provides opportunities to grow without taking them away from their students. Students would also have the opportunity for internships or short job shadows that don't interrupt schooling but still allow immersion. Field trips could also be scheduled during breaks to offer learning without missing classroom instruction.
KCS	Overall, it would help the students in many areas and that is the goal.
KCS	parents could plan vacation
KCS	Parents have more opportunities to plan vacations that wouldn't require taking the student out of school.
KCS	Parents now have to ind childcare during odd breaks during the year. 3 weeks of childcare for breaks in the first model provides scheduling difficulties for working parents. The model with the 2 week break is more desirable. It provides families with opportunities to take vacations at different times of the year, but it also ensures that children and teachers have a solid break from school.
KCS	Parents would still have the problem of providing childcare, but a balanced calendar would mean that they could also plan trips and/or other educational opportunities in seasons other than summer.
KCS	People can save money on vacations since we can go during "off-peak" times. Less teacher and student burn-out, especially in the spring.
KCS	Possibly less interruption for snow during the winter.
KCS	possibly more family time
KCS	prevent burnout; allow teachers to recharge and revamp lessons in the middle of the school year during breaks
KCS	Prevents burn out for all involved.
KCS	Prevents teacher burn-out. A positive, energetic teacher creates a positive, energetic environment.
KCS	Professional development could be offered during breaks. More options for longer family vacations at less crowded times of the year.
KCS	Professional development opportunities and administrative meetings during breaks to prevent teachers and principals from being pulled out of the building on school days when students are present.
KCS	Provide staff more time to prepare during the school year with the longer fall and spring break.
KCS	Provides staff and students with a more positive "de-stress" cycle. Just knowing that you have a significant break between grading periods is something to look forward to. This will also eliviate the feeling of beginning school and then " plowing" through to Winter break.
KCS	Rather than more frequent breaks, it would have longer breaks. I am not sure if that would be beneficial or detrimental to students with disabilities as it would take longer to re-establish routines after breaks.

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
KCS	Reduce teacher and staff burnout
KCS	Reduced teacher and student burnout
KCS	Reduction in student absenteeism as well as reduction in overall teacher and student absence due to illness. Reduction in loss of instructional time due to doctors appointments, etc.
KCS	Respite from rigid, continuous, constant testing!
KCS	rest and rejuvenation periods, teacher planning/training time
KCS	Scientific studies have been mixed and there is no definite proof that it increases student learning.
KCS	Segmented learning (9wks and then closure) will benefit learning, Clean start!
KCS	Seniors will have time to write essays and apply to colleges. Balanced calendar will give them time to take care of these essays and applications without getting behind in their classes. Students will be able to catch up if they fall behind or get the flu during the breaks. There will be less teachers & students out for doctors appts. Appointments can be schedules during the breaks! If students get sick and miss school, they will have time to catch up and not fall behind. There are so many advantages to balanced calendar that I cannot list them all here.
KCS	Sickness should be reduced for teachers because we'll have time to rest.
KCS	SICKNESS! It's such a nice recovery time.
KCS	Sicknesses --more breaks will create an opportunity for sicknesses/outbreaks to weaken
KCS	Slower student/teacher burnout
KCS	Snow days would potentially have less impact. It would be possible to shorten a longer Spring Break. It might eventually result in students not missing school days to go on family vacations.
KCS	Some of our children do not get proper nutrition during the summer. This might help some with that problem.
KCS	Some teachers will be able to make a little more money for the extra work that they be required to do.
KCS	Sometimes it feels we can barely hang on until the next break. We are just trying to survive until we get a chance to step back and breathe. This would afford the opportunity for more of that.
KCS	Staff and faculty will feel more balanced and less stressed. Teacher self-worth/value and stress levels directly impact student learning.
KCS	Staff morale will be higher as breaks are time to rejuvenate and get ahead in planning.
KCS	Stress breaks for both teachers and students.
KCS	Stress levels for all would see alleviation.
KCS	Student and teacher burn out is lessened because there is more opportunity for down time.
KCS	Students and teachers are in need of a break after diligently working so hard for nine weeks straight. Students in need of intervention or enrichment will also have the opportunity to have their needs met.
KCS	Students do not get as tired.
KCS	Students tend to get less motivated as breaks near, so I believe this would just cause additional lack of motivation. I also have not found summer learning loss to be a problem in the high school courses I teach.
KCS	Students who are on the free or reduced lunch program have more consistent access to hot meals during the year with the balanced calendar option.
KCS	Students who just get behind because of illness, etc., can have the opportunity to catch up with classmates so that he/she could pass the course.
KCS	Studies show that it helps if the parents and community are supportive.

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
KCS	summer breaks are too long and cause time for make up and review each fall. I like the idea of the longer spaced out breaks and the possibility of help for kids falling behind instead of waiting for summer school.
KCS	Teacher and student morale. Teacher attendance will also increase because appointments (such as medical concerns) could be scheduled during the week on the break rather than during the summer. Teachers will also have another break coming in just a bit so they are less likely to be in need of a mental break.
KCS	Teacher and student sanity. Unless that is lost through reteaching stress.
KCS	Teacher burnout would be lower
KCS	Teacher fatigue
KCS	Teacher morale
KCS	Teacher morale would be greatly improved with more frequent and longer breaks to relieve stress.
KCS	Teacher morale would possibly be positively impacted.
KCS	Teacher motivation and rejuvenation
KCS	Teacher planning time!!!
KCS	Teacher Retention Improve Climate among students Improve Climate among faculty Provide opportunities for teachers to complete PD Encourage stronger family relationships IF families travel and spend quality time together during these breaks
KCS	Teacher training and inservices would not interfere with instructional time for students.
KCS	Teachers can come back refreshed as well.
KCS	teachers have breaks to better adjust their instruction for the specific classes they have each year
KCS	Teachers would be less stressed having more breaks to re group
KCS	Teachers would be more rested; therefore, they would perform better.
KCS	Teachers would have more time to plan on their breaks (at the end of each quarter). Although they wouldn't officially be on contract, many would still use the breaks to do lesson planning, as I did when I taught at a school on a balanced calendar for 8 years.
KCS	Teachers, in my opinion, will feel refreshed and teach with more energy with the ability to have breaks more often. Teachers will not get "run down" as easily. This, in turn, will likely benefit the classroom and most importantly...the students.
KCS	The balanced calendar allows for teachers to have more time to plan during a quarter and still feel like they were able to participate in the breaks, too. I can foresee it also allowing families more time to travel during our shorter breaks instead of student being absent before or after a break.
KCS	The balanced calendar would help space out doctor's appointments so fewer staff sick days would need to be taken for doctor appointments alone. It would also help alleviate the stress of only having 2 personal days, as all personal events do not take place during the summer.
KCS	The break would provide a time for medical procedures to be scheduled along with adequate recovery time for students.
KCS	The breaking up of the schedule should help everyone's mental state. It should help reduce burnout of students and teachers.
KCS	The breaks would also lend to trips with students for extra enrichment opportunities!
KCS	The consequences and negatives of a balanced calendar, both academically and in the community far outweigh the benefits of a balanced calendar. Take a look at the number of school systems in NC and Nashville that are equivalent to our size and there is evidence that a balanced calendar simply does not work.
KCS	The low achieving students will always perform low. RTI doesn't work and neither will a balanced calendar.
KCS	The opportunity for students and teachers to participate in more things throughout the year.
KCS	The opportunity to travel in time periods other than the summer.

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
KCS	The primary learning loss does not come from the summer break. The primary learning loss comes when Little Johnny takes English I in the Fall semester and then takes English II in the Spring semester. This means Little Johnny has not been in an English classroom for a YEAR. THAT is where the learning loss is. If we are going to go to a balanced calendar that includes the block semester, then there is no point in changing the calendar. I suppose the benefit of this calendar, WITHOUT the block schedule, will be a longer period of time to cover the material and students will actually learn and RETAIN the information.
KCS	The recovery period between learning cycles will give all involved the opportunity to rest and allow new learning to process.
KCS	The students and schools staff would have less burn out if the breaks were there. By the end of a long schools session with no break the students are tired and misbehave more.
KCS	The teachers and students' stamina would be improved. They could come back refresh and ready to take on the next quarter without burn-out.
KCS	The teachers are more focused and have more energy for the students.
KCS	There are NO benefits to a balanced calendar.
KCS	There are none.
KCS	There is absolutely NO VALID evidence that supports the "summer slide" theory. Students in a somewhat spiraling curriculum will have an opportunity to see/learn the curriculum again. Interventions and Enrichment opportunities can only be done with certified people (who will also be on "balanced break")....is there money in budget for that (to bring teachers back in to the classroom, or bring in interventionists)? Student behavior will digress...as it does after every break, even weekends! Every time we return to school, in a balanced calendar, teachers will have to spend time covering procedures/expectations as a means to manage the returning students. The returning students will spend a number of days reestablishing their roles (hierarchy) in the grade level, rekindling their friendships, and trying to remember the norms that were established during the year. This will eat away at the limited time that will be given in that quarter of the school year. There has not been any issues with our current calendar, nor any in recent years! If it isn't broke.....why are we trying to "fix" it? Again, with no valid data or research to support that transition.
KCS	There is no downfall!!!
KCS	There is plenty of data that says year-round school (which this is) doesn't help student learning. Don't discredit burnout factors.
KCS	There is still going to be a loss in the summer because it is a longer break. Now, the shorter break are intended to be just that for ALL, both students and teachers; they are meant to be breaks. There is not sufficient data for me to change my mind about student behavior and summer learning loss.
KCS	These enrichment break - would they be hosted by the schools? Would that be part of an extended teacher contract? For intervention - when would it occur? Only on breaks? If so, how can we legally require students to attend? Would teachers who gave up their time be compensated?
KCS	This is opinion versus fact. Who will pay staff for enrichment activities. Who will qualify? Will only top students get to participate in enrichment or will lower performing students need to have remediation only? How will this impact teacher pay? They already only work 200 day contracts with 20 days off paid by taxpayers. What about school bus contracts. Will there be a need for more bus routes? Who will pay for this?
KCS	This option seems great for teachers who need more breaks to avoid burnout. However, I do not agree that it will be helpful for student behavior (in my school, specifically).
KCS	This prepares students for something closer to real life. Very few careers have summer off, teaching included.
KCS	This question is skewed. Regardless of the opportunities, when looking at a cost/benefit analysis these points may be mute

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
KCS	This survey is aimed at passing a balanced calendar so these questions are not really fair. Why not ask what disadvantages it would cause.
KCS	This will help with teachers who have small children, and will allow students to come into school refreshed and ready to learn.
KCS	This would allow teachers the opportunity to reflect, recharge, and regroup between grading periods.
KCS	Time could be added for professional development and work for teachers so that they are not so stressed during the year to gain this learning.
KCS	Time for students and teachers to recharge. Families could take short vacations during off season times.
KCS	Time for students to get well and stay well. Time for teachers to recharge and attend professional development that they can implement at a sooner date then the could in the traditional calendar.
KCS	Time for teacher to really regroup both personally and professionally.
KCS	Time for teachers to re-charge and de-stress
KCS	Travel at times other than when "all schools" are out.
KCS	Travel in different seasons. Yet, if offering "intervention" will breaks be for students and teachers both. Both need to recharge.
KCS	Vacations at alternate times.
KCS	Vacations in the Fall
KCS	We could take a vacation any time of the year and not just in the summer
KCS	We get enough breaks throughout the school year. I see no benefit to decreasing the summer time except for parents who do not want to or do not know how to provide structure and time for their kids in the summer. They might have to work or can't afford special programs for their kids but public education cannot and should not have to structure the summer for students.
KCS	We like the idea of taking vacations at different times of the year.
KCS	Well rested, less stressed teachers and students
KCS	Well-being and attitude of teachers
KCS	What is wrong with summer school for those that need additional time. Also, retention would help many students.
KCS	While this does not directly relate to education, family vacations could be benefited. It is not only more cost effective but can also be more comfortable in terms of crowds, weather/temperature, etc to travel during the non-peak summer season.
KCS	Why would you only give one side of the coin and then disguise it as a survey? Where's the part about the difficulty in finding child care? What about split families that use summer break to "even out" custody situations? How could 12 less days of summer break lead to better scholastic retention but having multiple 2-week breaks not lead to a loss in retention?
KCS	Will help with more consistence in special education students
KCS	With new standards and testing next year, the balanced calendar will give teachers the opportunity to "breathe", reflect, and plan for each quarter.
KCS	With the model presented, I don't think having 13 less days in the summer is going to miraculously improve summer learning loss, or provide enough enrichment opportunities to see a difference.
KCS	Would allow families to plan vacations at different times of the year other than just during summer months creating a strong family bond.
KCS	Would allow more stability for the students we serve.
KCS	Would enrichment be open to far more students who wish to participate and how long would enrichment last between breaks?
KCS	Would improve teacher morale and lessen the likelihood of teacher burnout.

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
KCS	ZERO. There is NO objective, research based evidence ANYWHERE that a balanced calendar has any benefits whatsoever. Nearly every school system that adopts a year round calendar dumps it and returns to a traditional schedule at the first opportunity. It will be a nightmare.
Not Answered	0
Not Answered	?
Not Answered	Administratively, the intercession breaks may allow teachers to catch up on planning or professional development, and may allow school leaders to catch up on planning and design tasks for their schools.
Not Answered	Ample time given to travel during a fall break (family time), so students would not be so tired returning to school. Extra time for teachers to recoup and reflect on teaching effectiveness in the fall and the spring. I'm not sure of the effectiveness of an extended break beyond a week for winter break due to weather conditions inhibit outside time and travel. Would like to know more about how enrichment opportunities would be provided.
Not Answered	An ability to visit family during the school.
Not Answered	An opportunity for teachers and parents to take a vacation when rates are cheaper during the off season. And hopefully, for parents to keep their kids in school during school rather than taking them out for their own "vacation"!!!! I cannot teach a student who is absent for a week while they are out on their own vacation! ugh!!
Not Answered	As a parent, I am increasingly concerned with the lack of physical movement and free social time my child experiences in favor of sitting still and quietly for 7 hours of rigorous instruction. And, my child is only in 2nd grade. I welcome more frequent breaks to allow for time to be a child. I only hope these are true breaks and not an opportunity for mounds of homework to be sent home. I appreciate that the bar is set high and proud that my child meets or exceeds the academic expectations at this point; however, am disappointed that school is just not fun anymore. I believe a balanced calendar could help reduce our students' academic stress levels as well as energizing our Knox Co staff. Thank you for the opportunity to share my opinion.
Not Answered	Because breaks are more frequent, parents can make travel plans that do not overlap with instruction time. {Might also reduce the cost of travel since it doesn't have to occur in peak travel times.}
Not Answered	Being able to take a vacation during the school year with out having to miss time in school!
Not Answered	Benefits wouldn't develop from this balanced calendar. Sliding out of school days around to other parts of the calendar will not solve the learning issues we have in the curriculum.
Not Answered	Better for teachers. They would be able to get some much-needed rest throughout the school year, and also be able to earn extra money by doing the extended learning on breaks.
Not Answered	Better for working parents who need to find ways to keep kids occupied during long summer
Not Answered	Child care
Not Answered	Child care issues
Not Answered	Concerned about the added expense on an already strained KCS budget. A smaller system in Blount Co found that the cost could not be maintained. How would KCS provide the 200day contract with teachers? When would teachers be given time fir continuing education?
Not Answered	Easier and potentially cheaper to plan family vacations.
Not Answered	easier childcare issues throught the summer for working parents. More opportunities for fall/spring travel abroad.
Not Answered	Everyone won't be as tired including teachers. Allows for different vacations.
Not Answered	For children with ADD/ADHD/OCD/ODD a more routine schedule would help a lot

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Not Answered	For the first time since the elimination of a five-day fall break from the school calendar many years ago, the balanced calendar would allow families to take advantage of off-season rates at popular vacation destinations during fall break. The balanced calendar would solve the problem with the current two-day fall break schedule being too short to facilitate meaningful travel. In my experience, travel can provide educational, life experiences that are important to the well-rounded student.
Not Answered	Four possible times to take family vacations and enjoy time together. More
Not Answered	Honestly i dont think it will benefit to anything
Not Answered	I don't really think it would necessarily benefit. Furthermore, requiring teachers to do "intercession" is a problem. This survey is skewed. It should ask BALANCED QUESTIONS for both traditional and balanced calendar.
Not Answered	I don't see any benefits, only negatives. It's a terrible idea.
Not Answered	I don't think it's more beneficial than the traditional. I think the traditional is more beneficial
Not Answered	I feel the balanced calendar is a great idea all around.
Not Answered	I have a child with special needs so the structure would help.
Not Answered	I know other school systems who have tried it and there is no statistics showing this is better. The test scores from what I have read are any better than the traditional calendar. The two week breaks are the kids going to be able to retain the information they were being taught. I see this being a problem for children with learning disabilities especially those that have a hard time retaining and processing. The other problem I have is childcare for all these breaks.
Not Answered	I support the "Balance Calendar"....Some students may go too long in the summer without proper meals that the school setting provides,and possible proper supervisions at home.
Not Answered	I think the opportunity for enrichment is there; however, teachers needing the break may not readily apply themselves to the demand of providing enrichment during vacation time. I am still very concerned about how this would work.
Not Answered	Ideally, less "push to finish" at end of year and less review at beginning of year so a more balanced instructional pace may occur.
Not Answered	If this goes into play its a daycare issue for most parents, but seems a reasonable purpose and understanding of my child education
Not Answered	Improved student behavior is not true. Students with behavior issues escalate just before a break. Their most secure place is school. They become anxious and make more poor choices just before a break.
Not Answered	Improved teacher morale.
Not Answered	increased fall break
Not Answered	It's easier to plan vacations
Not Answered	Less loss..
Not Answered	Less teacher burn out!
Not Answered	More family time
Not Answered	More flexibility for vacation time and planning for holidays
Not Answered	More half days.
Not Answered	More learning, less burnout, more family vacation opportunities
Not Answered	My children are good students so I never have to worry about learning loss. I can see how it would be beneficial for students who are at risk - shorter breaks would mean better retention. I am also thinking about a shorter summer - families who struggle to put food on the table might appreciate a shorter summer because their children can go back to school and receive breakfast and lunch.
Not Answered	My children are separated by 2 years. One doesn't start school for another year. I agree when both kids get in school this needè
Not Answered	no additional comment. above covers it.
Not Answered	No real opinion either way.

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Not Answered	No real opinion either way.
Not Answered	No.
Not Answered	None
Not Answered	None
Not Answered	NONE
Not Answered	None
Not Answered	None
Not Answered	None
Not Answered	None
Not Answered	None - parents have jobs to go to. Parents cannot take many extra days off from work to stay with their children during non-summer days. If the days are taken off during the summer, the parents can make arrangements for long term care for their children. It is an AWFUL idea to try to make the parents use all their work-time leave to stay home with their children when they are out of school in non-summer days.
Not Answered	none - the balanced calendar may help some teachers but would hurt the economy in that it would seem to cost more to pay for teachers and maintenance of schools. I could list other reasons for arguing against a balanced calendar but that is not for this time or Question
Not Answered	None leave it alone
Not Answered	None.
Not Answered	Not sure.
Not Answered	Not worrying about long breaks for childcare
Not Answered	---Off season family vacations! ---More equitable distribution of learning time to address income gap, ie lower incomes families may not have the resources to utilize refresher courses or academic camps...this would address that remediation time. Less investment of time in combating the "summer slide" ---Math retention would show most improvement, we give summer reading, but not summer math activities.
Not Answered	Only benefit I see is to have a week extra to provide an off-season price break on vacations. 10 days shaved off for summer learning loss - do not see benefit Opportunities for extra help/enrichment - are you really going to provide or are you saying it- is it extra cost to tax payer? Improve Student behavior - would love to see stats on extra 5 days at spring break and extra 7 days at fall break improving a child's behavior; kids are going to misbehave no matter what.
Not Answered	people enjoy the concept of school even less because they will not have summer to look forward to.
Not Answered	Potential could be to have students prepare for real daily work schedule. But, some kids could have a hard time wanting to go back after longer breaks.
Not Answered	Potentially, days missed due to inclement weather could be made up during the next break, keeping them in the same heading period.
Not Answered	Summer is a time kids go on vacation with their parents.. why take that time from them... less summer does not change the way a kid learns...
Not Answered	teachers would be less burned out, less illnesses for teachers and students, everyone feeling refreshed after all the breaks
Not Answered	Tescher Fatigue
Not Answered	The disadvantages outweigh the advantages.
Not Answered	The number of breaks throughout the year would be the same. The time of the year that they occur would stay roughly the same as year. All that would change is the duration of the current breaks.
Not Answered	The students and teachers would both feel more refreshed with frequent, longer breaks.
Not Answered	There are NO benefits to this program.
Not Answered	These more frequent breaks would not only be beneficial to students...it would help staff too!
Not Answered	Time for students to catch up during the break.

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Not Answered	We currently go long stretches with no significant break. A balanced calendar could provide a ni Very break for teachers and students
Not Answered	Who will teach these internet ions during breaks? Have the costs of the added personnel required for these interventions been calculated? This is an attack against teachers. They need breaks and asking them/ requiring them to teach during the break is not fair and costly to taxpayers. Band programs will suffer. Local swimming programs will suffer. Families that need children to work in the summer will suffer.
Not Answered	Why would one presume that I might offer "other potential benefits" when I have no data to base my opinion on?
Parent	0
Parent	"Balanced Calendar" is just another step towards "YEAR AROUND SCHOOL.." I DON'T approve of "BALANCED CALENDAR." LISA MANN
Parent	"Improved student behavior"? Academic retention? I would rather hear what the true benefits might be and not something that sounds good. Money? Athletics? Retention of Staff? The above are all wonderful Bullet Points, much like it will cure cancer or no one will be homeless, but I doubt there will be anything other than longer, more frequent breaks.
Parent	#1 . "Less Summer learning loss". The "math alone" proves that the 12 days the lose during the summer mean "less learning loss between Quarters but that is really a stretch thinking that those 12 days will have any sort of impact. #2. Extra help during school break? This only makes a difference if the parent can get their child "to that help". How often are kids getting help after school now? Once again, that is a stretch to say this. #3 Opportunities foe enrichment during school breaks? - I'd like to hear that defined in more detail. #4 Improved Student Behavior? See #3 and someone needs to have some clinical proof before making a bold statement like that. #5 If science shows that a "1 hr power nap" can increase one ability to refresh and refocus, who's to say that these shorter 2, 11, and 5 day breaks can't do the same. Kids (as well as teachers) sometimes just need a quick breather.
Parent	#1: 8 days difference in the current summer versus "balanced summer".... will result in NO MEAINFUL DIFFERENCE IN COGNITIVE RETENTION. #2 Behavior is not a function of the school schedule... its a function of consequences (meaning good and/or bad consequences). Consequences come from PARENTS first, then Society.
Parent	(1) The balanced calendar is a great opportunity for families to travel during off-peak times (when vacations are significantly cheaper and less crowded than the traditional summer and holiday breaks). (2) Mini-breaks during the school year offer the opportunity for students to rest and recharge. We have all seen the affects of children getting burned-out toward the end of a long school year. (3) Mini-breaks have the potential to prevent the spread of illness, particularly during the fall and winter months.
Parent	* Better opportunity for families to vacation at off-peak times making it more affordable to those who wouldn't normally be able to do it. * Parents would have daycare costs spread out throughout the year a little more than with longer summer and shorter break times.
Parent	1) May limit illness outbreaks - gives schools adequate time to decontaminate and sterilize germ-covered areas, especially during peak illness seasons. 2) Family opportunities - each break would provide adequate time for a family vacation. Under the current format, the family is limited to the summertime for any vaaction longer than a week.
Parent	12 days lost at Summer should not make or break a child's learning. The children need learning to be taught in a way that helps the information store to long term memory instead of teaching to the test.
Parent	A balanced calendar could prove difficult for families to plan vacations and possibly pose a problem for child care for working parents with young children. And if a child spends the breaks throughout the school year to receive extra help in their academics then still needs summer school they may spend the entire year with the exclusion of weekends in school.

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	A balanced calendar may also help those students who are extremely involved with extra activities. The extra time during the year would help them balance sports, volunteering, clubs, etc. with academics.
Parent	A balanced calendar results in less time during the summer for the opportunity to go to different camp options. My daughter does ballet, and she was not able to audition for one of the ballet summer intensives because school was already starting, a balanced calendar would close that window even more.
Parent	A balanced calendar seems like a good option
Parent	A balanced calendar would allow our family to take a week-long vacation in the autumn when prices are cheaper compared to the last two weeks of December. We are very excited about the prospect of a balanced calendar.
Parent	A balanced calendar would be helpful for parents utilizing daycare programs to distribute costs throughout the year. Summer is very costly for care and this would spread out payments due throughout the year instead of in one lump sum at summer time. I'm much in favor of this balanced calendar as my children get bored during summer while I am working and in summers past, I've hired personal tutors to keep them up to speed with the next school year. I don't see any set backs as long as the teachers also get the breaks they deserve and as long as Amherst will work well with Kids Place after school program during the break times.
Parent	A balanced calendar would not be a benefit to families. Many families would struggle with issues such as child care, etc.
Parent	A balanced calendar would promote more learning loss throught the school year and increase more review time needed after each break! I saw what happened with the kids this year after extended snow days off and they Los a lot of ground and needed review after the break and did not help them academically
Parent	A balanced calendar would provide students and teachers a chance to refresh. Also an opportunity to be ready/enthused for the next session instead of pushing through until the next 9 weeks
Parent	A balanced calendar would provide students with less learning loss as a whole, not just during summer break. I truly believe this is the progressive way to go.
Parent	A balanced calendar would really benefit the student when it comes to math. The highscools have it set up now where the student has it only one semester a year which means they have to wait a year for the next math class
Parent	A benefit would be the POTENTIAL for interesting camps during different seasons. That is IF there are people who start up these camps. There is no guarantee that will happen.
Parent	A better cohesion with break being 10 days long.
Parent	A cost savings to families regarding vacations. A family could potentially take a beach vacation during fall or spring break when hotel/condo rates are cheaper. Increased family time has to be beneficial to students.
Parent	A decrease in summer loss would likely lead to some lessening of differentiation in student performance based on family of origin and social class.
Parent	A longer Fall break would be a plus.
Parent	A school climate in which students and staff feel less burn out and frustration with each other. As a teacher, I could always sense when my students needed a good break from each other. The balanced calendar provides this time.
Parent	a shorter summer is possibly helpful to those with disabilities who do better with consistency and less of a "choppy" short break in fall and spring that just throws them off rather than giving time to adjust and rest before returning
Parent	A time besides summer to go on vacation
Parent	Abilities to plan vacations throughout the year

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	Ability for families to take vacations during non-peak times and save money in doing so. Depending on how the breaks fall it would allow athletes to concentrate on their sport for a couple of weeks without worry of homework. And then be ready to handle both while school is in session.
Parent	Ability for families to travel during non-peak times and for families whose parents work in industries/professions where summer is not a time when vacations can be taken. Much easier for working parents to balance childcare throughout the year.
Parent	Ability for families to travel in seasons other than summer. Ability to take advantage of off-peak travel rates.
Parent	ability for students to travel or visit families during breaks in the balanced schedule.
Parent	ability to garden and grow food in school
Parent	Ability to take family vacations throughout the year without missing school
Parent	Able to take trips in all seasons :)
Parent	Able to take family vacation during less populated tourist seasons.
Parent	Absolutely no benefits....
Parent	Absolutely None
Parent	absolutely none
Parent	Absolutely none
Parent	Absolutely none
Parent	Absolutely none
Parent	absolutely none!
Parent	Absolutely none. The "benefit" of less summer learning loss is completely lost in having more breaks through the year. Did anyone actually read what they listed as benefits?
Parent	Accelerated learning because more can be taught throughout the year (without so much time spent on review)
Parent	Addition opportunities to travel and visit family who do not live close by, additional vacation opportunities during times of the year when rates are more affordable. Opportunities to take my children places for enriching activities such as museums, the zoo, parks, etc. that I would only be able to do during weekends throughout school.
Parent	Additional benefits include higher expectations for learning and prioritizes academics for kids throughout the year.
Parent	Additional breaks throughout the year, but this could also be achieved through other methods.
Parent	Additional hardships on parents who work
Parent	additional option of taking family vacation during fall break when vacations are cheaper compared to spring and summer seasons
Parent	Additional vacation opportunities for families during better weather times of the year
Parent	Additional vacation options
Parent	additional/longer breaks during spring and fall provide families better opportunity for vacation/travel. Would have long enough spring break to visit family in Philippines during spring break, which currently isn't long enough for that. We can currently only go in the summer. Nevertheless, we would prefer to go and stay for a month at a time...and concerned that may become impossible even during the summer (it's an expensive trip, and a lot of time in the air, so prefer to stay there as long as possible).
Parent	Agree with all benefitd
Parent	All this is doing is taking from summer break and adding it to other breaks. Leave it alone. I am not opposed to lengthening spring and fall breaks but with what it would entail and cost, it is not neccessary enough to warrant implementing. The advantages are very small if any.
Parent	allow families to take vacations during off peak times - more flexible
Parent	Allow for family vacations that are not in-sync with every other family out there going to the same crowded beach, amusement park, etc.

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	Allow for recovery from stressful curriculum therefore increase scores, retention, and motivation
Parent	Allow more working parents to be able to have more chances to spend time with their kids.
Parent	Allow time for travel outside of the normal summer break. Many children miss days throughout the school year because of traveling.
Parent	Allowing for additional time to visit family that is not local. Reduced expense for traveling off season.
Parent	Allows families more opportunities to take vacations throughout the year.
Parent	Allows for greater flexible in Family vacation planning or increased opportunities for family time.
Parent	Allows for more frequent breaks through out the year and less burn put for kids
Parent	Allows for more lengthy family vacation/travel time during the fall and spring when the weather is optimal for travel.
Parent	Allows for parents to pay for childcare a little at a time, rather than 2.5 months at once. Greater ability to enjoy the seasons Prevents burn out Ability to travel in off-peak seasons
Parent	Allows high school student transition to college easier
Parent	allows parents to plan family vacations at other times during the year
Parent	Allows parents to travel at off peak times thus exposing children to more travel and learning experiences
Parent	Alternate times throughout the year for family time.
Parent	alternative to taking family vacation only in the summer time or spring break which are peak seasons.
Parent	Although I believe that there are very good benefits to the balanced calendar, I wish that they would take a hard look at the stupidity of the Common Core curriculum. I had a happy child who loved to learn and looked forward to school to a frustrated child who is dragging through every day. This isn't right and our educators NEED TO GET THIS ALBATROSS REPEALED!
Parent	An actual Fall Break.
Parent	An easier change to improve learning would be to implement uniforms in public schools and ban cellphones.
Parent	Any benefit of extra intervention for enrichment during school breaks are same regardless if offered in Summer or throughout the year with balanced calendar. Improved student behavior probably happens in cases where students have poor family support but maybe disruptive to other families.
Parent	Anytime a benefit of a balanced calendar break is highlighted, those days are no longer breaks - they are extra school days. To say the break will be "Oppotunities to provide extra help" is the same as saying this many school days are being added to the calendar.
Parent	Are Knox County Day Cares going to be on board with this change?
Parent	Are there reduced child care cost benefits for families where both parents work?
Parent	As a single working parent this idea just leaves a bad taste in my mouth because I don't have anyone to watch my child on all these extra days off. It's hard enough now to arrange child care for the current breaks let alone adding even more days to that.
Parent	As a former teacher, I do not see the argument that 12 fewer days in the summer would make a difference in summer learning loss. The review that would have to take place at the beginning of the school year would not change drastically. Furthermore, I cannot foresee the student behavior issues changing for the better as most parents of these children will be sending them to the intervention sessions. This could certainly exacerbate the discipline problems and make instruction more difficult for those teaching the intervention classes. On a more positive note, I think the intervention/enrichment classes have the potential to be beneficial if they are utilized by the families to whom they apply and if quality teaching will be employed. The frequent and more lengthy breaks will undoubtedly serve as motivation for students and teachers alike.

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	As a former teacher, I feel too much time was spent at the beginning of the school year on review. A balanced calendar will require less time for review and allow more time to learn new material.
Parent	As a parent and former elementary teacher, the longer fall and spring breaks appeal to me for travel and respite.
Parent	As a parent of three kids I've noticed that school learning tends to stop two weeks before the summer break. I would hope that more break in between and the shorter summer would keep learning going to the last day.
Parent	As a parent, I see how my children are bored out their minds by the very long summer break. Nobody (and certainly not children and teenagers) needs 11 weeks of rest and relaxation to recover from a busy school year.
Parent	As a philosophy professor, I recognize loaded questions when I see them. It isn't surprising to see Knox County Schools administration behaving unprofessionally.
Parent	As a single parent I have had to fight for a schedule that can accommodate being an employee and a parent. The changes proposed would only make it harder on me and my children.
Parent	As a working father of three, I have a schedule arranged now with child care providers and after school activities. With a move to this structure I'm worried of it interrupting that schedule and causing problems finding care. I like the idea of a more balanced approach, but need more information than just a pie chart.
Parent	As discussed at the community meetings there are no evidence-based data on moving to this calendar; only mixed results. This should not be pursued.
Parent	As the end of the fall or spring semester approaches, both student and teacher lose interest and attentivity in class. Having longer breaks in the middle of semesters helps students, teachers and parents recuperate and be ready for a new experience.
Parent	Assuming the breaks will be true breaks and not an opportunity for mounds of homework or projects to be sent home, a balanced calendar could increase quality family time. Currently, it is very difficult to have any spontaneous, quality family time due to homework, church, one sport, and proper bed time hours. I believe an unexpected benefit of the balanced calendar could, quite possibly, be happier, less stressed children and a more engaged, energized staff. The rigors of sitting for 7 hours of instruction with very little or no recess time, the lack of free social time, and assigned boy/girl/boy seats during lunch does not allow for a fun academic experience. I am in favor of setting a high academic bar; however, not by elimination of physical activity and free social time.
Parent	Babysitting service for working parents...
Parent	Bad idea. Kids need a real summer. Child care would be a challenge for working parents. Would big a financial strain.
Parent	Balanced calendar did nothing to improve student behavior.
Parent	Balanced calendar would make arranging child care during breaks easier to plan. It would also allow for parents with children to pan for mainly vacations year round not just during peak pricey summer months. The most important is the continuation of learning and less opportunity for the kids to forget what they have learned all year over the summer.
Parent	Behavior Improvement a MAJOR PLUS. Kids need a break from each other.
Parent	Being able to go to the dentist, doctor, etc. without missing school
Parent	Being able to have a true break in schedule in the fall and spring.
Parent	Being able to take family trips throughout the year
Parent	Believe balanced calendar would have strong negative effect on students
Parent	Beneficial to children with split families, providing more time to visit during breaks... Children wouldn't get as burned out during school year with longer breaks between grading periods...

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	Beneficial to students who come from a split family, allowing for longer visitations during breaks... Longer breaks between grading periods may help keep students from becoming burned out during the school year.
Parent	Benefits parents who work full-time and have to find child care during the summer, shorter summer break would help them.
Parent	Benefits wouldn't develop from this balanced calendar. Sliding out of school days around to other parts of the calendar will not solve the learning issues we have in the curriculum.
Parent	Better ability to plan family outings and vacations
Parent	Better Balance for the whole family and the child's learning mission.
Parent	Better behavior at home, due to more of a routine
Parent	Better break throughout the year for students
Parent	Better chance at retaining lessons.
Parent	Better family bonding!
Parent	Better family time on spring and fall break
Parent	Better family time opportunities.
Parent	Better family vacation options in the spring and fall.
Parent	Better family vacation planning.
Parent	Better family vacation time
Parent	Better flexibilities for family vacations, doctors appointments, ect.
Parent	Better flexibility for families to travel together- Currently parents with school-age children are in competition for vacation during school breaks.
Parent	Better for the teachers and staff.
Parent	Better for working parents since I can now take my vacation from work more spread through the year rather than all together in the summer months. Also better for out-of-town grandparents to be able to visit during the year and spend time with grandchildren.
Parent	better for working parents that are not off in the summer
Parent	Better logistically for child care challenges over the long summer break.
Parent	Better opportunities for families to plan non-summer vacations (i.e., during fall or spring breaks).
Parent	Better opportunities for family travel during the year.
Parent	Better opportunities for family vacation, rather than just once a year. Also, not all in peak seasons. Mini breaks for students will benefit the teachers as well. Opportunity to evaluate the direction their class is taking and make any changes necessary to ensure success.
Parent	Better opportunities to take family trips (for fun or for education) during spring and fall breaks when the weather is better and crowds are smaller.
Parent	better opportunity for family vacations during spring.
Parent	Better options for making up inclement weather days.
Parent	Better options for vacations and family time. Kids and teachers could recharge during breaks.
Parent	Better over all health for children this gives them an opportunity to be more active throughout the year and not be so worn down
Parent	better rested children who can study more efficeintly
Parent	Better retention
Parent	Better retention of academic material and less teacher burnout.
Parent	better scheduling of family vacations. mini work experience programs for students during breaks.
Parent	Better student and Teacher relationship Classroom stability
Parent	Better timing to have family vacations - off season rates and flexibility with a work schedule for working parents
Parent	Better vacation time as a family year round not just Christmas and summer.

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	Both "intervention" and "enrichment" are simply euphemisms for "institutionalized care" If you force parents to operate on a schedule out of sync with extended family, college students and QUALITY child care resources- you wreak havoc with our ability to properly parent. It is not acceptable for Knox county schools to take over family lives to this degree. It is invasive, intrusive and a whole bunch of stronger words I will avoid putting into print. The school' role is to educate my children. Not raise them.
Parent	Breaks also help rejuvenate Care givers and can provide Economics benefits too by allowing for cheaper vacation options in non Peak vacation seasons
Parent	breaks are good as they are
Parent	Breaks during times of the year when it isn't so hot to allow for more varied outdoor activities
Parent	Breaks for teachers would help them stay energized about teaching, and give them chances to plan and organize for each grading period with less stress.
Parent	Breaks would give students (teachers, principals, and staff) time to "recharge" their batteries. It would also provide more time between breaks for maintenance, repair, and cleaning
Parent	Can go back to a fall vacation in October. Been upset since week long fall break was removed years ago by the crazy Save the Summer stay at home mom group. I personally like being able to spread out my vacation time at work and traveling at different times when rates/crowd are less.
Parent	Can not think of any!
Parent	Can take family vacations during the off seasons when crowds are smaller and cost is usually lower as well.
Parent	Can take vacation during different times of the year.
Parent	can vacation, do college visits,and other trips more easily as a family.
Parent	cant think of any
Parent	Can't think of any
Parent	Chance to catch up if there are missing days from inclement weather (ie, lots of snow) or if a lot of students/teachers are sick (ie, flu)
Parent	Chances to take family vacations at other times of the year. Maybe during off season.
Parent	Chaos during the other breaks for people who work for a living if we have a balanced calendar.
Parent	Cheaper family vacations in off seasons
Parent	Child care
Parent	child care and parent work schedules
Parent	Child care is easier w balanced
Parent	Child care issues during a time when traditionally this is not an issue
Parent	Childcare
Parent	Childcare centers and children's programming would adapt to the new schedule and welcome the increased income.
Parent	Childcare for working mothers
Parent	Children benefit from routine. My husband is Knox county teacher and we strongly support. Will give opportunity for children to catch up if they are falling behind.
Parent	Children do not lose the information they have covered .Repetition helps long term memory.
Parent	Children learning at a faster paste like other cities and counties
Parent	Children of working parents may need to attend a summer daycare program. These kids are many times very tired by the end of the summer with a program. This would allow less consecutive weeks in the summer to attend a program.
Parent	Children thrive with routine and the social interaction that comes with school. Being around friends - many of whom may not live near enough to visit throughout the summer via bicycling or walking - would be beneficial. And children are less apt to become 'bored' with a long stretch of vacation.
Parent	Children who are not fed at home will be fed at school.

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	Children will need less review after the summer
Parent	Children with divorced parents will lose the benefit to visit the none custodial parent with the shorter summer
Parent	Children. Like my son who learn a lot slower than other children need this! He forgets everything over the summer and the teachers have to reteach what they already should know. I personally think the summer break should be even shorter than the projected amount what is ten days less of a summer break? How is ten days going to improve anything honestly? I am for the balanced calendar and think this is a great decision
Parent	Children's self esteem is better towards school because they don't get "burnt out" so easy.
Parent	Cindy Bosse is a prejudice bigot.
Parent	closer to a modern schedule of work life balance.
Parent	Considering we have a budget deficit at this point, I don't see why we're even CONSIDERING this as it is sure to require additional costs, especially if extra help and/or enrichment occur during breaks.
Parent	Consistency in behavior towards learning. Adding an extended day as well would provide opportunities for extrawork. As well as to provide for after school on-site tutoring for those industrious teachers that would welcome. The change listed here does not go far enough. I would not support such a limited change.
Parent	Consistency
Parent	Consistency and stability and better continuous stimulation
Parent	consistency for students- overall continuity of learning, more contact with overall resources throughout the year, at risk students have more hands on assistance/teacher/educator involvement, more planning time with your high school students, makes the school more of a community partner to be in session on a more consistent basis, allows educators to have more eyes on kids year round-identify potential safety issues in the home, opportunity to pull families in to the school on a regular basis
Parent	continuity and keeping a schedule throughout the year.
Parent	Continuity is important for kids with special needs like my son who has Asperger's Syndrome.
Parent	Continuous learning is good for everyone
Parent	Could be better for working parents to not have to find alternative child care for 2+ months
Parent	Could eliminate boredom and discipline problems at house perhaps stemming from overly-long summer break.
Parent	Could have time to take a vacation in the fall!
Parent	Could plan vacations throughout the school year. Kids with ADHD would have better structure.
Parent	Could potentially help parents who work during summer months. Provides continuity in schedules for parents of younger children and less likelihood of children being left alone during long breaks.
Parent	Could potentially strengthen families Would offer high school students opportunities to work between sessions if they chose Could reduce stress in teachers by giving them a much needed break
Parent	Create an environment where students can engaged in more advance classes.
Parent	Create more opportunity for family travel and cultural enrichment throughout the year.
Parent	Currently the enrichment that students receive during the summer break are paid for by the parents. Is Knox County suggesting that they would now provide that sort of enrichment during the spring and fall breaks? What mechanism is in place to ensure that students who need intervention will participate in intervention?
Parent	Daycare during the school year is less expensive than during the summer, my in school child care is 65.00 per week in the summer it is 115.00 per week. during school year breaks i.e. Christmas, Spring and Fall breaks my fee remains at the 65.00 rate. This is a substation savings compared to the longer summer fee.
Parent	daycare is big issue

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	daycare options might be easier, more options for family vacations that are not in the high-peak (most expensive) time of year
Parent	Decreased burn out for students.
Parent	Diff. Family vacation times
Parent	Different vacation times for families
Parent	Difficult to find child care for two working parents.
Parent	Disagree with balanced school year (summer kids can get out winter stuck in doors with games and tv)
Parent	Disruptive for working parents.
Parent	diversified learning
Parent	Do not foresee benefits.
Parent	Do not like the idea at all. We travel a lot in summer months and visit with out of state family at the same time their children are out of school.
Parent	Do not think any of these will be significantly different with a balanced calendar. Where will the extra help come from (if needed), not the teachers. How will enrichment be during the year when surrounding areas are not following the same calendar. This will impact dual income families in planning. Students will behave the same as always. Changing the schedule this way will have no impact. STRONGLY DISAGREE WITH THE "benefits" of a balanced schedule
Parent	Don't fix it if it is not broke. I Do not see any benifits. There is nothing wrong with the way it is now kids and parents get to re cooperate over the summer before going back . If parents think their kids need to study during summer they can deal with it..summer school or learning on the computer. There is other ways to do it. Why punish the kids and parents that want to keep it the way it is. I have already checked about my child getting their education another way. I will not keep my child in public school if they go that stupid so called balanced calendar. Why change it???
Parent	dont really see any benefit
Parent	Don't see any
Parent	drawback - summer break on calendar presented is still way too long to prevent regression.
Parent	Each of these can be done during a traditional calendar.
Parent	easier coordination with families in different cities, the availability of other times of the year to vacation...I LOVE IT!!!!!!!!!!!!
Parent	Easier for dual working parent households to juggle schedules and spend time off with children. Easier to arrange family vacations: more opportunity during the year without missing valuable classroom learning time.
Parent	Easier for parents to have childcare options and could possibly lower child care costs.
Parent	Easier for parents to space vacation time rather than trying to figure out longer summer help.
Parent	Easier for teachers, particularly older one. Harder for parents all around.
Parent	Easier for working moms
Parent	Easier for working parents
Parent	Easier for working parents to juggle childcare
Parent	Easier for working parents to schedule care for kids.
Parent	Easier management of time off. Better for family trips, more opportunities.
Parent	Easier planning of family or extracurricular activities with greater opportunities at different times of the year besides summer.
Parent	Easier schedule to manage for working or even stay at home parents
Parent	Easier to arrange afterschool care.
Parent	Easier to arrange parents' time off from jobs to coincide with their children's breaks if the breaks are more balanced and spaced out vs trying to take all employer vacation during the summer.
Parent	Easier to go on cheaper vacations

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	Easier to integrate into the parents, caregivers and loved ones schedules. More time spent on the learning process not just "getting to the test". Teaching and learning becomes more productive, fun again and less stressful.
Parent	Easier to plan family vacations throughout the year.
Parent	Easier to plan family vacations. More quality family time together throughout the year.
Parent	easier to plan for summer camps
Parent	Easier to plan vacations during spring and fall with 10 days off.
Parent	easier to schedule family time with more breaks during the year
Parent	Easier to take planned vacations with my child because it wouldn't have to be "prime time"
Parent	Easier to travel within the school year without taking days away from school.
Parent	Easier to vacation off peak times
Parent	Easier transition to "real world" schedules.
Parent	Easier transition to real life.
Parent	Easier vacation planning
Parent	Educational benefits- many parents can take extended trips either Grand Canyon or New England and it's not always a summer thing. The ability to be able to explore the seasons and actually have time to camp in those areas and expose your kids to these areas and the history etc are Hugh. DC alone can be hot in the summer and spring break is really too short to explore it all. The shortened summer is great the last couple of weeks kids are bored anyway.
Parent	enjoy vacations as a family other than summer & beach
Parent	Enrichment - NO I do not want time off filled with other school activities. You interfere with our work/life schedules enough and you are rude about it! I feel there is an attitude of entitlement from the school system and that's wrong. You get the school day, do your job right and get learning done there. Coming from Oak Ridge school system, Farragut school system is horrible, a joke. My child was so far ahead it took 3 grades for FIS to catch up to her after only 1 year at OR. I went there Everyone needs a break from it alone as much as possible, period.
Parent	Enrichment can also be opportunities for family vacations/outings without having to take the child out of school.
Parent	Equal time in school throughout the school year with each break.
Parent	Even with a break parents have to work so the extra help time will still be hard for working parents. So its all not going to help
Parent	Extra help for struggling student
Parent	Extra time to spend with the family especially for students who go to daycare
Parent	Fall Break has been too short.
Parent	Fall vacations are off season
Parent	Families can go on vacation other than summer!!!! It's impossible to go for a week on Fall Break and if you go on Spring Break it's crazy busy for the rest of the school year. It's also less crowded and less expensive to travel in the off-season. Many families go on vacation during the school year anyway especially Fall Break and these are unexcused absences.
Parent	Families can schedule travel plans in the Spring and Fall (longer breaks)
Parent	Families could vacation during off season vacation times which is cheaper. This would benefit families that work in the tourist industry because they have times that they aren't allowed to vacation.
Parent	Families have four times a year to schedule family time together.
Parent	Families have more flexible vacation opportunities outside of the busy summer
Parent	Families more flexibility in travel/vacation times
Parent	Families take vacation in the summer this balanced calendar would cause more unexcused absent.
Parent	Family educational travel opportunities

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	Family get to take more trips during fall and spring break which is cheaper than summer vacation. Less money spent on summer camp!
Parent	family life would be better, we could take more trips with the kids during off-peak seasons.
Parent	Family opportunities for travel in the "off" season.
Parent	Family or school sponsored trips during school year.
Parent	Family time and opportunity for vacation spread out and at time of year when weather is comfortable.
Parent	family travel time
Parent	Family travel/exploration outside of just traditional breaks
Parent	Family vacation flexibility
Parent	Family vacations are easier to schedule
Parent	Family vacations could be scheduled during a cooler and less crowded time of year (and possibly less expensive). Gives more time for college visits during the school year when college classes are in session. Could provide students who have missed some classes before the break time to catch up before the end of the semester.
Parent	Family vacations could be scheduled over a more flexible "off" time.
Parent	Family vacations during non-peak seasons would reduce travel expenses.
Parent	Family vacations during other seasons ... Less expense
Parent	Family vacations possible in all seasons.
Parent	Family vacations that do not have to be during the prime of the summer season.
Parent	Family vacations without school interruption
Parent	Fewer weeks in the summer is beneficial for many reasons. I support balance calendar!
Parent	First off, a balanced calendar would alleviate some of the financial burden for parents with younger children who must arrange day care while they are at work. Most parents do not get a summer break. Although it still may be necessary to arrange for daycare during the breaks, the financial burden is spread out more evening through out the year. I would have appreciated a balanced calendar when my son was younger. I also strongly agree with the concept that academics are retained to a higher degree from one school year to the next with a shorter summer break period, not to mention keeping with a more regular schedule. The proposed balanced schedule still allows for family vacation planning as well, if not more so, by spreading breaks throughout the year thereby increasing the flexibility of options. The United States is falling behind many other developed nations in the areas of academia and workforce production so any improvement to the status quo can only be viewed as progress. I say go for it!!!
Parent	Flexibility for families to schedule vacations all four quarters of the year.
Parent	Flexibility for families to take vacations together
Parent	Food for starving children. Free babysitters for working parents.
Parent	For many, if not most, of the benefits offered, there is research that supports and contradicts these benefits of a balanced calender. It is unclear whether the proposed approach will benefit all students, staff, and families.
Parent	For middle school and high schoolers they can't really get a job over the breaks and for working parents it's a nightmare with having the kids home with out supervision. With longer summer, many can work in the summer, and mine have been involved with swim teams that keep them busy daily and it's good for their overall health. Insisting that all students, not just honors read 2-3 mandatory books would be ideal and can keep them "sharp" over the summer schedule.
Parent	For my child, I feel a balanced calendar relieves the pressure he feels from constant learning. Some times we all just need a break!
Parent	For my family, we would no longer be limited to travelling internationally during summer only.
Parent	For my household situation and having previous experience with both...either calendar works just fine. I cannot say I favor one over the other. Both work well for us.

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	For our family with family in many different parts of the country it may give us better opportunities to visit.
Parent	For our family, it would allow us to schedule major events throughout the year that we now schedule during the summer months due to helping our son with homework and studying in the evenings. The balanced calendar would offer greater flexibility.
Parent	For our family, we it would provide us with cheaper travel opportunities in off-season. Children learn so much when a family travels
Parent	For parents who work full time, this is a wonderful idea. As many kids are in full time care as it is, I believe this would provide a financial advantage to parents as well.
Parent	For parents, scheduling vacations during non-peak times would be a benefit.
Parent	For the first time since the elimination of a five-day fall break from the school calendar many years ago, the balanced calendar would allow families to take advantage of off-season rates at popular vacation destinations during fall break. The balanced calendar would solve the problem that the current two-day fall break schedule is too short to facilitate meaningful travel. In my experience, travel can provide educational, life experiences that are important to the well-rounded student.
Parent	For those, like myself, who use an after school program or childcare, those facilities will be able to adjust. They are open year round and will be able to charge more when schools are on break, like they do for the summer break now.
Parent	For us, we live away from family, and having longer breaks throughout the year would allow us to visit family. It is impossible for my husband to take all his vacation time in the summer, but on the other hand, the fall break now (just two days!) is nowhere near enough time to drive to visit family. The balanced calendar would be great to let families have more travel flexibility.
Parent	For working parents, I cannot think of strong benefits. For families that are in a strong financial center and have a parent at home, then I can see some benefit. I just do not think the latter describes the majority of the population.
Parent	From a parents point of view it will give us more opportunities to take vacation while the kids are out of school instead of having to squeeze everything into the summer months.
Parent	Funny how you provide absolutely no critical analysis whatsoever of this plan, yet plenty of talking points supporting it! There are absolutely no benefits of this plan for our children whatsoever, and it benefits only the system...My family cherishes the opportunity to provide our own personalized, indoctrination free environment during the summer...There is no "learning loss" during the summer. My home does not even have a television. We build things, garden and travel during the summer. We can have very valuable learning experiences together. Improved student behavior! Are you kidding me? Our children are NOT Skinner's pigeons and this prussion based system is most certainly for the birds. I will raise my children to be critical thinking, empathetic, productive adults, rather than simple minded order followers. Take your common core and shove it.
Parent	Gets kids used to the idea that their work life will be a year round, or "summerless", schedule.
Parent	Getting to enjoy quality time with your child to take vacations and enjoy activities more often throughout the year, instead of just summer. If taken advantage of it could strengthen families too.
Parent	Give families more travel opportunities to fit thru the year.
Parent	gives families more time to take vacations throughout the year and keeps kids on a more regular schedule
Parent	Gives more options for family vacations. Encourages/allows more time with family.
Parent	Gives working parents the ability to spread potential paid time off during the course of the year allowing for more family time together on an annual basis versus just summer focused.
Parent	greater family time and happier children.
Parent	Greater opportunities for family vacations. Reflection period between semesters (restart, motivation, time to enjoy success)

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	Greater student engagement
Parent	happier and healthier students and staff
Parent	Happier students!
Parent	Hard for working parents to find things for kids to do during longer summers
Parent	Harder to find childcare
Parent	Having a two week break in both the spring and fall would allow families time to enjoy the best East Tennessee has to offer weather-wise!
Parent	Having communicated with students and teachers already in balanced calendar school systems, there is still a period of review after each break that seems to total and be equal to that at the beginning of a standard calendar school year.
Parent	Having longer breaks between each nine week grading period will help children not to become burned out during the school year. Thus increasing the potential for better grades among students.
Parent	-Help children look forward to going back to school, instead of being sad about it. -Traditional calendars drain kids. Especially having common core. They need rest, and time to rejuvenate during the school year. They learn new math subjects every week. It's hard for them to keep up and remember so many different subjects. They get stressed and grumpy. I want my happy kids back. I am my child's best tutor. It would be great to have longer breaks throughout the school year to help my kids succeed. Teachers also work very hard. I know they want to spend time with their families and have time to catch up.
Parent	Help the burnout that seems to happen in the second half of the year.
Parent	Help them to retain information better
Parent	Help with teacher burnout
Parent	Helpful for families that would like to travel more throughout the year.
Parent	Helpful to working parents who don't have a long summer break.
Parent	Helps kids with autism/anxiety and ADHD not get out of routine and will help with meltdowns and change that these kids dislike and struggle greatly with.
Parent	Helps the kids not to be as stressed when they get more frequent longer breaks during the school year.
Parent	Helps with special needs children, especially those on the autistic spectrum because the long summer break gets them completely out of sync.
Parent	Helps with student/parent/teacher fatigue. So helpful to have periodic breaks for all involved.
Parent	Higher attendance because vacations and appointments could be scheduled during the more frequent break times.
Parent	Higher retention in learning is my number one reason. I love the idea of a balanced calendar and want to move to it right now.
Parent	Homework
Parent	Honestly it would be easier for me to be off with my children. Not everyone in the office would be asking for the same 5 days!
Parent	Honestly, you're talking about 12 days shorter in the summer--not even the equivalent of 2 full weeks--what possible difference can that make in anything?????
Parent	Hopefully less time looking for childcare in the summer
Parent	Hopefully take more stress off kids. They need less material, more playtime - especially during core subjects!
Parent	HOPEFULLY the students will not be required to do reading or packets or other types of work during their summer break!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
Parent	How can you say that shortening the summer break by 12 days effects the children's learning in such a way that the teachers won't have to reteach or let's say reinstruct the kids to bring them back up to par. I think the curriculum and core values is so crammed packed at such a pace that most of the students don't learn what they need to they just memorize things to pass the next test.

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	How will it effect parents having to use daycare or after school care during the balance calendar?
Parent	I actually find that the more frequent longer breaks the students have they seem to do poorer academically. So a balanced calendar while theoretically may seem to allow children time to catch up and review as is suggested, actually does not do this. In my opinion, it actually takes children a while to get back into the swing of things after a break of more than a few days. Making fall break and spring break longer can be detrimental to learning in the long run. I find that their learning is more disjointed with the longer breaks. In fact, the extended summer break in my personal experience gives a parent looking for enrichment resources to still do a great job at finding an enrichment program that the child can focus on and benefit from and still have a two and a half week additional time and complete break to take a vacation. We need to ensure that the children are the ones to benefit academically and not let other inconveniences get in the way. I oppose the balanced calendar and prefer the traditional calendar.
Parent	I agree with maybe less learning loss but these children should not be expected to do work during 10 day break. I know every situation is different but kids need a chance to be a kid. What's happens if we have snow days??? Do we make the time up in the day 10 break or over summer. ??? Things that should be openly told to parents . What happens to working parents that need child care???
Parent	I agree with more balls during the school year. A two day fall break is Jay not enough!
Parent	I agree with the benefit to "...provide extra help during school breaks" as long as the student(s) are not singled out.
Parent	I agree with the benefits outlined above.
Parent	I agree with the idea that there are more breaks with a balanced calendar. However, students and teachers need the breaks. While this would be a great time for an intervention, I do not agree with implementing an intervention during some of these breaks. If this happens we are not implementing a balanced calendar, but year round schools.
Parent	I am a parent of an autistic child that gets ESY services. I'm interested in what balanced calendar will look like for him.
Parent	I am a strong supporter of the decreased summer learning loss. I think the summer break puts a strain on teachers and students by spending several weeks re-acclimating each to the classroom and the material.
Parent	I am a working mother and see more problems that a balanced calendar would create vs benefits. Please stop trying to fix something that isn't broken!!! We could be using this time and resources spent on many more important things in my opinion!!
Parent	I am against the balanced calander!
Parent	I am against the idea of a balanced calendar - 100%
Parent	I am amazed how much time is truly wasted in our public school for kids that work hard and obey the rules. I would like to see calendar changes that reward good performance, not just allow additional tutoring for those less skilled or committed.
Parent	I am in favor of a balanced calendar to allow students breaks between semesters to refresh and recharge. I also like a shorter summer break.
Parent	I am in favor of the balanced calendar as I think it will provide students with a steady schedule for education and create vacation time in much needed intervals.
Parent	I am in favor of the balanced calendar, it's about time. The former schedule was effective for farmers years ago, however, more breaks and longer is great.
Parent	I am not aware of any.
Parent	I am not convinced that this calendar would assist struggling children with more assistance from teachers. There is relatively little of that now unless the child is actually failing. Those that perform marginally get very little time with teachers since they are too busy teaching to TCAPS and assisting those that are either failing or disruptive in the classroom.

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	I am not for the balanced calendar. Kids need time to be kids. Summer break was always looked forward to by the children and parents (previously). It seems a lot of parents now are looking for someone else to watch their children and/or tax payers to fund it. I am glad my daughter is graduating before this happens, but I don't think my money should fund the costs other parents.
Parent	I am not in favor of a balanced calendar. For working parents, especially, trying to work out care for children for 2 weeks on breaks will be very difficult. I'm not sure why there is a sudden belief that children lose information over the summer. I realize not all children have support at home but I don't believe this is the answer. There can be enrichment courses offered through the summer as well and children can attend those courses and get extra help to get them on track throughout the summer. I just do not believe this is the answer.
Parent	I am skeptical. I think it would be better to focus on academic and teacher excellence given the current schedule and resources. Is this change, for change's sake? What evidence does the Knox County Administration have that indicates there are problems that need to be addressed by the solutions (i.e., alleged benefits of a balanced calendar)? What are the projected budget impacts of switching to a balanced calendar? What are the know disadvantages of a balanced calendar as experienced by other school systems? In order to make an informed decision, these questions/matters should be addressed, in addition to the potential benefits.
Parent	I am strongly against balanced calendar.
Parent	I appreciate the balanced calendar concept, but would prefer 1 week breaks fall and spring instead of two. There is no evidence of the enrichment activities being available in those time periods.
Parent	I believe a few more breaks in the year will help keep the frustration level lower for parents, students, and teachers.
Parent	I believe having 2 week breaks provide stability and much need rest especially for the older students that are bogged down with harder studies and projects. It also clear their schedule for activities not associated with school such as working, volunteering, visiting colleges, dr appt. and maybe even vacationing.
Parent	I believe it is a great idea for the teachers sanity and students too. I think that there would still be plenty of summer break and nice breaks I between.
Parent	I believe it is better use of the calendar days per year
Parent	I believe it will benefit the students by not loosing what they have learned during the summer and having more breaks during the school year will rejuvenate them for the next quarter.
Parent	I believe it will shorten lay out days because the kids will know theres a break comming so there will be less truancy among the teenagers as well as education lost I just believe the new schedule will be great for everyone
Parent	I believe it would allow students to transition into college much more smoothly as many colleges and universities have an all year long learning system to graduate students in shorter time.
Parent	I believe it's the greatest thing that could happen to kids the ten day break every grading period give the kids time to relax so they don't get bored and tired with schoolit is a win-win for all the children
Parent	I believe that offering year-round school would create significantly more academic benefits than the proposed balanced calendar. If we are going to incorporate change of this scale, why not go with something statistically shown to have greater academic benefits?
Parent	I believe the additional breaks not only helps the students but the staff as well. We all tend to get burned out and the more frequents breaks seem to keep that from happening as much. If there was additional tutoring or enrichment type activities offered to the students during the breaks I feel it would help them. Classes tend to be to large and the smaller groups during the breaks leave more time for individualized teaching.

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	I believe the frequent breaks would help children and the family re-charge & have greater focus on school.
Parent	I believe this will work as long as students are given the opportunity to reach out to teachers and/or complete activities during the breaks. I think summer breaks are too long. My kids are usually ready to go back in mid July.
Parent	I can possibly see less boredom problems.
Parent	I cannot think of a single one.
Parent	I can't comment on extra learning help and enrichment until such programs are developed and explained.
Parent	I can't see a single benefit to parents or students.
Parent	I can't think of any benefits or problems not already discussed.
Parent	I consider it a great benefit if there are enrichment opportunities available during each break.
Parent	I disagree on the strongest possible terms with the idea of a balanced calendar.
Parent	I disagree with all of the above. As a parent, we use summer reading programs and on-line programs. I have 3 girls. They need the break from school routine. We do not stop learning. Extra help during the school year wouldn't happen much. Parents would just struggle with quality childcare. As a teacher, the classroom was chaos after the 2 weeks off for snow this past winter. Behavior was worse. It takes them a long time to get into routine. Long breaks makes it harder on students to control behavior. There aren't more frequent breaks- just longer breaks.
Parent	I dislike the balanced calendar. Children get excited about school breaks, therefore the more breaks we have during the year, the more disruptive behavior there will be!
Parent	I dispute the benefits listed above; summer loss has not been prove, opportunities to provide extra help and enrichment may present themselves but how many will take advantage and how much support will be offered when the teachers want a break too. There are also studies that show behavior worsen with more idle time. ...and the breaks will not be any more frequent; just longer. This survey was definitely written slanted to the "pro-balanced calendar".
Parent	I do agree having more breaks during school session and deducted these days (wk) from the 3 month long summer break. Parents should be able to have their child do 1-2 hrs of school work 3-4 days of the week during the summer break to help the child stay in tune with learning.
Parent	I do not beleive that it offers any potential benefits. There is plenty of research available that refutes the claims of the "summer slide" and the other top 3 issues are available independent of the a balanced calendar.
Parent	I do not believe there are any benefits at all.
Parent	I do not believe there are any benefits to the balanced calendar.
Parent	I do not believe YEAR ROUND SCHOOL would be a benefit in anyway. I also do not believe this is a fair or accurate survey.
Parent	I do not feel that "opportunities to provide extra help" or "enrichment" would be adequately utilized during the breaks. Frequent LONGER breaks during the school year are just not needed - kids get bored and would rather be at school. This just isn't necessary.
Parent	I do not feel that there is any benefits to a balanced calanedar
Parent	I do not find any benefit, no programs like summer programs will be available in Spring or Fall, especially for high schoolers it is a discontinuation of their learning. Not every parent can take vacations, high schoolers will play more video games
Parent	I do not like nor do I want this balanced calendar!!
Parent	I do not like the balanced calendar idea
Parent	I do not like the idea of a balanced calendar and will seek private school if this moves forward
Parent	I do not see any
Parent	I do not see any benefits it would create

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	I do not see any benefits of the balanced calendar, other than the potential to teach to the test. The balanced calendar, in my opinion, is structured to promote educators to focus on the standardized testing more than pure instruction.
Parent	I do not see any benefits only problems for working families.
Parent	I do not see any benefits to a balanced calendar.
Parent	I do not see any benefits to a balanced calendar. My family is not fortunate enough to have the means for one parent to stay at home to accommodate this schedule -- we both work. We both have to work so that we can afford to live in West Knoxville, where the Knox County Schools are the highest achieving. We don't have many options for care during these long random breaks. Currently, we use an after school program and the YMCA summer camp. We would have no options for the breaks and don't have enough PTO to take off work each of the 10 day breaks. Moreover, if child care was available, it would likely cost a lot more in the random breaks instead of the consecutive care that is available in the summer. I understand that we already experience the long breaks somewhat with Christmas break, because it is 10 days but normally companies provide time off during those days, which helps alleviate some of the child care issues. A better representative of the balanced calendar is the 10 consecutive days missed due to snow in February 2015. This was a huge hindrance in terms of child care, because the after school program was not offered and our daughter is too young to stay by herself. I can only imagine having to overcome that situation multiple times a year. It was extremely stressful. So, no, the last thing that I want is a balanced calendar.
Parent	I do not see any benefits to the balanced calendar. What I see is you taking away two weeks of summer and moving them to spring and fall break. Where's the benefit?
Parent	I do not see any, I see it harder on the parents. Kids and teachers need a break from each other.
Parent	I do not see benefits
Parent	I do not support.
Parent	I do not think its necessary at all.
Parent	I do not want this and neither do my kids. They r all the top students in their class and a traditional calendar has worked since the beginning of schools. Why there needs to be a change now makes no sense.
Parent	I don't agree with the balanced schedule at all!! This will only put families that their parents have to have daycare up because they have WORK to support their families. There is not a single daycare facility that will accept that inconstancy!!! I also teach in another school system in East Tennessee, and it's difficult enough now with my school schedule and my child's scheduled for the same reasons.
Parent	I don't believe a 12 day swing will affect summer learning loss, but I do believe it provides greater opportunity for enrichment during the school year.
Parent	I don't believe one minute in these hypothetical benefits. I was raised in a balanced calendar school system. The extra time off during the year did nothing whatsoever for kids that were behind academically. What does make a difference is DAILY help one on one after regular class hours. The argument of a shorter shorter summer being beneficial is plain ridiculous. The last two weeks of summer break have no influence whatsoever on how much kids have forgotten. By that time the learning loss has long been reaching saturation and it doesn't make any difference. On the contrary, the frequent extended breaks during the school year will lead directly to learning loss. My mom was a teacher, my sister is a teacher, I was a professor. We all know what's more detrimental to learning, frequents breaks.
Parent	I don't believe there are any benefits.
Parent	I don't believe there are that many benefits to a balanced calendar.

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	I don't feel balanced calendar will make any real improvements. Information provided that I have read, states any benefit is based mainly on enrichment on the elementary level. I have also been told funding would have to be provided in order for enrichment to be expanded, and there are no promises that funding will be provided. This survey so far also seems biased, made to make balanced calendar seem like a good idea when from my personal view, it will provide little help in improving students learning. My own children have a hard time with extended breaks within the school year.
Parent	I don't have any
Parent	I dont know
Parent	I don't know of any benefits of a balanced calendar.
Parent	I don't know there are more breaks in the school year but longer breaks in the school year. I support the idea of enrichment opportunities during the longer breaks as long as there are these opportunities across the county with easy access, transportation options, etc. that makes the opportunities equally available for all across the ages and need. Same goes for the intervention opportunities - equal and easy access for those children that need it.
Parent	I don't like this. Seriously. There is no proof for loss of learning.
Parent	I don't really know of any benefits. I have no experience with a balanced calendar.
Parent	I don't see a great benefit from it.
Parent	I don't see additional benefits other than those noted above.
Parent	I don't see any benefit of a balanced calendar.
Parent	I don't see any benefit to a balanced calendar.
Parent	I don't see any benefits
Parent	I don't see any benefits
Parent	I don't see any benefits and think it is will be a costly mistake. It will make it harder on parents with younger children to cover child care and for older kids it will make summer employment more difficult. Teachers will assign work during the breaks as "enrichment" and they won't be breaks at all! Leave it alone. I really don't see the benefit in spending the money to create a new system when the problem with our educational system is NOT the calendar.
Parent	I don't see any benefits, in fact I see nothing but potential problems going to a balanced calendar.
Parent	I don't see any benefits.
Parent	I don't see any benefits...
Parent	I don't see this balanced calendar ideal as having that much more benefit than the traditional calendar. From the diagram it only takes a way 12 days of summer break which is only a two week and two day difference which was used to make spring and fall break longer. But no activity that was offered in the summer could be held in a 10 day time span and give the same out of it. It does offer possible time to help students improve during the so called breaks but those students wouldn't get any break if they have to use that time for make up or improvement so what will that do for their behavior as suggested above. Why can't these type things be fit into the traditional calendar and extra help offered in summer not just for summer school but just those that need and want additional help.
Parent	I don't see those struggling students taking part in the extra help during breaks. Only kids of involved parents will do it and it doesn't make a difference what the calander is. Those students will always get help.
Parent	I don't think 12 days less in the summer is going to make that much of a difference as far as retaining what they learn. We need to stop rushing through ,just to take a test, and really the material
Parent	I don't think a balanced calandar is beneficial in anyway to students.
Parent	I dont think if would help at all
Parent	I dont think increased cost which you cant deny and less summer is a benefit
Parent	I don't think it provides any benefits

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	I don't think it would have any other benefits
Parent	I don't think there would be an appreciable benefit as far as 'learning loss' by truncating summer break by +/- 10 days. If anything, adding another 10 day break in the fall and a longer spring break would create a higher frequency of learning loss opportunities if not engaged as enrichment opportunities by the families. The ice break this year was a perfect demonstration of this. As a family with two working parents, it would be difficult for us to really leverage these additional breaks.
Parent	I don't want the balanced calendar with my current job the summer is the best time to spend time with her
Parent	I don't want you having my kids any more then you already do.
Parent	I dout that thier would be any real benefits.
Parent	I feel for the kids struggling with financial issues at home example not enough food. This will be a great way for those children to not go with such long stretches in the summer with no food.
Parent	I feel it would create a more balanced home life..
Parent	I feel it would create more quality family time throughout the year.
Parent	I feel like gives you opportunity to take a vacation in off peak times.
Parent	I feel that students would incur More learning loss with more frequent breaks throughout the year! I feel that the curent calendar also benefits families in terms of vacation schedules and summer trips to visit distant family members.
Parent	I feel that the above average student would not have as much time to more or less flounder around at the first of the school year while the teacher reteachs from the previous!!!!!!
Parent	I feel the strongest agreement with the "less summer learning loss" benefit. I feel that the first portion of the school year is somewhat wasted with review that could be avoided with a shorter summer break. Also, while I realize that convenience for family vacation is not the most important aspect of this type scheduling, it certainly is appealing for my family from personal experience!When Knox County Schools gave a 1 week fall break in the past, we were able to enjoy a vacation with less crowds, less heat, and less money during that time! It would be great if we could start doing that again.
Parent	I feel this has many negative effects for the child and the family.
Parent	I feel this schedule would allow the kids/teachers to stay on a more "routine" schedule where they may do better based on no long breaks and having to readjust for several weeks after a long summer break. This is only one reason why I feel this would be more benifical and so they wouldn't waste those weeks, they could just jump right back into the routine.
Parent	I feel this would be harder on the children as well as the parents. This would mean getting finding child care more frequently thru the year for elementary and middle. And I believe it would lower the moral of the children. Let them have a summer break. And this will keep them excited about going back in the fall/summer.
Parent	I find this schedule more disruptive. It is harder to stay on schedule with frequent breaks. Kids do not get the full feeling of rest from summertime.
Parent	I frequently used that time to take my children to historic sites. I believe this has helped them enjoy U.S. history so much more. It is important to allow families time to learn together.It is a bonding experience.
Parent	I have a rising senior and sophomore so my input is really mute.
Parent	I have a son with ADHD that would greatly benefit from a balanced calendar. Too bad it wasn't implemented years ago. If it implements in the 2016/2017 school year, he will only benefit from 2 years of it.
Parent	I have a special needs child this may hurt....he won't be getting his therapies or academics for the 10 day break.
Parent	I have children who are advanced and one who struggles (and dislikes) with school. I believe that a balanced calendar would benefit my son by providing more breaks through the year and allow him to "refresh" and also help with summer learning loss.

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	I have heard that teachers would benefit due to more frequent extended breaks.
Parent	I have not been given any options of "opportunities to provide extra help during school breaks". It actually is very stressful trying to find someone to watch my child during extended breaks.
Parent	I have not heard of any proven benefits a balanced calendar would provide. In the presentation school officials presented at the community meeting, one of the slides stated that it has not been proven a balanced calendar actually improves learning loss. Why is Knox County even considering something that hasn't even been proven?
Parent	I have questions about who provides the enrichment/extra help? Would teachers be expected to work during those times without a break? Would these be offered for free, or available only to those who seek them out and can pay for them? Answers to these questions would determine some of my answers above.
Parent	I have read studies in Europe and other jurisdictions that such a balanced calendar helps students. But I am concerned employers may not grant the necessary leave to accommodate revised school calendar.
Parent	I have seen research that indicates more breaks equal more learning loss.
Parent	I have talked to teachers and parents in different counties/states that have a balanced calendar and I have yet to hear a negative comment!
Parent	I have to pay for a full-time summer program for my school-age child, which is at least twice as much as afterschool care. Our center has plans to offer programs during the two-week breaks (if this calendar is approved). The balanced calendar would spread out that extra expense of the break weeks over the year instead of concentrating the bulk of it during the summer.
Parent	I like it the way it is.
Parent	I like that I could time our family vacations during the breaks. It would be nice to take vacations during fall break.
Parent	I like that my child would have longer breaks during the school year so we can actually vacation during times other than summer.
Parent	I like the idea of a balanced calendar. More frequent breaks during the year would allow my family to take vacations at different times of the year, making visits to out of town family easier. More frequent, longer breaks during the rest of the year offer more choices for travel and family time. (And by the end is a long summer break, I'm very ready for the kids to go back to school. :-)
Parent	I like the idea, but my child will be impacted her senior year. She was to graduate early. With the balanced calendar, this wouldn't occur.
Parent	I like the reduced summer time. Now that my daughter is older she is too old to stay in daycare but still too young to do anything on her own. She is 13 so she can't drive or work. She is stuck at home all summer long because we still have to work full time. This summer I have searched for different camps and classes at UT to keep her busy. Idle young minds and hands tend to get in trouble. With a reduced summer it will help. I also like the extended spring and fall break. Whenever we go on vacation the kids always miss a day before or after due to travel. This way we can go on our vacation and not worry about them losing time at school.
Parent	I like the structure - as a parent of a child with ADHD, having that structure for planning purposes would be helpful. I am hopeful that the camps around town will offer options during the breaks that we have not had before and will add to our child's life experience - our budget would be able to handle these opportunities rather than in the summer when daycare is more expensive and additional money is not often available.
Parent	I like traditional calendar better. USA is country with lots of immigrants and longer summer gives better opportunity to visit family for longer time and practice the language of our ancestors better.

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	I love the idea of more school. My 6 yr old needs and actually likes to be challenged. We don't expect enough from our kids already. Learning new things isn't always going to be fun and they may complain some but Knox Co could step it up a bit
Parent	I love the longer breaks during spring and fall.
Parent	I love the opportunity for a break at needed times for the mental health side for both teachers and students. Also, the benefut provided for loss of knowledge by having more breaks but shorter summer
Parent	I oppose the "balanced calendar"
Parent	I really agree with the fact of learning loss during summer months. For working parents it makes it sometimes difficult to give our kids the attention needed on those off months of school. It also helps reduce the cost spent on summer programs. Our children have a huge responsibility to go to college and chose a career path, we push education and jobs so much so i feel like we have the time to make them succeed with this structured program. The barr is extremely high.....
Parent	I really do not see a benefit of increasing school year. Summer vacation is time for children to develope socially and take an extended break from school. The concern about summer learning loss is not a concern at all when you compare the failing common core practices kids are experiencing stress and learning confusion during the school year not to mention most teachers i spoke to are also frustrated
Parent	I really don't see any benefits it would bring. We did away with finals in January because we were told that the kids couldn't remember the stuff over winter break. I don't see how having these breaks are going to keep our kids from losing some of what they learned. Just look at the 2 weeks we missed due to snow. The kids forgot stuff and had to have reviews in all their classes.
Parent	I saw no benefits to the balanced calendar. I only saw & experienced negative consequences from it.
Parent	I see more drawbacks
Parent	I see no benefit. If the school cannot teach the way it is now it is not going to mayyer. If parents woul make ther kids mind and show respect for teachers traditional school would work. You cannot fix a student that us not taught manners at home.
Parent	I see no benefits
Parent	I see no benefits
Parent	I see no benefits
Parent	I see no benefits at all. Only down fall.
Parent	I see NO benefits changing to a balanced calendar.
Parent	I see NO benefits!
Parent	I see no benefits, nor have I seen a study that shows any long term learning benefit.
Parent	I see no benefits.
Parent	I see no benefits. You are trying to solve a problem that doesn't exist. Concentrate on education on the schedule that has always been in use instead of trying to solve a theoretical and imaginary problem.
Parent	I see no benefits. Especially for the additional time off. If we have 10 days for Winter break and then 10 days for snow and then 10 days for Spring break that is a whole quarter the children will miss. The enrichment and intervention times will cost the tax payers more money because we will have to pay the staff/electricity/maintenance/etc. Plus it provides a hardship for parents for transportation since buses will not run. Child care will be in issue also.
Parent	I see none
Parent	I see none. I see this as a scheduling and childcare nightmare, especially for single moms and those who have no backup for childcare and who MUST work.
Parent	I see zero benefit and NUMEROUS issues with trying to find child care for 2 weeks 3 times a year. I'm not sure I could use vacation time to support this.

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	I see zero benefits to the balanced calendar.
Parent	I still believe in summer. More breaks to me just means more learning loss and catch up time. 4 times a year rather than twice
Parent	i still think the summer break is way too long. But overall, i strongly opt for this balanced calendar than the traditional Calendar.
Parent	I strongly believe that a balanced calendar would help students retain more during the summer breaks than before. I believe this will also help prevent some "burn out" so to speak.
Parent	I strongly believe this would be beneficial for our students behavior and information lost during long summer break.
Parent	I strongly do not agree with a balanced calendar! I feel students would be overwhelmed without having a traditional mental summer break!
Parent	I strongly support balanced especially due to the first point listed above.
Parent	I support a balanced calendar. I have family in other states that have used it successfully.
Parent	I take issue that there would be any benefit to three ten day breaks in the year being beneficial. My girls take at least a week to get back into the routine of school after just a long weekend not even thinking of spring break or CHRISTmas. Summer should stay the way it is. Thank you.
Parent	I think a balanced calendar is a great idea but lets get real - you are only making summer 10 days less so how exactly is that going to cut down on summer loss. I think back to the drawing board on that point. Also I do like the idea of extra time to focus on those students who need it during those breaks. So will that be open to all students or just select students. I know my son would benefit from summer school yet you have to be invited and while he is severely behind he hasn't been invited. I dont think the breaks will help with behavior in some instances like inner city I believe it might actually be worse upon return.
Parent	I think having more frequent breaks will reduce burnout and stress on the students and provide them opportunities to perform better. Also, my experience with my 3 children is that the last 2 weeks of summer they are already over their summer activities/vacations and tend to be getting bored. We and the kids are usually ready to go back to school.
Parent	I think if students used the opportunities during breaks as "improved learning time" it might be a benefit but would you want to use your break to study more? I'm not sure parents are going to fight that battle of making your child go to school for "more learning" while they are supposed to be on break.
Parent	I think it gives family more time to spend with each other during the breaks. I hate a 2 day break. It only makes me want my children home longer or not at all!
Parent	I think it gives students much needed breaks at regular intervals. Looking forward to this plan being implemented.
Parent	I think it will also be beneficial for teachers and other staff to have an increased break, particularly in the fall.
Parent	I think it will be very beneficial to kids that suffer with ADD/ADHD, being able to keep them on track with less time off will definitely help them.
Parent	I think it will give the students and teachers a much needed "brain break". Also will give parents and teachers other options for vacation. Not always having to go during peak summer rates.
Parent	I think it would be a good idea for a balance calander but you got to look at the situation that single parents as myself has to redo their parenting plan to fit the new calander.
Parent	I think it would be easier for parents who have to find childcare in summer breaks
Parent	I think it would help many kids that have special needs, behavioral issues, transitional issues and etc. I think the more time they have during education hours/minutes would greatly help them succeed better in their education.
Parent	I think it would help to prevent "end of the school year burn out" for students AND teachers

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	I think it's a great opportunity for the students as well as teachers to be able to enjoy some other seasonal activities that the heat of the summer prevents them from being able to do.
Parent	I think it's an excellent idea!
Parent	I think it's essential for special needs children to have longer breaks.
Parent	I think it's gonna lead to more burnt out children and it will affect the grades. It wins i along with a lot of other parents will homeschool
Parent	I think just adding a full week of Fall Break would suffice.
Parent	I think kids would be better rested for each 9 week time period. I think giving them a break between learning periods would benefit their teachers also.
Parent	I think less time off is better for childrens minds and their learning
Parent	I think several longer breaks during the school year is far worse on a child and their ability to retain what they've learned. Then one longer break in the summer. Leave the calendar like it is. Also harder for working parents to schedule child care for those longer breaks.
Parent	I think students need a well earned break between grading periods.
Parent	I think teachers having the amount of children in their classrooms they need longer breaks throughout the year to give them a chance to relax and breath. I also feel that children need the extra breaks because of lack of concentration being in school for so long without a break.
Parent	I think that a balanced calender would greatly benefit my son.He has ADHD , he is on the spectrum for autism and Sensory Processing disorder, this would give him more of an opportunity to continue his routine as well as being able to really get a chance to work on areas tat help is needed. I find the traditional calender difficult for him, and he has a really hard time adjusting back to school and causes great anxiety for him. A more consistent calender would be great for him
Parent	I think that a more balanced schedule will provide more continuity with breaks and classes.
Parent	I think that it should stay just as it is.
Parent	I think that not only is a break for the students but the teachers as well. Hopefully they will be more rested and better teachers.
Parent	I think the all students can be better and all year of the school
Parent	I think the balanced calendar would provide a better opportunity for family vacations where families could travel at non peak times. I am also more in favor of the 45/15 model than the 45/10 that was shown in the survey.
Parent	I think the kids will be more gung-ho to learn and I think this will put help them become more competitive state and country wide. This should have been done when Oak Ridge and Maryville did it.
Parent	I think the learning loss would help but primarily only for elementary kids since the older students are on block schedules anyway.
Parent	I think the primary benefit for me is more family time throughout the year rather than all during the summer. Current Fall Break makes it difficult to really go on vacation.
Parent	I think the student would benefit academically due to the balanced calendar.
Parent	I think the students involved with "enrichment" will be missing the "break"
Parent	I think the summer break should be even shorter.
Parent	I think there is a benefit for families. There are more opportunities to vacation at non-traditional times. Fall break is an especially good time. The weather is good, and rates are off-season. Its a great opportunity to do an educational trip, say D.C., or visit colleges. What I DONT think it should be is more opportunity for the school to have additional school requirements or functions placed on the students or families. It is a BREAK. Too many times I've seen schools try and hone in on breaks, especially sports programs. If that is one of the "benefits" of balanced schedule, then I am against it. You are then just extending school into more of the year.
Parent	I think there would be more options to take vacations on off peak seasons could be an advantage.

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	I think they deserve a long summer break the way school is now... I tell ya what needs to happen is more field trips of learning. They get bored and tired of class room stuff all the time.
Parent	I think this calendar will help working parents. It will spread out the times you have to find child care.
Parent	I think this is a horrible idea. Kids need a summer break. Knox County could do a better job of allocating start and stop days of school vs. giving them three 10 day breaks. For working parents, this means that they now have to arrange for child care for those short breaks which is difficult and can often cause more disruption for kids than a 12 day longer summer break.
Parent	I think this would be great, less likely for the kids to forget what they have learned. This will keep them refreshed. Also for parents who work 3rd shift it would help them.
Parent	I think this would perfect for the children. Year round learning is important for the future.
Parent	I think this would work well for all children and for working parents as well
Parent	I think u need to leave it alone bc ur going to have a lot of parents that can't get off of work on the days they will be off
Parent	I think we Americans are always on a quest to gain more time. Is a calendar change really the solution? Should we look at the quality of breaks our children get during the day first (before we change days?)? Could we acheive the same goal by making the school day more hospitable to parents, teachers, and students? Kids need time to socialize and have real breaks during each day. Longer lunch periods. Longer breaks for teachers. As a working parent, I have had to spend close to \$80,000 over my career in childcare costs. If you made the "school day" last until 5--like 9-5 with instruction ending at 3, but art, theatre, music, sports incorporated into every school day for kids--we'd have a happier, healthier society. And Christ, please, get rid of the TCAP test-taking, soul-sucking curriculum. We are not training creative, critical thinkers--we are training line workers who will have no ability to figure out how to face challenges that will arise in their lifetimes. Social intelligence *is* an important intelligence to cultivate. If you are going to take away their summer to do this, then you MUST NOT replace that time with drills and silence and academic overload. People need time to think and process the material given to them. Part of that process is social. Teachers need it too. We need to look at value in a different way. Our kids do not need more structured break time as you are suggesting. Do you understand what the costs are to middle class families with 2 working parents? I know the myth is perpetuated that there are stay at home moms just waiting around for their kids to come home, but the rest of us get put through financial strain and marital hardships during imposed breaks. When there is no extra income, who can afford to stay home with kids? The snow days this year just about killed us. Please consider the financial strain you put many hard-working families in every time you close schools. School hours are very hard for us to manage anyway. All three of our kids were in elementary school at the same time and we had to spend close to \$1,000 every month for two hours of care because we both work. I hope you will consider the benefit of quality of time spent during the school day and look at adjusting hours before you look at putting large breaks in during the school year.
Parent	I think you are taking away the childrens chance to stay a child. When they are in high school, prepare them for work year round, but stop pushing kids to grow up so fast. We as parents need to nurture them and allow them to grow.
Parent	I time for camps and travels year round.
Parent	I truly have a hard time thinking of ANY benefits
Parent	I won't have to hear how bored my student is during the long summer break! !
Parent	I won't things left the same way that has always worked for many years
Parent	I work in a school system that incorporates intercession during fall and spring break. It allows the students to come to school and learn about specific topics (i.e. science) in a less stressful, fun environment, i.e. more hands-on activities.

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	I would also like to see them implement a school uniform / dress code. I feel this would be very beneficial for teachers, parents and students.
Parent	I would hope my child would maintain what he has learned
Parent	I would like my child to have an opportunity to learn from opportunities outside of the school setting as I don't think they reach their full learning potential or even get to be kids when everything is geared only toward test scores. I'm concerned that intervention and enrichment opportunities will keep teachers having to teach during the breaks, and kids who need the most help or who are exceeding and would be in an enrichment program would also be tied to the classroom during their breaks. They need some opportunity to learn and grow outside of the classroom.
Parent	I would like some links to research that prove any of these assertions.
Parent	I would like to see proof of concept that there would be additional learning opportunities during the breaks. Who would provide the assistance? I also believe that daycare and other services would be impacted due to the extended breaks during the school year, not allowing for services for those who need it. This would burden families who work to be forced to take vacation or loss of work due to no childcare. Extra curricula activities are normally in the summer. There would need to be expanded coordination with those providers to adjust to the balanced school year. While I agree with the idea that a shorter summer would allow for less reteach, there are many other logistical challenges for families with students. I would like more information on how childcare support programs and camps would be able to adapt.
Parent	I would like to see research that shows students don't have summer memory loss with only 10 fewer days on break than those students on a traditional calendar.
Parent	I would like to see what data you have that supports the notion of a "summer learning loss." I also think that struggling students' needs (behavior issues, learning issues, need for more rest) should be addressed on an individual basis rather than forcing all students to change for the benefit of only a small group of children.
Parent	I would like to stress having the breaks during the holidays and summer break in the summer would be nice!
Parent	I would love to have a balanced calendar year for our students. I think it would offer less to become bored during the traditional summer break yet still allow for vacations and adventures! I see no downside.
Parent	I would love to have opportunities to travel during "off season" and get a better rate. So much learning can occur through travel. I am limited because of finances and find that fall traveling is less expensive. Me and my family could benefit significantly for this.
Parent	I would love to spend more time with my kids by having more breaks. The calendar is exactly what we need.
Parent	I would reduce the summer break even further and add to the other breaks.
Parent	I'd like to vacation in a cooler month with off pricing. We have a special needs child who can enjoy the beach in july.
Parent	If a family is able to travel, this will provide more non-holiday related times to travel with their children
Parent	If a student is struggling with particular academic skills then that student does not get a so called break/time off to rest and recharge. Right now when my child is off on a so called break they are issued homework or an assignment to do during that break.
Parent	If families are able to travel, this provides better non-holiday related opportunities to travel with their children.
Parent	If it is a true break, students will come back refreshed and ready to learn.
Parent	If Knox County finds the funding, they should have enrichment programs during the breaks.

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	If school is out during the time periods mentioned during a balanced calendar then it may be beneficial to change our current schedule to a balanced. If we use breaks to continue with school, enrichment, additional help, etc.. And have staff and facilities and lunches in place, that doesn't seem like a benefit. That sounds more like year round school and it would seem, more expensive to run schools.
Parent	If the children are not getting the help they need now in the class room or have the ability to learn or the desire to learn what would make them initiative would they have to do more school work
Parent	If the school is planning on having extra learning opportunities during the breaks, then how do they qualify as breaks? To have a break a person has to be away from school.
Parent	If the summer break were even shorter (i.e. if we had 11 weeks on, 2 weeks off) it would not only be a more regular schedule but add an additional 40 days of school.
Parent	If there is actually budget for the schools to offer true enrichment activities during the break periods then I believe this is a potential benefit. However, if the intervention and enrichment activities are limited somehow to select groups because of budgetary restrictions, then these aren't actual benefits. Finally, there is conflicting evidence out there suggesting that a balanced calendar would limit 'summer slide' with some studies suggesting that it limits the slide, and others saying there is no change. If it isn't broken, then why are we trying to fix it?
Parent	If you need to provide extra help during the breaks then how does having extra break time benefit the kids who are receiving the extra help. They are getting no extra break. The extra help is called summer school. No amount of extra time off is going to convince the children with discipline issues to behave better. It's not about time off it's about being taught what is expected of them. So you expect all "camps", daycares and other enrichment programs that have their schedules and employees already aligned to juggle and change things around for the new school year. Then you need to explain to the colleges that they need to rework their year and curriculum to be based off of your schedule so as to benefit the college kids who work the camps and daycares.
Parent	If you were able to coordinate the time off with area colleges that would be helpful and give families other opportunities for family vacations - not just during peak summer times.
Parent	I'm all for a balanced calendar
Parent	I'm all for it
Parent	I'm all for it!! My kids will enjoy having longer break throughout the school year I believe they will retain more information over the summer break
Parent	I'm an involved father that lives in a different state than my son. A balanced calendar allows more strategically located times throughout the year where I can spend more time with my son.
Parent	I'm not sure about learning better. I do like having a Fall and Spring Break for Family planning.
Parent	I'm not sure I agree that having an additional 8 days in the Fall and 5 days in the Spring will offer great opportunities for extra help and/or enrichment. I just don't see that the change will impact anything significantly, good or bad, because there's ultimately not that much difference between the two schedules.
Parent	I'm not sure of the meaning of your criteria as far as providing extra help and enrichment opportunities. Would the extra help be offered at the school?
Parent	I'm still waiting for someone to explain why KCS thinks this is a good idea? Where's the data? Why are you pushing this?
Parent	I'm under the impression that the summer learning loss is really more applicable to at-risk students.
Parent	Improved assessment data on state mandated tests due to items mentioned above.

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	Improved family experiences, as trips & vacations can be done during various seasons instead of only during the summer. Eventually may be able to get more student throughput out of the same building assets, teachers, and admin, as well, thereby lowering the overall cost of education per student without reducing the quality, and potentially providing the ability to increase teacher pay (this is if schools end up going to a track system where there is always one or two tracks in session).
Parent	Improved family vacation opportunities. Having a single week of vacation for spring break forced employers to prevent some employees from using vacation during that time. Having two weeks however allows employers to grant more vacation requests. And having two weeks in the fall allows even more flexibility. Finally, some vacations are best done in non-summer months.
Parent	Improved life/work balance
Parent	Improved mental health; Less boredom during summer;
Parent	improved potential to play sports
Parent	Improved test scores
Parent	In the Traditional schedule there is just not enough time for families to do a good Spring break for Fall Break, and really enjoy family time and not feel rushed back to school. also, after about six weeks of summer, I can't wait for the kids to go back to learning and structure. my kids are in elementary school, And summer vacation Feels about 3 weeks too long. For everyone!
Parent	In addition to less summer learning loss, I believe a shorter summer break will keep students from getting bored. I've noticed my son is good for the first four-five weeks of summer break but once July arrives he doesn't know what to do with his time.
Parent	In our family we keep learning during the summer. The summer gives us a chance to do independent study, to let the kids learn in an organic way. With the continual testing during the school year the kid's learning is already very rigid, structured, and homogenized. The balanced Calendar will only make it more so. I think it will hurt gifted kids who already want to learn but have so little time to follow their interests.
Parent	In response to these items, I am a bit concerned at the language used regarding enrichment for the arts. I hope that this calendar would not be an excuse to push the arts further out of our schools and have students who participate in art, band, chorus, and drama do so outside of the regular school schedule. As an educator, I firmly believe that if we stop educating the whole child and only focus on the academic rigor of the core subjects, we are doing a disservice to an entire generation. You do not have to look very hard to find studies that support the inclusion of the arts as a necessary part of a child's whole education. We are molding little people, not machines. Furthermore, while I believe that students can benefit from extra assistance during these "breaks," I hope we never forget that as educators, it is our job to foster the learning of children - and those children should allowed the time and space to be just that - children. I once taught with an excellent Kindergarten teacher who said of her students, " Children are like teacups. You can fill them to the top with information, but if you keep on pouring past the capacity that the cup will hold, you end up with a big mess and less in the cup than before." As far as behavior goes, student behavior will never change unless parent behavior is changed. As long as disrespect is tolerated in any form, it will be there. If we want students to behave, change the culture of society to realize that education is a privilege, not a right, and teachers are professionals, not slaves.
Parent	increase winter break time and decrease spring and fall break
Parent	Increased daycare costs is not a potential benefit
Parent	Increased family time. Increased "down" time. More flexibility with vacation plans.
Parent	Increased family vacation opportunities.
Parent	Increased opportunities to take a vacation without missing school or having to take homework with you.

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	Increased opportunities to travel throughout the year. Increased opportunities to explore East TN throughout the year. The opportunity to spread childcare expenses out, as opposed to a larger and longer summer expense.
Parent	Increased revenue for afterschool programs who will now need to attend to students who are not in school during times they normally would be.
Parent	Increased salary for teachers and more federal funding for KCS which in the end is really what this is all about.
Parent	Intervention is the greatest benefit to my family. I have two children with learning disabilities and look forward to time they can receive more help.
Parent	Is it really considered a break if the student requires enrichment/extra help? If a student consistently requires help, does he/she have the needed time off? Probably not.
Parent	Is the school system going to pay for renegotiation of court ordered parenting plans to accommodate these changes?
Parent	It allows families to take trips outside of the typical summer period.
Parent	It allows for the student to visit family that do not live in the same state more often during the year allowing for the relationships with those relatives to remain stronger
Parent	It allows more flexibility for family vacations throughout the year. This allows for a better family life which could result in a better attitude toward school.
Parent	It allows you to travel without dealing with the summer rush.
Parent	It appears by this survey that a decision has been decided by the the powers to be. I'm sure you all think you know best. Fortunately I'm no totally depending on public education.
Parent	It could create a better economy as it would enable parents to be more consistent with their work schedules and encourage advancement that would also benefit the children as their parents are able to provide for them with more stability.
Parent	It could possibly make planning out any time missed due to weather/illness easier.
Parent	It gives parents a chance to enjoy vacation time at other times of the year instead of only summer.
Parent	It has not been shown to help prevent summer loss. I would hate for my child to give up their summer and still loss a week every break for intervention. I use a tutor over summer months. These interventions take those kids who struggle and dislike school and put them in the classroom even more. I'm not sure that is where they will learn the best.
Parent	It helps SpEd kids with a more balanced schedule & less fortunate kids have better consistency with meals & adult role models.
Parent	It is a bad idea
Parent	It is a parents responsibility do to their part to intervene, enrich and improve their own child's behavior if there is a problem. It is the schools responsibility to educate. Simply shortening the summer break will not eliminate the need to regroup when school starts in the fall. After two weeks off due to snow days last year, that "slide" occurred then as well. You are creating a "slide" periodically through out the school year, instead of just a regroup period when school starts in August.
Parent	It is better for all students an distaff to have a balanced calendar
Parent	It is harder to get them back into a routine when they are out so often
Parent	It is my experience that students are less focused in school when they approach an upcoming break. Perhaps that would not be as much of a problem with more frequent breaks, but I am skeptical that it would reduce discipline issues. The term "some studies" leaves me wondering what other studies have found.
Parent	It is possible that the extra time would allow teachers to catch up on grading.
Parent	It is still unclear how a balanced calendar would impact summer swim team which is my child's only sport they participate in.
Parent	it lessens summer boredom and increases the opportunities for family vacations at other times during the year.

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	It might create difficulty with childcare for the fall and spring breaks, college students are in school and unable to babysit. This may create more difficulty for working parents unless the schools do provide camps during the breaks
Parent	It provides appropriate balance of time between each 9weeks grading period and continues to give an adequate summer break to allow for extra activities.
Parent	It provides families with opportunity to plan vacations to last longer and also not feeling stressed about rushing back home to get ready for school the next day after returning from vacation. You can schedule enough time to return and get settled and prepared for school and work.
Parent	It provides more opportunities for family learning, via travel and hands on activities
Parent	It seems it wouldn't be as stressful as a non-stop traditional school year with the breaks every few weeks.
Parent	It seems to keep the children on a more regular schedule . With some kids that is really needed.
Parent	It should provide more frequent breaks during the year, but the chart provided does not show that.
Parent	It will allow some parents with certain jobs to be available to work without possibility of losing their jobs because they can be more flexible thru the year..
Parent	It will also allow families more time together throughout the year, allow for better rest for students and teachers, and reduce the stress of long time spans in session.
Parent	It will give goal oriented students more frequent and meaningful targets to hit.
Parent	It will help in planning family trips, doc appointments And attendance.
Parent	It will help students retain their knowledge. It also helps keep kids out of trouble if they are expected to be in school.
Parent	It will help the student learn and understand things more.
Parent	It won't
Parent	It would allow a longer break in the fall such that by the time the holiday break comes, the kids are not becoming unteachable.
Parent	It would allow families more flexibility for vacations throughout the year.
Parent	It would allow our family to go on vacation during the year so we would not have to take them out of school because the summer is not always the best time or the cheapest time to travel.
Parent	It would allow the opportunity for families to plan "real world" experiences during the breaks.
Parent	It would also allow families to plan vacations throughout the year and not just during peak seasons.
Parent	It would be a benefit to parents as well assuming child care can be easily adjusted to meet balanced calendar year.
Parent	It would be better for children whose parents both work leaving them with little to do.
Parent	It would be easier to manage schedules with a shorter summer: I am a working single mother with a small income and cannot afford to send my kids to camps, therefore, I look forward to the structure of school days. I can better balance time off with my kids and their routines.
Parent	It would be so much better for the students!!
Parent	It would create a balanced time in which two working parents or single parents would have to find daycare or camps. In other words, the budget allocated for getting daycare/ camps is spread out a little more evenly so the bulk of expenses for daycare/ camps are not all at Christmas or in the summer. Also, there are more opportunities for Family trips throughout the year rather than waiting for Summer or Christmas time. This seems very good for families to have the time to "reconnect" more often.
Parent	It would create a hardship in our family.
Parent	It would create more family time during the year .
Parent	It would create more of a rhythm for everyone and a chance to de-stress for the students.
Parent	It would create more problems for our family

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	It would create more time for students to off. The more time off from school the more time kids will have to do things that are not constructive.
Parent	It would create none!
Parent	it would free up families to be able to take small vacations more times in the year .
Parent	It would give the students some down time to look forward to. The current lesson plans and the pace they move at are quite stressful, so it would help them to relax for a bit and get prepared to get back to their studies.
Parent	It would give the students time to refresh their brains between semesters
Parent	It would harm summer vacations And make child care harder
Parent	It would just be better
Parent	It would keep the student's mind fresh with the taught material
Parent	It would make it easier for families to take vacations throughout the year.
Parent	It would make it easier for parents who work not paying bsitter 3 months straight
Parent	It would make it easier for travel during the school year and, parents wouldn't be restricted to summer and spring break.
Parent	It would make kids tired of school even more than they already are we don't want them to be tired and angry for all the time they have to spend in school rather than having fun with there friends. I would not want to have the balanced calendar bc of the kids its not what we think its what they think.
Parent	It would make vacations easier for those with jobs that can't vacation in the summer
Parent	It would not be a benefit for working parents
Parent	It would provide additional time for families that need to travel to visit immediate family in other states during the year rather than always on a major holiday.
Parent	It would provide more opportunities for travel/vacations.
Parent	It wouldn't. What about kids that participate in sports and band? Additionally, what about offering additional compensation for the teachers that need to be there providing "enrichment" instead of enjoying days off. Cite your facts for reduced discipline problems as a result of balanced calendar? Bet you can't.
Parent	Its better for family vacations because families also get additional weeks to vacation in the spring and fall.
Parent	It's not a good idea
Parent	I've always thought my kids get bored with the long summer and have hoped for a balanced calendar. And fall break had never been long enough.
Parent	I've heard it better for children to be on this type of schedule but I haven't personally researched to see if there is truth to that.
Parent	I've noticed that my kids "run out of steam". They get tired, less motivated to do extra studying, and lose some interest. I think adding in extra breaks would eliminate this.
Parent	I've seen children from our county that have moved to Blount county where they currently use this model have flourished and behavior and grades from staff and children are more positive
Parent	Keep children more engaged.
Parent	Keep it the same
Parent	Keeps students focused
Parent	Kids get board with extra weeks in the summer.
Parent	Kids get burn out through the year and getting bored on a long summer. Also allow different dates for vacation for families
Parent	Kids involved in sports or other activities would not be able to take these breaks at least not from their activities.

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	Kids need summer breaks... Especially when they get to high school and work... Kids are not going to want to get help during breaks and that counters the argument that the kids need the breaks in the first place to help behavior. You are contradicting yourself with those two arguments. 10 days isn't enough for any kind of sports program. Spring Break many parents take vacations. So, that isn't going to lend itself to additional learning opportunities. I think those 10 day breaks are going to impact the routines the kids build up just as Christmas requires kids to re-acclimate and get back in their routine. With all to frequent three and four day weekends, the kids get plenty of breaks. My kids have never, ever, ever complained about not having enough breaks during the school year. They always want longer summers.
Parent	Kids need the summer break. Nothing is going to make them learn more or less.
Parent	Kids need to be in school!
Parent	Kids who do better with routine and structure (autistic, PTSD, kids from foster care and adoption, etc.) will have shorter breaks. Kids won't get bored of activities with shorter breaks. Parents will maybe have less familial stress from special needs kids being home for such an extended period. They have time to bond and do fun stuff and get back to routine, as well as the perk of being able to vacation during non-peak times.
Parent	Kids would not get bored during long summer breaks!
Parent	Kids would not have to miss school for fall or spring family vacations. More time for family activities.
Parent	Kids wouldn't get as burnt out over the "long" sections of schooling between breaks. Family's have better vacation flexibility. Possibly help thwart unneeded snow days.
Parent	Knox Co is not offering summer camps so the idea of offering camps during breaks is great, but we are wondering if this would really happen.
Parent	Knox county leadership could care less what anyone thinks about a balanced calendar. They focus on those who can't, won't, don't. They have little interest in cultivating excellence in those who can, will, and do. Why try to raise the lowest at the sake of the brightest. All they care about is there next rung on the advancement ladder, cultivated through numbers. If you have a bright child they are the loser in this game of numbers.
Parent	Knox County MUST ADDRESS the child care issue. What are parents going to do with their children during the breaks?
Parent	Knox County schools could be online with the newest FAD in education and can look like they are actually doing something, when they are not. Maybe it will make your overprice administrators fill trendy and progressive. Some of us will not be fooled.
Parent	learning can be more tightly focused and layered
Parent	Leave it alone.
Parent	Leave it alone. Private is starting to look better
Parent	Leave things alone
Parent	Less boredom during the summer.
Parent	Less boredom for the students through the long summer break.
Parent	Less burn out fatigue for students and teachers
Parent	Less burnout by January.
Parent	Less burn-out for both students and teachers during the school year. There is something I have noticed in K-5. I would rather see school start two weeks earlier than one week off of each end. Most, if not all summer camps are wrapped by the third week in July anyway.
Parent	Less burn-out for kids. They can persevere through each quarter knowing that a break is coming at the end of each quarter.
Parent	Less burnout for students when anticipating longer breaks during school year. less dread about returning to school after summer break knowing a long break will occur not too long after return to school.
Parent	Less burnout for teachers
Parent	Less child care cost

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	Less childcare needs over the summer break.
Parent	Less crowded vacation destinations
Parent	Less fatigue during the school year, better work/life balance for the whole family.
Parent	Less illness, as the kids would have more breaks. Also, higher test scores because they wouldn't forget as much or get burnt out as the year goes on because of the frequent breaks to reset Themselves.
Parent	Less in service days and use those as regular school days.
Parent	Less long breaks mean more retention of knowledga.
Parent	Less mentally drained kids with frequent breaks to refresh them. Flexibility to plan family vacations.
Parent	less missed school
Parent	Less missed school because you have more frequent opportunity to meet a students needs without having to make appointments during school hours. More frequent opportunity for travel, family time, and enrichment.
Parent	Less money spent on childcare during summer months.
Parent	Less overall absenteeism due to "burn out" and exhaustion
Parent	Less school missed from students taking family vacations during the school year
Parent	Less stress on parents finding someone to commit to to caring for the child while parents work full time jobs.
Parent	Less stress on the kids having to be with each other for so long, however, I see an issue with children wanting to return to school after a break
Parent	less stress with the longer breaks
Parent	less stressed out kids
Parent	Less Summer loss and less kids getting bored
Parent	Less summer responsibility loss!
Parent	Less teacher burnout, more opportunities for families to travel throughout the year, rather than during the heat of summer and the crowded tourist season.
Parent	Less teacher/student burnout
Parent	Less time for kids to get into trouble and better family vacations.
Parent	Less time missed from school. Our family cannot travel during the summer because my daughter has issues with temperature control so they always miss a week of school during the fall so that we can take a family vacation.
Parent	Less time off during the summer and more breaks during the school year in my opinion gives students more time to refresh during the year and less time to loss information learned during the school year. Not to mention helping parents out because as a single parent of 4 kids, the cost of summer camp can be ridiculously expensive. There can be many benefits to a balanced calendar for Students, parents, and teachers. I hope this goes through.
Parent	Less time to fill in the summer - not as many weeks to find primary and elementary students activities to keep them active, busy, and engaged.
Parent	Lessen the stress on working parents of trying to fill the long summer break.
Parent	Let's stop and think about the teachers, refueling their tanks and allowing them time to plan and create Meaningful lessons and activities.
Parent	Life is full of changes, and this would be another change to adapt to and learn to be flexible. It would also instill staying on top of a schedule and be organized.
Parent	Long breaks do not work well with my child. She has a very hard to readjusting after long breaks.
Parent	Long breaks during our school year knock us out of our routine and are so hard to get kids back on regular sleeping habits and study routine with long breaks.
Parent	Long breaks upset the routine for my daughter, who is autistic. It also means a break in her therapy services. I would like her being able to have a more continuous schedule for her therapies.

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	Longer breaks
Parent	Longer breaks for students which would create less academic fatigue. Less time in summer to forget information learned during school year. More time to get help between quarters
Parent	Longer breaks for the students and teachers
Parent	Longer breaks throughout the year offer the opportunity for mini vacations/travel programs with out loss of school attendance.
Parent	Longer breaks would allow more opportunities for family vacations and travel.
Parent	Longer fall and spring breaks without losing too much of the summer break.
Parent	Longer Fall Break is nice.
Parent	Longer Fall Break. 1 week would be great.
Parent	longer fall break. my job does not allow me to take spring break off but I can take fall break off
Parent	Longer spring and fall breaks will be great.
Parent	Longer vacations during the fall, winter, and spring would allow families to take vacations in off-season when certain destinations are cheaper and less crowded.
Parent	Love the idea of a balanced calendar.
Parent	Love the idea of longer spring break and fall break!!
Parent	Love the job Dr. McIntyre is doing. Keep up the great work!
Parent	Mainly, to me, the loss of knowledge and learning during the long summer break. I'm all for balanced calendar
Parent	Makes "Off-season" vacations possible for budget-minded families. We usually take vacations after labor day due to cheaper rates.
Parent	Makes it more possible for our family to visit friends and relatives who live far away for a more significant amount of time.
Parent	Makes more sense for the world as it is today.
Parent	Makes much more sense rather than have a large chunk of time off during the summer. Also provides additional opportunities for families to travel without fear of excessive absences.
Parent	Many children become bored with The long summer break. Also there are many students who are home without proper supervision during the long summer months resulting in misbehavior.
Parent	Many parents can take vacation time just about any time of the year. With a Balanced Calendar there is adequate time in between semesters to take vacation time throughout the year, not just in the summer. Additionally, with two weeks of Spring Break, families who have kids in college and in public schools may be able to coordinate vacation time so that the family can go somewhere together. As it stands, UT Knoxville and UT Chattanooga do not have the same Spring Break schedule. Our oldest son attends UTC and is not off for Spring Break the same time as our younger son at Halls High school. Throws a wrench in the works. Hopefully the UTC break and Knox County break will overlap.
Parent	Many parents who are divorced can now have a week each with their child(ren) during Spring & Fall breaks.
Parent	May allow for less student burnout.
Parent	Maybe not so burnt out at the end of the school year. Also, school really should start later in August or in September. August is the hottest month and it's hard going to school when you want to enjoy the weather.
Parent	Maybe the school can introduce kids to other activities during clubs like chess, STEM programs and other things that will help them think about a career path before they get into high school in the schools during the breaks.
Parent	Mental health has time to be addressed and maintained.
Parent	Mental well being is increased and stress and burn out is reduced for students and staff by the mini-breaks during the year.

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	Mentally prep student for real work/life scenario where in the workplace there is no "real" summer break for weeks at a time and one has to balance work and life accordingly. This mindset if started at early age will be beneficial to the students to adapt real life scenario.
Parent	Middle and high school age children are not left at home alone, to their own devices, for such long periods of time...giving them (hopefully) less opportunity to get into trouble.
Parent	Might help stop spread of flu and other school year illnesses.
Parent	Minimizing school burn out. I would actually prefer to see the 2 week breaks between grading periods changed to 1 week breaks in the middle of each grading period. My student and many others suffer from attendance burnout which makes them less productive and attentive. Looking forward to a week long break every 4 weeks would really be inspiring.
Parent	More access to family trips and time together over the year.
Parent	More available opportunities for vacations.
Parent	More balance in family time. Opens up opportunities for vacations, traveling during all seasons.
Parent	More balanced breaks for family
Parent	More balanced work/rest schedule. More time and oppotunities throughout the school year to spend with the family. More balanced financial spendings for families - several enrichment camp expences throughout the year/ verses having to spend a lot of money for enrichment programs in the summer. More opportunities for educational travel during longer school breaks throughout the school year
Parent	More break time in between would allow students a break to where they don't feel overwhelmed from School work so often
Parent	More breaks for the teachers along with the students.
Parent	More breaks throughout the year might give a better way to rest and recharge. Our family was hoping for a longer winter break though
Parent	More breaks throughout the year would decrease the students from being burned-out from school by May.
Parent	More chance to vacate in fall and spring, and opportunity for enrichment during breaks
Parent	More classroom time
Parent	more consistency and opportunity for those students who often rely on their school for meals and nutrition
Parent	More continuous learning
Parent	More family time
Parent	more family time - ability to vacation at more affordable rates - spend time with extended family not local at times other than once a year.
Parent	More family time during breaks and less childcare expenses over the summer months.
Parent	More family time during the school year. Give the children a break when they are very good students and who push themselves. Less time to entertain the children during the summer. They get bored before the end of summer.
Parent	more family time during the year
Parent	More family time off together, as it's easier to take time off through the year, instead of everybody trying to take the same weeks off in the summer. Easier and cheaper vacations! And childcare-to-school would (hopefully) be easier transitions.
Parent	More family time to go on vacation or visit other family
Parent	More family time. Instead of taking vacations only during the summer months or a week in winter or spring, you'd have more of an oppportunity to take them at other times of the year when resort areas are less crowded, etc.
Parent	More family vacation options during non-peak summer months.
Parent	More family vacation time during the year without missing school; able to work on parents' calendar a bit also.
Parent	More family vacation time throughout the year

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	more flexibility for family vacations
Parent	More flexibility for parents and families for travel opportunities.
Parent	More flexibility in planning vacations.
Parent	More flexibility on family vacations.
Parent	More flexible vacation opportunities for families
Parent	More free time for students when the weather is cooler and being outside is more enjoyable.
Parent	More frequent and shorter breaks do aid in curriculum retention.
Parent	More frequent Breaks is not a benefit but a fact. Less Summer Learning Loss - Disagree, see similar loss that have over shorter breaks. Corrected through change in how information is taught / reviewed not less frequent breaks. Also if teaching how to think and not the standardized test this would be less of an issue. TOO MANY Tests used to evaluate both students and teacher performance is impacting this negatively. Extra help during breaks - Does this mean the teachers are available for tutoring, etc. Not sure how / who will provide. Thus nice statement but nothing substantive to validate this. Should be done with teacher /parent interaction throughout the year anyway. Student Behavior - not sure about this either. Kids will behave based on personality. A long day can be as much of an impact. Better option is allowing the teachers / school to discipline better and / or communicate with parents when there is a trend of poor behavior. Balanced schedule addresses none of these
Parent	more frequent escapes from the rigors of the school experience, allowing children to remember what unstructured life feels like
Parent	More frequent means more often. The breaks are the same just longer except summer. I see no benefits at all.
Parent	More frequent time with family.
Parent	More learning loss with the longer breaks during school year.
Parent	More opportunities to take family vacation during spring/fall breaks as everyone at my company with Knox CO. school children are not competing for the same week off during spring break.
Parent	More opportunities are needed for students who are high learners/gifted.
Parent	More opportunities for affordable vacations.
Parent	More opportunities for families to plan trips at various times of the year - flexibility of vacation schedule.
Parent	More opportunities for families to plan trips, vacations, etc without being pressed for time.
Parent	More opportunities for families to schedule out of town trips or vacations, lessening the strains of crowding everything into summer. The longer Spring break and Fall break presents nice refreshing, recharging opportunities.
Parent	More opportunities for families to take vacations other than summer.
Parent	More opportunities for families to vacation together and schedule appointments (dental/medical) throughout the year without missing school.
Parent	More opportunities for family time at non-peak vacation periods.
Parent	More opportunities for family time, vacations etc. throughout the year.
Parent	More opportunities for family traveling instead of going at times that are already packed due to like scheduling across the US.
Parent	More opportunities for family trips outside of peak times
Parent	More opportunities for family vacation
Parent	More opportunities for family vacation time other than crowded Summer and Spring/Winter break
Parent	More opportunities for family vacation.
Parent	More opportunities for family vacations
Parent	More opportunities for family vacations during "off-season". Less boredom during summer, especially for middle school age kids who are too old for camp and too young to work.

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	More opportunities for family vacations through the year instead of just Summer and Winter breaks.
Parent	More opportunities for family vacations/quality time.
Parent	More opportunities for off-campus learning More frequent opportunities for families to spend time together
Parent	More opportunities for teachers to earn extra income by teaching students needing intervention or wanting enrichment.
Parent	More opportunities for time with out of town family.
Parent	More opportunities for vacation outside of the summer months. Yeah, I know that's not what you were looking for, but it is a perk to me!
Parent	More opportunities to plan trips and activities together as a family throughout the year instead of just summer vacation. Now families can plan more trips throughout the year.
Parent	More opportunities to spend extended amounts of time with friends and family that live far away.
Parent	More opportunities to travel and visit family out of town, or to vacation during "off" times.
Parent	More opportunity for family time throughout the year since grandparents live far away. Possibly better for divorced families living far from each other for longer times throughout the year.
Parent	More opportunity for family travel
Parent	more opportunity for family vacations
Parent	More opportunity for family vacations throughout the year.
Parent	More opportunity for outside learning and real experiences during extended breaks in fall and spring.
Parent	More opportunity to catch up with time to spend with family.
Parent	More opportunity to go somewhere warm during the winter! (and visit family, too)
Parent	More opportunity to plan family outings at different times of the year...co workers fight over holiday and break times
Parent	More opportunity to travel as a family, and less family burn out.
Parent	More opportunity to visit family out of state during the year.
Parent	more opportunity/flexibility for family vacation times.
Parent	More options and possibly more economical options in family vacations
Parent	More options for family time with breaks being spread out.
Parent	More options for family trips during breaks; less potential for summer boredom
Parent	More options for family vacations in potentially less expensive seasons. This might also make it easier on employees who cannot request vacation time during a period other employees are already off by giving them more varied options.
Parent	more options for vacation/family time with longer spring and fall breaks
Parent	More options for vacations
Parent	More options to spend time with family and visit educational places. We plan on visiting DC and Williamsburg when we change to balanced calender.
Parent	More pay for teachers and administrators. The ability to move the responsibility for weather interruption to parents and teachers. Justification for increased taxes and school funding for administrators. More time for teachers to babysit students that lack sufficient parental involvement at home. Time for teachers to move "enrichment" to family time and provide more time for TCAPS preparation.
Parent	More potential for extended "family time" throughout the year, instead of crowding everything into the summer months. Broader range of experiences available (snow skiing, fall/spring cycling, for example) with breaks during different calendar times.
Parent	More quality family time
Parent	More quality family vacation time in different times of the year.
Parent	More quality time with my kids.

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	More 'resets' to give kids. My daughter did really well after this years 2 week snow break.
Parent	More scheduled time off in the winter when inclement weather days are likely to occur may lead to less unplanned days off. Unplanned days off are difficult for working families
Parent	More similar to what life will be like after graduation and/or college for most adults.
Parent	More social time out side of school. For high schoolers, more time to learn real world skills like being able to work more during breaks and more time for volunteering and community services. Lower absentee rates due to the frequency of breaks and being able to schedule appointments for those times. Less of a "burned out" rate so children stay focused. More time for families to spend together.
Parent	More time available for travel or to visit out of town family besides Christmas or summer only. (Not that that's super important regarding education, but certainly a perk.)
Parent	More time for families to have vacations and travels through the year without having the child miss school days.
Parent	More time for families to travel and visit with family members.
Parent	More time for meaningful family trips that are not rushed. Next please implement UNIFORMS!!! It is truly a cost savings measure.
Parent	More time for parents to plan vacations or other times to spend as a family
Parent	More time for teacher preparation and lesson adjustments leading to better tailored learning.
Parent	More time for travel as a family even visit local events during the fall.
Parent	More time spent in school more learning experiences for the children!! 😊👍
Parent	More time to enjoy together throughout the year as a family, instead of just in the summer.
Parent	More time to plan family vacation rather than just in winter and more time for family to interact for working parents during break time.
Parent	More time with Family
Parent	More time with family for family outings or trips. During the year. Although how will this effect student athletes?
Parent	More time with your kids threw the school year not just for 2 1/2 months.
Parent	More times for families to get away together for week long breaks.
Parent	More travel opportunities as a family than just the peak times of winter and summer break.
Parent	more vacation opportunities
Parent	More vacation opportunities for families!
Parent	More vacation opportunities.
Parent	More work life balance
Parent	More, affordable, vacation options

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	Most kids need every day of the summer break to recharge and move forward. The general first part of every school year seems to be 100% review anyway to perfect knowledge. I also think the teachers need the recharge because dealing with kids all day can be very challenging. To be their best, teachers need the time and students need the time. Though there may be some who would excel in this environment, the majority would not. I know the argument is balanced breaks but if you compare it to charging a cellphone, if you have a low charged cell phone and only charge it periodically through the day and re-use, you never have a full charge. When you have the 8 hour overnight charge with no use, your phone is at full capacity the next day and at optimal power. Same thing with school year. That long break helps get everyone back to optimal levels of energy to perform at their best. Not to mention how many working parents need that as well. Most of these plans seem so reversed in who they serve. Every time I hear ideas like this they seem to cater to the minority which are homes where the mother is home. Most families in this day and age, most parents work and while most parents are working and unable to speak, housewives seem to want to cater opinions to schools that fit their lives instead of to the lives of the majority out there. I am glad for these online surveys that allow the working parents to have a voice but I just think there is too much representation during the day from an opinion and voice standpoint from a minority of households with one parent at home.
Parent	Most parents work outside the home and a balanced calendar would allow them the opportunity to go on vacations during the school year and long summer breaks are not better for students. They have to spend too much time relearning material in the fall.
Parent	Most parents work today, so I think it is important to consider the calendar they can work with.
Parent	Most student driven planning time for instructors. More diverse opportunities for family activities and enrichment.
Parent	My agreement or disagreement does not influence my opinion on this matter.
Parent	My child doesn't feel so hurried and can learn during intercession. He feels more confident.
Parent	My child has ADHD and it would greatly benefit him. It will keep him on a more structure schedule. Which is what he needs to thrive.
Parent	My child will be a Seniro during the 2016-2017 school year, so I'm concerned about his opprotunities for Dual Enrollment that we have targeted for his senior yeear. I find frequent breaks make it more diffucult to get into and stay in the learning routine.
Parent	My children are not ones that would need to extra help during breaks, but we do like the idea of more frequent and longer fall break.
Parent	My computer is not registering that I strongly agree with the above statements. I think those resistant to a balanced calendar would like it after trying it.
Parent	My concern with enrishment classes is that, I believe, each parent must pay for these classes. If that will be the case with the enrichment classes with the balanced calendar, that is not a true benefit because if a student's parent cannot afford these classes then the student will not get to take the enrichment class.
Parent	My experience with 'year-round' education was strongly negative.
Parent	My family loves to travel in the fall. We hate to travel when it's hot in the summer. We would love to have a week or two for travel in the fall; please do this!!! Also, today's kids simply get bored over the long summer months. They sit in the AC and play video games. Fall is a much better season to have some free time to get outdoors.
Parent	My hope would be to maintain greater continuity by having less time off during the summer but I just don't see this... 43 vs. 55 days just doesn't seem that significant to make the argument that it will bring greater continuity. If the difference was more significant then I'd see the argument.
Parent	My main interest in this is around the summer slide outlined above. I see this with my own children and believe this is a great alternative. I hope our community backs this proposed plan.

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	My only concern about intervention is that these kids may end up in school almost year round, without the benefit of breaks. They may not be able to rest and recharge like the rest of the student population if they basically go from the the end of a quarter, to an intervention mini term, and back to a new quarter. Will this mean that intervention is no longer part of the school day and/or provided after school? Both of my children receive enrichment, not intervention, so they could possibly benefit from enrichment activities. However, I strongly feel that the enrichment activities offered are usually more fun and less rigorous than intervention. Hence my concern that this particular population (those needing intervention) may be burnt out by the time the shortened summer break rolls around.
Parent	my only question is has anyone spoken with daycares and child care facilities to see how they would be able to assist in this as a working mom I will have to have somewhere for my children to go as I have no family here to assist in the breaks. I don't want to complete a contract with a daycare when my children are going to be there off and on. we need child care providers and daycare facility input as this will impact them as well as working families.
Parent	My sister in law has it with her kids in Denver area and loves it.
Parent	My son always "looses" it as breaks approach, and needs a week or so to get back on track...
Parent	My son struggles every year at the beginning of each school year so this may help him
Parent	my thoughts or ideas to a balanced calendar would be maybe on for six or seven weeks and off for 1 to 2 weeks depending on the season holidays excetera
Parent	My worry is if the District will make good on the opportunities that will exist or if these things will be forgotten once we switch
Parent	Negative : I strongly believe it could be a hardship for working parents. Especially single working parents.
Parent	No benefit at all.
Parent	No benefit but you have to realize that a lot of this isn't gonna be fair bc most parents pretty much use school as a babysitter. But not only that these kids need and desire the long summer break and what about the special needs child who needs the summer to recoup and family vacations. Please I strongly disagree. The kids will start acting out bc they look forward to the summer to go swimming etc. are the hours gonna be the same in the summer. They might as well close down all the kid friendly activities due to the kids being in school over summer. This is gonna be hard on family's at least it will ours. Please please please don't do this. I love having my child home as much as possible.
Parent	No benefit to my family at all. Actually we will move out of the county.
Parent	No benefit, I am strongly against it
Parent	No benefits
Parent	No benefits
Parent	No benefits
Parent	No benefits
Parent	NO benefits
Parent	No benefits can be seen in altering the schedule.
Parent	no benefits for a balanced calendar
Parent	No benefits, some of the oughter places that try it went back to the way it was
Parent	No benefits. Ruins camp opportunities, summer jobs and interships for High School kids.
Parent	No further benefis. Would cause childcare issues for working parents and cause difficulty in scheduling family vacations with out of town family that are NOT on a balanced calendar.
Parent	No other benefits.
Parent	No potential benefits. Not clear what full time working parents should do during breaks with children. It is more difficult to get back on schedule after any break especially if it's two weeks long.
Parent	No to a balanced calander

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	None I can see, cause serious problems with sitters, daycare and time off work when they would be off
Parent	None I can think of.
Parent	none I think it should stay the way it is
Parent	None it creates issues with parents that work certain jobs and shift workers
Parent	none known
Parent	None of these benefits are evidence-based in communities which have tried BC.
Parent	None that I am aware of.
Parent	None that I can think of and I think you are far overstating the potential benefits you see.
Parent	None to suggest.
Parent	None whatsoever
Parent	None!
Parent	none!
Parent	None!
Parent	NONE! Totally opposed to every aspect! My child needs time to be a child, two working parent house hold child care is a concern (but certainly not priority over his well being), they have their ENTIRE LIFE to work and beheld accountable year round. I encourage you to pole your panel on their learning and summer breaks as a child. I am sure you will have the same answer as me, summer breaks were the best memories, we were experiencing freedom, bonding with extended family, making friendships that will carry over to our adult life of entertainment and professional contacts, life experience and relaxation is just as improtant as strict learning enviroment. My child tests in the beyond his grade level, so education is very important but, he also enjoys baseball, tennis, swimming, and golf. Those maybe just a valuable in his education path (scholarships etc), settle down with change and embrace our current calendar and utilize the time you have with the students. While I am being asked to share my thoughts and feelings, the elementary programs (or lack at Halls Elementary) is upsetting! I would love to have watched movies of my child on the stage with all their class. Education is important, but if you cannot connect with your communities you will never have the support you need from the families to have strongminded at level or beyond children. Home life is crucial to their educational career!
Parent	None! I want traditional calendar.
Parent	NONE! there are consistant breaks within the current calendar. there isn't 1 month where kids attend school without at least 1 day off.
Parent	None!!! You forget about the students that use the summer to work extra hours to save for college or that maybe helping to pay for their extracurricular activities.
Parent	None, as a father that has to battle for every min I spend with the children a change like this could cost me weeks of time and the ability to have meaningful vacation time with them.
Parent	None, but I'm ok with the balanced calendar.
Parent	None, don't fix what isn't broken. Don't punish all kids because a few struggle. Send those to summer school.
Parent	None, only hardships
Parent	None, there are no discernable benefits to a balanced calendar.
Parent	None, this is a horrible idea
Parent	None,fire McIntyre!
Parent	NONE.
Parent	None.
Parent	None.
Parent	none.
Parent	None.
Parent	None.
Parent	None.
Parent	None.

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	None.
Parent	None.
Parent	None.
Parent	none. don't like at all. will change school system if occurs
Parent	None. It would create more hardships for working parents who are already worn thin by snow days and sick days .
Parent	none. More difficulty and frustration for families.
Parent	None. Summer break is already too short.
Parent	None. There have been no proven benefits of a balanced calendar at least academically. In fact, many schools have dropped the balance calendar to return back to the long summer break calendar.
Parent	None. . The balanced calendar concept would not only cause issues for sped kids or any kids struggling. As they would forget things and need to be retaught for what they forgot. In addition the concept of intervention would be a penalty not for learning as those kids would not have a break at all. The balanced calendar is also not conducive to working families. Kids need supervision. Kids need guidance. Therefore as with most families both parents must work. Work does not accommodate nor does day cares or other child care places for intermittent breaks.
Parent	None. Bad plan. We will put our child in a private school if SES changes to a balanced calendar.
Parent	None. Everyone needs a summer break. This balanced calendar will cause more burn out and more high school drop outs and more absentees
Parent	None. I don't like the idea
Parent	None. I think it is a terrible idea
Parent	None. It does not create any benefits, and in fact is detrimental to both students and parents. It only exists to benefit school administrations, not teachers, parents or students. Please stop this madness!
Parent	None. It will be one big headache.
Parent	None. It would cause more problems for me.
Parent	None. It's stupid.
Parent	None. Keep the school year just the way it is!!!! If it's not broke, Don't fix it. Leave it alone.
Parent	None. Seems like it creates more problems than it solves. It also seems as though this survey is slanted towards the pro side since your question asks us the befits I'd the balanced calendar.
Parent	None. There's only a 12 day difference in the summer if you really think about it.
Parent	None. This would cause a hardship on finding daycare.
Parent	None. You have our children enough! Summertime as a family is what our family looks forward to. You've already started a calendar that includes getting out of school later and going back earlier. Give our kids a chance to be kids! I disagree with the balanced calendar more than i could ever say! Horrible idea!
Parent	None....
Parent	None...The data from other districts does not support this idea.
Parent	None.if it's not broke don't fix it.
Parent	not a benefit!! it will be a nightmare for working families and childcare!!!!
Parent	Not a fan of a shortened summer. No jobs for teenagers is a huge loss for their "education".
Parent	Not a thing
Parent	Not a thing.
Parent	Not competing with co-workers for the same few days of vacation.
Parent	Not enough benefits for the trouble. 2 weeks now but if you open the door I know there will be more changes coming. Leave these poor kids alone and let them enjoy heir time off.
Parent	Not positive. School activities, camps, sports, enrichment will prohibit family vacations.

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	Not sure about the benefits, but I am concerned with finding child care during the 2 week breaks.
Parent	Not sure of any.
Parent	Not sure that more frequent breaks during the school year is a Benefit. Who will offer activities that have traditionally been offered as summer camps could be made available as 'fall,' 'winter' or 'spring' camps?? At what cost??
Parent	Not sure what they'd be
Parent	Not sure.
Parent	Nothing good. Why can you leave it like it is. ..work on the schools.that are failing.....you know the poor inner city schools..that you care nothing about.....
Parent	Offer other opportunities for family vacations for working parents who also need breaks throughout the year, not just in the summer.
Parent	Offers consistency, stability in planning time off for family events. The spring break now doesn't give this.
Parent	Offers more overall consistency both in learning & out of school schedules too.
Parent	-Off-season family vacations -Close the achievement gap created by income factors -Better meets the growing trend toward a more challenging curriculum
Parent	On a personal family level this would help us be able to vacation together at different times of the year. We enjoy fall and spring trips and it is hard to get off work when everyone is requesting the same time off. It will give a little more flexibility to family vacations. Not everyone wants to travel in the heat of summer.
Parent	On the provided graphic, I do not see "more frequent breaks", I see the same number of breaks, only they are longer in duration than we currently have.
Parent	One month before school let's out for summer, my child is so tired that he just refuses to go to school. We have been hit and kicked by him because he wants more sleep. Is there anyway you could make the start time of school later like 8:30am?
Parent	Only DISADVANTAGE: high school [rising] junior and seniors working a summer job
Parent	Only for people with money as far as any type of vacation. Us poor and working class gotta use the summer to do anything with our kids like swim,parks, etc. it's true and all the school board knows it and all of my children have higher than normal iq due to our parental evolvment so I don't think shorter breaks necessarily mean our children won't be as smart. It is lazy parents that make our kids behind and we are below poverty and we both work but have always found time to help our children and be involved and engaged in our kids schools, community.
Parent	opens up opportunities to make routine doctor appointments for your children so that they are not missing instructional time to do so. Greater opportunities for family time during the year that otherwise would not exist. By the end of summer - kids are bored and ready for change - going back a couple weeks early will be great for them.
Parent	Opportunities for additional family time with off season travel and less cost
Parent	Opportunities for children to Learn via Travel.
Parent	Opportunities for families to enjoy activities (vacations) that might normally only be enjoyed during peak summer months.
Parent	Opportunities for families to plan activities/trips during off season times
Parent	Opportunities for families to travel during off-peak times.
Parent	Opportunities for families to visit/vacation during "off season" or other times of the year. This is more than simply a cost saving venue. This is itself an opportunity of families to offer educational enrichment for their children. For our family, my husband's work is extremely busy in the summer, making it difficult to vacation in the summer months. A balance calendar would allow our family time to vacation.
Parent	Opportunities for family activities, such as vacations during fall break. Less chance of boredom during the summer months.

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	Opportunities for family time throughout the year during breaks
Parent	Opportunities for family travel outside of peak summer vacation times, opportunities for families to engage in enrichment activities throughout the year when parents work jobs with intensive summer schedules
Parent	opportunities for family vacations at a time other than summer
Parent	Opportunities for family vacations during the fall when prices are less expensive. Less burnout for teacher and students with longer breaks to look forward to during the year.
Parent	Opportunities for family vacations while avoiding busy seasonal crowds
Parent	Opportunities for teacher enrichment during breaks. Maybe less burnt out teachers by the end of the year.
Parent	Opportunities for travel at different times of the year.
Parent	opportunities must be utilized by the student AND the school system; otherwise the balanced calendar is merely a skewed schedule with little deviation from the traditional school year.
Parent	Opportunities to have meaningful vacations during fall and spring breaks. More lengthy opportunities for both children and teachers to recharge for better learning conditions.
Parent	Opportunities to travel to visit out-of-state family. More opportunities to spend time with my children; if the end-of-grading breaks are 2 weeks I am likely to be able to spend a week with them. Improve kid behavior (i.e. improve behavior at home as well as school!)
Parent	Opportunities to vacation "off-season" could be beneficial without my children missing school.
Parent	opportunity for fall or spring family vacations
Parent	Opportunity for families to plan family trips at different times of year without taking children out of school to do so. May reduce some families need to find child care during summer time.
Parent	Opportunity for mini camps for extracurricular activities. Chances for teachers to get caught up and refocused.
Parent	Opportunity for vacations and travel in non-busy tourism times. No educational, but a plus for me!
Parent	Opportunity to schedule family vacations over longer periods of time instead of rushing to fill in 2-day Fall Breaks.
Parent	Opportunity to take vacations other times of the year for families whose work is more demanding in the summer.
Parent	Opportunity to travel with family during less busy times of the year!
Parent	Optional vacation times for parents to take with their kids. Not all learning comes from the classroom.
Parent	Options for family vacations at non peak times.
Parent	Or opportunities to go on family vacations during more comfortable times of the year.
Parent	Other potential benefits of a balanced calendar would be more opportunities for family time and also for parents, a break from the school routine.
Parent	ould help the children.
Parent	Our family is in favor of a balanced calendar -- we see our Kindergartner struggling with more and more anxiety as the year moved on and believe the additional breaks would help to eliminate this issue.
Parent	Our personal benefit would be family travel during a season other than summer.
Parent	out of school curricula
Parent	Overall may help with that "Burn-out" routine feeling kids and parents get. Also, it could help kids bond more with parents and other family members, b/c it allows for longer opportunities for children to spend with them, especially the ones in which a person must travel to visit.
Parent	Parents can engage their children in summer reading and other activities to keep their children's "summer learning loss" at a minimum. Also, offering enrichment and extra help during breaks doesn't really offer a break to students who need this additional help.
Parent	Parents can take Fall and Spring vacations.

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	Parents that work will have to find day care for their kids for a week at a time! You can't play outside if it's raining or too cold. DHS policy. They have a better chance during summer.
Parent	Parents would be able to plan trips in the Fall or Spring when places are less crowded.
Parent	Part time seasonal work opportunities for older students, not just in the Summer. Educational travel periods for families to plan for.
Parent	Peace of mind and less stress and worrying about students falling behind.
Parent	People who don't celebrate Christian holidays wouldn't feel like the entire public school schedule is based on them.
Parent	Perfect for families who have to take days off in excused during fall. This would solve the issue!
Parent	Perhaps better retention of material learned. Perhaps a better student attitude towards school.
Parent	Personally - It would allow families to take vacation during cheaper times of the season. I know this has nothing to do with education but it means a lot toward family togetherness. I wish all families could take vacations. If you go during the summer the price is normally double to triple the price. This will give more families the opportunity to vacation. Plus I like the idea if the child is behind they can use the time to get help!
Parent	Planning better family vacations during year. This would reduce days missed from school from having to take them out for vacations.
Parent	Planning family vacations in the off peak seasons
Parent	Planning family vacations sometime other than the heat of summer
Parent	Please do not consider this. I Am not in favor of this at all. It would cost so much more money and be frustrating in many aspects. Thank you
Parent	Possibility for more family time during school year
Parent	Possibility of travel during off-season more affordable
Parent	Possibility to create opportunity to spend time with family that is not living closed
Parent	Possibly fewer absences?
Parent	Possibly more breaks for families to schedule time together at better costs!
Parent	Potential does not equal actuality.
Parent	Potential for family vacations at other than peak season.
Parent	Potential for more rewarding family time because of the longer breaks throughout the year.
Parent	Potentially more opportunity for college visits during the school breaks.
Parent	Prefer traditional calendar
Parent	Prevents burnout to be blunt about it. One of the biggest challenges when I was in school, was the 2 weeks after summer break and the 2 weeks after Christmas break. Not just for students, but teachers alike. A more structured calendar, will give students the opportunity to learn, and decompress in timely fashions. Reading about this balanced calendar in other areas I see only positive things coming from it.
Parent	Prevents student burn out with more breaks
Parent	Problems: one limitation is that summer camps provide childcare for dual-career families. Also, many of the sitters are on the UTK schedule.
Parent	professionally working parents appreciate this model to facilitate improvements in family time routines. less sitter time over summer and more along with family time throughout the year. financial benefit as well for families.
Parent	Properly handled, the breaks should be used in accordance with the previous skills & knowledge the children experience. A child or anyone, comprehends and retains information, with real world uses. Wrote learning and applicable implementation should be incorporated. Added breaks could allow for further inquiry into subject solidification through physical day trips to knowledge in present use. Help the children find a potential passion to pursue.
Parent	Provide an opportunity to enjoy a Fall vacation together, and the most beautiful time of our year in Tennessee
Parent	Provide highly effective educators the opportunity to increase pay

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	Provide special help between school breaks
Parent	Provides a great opportunity to recharge the students and teachers between each quarter. I really see no down side to the balanced calander.
Parent	Provides a time of recharging for teachers and administration. The breaks possibly could provide "breathing space" for teachers and administration to assess what is working and what is not, as well as provide opportunities for more continuous staff development/training.
Parent	Provides less time for students to form bad habits.
Parent	Provides more opportunities for family vacations and to travel
Parent	Provides opportunities for families to take family vacations throughout the year that traditionally would be impossible without missing school.
Parent	Puts a burden on teachers to teach students during a break for them also. Breaks are not just for students!
Parent	Quality family vacations throughout the year
Parent	Question? Do the teachers also receive the two weeks off as well? If not, then I don't agree. They need to rest too.
Parent	Reduction of Teacher/Administrator fatigue
Parent	Refresh during breaks, to focus more on studies during the school year.
Parent	Regular routine not affected
Parent	Reinstatement of decent fall break length.
Parent	Relief in "loss of interest" and relief of boredom that usually occurs during extended summer break
Parent	Research data results from other schools systems that have implemented a balanced calendar shows that often costs go up and the BC does not deliver on the promises made.
Parent	Rest for faculty.
Parent	Rested and relaxed children learn better.
Parent	Retain more and will get to enjoy more vacation opportunities as a family.
Parent	Scheduling family events during school year seems like it would be less challenging. FHS already has block schedules, so this really wouldn't help/hurt most courses.
Parent	Scheduling family vacations.
Parent	Scheduling/planning Fall and Spring breaks would be easier with extended time off.
Parent	Screwed out of timeshare!
Parent	Selfishly...our family trips will be on off season, which means savings on money and less crowded events, locations, roads, etc.
Parent	Shorter breaks would be a lot more beneficial to a student so that they do no lose what they have learned and so that they have a more consistent schedule. I had hoped the balanced calendar would bring fewer days out of school instead of them being scattered out more.
Parent	Shorter summer break may mean less boredom.
Parent	Shorter summer break would reduce need for summer camps. not sure if this is a benefit though.
Parent	Shorter summer vacation may reduce boredom and idleness at home specially if both parents work 5 days or more per week.
Parent	Shorter summer. More family time during balanced breaks
Parent	Sick children will stay at home.
Parent	Significant break in between learning
Parent	Simpler schedule for parents, teachers, snd students.
Parent	Since our relatives are spread out all over the U.S., a balanced calendar allows us the opportunity to travel and spend time with our faraway family! As of right now, some grandparents are upset that we don't take the kids out of school. They just assume teachers will give us homework for the kids to do on the road. I think a balanced calendar will help us keep the peace and be able to juggle both sides of our family tree! :)
Parent	Smarter kids

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	Smarter kids
Parent	Snow or inclement days could use break days, vice getting into summer break.
Parent	Some of these are hypothetical. There is no evidence to support.
Parent	Some parents in my Sunday School class like the idea of vacations during fall and spring. This may be accomplished by re-instituting a week-long fall break, which I wholeheartedly support.
Parent	Spacing breaks through the year would allow for family time away (vacations and the like) during other seasons than just the summer.
Parent	Spending more time with family...
Parent	Spending time with family during different times of the year
Parent	Spread time off throughout the year for working parents. More opportunities to travel. More frequent breaks for students so they do not get burned out.
Parent	staff and student will stay more focused and less burned out
Parent	Still not sure if the breaks would coincide with our vacation time, but might allow us extra vacation time without time off from class.. But this hasn't been an issue before.
Parent	Strong social bonds won't suffer from huge breaks in between quarters.
Parent	Student behavior - they are still getting the breaks at the same time -they are just longer, so they are already aware of the breaks, I think the students will be frustrated and angry because of the short summers, when it is hot - they want to be out and about - not locked in a classroom. Enrichment it will be more costs for those that have students in daycare, they will now have to pay for more full weeks 8-5 then just after school, plus how accommodating will they daycares be?
Parent	Student behavior is really an issue that goes back to parenting.
Parent	Student Behavior? "discipline problems are reduced when students are aware that there is a break in the near future." Is this for real? Have you people ever been in a school building? At all?
Parent	Students and teachers get a well needed break every 9 weeks so everyone can get re-energized.
Parent	Students and teachers get burned out and shut down. more frequent breaks would help this
Parent	Students don't loose focus
Parent	Students get burnt out and I no longer can hold the attention spans needed for in depth learning. More frequent breaks give student the break they need. Students no longer need the extended break during the summer. Family vacations rarely span more than two weeks due to work commitments. Day care will adjust to meet the new schedule despite they're objections to it.
Parent	Students may miss less school cause parents can schedule dr visits during those times. Plus getting a set schedule year round would benefit my child. And if weather happens also.
Parent	students that do poorly in school do not have parents that send them during breaks to learn. anyone would know that. the balanced calendar is a terrible idea.
Parent	Students who are struggling will have opportunity to get intervention help.
Parent	Students will acquire a higher level of educational opportunity due to the lower levels of loss of information during the currently long summer break. Less stress will be placed on students and teachers with testing and statistics. A better opportunity for American to catch up to the learning curve of other countries.
Parent	Students will be less likely to engage in bad behavior and poor decision making with this school schedule. Less likely to have high truancy and lowered student crime rates.
Parent	Students will be so burnt out they will neither retain more nor have better behavior.
Parent	Students would hopefully have a spring break that could encompass Easter. Parents who work mostly during summer months will have more time to spend with children during the slow season. Children who experience joint custody arrangements will have more natural, even, school holidays.

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	Students would not be bored by the end of the summer, it gives longer breaks during the year so that students can "rejuvenate".
Parent	Students would retain learned information better with a balanced calendar
Parent	Students wouldn't feel as though they are on an accelerated treadmill to learn a specific concept or task in short period of time and that pressure would hopefully be lessened by the opportunity to seek help during the breaks.
Parent	Subject matter would not need as much review every Fall. Learning should be year round.
Parent	Subjects can be absorbed better since the courses are thought at a slower pace and subjects like math can be internalized better. If you learn it fast and then don't have eg. Math for six months you forget a lot.
Parent	Subsidized lunch over a greater portion of the calendar year for poor students.
Parent	Summer break does seem too long now, with too much time off from structured learning. Families may really enjoy time/break during Fall & Spring seasons.
Parent	Summer break is too long. My kids get bored by the end. Our family will enjoy spreading our family trips out throughout the year.
Parent	Summer is too long for kids! The ones that stay home are bored by the middle of July and the ones that are in day care are tired of doing that as well. More breaks when the weather is nice is also better for kids. They can get out and enjoy it. Last of July and first of August is too hot to go out,
Parent	Summers off are way too long
Parent	take advantage of vacation spots during fall season and possible lower rates than summer time.
Parent	Take family vacations during less expensive times of the year.
Parent	Taking a vacation different times of the year. Not just in the summer
Parent	Taking vacation at off-peak times
Parent	Teacher morale
Parent	Teacher morale with difficult classroom behavior, time for assigned leisure reading, family activities scheduled at different times of year instead of just fit to a rigid schedule, mental rest
Parent	Teacher raises and more time off in Fall and Spring for teachers and students.
Parent	Teacher rejuvenation
Parent	Teacher Unions have better input than being one sided, Having no good real teacher input puts all of this at a disadvantage.
Parent	Teachers and students need more frequent breaks. A balanced calendar creates breaks but not if everyone has to work thru them.
Parent	Teachers will be able to "recharge."
Parent	Teachers will be happy and more kids under control
Parent	Teachers will gain some flexibility in scheduling some of their training/continuing education during the intersession breaks, reducing the number of days they are "working" but out of the classroom. This could reduce the need for substitute teachers, resulting in better learning and lower cost. Maybe fewer unexcused absences for vacations-- with longer/more frequent breaks, parents have more flexibility in scheduling vacations and may be less inclined to keep kids out of school for them.
Parent	Teachers would be more relaxed
Parent	Teachers would receive raises and longer breaks.
Parent	Tested in some European countries with mitigated results. Not a believer.
Parent	the 12 days you lose during the summer would allow the other breaks to be longer
Parent	The ability for families to travel at other times of the year besides Summer
Parent	The ability to provide rest between grading periods.
Parent	The ability to schedule more doctor appointments during off time.

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	The above benefits are very specific to certain children and can not be applied blanketwise to all children or even MOST children. Most children do not have summer learning loss. There are SOME that do. Extra help can be found at ANY time and not specific to school breaks, EVER! Some applies for enrichment. Students behavior will be the same no matter when the break occurs and to apply that you will get BETTER behaviors having more breaks rather then traditional school year is ludicrous! School has been in traditional setting for many, many years and kids behaviors have been the same all along. The only REAL statement that applies is that there would be more frequent breaks during the school year. All other statements are based on trying to promote someone elses way of thinking and certainly NOT proven facts across the board for the MAJORITY of students and more importantly a certain population of students that will suffer greatly with more transitions/change!
Parent	The balance program may reduce student absenteeism because families have more opportunity for family trips that do not conflict with the school schedule. Also I see possibility for optional school-organized enrichment trips during the spring break. I do not believe that this is currently an option?
Parent	The balanced calendar graphic shown will not provide less learning loss in the summer. A 10-12 day decrease in summer break will not have any measurable results.
Parent	The balanced calendar is a terrible idea. The research that is cited for the suggested benefits has all been narrowly focused on a subset of the community (poor and developmentally challenged students) and is not applicable to the vast majority of students.
Parent	The balanced calendar lends imense learning losses in the form of independent and enjoyment of reading. As far as extra help and enrichment... ALL children need a break to be creative and rest certain parts of their brains. The research shows this, it is proven in the literature. Student behavior could be improved with longer lunch periods and additional recesses.
Parent	The balanced calendar makes sense! We would have better student outcomes without the long summer break!
Parent	The balanced calendar more evenly distributes leave time thus allowing the students time to decompress and reduce overall work load stress. This allows them to return to class refreshed and increases their ability to comprehend and retain knowledge.
Parent	The balanced calendar seems like it would help families more easily plan their students' medical appointments as well as family vacations to coincide with the more frequent and lengthened breaks, thereby improving student attendance. It would also provide teachers with more opportunities to work on continuing education points now that all teachers will be required to accumulate those points for license renewal. When you add these benefits of the balanced calendar to the benefits already mentioned, (opportunities for intervention and enrichment, and added motivation for improvements in attitudes and behavior of students), it seems like not adopting the proposed balanced calendar would border on being negligent. After all, the current school calendar is based on farming, when students needed to be home longer in the summer to help with farming. This current calendar is extremely outdated, and does not meet the needs of today's students and teachers.
Parent	The balanced calendar will align our children schedule and learning with the rest of the world. This is quite common in other countries.
Parent	The balanced calendar will still allow for students to enjoy there summers without losing as much knowledge as students on traditional calendars.
Parent	The balanced calendar would give families the opportunity to have time together throughout the year if desired in addition to the academic and enrichment possibilities.
Parent	The benefit may be in that children have more educational time being spent for those who are not encouraged to learn from home.
Parent	The breaks are not more frequent, but longer in duration.
Parent	The breaks aren't more frequent, they are more uniform.

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	The breaks during school would really help the children that have a hard time because they don't enjoy school. It would give them a break and they could start refreshed after break.
Parent	The calendar isn't much different, yet it offers students a small break to prevent burnout.
Parent	The children who do not have any supervision/food in their current home environment.
Parent	The difference in the summer break is basically two weeks, I don't see a benefit
Parent	The district I worked in that offered a balanced calendar had a wonderful aftercare/enrichment program that families appreciated. Each break included one planned field trip for students who participated. Teachers and college students primarily staffed the programs. The teachers who worked in the program offered classes/activities they did not necessarily have the time or ability to offer during the regular school day.
Parent	The extra breaks would re-energize students and keep them from getting burned out. I think this would increase learning.
Parent	The extra help and enrichment time would be nice as long as the times offered were conducive with a parent's work schedule.
Parent	The fall break is nice. But going back to school in mid July was horrible. If the teachers are getting more breaks, then who is doing the extra work with struggling students? Kids who are struggling need more time to play outside, not more academic instruction.
Parent	The frequent breaks allow families to spend time together and give them the opportunity to travel more often.
Parent	The greatest advantage to this type of school calendar is the minimal loss in keeping kids in their 'groove' with their academics.
Parent	The greatest benefit is the continuous mental stimulation that school and learning offer a developing mind. School plays a critical part in the development and habits of children, the balanced calendar is an excellent way to maintain that development year round.
Parent	The idea of a balanced calendar is a bunch of bulls***. It's a chance for a bunch of people to get together and reinvent the wheel. It works the way it is. It has worked this way for years. Leave it alone!!!!!!!!!!
Parent	The idea of extra help and enrichment during those breaks is a great idea, but I have concerns about whether or not that would actually happen. In my experience with the current calendar, when school isn't open (ie fall break, spring break) all activity (other than custodial) ceases. How will school administrators and teachers view these breaks?
Parent	The Kids do seem to loose a little over the longer summer break.
Parent	The kids get the much needed break from school on a more regular basis to get energized to come back excited.
Parent	The kids will have more time off in between semesters. This will be a benefit mentally and physically for students.
Parent	The kids would be less attentive in class and could also get burnt out very easily.I see no benefit to it.
Parent	The last point on item three seems out-of-place. it either is, or is not, more frequent, depending upon how you define the frequency - it is an unclear question and isn't a matter of opinion.
Parent	the learning loss advantage is a myth; it still occurs. enrichment opportunities NEVER occur because of the requirements associated with mandatory school attendance surrounding transportation; ergo, no one shows up and the ones that do can't be made to complete mandatory work because it can't be counted as a required day.
Parent	The learning loss over 43 days instead of 55 is no different. However, the longer breaks between each part of the school year, will make it harder to remember over the break.
Parent	The longer breaks would allow more options for vacation scheduling.

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	The longer fall and spring breaks would actually be beneficially for us as our extended family live out of the country. These longer breaks would make it easier for us to visit outside of the summer holidays without pulling the kids out of school. Kids could "practice" their skills more through the year e.g., foreign languages.
Parent	The loss of skills over the long break are my biggest concern.
Parent	The mental breaks every quarter gives the children a better chance to refresh and absorb what they have learned before starting a new subject.
Parent	The most dangerous time for my kids was the middle school/Freshman year summers. Too old for most camps and not old enough to get a job. This left them with way too much time on their hands to get into trouble. My job was flexible so I could be around to drive them, but many parents can't do that. This age wants some freedom and it is best given in small doses rather than a long summer.
Parent	The most positive benefit is material and learning retention.
Parent	The only benefit I see to my family would be off peak season time to travel.
Parent	The only benefit I see to this is that it would give my family an opportunity to travel during the fall and an opportunity to take a longer trip in the spring. That is not enough to justify a balanced calendar.
Parent	The only benefit is more "off" time during the spring and fall breaks. This would provide a needed rest period for students and teachers. It would also provide additional opportunities for enrichment.
Parent	The only legitimate reason listed above is the "less summer learning loss." The rest support my earlier comments of not supporting the traditional work week, or not good reasons.
Parent	The only real benefits I hear is how OTHER people will be taking their vacations - how does that help their child's schooling?
Parent	The only thing it benefits is the staff and faculty of the schools!
Parent	The opportunities for extra help should be for any child, and not have a number of limited spaces. If there are a limited amount of spaces then this would be a con.
Parent	The opportunity for extra help during breaks sounds good, but if you are going to sell this, you better make it happen.
Parent	The opportunity to vacation during "off" peak times.
Parent	The potential benefits are ridiculous. Exactly how would snow days be made up during the school year if there were even fewer instruction days and also child care issues year around?
Parent	The primary benefit for our family would be schedule continuity... we can keep on a regular school schedule for the first month of school, but at the end of the second month my kids are going to bed at midnight and waking up at nine. I think a balanced calendar would help us all stay on track.
Parent	The real way to improve the achievement gap is to have a year round school. Reducing the summer break by a mere 11 days will not prevent the summer slide. However, if this is a way to get closer to a true year round calendar, then I favor it.
Parent	The reason I clicked "disagree" for extra help and enrichment opportunities is because I do not believe students will want to come for these opportunities during their breaks. Teachers will not want to teach them either. I'm a teacher and if I have 2 weeks off I will be taking advantage of the break. Whether the kids need extra help or not, I don't think they will want to go.
Parent	The research does not show any significant growth in improving grades or behavior.
Parent	The risks and proven ineffectiveness in other communities far outweigh these perceived, not factual, benefits.
Parent	the school board seems to like it
Parent	The school system would not use the breaks to help students who need it. Yiu dint offer help in the summer. My sin needs reading help. He doesn't get he'll from school unless it is shown to digress. I feel you are misrepresenting the breaks

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	The shorter break in the summer will help the older aged students edge towards a traditional work schedule... i.e. 5 days a week, all summer long. It should help with the shock of working summers, once out of school. Also, private childcare cost while outside of school(i.e. full-time child care) will be better balanced throughout the year.
Parent	The students would be getting used to college schedules
Parent	The summer learning loss is huge for us. Plus, one of my children needs the extra breaks....she loses focus when in classroom for long periods of time and also with long weeks before a break.
Parent	The summer slide would become a "frequent break slide", ask any teacher after our two week snow break this year. The balanced calendar also does not address the the sociological issues that are involved with students that they claim it would help. Those with less than desirable learning conditions are not going to be helped by a redistribution of time. What is true in the summer, will be true year round. You also can't expect those students to use the "break time" for intervention time consistently. Then it would truly become year round for students and teachers and I think there would be quite a push back. On that note, it seems that teachers would need a sizable pay increase to compensate them for the intervention "break" time if they are expected to work with struggling students.
Parent	There are no benefits from switching. All research citations are false and unproven. Do not switch to it.
Parent	There are no benefits to a 45-10 Balanced calendar. Read the RESEARCH, not the PROPOGANDA!!!!!!
Parent	there are no benefits to a balanced calendar.....
Parent	There are no benefits to the balanced calendar. Only disadvantages exist with this proposal.
Parent	There are no benefits. Students will not get a true break from school. During every "break" now my high school students are working on papers or projects, summer is their only down time and you want to take that away. My children are honors students who do not need remediation. Target the students who need extra time in the summer and mandate that they go year round.
Parent	There are no benefits. Learning loss occurs at a higher rate surrounding more and longer breaks. Because of child care needs The school becomes the ONLY "enrichment" opportunity. A balanced calendar is an intrusion into family life. The idea that the breaks allow for "intervention" is proof of this. Kids will be in school far far too much. This assumes that there is no learning or growing or "intervention" outside of the classroom. This assumes that families have no interest in spending off-time with their children and providing something valuable other than class work. This assumes that my work and time and intervention with my own children is less valuable than placing them on school over the extended breaks. This is truly an unwanted intrusion into family life
Parent	There are no benefits. The balanced calendar puts a hardship on parents with finding daycare during the breaks if the schools do not offer this.
Parent	There are no other benefits. I do not support a balanced calendar because the kids (and teachers/staff) need break time from school, not intercession or enrichment work. If the balanced calendar breaks were truly BREAKS, then I would support it. My kids are not going to attend school during their breaks, period. We will homeschool if we have to.
Parent	There are no potential benefits of a balanced calendar. I am not in favor of a balanced calendar. I strongly prefer the traditional calendar.
Parent	There are none
Parent	There are none until we get rid of McIntyre. I don't take my vacation early spring or late fall as you tried to sell everyone on. This is total bs
Parent	There are not any benefits. It will add cost and lead to disgruntled students
Parent	There are not more frequent breaks - just potentially longer ones IF not used for extra help or enrichment.

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	There aren't really any benefits. Time to rest and recharge is good, however that precludes all your opportunities for "enrichment" and "extra help". Improved behavior? Have you been in a school before a break?
Parent	There is a shortage of proof that this actually improves long term outcomes. It is more costly than the current calendar
Parent	There is no data that has been compiled or studied that proves a balanced calendar will result in these suggested benefits.
Parent	There is no evidence based research to support these alleged improvement. Plus it defeats the purpose. If you hold the kids in an enrichment program and or extra help during their break time it deprives them of the very breaks you are suggesting. Plus this just means the school is operating more days per year and there is not plan identified regarding how to fund the extra cost.
Parent	There is no potential benefits in my opinion. Any time there are breaks in education it takes approximately ten school days to get the children back on track
Parent	THERE IS NO PROVEN DATA THAT BALANCED CALENDAR DOES ANY OF THE BENEFIT BEING PROMOTED. YOU ARE ONLY HOPING THE BENEFITS OCCUR. WE DO NOT NEED A SALES PITCH WE NEED AN IMPROVED EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM WITHIN THE ALREADY ESTABLISHED STRUCTURE.
Parent	There is not enough funds in the budget to cover any enrichment or extra help.
Parent	there is nothing helpful by doing this
Parent	There isn't any. Don't try and fix what's not broke.
Parent	There really are no benefits.
Parent	There should not only be a program to help the kids that are a little behind but there should also be a voluntary program to help the kids that would do well to get a little ahead as well
Parent	There will definitely have to be sacrifices. Both my husband and I teach at UT, so calendar matching is never easy. However, summers are just too long.....
Parent	There will only be opportunities to provide extra help and for enrichment during breaks if the school remains open and the staff have to report for tutoring and other activities. Otherwise this is a moot point and unfair questions.
Parent	There would be more time for the school to influence a child
Parent	There would be nothing worse for my family than a balanced calendar. In fact, I think we should go to school longer into the spring time and go back to school later in the summer. The first 2 weeks of August is still SUMMER and should be SUMMER break for all the kids. It is too hot during those 2 weeks (and the rest of the month for that matter) to be waiting for a bus, riding on a bus, playing outside at recess, etc etc. Kids should be swimming and staying cool during those weeks. In addition, my child goes to summer camp and is currently having to miss the last week of camp to get back to school in August. A balanced calendar would not allow any kids to attend sleep away camp that lasts more than 5 weeks. Sleep away camp is when some of us became adults and leaders. Being a camper and then a counselor was one of the best experiences I have ever had in my life.
Parent	These "benefits" are listed as if the funding exists for both intervention and enrichment and i do not believe that is the true.
Parent	These enrichment camps that can be moved easily are only local. The national string camp. For instance, cannot b e moved to accommodate Knox County. It's very ego centric of you to imply that.
Parent	These items start at home. The family that places emphasis on learning will correct these points themselves.
Parent	These thoughts sound good and looks good on paper like anything else that is all it adds up to. Do not make changes to make ourselves feel good. In reality this is not a funtioning concept it will work for a few select students and parents while leaving many others left to struggle.

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	They need to limit each teacher from so much homework. These kids go to school all day and do homework all evening. It's too much. I homework assignment each day. Let teachers alternate days.
Parent	They should make it mandatory for students to be tutored during the breaks if they have a failing grade.
Parent	This allows families that have 2 working parents to enjoy more balanced quality family time throughout the year. We can visit family, take educational trips, help in the community and build a stronger bond. For working parents, it is very difficult to only have the ability to take vacation with your family during the summer. This cycle would help kids and teachers feel refreshed.
Parent	This allows the children to have extended time off during the school year. This would also help with mid-semester burn out.
Parent	This balanced calendar will be a problem for single parents that have to have a full time sitter for their child basically 30 days of the years that are spaced out by 44 days of not needing a full time sitter. Babysitters are not going to be able to be found 10 days at a time which will cause problems with parents work schedule. On top of the lesser Summer break for children that need and want time time off. If it's not broke don't fix it. I am sure the majority of the school board panel did not have a year round / balanced calendar - as I did not either and last time I checked, we turned out just fine.
Parent	This greatly improved my nephews grades as this was implemented in Ohio
Parent	This has not been proven to help with learning loss. Perhaps ask the teachers what they think. Most greatly oppose this schedule.
Parent	This is a scheduling nightmare for parents who work outside of the home!!!!
Parent	This is a wonderful plan it was called 45/15 and we rotated year-round we didn't have a longer summer break I see this with extra time in summer good.
Parent	This is going to create more conflict for working parents.
Parent	This is one sided vendors and I completely disagree. These same benefits can be achieved during the year as well. Do NOT pin a child behavior on when the attend school during the year. It has NOTHING to do with it!
Parent	This survey is full of loaded questions.
Parent	This survey seems to be heavily tilted toward a "balanced Calendar" whoever came up with this needed to be more neutral. I would call this an unfair survey.
Parent	This will be a huge mistake for Knox County. Although I do agree that a balanced calendar would improve student behavior, that's about it. Daycare centers, family vacations, the ability for high school students to obtain summer jobs would all be impacted. PLEASE do not implement this balanced calendar!!!
Parent	This would be great for my child that has adjustment issues. I hope this can be implemented!
Parent	This would completely disrupt our family life and be a great difficulty with our other children's schedules and work schedules I see no benefit in this schedule and vote against it.
Parent	This would not work for those of us single parents who by law of the court has to send our kids to the other spouse during summer break under the current schedule. I would be in contempt of court if my kids didnt have the full summer to be at the other partys residence.

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	Though it's never mentioned (which I admit is alarming, frustrating & always seems to be omitted from any & all school/cty discussions and future plans) the effects on our special needs/CDC students & their families may prove to be more helpful than our typical calender schedule. For all those same reasons as mentioned for all our typical students/families. Being the parent of a special needs child my self; I am irritated at the school system in it's entirety for being consistent in leaving all special needs students and their families out of the questionnaires, always keeping our rights and best interests unseen, hidden in the dark corners & crevices. Never to be thought of anywhere close to the same levels as typical students, this is why my state, county & country are failing my child and countless others, thus making our present life a constant state of strife and struggle putting our/their future on the backburner for whatever reasons unbeknownst to me. This is something I will see changed....
Parent	Though we have not yet personally experienced the schedule change, those residing in areas with a balanced calendar system already in place have been pleased. Many dear friends and family members work as public school teachers and students in East Tennessee. As academic requirements have changed and drastically increased over the years, many have been overwhelmed with additional work, stress, and the lack of time for support, adjustment, and rest. I do not know of a proper remedy for this situation, but something must change, so the wonderful teachers and students who work diligently to improve their communities and themselves will be rewarded for their good work.
Parent	time and space for remedial v.s. gifted personalized learning. Maintenance will be better balanced for seasonal readiness. Access to facility for community opportunities. More room for flu season.
Parent	time for church activities such as mission trips/projects without missing school days
Parent	Time for families to take breaks and spend time together between grading periods. It would provide a moment to rest children's my minds and let them be kids. Let them play or go on vacations. I think it would also reduce the number of student absences and tardies.
Parent	Time for families to travel other than during congested summer periods
Parent	Time for TEACHERS to recharge
Parent	time for teachers to reflect and prepare based on those reflections.
Parent	Time for teachers to refresh themselves and have a break to rest.
Parent	Time off for parents to rest and recharge throughout the year as well. Not just for students and teachers, administration.
Parent	time to go to college visits
Parent	Time to reorganize binders, & restock student and classroom supplies.
Parent	Time to take a vacation other than crowded and expensive summer
Parent	To add to the "Balanced Breaks" note, balanced calendars would create a sort of interval style of learning. If education is the excercising of the mind, you are creating a sort of interval exercising program for the mind, treating it more as an organ to be exercised rather than a machine processor that uploads primarily content.
Parent	To help some kids that struggle with getting to eat at home have less of a big break to where they may be struggling.
Parent	Too many breaks during the year as it is means that the summer is very short as it is. Twelve days shorter summer is not going to significantly reduce the "summer learning loss." Additionally, having a longer summer break allows for summer jobs, and for younger students, camps, enrichment opportunities, travel, and concentrated childcare. There are too many day or two breaks as it is.

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	Travel for longer, further and in different seasons of the year. Summer burnout around end of July. More family time and opportunities. Recharge. No homework over the break, it isn't just to make this a break for teachers and staff and assign tons of work to the students. In that case, I believe their should be amendments and policies to adhere to in regards to teachers doing that in particular. No one looks forward to a break or enrichment opportunities when they know they have homework in addition to their activities/break.
Parent	Travel in spring and fall
Parent	Travel oportunities during the different seasons
Parent	Travel oportunities, less time to get bored or stale in summer, burnout reduction or break,
Parent	Travel oportunities during times of the year that are less busy than summer break
Parent	Travel opportunity during fall and spring breaks. But longer summer break would be beneficial for international students who would like to go to visit their families (grandparents/cousins...) for more then one month.. Both calendars have advantages and disadvantages.. First I would make fall OR spring break longer (ONE of them, as an experiment or transitional stage).. And then, if it works, I would make the second (fall of spring) break longer as well.. If it does not work, I would go back to traditional calendar..
Parent	Travel, rest, family time.
Parent	Under privileged children or at risk children will hopefully have more opportunities for help academically. (If funding is there to transport and feed them.)
Parent	UNLESS YOU AS THE PARENT IS EMPLOYED THRU KNOX COUNTY SCHOOLS THEN THIS SCHEDULE WILL BE VERY DIFFICULT FOR NORMAL WORKING PARENTS.
Parent	Unsure since I have no experience
Parent	use the school facilities in a more equitable way throughout the year as for the opportunities for enrichment in the breaks I need more information that is why I marked neutral
Parent	Vacation flexibility
Parent	Vacation oportunities to places like Disney that are over crowded during the other holidays.
Parent	Vacation time for families
Parent	Vacation time with the kids.
Parent	Vacations are cheaper ☺☺
Parent	Vacations at a variety of times during the year could decrease cost. Spreading out childcare throughout the year could also be a benefit.
Parent	Vacations during non-peak periods of the year.
Parent	Vacations during times of off peak season pricing. More oportunities for families to travel together. Provides a MUCH NEEDED break for the educators too.
Parent	We believe that enacting a balanced calendar year, as proposed herein, would hinder our child's extracurricular, enriching summer activities, camps, oportunities to meet new friends, have new social and personal experiences, and interfere with family vacations and family time. Additionally, it would present childcare issues. Our family has planned enriching camps and classes our son takes part in during the summers, which would we would be hard pressed to sacrifice. although a balanced calendar MAY be beneficial to students who truly need to the extra educational enrichment, we are not in favor of a balanced calendar.
Parent	We can enjoy the spring and fall more and go on vacations at different times of the year (not just the summer).
Parent	We can take more vacations during the different seasons!
Parent	We do not feel that the difference is significant enough to be beneficial.
Parent	We have found with our Granddaughter that she tends to get bored with so much time off in the Summer. I believe balanced would be better for kids in the long haul.
Parent	We know 2 families in Nashville that are on the balanced school year and do not see any of the above benefits taking place in their home.
Parent	We like the idea of school starting earlier in August or even late July.

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	We look forward to saving money on vacations that aren't on "peak time"! Go for it! Let's do it! What are we waiting for?!
Parent	We make plans for visiting relatives during the summer. I work with my son on schooling, furthermore behavior is learned at home. We definitely don't allow him to act up at home, so the summer break has nothing to do with it. This will not work for us, if this happens we will be forced to put him in private schooling. We do not support the balanced calander!
Parent	We need to know what these enrichment and intervention options will look like before the calendar is implemented. Especially the COST.
Parent	We should already be providing opportunities for enrichment over the summer break
Parent	We should keep traditional but being back full week of fall break. You could do this by simply making thanksgiving break a full week and call it fall break.
Parent	We would be able to schedule our sons surgeries during the breaks and therefore our kids would miss less school days.
Parent	We would like to take family trips at other times of the year besides the traditional summer break. Having 10 days off between terms would allow us to travel more easily.
Parent	Week long fall break leave everything else same
Parent	Well-being and better mental health for students AND teachers!
Parent	Well-rested teachers, planning time for teachers
Parent	What happens to these kids when they go to college and they are still on a traditional calander? There will be a loss for many students that want to take summer internships. Athletic groups and seasons could not adjust to this. You are not just asking the students and parents to change, but everyone, (parents jobs, traditions ect.) and that is unfair. From what I have been told this will also increase our budget for money that we do not have.
Parent	What interesting phrasing for both this question and the survey above. This question presupposes there are benefits, even additional benefits. There are not necessarily any academic benefits to the balanced calendar. Extra help and enrichment are available only if students will attend or can afford to attend.
Parent	When students have longer balanced breaks during the year vs a LONG summer, they have time to get help for a class they may be struggling with such as Algebra. Schools could request budgets for enrichment programs for subject area tutoring or fun activities that are NOT competitive sports.
Parent	When we first started discussing this as a DAC THREE years ago, the reson it was brought u was because parents wanted a break between quarters. There is no way you can enforce an enrichment period or adequately budget when there are so many variables in play. The entire point of the balanced calendar was to PROVIDE A BREAK for all parties involved--not require teachers to work while students play.
Parent	While I agree on some levels with these, I am concerned the cons out weigh the benefits. I am not sure that the summer learning loss is valid...how much less are they going to lose by just cutting two weeks.
Parent	Who is picking up additional cost of intervention/enrichment during breaks?
Parent	Who would offer "enrichment"? The schools? Who would offer "extra help" during breaks?
Parent	Why are you asking parents whether the reduction in summer learning loss is a benefit & improved student behavior? The research should answer this question for you. What about the learning loss over the intersession breaks?
Parent	Why only list the benefits? It seems it would have a greater negative impact than positive. I feel if a student had two weeks off during fall and spring instead of one this would create problems with parents who can afford to take one week off to watch their child but not two. A lot of us can't afford childcare so we schedule our vacation during these times.
Parent	Wider variety of oppourtunities throughout the year for families to vacation together, especially those involved in summer sports which limit oppourtunities.
Parent	Will help with child care issues in summer.

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	Will help children who depend on school meals
Parent	With all the breaks you really just want our kids studying 24/7. you also don't provide the month that summer would be. if it is in May then the pools are not open & kids can't enjoy the weather. You have not provided enough detailed information to provide a valid conversation.
Parent	With community business support an aged student can work more hours throughout the year spread out to broaden their knowledge of types of jobs available in their community increasing earnings throughout the year. In turn a business program for shortened internships might influence the route a junior or senior might look forward to in college or trade school.
Parent	With fewer days reserved for summer break, the acclimation struggles with a student and the new teacher may be reduced. My son has seemed to struggle a bit more early in each school year while adjusting to what his new teacher expects. Some portion of that long adjustment must be attributed to having no school for two months. Shorten that time, and one year will roll more easily into the next.
Parent	With longer breaks, contagious illnesses within the schools should have a chance to clear up.
Parent	with my special needs child, he lost less learning and was able to move forward at a better pace when there were less days off between school sections. my non-special needs child benefited by not having to re-learn information and was able to move faster with her AP programs.
Parent	Wonderful and only positive outcomes
Parent	Working parents could possibly spend more time with students as they could spread their time off from work out to coincide with school breaks.
Parent	Working parents with no child care will not have ability to provide care during the extended break time especially when employers limit their time off.
Parent	working parents would be better able to provide care/entertainment for children with several breaks throughout year as opposed to one long break during summer
Parent	Working parents wouldnt have to deal with their kids at home all summer
Parent	Worthwhile family togetherness during those 10-day breaks
Parent	Would create other issues and problems.
Parent	Would give more opportunity for rest and family time without negatively compromising the number of days in school breaks.
Parent	Would give students time more time away from stress of studying. A longer fall break would give families ample time to travel, so students would not be exhausted returning to school after a short break. Teachers would have time to rest and reflect on effectiveness of teaching.
Parent	Would help prevent teacher/student/parent burn-out for both the school year and for summer.
Parent	Would keep kids focused throughout the year
Parent	Would live to see school uniforms enforced
Parent	Would prefer the current school calendar with a longer Fall break, instead of a balanced calendar.
Parent	Would reduce class time missed by students taking vacations in the Fall. I would strongly support a 5-day winter break.
Parent	Wouldn't have a lot really . I do not want a balanced calendar year .
Parent	Year round indoctrination is the goal. No benefits
Parent	Year round learning process.
Parent	You are misleading people by presenting that extra help and enrichment are an inherent feature in this calendar when the district is unsure whether it's even going to offer these.

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	You guys should evaluate how many single parents there are in Knox County and then ask how the calendar would impact childcare. I have friends who watch my kid for me but with the understanding that it is just during the summer. Good luck trying to find that year-round. And I know you'll suggest that there is discounted childcare available, but 1. those centers cater to children who often have lots of problems and bully my kid. It's not right to force my child to participate in that. 2. a kid needs time to just be a kid and not worry about all the drama with childcare centers, 3. some expense is still more than what I pay now, which is none, 4. My child receives tutoring during the summer months, which she wouldn't get at the childcare center. I think no one considers the needs of the whole family when implementing these changes.
Parent	You think it's difficult to refocus after a few extra days of summer break just wait until kids take all sorts of mini breaks during the year! It is a constant distraction!!
Parent	Your only taking away 12 days from summer break and adding a few days here and there for breaks. I really don't see how the change could make that much difference with only a few days. Just leave well enough alone. It's not broken so don't try to fix it.
Parent	Zero
Parent	zero
Student	1. More of an effort
Student	A balanced calendar could cause students to forget or get confused on information they learned the previous grading period. which isn't good for test.
Student	A balanced calendar would give longer breaks but there would be no change in behavior in students.
Student	a good summer break
Student	absolutely none, stop trying to pass this off as ok
Student	Actual real fall break. Also breaks don't look more frequent, just longer, so your previous questions seem oddly worded
Student	As a senior and graduating in 17 days, I have no need to do this survey or any stock in wasting my time on it. However, with a 4.5 GPA and more than 10 AP tests under my belt, there is a fundamental issue with the balanced calendar: AP tests. Regardless of whether or not KCS will admit it, test scores are a major part of students' lives (if you disagree, let me ask you to look at common core). The benefits of balanced calendar will never outweigh the problems that will inevitably come with a balanced calendar.
Student	Balanced Calender is going to ruin ALL of the school sports, and marching band. The new break times will make the sports teams have to practice during their breaks, which nobody wants. And band, which is on a steep decline as it is with cut fundings, will lose even more time to practice. So basically its going to screw over all extracurricular activities.
Student	Better attendance
Student	Better attendance better focus.
Student	Do it!
Student	Don't do it, all students would agree
Student	Don't do this to kiss
Student	Early let out on Fridays and don't have to wear school uniform on fridays
Student	Families more opportunities for vacations that don't fall in peak travel times.
Student	fuck a balanced calendar
Student	I believe requiring students to go to school during break for enrichment would not go over well with the students.

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Student	I don't believe there are any potential benefits to the system. Students who are struggling will more than likely not come in on a break for extra help, because most students who are struggling are the type of students who do not try hard to improve. Thus you'd have to make it mandator for those students, hence then adding more school days and more behavior issues. Also, I'd like to note that test scores have actually dropped from school systems around the Knox county area that adopted a "balanced calendar" which is really good marketing of what is essentially a year round school. I would also like to point out most survey's conducted in professional non-biased manor, unlike this one. This is one major problem associated with central office, they ask for feedback, but they phrase surveys and form school meetings in a way where most people can not speak out the opinions they have that do not aline with your agenda or opinions. And if this is being read, thank you for at least hearing extra opinions that actually matter. -KCS student
Student	I hate it.
Student	I like the idea of having longer breaks to provide for time for studying. For example, it would make a large difference in the amount of time available to study for AP course exams.
Student	I love this
Student	I see no potential benefits by switching to the balanced calendar.not only is this survey incredibly biased by how vague it is about any actual figures, it lacks any hard evidence or even a bibliography to support its claims. In addition, I believe that this enrichment idea will ruin many summer activities that students participate in, for example drum and bugle corps.
Student	I think that, as a student, it would ease a lot of stress on me, and I would be a better student if we had a Balanced Calendar.
Student	I would like more information on how the school systems plans to implement opportunities for extra help and enrichment programs.
Student	I'll tell you a potential benefit. benefit declared.
Student	I'm not really sure. The benefits listed above seem to cover it all.
Student	It is just a great and pratical idea. I do not understand why knox county did not do this years ago.... Balanced calander is the way to go.
Student	It would distract students constantly. Unfocused students would be set only on when they are out of school next rather than what they are learning at the moment.
Student	It would provide an opportunity for the students to mentally restart and cause a refueling of motivation.
Student	It would reduce summer boredom!
Student	It would ruin the kids chance to get a summer job, if you like the elderly filling in the needed work force.
Student	It wouldn't because it sucks
Student	It wouldn't provide any benefits, and I recommend cancelling the balanced calendars, you communists.
Student	less family time
Student	Less stress during the year because students can have more time to make up work over breaks.
Student	Less student and teacher burnout. Opportunities for quality family time/ travel
Student	Longer breaks during the school year help us (students) to catch up on work and to be more mentally able to learn once we're back in the classroom
Student	Longer breaks, in addition to the additional learning and enrichment opportunities that are available during the extended break times during the year, would be extremely beneficial to the students and teachers alike. Both as a recharge from the constant day to day of school to the extra learning opportunities that can be offered during these times, the balanced calendar is a much better plan for the school years to come when compared to the current model.

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Student	lose less info during the summer
Student	Make One incindive day every week to reward the students like to go to the gym or somthing
Student	Making family vacations
Student	Might be easier to share breaks for divorced/seperated parents, because the Spring and Fall breaks are longer.
Student	Mor time for students to do work and to get their heads clear befor going back to school after break
Student	More family time!!
Student	More graduates . More people would graduate.
Student	More time to do things only possible in spring and fall.
Student	None
Student	None
Student	None
Student	none
Student	None
Student	none
Student	None.
Student	None.
Student	NONE.
Student	None. Student behavior before breaks is worse then student behavior before regular school weeks at Farragut.
Student	None. It is a complete waste.
Student	None. It will simply hurt any high school student that wishes to take duel enrollment courses and all school activities/sports. It also defeats the purpose of high school altogether- preparing students for college. Colleges and technical schools DO NOT use a balanced calendar.
Student	Not being bored during summer
Student	Not sure haven't dealt with this.
Student	Nothing
Student	Nothing it's stupid
Student	Nothing.
Student	nothing. because students wait a jump in the summer
Student	Opportunities to travel (if high-achieving students are not given work over break hindering this)
Student	Opportunity to catch up on missing/late assignments.
Student	Seems to be doing fine
Student	Stress free period
Student	Students failing will get the chance to do make up work over the breaks and get their grades up
Student	Students will be able to work ahead or catch up on work, lowering stress levels.
Student	Students won't have to forget what they have learned about.
Student	The balanced calendar system does not cut out too many days from summer break, which allows for students who usually have long activities during the summer to continue them.
Student	Their are not many benefits on a balanced calendar. i feel like the calendar that we already have keeps kids for the most part in tune with everything that is going on. some kids have stuggles particapating and keeping focused but just because of those very small percentage of students habe a hard time keeping up does not mean that the kids that are doing there best should be punished and have there lifes surrounded by school. and taking away our summer can really hurt a lot of kids as well. Students look forward to there summer jobs maybe because there parents dont have the money to fund there cars and insurance and maybe if needed a apartment for older students and vacations.
Student	There are no additional benefits I can think of.

Potential Benefits Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential benefits a balanced calendar would create.
Student	There are no benefits; if you want to change something, change school lunches
Student	There are no other potential benefits to a balanced calander.
Student	There is so much to learn now that it is hard to retain all the information that's being pumped into our brains. A balanced calender I think will keep the students working harder knowing there is a long break between quarters (hopefully). A much needed change for a stale school calender. Times is changing and we must change with them to progress. Education is the number one priority for our children because they are our future. Knowledge is power, so let's make some powerful kids!
Student	There isn't any. This is a dumbass idea
Student	There will be less summer vacation. Breaks aren't more frequent.
Student	This survey is very baissed
Student	Time for students to rest and not be so stressed
Student	Vacationing can be less expensive during Fall Break than the summer or spring breaks, when it was shortened to two days it may have hurt lower income families.
Student	vacations would balance out
Student	Well the assumption that student behavior will improve because of the review sessions is a fallacy. In no way can a balanced schedule improve student attitudes. Yes, I believe that students will receive more learning opportunities after school, over breaks, but how many of said students will capitalize off of this? Many individuals have fun shirking their academic duties even when they know a break is coming up. Yes, SOME studies have shown an improvement in behavior when a break is near, but the other students who don't improve regress in behavior and academic ability. If there is a way this year long program is guaranteed to help students who refuse to acknowledge the importance of academic success in high school then yes absolutely I am 100% for it.
Student	Why would I want to spend MORE time in school? This is dumb.
Student	Yeet
Student	You are able to take more time off while still having enough time in a long summer break to get a job or go on a large trip.

Potential Drawbacks of a Balanced Calendar

	Number Responding	Please indicate the level to which you agree that the following items are drawbacks of a balanced calendar: Shorter summer break				
		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	No Opinion/Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
KCS Parent	10993	13.0%	22.4%	16.5%	23.8%	24.3%
KCS Employee	4420	12.6%	26.4%	18.6%	24.8%	17.7%
KCS Student	519	16.2%	14.1%	10.2%	20.0%	39.5%
KCS Community Employer	761	12.7%	17.5%	11.7%	22.3%	35.7%
No KCS Affiliation Given	136	11.8%	20.6%	19.9%	25.0%	22.8%
All Respondents	14368	12.9%	23.2%	16.7%	24.0%	23.2%

	Number Responding	Please indicate the level to which you agree that the following items are drawbacks of a balanced calendar: Less time for summer jobs				
		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	No Opinion/Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
KCS Parent	11005	8.0%	16.1%	23.6%	27.3%	25.1%
KCS Employee	4432	7.6%	18.3%	22.4%	31.0%	20.7%
KCS Student	520	10.0%	10.2%	12.7%	23.7%	43.5%
KCS Community Employer	756	7.7%	14.2%	16.0%	22.8%	39.4%
No KCS Affiliation Given	136	6.6%	11.8%	30.1%	22.8%	28.7%
All Respondents	14384	7.9%	16.3%	23.1%	28.0%	24.6%

	Number Responding	Please indicate the level to which you agree that the following items are drawbacks of a balanced calendar: Disruption of summer activities				
		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	No Opinion/Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
KCS Parent	10985	10.7%	24.6%	17.4%	22.2%	25.1%
KCS Employee	4420	10.8%	27.7%	19.7%	23.0%	18.8%
KCS Student	517	11.6%	12.4%	11.8%	20.5%	43.7%
KCS Community Employer	756	11.4%	18.7%	11.6%	21.2%	37.2%
No KCS Affiliation Given	137	8.0%	16.1%	28.5%	21.9%	25.5%
All Respondents	14351	10.7%	24.7%	17.9%	22.4%	24.2%

	Number Responding	Please indicate the level to which you agree that the following items are drawbacks of a balanced calendar: Need to make child care arrangements during breaks				
		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	No Opinion/Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
KCS Parent	10978	8.7%	12.5%	23.2%	24.1%	31.4%
KCS Employee	4420	8.4%	16.3%	25.0%	29.1%	21.1%
KCS Student	520	11.5%	9.4%	25.2%	19.2%	34.6%
KCS Community Employer	760	7.6%	8.7%	14.6%	23.4%	45.7%
No KCS Affiliation Given	134	6.7%	9.0%	19.4%	28.4%	36.6%

All Respondents	14344	8.6%	13.0%	23.7%	25.3%	29.5%
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	Number Responding	Please indicate the level to which you agree that the following items are drawbacks of a balanced calendar: Difficulty fitting balanced calendar into family schedule				
		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	No Opinion/Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
KCS Parent	10991	15.6%	24.6%	20.0%	16.3%	23.6%
KCS Employee	4425	15.5%	28.9%	23.1%	17.1%	15.4%
KCS Student	515	13.6%	14.8%	16.3%	18.4%	36.9%
KCS Community Employer	759	14.5%	17.1%	15.7%	16.3%	36.4%
No KCS Affiliation Given	135	8.9%	17.8%	27.4%	20.0%	25.9%
All Respondents	14359	15.1%	24.9%	21.0%	16.7%	22.3%

	Number Responding	Please indicate the level to which you agree that the following items are drawbacks of a balanced calendar: More frequent transitions between school and home				
		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	No Opinion/Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
KCS Parent	10965	12.1%	21.1%	24.5%	19.5%	22.9%
KCS Employee	4418	11.8%	24.8%	25.8%	21.2%	16.5%
KCS Student	518	14.7%	12.7%	20.1%	20.7%	31.9%
KCS Community Employer	758	10.8%	16.4%	19.4%	17.7%	35.8%
No KCS Affiliation Given	134	8.2%	14.2%	24.6%	29.1%	23.9%
All Respondents	14333	12.0%	21.3%	25.0%	20.1%	21.6%

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Employer	A traditional calendar more adequately lines up with the collegiate calendar that most colleges and universities follow. Thus a traditional calendar seems that it would more adequately prepare students for college.
Employer	Again, in the absence if any specifics or costs, I have to agree that these are all valid drawbacks.
Employer	As the Direc
Employer	Challenging for teachers to take summer university classes to renew licenses and/or obtain advanced degrees.
Employer	Childcare centers will have major staffing problems. Increased cost to the school system will be a major factor.
Employer	Cost more money and many school systems that have gone to modified calendars ending going back to traditional calendars.
Employer	Huge extra costs for the county and school system. Higher taxes.
Employer	I also think that school should to go later in the year verses starting earlier in very very hot August.
Employer	I am not sure if I answered the above correctly or if it accurately represents my opinion.... i.e. I do believe child care during breaks is a big issue - that is what I meant to come across
Employer	I am the most concerned about child care during the breaks and if it will continue to be available in the school during the enrichment breaks.
Employer	I feel there will be morning learning loss over the fall break and spring break than there is now over the summer. Studies have also shown that it can be more expensive to operate a school on a balanced calender
Employer	I have entered all my concerns in the previous comment section.
Employer	I refuse to participate in this rigged survey. You should lose your jobs for this.
Employer	I teach at a community college - Pellissippi. I know now that my students already struggle with childcare on days that we are in class and their children are out of school. This will exacerbate the problem.
Employer	I think above drawbacks speak volumes for themselves.
Employer	I will need my childcare center to remain open during breaks. We have no one else.
Employer	I worry most about the single-parent families who are economically out of luck when it comes to child care at any time. Also, I think child care providers in town will get up to speed at some point, but the huge numbers of kids is a major drawback for most children. We need fewer kids in the Y program and the others. too. Just too many kids get left out of events and the noise is deafening. I see such a disparity between the haves and the have-nots in this school district. A point: Surely the downtown office has done research of its own on other school districts around the country whose schools and districts are similar to Knox County's. What have you learned from them? I'm an editor, proofreader, researcher who would love to work on this project -- calling representative districts to see how they've handled the issues that our county district will. I'd say we don't really need to reinvent the wheel if there are districts that could provide great information to us. I'm Becky at 661-7380.
Employer	If a county adopts a balanced calendar, then the child care facilities will as well. There should be no issue.
Employer	Increases costs to families through increased child care, days off work, ... Also unable to do summer sports as easily, HS students can't get summer jobs or internships.
Employer	It would eliminate many jobs for people working in camps and eliminate the opportunity for many children to enrich themselves by meeting new friends and experiencing new avenues of learning.
Employer	Job loss or pay reductions (leave w/out pay) for parents of school aged children as a result of unsupportive employers or insufficient personal leave time to manage child care during fall and winter breaks.
Employer	Loss of school year routine during breaks

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Employer	Many of the "enrichment " activities are high cost. Our lower socioeconomic students cannot afford these extras, leaving them at home with more of a chance for discipline issues and making bad choices.
Employer	No air on school buses for the hottest time of year.
Employer	No proven academic research from the past 20 years. COST - where is the cost information? McIntyre already blew up the budget \$16M not counting three (3) new schools. How are you going to PAY for this??
Employer	Other school systems are backing off of this because of lack of funding. A balanced calendar has caused a marked increase in spending in districts who have implemented this or similar systems. (Nashville) This is incredibility hard on working families. We will spend more on childcare and have less to spend for basic needs.
Employer	Parents are the ones having routine changes problems not the kids. If you require child care it is far easier to get it for 10 days rather than only 2 days.
Employer	Sports/extracurricular activities that use summer for preparation (football, band and art camps, governor's school) leave students with little to no summer break. Also, longer breaks during the midst of semesters greatly hinder the progress of arts programs in preparing plays, concerts, marching band shows, etc. The arts have been shown to teach students invaluable skills that apply to other areas of learning (more traditional coursework), and while a balanced calendar may slightly improve core academics, the negative effect on arts and extracurricular programs will decrease the effectiveness of student learning and accomplishment overall.
Employer	Students would not be able to work as long in summer and they wouldn't be able to get hired for 2 weeks every 9 weeks.
Employer	Take money from other needs. Potential to have to raise taxes for a worthless idea.
Employer	The "Balanced Calendar would impose hardships on the family unit and would reduce the quality family time available under the current calendar.
Employer	The balanced calendar would give families more options for vacation times.
Employer	The Oak Ridge community and child care agencies embraced the balanced calendar and have not had issues.
Employer	The size of Knox County schools is not conducive to such a drastic change. The impact to the community will have strong ripple effects. Many teachers use longer summer breaks to take graduate courses and other advancement opportunities. The quality of childcare will drop as the shorter periods will attract a less trained work force, i.e. college students will take other jobs that run their full summers rather than work day care or camps.
Employer	these questions are confusing- save our summers, stay with traditional calendar
Employer	Traditional working families will have a hard time with child care/ summer camps which won't be readily available during off summer times
Employer	Transitions will be a problem for preschoolers
KCS	\$ for expenses like heating/ air, electricity, buses, etc
KCS	\$\$\$\$\$
KCS	*What data supports that this change will actually improve test scores? *Other than the teachers wanting the balanced calendar what data shows that this will improve behavior in students as well as data retention? *How does this calendar fund enhanced learning opportunities--based on our budget where will the money come from to pay these teachers for their extra time to teach these classes? And even IF there are funds, when will these classes begin--1-3 years? Why not offer these classes during the summer instead of changing the entire calendar?
KCS	?

Potential Drawbacks Comments

<p>How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?</p>	<p>Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>1) At this point, no research has been cited that confirms that students who attend schools with a Balanced Calendar have less summer learning loss. This year I witnessed the disruption to learning and following routines that occurred when we had a two week vacation due to weather. A Balanced Calendar will require a two week disruption two additional times during the year. This may have positive effects for high school students who need to recharge their batteries, but it doesn't seem to be a positive way to facilitate continuity for elementary students. 2) As a Knox County teacher, I've seen numerous promises of programs over the years only to see them shelved because of lack of funding. If we move to a Balanced Calendar as a means to provide intercession remediation and enrichment, I question where the funding will be found to pay teachers to teach these sessions. I think we should move ahead with this idea only if we are assured that the funding is there to pay teachers to teach these sessions. 3) Usually, the students who most need summer school are the ones whose parents are unable to get them to school in the summer. I suspect that this would hold true for remediation intercessions as well. 4) I've heard that teacher inservice days would be during intercessions. If this is the case, there is little advantage to having the breaks spread out as we would be required to be in town for those meetings/sessions. 5) My children are now in college or beyond, so having shorter summer breaks would not affect my children. However, as I look back I see valuable learning that took place during those summer breaks. That learning was facilitated by: summer church camps, Boy Scout and Girl Scout camps, travel to grandparents' homes, family field trips to museums, state parks, etc., summer jobs, summer camps run by the University of Tennessee, etc.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>1. Additional expense to pay teachers to work during 10 day Fall/Spring breaks for the at risk student tutoring. 2. As a bookkeeper, the books are closed (no deposits or payment of bills) in the summer for audit. The proposed calendar creates a shorter audit window, which already has problems. 3. Based on the 10 days off for snow, the students at all age levels forgot proper school behavior and what they were learning prior to the break.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>2 weeks off between each 9 weeks, not 3!!</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>A balanced calendar has not been successful and has been changed back to the traditional calendar in many districts. Do your research before acting on this costly experiment.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>A balanced calendar would increase the level of teacher frustration, which has risen significantly during the past few years of standards and evaluation measures that have not resulted in improved learning. As a teacher, I need my summer break to recharge and face a new school year with renewed enthusiasm. As long as we operate on block scheduling in the high schools, the balanced calendar would not solve the problem of lack of retention.</p>

Potential Drawbacks Comments

<p>How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?</p>	<p>Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>A complete overhaul of how Knoxville plans and runs. The county and surrounding areas will have to accommodate for a HUGE shift. Athletics, the arts, and other extra-curricular activities need every bit of the summer for preparation and practice. TSSAA has a two week dead period in the middle of summer. This will affect football, girls soccer, cheerleading, and other fall sports because they will still lose that practice time and then have less time to compensate. Divorced families with co-parenting agreements will have to be reworked around the new schedule. Coping and planning for children in the balanced schedule and other children on traditional calendar will be exhausting. Teachers are going to have to agree to work during breaks to assist with the tutoring. There is no way to force students to attend the sessions during breaks. Less time to study abroad and vacation for longer than a couple of weeks. (For example, I have family in Australia. I cannot visit them for an extended period over the shorter summer because I will have to be back for school. Summers are the only time I can go over there and take a flight that I can afford. Plus, there is no point in flying for over 50 hours on a ten day break.) This is not good preparation for college OR careers. College follows a more traditional calendar. Careers hardly give vacation days. This is not making students college or career ready. From the two week snow day disaster from this semester, I know that students forgot A LOT of information. After polling my students, not a SINGLE ONE wants to go to this calendar. My honors students take courses at local colleges and will lose opportunities with a shorter summer.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>After a year or two an adjustment would occur. Child care in other areas has adapted to balanced calendars in other areas including mini camps through out the year</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>After the snow break this past winter, returning to school after two weeks off resulted in having to review and spend time going over routines and procedures again. Having the balanced calendar would make that transition back to school more frequent and teachers would end up spending too much time re-teaching routines.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>Again, if the block schedule is kept, there is no point. I believe that after things settle down, then everything in everyone's life will adjust and things will work out for all. The transition process will be tumultuous, but then things will work out.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>Again, there are no drawbacks in the proposed calendar which we are not already dealing with as parents and professionals.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>All concerns were included in questions.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>All these problems solve themselves when a balanced calendar is instituted.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>Am concerned, as a teacher, that we would have to attend in services during the breaks!</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>Any change is often viewed with skepticism. People will adjust</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>Any teachers looking into a higher degree through summer classes would no longer be able to take these summer classes since the college summer term is 10 weeks and the balanced calendar break is only around 6 weeks.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>Anything new takes time to adjust, and will feel strange for the first few years.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>Are these breaks supposed to be vacations, or time for student enrichment & remediation and teacher workshops & training? If student enrichment & remediation, will teachers be required to facilitate these services? Will teachers be required to attend workshops during these breaks?</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>As a 200 day KCS employee, it will be very, very difficult to gain meaningful summer employment as employers do not seem to want to hire people for just a month i.e. down time during a training/learning period leaving just a couple of weeks of productivity that a prospective summer employer could expect to have with people like us. Not to mention the interruptions to income that otherwise would've been there during these long breaks.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>As a band director, my only concern with a balance calendar is the stress it puts on the directors, coaches, and members of athletic programs, who ultimately have to continue practice and games throughout those breaks. This is why I am more for the 9/2 model as opposed to the 9/3 model.</p>

Potential Drawbacks Comments

<p>How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?</p>	<p>Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>As a custodian it will definitely impact our ability to deep clean our school. Instead of one complete clean we will have to try and cram sections of our school into the smaller breaks so we will never have a completely clean building at any point.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>As a KCS Employee - I have no idea how my contract will look pertaining to the break and if I get the same amount of days off? 221 Contract</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>As a teacher on a longer contract than other schools, we already have to report sooner than other teachers during the summer, and on a balanced calendar schedule, this time is even shorter. Also, though it is not a listed drawback above, I am concerned about how fall football schedules that do not honor a balanced calendar schedule will work with band directors (and athletes) who will still need to rehearse in order to successfully perform at Friday night football games and Saturday competitions that will still be scheduled. The band will still be competing against schools who are not on a balanced calendar and get an advantage because they get to avoid those 2-week breaks where students will likely not be required to attend rehearsals. Also, if the breaks during the fall are to make up for a shorter summer, I believe that teachers would like to be able to enjoy those breaks as other teachers who do not have to worry about keeping up with a fall football schedule would enjoy. Lastly, the low-income community of my school depends on being able to send their children to school in order to work. It is an extreme setback to parents in this community to have to possibly miss work and/or miss meals provided for children that they may only get while at school. Many of our children depend on school lunch.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>As a teacher, I find that student behavior actually worsens before long breaks as students get excited for the break and start gearing up for a lot of time off school. I also can't see how not being in school for 10 days in the middle of a semester would provide students with more opportunities to get extra help unless all of the teachers remain on hand over the break to provide this extra help. Who will staff these extra help sessions? A fair number of high school courses are beyond the general knowledge of whoever will be at the school over breaks giving extra help to struggling students. If a student struggling in, say, Spanish class comes in for help over break, will you be able to guarantee that a Spanish teacher will be present to help him?</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>As a teacher, my students loose focus after 2 weeks off. After Winter Break and our snow days, for example, I had to return and review all of our daily procedures because the students simply lost them over the break. This took away beneficial learning time. I wouldn't be in favor of having to do this after Fall Break, Winter Break, and Spring Break with this new calendar. I also feel that the school in which I teach would have little participation in "enrichment" and "review" opportunities as many students are without transportation. For some students in other schools throughout the county, it may work. For the school in which I teach, I feel that this type of calendar would hurt my students instead of helping them.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>As educators we notice a negative difference in behavior, attention, and quality of work when a break or holiday is approaching. Furthermore, for a week or so after we return from a break, there is still a negative impact, as we work to get children back into their routines, and familiarize them again with classroom and school-wide rules. Student's effort, attention, and behavior is effected for about a week after a break. With more breaks in between, I see more disruption to our teaching time. Change is difficult for all children, not only those have identified difficulties with changes in routine.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>As everyone gets used to the new calendar, they will adjust to the "cons" of the balanced calendar. In the end, everyone will love it!!</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>As for disruption of summer activities, if Knox County went to Balanced Calendar, I feel that most "summer" programs in Knox County would adjust to fit the new schedule. I don't feel the summer break decrease is enough to really change a whole lot. Most families are vacationing in June and July anyway, so this wouldn't really affect that.</p>

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
KCS	As of right now, it is unknown how the enrichment/intersession time would be handled for teachers - who would teach, what would be expected, etc.
KCS	at first it will take adjustments
KCS	Athletics will be affected.
KCS	Attending school during the heat of summer creates problems with bus, walking to/from school, recess/PE, and classrooms with inadequate air conditioning. School sports are not always aligned with a balanced school calendar.
KCS	Band camps and other camps that usually occur later during the summer will take place earlier and those teachers will have a shorter summer vacation window.
KCS	Being a different calendar than other schools in the area, ie private schools and colleges.
KCS	breaks are nice for teachers but they make it difficult to cover material, after each break you have to review what was covered before and you loose the momentum you had established in the classroom. I personally saw students on this schedule have consistantly lower test scores and the district I was in completely went away from it (and guess what test scores improved).
KCS	Changing routines for students
KCS	Child care facilities adapt to the school calendars - per other systems that have done it
KCS	Child care facilities would most likely adapt to the calendar.
KCS	Children attend school in another county.
KCS	Community would need to adjust schedule - it's been done successfully in other counties. None of these negatives impact me personally. So, I don't have an opinion.
KCS	Concern about loss of material in just the two weeks between quarters. When we lost two weeks to snow this past winter, my AP Chemistry students did AWFUL on their equilibria exam - by far the worse I have ever seen as they did not stay on top of their work those two weeks. Even when I reviewed material with them, it was as if I had started from scratch and only taught the unit 5 or 6 days and then tested. The results were dreadful. It will take some serious structure over those two weeks to keep students on top of their work and then I wonder if that might defeat the purpose of the two week break. Much to consider.
KCS	coordination with high school classes especially dual credit and AP courses. Cost more \$ for enrichment
KCS	Cost of air-conditioning, staffing during break times
KCS	Cost of implementation and paying for extra staff during enrichment periods. Where is this money coming from?
KCS	Cost to the school system for teachers to provide intervention/enrichment activities. Cost to the school system for increased amount of security, personnel, utilities. Planning for school disruption events such as prolonged weather or district-wide student illness. Sports, band and other music programs, foreign language instruction all would be adversely impacted. Lack of respect for teachers' off-time with scheduled meetings, inservice requirements, professional development, etc.
KCS	cost, lack of air conditioning during hotter weeks (this will happen,) the fact that buses are not air conditioned during these hotter weeks, Governor's School and other activities go through the end of July.
KCS	Cost? Why is there no discussion of cost? Who makes decisions of this magnitude without having a cost-benefit analysis?
KCS	Could possibly cause issues for for sports, band, etc.
KCS	Daycare are businesses. Because their purpose is to make money, the will adjust to accommodate those who need their services. As a teacher it has been my experience that students come back from short breaks rested and ready to learn. They also retain the skills that were taught before the break. However after a long summer break I must spend about 6 weeks catching students up on what they have lost over the summer.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
KCS	Daycare/babysitter situations are going to be a nightmare!! If you look at most parents schedules they work mon through Friday- ALL THROUGHOUT the year. Not everyone can take off work during the "proposed break" periods with the balanced calendar. Totally unfair to a huge percent of parents who will now be required to pay a daycare for the monthly tuition but not being able to use the days that their student is in school.
KCS	Decreased time for additional income for employees during summer
KCS	Did not see any transition problems except with very involved sped students. Family conflicts were more often the case.
KCS	Difficult to motivate the students that need remediation and tutoring to attend school when friends are not at school.
KCS	Difficulty in change for teachers and families
KCS	Disrupt athletic teams schedules
KCS	Disruption in socialization time which then takes up classroom time when back after 2 weeks creating loss of instruction time. Teachers who have needed summer jobs.
KCS	divorce situations when one parent lives in another city or state arranging visitations Transportation for children that are suppose to be attending school on the intervention weeks
KCS	Do teachers get the same time off as the students do? Are there still the same amount of inservice days?
KCS	Educators might tend to give large assignments to be completed during the breaks rather than allow it to be a "break". This is already the case in many grade levels for the long winter break and summer break.
KCS	Educators who must work in other jobs to support their families will be a a great disadvantage!
KCS	Even though tutoring sessions would be held with a balanced calendar, would students actually show up. My experience has been they wont.
KCS	Even with promises of two week breaks between nine week grading periods, there will be activities and/ or required professional development that will actually cut into those breaks, giving less time than is being pitched for families, teachers, staff, and so on.
KCS	Everyone that is mentioned.
KCS	Everything would be ruined
KCS	Extra help and enrichment would be perceived by some as a punishment. The students who needed it the most, would be the ones that won't come. Teachers would not benefit, if they are constantly planning for extra help groups.
KCS	Extracurricular activities are going to suffer, particularly sports. Games and practices within the state/region are still on a traditional calendar, and this misalignment will require extra funding as well as students/teachers not being able to take advantage of the breaks.
KCS	Extra-curricular scheduling and participation for athletics, music, and academic clubs will be impacted. Scheduling those activities and organizations with other districts that are not on balanced calendar.
KCS	Families will adjust to the schedule for activities. And they will have a better opportunity to take a vacation during the other breaks with less cost since it is not tourist time. Daycares till adjust to calendars.
KCS	Family issues, such as vacations and summer camps, are just that, family issues. They should not even factor in to the school board's decision on a balanced calendar. We are not baby sitters!!!
KCS	Family members with children who work off of a traditional calendar.
KCS	Financial increase on the schools.
KCS	Finding personnel to work in reteaching during breaks might be difficult. I don't think teachers should be required to work over the breaks.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

<p>How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?</p>	<p>Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>First I would like to address a serious misconception. The "summer learning loss" is NOTHING compared to the loss due to the block schedule. My students have math, for example, in the fall of one year and then in the spring of the next. There is MORE than one ENTIRE year since they have been in a math class AND they do forget a lot over that length of time. On a seven/eight period day (yes like I grew up on), we were in math all year long. The only break was over the summer. I also worry that families with children that could benefit from intervention will not come (or if they do, they will be unengaged and the effort will be of no practical benefit) or be unavailable due to the family seeing it as a longer vacation time. There are some things in the summer, such as the Medical Explorations Program at UT, that kids can participate in over the summer than may not be able to happen with a shortened summer. These same holds for summer jobs. How will this effect extra curricular activities that would likely be scheduled the same regardless of the longer breaks. This would seem to defeat the purpose of the extended break. Lastly, for those going onto college or the like, these extended breaks between the quarters are not part of their calendar. Hence, the kids will have to readjust to a calendar that does not have these extended breaks which could be quite an adjustment if the child had known no other system for their entire educational life.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>For high schools, learning loss between levels of core subjects (i.e. freshman to sophomore English) will not improve- high schools should explore year-round classes</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>For middle and high schools there are some conflicts with sports schedules and maintaining training during the longer breaks.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>For teachers with young children. I would be unable to switch my child to part time during the long summer and would have to pay more through the year for child care. Also as a teacher what would in-services look like and when would they be? Would teachers be paid more to work during enrichment times ? Or would schools hire others who would use our classrooms? I feel that I still have a lot of questions for how this balanced calendar would affect teachers.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>For younger students, I worry that the extended breaks could make it more difficult to retain what was taught prior to the break, thus moving the beginning of the year reteaching to times when we return from extended breaks.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>Getting high school students to class while others are on break.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>have to get child care centers on board but it is doable</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>Having been in a community with a balanced calendar the commerce around us simply changed to fit the school schedule. This is a benefit to high school and college students because they can work in childcare and camps at intervals year round. It also benefits these business endeavors because there is more opportunity for them to gain clients.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>High School sports schedules; those who need enrichment and extra instructional opportunities won't take advantage of this and who will actually help implement enrichment? Then those folks don't have a break.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>Higher cost for daycare, considering I would be unable to pull my child from the daycare program during summer break for the full months of June and July.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>Higher cost of daycare-teachers that are parents still have to pay during school year breaks but do not have to pay during summer. This would drive up the cost of daycare during the school year but teachers income would not rise as we would potentially be working the same amount of days. Parents of elementary aged students will have to pay extra daycare during breaks.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>How are teens supposed to get sustained hours in summer jobs to earn money to pay for their numerous expenses? Many teen dependent facilities would almost have to shut down during certain periods of the year.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>How do you propose to do make up days due to weather in this approach. end of school year or the times between quarters?</p>

Potential Drawbacks Comments

<p>How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?</p>	<p>Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>How many days off will teachers need to use to get inservice hours ? Keeping schools air cond. will cost more . Using gas for buses will cost more.. Teacher assistance have not had a raise in several years, they are now teaching , testing, and the list keeps growing. ITS time to include ASSISTANTS in the budget..... Ins. keeps going up ,gas,groc.economy . IT's time for raise. PLEASE give a raise to Teacher Assistants.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>How will these "enrichment" activities take place? Who will staff them? Will they be required for select students to attend? What happens if the students make other plans? What about possible costs?</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>How would families make accommodations with all of their children enrolled in elementary, middle school and high school-especially with enrichment and intervention simultaneously offered possibly in different locations?</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>http://articles.baltimoresun.com/1995-04-02/news/1995092192_1_year-round-calendar-traditional-calendar-schools-year-round No evidence of improved scores on balanced schedule · No more “learning loss” occurs in 2 months than occurs in 2 weeks · “Learning loss” is used to persuade people to believe a balanced schedule is desirable · More than 288 school districts that have tried balanced schedules have returned to traditional schedules · Traditional schedules coincide better with schools around the country when students transfer · More costly to be on a balanced schedule - electric, etc. (money could be used more effectively) · Balanced schedules have proven to be more stressful on administrators and staff (higher turnover) · Burn out for students and staff · Children can learn so much from nature in summer months (swimming, outdoor activities) · Children participate in sports activities throughout the summer months · Jobs for high school students are minimized · Complicates AP classes for high school students when school schedule does not coincide with community college schedules · Employers reluctant to hire staff for 6 weeks or less · Day care providers find difficulty staffing more workers for 2 week breaks · More difficult to get kids to go to bed early when it is light out in summer months · Children are out of a routine after a short one week break · After a 2 week break must re-teach students to control behavior issues · A 2 week break every 9 to eleven weeks results in learning loss, disrupted routines and behavior problems · Parents and students are more settled in after Labor Day to be ready for school · Absenteeism is higher with a balanced schedule · 51% or more of the general public in the U.S do not support balanced schedules · Balanced schedules are not a solution to overcrowding in schools</p>

Potential Drawbacks Comments

<p>How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?</p>	<p>Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>http://articles.baltimoresun.com/1995-04-02/news/1995092192_1_year-round-calendar-traditional-calendar-schools-year-round No evidence of improved scores on balanced schedule · No more “learning loss” occurs in 2 months than occurs in 2 weeks · “Learning loss” is used to persuade people to believe a balanced schedule is desirable · More than 288 school districts that have tried balanced schedules have returned to traditional schedules · Traditional schedules coincide better with schools around the country when students transfer · More costly to be on a balanced schedule - electric, etc. (money could be used more effectively) · Balanced schedules have proven to be more stressful on administrators and staff (higher turnover) · Burn out for students and staff · Children can learn so much from nature in summer months (swimming, outdoor activities) · Children participate in sports activities throughout the summer months · Jobs for high school students are minimized · Complicates AP classes for high school students when school schedule does not coincide with community college schedules · Employers reluctant to hire staff for 6 weeks or less · Day care providers find difficulty staffing more workers for 2 week breaks · More difficult to get kids to go to bed early when it is light out in summer months · Children are out of a routine after a short one week break · After a 2 week break must re-teach students to control behavior issues · A 2 week break every 9 to eleven weeks results in learning loss, disrupted routines and behavior problems · Parents and students are more settled in after Labor Day to be ready for school · Absenteeism is higher with a balanced schedule · 51% or more of the general public in the U.S do not support balanced schedules · Balanced schedules are not a solution to overcrowding in schools</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>I agree that child care and a disruption of summer activities would happen, but those activities take place because that's when the kids are out of school. If we move to the balanced calendar, other activities would follow suit. No one would schedule a kids activity when kids are still in school.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>I am a teacher with children in Blount Co. I cannot afford the money for childcare that the extra 2+ shortened weeks would create. Also, as a special ed. teacher, especially our autistic students have difficulty returning from breaks. As it is, they at least only have one major break. I would lose weeks of work out of these students every time we had a 2 week break.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>I am a teacher, and I am concerned with classroom routines. With such long breaks in between quarters, teachers will have to spend time reviewing procedures and schedules every time we return from a break.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>I am an employee of the school system and as a mother of children in private/home school the change in calendar could greatly limit the time I have off with my own children.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>I am concerned how a balanced calendar will impact our community and what changes the community will need to make.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>I am concerned this may become a year round calender for teachers and students. We are saying that students need breaks, but we are talking about our low kids having to do intervention during their break. This puts them in school almost year round. Definitely not what they need. Teachers also need a break. It would be great to have some time to actually think of the up coming unit and what would be the best way to present it. It would be great not to have to stay at school till 6 or 7 three nights a week. To come to school rested and full of energy for our students.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>I am not aware of other drawbacks.</p>

Potential Drawbacks Comments

<p>How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?</p>	<p>Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>I am not convinced that the "summer loss" is an issue. When switching to Block Schedule years ago, I was told that the research indicated that Summer learning loss was most dramatic in the first 2 weeks of summer and leveled off after that. Stopping the "Summer Learning Loss" implies that the loss continues from the beginning of the summer to it's last day. That can't be, based on history, the loss must at some point level off. That being the case, taking 12 days off the summer seems a miniscule attempt to stop the loss, like putting a band-aid on a sucking chest wound. Furthermore, in the presentation I attended, the PowerPoint clearly said that there was no guaranteed or direct proof that a shorter summer would reduce Summer learning loss. If we are concerned about learning loss, then why do the high schools remain on Block Schedule in which some students go 1 or 1.5 years between courses. (For example, a student who has English in the Spring as a Freshman and has it in the fall as a Sophomore has gone 8 months between English courses.)</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>I am truly concerned about information lost in the lengthy breaks during the school year. As of this year with the many snow days, many of my students returned very forgetful of where we ended prior to the break. Additionally, it was more difficult to keep a consistent classroom routine with days of longer breaks where the semester is not typically interrupted. Additionally, if a balanced calendar was put into place, I'm assuming that we would move to a 7-8 class period day at the high school level. While this would work well for struggling students who have the tendency to get impatient in 90 minute classes, I believe it would prove quite difficult for AP and honors students to keep up with the work load of 7-8 AP/Honors classes at once versus their current 4 classes at once.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>I am unsure of where inservice days for teachers will placed into the balanced calander. Unless administration is willing to be forthcoming with their plans, I cannot make a clear choice. I have heard that Dr. McIntyre plans to use intercession days as inservice for teachers. This would cancel out the rest and recharge days that are being posed as advantages.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>I believe child day care would adjust to the schools' schedule.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>I believe childcare agencies and community organizations will take advantage to add activities & availability during the times that school is out for breaks.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>I believe people are afraid of change from what is known. If we have a balanced calendar, people will just need to make adjustments to accommodate the new schedule.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>I believe that all of the supporting businesses (childcare, etc.) would rearrange their schedule to adapt to Knox County's schedule, the way that they do in other systems with the balanced calendar. (Sorry, this is not a drawback.)</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>I believe that even though the summer is shorter. People can opt to take vacations in the fall and winter when vacation spots are cheaper.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>I believe that the 10 day break calendar may not pose this particular issue, but the proposed calendar with 3 weeks off of school (15 days) would cause learning loss and too much adjustment time for students when returning to school after 3 weeks away.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>I believe that the balanced calendar would not be beneficial to a district as large as Knox County Schools. A smaller district would be able to implement this calendar in a more profitable manner</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>I cannot think of any drawbacks the balanced calendar creates.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>I do not feel that the current calendar is a problem: if it isn't broken, don't fix it. There are lots of other issues facing education on which we can focus.</p>

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
KCS	I do not think one week with a teacher who is unfamiliar with a child would be beneficial instruction. High school students would be disrupted the most sports, dual enrollment, summer jobs would be hard to maintain. Many parents I have talked to and day care providers say they can not staff at odd times to care for the children. The balanced calendar is a huge expense to our school system and we already do not have enough money to give teachers raises and keep classroom size down. After each break we will be doing reteaching instead of one time when we get back after summer. After the 2 week snow break, my students came back totally lost. I do not want to have to review after every 2 week break.
KCS	I do not understand question 5- is this a trick????? All of the above are problems if we go to a balanced calendar.
KCS	I don't see many others besides those that are listed, and even with those, the community adjusts.
KCS	I don't think the data from testing shows any benefit to the balanced calendar.
KCS	I don't think there is enough change between the two to have drawbacks.
KCS	I feel that if the entire county goes to balanced calendar, that the child care facilities will make the appropriate arrangements because if they don't, then they will lose money.
KCS	I feel that so much of our "deep cleaning" is done by our custodians throughout the entire summer break. Would there be enough time to do everything that they need to do? Would there be enough time to strip and wax every, school every year? While I do think that most programs would shift to fit our needs, I do think that KCS will get some push back from the community at large who might see change as a bad thing.
KCS	I feel the balanced calendar would be a problem for students and teachers seeking summer employment. In addition, I am very concerned by the child care issues.
KCS	I feel the positives outweigh the drawbacks.
KCS	I feel there is no drawbacks. The change is minimal at best. Win in my opinion.
KCS	I feel this radically changes the routine everyone is used to - this may not be a good thing overall.
KCS	I had a son who was on this calendar as a PK3 and PK4. He was a child with disabilities who THRIVED and needed structure. This routine worked VERY well for him! It provided a long enough break to enjoy time as a family; however, routine was quickly re-established. His school did provide an opportunity for me to pay for him to attend during one of the weeks off, which I gladly did even on a very tight budget! I paid a little extra every week so the week was covered by the time the week arrived.
KCS	I have no idea why childcare would be an issue. I mean, what do these people do during the summer?
KCS	I have observed that my students have difficulty readjusting to school and learning after two week breaks. There does not seem to be the same adjustment/loss of learning after one week breaks. They come back after one week and settle right into the routine. we pick up where we left off one week before. After two weeks there is a noticeable regression in learning and behavior.
KCS	I have seen no research that supports increased test scores as a result of a balanced calendar. The changes needed will be costly at a time when we have other budget needs for our schools.
KCS	I observed few students actually having additional help during intervention times and more completing extra credit for a grade. Also, transportation during these times was a nightmare.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

<p>How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?</p>	<p>Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>I predict potential drawbacks in the areas of athletics (football, cheerleading, dance team) and band during the Fall Break. For example, I love the idea of having a 44 day Quarter 1 with a 10 day Fall Break, but my question would be if that break would include a rescheduling of football games. The current situation is that there is a football game on the Friday of Fall Break. Would this situation still stand in a 10 day Fall Break? It would seem unfair to these groups to have them continue to meet through this break if the regular season would continue through the break. If there were some way to rearrange the schedule or to schedule a two week dead period during that time, I think it would be more beneficial vs. saying that the students simply will not have school for those ten days, but they will be required to still come to practice in order to prepare for these games. I'm sure with the shortened summer break many families will plan to take trips throughout the year (e.g. Fall Break and Spring Break), therefore I think blocking off an additional two weeks of the year in addition to the shortened summer break could raise a lot of issues with the families of our students.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>I see it being hard on families who have high school students who pay sports</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>I see potential budget issues for providing the benefits such as enrichment and remediation. We don't currently fund those and summer school was cut drastically this summer. How does Knox County plan to address this?</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>I teach students with emotional/behavioral issues. I am worried this calendar will make behavior worse due to longer breaks. We spend a lot of time before and after breaks such as Christmas break dealing with transitions/behavior.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>I think a balanced calendar would be detrimental to the sports programs, especially when it is first initiated</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>I think for teachers, it takes the time in the summer to unwind. I know for me I don't start relaxing until July. I also coach and spend part of my summer with the sport that I am involved with. A shorter summer will hurt camps and community camps that we do for kids.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>I think student behavior is worse and learning is minimal those final weeks right before Winter and Summer break. More breaks in the school year would INCREASE this "vacation mode" behavior.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>I think that students and parents would adjust well.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>I think that the amount of money it would cost to do the balanced calendar properly would not be worth it. What about our other initiatives like the technology initiative? How would we ever begin to pay for both of these things.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>I think that there will be more likelihood of behavior issues. When kids have to frequently get back into the classroom routine, I think that will pose more problems. Especially grade school children.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>I think the balanced calendar may present a rough start for children who have difficulty with routine changes at first, but I believe it will ultimately present a more relaxed feel after the first year because it will ultimately be more of a routine as time goes on.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>I think the questions here are real concerns, but I feel like the calendar would get settled and everyone would get use to the calendar.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>I understand the concern of conflicts, but I believe that community organizations such as day/child care, churches, and sports teams would HAVE to change their schedules as well to better suit the new calendar, therefore eliminating such conflicts.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>I work at a High School. The students are already acting up because they are "done". If they had to stay longer, we would have many more discipline problems.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>I work at an inner city school and the students can't focus the week before a break or even a day off. It also takes a week after the break to get used to being in school again. The entire school struggles with the transitions and routines changes.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>I worry about the lower-income kids during these extended breaks. Will they have adequate food and care?</p>

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
KCS	I would like to know how interventions and extra learning opportunities are going to be paid for and covered. Are teachers supposed to work more with no change in compensation to make these opportunities happen or are they going to be offered incentive pay? Will there be transportation available for those students who are participating in intervention and additional learning opportunities or are those opportunities only going to be available to the students who have transportation available to them by their families?
KCS	I would worry about the learning loss over the breaks. It seems like there is loss over fall break and spring break as is.
KCS	If anything there would be fewer routine changes for a student because the summer break would be less disruptive and breaks would be more evenly distributed.
KCS	If daycare providers are creative they have the potential to make more money with a balanced calendar. Area employers will look for ways to make hiring of students viable during all breaks - win,win
KCS	If enrichment opportunities exist, then teachers will be asked to provide them. I would expect that the teachers providing this extra service should be compensated accordingly to their current salary and no less.
KCS	If families are aware they have plenty if time to make other arrangements
KCS	If intervention and enrichment are happening during the breaks then where are the breaks for the teachers and will teacher be paid extra for that extra work?
KCS	If only certain schools in the district follow a balanced calendar (instead of entire district), it would be impossible for itinerant teachers to maintain schedules.
KCS	If students have to remediate during the breaks, won't they end up going to school more and making the struggle more intense?
KCS	If teachers were mandated to serve or work during an Intervention/Break. We already often prepare for future lessons while we are on "break."
KCS	If the KCS calendar changes but that of surrounding counties does not, it may well cause issues for teaching staff who live outside the county and may also cause issues with students who transfer into KCS or out of KCS from other schedules, particularly when it comes to where they are in the curriculum from one district to another.
KCS	If this plan is in place ahead of time families, daycares, and other activities will learn to adjust their calendars and after the adjustment people will not even notice. It's two weeks difference, that is all!!!!
KCS	If we got less time in May/June and more time in August/September I would not like it because of the weather difference. Also I know some people just simply have a hard time accepting change, and they will grumble.
KCS	If you plan to consider changing to a balanced calendar, you need to think about the LARGE population of athletes and coaches in your high schools and middle schools. For example. In the fall we would have a two week break. That break would fall right in the middle of state qualifying for girls soccer, cross country, and football. This means that those athletes will be expected to not go on a vacation and that those coaches would be expected to stay in town. I know this does not effect every area of Knox County, but it does make things very difficult for those schools in areas where families go on a lot of vacations. I, as a coach, would have a very difficult time requiring my athletes to stay in town which would hurt my team in it's chances to qualify. Also, Knox County does not pay it's coaches any where near what surrounding counties who are the same calendar pay. Right now I average \$.10/hour for coaching my sport in the fall and \$.25/hour for coaching my sport in the spring. And now you would asking me to give up my breaks for VERY LITTLE pay. At least in surrounding counties, their coaches are being paid significantly more making it not as terrible to stay in town. It is something to consider since we are such a large county.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
KCS	I'm afraid that there will still be just as much inservice during the summer breaks as there already is, which would mean even less time for teachers to rest during the summer, which would cause more teacher exhaustion and not improve teacher morale.
KCS	I'm afraid there will not be an adequate budget for enrichment/intervention during breaks.
KCS	--In addition to students losing work opportunities, the balanced calendar will significantly reduce the annual income of Knox County support workers. Families and those with lower paying Knox Co. jobs (i.e. Instructional Assistants), depend on summer work. Stress on annual income can already be seen with school openings moving from September after Labor Day, to earlier and earlier in August. Some summer employment opportunities are no longer even available. The span of those seasonal jobs are outside the availability of students and staff. (Consider the impact relative to a need to pay a mortgage, medical expenses, End of Life Insurance, winter utility bills, transportation maintenance costs, car insurance, IT & Communication costs--these basic needs factor in significantly when determining a "Living Wage") The "summer job" is not incidental. --Summer Program workers may lose overall hours. --Businesses providing summer programs may not be sufficiently flexible to match family/student needs as currently structured.
KCS	In exchange for a shorter summer, teachers would expect to receive time during the 10 day break. There should be no mandatory PD or expectations in place during breaks.
KCS	In many cases educators utilize the time off during the summer to continue their education. For several years I worked during the summer to continue my education and then to pursue my masters degree. I now use much of the summer to help take care of an aging mother and to give my sister a deserved break. I would not like to lose this needed time to eventually have this time "cut into" throughout the future years.
KCS	Increased cost of utilities for usage of school buildings and transportation for students. Increased cost to pay teachers to do remediation and/or extended learning.
KCS	Increased costs as schools are more fully utilized for more days during the year.
KCS	Increased expenses for the county, finding teachers willing to give more time for the intervention and enrichment sessions which will likely only be attended by students with A averages, and change fatigue.
KCS	Inservices for teacher during breaks. Loss of band practice time. Reteaching rules several times throughout the year because of the breaks.
KCS	Is it fair for some students not to have breaks due to intervention? This should be optional.
KCS	It can be extremely hot during July
KCS	It could seem as though we are always on and off. It can throw special Ed students off because of their routines.
KCS	It doesn't seem so much shorter that the disruption would be significant in all areas.
KCS	It has been proven that the "benefits" are not a reality. Many students who struggle in school work twice as hard ... They need their breaks just as much or more than the regular students. There is a high probability that projects or reports would be assigned during these "so called" breaks.
KCS	It is simply a different calendar. Select what works best for your family.
KCS	It is the single worst thing our school system can do. 2 week breaks will be shortened because the school system will implement mandatory inservice days. Also, no one wants two weeks off in the middle of February. Summer is the best time for breaks.
KCS	It might throw off some scheduling time with parents because most parents have jobs and other stuff to be doing so in those 2 weeks breaks we would get they might find it to be very inconvenient
KCS	It seems like it would cost the county more.
KCS	It will be rough at first, but just with any and all changes that have been made with calendars in the past years, everyone will adjust and it will all work out with summer jobs, child care, etc.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
KCS	It would be hard on daycares and parents to provide stable places for students during breaks.
KCS	It would be slightly difficult for me because my own students go to Sevierville County Schools in Seymour; therefore, it will cause slight differences for my children. However, I do not think it is something that will cause major problems for us.
KCS	It would have a negative impact on athletics - more breaks during season which results in loss of gate money, etc.
KCS	It would likely cost significantly more than the current calendar - where is that information? Did I miss the communication regarding this component? It seems like before the stakeholders can make an informed decision/express their level of interest, we would have that information.
KCS	It would ruin summer travel baseball and other family activities.
KCS	Just as we have adjusted a society to the current school calendar, we would do the same for a balanced one. Student outcomes such as behavior improvements, opportunities to support struggling students during breaks, and the reduction of summer learning loss should drive this decision.
KCS	JUST DO IT!!!
KCS	keeping schools open longer can create more costs on schools budgets. Foer example heating, cooling,lighting,etc.
KCS	Knox County is so large, everyone including businesses will have to conform to the year round schedule.
KCS	Lack of "real" information results in less informed community and family members shying away from options without fully understanding.
KCS	Learning loss due to breaks being two weeks at a time is a potential drawback. After experiencing a two week break, due to snow, I can definitely say that there was a learning loss that occurred. One week at a time seems to be the max before significant loss is seen. High schools also have 9 week courses that are greatly impacted by a two week break. Sports would be greatly impacted by a balanced calendar. Sports continue through the breaks, which would affect participation by students and those attending sporting events.
KCS	Less camp and other extra opportunities.
KCS	Less government money dumped into the school system
KCS	Less of a summer break; however those days will be made up within the school year.
KCS	Less time for children to be children and more time for them to continue to be stressed about the difficulties of today's curriculum.
KCS	less time for children to explore and follow their own interests
KCS	less time in summer for teacher educational enrichment/professional development/travel either for education or leisure less time or no time for mission projects to be done w/churches/places of worship b/c schedules are different especially further north less family enrichment time less time for students to earn money less being in sync w/college start times less time for teacher renewal before fall starts in school again during very hot weather We have it backwards in the south; instead of starting sooner, we should be starting later. We start during the hottest month, Aug. Kind of insane already and this will make it worse by adding more summer days in school. Many Northern schools do not begin until after Labor Day and then go until 1 or 1 1/2 wks into June. This makes far more sense to me.
KCS	less time to play with pussy cats during summer
KCS	Less true "down time." Time off could be filled with more work related activities (enrichment, professional development, meetings, and e-mails); not enough time to full recharge.
KCS	Like any schedule, a balanced calendar will create challenges early. However, in time, the community will eventually adjust to the change. The district must be dedicated to the change if it is to truly be effective.
KCS	Local summer swim teams would have to make adjustments.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
KCS	Loss of gate revenue at athletic events during the two week breaks. Difficulty for athletes who depend on school transportation, to be able to get to practices and games.
KCS	Loss of my summer job. On an hourly basis I make twice during the summer as I make teaching.
KCS	Loss of retention over breaks. Students and teachers will spend multiple days re-learning material previously covered. Those who participate in athletics will not enjoy the benefits of those breaks and athletic funds could suffer with games during breaks.
KCS	Loss of revenue for the schools during breaks (ie ticket sales at games and concessions). Also, our students would not have rides to come to school for practice. Teachers would not work during breaks unless the pay was a significant increase. There needs to be a strong accountability program in place if you are going to require the students to come to school during the breaks or it would be a giant waste of money and resources.
KCS	Many Summer Camps would have to shut their doors due to lack of income. College students would not be able to help on the two week breaks throughout the year. Many student will be left home alone.
KCS	Math/LA teachers may potentially not get breaks due to having to remediate or enrich during breaks, teachers lose opportunity for educational advancement that they'd typically do during the summer
KCS	more \$\$\$\$\$
KCS	More breaks mean more "brain drain".
KCS	More disruptions to athletics and transportation to and from campus during breaks.
KCS	More instructional time lost due to transitioning students back into school routine four times throughout the school year, particularly in the lower grades.
KCS	More kids home alone due to parent work schedules.
KCS	More time at home during the school year is difficult for children with separation anxiety. Routine is constantly changing.
KCS	Most of these obstacles can easily be overcome by working with community agencies.
KCS	My main concern as a teacher is that my childcare facility will not change with the system and I will have to find other care.
KCS	Need more information to accurately answer.
KCS	Need to think about custody agreements being redefined and the cost associated with this. People will need help.
KCS	No real time to just relax. Teachers may be coerced into providing the enrichment/intervention services instead of having real down time.
KCS	None
KCS	None
KCS	none
KCS	NOne
KCS	None
KCS	NONE
KCS	None
KCS	None
KCS	none
KCS	none
KCS	None
KCS	None
KCS	none
KCS	None for me personally- but I don't have children at home.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
KCS	None of the reasons above relate to student retention, student progress or lack of.....these all seem to be teacher oriented (a personal belief). The bottom line is, a balanced calendar is not conducive to our/teacher/family desires.... Yes, the balanced calendar will cause disruptions to family trips, summer job opportunities, internships, and practicum placements. Shortening the summer break would undermine the time needed to refresh/reboot before the new year begins. Having many shorter breaks (which we already have...Fall, Thanksgiving, Xmas, MLK, Spring break, and any snow days) is not a valid reason to move the whole calendar around.
KCS	None of these drawbacks are significant enough to make a stance against having a balanced calendar.
KCS	None, would cost students money with summer jobs when businesses hire them at length. Also cost teachers money that have summer related jobs and fall sports would suffer financially as well. Students are not going to come to events at the school when school is not in session.
KCS	none.
KCS	None. It's a preference. The only drawback from my experience is that the feeder schools have to have the open communication For example, if surrounding counties are not participating and transferring into our county, there must be support efforts in place.
KCS	Not in agreement with inservice being during breaks
KCS	Not sure
KCS	Not sure how I will run my summer camp
KCS	Not sure how the school system would fund the intersessions.
KCS	Of the benefits listed before on a balanced calendar, intervention and enrichment, unless the school were to provide these opportunities, I feel like the parents wouldn't. Some would, but others, not so much. So how would these opportunities help the student?
KCS	Once again, regardless of the drawbacks, when performing a cost/benefit analysis the drawbacks may be mute.
KCS	One of the hardest parts of teaching is coming to a halt at the end of the semesters. A balanced calendar would necessitate 2 more hard breaks in the curriculum. Also, students will need to review when the 2 week period ends. A balanced calendar will keep students and teachers from getting into a flow of topics.
KCS	One Principal mentioned how the students struggled when we had two weeks off for snow. They could not get started back and that is what it seems like you are proposing.
KCS	our CDC-A students have problems when things change, when they have any kind of breaks it messes them up.
KCS	Pacing guides would have to be reworked. Educators are used to the schedule as it stands now. Standardized testing may not fit in well with the new schedule.
KCS	Parents and teachers that have students in different districts will not have the opportunity to spend time with those children. This really effect broken homes where parents share a child. It will make it very difficult for them to have the allotted time given to them if the school schedules do not match.
KCS	Parents being confused about when the child is expected to be at school. Employees of the school system who live in a different county may have child care issues and vacation conflicts.
KCS	Parents would have to plan for their children. That is something they are not accustomed too!
KCS	Planning ahead in ample time to cover students during the longer spring and fall breaks.
KCS	Please see survey comments from previous page.
KCS	Possible required meetings for teachers during the breaks, causing them to not really be a break.
KCS	Professional growth

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
KCS	Professional Summer Growth
KCS	School sport schedules
KCS	Scientific studies have been mixed and there is no definite proof that it increases student learning.
KCS	see all of the above
KCS	see comments from last section
KCS	See previous comment.
KCS	See previous page of comments on experiences with it!
KCS	Separation anxiety for younger students.
KCS	Several of the above issues would only be issues for a short time - eventually, the organizations that provide child care would adapt to the community/school schedule.
KCS	Shorter summer break means educators/staff have less time to work at better paying jobs that allow them to earn enough money to cover necessary expenses and still be able to continue their careers/passions as teachers. Two longer breaks, 5 more days/Spring and 8 more days/Fall, give students two (2) more "slides" INCREASING reteaching/review time. The students who would take advantage of the "Intersession" aren't necessarily the ones who need it most. The number of students requiring help & lacking a basic skills foundation grows yearly. How many weekend or Winter break camps have ever been offered? What % of KCS students participate in KCS sponsored Summer camps? What % of KCS students attending KCS evening school are there ONLY to further their learning and NOT because of discipline/attendance/other problems?
KCS	Snow
KCS	Some parents say that child care arrangements are a drawback but it is not the responsibility of the schools to provide child care or "free baby-sitting". The school board needs to do what is best for students and teachers, so that we can meet the rigorous demands of the state standards.
KCS	Sometimes, as a teacher, I get into a groove with pacing, schedule, and content. When there's a break, that can be hard to come back from. Also, kids may behave worse because they are used to being on a break and their lives are so unstructured.
KCS	Sports calendars with districts not on balanced calendar could limit break time for athletes and coaches
KCS	Sports schedules would take away from breaks
KCS	Sports teams practice and play during breaks.
KCS	Staff loses opportunity to take classes during the summer. Coordinating extracurricular activities with other schools will become more difficult. Math&LA teachers won't get the breaks as they will most likely have to facilitate the remedial courses
KCS	Student behavior will not improve. As an educator, the last six weeks of school are hard enough without dragging it further in to the summer. In addition, students will not take advantage of the extra help in between quarters. It will be required by parents as a babysitting device and the student behavior will not be good. In addition, there will be not enough time for high school students to recover grades in summer school.
KCS	Student behaviors will be more of an issue with forgetting routines and expectations at school.
KCS	Student motivation to get the intervention they need doesn't exist. Students that are at risk or are failing won't go to the interventions without parent intervention to get them to school. These same students were given a "choice" for early release or 30 min. tutoring with staff members. This opportunity was rarely taken by the students that needed it the most.
KCS	Student retention between each 10 day break will cost more class time reviewing skills because of breaks 4 times a year instead of just twice a year (Summer and Christmas break).
KCS	Students being required to do projects or extra work during the breaks. Teachers being required to do extra trainings or work during the breaks.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
KCS	Students do not see that the topics are cohesive. Before an after breaks students get lazier and it is difficult to get them focused back again
KCS	Students focus less prior to breaks and have trouble getting back into the groove upon returns.
KCS	Students have a tendency to have behavior problems prior to a break in school. There is also a tendency to think that learning is not important at this time as well.
KCS	Students may forget crucial information for EOCs during a 2 week break in the middle of a semester.
KCS	Students often take off the day before spring break, the day before fall break, the day before Good Friday, etc. I think the will continue to do this only now have more opportunities to do so.
KCS	Students would not get into enough of a rhythm to work hard at school if a break is always around the corner or they just came from a break. That is something I would not have thought of before our 2 weeks of no school due to snow, but I definitely felt a lack of motivation from the students after that long break.
KCS	Studies have not definitively proven that a balanced calendar reduces summer learning loss.
KCS	Summer allows a longer stint of a new job or experience of those employed
KCS	Summer Camp programs may suffer.
KCS	summer is very important for families that rely on high school students to hold a job over the summer to help with bills. Cutting this time will make employers think twice about hiring on students for this time.
KCS	summer programs such as Boy Scout/Girl Scout Camp, BSA high adventure programs that are longer such as Philmont, Summer swim teams, Exchange student programs (my daughter has done two overseas programs which a balance calendar would interrupt)
KCS	Summer sport "travel teams" and "Showcase" teams will have difficulty meeting those demands for those students who have athletic potential.
KCS	Summer too short
KCS	Teacher and staff would not have to do inservice hours during 10 day breaks.
KCS	Teacher and student burnout. Two week breaks in the middle of sports seasons (basketball would have two, two week breaks in the middle of the season).
KCS	Teacher requirements vs time off during break. Compensation for extra offerings from teachers.
KCS	Teachers are unable to work summer jobs to supplement income. Since the teachers are not getting raises they need to work summer jobs to supplement their income. With a balanced calendar this is not possible to do. No one will hire someone for a week or two on the breaks as well as just a few weeks over the summer. Teachers will have to work through the short breaks to do planning time and work in the classrooms since they are not given enough opportunity on inservice days and administrative days. This in turn will cause more teachers to leave the teaching profession or go to other school districts that do not have the balanced calendar.
KCS	Teachers aren't paid as though they are 12 month employees and need summer jobs to make ends meet. Not many jobs will hire a 1 month employee.
KCS	Teachers battle a "reset" after breaks, even just a long weekend. Not to mention some students will inevitably be on an "extended vacation" or return sick or injured. Implementing breaks that are lengthy would benefit teaches by allowing plan time and rest, but it creates more work upon returning. Summer events like professional development would also be hindered.
KCS	Teachers know that more breaks means more re-teaching every time students come back from a break regardless of the length.
KCS	Teachers may not get all of the breaks if assigned to do student supports during breaks. Teachers might actually end up working more days than they presently do.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

<p>How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?</p>	<p>Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>Teachers need the same amount of time off that the students get. If we are going to a balanced calendar school year, then more staff should be added to do the extra help and enrichment during the breaks.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>Teachers often work in the summers as well as students</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>Teachers pursuing advanced degrees during their summers will no longer have that opportunity if the new balanced summer break does not align with college/university schedules.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>Teachers with young children will be paying for childcare during breaks but not needing it as their children will be at home during the breaks.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>Teachers with younger children would still have to pay for childcare during breaks even if their child was at home with them.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>that mixtape though http://itapez.com/mixtapes/dancehall/ijah-iba-forever-blaze-hosted-by-bobby-konders/</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>The balanced calendar could cause some difficulty at first, which is understandable. I strongly think that this gives more opportunities for families to plan and schedule.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>The balanced calendar models have yet to show how intervention or enrichment would be implemented in frequent breaks. Also, how would this effect teachers in end of the year cleaning duties and setting up rooms again? Also, I don't see how cleaning staff would get the schools clean as the usually do during the summer breaks in these shorter breaks. After the "snow break" we experienced this year, I felt it was hard to bounce back between the breaks. It caused more interruption to our routines in the classroom and getting into the swing of things.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>The balanced calendar would interrupt the flow of any group rehearsing or practicing in the Fall and Spring semesters. Asking students of faculty to participate in an event during their break time is not equitable or beneficial to rehearsal schedules.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>The balanced schedule will be a change as with anything. If people want to make it work, then it will work. As for fitting it into daily schedules or summer jobs, it will become the norm.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>The calendar would not match area colleges for Winter, Spring, or Summer breaks. Breaks are already currently offered between each 9 weeks you are just taking away days in the summer.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>The consequences and negatives of a balanced calendar, both academically and in the community far outweigh the benefits of a balanced calendar. Take a look at the number of school systems in NC and Nashville that are equivalent to our size and there is evidence that a balanced calendar simply does not work.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>The COST to provide adequate transportation and funds for staffing during the intersession. Knox Co can't currently provide adequate pay for teachers & staff, much less any additional time that would be required. NO BALANCED CALENDAR!!!</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>The days prior to and following breaks, student behavior makes teaching challenging. With more breaks, we would still have some down time. Having said that, with the Balanced Calendar providing routine and significant breaks (10 days), the students may not exhibit the severity of the behavior issues we see with the traditional calendar. Also, teacher training is scheduled throughout the summer. With a shorter summer break, the "vacation" time would decrease even more with training.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>The difficulty of disruption of summer activities and fitting the calendar into the family schedule could be drawbacks because so much of the population has family in other parts of the country on different schedules, and the calendar would make it an even shorter time to coordinate with families that are far away.</p>

Potential Drawbacks Comments

<p>How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?</p>	<p>Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>The extra cost of paying teachers to teach intervention and enrichment. Teacher time lost to inservice/development, thus not getting a break. Students not getting a break because they have enrichment, athletic events, arts events, etc. Facilities costs being increased due to extra weeks of use in the year. Cost of enrichment materials. Cost of intervention materials (if you can even schedule/mandate interventions). Can we mandate a student to attend enrichment or intervention?</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>The extra income during the summer is necessary to make ends meet, extra income is saved to balance out wages, that will be lost.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>The idea that the balanced calendar would create opportunities for enrichment and extra help is good; however the idea is that the teachers get a break too. Not all teachers would have to work for these enrichment opportunities, sure, but those who would work definitely would need to be compensated for that time. Not only that, but I don't think that many kids would take the opportunity for extra help.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>The increase of cost for the school system. The cooling of the building during those "summer days" will be a large increase in the energy usage.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>The increased cost. Knox County has a hard time keeping the air conditioning going in August after school begins. I can only imagine what July will be like.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>The items listed above would adjust to the new calendar therefore not being a problem. Transition are part of a structure so the said children above would adjust if it were consistent.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>The one area which will be hit hard are daycare centers that employ college students who are now off when the kids are off typically. Full-time staffing during long breaks other than summer will be a real challenge for some.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>The only draw back I have personally is that I will want to hold my daughter from day care during the breaks throughout the year. To hold her spot I will still have to pay for those 2 weeks even though I won't be using their services versus just pulling her out for holidays and summer.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>The reduction of only 12 days of summer is not significant enough to justify changing to a balanced calendar. This is unnecessary and not supported by any data.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>The shorter summer break is not enough days to make much of a difference in learning retention, however adding longer breaks through the school year is a disadvantage for younger students. Our youngest students experience stress with each change in routine which hinders learning. Early education is the very foundation of success in student. I personally have not seen any data to show a huge improvement in learning from the use of this balanced calendar. Comments I have read mostly center around the convenience of days off for vacations during less busy times of the year. Extra learning experiences have always been made available to students through extended contract.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>There are NO drawbacks.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>There are parents as well as teachers who use the summer time to further their education by taking summer courses at local colleges. I believe this would have an impact on those individuals as well.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>There is no drawback, you are letting people put their vacations and their personal business before kids education these days. If you dont want you kids asking "do you want fries with that" you will find a way to fit it in your schedule.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>There is simply not enough data to support this change. There are so many unanswered questions that KCS has not addressed: would teachers be expected to attend professional development during their 'break'? Who is going to present the extra PD during the 'breaks'? Have you considered that you are forcing presenters to give up their breaks?</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>There may not truly be opportunities for enrichment or intervention. Knox County is having a reduction in force at several schools, so there may not be funding for the advantages.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>There will be a cultural shift in our city if the school system adopts the balanced calendar. Child Care serves would arise, but summer jobs for teens would fall.</p>

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
KCS	These drawbacks are a temporary adjustment related to schedules that would reconcile themselves after the initial period of implementation. They are minor adjustments compared to the benefits to be gained from a balanced learning program!
KCS	These possible drawbacks don't affect that many people. The benefits outweigh the possible drawbacks.
KCS	they do all these changes during the summer why not during the school year
KCS	They, Knox County, will fill up our breaks with inservices and pd's that we will be required to attend.
KCS	This will be very difficult for special education. Especially in the later years of school. These students still require babysitting and none will be available due to age
KCS	Time for more collage courses for Teachers. Less time for enriching travel for both students and teachers. Less time for Family to have quality time together.
KCS	Time for other jobs, family events, etc.
KCS	time lost refreshing students on learning that took place before break so they can continue forward with new learning
KCS	Too many to list. Calendar scheduling has always been difficult. We need another Sarah Simpson. She was a master at working up calendars.
KCS	Too much time off in the event of snow. Not enough time in current grade level before TCAP testing.
KCS	Transfers for students in and out of the district will become difficult, an overall higher cost to run the schools, NO extra retention of knowledge over a shorter summer break (per the studies sighted on the KCS website), and "change fatigue" for the entire Knox County Schools stakeholder community. Switching to a year round calendar will be a horrendous mistake.
KCS	TSSAA sports are going to happen rather the students are on break or not. Coaches and stipend type positions will have to continue work during breaks. This also gives teachers that have coaching positions or supplemental positions even shorter summers as they fit in things like sports camps, band camps, summer league ball, etc.
KCS	Unfortunately, there are many students who will lose traction during the 2 week breaks. We see this after winter break. It was especially noticeable after the snow storm this year. Many students don't have any books in their homes. Their parents are not able to take them on educational trips and museum visits when they are out of school. They just sit at home with a TV or computer game system. Will transportation be provided for students needing remediation during the breaks? Will they be required to attend? If not, we will see problems. What about the kids on free breakfast and lunch? Will there be programs to help with that?
KCS	Utility costs
KCS	We can not assuem that the private sector day cares, church day cares and other providers of childcare can make the sweeping adjustments that would be required of them on this radically new schedule. Working class parents will have a dilemma about helping meet the needs of their children as they do not have the flexibility of the school schedule in their job benefits. Many tourist jobs that our HS people would help in would not be able to adjust to allow them to compete in thee better paying entry level , experience gathering jobs. And what of Governor's school and other opportunities to study in traditional higher ed cultures like in the Northeast at Phillips Exeter and Andover to name a few? Championship series in summer sports like Little League and USTAFF track are still held in late July and early August, there are a week or two of school potentially missed. Football Fall camp will be impacted and with the success of Fulton and West that are dynamic schools with good football programs , have you asked their coaches about the timing of this?

Potential Drawbacks Comments

<p>How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?</p>	<p>Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>We have student memory retention issues after Christmas break, and Spring break as is. This won't eliminate that. I think that it has already been decided that this is going to improve student scores, so if it doesn't, then teachers will have to explain why, or come up with some implementation that works. This is going to cost money, and I don't have newest adoption textbooks for courses I teach, basic lab equipment (my school has one chemistry lab; sinks, burners, outlets) for 600 students. I'd rather we spend this money on things that will help teachers deliver quality instruction under the existing calendar.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>We just had an extra 2 weeks off during February this past year due to inclement weather. I found that during that time period my students had slipped. It required additional time to refocus them and bring them back up with their learning.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>What are you going to do when the area that needs enrichment cannot be properly staffed? Most PE students and DEd students will not need enrichment.....what if the math and science teachers are not interested in working during the break weeks but you need their help to teach the enrichment? Where are you going to have this enrichment so that all students can benefit? The elementary enrichment weeks will be babysitting.....it will be difficult for the kids that age to find activities when their Moms need to go to work!</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>What happens during the winter when we miss days because of weather?</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>What if my student is taking dual enrollment classes at PSCC during the school year? Their calendar will not match ours.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>When students are out two weeks as happened with snow, behavior management, rules, and routines all had to be reviewed and revisited. Students come back tired and groggy from staying up late and take a week to get back on sleeping schedule.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>Where are we going to find the extra money to pay the teachers and others hired for enrichment sessions during the breaks? How will this affect the budget?</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>Where will funds come from for the extra learning opportunities during the breaks and during summer? What will happen when there are not enough teachers willing to give up their break time to teach these extra learning opportunities?</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>Where will funds to provide remediation and enrichment come from? I would not want funds to come from teachers or their classrooms.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>While child care could be argued, I have personally seen that feeder programs will align with whatever Knox County Schools calendar will do. Need evidence? Check out snowday procedures and plans.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>While there are frequent breaks each break comes with a day before the break and a day after the break. These days are typically lost instructional days--days winding down and days gearing up and reviewing. Overall the negatives much outweigh the positives.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>Who will be able to attend the intervention/enrichment programs? Who will teach these? Where will the FUNDING come from</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>Will disrupt parent schedules with daycare, childcare, family vacations, and other non school related actives</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>Will high school follow balanced calendar with sports?? Two different schedules could be crazy for families.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>Will highly affect any sports or extra curricular activities.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>Will not benefit students who depend on buses for after school activities. These students will not be able to attend games or practices. In addition, this schedule will hurt teams who depend on individuals attending games to raise money. Many families will have a difficult time scheduling family time. The weeks off during the snow made it was difficult to get the students make into a routine, it makes me think that it would be hard doing this several times a year. (it is very hard to establish a routine, then it be interrupted with two week breaks)</p>

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
KCS	Will teachers receive additional compensation for working during intersession? Will teachers be required to do professional development during intersession? If teachers do not receive additional compensation for additional time I would disagree with this program. Additionally, if teachers are required to do professional development during the "breaks" I would disagree with this program. The breaks should be breaks for all and teachers' PD opportunities need to be built in to this calendar.
KCS	With a balanced calendar there would be more frequent learning loss. While it is true that there is some summer learning loss, most of the time spent at the start of school is just time transitioning to a new grade and teacher. But with longer and more frequent breaks we would have more loss of learning as we would have to transition back to school every 9 weeks.
KCS	Within a balanced calendar, students are given more breaks which makes it difficult for them to get back on track. The snow break was a prime example. It is even difficult to get students back on track after a long weekend so I don't see how more breaks are beneficial. Extend the school year four to five days and give a longer fall break. Makes perfect sense because this way you are not disrupting anyones summer plans or jobs.
KCS	Working in a SPED classroom, this would cause havoc in the kids learning a schedule. The more frequent breaks would mean a lot of difficulty teaching the kids routine.
KCS	Working in an Alternative special education school this would make for more of the awful transition weeks.
KCS	Working in SPED, the kids are so sensitive to routine. It would be very difficult to get them used to the routine so often. These kids are very sensitive to breaks and would have to be reminded of routine after every break.
KCS	Would teachers be forced to teach during the breaks. Said it gives teachers a chance to rejuvenate, but not if they still have to teach extra.
KCS	would we be expected to use our "break time" to fulfill inservice hours, professional development, and or training?
KCS	You will still have plenty of time for vacations as you really are not loosing that much time during the summer, possibly 2 weeks or so and you will have time to go on vacations throughout the whole year which means you can go when it is not as crowded and less expensive because it is not "peak season"
Not Answered	As teacher I believe that children do better with more consistency. More breaks in routine are disruptive to learning and time is wasted retraining children on how to act at school after being out of routine. The weeks of snow this past winter are a great example of this.
Not Answered	Burden for families that don't have chills are flexibility
Not Answered	Carryover of work during break. My daughter and son have had homework both fall and spring breaks this year. I feel these breaks would be longer, but crammed with projects.
Not Answered	Child care is always an issue for working parents whether during the summer or on break. Shorter breaks may actually be cheaper in child care costs in the long run
Not Answered	Childcare is the most important thing for me....encourage listening or seeking input from childcare directors to see if they are willing to provide this childcare if and when needed.
Not Answered	COST!! Why are you ignoring the additional cost to taxpayers? Requiring teachers to work during the breaks will add to the cost. Band programs will suffer. Kids needing to work will be negatively affected. Local swimming pools will have to close due to lack of revenues from shortened season.
Not Answered	Days before a school break are typically filled with non-value add activities to fill up the days. We need more instructional time not less.
Not Answered	Don't see that this will benefit students in any way.
Not Answered	Fine arts teachers who will need to keep up with concert schedules and/or marching band schedules and competitions that do not acknowledge the difference be

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Not Answered	I do not agree that a difference of 12 days in the summer break amounts an enormous amount of disruption. Also, I feel certain that the child care industry will evolve simultaneously with the school system.
Not Answered	I feel as though some students will not be here at the beginning of school in a balanced calendar because it doesn't fit in to a traditional family schedule. Parents will schedule vacations because they like that time of year, and they will disregard the fact that their children will miss important learning opportunities at the beginning of school. And missing the beginning of school can keep the students behind the entire semester. And to add frequent breaks is not a bad idea, but two week breaks are harder to recover from. Students are less focused and
Not Answered	I feel like a large number of students and teachers count on summer jobs for extra income.
Not Answered	I feel that although the summer break learning loss would be decreased, kids will also forget a lot of information on the 10 day breaks. Students forget a lot of what they have learned just over winter break, if there are basically three winter breaks, how much are they going to forget then? Review time will be required after each of these breaks instead of just after Summer break.
Not Answered	I might have to take a pay cut or quit my job and stay home because I cant find stable care.
Not Answered	I think three weeks is too much. Could we not look at two weeks instead of three and add the other weeks to make the summer slightly longer.
Not Answered	I would prefer to get all my work done at once rather than to constantly be working all through the year.
Not Answered	If the balanced calendar affects employment (results in disciplinary actions to employees for lack attendance resulting from child care issues during frequent long breaks from school) our overall economy will be affected. You are asking all people everywhere to accept your actions and modify their lives, company policies, and finances when you change the calendar. The affect of Knoxville will be felt in a ripple effect that will spread throughout the entire US. We have call centers here that answer calls from around the world.
Not Answered	In my experience, the days just before a break are filled with useless activities. Since there will be more breaks, I'm worried there will be more lost instructional time. Given the balanced calendar, students who wish to pursue early college enrollment might have difficulty fitting in summer classes.
Not Answered	Making more breaks and less summer does not make a kid learn more..
Not Answered	None
Not Answered	Not enough diff. to justify.
Not Answered	Not sure.
Not Answered	Other potential drawbacks are economy related as well as those listed above
Not Answered	Our children are stressed out enough with forced testing and odd curriculum foreign to parents, why stress them out more by disrupting their schedules they are accustomed to? This would cause stress and behavior problems! 2. Employers may have no sympathy for working parents (especially mothers) who are already having trouble convincing employers that picking up sick kids and telecommuting on school days is acceptable.
Not Answered	Parents cannot take many extra days off from work to stay with their children during non-summer days. If the days are taken off during the summer, the parents can make arrangements for long term care for their children. It is an AWFUL idea to try to make the parents use all their work-time leave to stay home with their children when they are out of school in non-summer days.
Not Answered	School would become students' lives, like a job, without a larger summer break.
Not Answered	Some high school students need to work summer jobs. Also, with longer daylight hours, students stay up later, thereby making it harder for them to get up for school and to stay alert during the school day. Some blended families need time during the summer to spend with non-custodial parents.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Not Answered	Sports programs would have a hard time managing there schedule with the loss of the usual season of events. School maintenance would be an issue as the hotter times would be upon the building with students attending. Focus and knowledge retention for children would be potentially harder as much of their thought would be in the warmer activities that can be done in the summer.
Not Answered	The calendar could present a challenge for high school students who are in AP and/or Dual Enrollment classes. The schedule would also need to work with State testing windows for EOC's, etc.
Not Answered	The main drawback is just funding, I think, if the intercession time is used to plan interventions for kids who need extra help, because that necessitates staff time.
Not Answered	There are few drawbacks, and most of what is mentioned here is just a matter of routine. Changing and learning a new routine is real life. Adjust and overcome.
Not Answered	Think they have been covered
Not Answered	This may create an absolute disaster for sports and other after school activities. Teachers may also still be asked to work during breaks for additional help.
Not Answered	This was already discussed. But I will state it again. I work in childcare. I do believe it will be hard for childcare facilities to keep an afterschool teacher who can be that flexible with hours
Not Answered	Two biggest drawbacks, in my opinion: ---Summer job disruptions; however, once everyone is on a balanced calendars businesses should fall in line with need help during the new school breaks. --- Childcare; however, I assume daycares would adjust their hours of operation to meet the new demands. On a personal note, I have a student in Catholic high school and public 5th grade so that might be a but of a hassle, but overall I am supportive of balanced school year.
Not Answered	When would shool begin inthe fall?
Parent	Long summer is the only time when students can spend time with their grandparents, cousins... Travel aboard.. It is much beneficial than longer fall+spring breaks for some students who care about family connections, about cultural enrichment.. For working parents it is always not easy to arrange additional child care during the breaks.. And the longer summer, the better balanced enrichment child can get without any transitional issues..
Parent	"Pro" of Balanced is less information loss by decreasing time out of school during summer. But Balanced creates additional breaks that are longer throughout year...what about loss then? Do 9-10 days make a difference?
Parent	#1. Students will lose focus after 10 day breaks. Similar to the 10 consecutive snow days we experienced this winter. The balanced calendar breaks the routine parents have established at home with school work, bed-times etc. #2. No established student to teacher relationship during Intersession days.
Parent	(1) Summer time is a relaxing break time that children need after working hard for a whole school year. It's time to relax, unwind and make memories. Additional breaks during school year requires children to make mental transitions, which is not a true break that children need / should have. Children require a consistent environment to function well, as opposed to waffling between breaks and school. (2) Additional costs and benefits(if any) of a balanced calendar have yet to be quantified and substantiated. (3) Additional tax on taxpayers.
Parent	(1) The balanced calendar is a great opportunity for families to travel during off-peak times (when vacations are significantly cheaper and less crowded than the traditional summer and holiday breaks). (2) Mini-breaks during the school year offer the opportunity for students to rest and recharge. We have all seen the affects of children getting burned-out toward the end of a long school year. (3) Mini-breaks have the potential to prevent the spread of illness, particularly during the fall and winter months.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	* Very difficult for overlapping summer travel with family members not on a balanced calendar (i.e., It is already difficult to visit out of state relatives who traditionally attend school Sept. - mid-June. Starting our students in July narrows this window of opportunity further.) * Possibly *less* opportunity for a true break to refresh and recharge if teachers (particularly in the upper grades) assign lengthy homework packets over each break.
Parent	1. Days are longer, providing more "daylight" time. Children will have to get ready on school nights before dark. 2. Some parents use summer vacation as opportunity for children to visit family who lives out of state as well as vacations, camping trips, etc. Most of these trips cannot be taken during school year on extended breaks.
Parent	1. Where will the funding come from for the extra classes being offered? 2. Where is the data to support that this change is even necessary? Will it improve test scores and behavior?
Parent	1. There has been no mention of the financial impact this would have. I have attended work sessions about the balanced calendar and no one has been able to give any financial figures. I would not even think about agreeing to a balanced calendar until the financial costs are disclosed. 2. Childcare: many parents would not be able to find additional childcare. Kids may be left home alone. 3. I don't see how 12 extra days in the summer is going to help with retention.
Parent	2 weeks is too long in spring and fall. It will make younger kids more restless. Ask the teachers if the kids behavior was better or worse after 2 weeks off for snow this year!
Parent	A balanced calendar does not better prepare students for a college calendar, nor does it help prepare them for working a job where breaks are few and far between.
Parent	A balanced calendar is what we need not common core...#justsaying
Parent	A balanced calendar makes it even more difficult for working single parents to secure stable childcare arrangements and creates more disruption in adjusting to schedule and routine especially for younger children. In addition, it is extremely disruptive for career activities as jobs are somewhat flexible in the summer yet with such frequent breaks, it could potentially cause great harm to maintaining employment.
Parent	A balanced calendar will destroy wonderful area summer sports programs such as GKAIISA (Greater Knoxville Area Interclub Swimming Association) and GKTA (Greater Knoxville Tennis Association) - both of which begin after Memorial Day and run through the month of July.
Parent	A balanced calendar will put a lot of pools in jeopardy
Parent	A balanced calendar would require many parents to modify there current parenting plans (i.e. child custody orders) that are based upon the traditional calendar. Forcing a modification of so many of these plans all at once may cause a lot of families a tremendous amount of stress, and it may cost parents who are separated from one another a lot of additional money in legal fees associated with having their current parenting plans modified.
Parent	A change in our culture when none is warranted.
Parent	A changed schedule might not line up as well with those of cousins out of town. On the other hand, some of our family are already on balanced calendar, and it hasn't made too much difference.
Parent	A fresh start, to prioritize ; sounds good - the community will make the new way.
Parent	A long summer break with family is so much more important than the education in the public school
Parent	A lot of teachers work summer jobs unlike the yes teacher's. This would limit them from that
Parent	A nightmare for working parents.
Parent	A shorter summer might conflict with summer camps and sports opportunities.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	-A substantial body of work indicates that there are no significant differences in achievement between students on a modified calendar and those on a traditional one! (Harp, 1993; Zykowski et al ., 1991) - This is merely a burdensome schedule change that has little or no increased educational value (Alberta Teacher's Association, 1991) (Winter 401) This is just an incremental step to year round schooling, and if anyone thinks differently they are a fool and need to crack open a history book. .
Parent	A two week break between every nine weeks, is just a long enough period for a child to get off schedule and lose their routine. The whole first week back is spent getting used to being in school again.
Parent	absolutely do not like idea of balanced calendar
Parent	Absolutely ZERO options for child care during the 10 day breaks for working parents. We don't have enough leave from work! And college students are unavailable during those times for child care. Enrichment activities are in summer day camps, which is now shortened. There aren't enrichment day camps available at other break times.
Parent	Academics only doesn't help student and realizing ones potential in succeeding in life.
Parent	Additional air conditioning costs since there would be more school days in the summer. This would also give the maintenance crews less time to prepare for the next school year.
Parent	Additional costs that the school would incur. Disruption of camps, mission trips, internships, etc. over the summer.
Parent	After extended fall, winter, spring and summer breaks, the children will still need to review information learned prior to the break. Therefore, not solving the problem of too much time in review with the current traditional calendar. I feel that Knox County has been slowly pushing us to this balanced calendar for the past 7-8 years now. I guess in hopes that when you compare the two calendars, they are not that much different. I don't appreciate the "nudge" that has been happening and can see clearly what the angle was all along.
Parent	After longer breaks from school, I find it difficult to reign the children back in to a "school" mindset. I do try to keep their schedules during the breaks, however, do feel they deserve a break as well and try to be a bit looser with it.
Parent	Aftercare arrangements Vacation time at work during the summer will be limited
Parent	Again my concern is changes in child care arrangements. I can't bring him to work each day and don't want to use up all my sick/vac time to cover the breaks. This means that I would have nothing to allow me to take time for traditional summer activities.
Parent	Again, much more stressful on students in the long run.
Parent	Again, my opinion on these does not impact my opinion on the balanced calendar issue.
Parent	Again. I think a balanced calendar is a horrible idea.
Parent	Against
Parent	All drawbacks can be overcome
Parent	All listed are correct
Parent	All of the above
Parent	All of the above are reasons that several schools across the country who have tried this system have now returned to the regular school calendar. Do your research.
Parent	All of the above plus interfere with our cultural activities & religious ceremonies. Our family travels during the summer for powwow season & Sacred Sundance ceremonies based on important dates in the cycles of nature. WE have to travel across the United States. This is the only time we are able to connect with relatives who live in other states and share oral stories& traditions furthering tribal knowledge and existence.
Parent	All of the above stated.
Parent	All of the above, which hit all the important points! Summer is for swim team, kids making \$ and vacations along w/ some studying/reading. That's where the parents have an obligation for kids. I want the school system calendar to REMAIN THE SAME!
Parent	All of the above.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	All of the above. How much more do you need to make the point that this proposal is foolish?
Parent	All of the above. Child care issues, summer vacation issues, lots.
Parent	All of the above.... I think a balanced calendar would be harder on traditional working families, who would often struggle then with making child care arrangements, especially those with out capable family, or trustworthy caregivers. Most working people CANNOT take off work repeatedly during the year, whereas, with a traditional longer Christmas and Summer break these plans can be made well in advance. I also happen to believe that MOST kids DO need summer time for some unstructured time just to BE A KID!!.. take vacations! etc!! YES, this would also affect teens who may count on, and ENJOY having a summer job (which also gives them REAL WORLD work experience)!!! Not many employers would hire a kid for just four or five weeks.
Parent	All of these are major drawbacks and for children with even the minimal learning disability this can be a major disruption in their learning.
Parent	All of these are potential issues but ones that can be addressed without too much conflict. I believe the benefits out weigh the potential drawbacks. There would be a time of adjustment but overall I believe it would benefit the student.
Parent	All the above, and less summer time for physical activities.
Parent	Allow for better vacations
Parent	Along with the drawbacks previously mentioned the additional cost of year round school should be mentioned as a drawback.
Parent	Also for those of us that are sharing custody, you don't take into account that we have to go back to lawyers for the whole swapping on Spring and Fall Breaks. Doesn't matter if the parents agree at the time for each to take 1 week of each break, things get strained and then parents do not work together. You want to pay both our legal fees to get this change made to the parenting plans already set forth? Additionally, you'll need copies of new parenting plans from everyone based on the balanced calendar or else you may violate the agreement that is set forth between the parents and the court. Also for those parents in manufacturing job environments, they do not close the plants down for the Spring and Fall Breaks so it is limited on how many people can take vacation during those times, this is why having the longer summer break helps because there is more opportunities for those of us in manufacturing environments to be able to spend time with our families during the break. I would assume in some small offices, this would also be the case where there has to be coverage so not everyone can be out.
Parent	Alter rotation between co-parenting and custody concerns.
Parent	An autistic child would have greater difficulty with this schedule.
Parent	An extended winter break beyond a week around Christmas is not beneficial due to the colder temperatures impending or limiting time for outside activities or travel with family. Pool time would have to wait for the weekend for extended summer.
Parent	An important issue that does not effect me personally is summer jobs. Not all children are academia quality. I have given many summer jobs to students and ojt. Something the school does not even attempt to do.
Parent	Annoying people who will complain about it.
Parent	Any drawbacks are easy outweighed by the benefits a balanced calendar offers.
Parent	Any good commercial daycare/after-school program would restructure their own schedule to accommodate the newly adopted school schedule if/when necessary. Child care (while extremely necessary for us) won't be a concern.
Parent	Any other drawbacks are just excuses from parents that fear change.
Parent	AP classes, would schools get rid of block scheduling and go to more traditional scheduling? Issues with testing?
Parent	AP tests, recruiting for sports/attending camps, etc.,
Parent	Area day cares and providers should not be affected but be flexible to new schedule.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	Area Mother's Day Out programs would suffer.....by the way, they were not invited it the "day care provider" meeting. I feel like this is all being thrown together and you are not listening to community feedback at the meetings you held.
Parent	As a college educator this change would negatively impact our family schedule.
Parent	As a director or a parents day out program who follows Knox co schools planning will be difficult for me and harder on families who depend on the party time care for their part time work.
Parent	As a full-time working mother, I am concerned about how this will affect my child's after-school care and summer programming. I cannot afford to take off from work due to a changed calender. Have local childcare facilities been contacted to discuss how they would deal with this change in the school year (i.e., offering full days of care during the breaks)?
Parent	As a parent of a child who was in Honors/AP English we experienced the heavy reading/work load over the summer. They are already punished for being smart but now the time to complete those assignments is decreased. I feel the summer work load should be equally decreased if this is implemented. I never minderd them having to read the books but the assignments were often busy work and not even looked at or discussed during the school year.
Parent	As a parent of a spectrum child, I think a balanced calendar is a great idea. It creates a "carved in stone", or a pattern per say. He will know when he has school and when he's on break. As far as summer job, they are only losing 10 days.
Parent	As a parent who shares custody of children, I would have to go back into mediation to redo our annual plan. Thats costs a lot of money especially when you are on a budget. Also childcare us made more difficult.
Parent	As a parent with children in the band, we would no longer have a summer break since we start band camp 2-3 weels before school. Plus, how can a child make up a class if they fail it of summer is now gone? I also don't like the fact that we probably won't get these additional breaks because of football games and competitions. Are you going to force kids that need additional help to come in during the 10 days off? That can make them targets to be bullied since they won't get to enjoy their time off. What if their parents schedule a trip during that time and they really need to be in these instructional times? How is that going to be handled? I say leave the calendar along.
Parent	As a single mother who works full time child care is on the top of my list and worries. As long as the child care will follow being opened for this new school plan I'm fine with it.
Parent	As a summer swim team family, the balanced calendar would interfere with the summer swim season. Also, as a kindergarten parent I think that kindergarten students would have a difficult time assimilating into the routine of school with such frequent long breaks.
Parent	As a teacher myself, I find that the students behavior WORSENS when they know a break is drawing near. It is very difficult to keep the children focused on learning when Christmas break and Spring break are just ahead, and the end of the year is almost useless in asking the children to stay focused and learn.
Parent	As a teacher, I depend on the longer summer in order to earn enough extra money to support my own child. Also, as a mother, I know that my child needs the long summer break to recuperate and reinvent before going back in.
Parent	As a teacher, I found coming back from the 2 week winter break to be more difficult than from the only 1 week spring break. So that would add two more transition times during the year.
Parent	As a working mom it defenetly works out better for me.We will find time for vac easier when you have 2 instead of 1
Parent	As a working parent my biggest concern is childcare during the breaks. Will camps be available from 7:30am-6pm like traditional summer camps?
Parent	As already mentioned, it will be difficult to have college children on different schedule than their younger siblings.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	As far as daycare arrangements during breaks, any traditional daycare options will follow suit with the new schedule because they follow the school schedule anyway. The community at large will adjust to the revised schedule and plan accordingly as far as summer employment and camps are concerned.
Parent	As far as summer jobs go, it seems that the employment climate is different than once before. Many employers are not hiring students until they are over 16 and many students by that time even work year round not just summer jobs. It seems students that have had summer jobs only opt for volunteering versus employment. I like the idea of longer fall, and spring breaks but can see the hardship for many working families that have limited flexibility with employers. Although if all Knox county schools participate childcare and summer camps will adjust accordingly to the balanced calendar. I have one question, will High Schools follow suit and adopt the balance calendar also? In Cary, NC where my brother and sister-in-law live, they only have balance calendar until students reach high school.
Parent	As I do see benefits and drawbacks, the main one I do not feel will change, is behavior. They will act the way they do, Good or bad. Children act the way they do based on what they are taught at home, who they hang out with at school, and whether they feel there will be rewards or repercussions in regards to their behavior.
Parent	As I have seen and experienced with the current calendar - such as with the long winter break - the first two weeks back are spent re-teaching what was taught prior to leaving on winter break and the teachers struggle with getting students back on track and into their routines. The breaks during school appears to create redoing and teachers are not happy during this period of time. I like the time off but sometimes the stress created with going back is not beneficial to anyone.
Parent	As I mentioned already, national string camp might not be possible if it falls in one of the weeks Knox County decides to eliminate from summer
Parent	As I stated before, the breaks will not be treated as breaks in the honors courses. We have already experience this in the breaks we have now.
Parent	As mentioned earlier, the more time off the kids have at a time, the less likely some people are to be able to make ends meet during those times...though, with optional day camp like activities, it could be turned into an opportunity for enrichment, and more arts education.
Parent	As parents if one works and one goes to college, university or work it is close to impossible to adapt the balanced schedule.
Parent	as previously noted, it could take away ability to go out of the country for a month. Conversely, it seems to me that the kids learn a lot through international travel, and it seems that they should be able to take an extra long break and get educational credit...maybe once every few years or whatever.
Parent	As someone who works in special education, I found students with behavior issues had a harder time getting back into the routine after a longer break at fall/spring, thus causing more disruption to the classroom as a whole. Also, as a parent of a student who plays a fall sport (girls' soccer), the fall break will still not allow for vacation time, etc.
Parent	As the weather gets nicer, harder to focus on being inside all day in class for teachers and students.
Parent	As with all changes, it started at one point and then everyone adjusted. As with all the issues with sports and camps etc, they would need to adjust. I am not saying this lightly because I know it will be an adjustment, but it can be done.
Parent	As with any major change, there is drawbacks, however, if this is implemented, one can only hope that everything else such as childcare, will change and adapt as well.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	As you mentioned in the "benefits" section, children will have a difficult time gearing up after these two week breaks, hence lost time to learn NEW material. In addition, the children will go thru excitement periods just before and after these breaks that will interrupt the learning environment. Knowing what's it's like before and after our current breaks, how could the administration even consider stripping more days from the teachers to actually TEACH?
Parent	At the meeting I was for the balanced schedule and I may still be for it. But after having more time to think about it I do see some concerns. I see the breaks are not more frequent, Fall and Spring Breaks are just longer (if I understand it right, Winter break is very similar). At the meeting, Administrators said there is no definite proof of scholastic improvement and the improvement that has been seen is nearly immaterial. My concern is there would be a reduction in Summer break for a few days extra added to Spring and Summer break. With the extended absence several times a year I think (opinion based, no scholastic evidence to back this up), there is a risk of incurring "summer learning loss" several times a year instead of just in the Summer. And is the Summer learning loss going to be drastically less by only being out 9-10 weeks as opposed to 12 weeks?
Parent	Athletes and band activities would still require students to participants and thereby not providing kids with a break as the balance calendar indicates
Parent	athletic activities which are not governed by knox county schools and will not change due to the balanced calendar change
Parent	athletics in middle and high school
Parent	Athletics would be greatly effected with the breaks and play of games. AP end of year testing that is set not by school district would also be effected and could cause issues with having all the info needed before the test.
Parent	Available childcare. The shades after school program tied to the school is only open when the school is. Most of us that have both parents working cannot be home with the children during the time these huge breaks are taking place. If the school offered childcare options this would not be a problem.
Parent	Bad idea
Parent	Bad idea altogether
Parent	Balanced calendar is used in our family in Central Indiana and they don't care for it at all. It's hard for employees to cram summer vacations into a shortened summer break, and not all adults are able to take vacation time during the fall and spring breaks.
Parent	Balanced calendar not in sync with national AP class testing schedule.
Parent	Balanced calendar with greatly affect children with custody and/or visitation schedules. This will mean new parenting plans, mediation and supplemental cost for these families
Parent	Balanced calender is not good for working family when both family members work. It distrupts summer vacation plans. It is not possible to care for children for those short fall, winter and summer breaks. We don't have any possibility to adapt this kind of program. It is a public information that this kind of programs tried before and not continued at many locations.
Parent	Balanced morning traffic jams throughout the entire year!
Parent	Band camp is usually at the end of july. Would it be disrupted or be held earlier in summer?
Parent	Band camp would be difficult to hold during a shorter summer break.
Parent	Based on my personal experience, and the experience of those I've discussed the issue with, the longer more frequent breaks arent helpful. If you are honest with yourself, how long does it take you to ramp back up at your job after a multi-week break? You are trading out one extended period off, with admitted learning loss, for multiple extended breaks that will do the same.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	Be a big mess. Kids do fine now . If parents want balanced calendar go where it is Do not disrupt other parents that want to spend summer with their children. I am counting down for summer vacation already. .can't wait. I want to enjoy the summer with my child . My twenty year old twins graduated and now my son is in the army and my daughter in college. They didn't have to full with that crap and they are doing great now. Do not need that balanced calendar. Parents would have to disrupt their life . I know that I am VERY unhappy about this and I do not plan on participating in it I am going to go through another way for my child to get their education.
Parent	Behavior problems as children are anticipating breaks and coming back from breaks.
Parent	Behavior. And transitions will be hard for the typical developed child but what about the special needs child. Please don't do this. They need summer break and everyone will lay out of school for their vacations. Specially when vacations are planned with cousins aunts uncles and everyone is coming from all directions. People will take their kids out to do just that. You can bet I sure will.
Parent	Behavioral problems will arise before breaks and since the balanced calendar contains more frequent breaks, I see it increasing these issues.
Parent	Big disadvantage for high school students taking AP classes. The AP tests would be administered weeks before the end of the course. More frequent breaks would be disruptive to honors and AP students.
Parent	Bigger financial burden on parents with more "breaks" and needing activities and/or childcare
Parent	Biggest drawback is child care during the breaks. This will be a big increase for child care for most parents of young children.
Parent	Both teachers and kids need the summer jobs. Daycares will need more part-time help to cover weeks off during the year. Parents will have a harder time keeping kids occupied in a safe environment.
Parent	Bottom line is people will do what they have to do to get in their summer vacations and kids will adjust. Child care will be an issue for parents as well as child care providers.
Parent	Break time is BREAK TIME. Teachers already assign homework and studying over spring break. You are taking away from summer break where there is no homework and studying but teachers will make assignments during the break time during the year. It will NOT be equal break time as it is now.
Parent	Breaks (intersessions) would be during times of year that weather/daylight hours would limit the enjoyment of the break. I think it would be important to schedule the Summer break during summer months (ie. Start it in June, not May). That should accommodate most summer travel plans.
Parent	Breaks during summer allow for learning that cannot happen in a structured classroom. Breaks at spring and fall... where they are nice, they are not enough time to internally relax and get in the groove of non-structured learning. School is becoming a place that is overcoming life instead of enriching children's lives. Right now, kids are so stressed out about all the work that even on days off they are stressed out about what they are not doing. To top it off, even parents get emails and texts to stress out about what isn't being done. Life is revolving around the school calendar and now you want to lengthen it with less of a break. I am not in favor of the new calendar.
Parent	Breaks too long during school year, detrimental effect on momentum
Parent	Breaks will occur during middle of sports seasons limiting families being able to utilize the break for other things.
Parent	By the time the last 12 days of some come around the kids are board anyways.
Parent	Calling it "balanced calendar" is trying to cover up what it really is, Year Round School.
Parent	Camps and other childcare providers will adapt to the market and offer solutions.
Parent	Camps, summer sports, less time to visit family who have different school calendars.
Parent	Cannot afford childcare nor be off of work

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	Can't afford half day enrichment classes. No transportation to half a day or couple hours of tutoring do to working day shift. Either there full day or can't go.
Parent	Can't get off work to be with kids not fair to parents that work
Parent	Certain kids it takes them time to build momentum. If u go 45 days then a break. That child might lose momentum.
Parent	Change in schedule is going to cost my family money. And I don't think that the school board is going pay us for the inconvenience.
Parent	Change is difficult but all will get use to it.
Parent	Change is hard for parents and students. It is impossible to please everyone, however childcare is childcare work it out! Family schedule? Work around educating your child not planning your prime cruise time and location. Summer jobs are still available and evening and weekends are available for employment.
Parent	Child care
Parent	Child Care
Parent	Child care !!!!!!!!
Parent	Child care and other activities will adjust and probably do better since this system will provide them with more steady activity. Family will adjust and even benefits since vacation trips can now be taken at less peak times. Children that have difficulty adjusting may provide a challenge but may also benefits from the more frequent transitions and learning to cope.
Parent	Child care arrangements for full time working parents. Cost increases. Summer international travel interruptions. Risks chances to meet family and relatives
Parent	Child care arrangements will be the EASIEST difficulty to overcome because if the school system adopts the balanced calendar, then all childcare businesses will HAVE to adopt the same schedule IF they wish to remain in business.
Parent	Child Care Changes = increased costs for parents who don't have a stay at home child care would be significant, as camps offered outside the summer are likely to cost more than camps during the summer: more requirement to hold them in buildings (more money), also smaller supply, at first initially (since we are starting with none) but even more generally (i.e., some camps, like those held at UT or Webb school, will not be available in the non-summer as they have their own students in session then, so there's a lower supply). It will also be harder to get college students to staff the non-summer camps, making the camps more expensive. If we do go to a balanced calendar, it will be essential to offer childcare at the schools on a sliding income scale.
Parent	CHILD CARE CHILD CARE CHILD CARE! Not everyone is a stay at home mother, and this is the biggest drawback. Maybe implement it for high school children, but not middle school and below.
Parent	Child care cost. Loss of traditional summer break with family.
Parent	Child care during the breaks would be virtually impossible or too expensive to afford. UT students are not on the same schedule therefore a major resource of child care would be unavailable. This system does NOT work with two parent working households
Parent	Child care during the school year during quarter breaks for a working household is extremely difficult
Parent	Child care for the breaks would be a challenge for parents with smaller children that are not old enough to stay at home by themselves.
Parent	Child care is a major issues, especially for parents working 40 hours a week outside the home.
Parent	child care is an issue with long summer breaks; rare calendar conflicts were an issue; my autistic child preferred the school routine and found time off routines more disruptive
Parent	Child care is more costly for short term vs long term so the poor once again become poorer.
Parent	Child care is my biggest concern.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	Child care is my largest concern at this time. Families who do not have to have childcare during the school year will now have to spend the money to have child care. There are a lot of latch key children that are at home an hour or 2 prior to the parents arriving. These parents will have to find child care which was not in their budget because the elementary age child can't be home alone this duration of time.
Parent	Child care is not available for older children and too young to stay home. Hardship on parents that work.
Parent	Child Care is the biggest drawback especially for single parents, parents that have been laid off or just low income and can't afford extra childcare expenses
Parent	Child care is the most important. I also feel that if during the breaks you just offer more learning opportunities the kids will not have any break at all. They have to have some fun time and down time - can't have "school" 24/7.
Parent	Child care issues are a huge barrier. Working parents have only a small numbers of days off per year. Baby sitters at \$10/hr are cost prohibitive. Child care centers don't allow short term enrollment. The current system is hard enough!
Parent	child care issues, especially for families where there is a single parent or where both parents work and/or where there are children at more than one education level (elementary, middle and/or high school) would be majorly affected having to find child care more frequently throughout a year than they are currently with a summer schedule.
Parent	Child care serving the cou ty would need to adjust accordingly. This would be a cooperative effort.
Parent	Child care strikes me as the biggest challenge. Even if camps and other care are available during breaks, it would still take additional effort for those of us who work to organize these activities and adjust the children to them. The benefit of a long summer is that camp or similar forms of care only need to be organized once.
Parent	Child care would be a challenge and costly for working parents.
Parent	Child care would not be an issue for me specifically but if the changes are not closely coordinated with child care entities then this could cause a huge issue for those who depend on either child care at the school or daycare centers.
Parent	Child care.
Parent	Child care.
Parent	Child Care. I am divorced and a long summer break is easy for my parents to watch my kids while I work. It is understood that summer is "help time" for me from my family.
Parent	Child care. Most school based program's cost more and are more difficult to obtain.
Parent	Child care/schedules
Parent	Childcare
Parent	Childcare
Parent	childcare doe.s Get difficult
Parent	Childcare during spring, fall,winter breaks will be difficult for working families.
Parent	Childcare for breaks might be an issue for some, but I suspect that child care providers would adapt.
Parent	Childcare is a big one along with children trying to adjust their routin more often.
Parent	Childcare is a huge concern. My daughter's summer care place may not offer shorter terms throughout the year. Also conflicts with my college age child's schedule.
Parent	Childcare is just a really big issue. If the after school programs could operate during these breaks for an additional cost that would be great.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	CHILDCARE IS MY MAJOR CONCERN FOR THE INTERSESSION BREAKS. THE LONGER SUMMER, THERE ARE CAMPS, ETC. THAT OUR CHILDREN CAN GO TO DURING THE SUMMERS. I DON'T EXPECT THESE OPTIONS FOR THE INTERSESSION TIMES WHICH REALLY PUTS A STRAIN ON THE FAMILY WHEN BOTH PARENTS WORK OUTSIDE THE HOME. AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS CAN ASSIST HERE, BUT IT DOESN'T GIVE THE CHILDREN THE BREAKS FROM SCHOOL AS THE SCHEDULE SEEMS TO BE PROMOTING.
Parent	Childcare is not an issue for me. Summer break is already short enough.
Parent	Childcare is our biggest concern with two working parents and elementary aged kids. we run our own cpa firm and the spring and fall 10 day breaks would come at our worst times of the year. We already struggle with childcare over the winter break. Summer is no problem with camps available.
Parent	childcare issues will somewhat resolve themselves as after school programs and childcare adjusts.
Parent	Childcare rates and schedules. Owners of childcare centers will have a huge financial shift and scheduling difficulty. My kids really struggle with transition so it will be more challenging to make them understand when they are home and when they are in school. We do not vacation so that part does not matter to me.
Parent	Childcare will more than likely adjust once the word gets out. Besides I prefer having a week long fall break. That's actually perfect vacation weather.
Parent	Children from broken homes/blended families often spend the summer with the other parent in another state. What kind of professional development could teachers do in a two week break? All the teachers I know do their professional development in the summer. Academic gains are inconclusive, not proven to increase attendance or reduce discipline problems. Higher taxes for the teacher raises.
Parent	Children in band and football will have no summer break. When we were out two weeks this winter for snow, all I heard was how hard it was going to be to get the students back to speed after two weeks off. How is this different from all the time off in a balanced school year?
Parent	Children in different schools not on a balanced calendar is a huge problem.
Parent	Children like routine and this would cause more interruptions of our routine
Parent	Children need a break to decompress during the summer months, and as a licensed marriage and familt therapist I have seen the emotional damage that the children are going through with more pressure added to their curriculum has created. Children are more anxious, depressed, and stressed than ever before. Children need time to Unwind, and the summer months need to be geared to slowing down and learning to just BE! Taking away time doesn't add up to relaxation, but just increases anxiety.
Parent	Children need routine, and the constant changes in bedtime/homework/daily activity load is very difficult for some children. It may take several weeks after each return to routine for children to adjust again. So much change is very hard for parents and teachers as well.
Parent	Children need routine, more disruptions throws that routine off
Parent	Children need the summer break as it is. They need the time to relax and play and not have to deal with the rigors of school.
Parent	Children of divorced parents may see less of the non-custodial parent. It's easier to arrange childcare for one longer summer break than for 4 separate shorter breaks.
Parent	Children should have chances to be kids summer is the time they get to enjoy being outside in fine weather and playing with friends building relationships. Let the kids be kids with pool parties and Vacation Bible School. And the child care issue is another factor when I work early I have to get them up at 4am and get them ready so their Nana can watch them til my husband gets home at 8:30 am during the summer. So we don't want three 10 day periods a year where I don't have child care. Thanks.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	Children still have school activities during time off, so they would not actually be off from school (sports & other extra activities). Those that are in HS school & are in band, play football, cheer, dance team, or anything else that participates during a fall football game would not be able to take advantage of the fall break. Missing 2 days isn't so bad, but 2 weeks...then they get a shorter summer!!! But those practices do start in July, so most vacations are done by then. The kids will never leave school & it will not feel like they are getting a break. Those that want the extra instruction over the summer get it & those that have behavior issues will still have behavior issues. Those are parenting issues, not child issues & I don't think you can change those. The breaks keep getting shorter & shorter & we've had children in school for the last 16 years, I don't think this will help the kids at all, expect to have more go to private school (which will be our option) or to be homeschooled.
Parent	Children that need to come and work extra to school-don't come anyway. This won't change that.
Parent	Children who are not self-motivated would not take full advantage of enrichment activities or school work during breaks. More breaks mean more disruption in sleep patterns and biorhythms.
Parent	Children who experience anxiety during transitions will have more difficulty adapting. My child has mild anxiety every Sunday night. After Summer break it takes two or three weeks to adjust and after Winter/Fall/Spring break there is another week or so adjustment period.
Parent	Children who rely on free lunches/breakfasts may need additional nutrition support.
Parent	Children who split their time between parents, especially those who live out of state will have to go back to court, which is expensive or may not be feasible, to fight to get their schedules changed for visitation and or custody placements if you change schedules. Some families may not even be able to afford to do that. Who will help or pay for these families that will suffer? Some families may not be able to have their children go to the other parent EXCEPT over summer break!
Parent	Children who suffer from ADHD or special needs will have a hard time adjusting to their routine being disrupted. CHILD CARE!
Parent	Children will miss out on special activities that are best experienced over a long period. For example my husband's family is not in the country. As the children get old enough to do so we have taken them abroad and let them spend the summer with family, seeing the country, absorbing the culture, and learning some of the language. These sorts of experiences can't be rushed. The children even at a younger age have gone to stay in NY city with him where he works. We have broken up the summer, rotating out the children so that each child have time alone there with him one on one and can absorb what NYC can provide. These things work best over a long summer. Some long travel experiences are not the same in colder months. NYC in winter is nowhere you want to walk around. Travel in Europe is better in warm weather, some places are terrible in the cold. You people are fooling yourselves if you think that there is no real loss to a balanced calendar.
Parent	Children would have to be in some sort of childcare during these long breaks whereas now, parents can work part-time and be home when children are home from school.
Parent	Communities would adjust, but there had best be significant lead time for everyone affected to figure out the new modus operandi prior to implementation.
Parent	Complete disruption of activities in the summer.
Parent	Complete hardship in restructuring family. Child would not be on same schedule as friends and cousins in other school systems.
Parent	Conflicts w/ summer camps, swim teams, not enough time to die of boredom.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	Conflicts with getting all material in in time for AP exams, families who have custody arrangements that are set up around the traditional calendar, summer activities such as Governor's School, out of town enrichment programs such as Duke TIP and other similar programs. The main drawback I see is that for the two week breaks throughout the year, teachers would assign projects, papers, etc, so it would not truly be a break. This happens quite often over the breaks we have now. Instead of taking a mental break and being able to focus completely on family/personal time, part of the time is spent either working on school work or anticipating what will be piled on as soon as the break is over because teachers always say they are behind. The balanced calendar seems to cause many more problems than it solves. The studies that I have read are inconclusive at best, and for the ones that favor the balanced calendar, the benefits seem to only affect a few. It seems to punish the majority of the students in order to help a few struggling students.
Parent	Conflicts with sport schedules and practice
Parent	Constant changing sleep pattern for the children.
Parent	Coordinate Child care for long breaks
Parent	Cost
Parent	Cost
Parent	Cost cost cost cost... You would need to pay your staff more ... You should anyway..
Parent	Cost is probalby the largest factor.
Parent	Cost of child care. I can get a college student in the summer. Child care is very expensive, not only having before and after care cost I will have high cost of breaks.
Parent	Cost of childcare in the transition and finding childcare from surrounding community that is on a more traditional schedule
Parent	Cost of two weeks of childcare and availability of somewhere to put my kids will be a problem for my family.
Parent	Cost to families!!!!!! See previous note. And not giving my kid a break from drama at childcare centers.
Parent	Cost to taxpayers for transportation and facilities.
Parent	Cost! The balanced calendar would cost a lot more in just bussing cost alone. Also, food service workers and bus drivers would be an extra cost. The teachers needed for enrichment/intervention would be another cost. One more cost would be child care for parents who do not have the option of taking weeks off or who have relatives to keep children. What about the cost of running the electricity for the extra time the schools will be open? Where is this money coming from? How can we spend money on this, when KCS will not fund my school with a technology teacher to teach our children how to type and basic computer skills?
Parent	Cost, student and teacher morale
Parent	Cost. How much will this cost and who will pay for it?
Parent	Costs associated with short term day care is more expensive!
Parent	costs more money for the school to run, when inclement weather interferes with schedule it would give too long of breaks, would eliminate GKAlSA summer swimming, NO evidence that this even improves anything, Farragut has great schools why change it? , This whole process is a WASTE of time and money
Parent	Costs more. Now u have school plus enrichment activities to provide staff, locations, suitable environment...all costing school district more money. Families will be forced to remove children from school for family vacations, reunions etc. This lower attendance will make school lose funding.
Parent	Costs to taxpayers
Parent	could affect many of the extra curricular programs negatively - sports and music-related activities where lengthy breaks could disrupt cumulative progress (practice/training/preparation for performance events).

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	Could hurt local economy with kids unable to work as much and spend money on summer activities.
Parent	Could pose additional child care issues for working parents.
Parent	Creates a domino effect on the community, which I do not see as a disadvantage as long as the community - churches, childcare, summer camp facilities, pool membership, etc. all adjust to this schedule accordingly.
Parent	Creates havoc for farming families and lethargy for our older students holding down jobs to even try to get a further education!
Parent	Currently, During each break it is difficult as a parent to get my students back into the routine of school. More breaks will add to this stress.
Parent	Currently, some teachers give assignments over fall, Thanksgiving and spring break. This is a conflict with family activities and causes stress for the student. I foresee some teachers continuing to give assignments over these breaks. It was also my understanding that teachers would also benefit from the extended balanced calendar breaks by not having to work during these breaks. If this is the case who will be teaching/helping the students that need additional support. Also when will the students that need additional support get their break?
Parent	Custody arrangements. Kids who are too old for after school care and particularly middle school age children just getting used to being home alone while parent may be working.
Parent	Day care
Parent	Day Care issues are a huge concern!!!
Parent	Daycare costs or lack of availability sky-rockets for families Jobs cannot accommodate a balanced schedule It is difficult to get children adjusted to sleep schedules with frequent and longer breaks.
Parent	Daycare has to be provided anyway.
Parent	Daycares make you pay throughout the regular school year whether you are there or not. They will only consider the 45 days in summer the days off. I am home in the summer so I enjoy not paying those days. The extra time off during the school year will cause me to have to pay for 2 weeks more in child care (unless the childcare prorates their fees in light of this possible new schedule).
Parent	Daycares will adjust and offer options for the balanced calendar. They always do.
Parent	Daycares will adjust to fit the new schedules.
Parent	Demand on teachers/school faculty/staff and their families Actual breaks for educators w/out enrichment or intervention requirements Does not address parent engagement in students' education; continues to put extra burden on teacher
Parent	Difference between children's schedules. Possible interference with a vacation that is already planned.
Parent	Different schedule from private schools could be a real problem for those of us who have kids in both. Also day care could be a real problem. I like the concept but it is not without implementation issues.
Parent	difficult for many parents to take time off of work during the fall, winter, and spring breaks if there is no child care available or not affordable
Parent	difficult for secondary education students. summer jobs would be challenging for high school students needing to earn \$ for college. Very difficult for special ed students to have 2 week breaks during the school year. Child care during the school year breaks is a significant issue
Parent	difficult for teachers to obtain higher degrees
Parent	Difficult for University employees to align vacations with children's vacations.
Parent	Difficulty finding childcare/sitters during the summer and on breaks, because the college students who usually provide that service will not be on the same calendar.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	Difficulty fitting in kids athletic schedules. Difficulty with testing schedules. Difficulty with kids sleeping schedules changing so often. Difficulty with kids being able to get a mental break with a shorter summer. There are more but I hesitate to list them all
Parent	Difficulty for daycares that may serve different school systems... as long as summer break is primarily June/July, I don't see much of an issue with most summer activities.
Parent	Difficulty getting kids back in routine and classroom disruption from three two week breaks. This past winter was a great example.
Parent	Difficulty in arranging family vacation with family out of state that don't have balanced calendar
Parent	Difficulty trying to coordinate schedules with family and friends that are in a typical calendar schedule.
Parent	Difficulty with child care. No way to ensure transportation for children for enhanced activities during several breaks throughout the year especially for working parents
Parent	Difficulty with continuity of curricula.
Parent	Disruption (or elimination of) existing Knoxville enrichment programs, such as GKAlSA summer swimming.
Parent	Disruption of family time & summer vacations, work schedules, etc.
Parent	<p>Disruption of other community activities that follow the school calendar. Disruption of children's normal routine of school/after school care. For example, there are several non-profit organizations that provide after school care in at risk neighborhoods and are a great benefit to ESL students. (My oldest child, a UT college student works as a teacher for one.) They do not meet when Knox County Schools are out. Therefore these children will be at a greater disadvantage if the balanced calendar is adopted. They ARE receiving extra help daily with home work and in areas that they struggle and are behind academically and socially. It will not make a difference WHEN the children are out of school as to what they DO with that free time. Those who sit and play video games all day will do it in the summer or with the extra week in the fall & spring with the balanced calendar. Increased pressure on children to meet greater expectations. How much will be enough? Add Saturday school? Lengthen the day? Does every child need to make a certain score on the ACT to be ok? The balanced calendar will increase the amount of the year children are under this stress. The days of summer substituted for help and enrichment. Older children need to be able to take a break from book work and learn life lessons in the work place. Employers are not going to use students full time for 2 weeks in fall, 2 weeks in December & then 2 weeks in spring. They will loose out on those opportunities. For instance, the past 2 summers my Junior in high school has worked for a company full time and learned the business, the invaluable lesson of honest pay for honest work, the value of money, the ability to decide how to spend his hard earned money, responsibility, time management, and the importance of higher education! Also, how will teachers be compensated for the extra time spent for enrichment or remedial help? That is more time they will be working. Also, their summer break is much shorter already. the balanced calendar will take even more of their summer break time away. Many teachers have summer jobs to help make ends meet. The balanced calendar will make this more difficult.</p>
Parent	Disruption of regular routine more frequently which in my case leads to a significant increase in maintaining order and focus.
Parent	Disruptions to learning in the middle of the semester. Teachers will need to spend time reviewing content after each spring and fall breaks. In the future Students will have hard time adjusting to college life.
Parent	Divorced families with court ordered breaks will now have to make adjustments because of the time changes. Daycares will not be able to accomodate the balanced schedule.
Parent	Divorced parents who already have a parenting plan. This could cause friction, disruption and potential for court costs and a new parenting plan.
Parent	Divorced parents who do week to week visitations during summer.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	divorced parents will have to renegotiate parental plans
Parent	Do not have enough time to spend with family that live far away.
Parent	Do NOT include a period of intercession. ALLOW EVERYONE TO HAVE A BREAK!!!
Parent	Do not support less summer time. The kids need a long break and the child care issue for split times is an issue
Parent	Do you really think this is going to help the kids retain information taking 11 days away from summer vacation? Its silly and I think the kids should be out and enjoying the summer weather instead of sitting in a class wishing they were out side. I think this is nonsense. Someone is just pushing their agenda onto the kids.
Parent	Does not align with calendars of community colleges/universities for dual enrollment students and for getting final transcript info for graduates to colleges early
Parent	does not appreciably increase the time for winter break which could be beneficial to family vacation planning
Parent	Does not help anything at a great cost to the taxpayer.
Parent	Does not match college semester. Will make it difficult for high school students to transition when they are used to receiving a two week break mid-semester. Breaks momentum during the semester.
Parent	Doesn't match schedule of other child at GCA
Parent	Don't like it
Parent	Don't like starting so early in August
Parent	Don't make me loose my timeshare purchased to start out our summer break and our winter timeshare!
Parent	Don't understand how it this will work at the high school level with alot of students maintain summer jobs. Also don't understand how it will be compatible with beginnings of sports practice at the middle and high school level.
Parent	Don't want a balanced calendar. It's too hard to get kids back into daily routines with long breaks during the year. Especially Sp Ed where they don't like disruption.
Parent	Drawbacks are minimal.
Parent	Dual Enrollment students may lose the opportunity to take summer classes depending on the schedule.
Parent	During any breaks, a student wants just that...a break. To have intervention during this time might look good on paper, but practically, it will be such a drawback to students and, thus, lead to poorer attitudes at/towards school. Extended breaks will be disastrous for consistency purposes. The summer break offers a one time, extended break between grade levels, which is needed for refreshment and summer programs.
Parent	During the 9 day snow break this winter, my children (4th grade and 9th grade) had a very difficult time getting back into their schedule. I am a single parent. There are enormous concerns about making child care arrangements during breaks. Almost no other school systems nationwide operate on this schedule. Our family members live out of state. It would be next to impossible to enjoy our family summer vacations with them with this limited summer schedule. There will be no time for children to participate in summer jobs which are great learning experiences for everyone.
Parent	During the breaks the children would get used to sleeping late,as they do during summer break.They would have to change their sleep patterns too many times.
Parent	Economic financial implications to parents, students and camp industries.
Parent	Economic loss of businesses that have a high sales volume during summer (boating, pools, etc). Also with so many private schools in the area it will be hard for after school activities to accommodate the various schedules of the participants.
Parent	Economic loss to the community businesses that rely on summer work by students. Please do not underestimate the importance of summer jobs. I could never have gone to college with working in the summer.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	Effects on athletic seasons?
Parent	Emotional toll it takes on the well performing students. They need their summer vacation. Quite frankly I am tired if my child being a guinea pig for some poorly researched ideal which is presented as "for the kids" when all it does is line someone's pocket with my tax dollars. I site for example Common Core and the foolishness of that program.
Parent	Employees who have kids in school will have fewer options for summer vacation times in traditional vacation spots. If there are limited times when kids are off school in the summer, employees will be competing for vacation time during those few weeks
Parent	Encourage belief that world should change if a student experiences hardship
Parent	Enrichment and Intervention during breaks will require more resources which I fear will create gaps in already successful programs.
Parent	Even if additional help can be given to students during breaks, many people work and unable to just leave a job to take student to get that "help". No consideration given to people who work.
Parent	Everyone has a hard time getting child care and taking the same time off for breaks in the office with their children and it makes it hard to plan something for each break,
Parent	Everything
Parent	Everything about a balanced calendar school year is a drawback.
Parent	Everything listed above
Parent	Everything you talk about is a drawback when discussing a balanced calendar. What do working parents do with their kids when they are out of school for 3 weeks at a time in the fall or spring? It is a ridiculous concept.
Parent	EVERYTHING!!! As a parent, I am totally against the balanced calendar!!!!
Parent	Exhaustion as school never seems to end.
Parent	Expense to Knox County schools, Disruption of summer activities, especially at the high-school level, disruption / elimination of established and truly enriching summer programs (like GKAlSA, Camp Webb, etc.)
Parent	Extended breaks will be difficult to find child care as employers limit time off.
Parent	Extended snow/ice school closures this year gave me a glimpse of what balanced calendar breaks could be like. I feel the second half of this school year has been especially chaotic with student focus and behavior due to the extended break. Our region's tourism would be greatly affected by a balanced calendar. Childcare would become especially challenging. The teachers would be forced to work longer with less than fair compensation. They are already overworked and underpaid.
Parent	Extra child care expenses, less time to plan summer activities. Too many families having to plan activities/vacations at the same time.
Parent	Extra cost of money due to having more daycare expenses.
Parent	Extra curricular activities
Parent	Extracurricular activities would be difficult to coordinate. Travel teams and potential scholarship opportunities would be lost.
Parent	Extracurricular activity organizations might view the breaks as an opportunity to schedule events requiring students to be engaged and not truly on break.
Parent	Families are expanding more today than they have in the past. Children move away from parents, siblings move away from each other. One thing families with kids all have in common is Summer Break. In addition to being and to take a vacation with your spouse and children, it's convenient to have a time frame when everyone knows their kids will be off of school and can plan a family visit in addition to the normal summer activities. As more and more schools move towards a "balanced" calendar, something suffers, and I have witnessed firsthand that it tends to be visiting with family members that live farther away.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	Families have to schedule activities for summers hire sitters while they are allotted a much shorter time off from work for vacations. These things would be more in line with year long work,sports and family schedules.
Parent	Families of all sizes and shapes are used to the dynamic with the current calendar for school. Changes this drastic do not benefit the students, there is no evidence that this new arrangement will benefit students.
Parent	Families on different schedules when one child is in college and another is in high school, which will be a problem for our family
Parent	Families will simply have to put some effort into such adjustments.
Parent	Families without a stay at home parent struggle with child care for odd days off. While I very much appreciate the benefits of shorter summers for less learning loss, I am a parent who works with my children over the summer. Their summers are filled with camps of activities they enjoy and visiting family.
Parent	Family budgets would need to be adjusted
Parent	Family that are seperates or divorced that may have to rearrange parenting plans. Court cost, mediation to much to have to arrange at times. If one or the other parent may not be civil.
Parent	Family vacations don't have to be taken in the summer. Child care facilities will adapt to school schedule. Loss of summer jobs? Maybe for a few.
Parent	Farragut/Knoxville area employs many families of international origin. It is already extremely difficult for parents to arrange travel to their home country with the current school calendar. Transitioning to a balanced calendar would make it even harder to schedule time.
Parent	few built in snow days
Parent	financial burden of school district
Parent	Financial cost. No definitive evidence that balance calendar is superior in terms of academics.
Parent	Finding child care during school year breaks
Parent	Fire McIntyre
Parent	Follow up. I think that there should be four quarters a year with equal break lengths. This balanced calendar seems too much of a compromise to that notion.
Parent	For a college educator such as myself, having longer breaks during the academic year as well as a shortened summer break negatively impacts my current family schedule.
Parent	For a parent that doesn't work on the school system, following school calendar, my child needs to go to daycare anyway. The only time it would make a difference is when we need to reduce swimming activities during the day at daycare because they would need to go back to school earlier. Having more breaks during the year greatly benefits us (non teacher parents) while planing vacation.
Parent	For international students who like to spend time in other countries, air fly tickets will be a lot more costly. Children will forget lessons over longer fall, spring, and winter breaks will need more reviews after breaks, on other hand after summer break teachers will start new materials anyway do not need reviews. Kids who is struggle with school and will be going to school during the break will be extremely upset because other kids will be home on vacation and they will not get any rest it will be like a punishment for them. Children who like to work during the summer will not have as much opportunities with shorter break. During the summer kids can be in swim team and be more active for health benefits, instead they will be sitting in hot classrooms. During long fall, spring and winter breaks nothing outdoors is available. Most likely children will be sitting and playing video games. Parents who is going to school as well will not have same schedule with their children. Will be complicated for everybody. PLEASE DO NOT VOTE for balanced calendar!
Parent	For many families like ours--with teachers not only in Knox County Schools, but at UT--a different schedule than normal would pose many problems for scheduling personal trips and childcare.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	For my family at Rocky Hill Elementary, Mr. Robert's after care provides the necessary child care. As long as he could accommodate the families, we would be fine.
Parent	For my kids, who happen to be doing very well academically it takes away their motivation of a nice long break after doing well. They wouldn't be able to spend a chunk of their time doing as they wish vs following a curriculum they already hate.
Parent	For my son, he needs a very consistent school schedule. Any long breaks are a huge problem to him and impact his ability to learn when returning to school. It's a whole new beginning after each long break.
Parent	For our family, having longer fall and spring breaks better fit our schedules.
Parent	For our family, I feel like it is 100% positive. We have middle schoolers who dont require daycare, and they arent old enough to have summer jobs so it fits perfectly in our life at this point. Potentially, the summer job thing will be a bit of an issue in years to come, but I think it's just a matter of adjustment.
Parent	For single parents already working 6 days a week life is busy enough without having to worry about schedule changes, not being able to afford additional child care, etc. Completely against this idea!
Parent	For students in band, sporting and other extra activities a balanced schedule could create conflict. They need the group practices and meeting times and this would be more difficult if school is not in session.
Parent	For students who struggle academically I am not sure if there would be enough time to support opportunities to keep them on track. For example Summer School.
Parent	For those involved in fall sports such as football and band, there are too many breaks that are during the marching season calendar, which would force us to attend while out of school. It is too difficult to have a continuity with the breaks during the middle of the season.
Parent	For those less fortunate that depend on school to supply nutrition.
Parent	For those of us that are single, working parents, this schedule is much more disruptive and difficult to manage. This schedule means that my 14 year old will have more time alone at home with video games. I doubt that is the objective of the revised calendar, but that will be the outcome for a lot of families that don't have options.
Parent	For those that use afterschool care, they will presumably all adjust to any school district calendar changes, so that should be a minimal challenge. I expect it's for those parents that take time off during the school year breaks, and only engage in daycare arrangements for the summer that will be most affected.
Parent	For us that work with employees that also have children, we would only have certain weeks available that each employee would be fighting for. At my job only one person can take off for a week. Balanced calendar would make taking vacations in summer almost impossible,
Parent	Forces us to take our yearly summer vacation during peak times, which is more expensive.
Parent	Forgetting what they learned
Parent	Frankly I don't see any of importance.
Parent	Frequent breaks allow for information to be forgotten
Parent	frustrated parents
Parent	Funding the proper enrichment and intercession activities so that all schools receive the benefits
Parent	Getting back on sleep schedules so often throughout the school year.
Parent	give children who don't have supervision more time to get in trouble during these more frequent breaks.
Parent	Graduating seniors will not be able to start during the summer semester at college. The summer semester makes the transition from high school to college smoother and allows students to graduate earlier from college or take classes beyond those required to graduate.
Parent	Grumpy kids during the transition.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	Hard to get in a groove or routine.. Also how will inclimate weather affect the schedule? For example, on a winter break, but the first day back it snows and the student has to miss school for 1-3 days. How will that time be made up?
Parent	Hard to get time off for vacations based on seniority at work due to fewer weeks to select from.
Parent	harder to get back in a routine when out so often. Needs to be the way it used to be with more summer break
Parent	hardship for daycare and low ses
Parent	Hardship on families to provide childcare during breaks, KCS calendar does not match up to UT calendar (college students often run camps, nanny for families, student teaching program, etc.) preschools and daycares would be forced to be open longer and pay workers to provide care during breaks, summer sport camps especially for high school teams would be forced to cram into six weeks (they are already booked full for the ten week break). Lastly, it would cost the school system more money to stay open during breaks and pay teachers to run enrichment sessions during these breaks. How would kids be fed? Would buses run? How would this interrupt schedules and attendance for ball games for high school teams? As a teacher, I feel it would be more difficult to stop and start four times each year, than it would be to just recharge over the long summer break. It would be nice to have a week long fall break, for kids and teachers to take a breather. That would shorten summer by a week.
Parent	Hardships for parents and aftercare. Aftercare programs being able to hire College students to work. Summer programs will not survive with this crazy kind of schedule.
Parent	Hardships for working parents.
Parent	Having lived with this style calandar, I know of no drawbacks.
Parent	Having parents traditional work schedules conflict with balanced calendar schedule. Single parents could struggle with this schedule.
Parent	Having snow days are equally disruptive and unplanned and many childcare facilities may not be open. With a planned break, childcare facilities will be available and accommodate the new schedule.
Parent	Having spoken to several parents of children that have been in a school system with a balanced calendar, there is another drawback that I find to be unacceptable. This drawback is that ultimately the breaks become a time for more homework to be assigned. Thus, the "scheduled" break is no longer a break but an extension of schoolwork that is to be completed by the student. Therefore, the purpose of the balanced calendar is defeated in that students and parents alike are actually spending more time on schoolwork and academics and less time with other valuable experiences, such as family time or vacations.
Parent	Having taught in an inner city school before, I could equally argue the benefits and the detriments to the transition factor. However, I do believe the academic, and ultimately social, benefits can eventually outweigh any negatives in this area. The other drawbacks will take some readjustment, but I believe the community will adjust.
Parent	Having to listen to hillbillies complain about it.
Parent	having to pay extra money they don't have for childcare
Parent	Here, you hit on true areas of concern for my family. Summer is a time my family bonds. We go to the pool, we play golf, we enjoy the summer. As it is now our summer ends July 20th with the start of band camp. Our summer would end July 6 with this calendar. Many other school related organizations also start activities prior to the end of the official summer break. My family would not like this plan.
Parent	High School Athletes is another draw back. Those students would still have practice and activities. Many would struggle with transportation and schedules. Young high schoolers do NOT need longer breaks home alone!!! Just more time for trouble,
Parent	High school students in AP level classes cannot benefit from 2 week breaks. Students playing sports during these breaks will not fully benefit from having a 2 week break. Their families cannot vacate on these breaks.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	High school students may have a harder time finding summer jobs because they would not be available the entire summer. Many high school students depend on their summer jobs to help with car insurance and gas money.
Parent	Higher daycare costs
Parent	Higher energy bills during the summer = cutting into already low school budgets. Have friends who are teachers in CA whose schools went to a "balance calendar" and soon went back to a traditional calendar because there were no noticeable changes in grades or retention of materials learned in previous grades.
Parent	higher stress for teachers, higher stress for students to be "on" more frequently, studying abroad opportunities diminished, availability for quality employees in child care, students/families will not take advantage of intervention unless required, no state/county funded plan for enrichment or intervention, conflicts with UT and other area college breaks
Parent	Higher utility cost for the taxpayers to operate schools on the balanced calendar schedule.
Parent	How about how this might affect sports teams.
Parent	How are working families suppose to work and support their family with this type of calendar? Most children have a summer nanny that may be a college student. Why make the academic year different from college academic year. What about students that take mission trips? There are very few weeks for families to make summer vacation plans. If there are only a few possible weeks for summer vacation how does that help the students recharge when they do not get the necessary amount of time off from school for summer. Has anyone thought of the cost of air conditioning for the school? That would increase as well when students spend more time in school classroom
Parent	How do you plan to get the kids that are struggling back to school during a break for intervention??
Parent	How does this affect block scheduling within the high schools? At one point, I heard high schools might be returning to a 7period day. This would let a child take 4 fewer classes over the course of their high school career, and make it very difficult to take more than 4 courses in a subject.
Parent	How does this effect their participation in sports (or other team-like extracurriculars) if other schools they will be competing against don't have this same system in place?
Parent	How will middle and high school sports benefit? The coaches and players will still have to be in town to practice and play games since surrounding counties are not going to a balanced calendar. How will these students benefit? How will you create a routine with your children? My kids did not want to go back to school after the two week snow/ice break. My kids are not in favor of the balanced calendar either.
Parent	How will the children that need the intervention get to school and home while on break. What about behavior issues when the children come back from a two or even three week break. I know that this is a problem when children come back in spring after only a one week break. It seems that they no longer want to sit in a class room, how is a longer break going to affect "spring fever". We hear that families need more family time that is what children today are missing and that is some of the behavior problems. So how is only allowing a month in the summer going to benefit any one.
Parent	How will the new schedule work with Athletic calendars?
Parent	How will the potential benefits and drawbacks impact learning and academic performance? What has the experience of other school systems that switched been? There must be studies, data and conclusions to be reviewed and considered.
Parent	How will this effect sports especially high school when games are played between different counties that might not be on the same schedule.
Parent	How will this impact sports? Children who play sports will not have a break. Football cannot take two weeks off during the season, nor can baseball. These children will not have an opportunity for enrichment activities.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	How will this new calendar affect the already strained KCS budget? How will it affect extracurricular activities and sports? How will it affect activities that already REQUIRE 2-3 weeks of MANDATORY summer practice if the summer is reduced by 2 weeks?
Parent	How would snow days & the possibility of having to make them up fit into this calendar?
Parent	Huge financial cost on middle class and low income families that will be forced at adopt a "balanced" schedule.
Parent	Huge for our family as our sons play sports and travel to colleges and play at showcases. This will cut into their play and their work time.
Parent	I actually find that the more frequent longer breaks the students have they seem to do poorer academically. So a balanced calendar while theoretically may seem to allow children time to catch up and review as is suggested, actually does not do this. In my opinion, it actually takes children a while to get back into the swing of things after a break of more than a few days. Making fall break and spring break longer can be detrimental to learning in the long run. I find that their learning is more disjointed with the longer breaks. In fact, the extended summer break in my personal experience gives a parent looking for enrichment resources to still do a great job at finding an enrichment program that the child can focus on and benefit from and still have a two and a half week additional time and complete break to take a vacation. We need to ensure that the children are the ones to benefit academically and not let other inconveniences get in the way. I oppose the balanced calendar and prefer the traditional calendar.
Parent	I agree that all of this is true, but your wording on this is tricky as to do I agree with the aspects of the good and bad of a balanced calendar. It will cause too many problems for families but mostly for the single household families. I strongly disagree with the whole balanced calendar.
Parent	I agree that it would disrupt summer activities, such as sports and vacations. However, those things are not as important as education.
Parent	I agree with the summer job problem as my kids are in high school.
Parent	I agree-these will not affect me personally but may others-but probably get be worked out within time.
Parent	I also believe that students would incur more burnout from the balanced calendar. These students need a nice long break from school to rejuvenate.
Parent	I am 100% against this because of our two state Co parenting plan.
Parent	I am a full time single parent and the balanced calendar would make things like childcare arrangement excessively difficult for me and my children.
Parent	I am a mother of three children who also works full time job outside of the home. I believe that the balanced calendar would allow for easier arranging of child care and give parents and children more opportunities for breaks and time to spend with one another more frequently. It's easier to make staffing arrangements when it's not everyone asking for time off during the same times in one month like it is now.
Parent	I am a mother to a child who struggles because of a reading disability, he looks forward to the longer break in the summer as a reward. He needs the longer break and even though he struggles he has able to retain on the longer summer break.
Parent	I am a proponent of moving to a balanced calendar.
Parent	I am a single mom currently working on a bachelors degree in nursing. It is hard enough as it is to find someone to watch my son at 6 am when I have to go to the hospital to do clinicals. A balance calender would only make it harder for me to make childcare arrangements.
Parent	I am a single mother and would have a hard time accommodating routine two week breaks into my work schedule.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	I am a single parent with the other parent residing out of state. We rely on the long summer break as this is the only time during the year that he takes custody of the children. I have to drive them and pick them up at the beginning and end of breaks. Although the other breaks are longer ... 10 days still isn't much time for me to make the drive back and forth, so essentially my kids will end up getting shorted on the time they get with their father.
Parent	I am a teacher in Union County Schools. A calendar change would severely disrupt the time I spend with my children. They would be off when I was at work and vice versa. I don't want to change schools, and my children don't want to lose friends by changing schools. Having summers off to spend with my children makes being a working mom bearable. I don't want to lose it.
Parent	I am afraid some of our highly acclaimed summer camps will not be able to run as effectively since the majority of their staff is comprised of college students who would like a full job their entire summer break, not just part of it
Parent	I am against a balanced calendar.
Parent	I am certain that the daycare institutions and after school care programs will adjust their services to correlate with the balanced calendar. Their business depends upon it! With a difference of only 12 days, I do not believe the change in the summer break is significant enough to even discuss. My only concern is for children from unstable homes as I believe there will be greater parental responsibility required to stay abreast of the new schedule, meet basic needs of the child (meals, hygiene, routine, etc.), and provide stimulating activities during the breaks.
Parent	I am concerned about not just how this will affect my family (childcare being the biggest concern), but also how will it affect my community. Will taxes have to increase to pay for the extra time at school for enrichment, etc? How will day care facilities find help during the two week breaks when they rely on college students and seasonal workers? Will our high schoolers have trouble getting summer jobs when they aren't available for the entire summer....especially in a college town where there are college kids available the entire time? What about the pools, zoo, and other local businesses that rely on heavier traffic during summer months?
Parent	I am concerned about the quality of childcare professionals that my current childcare facility will be able to retain due to a this type of scheduling.
Parent	I am concerned about the timing of AP exams in relation to a year round schedule. There will potentially be less instructional time to prepare for exams, and more "lost" teaching time after AP exams. I am also concerned about the impact of year round school on the ability of students to enroll in community college courses, summer enrichment programs like Governor's School and similar programs that are on a more traditional schedule.
Parent	I am concerned that high school students will be less prepared for AP tests due to less class days prior to the AP tests. I would like to see what additional costs are associated with a balanced calendar.
Parent	I am concerned that I've always heard teachers have a hard time "regrouping" after a Christmas break, or Spring Break, and it take a week to get kids focused again and on task....if they have MORE time off, how much wasted time will occur "re-focusing" the kids after the break. Will that be harder on the kids to come back ready to go or will a review always be necessary? That's a potential downfall.... I also worry about Honors students in high school having more time between...will that disrupt their progression??
Parent	I am concerned that many of our children involved in athletics would never be given an actual break because games and practice would continue during the two week "breaks".
Parent	I am concerned that the breaks will be used as occasions for additional homework assignments by teachers and not actual breaks of the kids. So in actuality, the children would not get the time off they need.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	I am concerned that the frequent breaks would be a tremendous upset to our family life; my husband and I both work during the regular school year, and so the long two week breaks are destructive to our work schedule. I imagine that after school programs might compensate and offer coverage, but only at an increased cost. In short, the balanced calendar destroys work time and increases the cost of childcare.
Parent	I am concerned that there will not be opportunities for activities, daycamps, youth trips for elementary and middle school kids during intercession.
Parent	I am firmly opposed to the balanced calendar for a number of reasons. Mainly I am concerned that children will not receive enough time to decompress from the school year, the balanced calendar will not allow enough time for us to fit in all of the enrichment activities we offer our children in the summer, the school calendar is already disjointed enough, causing a lack of continuity in routine, and that summer jobs, internships, childcare, and similar activities will be detrimentally affected due to the disjointed calendar. Children and parents need a break from KCS dictating their schedules. My children are very intelligent and successful students. They place a lot of pressure on themselves to perform at school. The summer break is truly the only time they are free from the stresses of projects, TCAPs, homework, and the school schedule. Winter break does not provide this release. I understand this is a concern for a small amount of students, however I believe it is important to consider the needs of the highly successful students who do not suffer typical learning loss, but rather will suffer from extending the pressures they experience. Furthermore, we provide our children with enrichment outside of school, that I fear can not be replicated in the school system. In the summer time we travel around the country and abroad, we explore museums and history at the source, we volunteer our time serving those disadvantaged, we study literature and math that challenge my children beyond anything they have experienced in the classroom, we expose our children to businesses and career opportunities, we spend a lot of time outdoors in the Smokies camping, hiking, and swimming in the rivers, our children participate in sports camps, overnight camp, sports teams, and science camps. Many of these activities are reliant on warm weather and/or continuity. I fear that the balanced calendar will severely disrupt and inhibit the enrichment opportunities we provide our children. I fear that these enrichment opportunities will not and can not be replicated by KCS. I feel that the school calendar's existing holiday breaks, in service days, and winter weather days are already disruptive to students. I imagine that adding more breaks to the calendar will only disrupt children's learning. Routines and habits are vital to success. I believe that interjecting more breaks into the school year will only cause more disruptions in learning. And finally, I am concerned with the scheduling conflicts that will arise from the University of Tennessee operating on a different calendar, parents needing to find childcare for inconsistent periods of time, and children lacking enough time to engage in activities that require an extended time commitment, like summer jobs. It is for these reasons and others that I am strongly opposed to the balanced calendar for Knox County Schools. I understand the points made in favor of the balanced calendar, but they do not outweigh the detriments in my opinion.
Parent	I am in favor of a balanced calendar, however I am not in favor of piling on a lot of homework/extra work during the extended breaks throughout the year. That time should be focused on more of a break for the kids.
Parent	I am not convinced "help" would be offered to all children who need it.
Parent	I am not sure how high school block scheduling will work with the balanced calendar. I worry some students will go too long between some subjects, but that is already an issue now.
Parent	I am not sure how well our community after school care providers will be able to adjust to a balanced calendar schedule. I am not sure how you would staff the change. The type of employee hired may need to be adjusted.
Parent	I am still unclear on how this would effect sports. I would also like to hear more from the teachers and what their opinion is since they are with our kids/students on a daily basis.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	I attended the meeting held at the local high school. Lots of questions by staff and probably school board can't be answered. What would happen to early graduation which my child is planning 2016-2017? Less time for a summer job and camps is a concern.
Parent	I believe the cost and difficulty in finding appropriate child care is significant and should be a major consideration to a balanced calendar approach.
Parent	I believe a balanced calendar will further hinder those children who lack a strong support network at home, because they will spend less continuous time at school. This may be the only structured learning support these children receive.
Parent	I believe children's lives are far too structured. They need a long summer break to allow relaxation time and as a reward for working hard during the school year.
Parent	I believe it's too much of a disruption.
Parent	I believe offering "help" during breaks would actually not be a break for the kids, teachers, etc... I believe this could burn kids out and make them sick of school, more than usual.
Parent	I believe that children will not get breaks from school during the fall, winter and spring breaks. I believe that the teachers will give them projects, papers, work to do during this time. I think that when a child has a break from school. It needs to be just that, a break, not more work to do at home. This would interfere with taking vacations, etc. because they have to work on school work.
Parent	I believe that more breaks provides an opportunity for poor behavior b/c students experience "vacationitis" more often. Either before or after, I feel the students would be less motivated to learn as they experience more breaks in the learning process.
Parent	I believe that the balanced calendar would be particularly difficult when both parents work full time.
Parent	I believe that the more "startups/re entry" will be extremely difficult for many children therefore decreasing their ability to learn more.
Parent	I believe the balanced calendar would cause more problems than it would benefit. They will have nothing to look forward to as well as it will create more problems for parents with child care and vacations.
Parent	I believe the most serious problem with a balanced calendar is the issue with child care for families with two working parents.
Parent	I believe the parent work / child school schedule will be the biggest drawback. The enrichment and/or helping with difficult subjects during breaks may not occur unless the school system provides opportunities which can also help with the schedule issue.
Parent	I believe the transition is more difficult after the long drawn out traditional summer break
Parent	I believe the way in which this question is worded in the survey will not adequately give you answers to which the participants are trying to portray. It is a very confusing question and answer selection. I would like to add that the biggest drawback for our family is finding childcare during the longer spring and fall breaks. However, we are willing to work around that drawback.
Parent	I believe transition to a balanced calendar may have some initial "drawbacks" but that after 1-2yrs these would resolve and that the benefits far outweigh the POTENTIAL "drawbacks".
Parent	I can see that childcare may be an issue for some, but not for my family. The number of days in childcare should be the same, but it would be broken into pieces.
Parent	I can see this causing a lot of contempt of court citations for preexisting court orders regarding visitation and custodial arrangements. This may result in children's custodial agreements being taken back to court and children having to be split to other schools that do not use the balanced calendar.
Parent	i can't afford that much daycare
Parent	I can't think of any drawbacks. I do think day cares will conform and that will not be as big an issues as parents believe it will.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	I couldn't disagree more with each of these statements. A shorter summer break is a GOOD thing: kids get bored and just sit in the AC and play video games. There a many student jobs year-round; our oldest kid got in more hours during school rather than the summer. The current schedule disrupts fall, winter and spring activities. Child care providers will adjust to the new normal. A balanced calendar will fit my family schedule MUCH better than the current one. There will be exactly the same number of transitions between school and home; actually fall will seem like less of a huge transition.
Parent	I disagree on all points of drawbacks to the balanced calendar. As a matter of fact, I think that families, the community, and the students would find the transition to a balanced calendar much easier than the current calendar which provides more frequent breaks of varying lengths. As both a teacher and a parent of school- age children, those frequent breaks of varying length are very hard to plan, and very hard to adjust to because they do not follow a routine at all. The balanced calendar is just the opposite, a routine break every term for the same amount of time following the first 3 terms. The summer break is not much shorter, but just short enough to possibly promote retention of learning to ease the transition between grade levels. The very "routine" breaks on the proposed balanced calendar totally contradicts the drawbacks mentioned above, in my opinion! In addition, child care would be easier to provide and plan at regular intervals for regular lengths of time. As a parent, I have only been familiar with how hard it is to plan childcare under the current type of school calendar. The balanced calendar would have been much easier! I feel the community could easily embrace the balanced calendar with two week childcare and kids' activities intervals between terms.
Parent	I disagree that any of the above are actual problems.
Parent	I disagree that the balanced calendar improves the summer slide. The research indicates this is not true for stronger students. The balanced calendar benefits weaker students/those students whose parents may not take a fully invested interest in education. Parents involved in the child's education take advantage of the summer break for expanded /continued learning.
Parent	I disagree with most of the above statements because a special needs family lives with all these constant obstacles 24/7 anyway, I think it would do all some good who take for granted that "just" because they are typical families they're always catered to and get treated as better...walking a mile in anothers tattered, broken down & worn out shoes can allow for a more insightful outlook & approach to ideas, plans, and actions to better the future of ALL equally!
Parent	I disagree with this completely because I think kids have more issues with the current calendar when having longer breaks making it harder to transition from home to school environments.
Parent	I do not agree with balanced school year
Parent	I do not consider the items above as drawbacks. Personal schedules have to be arranged around school schedules regardless of the timing/days in school.
Parent	I do not have a child that is in CDCA however I could seen this being very difficult on them. I know a lot of children with autism the struggle with the brakes we have now because they need that routine.
Parent	I do not have any other potential drawbacks, but disagree on several of these listed. Childcare services will adjust to the new schedule, and the summer break will still be long enough.
Parent	I do not like it
Parent	I do not mind going to a balanced calendar school year but would prefer the year to end in June and the new year to begin in August.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	I do not see a great enough benefit to justify making such a drastic change to our system. The last major change that took place was rezoning and it was a disaster that has had a long-term affect on the schools and parents. In my opinion, this change is not necessary.
Parent	I do not see any benefits to a balanced calendar. My family is not fortunate enough to have the means for one parent to stay at home to accommodate this schedule -- we both work. We both have to work so that we can afford to live in West Knoxville, where the Knox County Schools are the highest achieving. We don't have many options for care during these long random breaks. Currently, we use an after school program and the YMCA summer camp. We would have no options for the breaks and don't have enough PTO to take off work each of the 10 day breaks. Moreover, if child care was available, it would likely cost a lot more in the random breaks instead of the consecutive care that is available in the summer. I understand that we already experience the long breaks somewhat with Christmas break, because it is 10 days but normally companies provide time off during those days, which helps alleviate some of the child care issues. A better representative of the balanced calendar is the 10 consecutive days missed due to snow in February 2015. This was a huge hindrance in terms of child care, because the after school program was not offered and our daughter is too young to stay by herself. I can only imagine having to overcome that situation multiple times a year. It was extremely stressful. So, no, the last thing that I want is a balanced calendar.
Parent	I do not see any drawbacks. Other cities and school systems have made the adjustment.
Parent	I do not think there are any.
Parent	I do not think this would be a good idea and would rather my children to be home schooled than go year round.
Parent	I do think that children that have trouble with transitions would struggle more when they are out of school and out of their routine for longer periods during the school year. It would be much more disruptive for these children. I do not see that the transitions are "more frequent", but rather just longer in duration. They are still in instruction time 44 days per quarter, but being off for 2 weeks causes more disruptions in their routines.
Parent	I do understand there will be an inconvenience for some folks during the transition period, however just like all things a transition is required and families will adjust
Parent	I don't approve of this BALANCED CALENDAR.
Parent	I don't believe that having longer breaks would create "extra help" for those struggling; how would it? I don't believe assignments should be given over breaks as this disrupts family life.
Parent	I dont believe the above are drawbacks. The daycares the parttime jobs and such will all adjust to our new schedules
Parent	I don't feel like it would give some teachers a break if they are doing enrichment and intervention during breaks. How would we compensate those teachers when we haven't even given raises and are still cutting jobs?
Parent	I don't feel there is one
Parent	I don't like anything about it it should stay how it is
Parent	I don't like the balanced calendar idea
Parent	I don't like the idea that students who may need additional help (tutoring) will not have the "benefit" of "balanced" breaks. While the other students are "re-charging" for two weeks at a time, the students that work the hardest will be forced to go to school and not have the same opportunity decompress and relax. The balanced calendar is also a problem for families who have older children whose college schedules may not coincide with the new system.
Parent	I don't see a drawback because the daycare and summer camps will work around it to get the profit they want. It will not vacations it will be easier to plan one on a break when rates are lower and they aren't so busy. So some families may get to take one. Plus my child likes routines and I believe having it this way it would be more of a routine of we go this long and then I get a break vers here is a day or two here and there.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	I dont see any drawbacks I believe this is the best option for our children
Parent	I don't see any for my family, I think it would be better for my child
Parent	I don't see any from my point.
Parent	I don't see any.
Parent	I don't see how this change will help in any way. Sure, summer will be a little shorter. Until I see what is offered during the breaks to help my children improve, I won't have an educated opinion. My concern is, parents being able to find childcare for their children during these extended periods of time off.
Parent	I don't see much of a problem for our family in regard to most of these items. I have to schedule childcare regardless of the calendar and have been juggling a work calendar that doesn't match Knox Co. for years now.
Parent	I don't think there would be an appreciable benefit as far as 'learning loss' by truncating summer break by +/- 10 days. If anything, adding another 10 day break in the fall and a longer spring break would create a higher frequency of learning loss opportunities if not engaged as enrichment opportunities by the families. The ice break this year was a perfect demonstration of this. As a family with two working parents, it would be difficult for us to really leverage these additional breaks.
Parent	I don't understand how the opportunities for help for students who need it during the 10 day breaks would appear. Is this going to be offered by the school system or will parents have to search these out for those 10 day breaks? I realize this may not be place for this question, but concerned there wouldn't be a place for this question/concern later in the survey.
Parent	I don't use childcare now but could see that as a potential problem for those that use after-school care at the schools. I never used because they were closed when schools were not in session, and I was not able to miss work every time school was out.
Parent	I fear that children whose parents don't have access to affordable, quality childcare will be at risk of being in unsafe or less desirable childcare situations due to the long breaks in the balanced calendar. Would support schools assisting with childcare between quarters.
Parent	I feel child care providers would acclimate to the new schedule and welcome a more evenly dispersed income throughout the year.
Parent	I feel like if the school system switches to a balanced calendar, the community will benefit from switching too. I don't think it week make that big of a difference summer wise.
Parent	I feel like it would be GOOD change no big drawbacks for my family
Parent	I feel strongly that the kids need the long break over the summer.
Parent	I feel that an extended break over the summer months provides the educators a time to "recharge" and reignite their passion to teach, as well as providing the students a time to grow physically and emotionally without the pressure of having to preform each and everyday in the classroom setting. The separation of the two, is what I feel is beneficial, to both students and educators.
Parent	I feel that child care facilites would adapt to the school schedule as needed.
Parent	I feel that having more and longer breaks within the school year will only add to behavioral problems. Kids don't work harder when there is a break coming up, they have a tendency to shut down 2-3 days prior to the break. In turn, there would have to be more re-teaching.
Parent	I feel that if Knox County at adopts the balanced calendar schedule then childcare services will be forced to change their schedule as well. This will eliminate conflict for parents with young children needing childcare services.
Parent	I feel that if Knox County schools transition to a balanced calendar that childcare services will also make a transition to accommodate the new schedule. I do not feel that it will be a problem for parents with young children. It will simply be a change, not a problem.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	I feel that people who need to find child care during the summer can make arrangements for their child during the breaks...I strongly feel that with this that places like the boys and girls club the YMCA will step up and help like they always have....as well as parents who have other people keeping their kids.
Parent	I feel that the students who require a more structured routine would benefit the most from a balanced calendar.
Parent	I feel there are more drawbacks with scheduling of traditional job and family careers with the balanced calendar. I also feel the children have more to do in the summer time with swimming and outdoor activities so the breaks can be more beneficial in the summer instead of fall and spring.
Parent	I feel these drawbacks are more like short-term inconveniences. Ancillary activities like camps or childcare will adjust to fit the realities of a balanced calendar. But again, year-round school has the statistically-backed advantages. The "balanced calendar" approach doesn't have those same advantages.
Parent	I firmly believe any benefit of year round school can be provided within the family on the current schedule. Learning loss can be circumvented with family intervention (our children continue workbooks daily to keep from forgetting things). However, going to year round school will be disruptive in other learning opportunities that require the current breaks (longer summers) and the routine changes will make it difficult for the children to adjust. I know for us, having the shorter summer breaks will make it impossible to do the learning activities we normally do during summer - much of which involve traveling.
Parent	I found this question very confusing. I want a balanced calendar/ year round school.
Parent	I hate the idea. We love our summers and the kids get lots of learning through camps, VBS, summer vacations/field trips. My children will need to work summer jobs to help pay for college. I want them to focus on school during the school year. No business is going to hire my children to work for 2 weeks only. This so-called balanced scheduled is VERY disruptive. I think 2 weeks in the winter is too long already, frankly. It's cold and kids end up inside, bored, with little chance for exercise without having to pay large amounts of money. There are LOTS of programs in the summer now for continued learning and my children do quite well going back to school over the summer break. For example my children do the library reading program every year. My children also work in the garden in the summer. This is very valuable learning. I am absolutely 150% against this. The areas that have already gone with this are already regretting it. IT's a terrible idea!!
Parent	I have 2 children with ADHD that thrive on routine. I see having a problem with them maintaining routine during the recurring 2 week breaks.
Parent	i have a child in private school and one in public school so child care would be an issue
Parent	I Have A Child IN The Band Which ALREADY shortens my summer. This will make it even shorter. If we have longer break on top of snow days is pointless.
Parent	I have a child who has a very difficult time dealing with schedule changes, however, this is a planned changed and can be communicated to children in advance to ease the issues some children will have. It actually eases the transition back to school because there is a shorter summer break.
Parent	I have a child with an emotional disorder -- transitions back to school or into breaks are difficult for the entire family due to the changes in pattern. Beginning of breaks and return to school can be challenging. Longer stretches in the current school pattern allow for longer periods of "known" activities.
Parent	I have a job where I can get a week off for spring and fall breaks. However, two weeks off for spring and fall breaks? It is unreasonable for me to ask for that much time off. We have no family that lives in Knoxville that can help with child care. Am I supposed to put my child in day care for such a short period of time in the spring and fall? That doesn't make sense.
Parent	I have a rising senior and sophomore so my impute is really not relevant.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	I have concerns that the school system will use these breaks as "working" breaks for the teachers and students. It is my understanding that teacher training will occur then and also teachers are going to have to teach the intervention and enrichment. Also an article in the paper said that teachers were giving assignments during the snow days and one teacher said this is what he will do in the breaks. If we determine teachers and students need these breaks, there should not be assignments for students, and teachers working should be kept at a minimum.
Parent	I have co-workers in other states who already have balanced calendar school years & it appears to work well. There are adjustments that need to be made, especially for those with kids that would need supervision after school - but those are solvable. For example, each school could implement an afterschool (Anderson County does this already at several schools).
Parent	I have listed my "agree" to the drawbacks based on other families. For my family personally, there would be few if any drawbacks. For example, while there might be less time for a summer job, there might also be more opportunities for extra work during breaks for a high school student during the off times since other schools (colleges/universities) may be in session.
Parent	I have nephews in a balanced calendar and it's nothing but positive for them.. All schools should implement the balanced calendar!!
Parent	I have not seen/heard anyone discussing the data behind why a change like this is necessary in our school system. More than a balanced calendar, our children need a balanced life. My children are straight A students and have no need of the concessions noted as "benefits" of a balanced calendar. What they do need is a childhood that isn't overly driven by academics, but rather provides them an opportunity to "be a kid," go on family vacations, use their imagination and creativity during lazy summer days. A balanced calendar is going to feel like "year-round school," and families will have a lot of trouble vying for hotels and condos during one 4-6 week window in the summer break, not to mention the significant scheduling issues for childcare because parents won't be able to take off work for two weeks at a time during multiple periods throughout the year.
Parent	I have one child in private and one in public---two schedules that differ would be hard to accomodate.
Parent	I have one child in public school and one in private school. It would create a hardship for families such as ours if our children ended up on two different school schedules. This could lead to families such as ours with the economic means to exit the public school system entirely. There are fairly large number of families that fall into this category.
Parent	I have one child who has difficulty with transitions; however, I am hopeful that this may allow for more scheduled downtime, which will be beneficial.
Parent	I have one in private school and one in public. The different schedules would make me lean to putting both in private. My family actively volunteers in public school and PTA. We are financial contributors also. You'd be losing this type of family.
Parent	I have three children in Christian school that will have different schedule & different school breaks.
Parent	I have to wonder about the cost of operation of schools during the hotter summer months and if all schools have air condition in their buildings.
Parent	I have to wonder if shorter summer vacations will have a negative economic impact on regional destination travel. Limited vacation time means regional rental destinations will be financially impacted for the worse. I suggest the county partner with kids place and other local child care organizations in an effort to ensure working parents have a safe place for children to go during breaks.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	I have two sons that play football. The oldest will be playing 9th grade football in the fall of 2015. My younger son looks to be following the same path. As it stands now because of team workouts we will only have three weeks available to us take a vacation in the summer. I am concerned those weeks would disappear with the balanced schedule. Additionally, the proposed 10 day break after the first quarter would still be during football season. Football players will not be able to take advantage of the "Fall Break" as it is proposed. That's two weeks of being tied to practice while everyone else is on vacation.
Parent	I haven't seen any hard statistics that show their are real benefits to a balanced calendar. All of the material KCS has used says "may" or "could". I think a balanced calendar is going to make it difficult for working parents to find childcare during off peak times and create more anxiety for kids coming back after the breaks.
Parent	I honestly can't think of any. The summer break is only 12 days shorter than usual. I don't feel as though that's enough to upset any summer practices that took place in previous years. The balanced calendar may prove difficult at first when fitting in with the family's usual schedule but I think it's something that could be worked around.
Parent	I honestly can't think of any. The summer break will only be 10 days shorter. I don't feel as if that is a big enough difference to really upset any previous summer break practices. It may prove difficult at first if it doesn't fit in with the rest of the family's year-round schedule but I don't see it being something that can't be worked out.
Parent	I honestly feel that the existing daycares in the area will have to operate based on this schedule and it should not actually be a problem for those children already going to day cares.
Parent	I like the idea of having more opportunity for breaks. In communities where they have adopted a balance calendar, childcare opportunities have adapted as well - childcare centers, camps, etc. It will be an adjustment, but it will be worth it.
Parent	I like the school calendar the way it is. I have not interest in changing the calendar.
Parent	I listed those on the previous page
Parent	I loved summer break as a kid and I know my children do as well. I hope this wouldn't change the freedom and feel of it. As they get older, a balanced calendar will limit their time for summer jobs (an important part of preparing for life as an adult) and opportunities for scouts and summer camps that just are available at other times of the year. I also wonder if the more frequent transitions periods will actually disrupt learning and discipline.
Parent	I may have to go back to mediation or court to real ancestors the parenting plan. A cost of at minimum \$1000.00.
Parent	I oppose the "balanced calendar"
Parent	I personally do not feel like a balanced calendar is going to fix the problems with learning loss that we currently see with many students. A lot of students have learning loss because their families do not spend time bridging their learning between school and home. The learning loss is still going to occur even if the breaks spread out over the year... it's just going to be spread out. As for enrichment time happening during this time, as a parent of a child who desperately needs enrichment, my child doesn't get any enrichment during the current school year, so I am not convinced she would during a balanced calendar either. Currently she reads about a chapter book a day while sitting and waiting on the rest of her 2nd grade class to finish assignments.
Parent	I really do not see any major drawbacks with the proposed calendar change! I think it would be a really great idea.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	I recently read this from a friend who has thoroughly researched this. Here is what he wrote: Michael Barone in his 2004 book "Hard America, Soft America" tells us that America produces the worst (on standardized tests) 18-year-olds in the world but somehow magically produces the best (most creative) 30-year-olds. While our schools lag the world in high scores on standardized tests, we lead the world in creative out-of-the-box thinkers. Acknowledging Barone, I can not help but wonder what role long summer breaks have played in the creative development of our children. I agree with my friend - it makes me wonder. Also, I don't think there are any studies that show that a balanced calendar have shown any changes in the amount of learning required. Sure, it helps with summer regression, but according to Paul Von Hippel, a sociology research professor at Ohio State University, asserts "year-round schools don't really solve the problem of the summer learning setback - they simply spread it out across the year."
Parent	I see a problem with students that are involved in fall and spring sports. Because the rest of the state is not standardized in the, "balanced calendar", schedule, these team sports will not take time off during the extended breaks during the school year, so these students and their families will have two week breaks that they won't be able to do anything together, as far as going on vacations together, because their sports will not be taking breaks. So they will have 2 fewer week in the summer to spend that time together with this schedule.
Parent	I see minimal drawbacks to balanced calender.
Parent	I see no drawbacks at all to the balanced calendar.
Parent	I see no drawbacks for our family with a balanced calendar. I am all for the idea. I think children have too much free time in the summer.
Parent	I see no drawbacks to the balanced calendar...
Parent	I see no drawbacks.
Parent	I see no good coming from having a balanced calendar.
Parent	I see none
Parent	I see none!!!!
Parent	I stated how i feel on the previous page.
Parent	I strongly agree, each area listed above is a drawback for High School students. Those taking AP and Dual Enrollment college classes would be on a different schedule, how could those kids benefit. Student Athletes as mentioned earlier would not be able to participate. Those with families outside of Knox County would not be able to continue traditions with those in a traditional setting.
Parent	I strongly oppose changing to a balanced school calendar! I feel that it really serves no purpose to do this change! Students need to continue to have this time to spend with family or whatever they need to do. If educators are saying that in a matter of two and a half months a majority of students are not retaining the information that they have learned thru nine months of instruction then I believe we have a bigger problem than what a balanced calendar will ever correct! I have read several articles from different states and other districts that have implemented this balanced calendar proposal and a large majority of them have already stopped and returned to their original schedule. They said statistics showed that it was not an effective way to achieve what they had hoped to accomplish for the purpose of furthering students education. I see no reason in my opinion to change what has worked well for many years in this school system.
Parent	I teach at the college level. This past winter breaks because of weather wreaked havoc on their learning. It was too choppy & they came back demotivated only to do it again for spring break. I totally disagree this helps learning!
Parent	I teach in a neighboring county with a different calendar. I will be forced to try to get a job with Knox County when I have taught at my current school for 20 years. The schedule will not coincide with mine at all. I will be forced to pay for childcare that will not be affordable.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

<p>How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?</p>	<p>Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>I think 8 days less during the summer can affect school band and football etc camps, vacations, church mission trips etc. Taking one week less affects so much. We don't take Fall trips and spring trips so what is my child and others going to do for 10 long days both time. Everyone can't take vacation off to entertain their child. Really what will we do for 10 days. We are not going to school to get assistance with a class. When my child begins to drive, he will want to work and earn money for gas and insurance. No one is going to hire them for 10 days in the Spring or Summer</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>I think a balanced calendar is better for BOTH retention of learning AND better time off (longer spring and fall breaks will be great for rejuvenating our kids, especially in high school when they take AP classes. However, most families in my community seem to be against a balanced calendar. This is because they think that a "balanced calendar" is a way to "sneak in" year-round school. Most families do not realize that summer break is shortened just a little and that the days off are added to spring and fall break in the balanced calendar. Most people I know are up in arms against this concept. I wish you luck. You need to know that when the term "Balanced Calendar" is used, people are negative; to be blunt, people think that Dr. McIntyre thinks we are ignorant and that he is trying to "trick" us by saying "balanced calendar" when he is really talking about "year-round school" (and yes, for some reason, they blame Dr. McIntyre rather than the entire administration or the school board). This is not what I think; I am just letting you know what you are up against. Dr. McIntyre has done great things for our county, and I try to persuade people on his behalf. I will always and forever be grateful that he 1) founded the L&N STEM Academy, and 2) increased the academic standards in our county. The public has a great misconception about him. They always bring up that he is a "Yankee."</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>I think a lot of community services - like day care and camps and such - would need to adjust to match this new school calendar. Particularly for families where all parents/guardians work this might be more difficult than arranging for care just during the summer. I do think the local community would adapt - but the first couple years might be hard.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>I think all of the "stopping" and "starting" will be a drawback .. like multiplying the number of times in the school year that you start again as in the beginning of the school year.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>I think child care during the extended breaks will be a disadvantage for many families and I fear many kids will be left home when perhaps they are too young to be unsupervised. Parents aren't on a balanced work schedule that fits a balanced school schedule. It's tough enough balancing home and work for many families. I also feel kids need an extended break away from school to refresh, vacation, and enjoy time doing other things before they dive back into another school year.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>I think child care facilities will have to adjust their schedules/staffing. The first year will be the most difficult for everyone.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>I think child care will rearrange based on needs. the summer break being shorter is not significant enough to notice a difference. 1 and 1/2 weeks less of summer jobs is not worth keeping the unbalanced calendar. Each 9 weeks of school is very intense, I think a 2 week break to regroup/recharge is a super idea and much needed break.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>I think day care facilities will adjust to the new schedule.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>I think finding and arranging for Childcare for those that need it, would be the most difficult part of a balanced calendar.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>I think in order to make this work, the most difficult hurdle will be childcare.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>I think it would be disruptive in every way, my daughter will not be able to work during the summer as planned and it will cause multiple scheduling conflicts.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>I think many kids will end up sitting at home watching TV or playing on the computer. Many families cannot afford to take that much time off from work or to go on multiple vacations in a year.</p>

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	I think once a balance calendar is in place, daycares and other types of facilities involving child care would adjust according to the new system.
Parent	I think once established daycares would have to accommodate the changes in the calendar. Otherwise it would be a real problem for working parents to care for their young children during breaks.
Parent	I think our children need this time in the summer to decompress from a full schedule of schoolwork.
Parent	I think several longer breaks during the school year is far worse on a child and their learning ability. Then one longer break in the summer. Leave the calendar like it is. Also harder for working parents to schedule child care
Parent	I think that balanced calendar is better
Parent	I think that child care will adjust like job opportunities, or other acitivities
Parent	I think that pretty much says it all.
Parent	I think the 2 week snow break showed the potential success of this program. I saw where teachers were excited to go back to school posted on social media instead of them upset about being in the classroom. I think morale and behavior will greatly improved.
Parent	I think the balanced calendar will provide a more balanced schedule for children and parents allowing for. Easier transition between breaks and school
Parent	I think the balanced calendar would be a nightmare for HS students taking AP courses or Dual Enrollment courses. We have already experienced conflicts with Pellissippi State on breaks as they are not on the same schedule as Knox County. It will also cause disruptions for families who have students in college and are trying to get the ENTIRE family together for a break (other than some time in the summer).
Parent	I think the child care situation may affect many, however I also feel child care facilities will meet the demand.
Parent	I think the daycare facilities would adjust to the county school schedule, and wouldn't cause a conflict. Summer jobs would become more difficult for H.S. kids to save up for expenses, not for loss of time, but the adjustment of thier "summer season" vs the schools.
Parent	I think the drawbacks will be family specific. I think childcare facilities will adjust. Families with one parent staying at home shouldn't have much of a problem. It may be harder for folks in other situations/childcare arrangements.
Parent	I think the drawbacks will work themselves out as the regular world adapts to the balanced calendar.
Parent	I think the longer breaks will create the same problems you're trying to fix. The catching back up after more frequent breaks.
Parent	I think the schedule would make it very hard for working parents - as a preschool teacher I think the breaks will make it very hard for the younger children because we also follow Knox County policies - many of them already struggle daily coming to school and being separated from their home/parents. Having longer breaks will only make it harder for them.
Parent	I think the stop-start is disruptive to the students. In addition to the issues mentioned above, I think not only "getting back into the routine" after each break is difficult, I think there will be more days towards the end of each term, in which nothing gets done b/c test are over and everyone is waiting for the end of the school days.
Parent	I think the transition between summer break and school would be easier because it's a shorter period of time
Parent	I think there is potential for learning loss even during the longer breaks you propose during the school year. This also creates issues at the high school level with block scheduling since they do not change classes at the quarter but instead at the semester.
Parent	I think there will be a HUGE financial burden for those who work full-time and currently have a set schedule with the current summer set-up. To find childcare for shorter periods several times a year COULD pose a problem.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	I think this survey covered the most relevant drawbacks.
Parent	I think this would be extremely difficult on daycare facilities trying to staff these additional breaks. Most only hire summer workers or afterschool workers but would now need additional help only occasionally.
Parent	I think we already don't give children enough time to play. With children participating in additional learning opportunities during breaks and having a shorter summer, we take away more time for imagination and free play. Also, for children who benefit from enriching opportunities with their families to aid in learning during the summer, like vacations, camps, and other activities, it could end up as a disadvantage for them.
Parent	I think we Americans are always on a quest to gain more time. Is a calendar change really the solution? Should we look at the quality of breaks our children get during the day first (before we change days)? Could we achieve the same goal by making the school day more hospitable to parents, teachers, and students? Kids need time to socialize and have real breaks during each day. Longer lunch periods. Longer breaks for teachers. As a working parent, I have had to spend close to \$80,000 over my career in childcare costs. If you made the "school day" last until 5--like 9-5 with instruction ending at 3, but art, theatre, music, sports incorporated into every school day for kids--we'd have a happier, healthier society. And Christ, please, get rid of the TCAP test-taking, soul-sucking curriculum. We are not training creative, critical thinkers--we are training line workers who will have no ability to figure out how to face challenges that will arise in their lifetimes. Social intelligence *is* an important intelligence to cultivate. If you are going to take away their summer to do this, then you MUST NOT replace that time with drills and silence and academic overload. People need time to think and process the material given to them. Part of that process is social. Teachers need it too. We need to look at value in a different way. Our kids do not need more structured break time as you are suggesting. Do you understand what the costs are to middle class families with 2 working parents? I know the myth is perpetuated that there are stay at home moms just waiting around for their kids to come home, but the rest of us get put through financial strain and marital hardships during imposed breaks. When there is no extra income, who can afford to stay home with kids? The snow days this year just about killed us. Please consider the financial strain you put many hard-working families in every time you close schools. School hours are very hard for us to manage anyway. All three of our kids were in elementary school at the same time and we had to spend close to \$1,000 every month for two hours of care because we both work. I hope you will consider the benefit of quality of time spent during the school day and look at adjusting hours before you look at putting large breaks in during the school year.
Parent	I think working parents will have to adjust to the balanced calendar system .
Parent	I think you know all the draw backs. And this survey will not matter in your decisions
Parent	I wish the summer break were even shorter. This doesn't seem like it will help too much with learning loss. The length of time away from school in summer is not that much shorter.
Parent	I wonder whether learning loss after more frequent breaks during the school year will happen. I know that after my kids were home for two weeks this year due to snow days, it took us a few days to get back into the routine of going back to school and the teachers had to review for a day or two what had been taught before the snow break. Have any studies been done on this? Also, has anyone calculated how the balanced calendar will affect the KCS budget (energy costs, teacher salaries for those given the option to teach intervention and/or enrichment during the breaks)? Also, if students needing intervention are going to be taught during the fall or spring breaks, how is that helping those kids get any break at all? Aren't those the kids who may potentially need a break from learning the most? Likewise, our teachers need a mental break, too. If they're given the option to teach intervention during the breaks, will we see more teacher burnout?

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	I work and it would be very difficult to find someone to watch my son at different times during the year. I also love that my son attends a summer camp and learns skills that are not taught in school and just to have summer fun!
Parent	I work at a daycare and this schedule could effect the business due to conflicting schedule between knox county and colleges.
Parent	I work for a mother's day out program that runs on Knox County's schedule. This could affect our enrollment for children of parents taking college level classes since almost all the teachers have school aged children and would need off during the breaks Knox County has. If we don't have enough children enrolled in the program it could mean staffing cuts.
Parent	I work part time and have great difficulty as it is finding short term, part time childcare during the summer. I'm very concerned that it will be even harder to find part time care for the increased number of breaks in a balanced calendar.
Parent	I worry that Knox county schools won't fund the programs during the breaks for the remedial learning. If the kids that are falling behind don't get help during the breaks then I think they will slip even further behind.
Parent	I would balance it more
Parent	I would be concerned that teachers would give projects and papers during the breaks instead of allowing the kids to have a true break.
Parent	I would be concerned that the longer breaks for create a transition issue for students with special needs/disabilities. Unless there are opportunites for vitural learning assignments
Parent	I would be held in contempt by court if child was not sent to spend entire summer under current schedule with other parent.
Parent	I would have to pay for day care on those breaks. Where as now I don't have to. I don't have extra money for daycare being a single parent
Parent	I would like to know what types of options for childcare during the breaks could be provided- such as what the YMCA program at the school would do.
Parent	I would like to see more breaks are offered during the harsh winter time when we know or expect the weather is bad, so schools do loss their reserved days. Offering more breaks could also means extra financial burden for families whose kids rely on the free lunch program.
Parent	I would like to spend more time with my child . I think our children learn more from home in many aspects. Why take that family time away?
Parent	I would not be able to spend as much time with my children in the summer. We make the most of our summers because they are gone nearly every day during the school year. That is our family time and I am not for a balanced calendar at all.
Parent	I would strongly disagree with homework of ANY KIND being assigned over breaks.
Parent	I would strongly dislike a three week break in between the curriculum, but I like the two week break.
Parent	I would think most school affiliated facilities would work with the school system to make this transition a smooth one?
Parent	I would welcome the return of a week long fall break... especially since we're starting the new school earlier than we EVER HAVE BEFORE. Additionally, I personally like the idea of larger breaks throughout the school year. HOWEVER, until you can PROVE that a balanced calendar is better for the majority of our students and their families, I strongly object to our system considering it. "Potential benefits" are NOT proven benefits.
Parent	If a child has aftercare that is done in the school, how will this be accomodated (i.e. YMCA aftercare programs?). Will these groups have access to the school building?
Parent	If a child is truly completely taught something, they don't forget it over summer break. If they're not taught it correctly they will forget it in a 3 week break just like they would in our normal summer break.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	If a child wants to participate in an activity such as a music performance camp in another state, the "summer" schedule of other states includes August and this would disallow a child to attend. I also think this will push many families to private schools.
Parent	If all of Knox county does this day care will change. They're not going to lose money by not making it work
Parent	If all schools in the county aren't on the balanced calendar it would be very difficult on families with kids in different schools ie one in middle school and one in high school. Sports schedules can be difficult with balanced calendars.
Parent	If breaks align with seasons than the shorter time would lot be as big of an issue (i.e. June through August makes sense. May through July does not)
Parent	If enrichment activities are limited to those who can afford them (ala traditional summer camp opportunities), then might be risk of furthering the gap between the haves and have nots -- one more break to return from when some kids stayed home and others went to museums, zoos, vacations, etc.
Parent	If I learned anything from the extended snow break this winter, it's that 2 weeks of no structure and no planned activities is impossible with small children. I can provide this during the summer (camps, VBS, etc.) but two weeks is too little time.
Parent	If I would have known that the Knox county schools were going to push through a balanced calendar then I would have not moved here as we did this passed year. It's just a bad idea. Summer is a great time for kids, why take it away?
Parent	If in-school aftercare programs are not allowed, then finding childcare for working parents will be a MAJOR drawback.
Parent	If it is another wonderful idea from the same idiots that want common core which i believe it is im against it for no other reasons necessary
Parent	If it is approved, I think the start of summer should be in June, not May. If it was a May start to summer I think that would be a drawback. And spring break should be late March or early April. To make the most of the weather on the breaks.
Parent	If its not broke...don't fix it!! Knox Co needs to stop worrying about testing ,and get back to teaching!! That's what the problem is. Common Core is ridiculous and to make these kids and teachers deal with this year round just shows this Superintendent is only concerned about his rankings and billfold!!!
Parent	If kids had longer breaks in the middle they would spend the first few days after they get back trying to learn again what they had went over before they left wasting time for the students and teachers.
Parent	If Knox county uses a balanced calendar all businesses will adjust, especially daycare providers.
Parent	If proper programs are not offered for all age groups, I see a drawback in more kids being left at home alone that might abuse this situation. However, if programs through child care, community groups and schools are offered to engage students to learn and activities offered to enhance students interests than that would become a benefit.
Parent	If teachers and students are using the breaks for children who need more help in studies, then that child and teacher are not getting a break.
Parent	If teachers are allowed to assign work during breaks throughout the year, it takes away from the "break" that the student needs and it makes if difficult to enjoy family vacations. (In other words, please don't let teachers assign work during breaks unless the student is behind.)
Parent	If the available resources for childcare are not also on board with this schedule, us working parents (and especially us single moms) will have a very difficult time finding child care. Traditionally summer camps would need to agree to open during all the breaks.
Parent	If the balanced calendar was not KCS system wide, then there would be significant challenges for families with children at schools with different schedules.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	If the calendar system is changed, I will move my child to private school and no longer support public schools. I am a involved volunteer and spend many hours working in support of the school despite my full time job.
Parent	If the district is going to provide added opportunities for help during breaks; that will cost money. I would like to know where those funds will come from.
Parent	If the goal is to have students be more engaged and retain information, restructuring the school calendar would not have as large of a positive impact as restructuring the school day.
Parent	If this past winter season when the kids missed 2 weeks is any indication of what it would be like, I hope this calendar does not passed. Furthermore, the kids I have spoken to would rather have time off when the weather is more pleasant than time during fall/winter when the weather tends to be colder. Also, summer jobs for students are very important due to how busy the school year is. And lastly, it really disrupts the marching band schedule that is so important during the summer.
Parent	if we had ten days of snow like we did this year it would create major problems with the balanced calendar schedule. Extra breaks cause the children to get off schedule and it would be more difficult to get them back on schedule.
Parent	if would be a hardship on families and family time if you have 1 kid on the KCS break and another kid in college still in school -- when do you take time off for vacations and to spend with the kids together?
Parent	if you choose to do the balanced calendar I would want the teachers to agree to not assigning homework during these breaks...if they are breaks...NO SCHOOL WORK/PROJECTS. It should be work free.
Parent	If you have a behavioral issue during active academic school year, the issue will tend to exasterbate with little to no supervision, thus leaving the school, child and parent in a worse situation. I specifically have a court order that uses a traditional framework for child visitation. Despite a shortened calendar could work, it would necessitate another court session. If a child is not receiving help during the regular year at home, then commen sence would dictate that there would not be any additional aid to the student during a highly potential for lack of supervision.
Parent	If you have high-schoolers that work during the summer, I could see that might be an issue for employers
Parent	If you have students who train or ar involved in Summer Athletics. An example , KYA track. nationals would occur during the first week of school.
Parent	I'm a work hard and then play hard person. Everyone j have talked to is against the balanced calendar. I think those fir it are more vocal. Again, I have seen schools go back to the traditional calendar bc it was such a strain.
Parent	I'm afraid KCS could potentially drop certain courses (e.g., art, music, sports, etc.) because they've allowed "extra" time in our schedule(s) to accommodate those activities.
Parent	I'm amazed that no impact on learning loss is listed here. This survey is totally biased. The same questions should be asked for both current calendars and balanced calendar so people have a chance to give an unbiased feedback. Basically the survey is already tainted by the opinion of the people conducting the survey, very unscientific.
Parent	I'm concerned that there will be problems funding enrichment and intervention programs.
Parent	I'm strongly concerned about the camps. I have no intention and would not support sending my kids to a "school based" camp, camp is meant to be all fun and our day to day school is not a place my kids will associate with all fun. I fear they will think it's just more school. Also, I don't think we should start to reallocate th funds I do set aside for summer camps to be forced to sign up for a school based camp that ultimately will help subsidize this program.
Parent	I'm sure local child care agencies will modify for the balanced calendar, they will have to because their client base will require that to be competitive.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	Impact on students that have dual enrollment. Will make it more difficult to get time off during prime time summer for family events with employers that have limited number of employees that can be gone at the same time. Unknown costs - this will NOT be cost neutral!
Parent	Impacted summer job & travel opportunities. Also impacts Dual Enrollment opportunities
Parent	Impacts to after-school childcare and summer camps (i.e. The "Y", after school programs). Are childcare providers going to adjust to the proposed changes?
Parent	In addition to traditional extra-curriculars, my husband and I very much would like our children to be able to take on summer jobs as part of learning independence and responsibility. Although two weeks may not seem much, it is part of a longer erosion of a time period when many students learn the responsibility of working with the public and managing their own money for larger items - cars, insurance, saving for college, etc. Our children both take rigorous classes, and we would prefer that school be their "job" while in session, and summer break be a time for a paid job. In addition, our children are on a split custody schedule, and do not attend school in the same district. Another factor: I work in an office where more than half of us have children in Knox County Schools. Although it is workable, a shortened summer impacts the ability to schedule vacations.
Parent	In my opinion the drawbacks would include having to figure out childcare more often during the year. I have an older teenager and I know some in the summer he can help with my younger children so I can go to work without as many worries. I look forward to summer so I dont have to stress as much before I get to work. I start work at 8 and before I get to work I have to make 3 school drops and drive 16 miles from the last one to work.
Parent	In our case our child being more consistently in school would HELP with our childcare issue. He has care but it is more expensive during the summer months because he is there longer. Our childcare bill is much lower while school is in session.
Parent	In situations where children's parents are divorced, some custody arrangements allow for the noncustodial parent to have the child for 2 months during the summer. This balanced calender would be taking precious time away from the noncustodial parent. I speak of this from my own custody with my oldest child who is longer in school.
Parent	In starting the school year earlier in the summer, the building is hotter & the kids are more uncomfortable & less likely to learn in that environment. If you can't get the building cool enough in the middle of August, how do you expect to get it cool enough in July? Older students tend to skip school or check out early to be able to enjoy the last few days of summer. The hotter the days, the shorter the shorts the girls wear. Every single warm day, girls are wearing shorts to short for the dress code. In warm weather, I see girls wearing shorts that are too short. It doesn't seem as if the dress code is being enforced now as it is. If school starts earlier, on days that are hotter, I can imagine the shorts getting even shorter. There is also the issue of older kids being home alone during the 3-2-week breaks during the school year. This gives teenagers more opportunities to get into trouble. It also puts younger kids in dangerous situations of being home alone because there are no child care options available. And where will this schedule leave the kids who only get square meals at school? Unfortunately, there are way too many kids who are on free breakfast & lunch who only get fed at school. Or only eat junk food at home. In summer, they are in camps or a daycare that feed them. Realistically, the 2 weeks during the school year are extremely hard to find a daycare for children. A lot of kids end up staying home alone, & don't get good food to eat. I could go on, but I hope I've made my opinions very clear.
Parent	In the beginning it may take some time for families to adjust to the new schedule. However, I feel they will soon see how much better their children do and will be pleased with the end result.
Parent	In the winter you have students and teachers that help heat the room, but in the summer months it is alot harder to cool than heat
Parent	In theory may have positive intentions but I believe there are more negatives than positives.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	Increased budget for taxpayers to pay for staff to bus, cook, and teach the few children who show up, as well as utilities. More burnout for students who are struggling since they potentially will not have as much of a break as other kids.
Parent	Increased cost to parents for temporary childcare. Other counties not on balanced calendar and disruptions for breaks for parents and students involved in school athletics.
Parent	Increased expenses
Parent	Increased operating costs Less consistency with neighboring communities
Parent	Increased stress on families where both parents work outside the home due to having to make arrangements for their kids during those extended fall and spring breaks.
Parent	Increases costs in summer. Potential for increased health risks due to heat exhaustion inadequate cooling of schools in summer. Burn out of teachers and students
Parent	Initial adjustment
Parent	Initially it will be an adjustment for everyone, but one that I believe can be figured out & eventually worth it for students & teachers. Change is always a challenge.
Parent	initially it will have it's drawbacks but once all the arrangements have been made and families have adjusted to the new schedule they will wish they had done this years ago.
Parent	Initially, I think the change would be hard to accept but change, in any form, is not always easy.
Parent	Inservice days are hard enough on the personal leave balance at work, having 10 days between sessions would cripple my ability to ever take an actual vacation.
Parent	Interference with fall sports activities causing students to have to remain in Knox co to participate in practice precludes family vacations during this break
Parent	Is the current system not working? Why change something which IS working. I would be willing to bet that the calender WILL be changed even if the majority of the people surveyed feel strongly against this plan.
Parent	Is the school system going to pay for renegotiation of court ordered parenting plan changes required to accomodate the changes?
Parent	Issues for custodial staff having enough time to complete cleaning tasks during an even shorter summer break Churches and non-school-affiliated camps having to adjust their schedule to fit the new calendar
Parent	issues with family vacation if students and/or parents maybe using different system. ex: parent works in sevier county school and another parent works in knox county school and both have different calander.
Parent	it beaks the continuety of learning which neither teacher nor parents like it!
Parent	It can be difficult to get children to wind down for bed when the summer days are so long and beautiful. This could prove to be a problem on school nights with a balanced calendar.
Parent	It can get the children out of routine. Makes it harder for them to get back on track.
Parent	It could make it more difficult to find time for summer jobs although this might not be as significant an issue as it would be for a university student.
Parent	It creates a nightmare for teachers trying to transition students back into "work" mode
Parent	It disruption and makes everything Difficult.
Parent	It doesn't matter how we vote knox co will do whatever they want
Parent	It interrupts the normal flow of families.
Parent	It is a challenge in my household whenever there is a change in the school routine. My youngest child who is in first grade does extremely well while on a schedule but if that schedule get interrupted, then it is very hard on her to the point of having anxiety and stress over it.
Parent	It is always a challenge to transition from school to vacation (kids were used to routine) and then back to school again. When we lived in CA we had "year round" school and this was a challenge of readjusting each time the kids went on break. Not impossible but challenging.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	it is difficult for working families and does not take into account learning opportunities afforded to students through activities with families during the summer. Having the consistent schedule that we already have is helpful to kids and families. school day cares are closed too often already and for lower income families it's too great of a hardship.
Parent	It is easier for my older children t to balance the time. I might have a difference of opinion if I had a younger elementary child.
Parent	It is listed, but childcare costs are the real issue. We could find someone, but we'd have to adjust other expenses.
Parent	It is much more difficult for children to get into a routine when there are breaks more frequently; especially in younger children. I saw this first hand with the snow days this year. I also believe it will be difficult for children who play sports. Many sports leagues in this area do not schedule games during spring break to accommodate family travel plans. If spring break is two weeks, families will travel at different times and it will be difficult to schedule games. I also believe that a balanced calendar will be difficult for students with summer jobs, and it will affect organizations that provide summer camps and count on that income.
Parent	It is NOT proven to work and it will cost more money that the school system does not have. All you have to do is google "does year round schooling work?" and the results speak for themselves. Several studies say no, several say inconclusive and some say only beneficial for the less fortunate.
Parent	It is still unclear how a balanced calendar would impact summer swim team which is my child's only sport they participate in.
Parent	It is very difficult to find child care during extended breaks because Shades of Development shuts down during these times.
Parent	It is very difficult to get kids back into a routine after they have been off for two or three weeks.
Parent	It makes it harder on single parents to afford or make arrangements for child care.
Parent	It messes with the children's schedule, getting up in the morning is difficult when frequent breaks are added. They need a consistent routine. Summer is also a season that only cretain outdoor activities are open, children need to be outside learning and being active while it is available.
Parent	It might start school in July and/or end school after Memorial Day.
Parent	It only shortens summer 2 weeks. Not a big deal
Parent	It reduces family time.
Parent	It seems that the only benefit is extending the fall break and spring break to two weeks from one week. I'm wondering if it would be difficult for teachers to have students out for that length of time and getting them refocused back in school after being out for two weeks. It seems it would be more beneficial to spread out the days off during each chapter instead of the 10 days off all at once. To two separate weeks off.
Parent	It seems the "potential" benefits are less grounded than the drawbacks. I also understand that this survey is about individual concerns, however, I would also like to hear about the financial impact it will have on the school system. There would be an increase in utilities as well as maintenance at the very least. I don't see the possibility for cuts in the budget with the addition of "interventions" or other county sponsored activities during the breaks.
Parent	It seems the good kids get punished for a good job. That what summer school is for for the ones that need the help don't punish all the students
Parent	It simply disrupted very important family time and caused work schedule issues
Parent	It sounds like teachers (or other staff) will be doing more work on the breaks to work with certain students -- is there a plan to compensate them? If they are not paid extra for this extra work, we should not go forward with the balanced calendar. I also second all of the potential drawbacks listed -- they definitely affect our family and childcare plans.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	It undermines teenagers having real-world work experience opportunities. It reduces the overall number days children have off during the year by labeling the between quarter periods as breaks, yet proposing the breaks be used for more schooling.
Parent	It will actually give more family time through out the year.
Parent	It will be an adjustment for everyone for first couple years.
Parent	it will be difficult to be involved in non-school related learning activities.
Parent	It will be harder to plan with activities with other Children who are not in a school system like this and more difficult to plan vacations.
Parent	It will be more costly to air condition the schools during the summer months. Some businesses will be effected by balanced calender, therefore causing economic impact.
Parent	It will be too disruptive to students and parents current schedules. It will also cost the home more in child care.
Parent	It will cause a huge disruption in children's schedule who are use to whats already in place. Less summer. More burn outs from school.
Parent	It will cost a lot
Parent	It will cost the district a LOT of money and research is mixed at best on academic gains. KCS does not have money to offer enrichment for average or above average achieving students. To even suggest this is disingenuous.
Parent	it will create time conflicts for many summer opportunities for students
Parent	It will drastically effect my child's summer swim team activities which is a huge part of their enrichment. I do not want to try and explain to one child why their winter break is shortened because they have to participate in intervention, while the other brother gets a full break. Research in other school districts in TN have increased cost associated with the Balanced calendar, with minimal change in academic performances.
Parent	It will get in the way of vacations and summer activities!
Parent	It will have a negative impact on school sports, summer sports, providing jobs in the tourism industry, kids will have less chances to earn money during summer and will end up working year round. It will also impact kids who want to take summer classes at a college. The naming "balanced calendar" is not a true, descriptive name. It is false and therefore offensive to the general public.
Parent	It will leave less time in the summer for Scout activities and summer camps.
Parent	It would be a great hardship on our family because of work schedules etc.
Parent	It would be best if Knox County has the same breaks as area schools, such as Oak Ridge, who are moving to a balanced calendar. This would make it easier for those who work in different areas and easier for intervention/activities/childcare to be better coordinated across the greater Knoxville area.
Parent	It would be different.
Parent	It would be easier to pay for extra child care and camps if they were spread out throughout the year instead of all at once in the summer.
Parent	It would be extremely difficult for a single parent earning a low to middle income to make this calendar work without risking unemployment due to increased difficulty securing or finding childcare during longer breaks and shorter summer break.
Parent	It would be hard for the children who are in summer sports to have a shorter summer break. It will hurt the economy because you won't have the children working at summer jobs and you won't have the children attending summer camps, activities, etc.
Parent	It would be hard to have frequent breaks because of work. But if "camps" or targeted intervention were truly offered during those times and at similar school hours, I would vote for the balanced calendar.
Parent	It would be hard to keep changing the childrens routine. It is is always so hard to come back to school after being on break and getting them acclimated to the routine. I see pros/cons for new schedule.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	It would be more difficult for some vacationing families to have time off during the Summer. As an employed parent, I have had issues in the past scheduling a week off before the new school year. With a shorter break, this problem would only worsen for some parents with less employment seniority.
Parent	it would be very difficult for afterschool programs that are typically staffed by college age students to find people to work during the multiple breaks. if students can't get out of class, the afterschool programs are understaffed.
Parent	it would cause even more complications in which a non-custodial parent has visitation rights. the custodial parent would see child even less.
Parent	It would devastate programs like Camp Wesley Woods, whose staff comes in from international locatoinis and provide enrighment to the campers because of where they are from. They could not get those counselors to come in on fall break and spring break, so it will really hurt that program.
Parent	It would disrupt my families plans.
Parent	It would interfere with athletic scholarships. Most athletes play in tournaments that earn them recognition and scholarships from college coaches.
Parent	It would take a lot of getting uses to for some special ed students that rely on the structure of the current school year cycle.
Parent	item 5 is misworded - these clearly are drawbacks, but the question is how important are they? Need a better survey.
Parent	It's 12 days less or summer - 12 days!!! Childcare centers and camps will also change schedules.
Parent	It's a change. Most folks don't like change. We're skeptical, Holston middle was supposed to be a good change. It wasn't!
Parent	It's a very short number of days lost for summer break. Shouldn't be an issue.
Parent	its been told that after school activities would suffer ie. sports.
Parent	It's change and people really struggle with that concept even though the benefits might outweigh the negatives.
Parent	It's expensive! How can you not list that? Aren't you supposed to be caretakers of our tax money?
Parent	Its only 8 days let the children keep their summer!
Parent	It's really just too complicated. Hard for working parents.
Parent	It's so hard after Christmas to get a child back in the groove of school changing to a balanced year would make this transition much more frequently, difficult and more detrimental to a child's attitude
Parent	Jobs
Parent	Just as ppl had to adjust for what we have now, I think the balanced Cal. Gives less time for children to get into trouble....
Parent	Just like after school and summer day care centers do now, I feel like kid-care facilities would adjust to the schedule. It may even give some kids a chance to do enrichment.
Parent	Just to repeat what I said before, as a father that has to battle for every minute I spend with the children a change like this could cost me weeks of time and the ability to have meaningful vacation time with them.
Parent	Just with some folks' work schedules
Parent	Keeping schools open during summer months (July & August) costs more in terms of energy usage. if going to this format, makes more sense to be open Sept thru June.
Parent	Kids are kids they need their summers! Avoiding to data kids who go to schoos with balanced calendars do not do any better academically.
Parent	Kids do not do well adjusting back and forth between school and no school. They do better with longer routine.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	Kids don't get a break as it is. They go to school to learn and then come home and end up spending 3 and 4 hours on school work which is ridiculous. So no having the summer break now that we do is better than having a shorter break. They have too much time spent doing school work at home even after school. So no the idea is terrible.
Parent	Kids freedom of having a summer! Trying to put kids to bed while it's still daylight!
Parent	Kids getting out of their routine and having to work to get them back into it
Parent	kids in different schools may not be out at the same time. Child care is more expensive with short intervals. They are only a kid once, they have all their life to work and have less free time. Looking into private school due to this.
Parent	Kids may have a hard time adjusting to a shorter summer initially.
Parent	kids need a break.
Parent	Kids need a long break to be kids play & enjoy childhood. As an adult you lose that because you have responsibility that you don't have as a child.
Parent	kids need to be part of family vacations as they have been
Parent	Kids need to focus on their education and not work
Parent	kids of stay at home parents would get to participate in "enrichment" but not the other kids... that's fine for private school - NOT public
Parent	Kids who have grand parents/family outside of US can take advantage of traditional calendar. They get more time to spend with family. Frequent visits are hard due to expensive air tickets.
Parent	Kids will not seek enrichment. Those that need it usually have parents that do not care enough. It is a pipe dream to think that all struggling kids will seek help. Most probably do not know that they can get help or even care to get it.
Parent	Kids will spend too much time getting back into a schedule!!!!
Parent	Kids would miss out on having a fresh start after longer summer break.
Parent	Knox Co school system WAY TOO BIG to pull this off--Nightmare making arrangements for kids during shorter breaks--already bad enough when out of school for bad weather!
Parent	Knox county 4th circuit court parenting plans and visitation are set up for a traditional public school calendar. Changing to the balanced plan will be financially burdensome, as well as time consuming and even emotionally destructive to parents and children in divorced households, as they have to redo, mediate or go back to court to adjust parenting plans. Also, Knoxville is a college town, and many parents are UT employed, the balanced plan will move the calendar even more out of sync with UT. My kids like outdoor activities, and the balanced plan would reduce the chances they have for swimming, hiking and other outdoor activities, and confine them indoors for more wet cold weather. So health benefit for outdoor play would be reduced as well.
Parent	Knox County hasn't proved how they will pay for a balanced schedule. They can't force students who are lagging behind to actually attend courses during the break. Students that need this help most likely have working parents who cannot take off work to get them there.
Parent	Knox County parenting plans for child custody would have to be changed for summer months, and the new break add-ons would have to be added in as well.
Parent	Knox County School employees who maintain summer jobs to supplement their income would no longer have the flexibility to work during the day. The additional cost of child care or lack of child care for low income families might create problems.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	KNOX COUNTY SCHOOLS ARE ALREADY OUT, IT LITERALLY SEEMS TO BE 1 DAY EVERY TWO WEEKS FOR INSERVICE OR A HOLIDAY. THAT IT IS ALREADY DIFFICULT TO HAVE A NORMAL WORK MONTH, AS I SAID IF YOU ARE NOT AN EMPLOYEE THRU KNOX COUNTY SCHOOLS. IT SEEMS TO ME THE ONLY PEOPLE THIS SCHEDULE WILL BENEFIT ARE THE KNOX. COUNTY EMPLOYEES/STAFF. WHICH IS FINE TO PRESENT IT THAT WAY. I JUST DONT FEEL THAT IT IS AN EXCUSE TO SAY CHILDREN WILL HAVE BETTER DISCIPLINE IF THAY KNOW THEY WILL HAVE A BREAK SOONER. WHAT KNIND OF EXAMPLE IS THAT SETTING? THAT ISNT GETTING THEM READY FOR THE REAL WORLD. IT DOESNT WORK THAT WAY. THAT IS UNLESS IM TRYING TO RAISE MY CHILD TO GROW UP AND GO TO WORK FOR KNOX COUNTY SCHOOLS.
Parent	Knox county teachers are among the lowest paid in the state (country too) - survey them as they may lose needed income from summer jobs which will only add more stress to an already stressful environment.
Parent	Knox county will have a calendar that does not match up with any other school system around. Also, teacher who teach in The Fine Arts will have a hard time getting together programs and concerts due to the frequent breaks.
Parent	Knox County will have to have a meeting with the child care centers to see if this will be feasible for parents with younger students!
Parent	Lack of ability for students who rely on school district services (i.e. Free/Reduced Breakfast/Lunch, etc.) in order to meet basic needs, to receive those services during extended school breaks. This need should be addressed by making these types of services available during breaks. Hourly school system employees are less likely to be able to pick up extra work during extended intersession breaks, and will suffer from reduced paychecks during intersession break months. The district will either suffer employee turnover or will inflate costs by providing these employees opportunities to work during these breaks.
Parent	lack of continuity mid-semester for learning more complicated subjects such as math, also teachers would likely schedule larger projects over this time (my opinion) because of the shorter stints between breaks.
Parent	Latch key kids will be at home more creating more problems. Parents who make more money will find & be able to ale arrangements for kids but that is harder for your single parents & lower class to do on sporadic calendars vs the many more structured options you have in the summer!
Parent	Leave it like it is.....work on the poor failing inner city schools that have far less then your favorite schools.
Parent	Less availability of those who might be available to care for children if not during summer too.
Parent	Less chances for kids to attend summer programs on subjects of their interest.
Parent	Less family time. Let them be kids and enjoy their childhood. They grow up to fast as it is. Education is very important, however they have their whole life to learn everything!
Parent	Less much needed outdoor activities during times when the weather is more conducive to outdoor play. More difficulty establishing a routine. More disruption to the children's as well as the entire family's lives. Tremendous difficulty with bedtimes and wake times.
Parent	less opportunity for extended learning in the summer
Parent	Less opportunity for teachers/ students to earn additional income in the summer. Some teachers children may not have the same breaks as Knox County adding less time with their family. There will be a need for students to miss school in order to make family functions.
Parent	Less opportunity to enrichment activities outside of school
Parent	Less summer break is not a difficult concession to make. However, finding enriching programs for children to participate in during school breaks in the fall/spring is a problem. There are not currently these programs in place so it is difficult to predict the financial impact this sort of disruption will cause.
Parent	Less time during summer to request time off at work for family vacations/activities

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	less time for physical activity during good weather months.
Parent	Less time for continuing educational opportunities for educators (advance degrees, fellowships, and educational trips.)
Parent	Less time for parents to spend with kids Parents not having the \$\$\$\$ to afford the camps offered during breaks, thus not having options for where the kids will go during the work day Less time for kids to be kids in the summer and enjoy all that summer allows kids to do
Parent	Less time for planned and extended vacation time spent with loved ones.
Parent	Less time for summer vacations, camps, mission trips etc. Our family enjoys time together during the summer on vacations and at the lake. It would give less time for that as it would not fit the other family members schedules that are in college etc.
Parent	Less time for summer work for teenaged children.
Parent	Less time for them to just be a kid, more pressure especially for kids with anxiety and behavior problems.
Parent	Less time for traditional family vacations, making memories, visiting parents separated in other areas. Summer jobs for those relying on those funds to continue education (college), church camps/activities. Would affect employment in Knox county for summer camps, and tgen throughout the year.
Parent	Less time to earn money in the summer (for college). I also do not trust that the calender presented for this survey will be the calender used.
Parent	Less time to spend at the lake, pool, Dollywood, vacations, and other summer activities
Parent	Less time to spend in home country for international families.
Parent	Less time to spend in the home country for foreign students.
Parent	Less time to spend in the home country for international families.
Parent	Less time visiting custodial parents when divorced
Parent	Lessons learned at summer jobs-responsibility-being on time-saving and budgeting money are as important as lessons learned ay school. My oldest child has worked a summer job since she was 14. She bought her own used car and has money to pay her insurance and gas. These are valuable life lessons you do not learn in school.
Parent	Like all things, people will adjust. It is time to do this, in fact, it is past time. Knox should have done this years ago.
Parent	Like I said Poor and working class families such as ours won't get to go on small vacations or trips on the shorter breaks and with summer break during warm months we can do things in our community like swim and parks. We also don't have money to provide sitters during the shorter breaks. That being said not all poor and working class have kids that are average or behind cs all 3 of ours are advanced and we know it is from our parental involved. Just a note for you
Parent	Limiting students chances to travel, especially internationally should be considered a drawback. International travel takes wider calendar windows to coordinate and is one of the best experiences a child can have. Additionally, in todays world of single parents, split families, merged families, multiple schools zone and even multi state families, parental visitation, child care coordination, etc. this seems like a logistics nightmare at best and I can imagine some children missing exposure to a parent or sibling or being left home alone due to conflicts.
Parent	Long school breaks are difficult to get kids back in bedtime routines and schedules. They forget home routines for study habits after school. Routines will be frequently interrupted.
Parent	Longer breaks allow children to get off of normal routine. For example, going to bed early, staying up late, getting up late, etc.
Parent	Longer breaks during school yeAr, condensed lesssons during school time. Actually no breaks for the kids who have to catch up during the breaks

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	Longer breaks during the year lead to more opportunities where re-learning curriculum is required. Additionally, the balance calendar would put students at a distinct disadvantage during TCAPs and other standardized testing.
Parent	Longer breaks in fall & Spring could create true hardship on parents/caregivers & their jobs.
Parent	Longer breaks mean more remediation on return. (block scheduling means that the same amount of remedial learning has to occur the next time that class is taken anyway, so this just adds to that time). More frequent transitions means more times you have to restart learning. What does this do to summer school?
Parent	Loose camp opportunities because many sleep away camps could care less if the poor education system in Knoxville chooses to go to a weird schedule and you lose chances for HS jobs.
Parent	Lose a lot of learning during each break - increased review work needed after each break which they usually do not get. Working parents prefer to use summer camps for summer vacation childcare which has lots of options. Working parents do not like to be in a position to have to ask friends and family to watch their children for 10 days periodically throughout the school year! Balanced calendar only works well for school workers who are in same work schedule as their kids and want more breaks through the year. It does not enhance children learning - just more interruptions which sets them back further if they are already struggling to keep up in school. Offering fall & winter camps in the 'arts' does NOT improve academics scores!!!!
Parent	Lose effective instruction time right before breaks as students (and teacher) anticipate the upcoming break. Breaks are long enough to lead to some loss of retention so will need class time to review and get back on schedule. Might interfere with Dual Enrollment high school classes.
Parent	Losing 12 days of family time in Summer. will not help my child learn better. There are many things only I can teach her and Summer is the time for that.
Parent	Loss of additional education for child
Parent	Loss of material during each break.
Parent	Loss of teachers from summer additional income lost. Students overloaded that need additional schooling. More time in hot school/bus during summer.
Parent	Loss to community of employable teens (life guards for example).
Parent	Lots of hours in school
Parent	Low income kids may need more meals during the breaks and some act up when they know they will be home more often and will have issues. Some families have lots of plans and need a long summer, especially for stay at home moms.
Parent	major drawbacks for this calendar - less summer, children need a break, they are so rushed and the education system hurries them so much to grow up, kids need to be kids and have down time. This will make it so hard for my family who is NOT wealthy WHO HAS TO WORK to provide for my children to plan for 2 weeks out each time. The winter holiday is much easier to work with the 10 days out as there is only 2-3 days we really have to worry about since it is for Christmas and New Years but if we have to figure out something for 2 weeks in the fall and 2 weeks in the spring that will be very difficult. You are not thinking of us families who don't have the ability to take off for 2 weeks at a time, some of us live paycheck to paycheck and can not afford any additional costs of possible day care expenses. As adults we all survived the "normal school schedule" I don't see any benefits to this, as the saying goes, if it aint broke don't fix it!
Parent	Makes it harder for teachers to get summer jobs. Intervention and enrichment will cost more money. Children involved in intervention or enrichment will not be getting much of a break. How will children involved in intervention or enrichment be transported to school?
Parent	Makes it more difficult for A/P students to take College classes.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	Many churches have activities during the summer such as bible school, church camps, and mission trips. A shorter summer would greatly affect these
Parent	Many jobs make associates take different weeks off for vacation. Balanced calendar means more conflicts with vacation scheduling. Enrichment opportunities can and should be offered during the summer. Breaks during the year are not needed for that. They can also be offered daily after school when many kids are in daycare or home alone. Sports activities such as baseball where travel is frequent will be impacted. Having children at home for long breaks during cold months is much less appealing than the warm winter months. Camps that can be offered in the winter pale in comparison to summer camps. I will move to a private school if this happens.
Parent	Many parents are not able to adjust their own work schedule around so many breaks for the kids. Many daycares will not be able to provide adequate child care for so many breaks. Kids summer camps and vacations out of state with families will not be able to adjust to the new schedule. Some children had a harder time adjusting back into new routines so frequently.
Parent	Many parents will chose to leave children unattended during the shorter breaks whereas it will be easier to arrange for extended care during the summer. Lack of supervision could/will lead to discipline problems. Eventually all things will work out but there will be some growing pains and unfortunate lessons learned as the community adjusts to a new schedule.
Parent	Many people have family outside of Knoxville, relying on the traditional school calendars, to stay in touch with visits and vacations together.
Parent	Many students who have summer jobs have those same jobs throughout the school year anyway. Daycare and other child care is a business like any other and will work to accommodate the change in school schedules to optimize their business. Parents who use childcare use it during current breaks so there should not be much difference.
Parent	Many summer camps and enrichment activities have numerous college-age staffers. These students would not be available during the balanced calendar breaks, reducing some enrichment opportunities. I wonder if, given 2 weeks off at a time, families would be as inclined to do enrichment activities on the quarterly breaks as they currently do in a long summer.
Parent	Many summer child care programs rely on great college students to be care givers. The balanced calendar would have a significant impact on these great businesses and be so very difficult for working parents. PLEASE DO NOT DO THIS!
Parent	Many will state the problem of childcare during the additional breaks. Childcare facilities are a for-profit business,so they will adjust.
Parent	Matching summer care programs to the balanced calendar schedule is a huge disadvantage
Parent	Maybe it would create more homework since you have 7 subjects at a time vs 4.
Parent	Mentally needs to change with the current demands. Traditional calendar model was based on farming status. Balanced calendar meets the new current demands.
Parent	Messes up summer plans and activities with family.
Parent	Might affect high schoolers more with Knox Co semester blocks that take AP courses in spring test are given mid May not enough time to cover material. If high schools went to year round block scheduling (AB format) with 6 or 7 classes all year would solve this problem
Parent	Might be unable to start college the summer after high school or to attend things such as engineering math review weeks held at UT for incoming engineering majors. AP testing could be a problem as well as students never getting true time off because of assignments and projects over breaks. This also applies to students who would spend their break in school to try to catch up. Everyone needs time off at some point. High achieving and low achieving students will likely not get that time away from school.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	Missin trips by youth groups would no longer be availabe as certain dayes are assigned 5 years in advance to churches. Unfair to those children coming through the youth group who would now bo longer be able to sttend due to short summer.
Parent	More planning....parents having to use all Thier vacation time for those weeks off.
Parent	More and more schools offering non traditional school year. But needing arrangements maybe the school day care could help fix that
Parent	More anxiety and less time to relax with behavioral issues.
Parent	More Childcare = more childcare expenses.
Parent	More difficult to schedule church camps, scout camps, other special summer activities
Parent	More expense for schools
Parent	More expense for working parents with increased daycare costs.
Parent	More expensive for the family
Parent	More expensive? I don't know.
Parent	More in-depth and specialized assignments/projects will be given during additional break periods which will result in constant school pressure for students and families. Breaks will not truly be breaks. Students (and their parents) will experience burnout and be disgruntled with school. Repeated breaks will result in breaks in momentum and will require review and "re-booting" after each separate break period. A balanced calendar will result in additional cost to all (school system and parents). The cost of a balanced calendar has not been approved and is not affordable for all involved. A balanced calendar will result in additional childcare strains and stresses, especially on single parent households. Summer camps, activities, and VBS which are often utilized as child care options in a traditional summer are often staffed by college students who would not be available as staff throughout the school year pursuant to a balanced calendar. Therefore, those traditional childcare options would be not available to parents throughout the year. Students cannot be forced to participate in intercession periods. Some students need long-term summer jobs to help with family expenses or to save for college. Traditional summers are important for the development of skills that cannot be measured by testing.
Parent	More loaded questions.
Parent	more opportunities for family time throughout the year other than just during summer. Less time worried about children outside of school for long periods of time during summer
Parent	more school clothes required
Parent	More strain on employers to accommodate vacation time during between-quarter breaks, higher energy/fuel costs with extended hours in summer.
Parent	More time away from supervised environment No plan for requirements for attendance ir remediation activities No allowance for teacher's pursuit of further education or training Childcare is an enormous issue No real data to prove that student progress improves
Parent	More time to play video games, watch television, to cold to play out side less active
Parent	Most children seem to do better with a routine. I am concerned that the 10-day breaks in the Fall and Spring may cause "lost days" of learning that seem to bookend our current Winter break and Summer break already as the children are too excited to do much learning before the break and are lagging whenever they have to return to school. I am also concerned that the longer breaks in the Fall and Spring will create nightmare situations for working parents. Currently, it is difficult to find consistent, qualify and reasonably priced childcare already for the Winter and Spring breaks. My husband and I both have had to take our child to the office over these breaks. My hope would be that if the balanced calendar passes, KCS will give parents and childcare providers a sufficient amount of time in which to plan accordingly for childcare.
Parent	Most children will be home alone or sitting in child care during the extra time off. There are zero benefits in this situation.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	Most High School students work during the summer to pay for everything they need during the year, they will be unable to do this ! Impossible for kids to find jobs !!
Parent	Most jobs work around the traditional school schedule as well as colleges! It's going to be hard on parents who cannot adhere to the balanced schedule. Leave it the way it is.
Parent	most kids need the longer summers because they have family that is out of state.
Parent	Most likely, more impactful for the younger students with daycare challenges but most daycares would probably adjust as needed.
Parent	Most of the drawbacks have been addressed, but what about the students who have divorced parents? Most of these children are already having to be transported back and forth between two (maybe more) households each week. And what if that child is involved in a lot of extracurricular activities as well? That's even more back and forth "transitioning". Add in the fact that in this day and age, both parents are working full time trying to do the best and provide the best for their children - To me, it sounds like a recipe for disaster! I just don't see how the balanced calendar could work in the student's or parent's favor. Maybe if our work schedules were made to fit this type of calendar it could work. The problem is, they're not. So the student would have more time with someone else watching them, or god forbid when they're teenagers - more time to themselves while mom and dad are at work. It's hard enough with the 8-5 work schedule, I can't imagine how much harder it would be for parents that work in retail or a swing shift. I'm sure there are more scenerios that come into play, but these are just a few we're concerned about.
Parent	Most of these don't apply to our situation. We can adjust to scheduling without problems.
Parent	Most of these questions don't make sense.
Parent	Most parents have there work schedule done. It would change all of that and make it a hardship
Parent	Moving from one location to another (across state lines) where one school is on a balanced calendar and the other is on a traditional calendar. Students would not receive the same number of school days.
Parent	Multiple disruptions on a child's normal routine
Parent	Multiple long breaks actually INCREASES learning loss. My son experienced just this during the lengthy ice/snow days this past winter. Each time they are out of school longer than 10 days- there are many many kids who require time to get "their brain back in gear."
Parent	My biggest concern is child care for working parents. While I assume that care providers will be forced to adjust their schedules to accommodate, I am also aware that many of these facilities employ college students during the summer months to help with the increased enrollment numbers for full time children. Since the local colleges would not be operating on a similar schedule, I could see potential problems in finding quality employees to fill the increased demand during the 2 weeks breaks between knox county school sessions.
Parent	My biggest concern is where the fall break[Thanksgiving] and the winter break[Christmas and New Year] would be on the calendar, as well as other traditional holiday's.
Parent	My biggest concern is with EOC testing. If the state does not change the testing dates, the teachers will have less time to cover needed testing material. This could impact student scores and grades.
Parent	My child attends Kids Place and during breaks the children have to go to the Kids Place main campus off Millertown Pike and that is inconvenient. I feel like the schools should be open for Kids Place during all breaks.
Parent	My child does not do well with the frequent interruptions in his schedule. Over the summer, he has time to enjoy but then looks forward to school starting again in August and adjust very well to the current schedule.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	My child had a hard time going back to school after the 10 snow days. sometimes there can be too much of a break in routine. Any enrichment would have to have the approved funding and there is not enough enrichment now during school, why should I believe there would be more and if so is it really a break
Parent	My child is autistic and needs routine. Longer breaks during the year will be very stressful on these children
Parent	My child is being actively recruited by colleges as a result of participation in club travel sports. The balanced schedule would interfere with her club schedule.
Parent	My child relies heavily on routine and having so much time off between quarters would definitely interfere with that routine.
Parent	My child will have to work in high school. This creates a huge employment issue. My child dances on the dance team at school as well as a studio and other extra activities. Everything is based on the current school calendar. You would be asking businesses, families, and practically every one to change their schedules based on this new "balanced" schedule. I am not a fan at all and think it's very assuming on your part every one will do it cause they won't.
Parent	My child would have to miss classes
Parent	My children are old enough that most of these changes don't cause any reason for concern.
Parent	My children do many educational and worthwhile activities during the summer. I do not want them in school more during the summer. I would even be willing to have shorter breaks during the school year so we could have a longer summer.
Parent	My children do not do well going back to school after breaks. Once winter break happens it is over for them. They no longer care about school. Breaks are a bad thing if it is more than 2 days.
Parent	My children have a hard time getting back into the swing of things after Christmas Break and Spring Break. Why would I want that going on all year long. Stop and start, stop and start.
Parent	My children in various Knox CO schools need to be on the same calendar or it will create a crisis and hardship for our family. Also I think balanced calendar is just a fad - no real results proven
Parent	My children participate in valuable summer programs and festivals. The proposed balanced calendar would make this impossible.
Parent	My child's summer break is his break. Stop trying to shorten it.
Parent	My concern is as a single parent is is very hard to find someone to help me with my child when there is a winter, fall and spring break. Because some of these locations are closed also when there is no school open.
Parent	My daughter fears her HS teachers will use them time to assign them more projects and homework to do during the break times and it won't truly be a "break"
Parent	My daughter has to go to California to visit her dad during the summer. A balanced colander would mean only a week in TN with us and her friends.
Parent	My daughter plays travel softball in the summer. A shorter summer break would greatly affect her being able to play in the summer.
Parent	My daughter was WAY behind in preparing for AP tests due to all the snow days in Feb. VERY DISRUPTIVE to her learning and that is what the balanced calendar is. DISRUPTIVE to good students. The ones that need help probably won't even show up during the breaks. BAD IDEA!!
Parent	My daycare would accommodate

Potential Drawbacks Comments

<p>How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?</p>	<p>Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>My family and children live for summer break. We enjoy summer activities and choosing summer enrichment. I do not want additional time in the spring. It is cold still, and rainy. The kids sit and play video games. Not what I want to exchange for summer activities. I doubt on a 10 day break I would send my kids to a camp. I don't see it happening. My children do not do well with extended breaks during the school year. We do better powering thru a school year in anticipation for summer break. The extra time off with snow proved even more to me how much better we do keeping with our current schedule. Being a volunteer at school, it seems the other children have trouble getting back into routine as well. I have young children, but I think you are hurting the middle class by shortening the time older children can work to help the family. As all things, changes usually impact middle class the most. From what I am hearing, many families won't even finish the last week of school; in order, to start summer vacations and breaks. How will forcing children to go longer into the summer going to help when people won't even keep their kids in school till the end as it is?</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>My husband is a college professor and is our source of child care over the summer. A balanced calendar would cause many problems for our family in regards to summer child care. Also, it makes it difficult to plan family vacations if we are all on different schedules.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>My husband is a teacher at a private school in Knox Co. This would place a tremendous hardship on us with childcare etc if he and our son have different schedules. Our son is special needs and this is why he attends a county school rather than private school.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>my kid has to work all year anyway</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>My kids are old enough that child care isn't an issue. Breaks have never lined up with surrounding school systems, so the fact that a balanced calendar may not line up has no impact on us. If it has any impact, it may be positive, if the fall break lines up with the one in Cumberland County. Even if it does, it's still not a big deal for us.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>My kids will be on swim team this summer--I imagine they will have less time to develop their skills with a shorter summer break.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>My main concern is childcare during the extended breaks. My husband and I both work and use a summer program (First Lutheran School). We are concerned that programs like these will not provide the programs (childcare) that we need during the extended breaks. While we plan to take time off with our child during these breaks, we will not be able to take time off from work to cover all of them. We trust the summer program we have chosen and feel that our child is safe there. If they do not adjust their schedule and provide options to cover this, I am not sure what we will do. We do not have family members who could cover all of the breaks.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>My main concern is for the household that has two working parents and finding childcare for those longer breaks. Especially when you have more than one kid. Like I have four. Is there going to be something available for parents that would be a reasonable price ? You mentioned that the longer breaks would offer extra time to get help for the kids that are having trouble. Is there going to be fees for this also?</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>My neighboring county did this balanced calendar for two years and then changed back. The students were coming back from a two week break and teachers were having to reteach a lot of content before they could start on something new. Kind of seems like reteaching after every quarter would be a waste.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>My observation is that the breaks we have in our current schedule are disruptive. I cannot imaging that generating more frequent breaks would be a benefit. Students are excited about a break and are distracted, then upon return, more difficulty in getting back into the learning mode.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>My only as a working parent concern to a balanced calendar is the potential loss of childcare during breaks.</p>

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	My only concern is how much more money daycare would cost our family during the 2week breaks. As of now when school is out we pay an extra \$10 per child per day, that doesn't sound like a lot but when you add the \$140 we are already paying for 2 children then add additional \$100.00 each of those weeks that adds up. At our daycare we have to pay if the children are there or not or we loose our spots. I would support the balanced school year 100% but I know how this will affect families financially.
Parent	My only concern with the breaks is if teachers assign large amounts of homework making it less of a break. I would hope that teachers would let the students have an actual rest during those times. Otherwise I am all for it!
Parent	My only other concern is that if we have very bad winter weather like we did this year, a longer Spring Break would case kids to miss more days in a short period. I think this can be worked around, but it is a concern.
Parent	My only real issue is that my husband and I can't be off for the 2 week breaks and child care would be required. We do not have child care and the stress of finding that will be difficult.
Parent	My only worry is if during "breaks". It is a break for a reason, don't give my child work to do during it, unless we are asking for help
Parent	My personal feeling is that schools should not start back till after labor day. Kids now days do not feel they have much time away from school as it is. Balanced calendars would not give the appropriate breaks they deserve. Very few children would benefit from this design!
Parent	My question is, who is gonna offer these extra enrichment opportunities and the pop up camps during the breaks? The school system? Whose gonna pay for it?
Parent	My son comes from a divorced family. His father resides in Nebraska. He spends only the summer with his father. A balanced calendar would greatly reduce the visitation time set forth by the court for my son to see his father.
Parent	My son has to stay on a schedule and routine. This would disrupt that. It would take him a few days after each break to get back into the swing of things.
Parent	My son is ADHD, I see that when he has a break from school it is much harder to get him focused again. The more breaks he has the more time it will take to get him back in a routine.
Parent	My son is in high school - I think this will be a nice change for high school. If he were in elementary school it would be more of an issue with learning loss and child care issues. I hope you coordinate with area college schedules to coordinate fall breaks because it would be of no benefit to family time if one kid is on break and the other college age kid in school.
Parent	My son is on the spectrum and this is going to cause constant drama at my home bc he does not do well with transitions or frequent change
Parent	My thing is my work does not allow me to be off very often and I would have no vacation time or paid leave to keep him longer - the cost for day care nearly doubles when they have to be watched full time or in extended breaks
Parent	My wife and I both have to work full time to support our family. The balanced calendar forces more breaks with less continuous time on/off. Under this scenario the employer has to accommodate less predictability in schedule an this may jeopardize employ-ability in the long run for those of us that are either single parents or two full time households. I would be interested in hearing stats on the impact of the balanced calendar on lower income families.
Parent	My wife and I both work full time which makes it difficult to provide care during long breaks. Due to the length of Winter break, we alternate days off and share in watching our children . The balanced calendar would essentially create 3 Winter breaks per year. We have planned vacations in the past during Spring break and/or Fall break, but my wife and I don't have enough vacations days to keep our children home for 6 weeks of break outside of summer.
Parent	National testing dates may cause issues for high school students.
Parent	Need for school physical plant to provide reliable air conditioning in all classrooms

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	None, I feel the proposed calendar limits interruption to a families schedule. The community and businesses can adapt to the change as needed for childcare and activities.
Parent	None.
Parent	None.
Parent	None.
Parent	None.
Parent	None.
Parent	None.
Parent	none. an education for our children should be our top priority
Parent	None. I am looking forward to it.
Parent	None. Let's do this!
Parent	None. The parents who need to find childcare during breaks also have the same issue with summers. I'm hoping camps would be available during the breaks, especially for middle school age kids.
Parent	None...I fully support the balance calendar
Parent	Not all children live with both biological parents. Less summer break mean less time the non-custodial parent gets with child/children. Not all non-custodial and custodial parents live in the Same state. That means more money out of pocket to arrange different visitation and asking for holiday breaks off from work. Which we all know is hard to ask for. Not every child or parents live the ideal lives and this is a burden for many.
Parent	Not being off when siblings not on this plan are off.
Parent	Not compatible with my homeschool schedule for my other child
Parent	Not enough benefits for the trouble. 2 weeks now but if you open the door I know there will be more changes coming. Leave these poor kids alone and let them enjoy heir time off.
Parent	Not enough of a break for teachers
Parent	Not enough summer!
Parent	Not good for working parent schedule.
Parent	Not necessarily a drawback. But it was pointed out that the smaller summer break would help in retention. The difference is only 11 days. I find it hard to believe that 11 days represents the tipping point in retention.
Parent	Not only would it impact the families and school, it would negatively affect the community in having to deal with the stresses of having the students off for extra periods that aren't supported by full time staff- i.e. child care, community jobs(staffed by students). Shorter summer breaks mean more people having to schedule time off during that short period.
Parent	Not sure how kids would fill two weeks in Fall and Spring with working parents. They would get bored. I believe more students would rather get the year over to enjoy summer, especially high school students
Parent	Nothing to look forward too. The summer is about kids all over America just being kids not keeping them indoors year round.
Parent	Noting that these calenders do not align to other school systems across the state and beyond, it does not provide benefit from a family perspective of family visits.
Parent	Often, the week before break, it seems we are hesitant to start new material. If we will have more breaks throughout the year, we will need to make sure that we are not losing "teaching time" prior to every break.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

<p>How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?</p>	<p>Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>Once children are out of the daycare setting at age 11, they still need supervision. I use college students. This will be difficult if the school schedules are so different from university schedules. What do I do with an 11 year old in the Fall? Also, some teachers are already talking about books to read during breaks and projects, so essentially kids could never get a break from school. If I couldn't have worked and saved all summer, 40 plus hours per week I could never have gone to college. I can't get a job for 10 days in the Fall. Not everything in life is about school. It is good for kids to have so much down time that they become bored, that's when their imagination kicks in. And I could care less about the teachers getting a break. They already get more breaks than any other profession in America, so I don't see why we need to worry about them. They can go to work like everyone else and stop complaining. Swim team schedules, football summer schedules will all have to change.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>once the kids get use to the change it will be part of the norm for them. It will teach "change" to the few kids/ parents that have issues with this idea.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>One drawback I've heard is that some teachers find other employment during the summer to supplement their income and a shorter time would limit this opportunity. A solution would be to offer tutoring services, daycamps or mini-classes during the breaks between semesters. These activities could also help parents who need childcare during the breaks as well.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>One thing I would like to point out is that all divorced parents in Knox County are required to create a Parenting Plan. This plan must be submitted and approved by a judge. This is NOT a simple document to change. The Parenting Plan sets in place the custodial schedule and the amount of child support to be given or received. All parenting plans are based on the traditional Knox County school calendar. For example, the plan may state the child will spend spring break with the father. The traditional spring break is one week. The amount of child support is based on the number of days the child spends with each parent. If spring break is extended to two weeks based on the implementation of the balanced calendar, not only will the Parenting Plan have to be modified to reflect the actual number of days the child will spend with each parent, but the amount of child support will have to be modified also since it is based on the number of days. I just think this is a very important topic that should be considered when deciding on the balanced calendar. The calendar change would impact a large percentage of divorced parents of school-aged children in Knox County. Parenting Plans require an attorney, the court system, and a judge. It can be very costly to change each Parenting Plan. Implementing a balanced calendar has much larger drawbacks than simply summer jobs and camps. It will impact many families at a very personal level and has the potential to cause disruption in family systems and the courts. Please keep this in mind.</p>
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Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	Only concern is childcare difficulties during longer breaks
Parent	Opportunities for family vacations that coincide with local college calendars. It will significantly decrease the amount of athletic college recruiting & scholarships as the recruiting cannot be done during high school season and can only be done because of NCAA guidelines during a very set schedule in the summer.
Parent	Other service providers -- child care, camps -- and businesses will have to adjust. This is not really just about changing a calendar, it is about changing a mindset of the community which is no easy task. For households with working parents, this will be a major change. Knox Co's help bringing this change to the attention of businesses where parents work is necessary for a smooth transition.
Parent	Our children go to Kids Place. The daycare is no longer open over the winter break - how is this going to work on these other breaks - this can increase costs or additional missed time.
Parent	Our concern is that the shorter breaks between quarters will simply be loaded up with additional projects, reading assignments, and other homework that will make family travel (extended family lives outside TN) or true downtime for the kids impossible.
Parent	Our daycare is on-site at the school - Kid's Place. When the school is closed, taking our child all the way to the main campus at Millertown is a significant hardship because we both work full time jobs that are a 30 minutes and an hour away from Millertown campus. If this is implemented, I would like to see KCS be flexible with on-site care for Kid's Place at the schools. Most parents are unable to take the time off to cover all the days that the schools are closed to Kid's Place.
Parent	our kids have enjoyed swimming on a swim team during the summer the new calendar could potentially stop summer swim teams from existng.
Parent	Our older kids are left unattended at home. Which means trouble in more ways than one..Pre-marital sex, possible burglaries..most will be at home wasting good valuable time. I think the more they are in school the better. There are a lot of parents that work. And for our younger kids to go to daycare longer WILL NOT be cheap.
Parent	Our son requires the summer to de-stress and de-compress from the school year.
Parent	Our vacation time is very important to us. We use it not only as a break from the daily grind but also a way four our family to experience new places and cultures. We try to make our vacations a learning experience for our kids. I am happy to say that my kids have traveled to more places than I ever did at their age. A balanced calendar will allow us to continue our travels but at a more reasonable cost since we will be able travel at other times of the year instead of the expensive summer months.
Parent	Overall costs: 1. School maintenance costs (in school longer during hotter months). 2. A lot of teachers (due to low pay - and NO, I'm not a teacher) get summer jobs, this will affect their ability to make extra \$ to provide for their families. 3. What about bus contracts? I realize the same amount of days, but how will those people get paid, etc.? I'm sure those people have extra jobs too. 4. What about other school personnel (front office staff, janitorial, etc.)? How will this affect them and their pay? I realize there are the same amount of school days, but the school year is now longer. This will personally impact them too. 5. We already have a school budget crisis every year in this state. How will this change affect that? Not in a positive way, I am assuming. I realize that current school year is based off agrarian society (which we are no longer) and I am not opposed to change, but why are we thinking about changing it? If you look at the research from other states, there are no significant learning advantages to going to a balanced calendar (no significant test score increases, etc.). Again, I'm not opposed to change, but I am also a critical thinker and do not just go with the masses or what other people are telling me to be true. I want to ensure that this change would be in the best interest of students, parents, teacher and other staff... based on research, experience of other school districts/states, etc. Also, not all kids just laze around all summer playing video games and watching TV.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	Overall disruption of family planning and childcare situations
Parent	Parenting order for visitation with out of state parent will have to be adjusted
Parent	Parenting plans could be an absolute disaster and need to go back to court. Costs are extreme.
Parent	Parents get less of a break from school. There are only 3 months in the year in which kids can swim outdoor and enjoy summer activities. The balanced calendar would reduce that opportunity.
Parent	Parents getting fired because of need for schedule changes and inflexible employers
Parent	Parents must work for a living. We can schedule "long term" care for our children in one long break for the summer. We cannot take many days off from work during non-summer days to care for our children with your "balanced calendar". Many parents do not even have enough vacation or leave days to care for our children at home during your "balanced calendar". To hire caretakers during the non-summer days of your "balanced calendar" is extremely burdensome financially.
Parent	Parents not wanting to send their child to the enrichment classes on the two week breaks because it seems like "punishment". Getting enough teachers for the enrichment camps.
Parent	Parents that have issues for alternate child care during breaks kids being left alone or in not good conditions
Parent	parents to have custody of the children during summer break
Parent	Parents who share custody only in the Summer time will lose some time.
Parent	Parents will have to compete for vacation days at work with more limited options.
Parent	Paying for it. Sports will be impacted financially as students will not attend games while on breaks and athletes will not benefit from longer breaks during their season.
Parent	People adjust; while there may be some resistance in the beginning, in the long run most parents will like the new schedule more. This schedule also gives parents a chance to schedule vacations off busy seasons when prices may be lower and less crowds at popular vacation spots.
Parent	People are able to adapt to changes in their environment. I make changes at work all the time, for example, upgrade Windows to new versions - some people despise it at first, but a short while later, they would never go back to the old version. Change is painful for some, but they always get over it - and if they don't, they usually move on and those people aren't missed by the majority.
Parent	People are typically just resistant to changes. That is a bigger drawback-its just different.
Parent	People do not like change and will complain until they understand the benefits.
Parent	People fear change.
Parent	People some times fear the unknown. They are the drawback. I feel it would benefit the children more than anything.
Parent	People with jobs can't take weeks off at a time because Knox County wants to copy other counties in our area with this ridiculous plan.
Parent	Perhaps showing both sides of studies regarding this 'balanced calender'. I do not agree it will reduce behavioral issues, since that is a parental issue. Perhaps there should be more rotation of teacher appreciation, so they are motivated to be better in the classrooms. Also, KNOX COUNTY does NOT promote good physical activities for children, and what is implemented is limited, questionable, and extremely low to null impact. This is a problem the system needs to stem and fix immediately. I do not want my children to go and sit for 3 out of 5 days when they could be doing great activity outside.
Parent	Personally, having 6 kids, some that would qualify for intervention, that is not a helpful concept. Those kids sent to intervention while everyone else is on a break will feel punished. It also makes family use of the time off less enriching.
Parent	Please leave our school schedule alone.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	Please make Knox County School breaks be the same as the University of Tennessee. No high school athletic practices during breaks.
Parent	Please see previous note.
Parent	Possibly more work, for no extra pay when it comes to teachers. Hopefully the inservices and such will remain a part of the school year and not be forced into being used on breaks. If these things cut into breaks for teachers then pay should be adjusted accordingly.
Parent	Potential for study abroad impacted - due to scheduling with other systems. E. g. EF Tours
Parent	Potential revenue loss of family business, which is seasonal.
Parent	Problems with too many parents needing the same weeks off from work during the spring and fall breaks.
Parent	Problems with an earlier fall start could create problems for schools that do not have air conditioning during the hot summer months.
Parent	Problems with scheduling school events and sports meets with other schools outside of Knox County during the particular seasons. The substantial cost increase for having to pay teachers more, for running and maintaining the school, transportation costs, etc. Studies I've read that show there is no benefit for balanced calendars, especially in terms of the loss of learning.
Parent	Provides less time for student to be "well rounded" with sports outside of school, church activities, summer jobs, volunteer opportunities during summer, etc
Parent	Public buy-in is really going to be hard to overcome. Balancing feedback against what is best for the learning environment is a potential drawback.
Parent	Quality teachers will leave for tradition calendars in surrounding counties.
Parent	Quarters may seem too short and material might get rushed through more. The mental burden of thinking that there are 4 "quarters" rather than two "semesters" with a long break after each. Getting through two bigger chunks (though longer) might seem easier to some.
Parent	Question? Do the teachers also receive the two weeks off as well?
Parent	Really hard to maintain childcare during short breaks
Parent	Really we are looking at 11 less days in summer. I don't see what the big deal is with this. the longer breaks during the school year could be difficult for families with young children.
Parent	Reduced opportunities for children who want to participate in sports, band, mission trips, community service, jobs, and general downtime. This also does not take into account the additional workload for the teaching staff. What will this cost us? I do not approve.
Parent	Reduced time for summer recreational activities, such as pools, swim teams, camps. Fall and spring are not typically good for family vacations.
Parent	Repetitive 'on' and 'off' could be harmful as the student gets into the rhythm of learning to be put on break. Breaks would not be as effective for family time as the rest of the family is not able to be on break so camps/childcare full time would have to be paid for rather than family time and a true 'break'.
Parent	Robbing each child from being a child and to hurry up to grow up. Kids in AP classes have work during breaks so this isn't a good situation with lesser summer time off. Creates issue of finding new school that doesn't participate in this or moving to a different state.
Parent	Routine and discipline!! Self discipline is everyday and with so many breaks it teaches kids to be lazy
Parent	Ruins activities in the summer. Daycare is a nightmare. School needs a break.
Parent	Same as I've already stated. Leave the school calendar alone.
Parent	Schedule hardships for working parents
Parent	School activities that take place during the extended breaks in the fall winter and spring will detract from the benefit of the balanced calendar. This will include marching band for my family.
Parent	School already comes to soon in the summer. Starting after Labor Day in September would be great.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	School budget for implementing balanced calendar would have to increase
Parent	School Maintenance Projects, Cost of Cooling School Buildings, Staff of Summer Camps is typically College Age Young Adults - they won't be available as Staff during non-Summer Breaks.
Parent	school-sponsored sports could also conflict with breaks; if a shorter summer break meant starting back to school earlier, then all buildings would have to be cooled earlier than usual and create higher electricity costs to combat heat;
Parent	See before
Parent	see last comment. Making breaks balance UT as much as possible would be welcome and would permit more enrichment activities during spring and fall breaks.
Parent	see previous Lastly, this limits summer internship programs (laboratory, clinical, etc) especially if our children pursue a top 20 college.
Parent	Seeing year round school as a solution to more pressing problems.
Parent	Short summer breaks - breaks will not line up with family schedules. Current schedule lines up closely with UT's schedule. Now family schedules will not match. Less time for summer jobs - Negative impact to length of summer jobs or availability. For example m son works at scout summer camp. Balanced schedule would not allow him to do this which adds both leadership as he s a area director) and additional funds. Child-Care - Could be an issue Family schedule - see above. Transition: Negatively impact as routine is constantly changing. Will have more of a negative impact than current schedule
Parent	Shortened summer decreases opportunity to spend time with out of state family.
Parent	shorter summer break could negatively impact the morale of kids, leading to feeling of being in school all year long.
Parent	shorter summers, not good for high schoolers, having time in the summer is more important than having two weeks in the winter.
Parent	Short-term student dissatisfaction with less summer-time days off, until they got used to the new schedule.
Parent	Should be a consultation with major employers here in East Tennessee to see what they feel about this revised calendar.
Parent	Show me the research that it helps. Most places have went back to a traditional after being on the balance. Where is the money to do this coming from?!
Parent	Since the summer break would only be reduced by 12 days, it seems that there would still be the "summer loss" effect.
Parent	Single parents and working parents will have to find someone to keep their kids. Things are hard enough as it is. Kids with difficulty it will make it harder on them and therefore upset the whole family.
Parent	Single parents are under a huge strain especially when it comes to finding someone to watch their children while at work. Having longer breaks through the year increases this strain. I understand that it is not the schools job to "babysit" but, it is a hard reality that many including myself have been dealt. I think it should be taken seriously as it effects the children in these situations as well.
Parent	Single parents could have more problems finding childcare during the frequent breaks, which could result in some children being left home alone while their parent is working. The same could also be said for 2 parent households with low incomes.
Parent	Single parents with younger children do not have "summer camps" to put their kids into during these breaks in the schedule and end up paying more for day care and is costly for those living a a budget.
Parent	Snow days - The odds of all snow days happening while an intersession break occurs are almost none, which may wreak further havoc.
Parent	snow days during the winter calendar would impact the balanced calendar how?

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	So, advantages were written based on academia and drawbacks are written based on family and extra-curricular activities? Really? How about a balanced survey?
Parent	Some children may not be able to afford enrichment camps through out the year. This creates a wider learning gap between children of different economic backgrounds within the same school.
Parent	Some families have joint custody and this strongly affects the childs time with either parent, I understand the need for a strong education but when will the child get to be a child
Parent	Some of us less fortunate families with low income must depend on the summer break for us to take our kids on vacation or swimming or other free and cheap activities cs we can't afford to just go in the lychee breaks during the school year and summer is our only chance to make these memories that last a lifetime. I understand this isn't the only reason to not like the balanced calendar but I think it is the main reason I don't like it.
Parent	Some shared custody arrangements will have to be adjusted because they currently align with academic calendar
Parent	Some struggling children may spend much of their break time doing remedial work.
Parent	Some students depend on summer jobs to help with car insurance throughout the year. Cutting their time with make it harder on families.
Parent	some Students will not stick around for enrichment. It will be short lived and will have to be changed back in 2 - 4 years due to lack of support.
Parent	Some teachers tend to give big projects over these breaks, which would pose problem.
Parent	Sometimes the more breaks at longer frequencies can be just as harmful for children
Parent	Special needs children may not adapt to these breaks as well.
Parent	Sport team practice
Parent	Sporting activities, less potential to get summer jobs based on shorter availability. I would like the breaks to be more traditional if possible, like spring break should be in the "spring" and summer break should be in the heat of the summer June, July and August. But I don't know what that would fit with the number of days available.
Parent	Sporting calendars would not change.
Parent	Sports
Parent	Sports AP classes Kids in multiple schools
Parent	Sports and other activities, including marching band, may have issues when competing with schools that are on a conventional calender. If activites continue to occur during the breaks, then the some of the benefit of the balanced calender will be lost.
Parent	Sports and similar extracurriculars will continue over breaks, meaning no actual break for those kids; would affect pre-season sports and band camps; would affect bright kids' ability to attend prestigious summer enrichment programs (Duke, Vanderbilt, etc.), most of which run through the end of July; would affect dual enrollment; would cost the district money to keep schools open/provide transportation/pay salaries for those intervention sessions during breaks.
Parent	Sports are a huge drawback! Families cannot plan trips or activities when they have to stay home due to high school sports.
Parent	Sports like swim team would be negatively affected
Parent	Sports programs would have a hard time managing there schedule with the loss of the usual season of events. School maintenance would be an issue as the hotter times would be upon the building with students attending. Focus and knowledge retention for children would be potentially harder as much of their thought would be in the warmer activities that can be done in the summer.
Parent	Sports schedules and band programs.
Parent	Sports schedules and performing arts schedules will not fall in line with state wide schedules. Students will be performing and playing sports during the times they are suppose to be on 'break'

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	sports schedules- practices and competitions during breaks
Parent	Sports schedules would be harder!! But most importantly working parents and childcare would be a nightmare
Parent	Sports schedules, need to find daycare for longer periods during breaks
Parent	Sports training
Parent	Sports, transportation, funding
Parent	sports?
Parent	Stopping and starting school more often is disruptive to child and parents. More childcare issues.
Parent	Stress-our children are stressed out enough with Common Core and TCAPs. Why put more stress on them? Workplace harassment for working families. Parents that have to take time off will be passed over for jobs, treated unfairly, and our employers won't understand or care about more disruption in our lives (especially working mothers who have a hard enough time already)!
Parent	Struggling students will experience school year learning loss with extended breaks during the school year. Who exactly will intervene during breaks to provide tutoring to these struggling students? Teachers? Don't be surprised when student behavior declines in these students because they are going to tutoring while their neighbors are enjoying their "extra" time off during the school year, but their own summer break is cut short. Not to mention the kids from divorced parents who may only see their other parent/family members during summer vacation, and with the reduced summer break may not get to do this anymore based on the other party's work schedule.
Parent	Student athletes being allowed to actually take a break.
Parent	Student athletes will not be allowed to miss games and will not travel.
Parent	Student drop out rate will increase leaving many students to the streets. The workforce can not handle young adults without a dipoloma and would further burden our communities.
Parent	Students are going to excel whether they go all year or not. The ones who aren't going to excel aren't regardless if they go all year. Also it would hurt daycares and families taking vacations. Family time is more important to me.
Parent	Students have a hard time getting back on track and remembering what they were doing before our current holiday breaks...it would be worse if we added time out of class during the year.
Parent	Students in activities such as Band and football do not get to enjoy the full effect of the Fall Break due to having to attend mandatory practice and games during the break period.
Parent	Students need the extended downtime that summer provides. Balanced calendar takes away from other learning summer activities as well.
Parent	Students needing extra help would not get a break from traditional "learning". Learning solely in the instatutionalized setting is not going to help those struggling come up. We need a new mindset. Also, how will teachers be compensated for the loss of "extra" income they receive during summer breaks.
Parent	Students of divorced parents who live in a different state would have difficulty
Parent	Students that participate in some extra-curricular activities such as football, marching band, cheer, color guard, etc. would not get the same benefit of breaks as other students because of schedules requiring them to attend games, competitions, etc. during the times of breaks.
Parent	Students will forget what they learned so easy that after break it will take a week to catch them back up.
Parent	Students would have to relearn after two-week breaks, and would have to relearn more frequently.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	Studies comparing the academic success of students on traditional and balanced calendars have been inconclusive, especially for students who are engaged during the summer months. Another challenge would be changing the mindset of parents who grew up with long summer breaks and want their kids to have the same experience.
Parent	STUDIES DO NOT BACK UP THIS PLAN'S EFFECTIVENESS!!! IT JUST SOUNDS LIKE IT SHOULD WORK. SHOW ME THE HARD DATA NOT JUST WHAT IS CHERRY PICKED TO SUPPORT YOUR PLAN. Use the school day more effectively!!! Don't mess with our summer. It's too short already. Have three kids from 10-17 years old in Knox County School. Make kids actually work. No movies, walks, or goofing off time. Teach them! After TCAPS school is effectively over. The kids you are targeting are most likely not going to benefit or even take part in these interventions so you are penalizing the majority. DO NOT WANT BALANCED CALENDAR! !!
Parent	Studies have proven that children do best when they have a regular routine that involved home and family at the core.
Parent	Studies show that low income students are the ones who suffer the most from summer learning loss, however, those are also the ones whose families will suffer from added economic expenses of balanced calendar
Parent	Studies show this is a disadvantage for the disadvantaged. If you want more time, re-implement the full week Fall Break
Parent	Stupid idea
Parent	Summer athletics (travel teams for high performers) will be impacted. Less time to have college coaches evaluate the player
Parent	Summer break continues to shorten. This one is reduced by what 1.5 weeks? The summer job opportunity is indeed a downside. I don't see this as more frequent transition but longer breaks - children with transition issues may have problems because of routine establishment. I agree there will be issues with childcare but again it's just longer breaks and some kind of childcare has to be arranged even for shorter times. The thing is to offer reasonable options for those families in real need such as little to no time to take off work or funds to find someone to watch the children - this is a problem no matter the schedule. I admit that I do not know of examples where I've heard about the family difficulties with the new balanced schedule to understand this argument fully. If implemented across Knox County, I wonder how many private schools will follow suit? This would it easier on kids in different schools with different schedules because otherwise why would there be different schedules for families other than daily time differences?
Parent	Summer break is only 2 weeks less so it's not a huge difference to most students. Not sure of impact.
Parent	Summer camp and summer trip and band camp conflicts
Parent	Summer care cost are much more expensive than regular childcare! Summer is not being cut back so much with the balanced calendar that it takes away from vacationing, etc. I mean really who wouldn't be able to take vacation within 45 days that are still in place with the balanced calendar??!!!
Parent	Summer extracurricular activities will have to be limited to June and July including swimming, track, camps and vacations
Parent	Summer is a huge deal for kids. It's a time to re-charge and escape the pressure of school. If anything summer should be a little longer so school does not have to start what is now becoming early August. Way way to hot and humid that time of year. Eliminate some of those three and four day weekends and have school more towards the tradition of many years ago of the day after labor day.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	Summer is a special time that parents arrange for kids to stay busy, all parents get at least one long vacation, a lot of projects can be done when the break is long, a lot of time high schoolers go to the North East to visit family/study/attend summer program where summer is from last week of June to Labor day. There will be a mismatch between vacation time between their school system and ours. Long spring break in Knoxville means the winter is still not over, unless one is planning to go to Hawaii it is still cold enough to ride a bike. Long break in fall means more time wasted before Christmas and it means High Schoolers will not finish their Honors Courses on time, but does anyone cares about finishing Honors or AP courses on time in Knox County or doing well in High School? Going for fall break vacation should be for elementary school kids only!
Parent	Summer is a time for children & parents to regroup and enjoy downtime together. This forces kids to lose more of their childhood and time together as a family. I am much more content with a traditional summer where everyone can have a longer, more restful break together.
Parent	Summer is a time where the weather is pleasant most of the time so kids have lots of outdoor play/activities, camps, etc. If the schools will be providing enrichment activities during longer breaks during the school year, would the teachers be working those breaks? High school age children would most likely not be able to get summer jobs.
Parent	Summer school classes for kids needing a credit, teachers needing to works pay for all the time off, single income families able to afford child care for 10 days off, kids move to knoxville from another area will they just miss a month?
Parent	Summer sports would be a problem; large employers will have a problem scheduling all the vacations in such a small window; summer enrichment opportunities outside of Knoxville may conflict with school schedule- will the school let kids go to these extra activities without penalty? Finding short term quality childcare will be difficult and expensive; this is going to cost tax payers a fortune! Teens won't be able to get summer job experience for college applications; some custody agreements will be all screwed by this plan. If students move in or out of country, transfer credits will be problematic; high scheduling will be more difficult; what happens to kids who need summer school to replaced a failed class? Kids who "need" remedial services during breaks are not likely to attend during break unless they are forced; who pays for the remedial sessions? Who is going to teach remedial sessions and enriched sessions?
Parent	summer sports, summer camps, college prep, work and daycare conflicts, summer vacation weeks limited, early college admission dates, exchange student programs, economy in areas like pigeon forge and gatlinburg affected by shorter summers
Parent	Summer swim team and outdoor activities are fun when it is warm in summer. Shorter summer means less time in good weather. My kids get straight A's, almost perfect tcap scores and are well behaved. They need a long summer. The snow break got us all off track, decreased motivation, wasted teachers' time trying to hear back up, and it was too cold to do anything.
Parent	Summer too short
Parent	Summer vacation for kids is like baseball,apple pie and the AMERICAN way
Parent	Summer Vacations and Summer Enrichment Programs
Parent	Summers are special to many of us, and school already demands so much time from students and families. Let the children and their families have their summers. Also, has anyone examined the potential economic impact on local businesses if student availability for summer jobs is affected or if attendance at summer camps falls?
Parent	summertime heat on the buses and in gym class where kids have to be outside during some of the hottest days of summer....what can you tell me that can be done with that? Not all schools are cool enough in the hottest season...i don't want my kids falling out because of heat exhaustion. what about football summer practice? My son plays football how would they get in enough time to be ready for a football season?
Parent	Swim teams, camps, church retreats, VBS, summer jobs,

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	Takes away from family time by making breaks shorter. Decreases strength of the family.
Parent	Taking away 10 days out of the summer isn't going to help that much for keeping the learning curve up. For one, going from one grade to the next is always a different experience anyhow and what you learned the previous year usually doesn't apply the next and certainly not in the teaching skills of the next grade higher teachers. A longer spring break would be nice but not everyone's jobs are going to fit a longer schedule like that.
Parent	Teacher breaks would be less due to enrichment or intervention instruction.
Parent	Teacher inservice during breaks -- potentially asking teachers to work during their supposed vacations. These days should be not take away teacher's breaks. Teachers also should not be expected to work during intercessions unless they volunteer.
Parent	Teacher resentful and take it out on students
Parent	Teacher Unions have better input then being one sided, Having no good real teaches input, puts all of this at a disadvantage
Parent	TEACHERS ALREADY TEACH WITH THE BREAKS IN THE SCHEDULE ANTICIPATED. SO NOW THAT YOU WANT LONG BREAKS, TEACHERS WILL ACTUALLY TEACH EVEN LESS MATERIAL THAN BEFORE.
Parent	Teachers frequently supplement their already low income with part time, summer jobs. This makes doing that even more less likely with a shorter summer period. In effect, this cuts the earning potential for your teachers.
Parent	Teachers have opportunity to earn additional compensation: How are they paid during this time off? Are teachers unable to fulfill professional development during the Summer? Children from broken/blended homes will spend the summer with the other parent in another state. Some children are already attending Summer School. Is this not helping? Academic gains are inconclusive: may not help attendance or discipline problems.
Parent	Teachers may not get a full two weeks with family since professional development is said to occur during this time. Also, students who really need the extra intervention during that break will either not attend or will decline more since they will not get the break.
Parent	Teachers stop teaching just before breaks now. So we are adding more of those into the school year.
Parent	Teachers who depend on a second summer job to supplement their income may have trouble with the shorter summer break. Even though the number of instructional days stay the same, their salaries should increase to compensate for their loss of income.
Parent	Teachers will have less time for summer jobs for additional income
Parent	Teachers would get a much shorter summer than before due to the need for them to be back to school to set up for the next year. They do this anyway but now they would get an even shorter summer.
Parent	Teenagers can't focus before a break, so having 4 breaks a year means 4 weeks of wasted class time.
Parent	Teenagers would have fewer summer employment opportunities and less work time. If the calendar went into June, it would mean that many families who go on vacation in the summer would be paying peak season rates for lodging rather than "Spring" season rates. For some that would be the difference between getting to go on a vacation or not getting to go. It would interfere w/ summer camp schedules. Some schools do not have very efficient air conditioning systems and it is hard for many students to concentrate when in a poorly air conditioned classroom.
Parent	The "balanced calendar" would be a disaster for families who do not have a stay-at-home parent. We currently put our son in camp for the summer, but all of the camps around here are staffed by college students would would not be available during the short mid-year breaks. I don't know how we would juggle our two jobs with his care if this passes.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	The 10 day breaks are too long with too much time to find activities other than school. Would be just killing time until the next session starts which seems like wasted time, instead of letting that time being during the traditional summer break where you want to be off.
Parent	The ability of child care agencies to attract and maintain a quality staff
Parent	The additional childcare goes further as you have many parents that are part time or full time students, this will create challenges for those families. The younger age children this may create a harder time for them to adjust to the classroom and daily schedule of not being with Mom/Dad/Grandparent.
Parent	The additional cost in paying staff/utilities for those enrichment/intervention times - especially since there are already cuts in programs due to budget shorefalls. The lack of transporation for the enrichment/intervention times. The chance of almost no instructional time if we have the amount of snow days we have had the past two years - when you sandwich that in between two 10 days breaks.
Parent	The additional costs which are SURE to be present the balanced calendar example. Additionally, the students who need the intervention the most are generally those whose parents cannot or will not make sure their child is in school.
Parent	The adjustment our teachers will have to make with their lives, families and possibly second jobs afforded by a longer summer break.
Parent	The amount of time for child care would be the same, just different times during the year so the cost sold be the same. Summer activities, family scheduling and all activities would adjust.
Parent	The are many single parents and low income families who may not have the financial means for daycare when school is not in session. Thus, taxes would have to be increased to help pay for programs to help the less fortunate.
Parent	the balanced calendar and extended spring break may in fact make it EASIER on UT employees who have had constant problems with the lack of fit between the UT break and the Knox Co break
Parent	The balanced Calendar does not give as much time for independent study. With all the testing the kids do not have much time to follow their interests during the school year. The learning is already rigid and homogenized. The balanced calendar will make it more so.
Parent	The balanced calendar is a better fit for families with a stay at home parent. It will make life incredibly difficult for families with two working parents.
Parent	The balanced calendar is BEST!
Parent	The balanced calendar takes days away from summer break to create disruptive breaks that are longer and more frequent throughout the year.
Parent	The balanced calendar would be in the way of fall activities with band along with football. If there is a balanced calendar the band would loose band camp and we would have less time then we already have to do everything we need. The Karns high school band makes all its money on Friday football games. I'd the balanced calendar is in place we would have a loss of attendance for the football games in a non school week. Therefor they would lose money and we could possibly not afford busses for things like away games.
Parent	The balanced calendar,especially for the working parent(s), would greatly effect child care as well as sports practices and functions during the summer. It is costly enough and hard to coordinate as it is let alone having to start all over again. We have had the traditonal calendar for many years and we as former students have survived and thrived in our adult life and careers.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	The balanced calendar offers many challenges to the dual income family that would struggle to find appropriate child care for the short breaks throughout the year. Most day care facilities require at least monthly commitments as well as registration and sign up fees. Although benefit may be seen with providing interventional sessions during the extended breaks, I don't think it is enough to offset negatives that come with reducing summer time. Summer experiences with family vacations, jobs, sports, and outdoor time are just as important to child development as direct classroom education.
Parent	the benefits of learning loss aren't verified. Perhaps a focus on giving students breaks through the day instead of for days would be a better approach, give students the chance to be kids during the school hours. School break enrichment will only cause a hassle for the parents, other students may not even receive the opportunity. Student behavior would not improve as they are again forced to re-enter routines which have been broken up.
Parent	The biggest challenge I see is quality of child care during the frequent breaks. Many quality summer camps (Webb and Tates) hire college students that are highly trained. They have expressed concern in finding this caliber of staff during these breaks. IF the school system plans to offer free of charge enrichment opportunities such as art, music, science, etc during the breaks then I would be in favor. But, I really don't know what parents are supposed to do when both parents work for 3 10 day periods. Plus, shuffling them around leaves them with a sense of not belonging...younger kids need a longer time period to trust new environments and adults.
Parent	The biggest challenge is the spring break and fall break schedule. If the children's parents is working at the university, it is almost impossible to arrange child care for those time.
Parent	The biggest drawback as I see it is that the TCAPs and EOC exams are state mandated, and TCAPs occur right now at the end of April. In a balanced calendar, by that point in the school year, we would have been through LESS school days than a traditional calendar, and currently for all intents and purposes, this testing represents the real end of the rigorous academic school year in K-8 especially. So, if we move to a balanced calendar, I will be incensed if teachers and principals continue to suggest that they simply don't have the time to teach what needs to be taught, and continue to remove enrichment activities from the day like the arts, gym, and recess. Research clearly shows the boys especially, need time during the day to move around and express themselves physically in order to perform well in the classroom. We need to be making every opportunity available for them to be able to work to their potential.
Parent	The biggest drawback I see is getting the community as a whole(childcare/sports/area employers) behind the idea and being accomadating to parents
Parent	The biggest drawback I see is the staffing of child care at daycare centers for those breaks. Most of the staff at our daycare are college students on summer break. It may be harder to staff during the fall and spring breaks.
Parent	The biggest drawback is that parents have less time in the summer to undo the government indoctrination that goes on during the school year. The shorter summer break issue is really dependent on when it starts. If the school year ends the week before Memorial Day like it currently does, then the shortened summer is OK. However, if it is after that date, then that could pose time off issues for parents wanting to take vacation and leveraging that holiday weekend since most people have Memorial Day off.
Parent	The calendar might have an impact on high school students who are taking AP/Dual Enrollment classes. It might also have to be tweaked to work with windows for State testing (EOC's, TCAP, etc).
Parent	The change in summer is not very significant, in my opinion. With the varying schedules of different districts, colleges, etc these days, it is disrupted anyway. The month of August is practically shot anyway, and that is where I would like to see the extra time added. Not in June or the end of May.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	The change may take time to adjust to, and some may find this an unpleasant adjustment that causes additional problems.
Parent	The child are is a non issue...supply and demand will force the changes needed to accommodate!
Parent	The child care arrangements is obvious, but flawed thinking. The balanced calendar only shifts the number of days that require child care around, it doesn't add or subtract any days.
Parent	The childcare arrangements can be tough at first but childcare providers quickly change their schedules to fit the school schedule. No family is ever going to all have the exact same schedules - balancing this is a part of normal family life. The more frequent transitions have been somewhat of a problem - schools and parents need to work together to make transitions between breaks as painless as possible.
Parent	The communities that already use balanced calendars tend to work around student's breaks in terms of jobs and summer activities. It is a transition at first but eventually the community learns the new schedule and helps cater to it.
Parent	The community of jobs and camps and child care would adjust to the schedule, therefore I don't see any major drawbacks. In addition, the summer is only 10-12 days shorter so it really is not a factor.
Parent	The cost associated with this new calendar
Parent	The COST of either finding childcare during these breaks or taking time away from work because your children are not in school. The added stress of these costs OR taking into account these working parents who are already juggling busy schedules and the strain this will cause on their jobs. This is a HORRIBLE idea. My child is my top priority however to provide for my child, I have to work to make money that takes care of him which requires a consistent schedule.
Parent	The cost of operating schools and buses during the hottest part of summer using air condition. I think should be out until the day after Labor Day
Parent	The current proposal only shortens the summer by two weeks, which should not be too disruptive. I was a full-time college student while my children were in school. The current calendar lined up nicely with the University of Tennessee's calendar. This change could make it more difficult for parents who are seeking a higher education. How will days lost for snow/ice or illness be made up?
Parent	The day cares will adjust just as they have in other cities
Parent	The difference in Summer break is negligible. We still have to send our kids to full time Summer Camps for most of the Summer and then have to have two additional periods during the year when we have to arrange significant blocks of childcare and/or miss work. I absolutely support year-round school, but the way this calendar is set up, it delivers all downside and no upside to single working parents who are now tasked with more frequent breaks in which prolonged childcare is needed and a Summer break that is a mere 10 days shorter.
Parent	The disruption of family schedules is the most significant drawback, but is a short term adjustment that will only occur once.
Parent	The draw back would be child care for parents
Parent	The effects it would have on vendors who work with schools. However, any of these vendors and the childcare centers as well, will all adjust to the new calendar.
Parent	The expense of child care for certain times.
Parent	The greatest drawback I see is for families needing childcare. The flip side to that is there is opportunity for childcare services to adjust their schedules. However, we run into a cost/expense issue for families who simply must work outside the home to survive. Over time, I believe all things would equal out.
Parent	The heat in the summer need to make sure ac is not an issue to accommodate dress code.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	The need to deal with kids on vacation in both the spring and the fall instead of just the summer
Parent	The odd times of year for Break (for example spring break being far from an Easter weekend) make it confusing for us since our family in other states and school districts are off school at a different time. Also, does weather play into the balanced calendar?
Parent	The only drawback I forsee could be cost and staffing.
Parent	The only drawback I see is summer being too long of a break. I think 15 days off between 9 week grading periods would be best.
Parent	The only drawback I see to the proposed balanced calendar is that Winter Break is shorter. This is a major drawback for our family because we always have to travel out of state during that time to visit family. We need all the days we can get.
Parent	The only drawback is people's inability to change. It would also need to be changed made to the childcare after school programming /timing as well.
Parent	The only people benefitting are those that work in the schools.
Parent	The only potential drawback I see is that I would like to see enrichment programs available during breaks in the school or in the community.
Parent	The only real drawback I see is summer employment and businesses that cater to the summer traveler. However many such businesses would adapt to the new schedule easily. After all, not everyone wants to go to a theme park in the heat of summer, but have few opportunities to do otherwise.
Parent	The only way this will work if it is k-12 across the board
Parent	The opportunity for enrichment durning breaks. The opportunity only exists if you are providing extra teaching free of charge and can provide a ride for my child. I currently utilize our time after school and weekends to enrich my child.
Parent	The over reach of the school to impose on home life now will increase based on the "enrichment" positive you're trying to sell. No. You don't get to dictate hours outside of school. No excuses about teachers can't do this or that.... There are schools very close to FMS that get it done. Nobody cares about TCAPS but the school system.
Parent	The overall costs that may be associated with keeping the children in schoold during the summer months. The increased maintenance costs of the buildings needing to operate during the summer months.
Parent	The positivbe outwieghs the negative
Parent	The problems you list as being solvable by a balanced calendar either show naivete or wishful thinking. It should be so easy to correct problems caused by a child,s personality, cognitive ability, social and economic satus, environment went not in school, etc., etc.
Parent	The proposed enrichment programs and additional learning opportunities during the extended breaks may cause issues with the most needy students in regards to transportation to and from the school site. Another concern is scheduling students teachers/interns from area colleges and universities when they have an non-aligned traditional calendar.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

<p>How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?</p>	<p>Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>The results of this survey are based on responses to the summer break being 12 days less than status quo. Year-round school will not decrease summer learning loss...unless you want to argue and spend a lot of time and money to prove that 12 days less school in the summer makes a statistically significant improvement in loss of learning. "Intervention" is already accounted for in the current calendar. If the year round calendar and current calendar are truly equivalent time-off, who will subsidize the cost of intervention during the "breaks"? Tax payers? Teachers? I spoke to my daughter's teacher and she confirmed she completed the survey and understood that the teachers would not be responsible for the "Intervention". Before a year-round school option can be fully comprehended, the parents and teachers/staff need to know the plan and expense. 12 months costs more than 9 months--what is the actual difference and are the teachers on-board with the plan to work more hours for the same pay? "Enrichment" during breaks? Again, I ask the question, who will pay for the Enrichment? A significant amount of Knox Co. 'summer' businesses depend on the June and July revenue. Will the Knox County Board of Education be responsible for cannibalizing their business models? Starting an Enrichment business will only increase the negative opinions parents and teachers currently have of the Board's lack of support for teachers (especially teachers with 'no child left behind' students). The teachers do not have the resources they need in the classroom. First, focus on a plan for maximizing teacher support and student learning BEFORE deciding to enter the 'fall,' 'winter,' or 'spring' camp business. While there are students that are 'not left behind' in a class with one teacher and 14 other students, there will never be sufficient time for students to master needed skills. Even meeting on Saturday's and Sunday's would not account for the disparity. There is a lot of government money in the school business and I understand the temptation for the Knox County Board of Education's desire to increase the authority of public education. The Board has failed the students, parents, and staff of the Knox Co. schools with 'no child left behind' students and will not receive my vote to increase their authority until the disparities are addressed.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>The schools would need to create enrichment programs for advanced children whose parents cannot afford to pay for camps.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>The shorter summer break would not even really be noticed since it is only 12 days.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>The statement on the previous page says more opportunities for learning, but five statements later says breaks are a time for rest. These statements contradict each other.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>The student cannot spend time with his or her family and the routine would be a little difficult</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>The students who struggle with transition need more exposure to transition so this calendar will long term help that.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>The students who would need remedial work during the longer breaks are probably the same students whose behavior problems you hope more frequent breaks to look forward to would help improve. I don't think you can have both of those advantages, and even students having academic difficulties need breaks. The breaks aren't really more frequent; they are just longer (except for summer). If the longer breaks (except for summer) get filled up with remedial school and enrichment, they aren't really breaks. A longer summer allows families more flexibility for finding the relaxation/activity balance right for them.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>The summer break and activities would also have to adapt and change to fit the new calendar. Every schedule aspect would adjust over time.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>The supposed enrichment times talked about are only beneficial to kids with stay at home parents. Not available to all children but all of the children's tax dollars will be spent on it???</p>

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	The traditional calendar is what the children are used to and what we as parents are used to and this is how we make our work schedules and day care schedules.....children who spend the summers away from home and with others out of state and older children who work would be greatly disadvantaged with the change in calendars and parents to would be at a financial loss with having to make new arrangements for child care.....the balanced calendar only helps the school to miss so many snow days in which this is the time of year that our kids days would be added back to the time off and taking it away from the time of year in which they can actually get outside and be active!!!!!!!!!!
Parent	The traditional calendar supports a consistent routine. For children with learning disabilities including but not limited to ADD/ADHD this interruption in daily structure that would occur with a balanced calendar can be very disruptive and cause more challenges with the learning process. The break in structure would also create problems in regard to parent support with academic assistance with work that is required at home. A traditional calendar provides consistent structure for parents in knowing scheduled homework nights and subjects that the student may need assistance with or reminders. These breaks would disrupt basic structure and result in a "slide" in retained material as was seen with the days missed this year due to inclement weather. My experience with my student and discussing with their teachers, was that two week loss of days resulted in material needing to be re instructed. As stated above, a balanced calendar will also make much needed and cherished opportunities for family time more difficult and expensive. Our family traditionally leaves for vacation on the last day of the traditional school calendar while spring rates are still in effect. We will be financially unable to take a family vacation with a later dismissal date and therefore higher rates. This is the only vacation we take all year and as stated it is much needed to have that time together and decompress from jobs and stressful academics. Also, as previously stated, the opportunity for summer jobs will be greatly diminished. We are financially unable to pay for our students college tuition and expenses and unfortunately the college of choice for our current senior is not included on the list for TN Promise or Hope. Therefore opportunities to work to earn the money to pay for college will be lessened causing greater financial burden on him.
Parent	The weather in Knoxville is suitable to having a longer summer for family fun. Furthermore, I can't imagine how much more money it would cost the school system in maintaining a cooled school (and portables) during the first few weeks of August. It would cost the taxpayers more money on wasted items.
Parent	The weather. Kids would be in school when it's extremely hot. The kids would be cooped up in the house for a longer time during winter break when the weather is lousy. I think the calendar should be left the way it is.
Parent	There is not much of a big change because the days lost in summer vacations are made up @ fall breaks!!
Parent	Their summer break should be scheduled in June and July, as August is so hot and football practice is gearing up for games.
Parent	The mail calendar we've have used has worked forever. Everyone always wants change. It is crazy. This system works fine and does not need to be changed!!!!!!!!!!
Parent	There are a lot of kids that only receive hot meals at school, and if school is out they may not eat.
Parent	There are absolutely no drawbacks to putting my children's education first.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	There are legal issues with divorced parents that this will severely affect them. Especially in divorce cases where the parents are not within a 100 miles of each other. Most divorce decrees give the non-custodial parent the child for six weeks in the summer. A balanced calendar would mean no summer time at all for the custodial parent. These decrees also give the non-custodial parent all of the extended breaks during the school year while sharing Christmas. If a balanced calendar is used, it will cause parents in these types of situations to have to go to court and possibly spend thousands to try and re-write their custody agreements that will be acceptable to both parents. I am not sure why the same system that has been used and has worked just fine for decades is suddenly not good enough.
Parent	There are many businesses that will be hurt by this calendar. For instance, scout camps...they are already full and this means that they would not be able to service as many students. Students would be hurt because they may not be able to attend if all the sessions are full. Also, the camps cannot just open for a couple of weeks in the fall and spring. There is too much to do before and after the camp opens. I know because my son has worked for Camp Buck Toms for the last three summers.
Parent	There are no drawbacks for this as far as our schedules are concerned.
Parent	There are no drawbacks to a balanced calendar. Day Care facilities and camps would adjust if needed. And nobody takes vacation for all 10 weeks of summer break.
Parent	There are no drawbacks to my child getting a better education.
Parent	There are no negatives to the balanced calendar. Local businesses will quickly adapt. I have no problem finding care for my children during the existing fall, winter and spring breaks. There are plenty of camp options during those times already. Those programs will just be expanded.
Parent	There are not drawbacks in my opinion. It will be an adjustment, but once we adjust to the change it will be a wonderful thing. Other families I know who have done the balanced calendar love it!
Parent	There are not more frequent transitions between school and home. A few breaks are increased in length.
Parent	There are nothing BUT drawbacks. Operating on a calendar completely out of sync with extended family, college students and all other QUALITY child care resources is unacceptable. Potential care offered by the school district can in no way replicate the value of summer breaks with family, friends, jobs, volunteer work, etc.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

<p>How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?</p>	<p>Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>There are other diverse learning and experiential opportunities available to students and their families during the summer that would be infringed upon with the so-called "balanced calendar". Exposure to varied experiences outside of the four walls of a classroom allows for transfer and application of the knowledge and skills obtained in previous environments to new environments. A child's increased freedom and capacity during the summer to visit a variety of places such as museums, science camps, athletic programs, music, art, and reading festivals, etc. and to participate in volunteer and service hour programs would suffer, but these are necessary enrichments and conducive to a healthy, personal well-being and in turn the common good. These alternate experiences allow children to demonstrate learning gains and maturity as well (if not empirically measurable on a standardized test) and far outweigh the minimal losses, which may always occur in particular areas of academics no matter how long the passage of time. Some specialized programs related to additional formation of youth (and even adults) in the areas of academics, health, internships, or religious education operate optimally during summer months in which voluntary participation increases due to more private time management which families are entitled to possess and enjoy. Travel for vacations, including visits to long distance relatives or even educational destinations would also be negatively affected by the change to shorter time periods. Some families may even rely on teenagers to help support the household through part-time or full-time work or may need younger members to help with the caretaking and transportation of older and infirmed relatives. In turn, many government industries and private businesses which rely on summer travel and activity might not see long term economic benefits were such plans to become the norm in many places. While there are certainly pros and cons to both the traditional and balanced calendars, the traditional calendar still provides families and their children with less constraints and hardships and greater opportunities and time to cultivate a healthy and productive culture outside of mandated work environments. Parents are the first and primary teachers of their children. Just because a few families may not take full advantage of what a longer break can offer for cultivation and enrichment of home life does not mean that government may suggest or enacts interventions and solutions, which end up creating hardships for the many and marginalize other learning opportunities.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>There are other drawbacks to consider, such as the cost to the community of keeping schools open.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>There are really no drawbacks that I have experienced on the balanced calendar.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>there are so many i cant begin to list them</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>There are students who have trouble with new routines, however these students would benefit more from a single day or extended weekend breaks and many more school days. That would be less disruptive to them.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>There are those that will embrace and there are those that will oppose as with anything.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>There are too many to list.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>There are too many to list.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>There is no data, cost money and another KCS program to get under their belt and then lie like everyone is on board</p>

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	There is no evidence that a balanced calendar provides any benefits and extensive evidence it increases costs of education for both parents and schools. Teachers benefit too. The intercession provides an opportunity for educators to require "enrichment" and lining their pockets with extra cash. All responsibility for school interruption will impact family time. This is oriented only to intercity students that lack parental involvement and rewards parents that do not work. This is another example of wealth transfer! Like any challenging job, and school is the job of students, a break doesn't sap knowledge it invigorates the appetite which will not happen under the balanced schedule plan. This whole effort, including the term "balanced schedule" is a disingenuous effort by educators to chase money not chase. The hypocrisy of the brain drain isn't even supported by current curriculums that schedule a child to take 6 to 18 months away from core subjects. As usual, we are catering to the lowest level student and making family time disjointed and secondary to the school. By the way, this survey effort is so biased it is impossible not to question the honesty of school officials.
Parent	There is no research that supports balance calendar increases test scores or really benefits the students.
Parent	there is only a summer break difference of 12 days. That is not a significant difference in the summer schedule to be complained about.
Parent	There is opportunity for children to get extra help between breaks, but will the schools provide the opportunities. I believe teacher are less likely to be willing to help due to the shorter summer break.
Parent	There is too many to list 1) summer camps 2) family vacations 3) sports 4) kids get to be kids 5) we work our whole lives let children be children don't take that away from them
Parent	There may be difficulty for some families financially regarding child care. This could leave many children unattended and unsupervised.
Parent	There really aren't any for us having been in a balanced system for 7 yrs.
Parent	There seems to be an unknown cost to benefit factor. The benefits are cited as "potential" only. There is a huge cost to tax papers without concrete evidence of major learning improvement. Also, many teachers use summer to further their education or take supplemental jobs. This opportunity would be limited. Also families with multiple children or teacher parents might find themselves on different schedules. I also have concerns for the "tween" children that are too old for daycare and may be left at home alone. Summer provides more opportunities for this age child. Tourism is another factor. Swimming, lakes, mountains, state parks and businesses that thrive in Tennessee summers may take a financial hit. This needs to be considered by looking at the total community not just the education portion. So far I see little evidence that enrichment is promoted in our school system so I have no confidence I would see it in a balanced calendar. I feel strongly that students and teachers need time to recharge. Reviewing will still be required after every break as well as a period of transition. This can be particularly problematic for some of our special needs population.
Parent	There will be learning loss no matter how short of a break. We are preparing them for college and college does not have a balanced calendar. Also, athletes do not get time off. They still have ball games and practices.
Parent	there will not be enough \$\$ in the budget for enrichment programs. will be detrimental to band and music programs.
Parent	There will still be memory loss but it will be spread throughout the year.
Parent	There would be an additional cost for utilities and staff. No transportation provided for intervention or enrichment. If you add these breaks to the amount of snow days used the past couple of years, it could limit the learning opportunities in the Winter/Spring months.
Parent	These actual drawbacks FAR OUTWEIGH the pie-in-the-sky promises of Year Round School, and these actual drawbacks are more important than going to Disney World in October.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	These aren't drawbacks they are different ways of handling these areas. Different doesn't mean bad.
Parent	These drawbacks all are real, all are unacceptably invasive into both family life and the opportunity for kids to grow and have experiences outside of school. Child care is a HUGE potentially INSURMOUNTABLE obstacle. Asking parents to operate on a schedule completely out of sync with QUALITY child care providers is unforgivable. The writing is I. The wall: kids will be cared for at school or other institutions rather than spending quality time with family, summer growth activities and learning how to manage jobs, money, etc, I am deeply deeply opposed to a balanced calandra and the havoc it will wreak and the opportunities it rob from our children who need to grow in many ways other than in a classroom.
Parent	These Drawbacks Are Hiccups. Not worth keeping the traditional schedule.
Parent	These out weigh the benefits.
Parent	They way I understand it, kids who need additional help will not actually get a break under balanced calendar. Kids who have learning differences NEED a mental break.
Parent	This absolutely does not work for our particular family
Parent	This balanced calendar is insufficiently different from regular calendar to make any real difference.
Parent	This calendar is only about a week difference in summer break so kids will still need to review when they get back anyway. I'm afraid teachers will rush and try to push all the information faster on kids and in a shorter amount of class time since there are longer/more frequent breaks.
Parent	This does not take into consideration the issues of care for the students during the breaks. This adds an additional burden on the parents. I also disagree that a 12 day less period will less the "summer slide" enough to warrant the significant change to the families at home. It only appears that this is done to give additional break time between learning periods which could create additional "learning slides" at those times.
Parent	This is a terrible idea that will take away from families
Parent	This is going to be a very bad idea. Its already hard for people to get off work, so having a shorter summer is going to make it even harder because everyone will be asking off at the same time. Chikdcare cost will go up. its going to hurt people that doesnt make much.
Parent	This is not an additional drawback, but a suggestion that child care is a looming issue for working parents during the long summer break, and spreading the breaks out throughout the year seems to make the long summer break for finding child care less intimidating
Parent	This is not much different than what our children are experiencing now. I feel that a balanced calendar helps balance the school years very well and can only help students, parents and teachers
Parent	This is one of the several ways that McIntyre wants to mess up the school system even more than he already has! !!
Parent	This schedule is very disruptive. Kids tend to sleep in on there breaks, and going back is very difficult getting in the groove again. Also there is no real break from school sports schedules.
Parent	This should be about providing a more realistic and constant learning enviornment. Sorry to write this...but, the USA school system is poor. Tennessee rates on the scale of a poor system and thus a more ratical change is needed. Shorten the summer to 30 days and make the change the system really needs.
Parent	This system would be awfully hard on college bound students who have to work summers to earn money for school. Likewise, it would be awful for businesses that depend on seasonal employees, such as Dollywood.
Parent	This will also cause a shortage in teachers. Who would want to be a teacher with this type of requirements and schedule.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	This will be a nightmare for single working parents. Or any working parents! It will reduce time in summer camps. This calendar will create un-due bourdon on parents. Also, these brakes cause distraction with the children!
Parent	This will be catastrophic for anyone in Boy Scouts wanting to go to the biggest event in Scouting, the National Jamboree. As this will occur during the beginning of the School year. This is usually a once in a lifetime experience for most kids as it only happens once every 4 years. Now the kids in Scouts will have to decide whether to participate. I can tell you that if it were to affect my Scout, then I would send him to the Jamboree, this would be a much better Life experience than the one week of school.
Parent	This will cause issues where families have parenting plans that are set for summer, winter and other break periods. It would be costly to parents to modify parenting agreements.
Parent	This will completely upset all summer team sports. Also, kids who are only allowed to work in the summer to have money towards college will be affected.
Parent	This will have an economic impact on the community, which has a broad childcare support system in place.
Parent	This will make family time very difficult for those of us with working college students & for summer mission trips
Parent	This would be a big hardship on our family's quality of life financially, and the opportunity for time together.
Parent	This would be a nightmare for working single mothers!
Parent	This would be terrible for single parents. When a child has to spend 6 weeks during the summer with the other parent how would this work with this calendar? This would just cause a bunch of unnecessary problems.
Parent	This would be very disruptive for high school students. Especially honors and AP students.
Parent	This would cause undue hardship on parents to rearrange traditional arrangements
Parent	This would create a huge burden on parents, especially single parents, who must try to scramble and find consistent, reliable, affordable childcare. Children and parents alike need long breaks from the school system and all of the hassles and must-dos that go along with school being in session. Children and teens are already burned out and not getting enough sleep. Their homework is excessive. They're stressed. This only exacerbates that. I am strongly opposed to a so called "balanced calendar" which is a public relations term and euphemism in and of itself.
Parent	This would directly affect our business because we provide day camps for summer months. We would still be able to offer them just not as many and the revenue would not be as much.
Parent	This would interfere with court orders for child to be with non custodial parent during the summer dates. There are specific time/dates and this would put us in contempt for shorter times.
Parent	This would interfere with sports also.
Parent	Those children who travel between parents' residences during breaks, especially those with parents who live out of state, may find difficulties with getting equal time with both parents, particularly in the summer time since that time out of school is shortened.
Parent	Those pretty much covered it.
Parent	Those that would have a summer job would be able to make up for lost hours if they chose to do so, during the extended breaks. Summer break is enough days to have camp/vacation. Going on Vacation could also be during the breaks throughout the year with more days in the extended break days (going to beach wouldn't be an only option anymore). Family time throughout the school year vs. Only getting to see other relatives during summer or weekends.
Parent	Time to be a kid --play, enjoy life that is carefree

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	To elaborate on "frequent transitions between school and home," I believe it could destroy the momentum needed for older children, to include 10+. Every time there is a break, it interrupts the mindset of education. It would also make it more difficult for the teachers to plan and implement lesson plans.
Parent	Too many drawbacks to a balanced calendar to list!
Parent	Too many to list. Biggest is a financial burden and less family time and time for my kids to enjoy summer and travel and sports
Parent	too much emphasis on testing
Parent	Too much of a disruption. I really hope this doesn't happen.
Parent	Total destruction of other camps, pools, etc. that rely on a longer summer break. The staff in those organizations are in college and--thankfully--don't have to contend with a balanced calendar. Unfortunately, it means that they will take other jobs where they can work their entire summer.
Parent	Totally disregards divorced family situations where some kids will spend a summer with a parent who lives a distance away. Or separate household situations where it is 50-50 and those families have a limited number of weeks to plan vacations. Given the divorce rate, this would be a great inconvenience. Not to mention some people would lose child care because a number of these places budget based on the summer income of full-time kids, might cause some child care institutions to go out of business which would even further limit very limited options for the working parents.
Parent	Tough for working parents and babysitters
Parent	Tough for working parents. Will be more manageable for middle school and high school children.
Parent	-Transfer students: Could this potentially cause a problem for transfer students? Knoxville would like to remain a desirable location for incoming families. -I have a family with one student in Catholic school and one student in public school. That could potentially be a hassle.
Parent	Transition to a new schedule is always difficult. Most people dislike change; however, once the balanced calendar is in effect I believe the community will like it better than a traditional calendar. I compare it to the rotary intersections and traffic calming islands in Farragut. The old and set in their ways vocal minority were outraged but most people now appreciate what they have added to the community.
Parent	Transitional period of community adjusting community events/activities schedule.
Parent	Transportation issues with an infrequent schedule
Parent	Trying to implement, without having a solid foundation for enhanced multi breaks. Concrete learning activities, seem to be lacking. The calendar has merits. The fear of implementing to quickly seems evident in my humble opinion.
Parent	Two week breaks are too long. This gets them off schedule every quarter. Five days in fall and spring would be nice but not two weeks.
Parent	uncertainty as to how summer camp/kids place would work. currently there are days that kids place cannot be at our school. It would be a great help for this service to be at our school. This is system wide but it would be a great thing if this could change.
Parent	undo stress and anxiety about returning after so many long breaks, disrupts my work from home schedule, kids get bored on winter breaks, its costly to have them home longer during the school year, summer allows for more outdoor activity less time on the couch
Parent	USSSA baseball world series august 1st for 1 week
Parent	UT, Knox County and Pellissippi all on different schedules. So much for dual enrollment. Students moving in and out will have a hard time. It will cost a lot more than you think. Many areas have implemented this, then gone back to the traditional because there was no gain.
Parent	Vacations -Mission trips that our family participates in.
Parent	vacations, vacation bible school, summer camps, family trips

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	Very disruptive to two working parents. The "opportunity for enhanced learning during breaks" just wares the kids out and they gain nothing because they are mad they have to go. The additional cost to the county tax payer has not been truthfully assessed and will increase.
Parent	Very disruptive to working parents.
Parent	Very hard to participate in nationwide summer programs.
Parent	very limited time the children would be able to spend with each parent. Being separated from my spouse, I look forward to our time together during the summer break.
Parent	Visitation schedules for Non Custodial Parents would be severely inconvenienced. More breaks that are shorter could mean more travel expenses or less feasible time for visitation periods.
Parent	Waste of time
Parent	We all grow up. Let kids have a summer. I don't think there is a strong enough benefit to cause the disruption
Parent	We are actively involved in summer swimming, this would change our coaches availabilities and money the pool could earn for the summer. High school students hours would change and not be available due to school schedules. Also, daycares and summer programs will have to adhere to this change, we are a working family and this school schedule will make us have to adjust work wise.
Parent	We are in a community where college and county school students try to plan events together as a family. We would encourage Knox Co to plan Fall Break and Spring Break around the UT schedule.
Parent	We are simply used to the schedule we have now. Daycares would provide care when needed - supply and demand. Change always seems hard at first.
Parent	We are talking about 12 days off summer! I actually feel this balanced schedule would open up more vacation opportunities.
Parent	We are very concerned that breaks with Knox County Schools will NOT coincide with the University of Tennessee breaks. We were also told that high school athletics would continue to practice during breaks. If students are also receiving extra help or enrichment during this time, then the breaks are NOT really "breaks". If our family does not have breaks together, they are not "breaks". We fought for years to get Knox County and UTK aligned. We have now broken away from that during fall break and it is not a good thing. 1/2 of our family is off two days, and the other 1/2 of the family is off the other two days.
Parent	We don't have family in town so childcare for three children would be costly.
Parent	We don't want this here! It will cut down on family vacations and cause child care concerns. Quit pushing a personal agenda on us that we don't want!
Parent	We go to Washington State each summer to visit with family friends and they don't get out of school until the end of June and since Knox County goes back at the begging of Aug, that only leave the month of July when "all" the kids are out for summer break. The Spring Breaks never line up, so summer is the only time.
Parent	We have a large extended family and we can usually only all get together at the end of July or beginning of August. My worry is that we would be unable to spend the time we want to with our extended family that lives all over the country.
Parent	We have family in other states with kids in schools with balanced calendar. Because they have that schedule the community provides camps, daycare, activities, etc. around the calendar. I think that as long as we have a balanced calendar and changes are made accordingly with community resources, then childcare and activities during breaks should not be an issue.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	We have had our kids in swimming lesson during the summer. Swimming is a wonderful fun time for our family as well as good exercise. We are members of theYMCA and swim laps as well as " just playing in the water ". I feel this would reduce some of this time as the outdoor pool is only open from around memorial day until school starting in August. Being able to go to the beach for a week could hinder parents if the number of weeks available are reduced.
Parent	We have to put our lives on hold for the school schedule as is!!! I would hate to take more freedom away from my family. Why do we need 10 days off for Spring and Summer Break, Stupid!!
Parent	We lack the funding and we need books for all students in our schools, better technology, and our teachers need raises. If we cannot afford these , how do we intend to fund a balanced calendar? Also, this will diminish family time, summer sports opportunities, and create problems for individuals that work.
Parent	We love the way the calander currently is. It will be disruptive to our entire family! Don't fix something that isn't broken. Please leave it the way it is
Parent	We saw a little glimpse of what a balanced calendar would be like with the snow break in February. The kids were out for 10 days and they have still not gotten back on track with a the normal school routine. It was so hard for my children to be off for that long and then get back into the swing of school. I think making them go continuously is the way to go. It has been that way for years and we learned twice what the children today are coming out of school learning.
Parent	We should be concentrating on the curriculum. Getting back to basics. Making the foundations firm. Multiplication tables, handwriting, reading and writing as subjects not crossing into other subjects as method of grading. No common core. Stop screwing with the system. The decline started with all the "NEW" stuff. Treat students as individuals and not numbers and profit generating robots. Balanced calendar is only an attempt to provide school systems with a mechanism to correct more regularly their shortcomings of the curriculum.
Parent	We travel A LOT during the summer so a balanced calendar may hinder that.
Parent	We use a college student after school for child care. She would not have the same dates off school if knox county goes to a balanced schedule. It will greatly affect child care and highly impact single parent families with fewer child care options.
Parent	We want our children to be able to work and serve during their summer breaks. That in itself is a learning experience outside of school and we want control over this time for them and our family. We also have 3 children in loal private schools and this would completely disrupt our family life and calendar.
Parent	We will all adapt.
Parent	What a NIGHTMARE for working parents! You will end up having kids home with NO SUPERVISION and because summer camps won't be in session during these crazy schedules you will create a block of time with unsupervised kids - and no options for working parents. What the hell are you thinking???
Parent	What about kids on ADHD meds? Those students can come off of their medicine during summer months and resume being a "normal kid."
Parent	What about kids who travel to other parents homes? Parenting plans??
Parent	What about parent who are in college with a traditional calendar?
Parent	What about sports? How will kids get to practice when their parents are at work? I think it will also disrupt the routine of learning. Just when you get in a routine, you are off two weeks. Just when you start getting used to no school, you have to go back. Why can't we have a week fall break?

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	What happens if it's snows do we lose days during the 10 day break. I don't think kids should have do wk during school break. Child care issues for families that wk 40 hrs a week. I worry about kids that need to work during the summer not all kids have grand opportunities like others. Majority of our community is middle class mom dad's millions and I feel this the calendar would
Parent	What is this going to cost the Knox County taxpayer? The increased costs of keeping the schools open between the breaks, the additional costs of cafeteria, maintenance, office staff, and teachers has not been adequately addressed.
Parent	What this survey does not consider are some of the transaction costs of "starting back up". In particular, I know that in my children's school there is significant time dedicated to starting up after longer breaks. In addition, before summer break there is at least one week where the students appear to do nothing (no new material, no learning). Implementing multiple longer breaks (i.e. increasing the fall break to 10 days) will increase these transaction costs significantly....and I do not foresee any offsetting benefit regarding the summer transactions costs. I am firmly opposed to the balanced calendar.
Parent	What time frame are we discussing. When would summer break begin and end.
Parent	When a typical fall/christmas/or spring break is coming up, the kids seem to be so much less focused and teachers seem to assign less work. I'm assuming this will be the case for these breaks as well.
Parent	When having breaks within the school year going back and forth with a different routine. Harder to find adequate child care.
Parent	When my kids were out for an additional 2 weeks this year due to snow they were extremely bored. Ready to go back to school. The only family this balanced calendar works for is teachers or families with a stay at home parent. We shouldn't have to arrange for additional childcare during the school year.
Parent	When offering extra tutoring or help during those so called "breaks" all that will do is put them back in a classroom yet even on their breaks. A very contradictory system in which I strongly believe will set us up for failure. If implemented, my child will be home schooled.
Parent	When school is fairly continuous, my kids stay with a routine schedule. With two weeks off every 44 days or so, they will stay up later and sleep in more. They will be off their regular school routine and their study routine. These continuous breaks will hamper their personal study discipline. We have family members in another county on this schedule and it causes a great deal of problems with keeping a family study routine.
Parent	When you're looking at the chart, and see that summer break is only shortened by 12 days but you're getting more time in the fall and during spring break and that the instructional days are the same, I think the trade-off might be good. I have a child with ADHD that I think could benefit from a schedule like this.
Parent	Where do you work in snow days if needed? In one of the breaks or make summer break shorter?
Parent	Where is the money coming from in order to provide these "enrichments " that are not available at this time?
Parent	While i do think that the child care arrangements may be a challenge at first, options will work themselves out once the plan is put into place. I believe that the balanced calendar gives more opportunities for family schedules in terms of vacations or travel/activities at other times of the year. As a divorced parent, it would be nice not having to have conflicts with their mother about vacations or time during the breaks.
Parent	While I tend to agree that these are potential drawbacks, most would merely require a "change/accommodation" for our family to adjust to. These items would be transitional in nature & as such, the more time that passes & we have to adjust to these, the drawbacks would subside.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	While it is noble to think this will be helpful, I have no faith there funding will be there for extra activities. some families need thw funding provided by summer jobs. You already assign summer reading, you will assign homework during the breaks so I dont believe the kids will get a true break which will lead to more stress
Parent	While on the subject of more frequent transitions between school and home, I believe that half days at the start and end of a school year are a waste of time and money when it comes to paying for buses to run basically an extra day. Plus what can kids really learn in 3.5 hours when as soon as they get there they are ready to leave.
Parent	While the items listed are drawbacks, I mostly believe that they are just changes. With planning and the entire county making the adjustment, I believe these difficulties could be overcome. I do have a child that would have a difficult time with the frequent transitions but I believe the benefits could potentially out way the difficulties.
Parent	While there is currently a bold distinction between first and second semesters, marked by a longer winter break, I wonder if the same will need to happen between quarters with the longer fall and spring breaks. Will this break continuity in learning that needs to span those quarters?
Parent	Who in the world do you think will teach enrichment classes to students during said breaks? Are you planning on paying teachers more or leaving them at the same salary they are already receiving?
Parent	Who will staff these enrichment programs? College students typically work summer camps, they will not be available. Will the enrichment programs be required? If so, then is that really a break for students? If a student chooses not to participate in enrichment, will that count against them? Can community programs such as pools and camps survive a shorter summer? It will be much more difficult to find childcare for 2 weeks at a time.
Parent	Why are you even asking? You're going to do whatever you want regardless of what we think.
Parent	Why would you want to take the kids fun away it not like they need more time in school it takes up most of there life anyway. We don't need the that long of school its bad enough that the kids strongly dislike being at school for the time they are already there.
Parent	Will affect court mandated visitation for children with parents that live out of state
Parent	Will be detrimental to band and music programs. There will not be \$\$ in the budget for enrichment programs. Where will that \$\$ come from?
Parent	Will be harder to find childcare to keep children just 2 weeks 3 tomes a year
Parent	Will cause more burnout, more absences, more high school drop outs, a continual no break routine, less family time
Parent	Will transportation be provided by the county to the students who need intervention opportunities during the breaks?
Parent	Winter break takes a while to get back and you are adding that three times a year. Why not have the one big one from the summer.
Parent	With all things people will adjust. Day ares will adjust this would create more revenue throughout the year for them instead of relying just on summer
Parent	with less summer jobs this would affect the college students and high school level students income that than affects store income loss.
Parent	with limited coverage on the job I would not be able to take time off work to spend time with student during short breaks. the long break in the summer is the lony time I am able to have time off work to have family vacations. My student is able to retain information from the previous year.
Parent	With regard to the shortened summer, I think that some accommodations for summer assignments would need to be made. At the high school level, much is expected during the summer break. I would expect that the volume of summer tasks would decline. If not, I see only disadvantage to a shorter summer.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	Without knowing when the school year dates would start and stop, it is difficult to provide more feedback. My husband and I both work and travel frequently for business. My corporate goals align with the fiscal calendar quarters so if the new proposed breaks fall within those time periods, it could cause for major problems for our family.
Parent	Woefully inadequate support for outdoor learning and exercise.
Parent	Women considering returning to work when their children reach school age may need to reconsider. The balanced calendar would require additional child care costs which may offset the earned wages, making women delay their return to the workforce and remaining financially dependent on their spouse. The balanced calendar does not support equality for women.
Parent	Work for my husband and I , our job does not let us take that kind of breaks so often
Parent	Working one parent families have a difficult time with child care. Each time we enroll our children in a program we have to pay a registration fee & activity fee. This may cause that to go from one time a year to 3 times a year. This is a strain on 1 income single parent homes.
Parent	working parents will have difficulties getting time off to care for children requiring adult supervision when child care is not available or not able to afford
Parent	Worst would be for working parents and their jobs. Many employers are not willing to allow 10 days off at a time and that many frequent vacations. Finding a Childcare that can adapt to this new schedule may be difficult, at first.
Parent	would be a financial drain on some families due to having to spend more during those breaks for childcare and/or other.
Parent	Would be a huge problem in many areas of family life.
Parent	Would be highly disruptive for students involved in extracurricular activities that may involve travel, i.e. baseball, AAU sports such as track & field and basketball.
Parent	Would be very difficult for working parents to have daycare for the children.
Parent	Would cost the school system more money. Or in other words the taxpayers. First you make changes the. You will say you need more money. Kids need a longer break in summer like we you to have.
Parent	would cost the tax payers more money
Parent	Would have negative effects on band programs
Parent	Would like for the schedule to work with traditional holidays when parents are off- Memorial Day-Labor Day-
Parent	Would prefer fall break being 5-7 days max vs 10
Parent	Would probably have a cost associated Potential to disrupt EOC tests for highschool AP classes
Parent	Would take away frim extracurricular activities....like marching band football
Parent	Year round indoctrination is the goal. No benefits!
Parent	You are only talking about 12 days loss for summer - that is less than 2 weeks difference , so that does not create any significant drawbacks.
Parent	You aren't actually impacting learning. Studies have not shown this to be effective at reducing summer learning loss and you introduce additional opportunities for loss with the multiple mini-breaks. We need a YEAR ROUND school. But you wouldn't be willing to pay the teachers for their time, despite it being beneficial for the students so never mind.
Parent	You don't provide enough detailed information regarding when summer is. Try working for a company that everyone has to take vacation in a month. really? you just want more money!
Parent	You have covered them pretty well.
Parent	You may have more truancy because parents will refuse to comply with it.
Parent	You say that there are times for enrichment and extra help during these breaks, well maybe when you start providing transportation so that I don't have to leave work I might agree with you. Let's face it, that's never gonna happen.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent	You talk about students that need more intervention style education assistance being able to get it during breaks when school is NOT in session...?! I'm confused, if these students need this help with either retention (need to shorten the summer by 12 days so you can make longer breaks in instructional time during the school year) or specific topics... Where are they going to get it? Are the teachers still going to teach during the breaks or are there going to be off campus sites? Which brings me to my next point. Focusing specifically on retention, it seems quite arbitrary that the difference in the ability to retain information is the difference of 55 days versus 43 days?! And when retention is an issue why then would we increase the the gaps in instructional time during the school year? Gaps in the school year are just that, gaps in the building blocks that are the foundation for the skills learned over the course of a year. It seems rather short sighted to focus on 3x 44 day and 1x 45 day session when the school "year" should be the focus to prepare our children for academic achievement.
Parent	You will have random 2 week breaks where kids will have nothing to do. Not every place that offers summer camps will be able to offer "break" camps bc they rely on college workers to help during those times. The local colleges will not be on break then.
Parent	you will not have the time you are used to. you will not be able to take vacations/or mini vacations as late as you would like.
Parent	Your air conditioning system will not keep up
Parent	Your extending breaks multiple times during your school year there's your learning loss, kids can't make up homework or grades if teachers use breaks to catch up on grading.
Parent	Your fixing something that doesn't need fixing. Get bet teachers and drop common core.
Parent	Your not taking into consideration snow days, balanced calendar will add more stress to kids and less learning
Parent	You're talking about a 12 day difference? Twelve fewer days of summer break and a slightly longer fall break. I find it hard to believe a 12-day shift is going to make any difference at all other than creating childcare problems. If you want to address the problem of learning dropoffs, have school year round. That would make a real difference. A twelve-day shift is pointless.
Parent & Employer	"summer slide" is replaced by "bigger brake slide" of 3 times vs. just the fall
Parent & Employer	* AP students may lose valuable instructional days that are needed to prepare for their May exams. * Students taking "duel enrollment" courses may be out of sync if Pellissippi and other schools don't change their schedules. * Tax increases will probably be needed to support the budget of a balanced calendar and nobody wants a tax increase. * Transportation to and from the interventions and/or enrichment will be difficult unless the school system provides transportation.
Parent & Employer	*COPIED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE* 10 days' difference will NOT prevent so-called 'summer slide' (NOT at 2 months vs 2.5 months off!). Besides, review and repetition enhance learning. What students need is MORE RECESS and CREATIVE PLAY! They are being robbed of this in school! Balanced calendar COULD be beneficial but sounds like an open door to keep kids in intervention year-round. Education is so, so, so important, but so is BEING A KID and being allowed CREATIVE PLAY! Enrichment is good, but again, this is NOT time-off for kids, but more school. Further, balanced calendar robs other agencies of business, ie. summer camps, outreach education programs, etc. and puts STRAIN on working parents. Here you will say 'not if enrichment programs are provided', but this is where it turns into 'more school'. 'More' does not equate to 'better'.
Parent & Employer	45 days and 55 days does not change the memory "slide"
Parent & Employer	A "balanced calendar" disrupts our local economy! Working parents will call out more often due to child care issues. When employees call out, productivity is impacted which in turn impacts the public in numberous ways. These impacts affect people without children just as much as people with children.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent & Employer	A balanced calendar will disrupt the normal summer break and our family time together. As well as disrupt competitive Summer Sports, College visits as well as Summer employment for my teenagers.
Parent & Employer	A huge concern with the balanced calendar is the "intercession" times. While my children would not need these additional times I am concerned about teachers in advanced classes piling on additional reading assignments, projects, etc. A "break" should be a break, period. No additional assignments should be allowed to be assigned during those times. How can you force a student to attend "intercession" days....what if you are paying the staff to be there and the student chairs are empty...not effecient/effective usage of resources.
Parent & Employer	A smaller summer not only creates less time for summer jobs for the student, it also will disrupt employers like myself who count on those summer availabilities that have been in place for generations.
Parent & Employer	Added expenses for Knox County schools to support enrichment/intervention programs... WHO is going to pay for a proposed balanced calendar?
Parent & Employer	Additional cost of balanced calendar to school system and parents. Shorter summer won't provide enough time for students and parents to decompress, rest their minds and bodies, and to enjoy family time, summer sports, camps, traveling, etc ... which are equally important as time spent in school. Students need adequate time to learn to entertain themselves and be creative; then they will be excited and ready to return to school in the fall.
Parent & Employer	Again, if we did balanced calendar, it would be very hard on the parents for child care and try to work too
Parent & Employer	Again... I am counting the same number of transitions: Summer Vacation, Fall Break, Christmas Break, and Spring Break. Only the timing and duration of these breaks would change. "Other potential drawbacks" would have to include ADDED EXPENSES for Knox County Schools to pay for all this intervention and enrichment... Decreased programing/increased budget cuts when funding becomes an issue... AND teacher burnout (unless there are plans to use non-certified employees to lead the intervention and enrichment programs). PLEASE, as Mr. Jimmy Buffett would say, "Don't try to describe a KISS concert if you've never seen it." Dont try to sell a program without knowing the costs (both financial and lost opportunity). Who does your marketing? Does he/she drink much? Are you hiring? Can you provide flexible scheduling around the proposed new school year?
Parent & Employer	Again....The balanced calendar is a bad idea!
Parent & Employer	Anyone who has ever worked with younger children know they thrive on a schedule. Breaks to their schedules are very difficult . The fewer breaks the better for children. Most families do not have this much vacation and cannot take off work or afford child care this many times throughout a school year. Some families may be forced to leave children alone at home who are too young to be left alone, not to mention middle and high school students unsupervised may lead to drug and alcohol abuse and more teenage pregnancies. Camps and other programs will have trouble staffing personnel because college students will be in school for the fall and spring break. We can't fund many of the programs now needed-where is the money coming for all this "enrichment/tutoring" during the breaks?
Parent & Employer	Appropriate childcare during breaks. Summer camps, YMCA, etc would need to adjust their programs to support child care needs in the county, especially for single parents

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent & Employer	As a parent and educator I do not agree that the balanced calendar would create benefits for children. You can spin things to make them sound great when in reality there is no reason to change. Has anyone thought about the 51% of the population who are divorced? These parents will have to spend thousands upon thousands of dollars to rewrite parenting plans. Although this doesn't affect me it will affect many that I know. I teach younger children and I can tell you they do not need a 2-3 week break every nine weeks. They need a longer summer break. 2-3 weeks every nine weeks is to hard on them to come back. We have to reteach routine, review, readjust to crying for mom, etc. Why does Knox County have to jump on band wagons for change? Another question, who plans to do all these camps, extracurricular, tutoring? Most teachers I know need a break just as much as the students. As an educator and parent I am standing for the traditional calendar!
Parent & Employer	As a parent of an athlete with a year-round schedule, changing from school to break every 44 days (and 10 days of break) would REALLY ruin my child's sleep schedule. Not to mention the pool where my child swims at has schedule changes during the summer. The year round schooling would really cause an issue due to my husband's job schedule and mine, also. I think the year-round schooling would be beneficial for academic purposes. However my daughter does fine with the traditional calendar and block scheduling. I would promptly vote against the balanced calendar.
Parent & Employer	Balanced calendar will be detrimental to athletics for area Knox High schools. Since Knox co has chosen not to provide any funding to athletics, parent fundraising and tickets sales at the gate are the sole means of support for athletics. With as much as half the season of any given sport falling during extended breaks, gate sales will fall significantly. This will put a huge burden on already over stretched parents to provide even more money and time toward fundraising.
Parent & Employer	Balanced calendar will be too expensive to support. Every surrounding area that implemented balanced calendar blew through their budget and have continued to build up debt with no way to pay.
Parent & Employer	Balanced scheduling presents a negative in the cash column of middle class families. I understand that "some" programs will be offered to "a few" students in lower income families. Despite that positive, the majority of families will face financial draw backs in the areas of finance and quality time spent at home as parents or a parent attempts to change job schedules in hopes of accommodating.
Parent & Employer	Boys stuck inside due to cold winters! This is not FL. Children need to be out during the summer when there are more activities available for participation
Parent & Employer	Child care arrangements for 2 weeks at a time for 4 periods will be challenging both for parents and early childhood programs (both full and part time). This would also be true for parents with children in elementary and middle school. It is not necessarily a deal breaker, but would need additional support and reflection if the balanced calendar is implemented.
Parent & Employer	Child care centers in schools not being able to have programming at the school like currently for spring break, fall break, and winter break.
Parent & Employer	Childcare centers typically have college students working esp in their school age programs. Staffing is going to be a huge issue if we have a schedule like the balanced calendar, not necessarily in the summer but during the two week intercessions.
Parent & Employer	Childcare is always an issue. Adjusting to the new routine may be an issue....but short lived.
Parent & Employer	Childcare is difficult to transition
Parent & Employer	Children need summers and parents need the long break too!
Parent & Employer	Children need the down time that summer provides. Parents have to work so this will force more children into programs during the day and will not provide lots of family time like summer does. Parents and Grandparents living in other states will be burdened with the extra expense for travel.
Parent & Employer	Children's schedules are already packed

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent & Employer	College students would not be available during the breaks to help with child care.
Parent & Employer	Competition in work force to take off during same short breaks (which will not be possible for all)to allow for any family time at all in the year. Burn out for students especially if homework given over the breaks. No free time to develop other skills talents creativity. Decreased family time.
Parent & Employer	Concern that the gap between below average kids and above average kids will widen due to more academic work for the above average while the below average try to catch up. This will also be an extra burden on the teachers, catching some students up while still challenging others.
Parent & Employer	Concerned about extension of teacher required workdays and contract creep. Morale among teachers is very low
Parent & Employer	Concerned about time cut into summer in which high school band camps are held. Summer break even shorter for these kids and staff.
Parent & Employer	Constantly adjusting kids schedules.
Parent & Employer	cost of childcare for families on limited budgets. older children work and gain valuable experience in the business world. Local business suffers when staffing entry level student employees school districts have a hard enough time with cooling with summer heat, This causes increased costs of R&M and electric costs
Parent & Employer	Cost to school system
Parent & Employer	Cost! also how much help does one week of enrichment activity help a struggling child?
Parent & Employer	could pose scheduling problems if not consistent throughout all schools in system
Parent & Employer	Custodial agreements drawn up with non-custodial, out-of-state parents have not been designed with balanced calendar in mind; shorter visits throughout the year entail airfare, making this plan cost-prohibitive. The school year needs to be designed to allow the maximum amount of classroom time prior to national tests such as college boards and advanced placement exams.
Parent & Employer	Day cares are open during spring break and winter break in the traditional school year - it seems they should be able to accommodate the longer breaks as well.
Parent & Employer	Difficulty for students transferring from a traditional school. Difficulty for families with some in traditional private schools and some in public school
Parent & Employer	Difficulty preparing for SO tests
Parent & Employer	Disrupted summer sports schedule. Hotter temperatures in late July, early August taxes school infrastructure.
Parent & Employer	Disruptive to traditional family life and schedule.
Parent & Employer	Divorced female teachers and non-working mothers further monopolize their children's time and marginalize the role of the father in family life.
Parent & Employer	Either way some people need child care. I think the pros of a balanced calendar far out way the cons. It's not about what's convenient for the adults, it's what's more beneficial to the kids!
Parent & Employer	Energy costs associated with cooling the schools the extra days in the Summer and the possible extra costs associated with bus transportation AND the need for after-school programs that are onsite to have to adjust their schedules and employees
Parent & Employer	Expense to change could be used to correct current system failres.
Parent & Employer	Extra costs to the school system when the next round of contracts are renegotiated. My company does work for the school system. A balanced calendar will cost us \$15,000 in just the first year. If the school system is costing us that much money, then we will be forced to significantly increase what we charge the school system.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

<p>How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?</p>	<p>Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.</p>
<p>Parent & Employer</p>	<p>Families would be burdened by the school schedule at an excessive level. Students would not be free of school activities during their two-week breaks because they would have to use those "breaks" to catch-up on school assignments such research papers, required reading, studying for tests and whatever else the schools required. Also athletic and extracurricular activities would continue and students would not be free to travel with their families or engage in non-school enrichment activities. The intervention programs and school related programs that would supposedly be a benefit of year round school would have to be paid for and would cost taxpayers money. Teachers will ultimately have to be paid more because they will not be as free to obtain summer jobs themselves. Schools will incur higher utility costs by operating during the hottest part of the year. At the program I attended, the schools administrators admitted that there is little research to prove that the proposition that summer learning loss will be significantly curtailed by a two-to-four week shorter summer break is valid.</p>
<p>Parent & Employer</p>	<p>Families, summer enrichment programs and childcare providers in Knoxville often employ university students - who provide the benefit of well-educated, education focused, caring responsible role models in our children's lives. The proposed balanced calendar does not align with the UT calendar - particularly the calendar of fall, winter and summer breaks thus depriving both university students and local children of these very important mentor-mentee relationships.</p>
<p>Parent & Employer</p>	<p>Financial burden on school system to pay for utilities; Teachers who chose this profession in part for the summer break/schedule out of luck</p>
<p>Parent & Employer</p>	<p>Find quality child care for 2 weeks at a time would be difficult. A parent with 2 children would face up to \$600 in child care for a two week break several times a year. Child care facilities can not employee good help for 2 weeks at a time and then let them go. I am afraid some children would be left alone at home or parents would lose jobs for the schedule demands.</p>
<p>Parent & Employer</p>	<p>fire McIntyre.</p>
<p>Parent & Employer</p>	<p>Give me a reason as to why Knox county needs a balanced calendar. No additional instruction days. So how do students benefit? Summer learning loss is B.S. The people who designed this have reality learning loss.</p>
<p>Parent & Employer</p>	<p>Harder to schedule family vacations in peak summer months due to less days to take vacation and everyone at work also requesting off for vacation</p>
<p>Parent & Employer</p>	<p>Have you surveyed Parents Day Out Programs? Younger children benefit with less time off between breaks so having a longer summer with shorter periods off during the school year is better.</p>
<p>Parent & Employer</p>	<p>Havoc on the entire learning systems. Children creative downtime, and just the fun if having the dinners off.</p>
<p>Parent & Employer</p>	<p>High school students who play Fall sports will have even less vacation time before their practices start. High school students who take honors and AP classes rarely have a break from homework/stress. My family's experience has been that vacation time is opportunity for teachers to give large homework or project assignments. Even though these students usually have summer assignments they still have time to relax, pursue other interest, and destress, with a shorter summer break it will feel like they are in year round school. Some kids have real trouble transitioning between vacation mode and school mode, about the time they get into school routine they have a break and they have to mentally and emotionally start all over.</p>
<p>Parent & Employer</p>	<p>Huge extra expenses for the school systematized, disruption of community businesses, significant decrease in parent involvement in schools, decrease in donations from local small businesses</p>
<p>Parent & Employer</p>	<p>Huge strains on an already tight school budget, greatly diminished donations from local small businesses</p>

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent & Employer	I agree that there will be less time during the summer break for kids to have summer jobs. However there are many opportunities for kids throughout the year and I believe that some employers will adjust. Also, in many cases, students will be able to focus more on education.
Parent & Employer	I agree with all the listed. We travel quite a bit during the summer.
Parent & Employer	I am also a pediatric RN and this new schedule interrupts businesses, hospital scheduling, child care. It is not beneficial for working parents at all.
Parent & Employer	I am Archer Bagley, owner of Archers BBQ. My son is a 1st grader at Bearden Elementary. Last month, we helped the Halls High School Band with a fundraiser. The Halls High School Band went out and sold 148 pounds of pork and pints of sauce. Archers BBQ offered a 50% discount so that 50% of the sales would go to the fundraiser. The Halls High School Band raised over \$1000, and they use the money to "fix the girls bathrooms". My question for Dr. McIntyre, "If Knox County School cannot afford to maintain the bathrooms in Halls High School, how will they afford to run air conditioning in the summer in building that were not designed to even be used in the summer??"
Parent & Employer	I am concerned about the "stress" on our aging facilities in Farragut. If the buildings are in use all year, won't there be issues?
Parent & Employer	I am concerned about the economic impact on small businesses that rely on seasonal labor by students.
Parent & Employer	I believe that childcare agencies will adjust their schedule based on the needs of the community for that is how they make money.
Parent & Employer	I can't help but think of the summer schedules already in place that would be disrupted. Summer school for high schoolers, etc. I do have a child in marching band, and their time is already limited for summer breaks and band camps. Each school is different and I understand that, but each school also has in the summer, before school begins. You are asking us to cut away even more time from their "vacation", before headed back for camps. Not just band, but sports as well. I'm sure football players don't get a long summer break, either. When we had the major ice storm that shut down Knox County for 2 weeks in Feb., my three kids stayed home (which was fine). In going back to school after the ice/snow break, 2 out of 3 teachers sent out emails, asking the parents to please remind children of classroom rules, etc. They were having a hard time re-adjusting to the classroom setting. I think taking children out for longer breaks (between terms), makes it harder to keep their focus, especially in elementary aged students.
Parent & Employer	I don't believe that our systems are designed to measure the benefits that are afforded by a longer summer break. The activities (jobs, interships, extended trips, etc) that a student undertakes - especially in the higher grades - are key parts of producing a well-rounded student. This sentiment was echoed by the LA school district head after an extensive study completed after implementing year round school. I personally don't struggle with this, but it must also create challenges for blended families where the parents are in different school districts.
Parent & Employer	I don't find these drawbacks. In the respect to my child's learning, many of these are positives.
Parent & Employer	I don't think it is a good idea. Other school systems around the country have tried and haven't had much success with a balanced calendar and some even went back to the traditional school calendar. I find it hard to believe that it would work here. It would make it hard for vacations and my kids trying to work and do summer activities. I don't know why the school board feels the need to change things. The students aren't going to learn more or improve more doing the balanced calendar any more than they are now.
Parent & Employer	I don't think that spreading the same number of days over a longer time period is any true benefit. The two-week snow break in the middle of a semester was actually very damaging to my son's school work, especially in classes that require constant reinforcement like language and math.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent & Employer	I don't want my kids having any homework during school breaks. They need some downtime and so does my family.
Parent & Employer	I felt that our household was turned upside down when we missed school for a week due to weather. The kids never got to enjoy true down time. We push our kids. I am sorry there are parents that dont do their job over the summer, it sounds like most of this is for the low kids (not mine) I doubt you will hire more students to offer enrichment too. You wont have the funding, even if it is suggeste here.
Parent & Employer	I generally think families will adjust to whatever schedule is required... biggest obstacle/challenge is working families finding childcare for 2wks each Fall/Spring (rather than 2 days or 1wk).
Parent & Employer	I have a child care center so this would help my business but is not, from personal experience, in the best interest of the children. Children who are behind usually attend summer school and this helps to prepare them for the new school year with skill gaps and in a small group setting. Would summer school still be offered? How much would it need to be shortened? Would parents be apt to skip sending their children due to shorter summer? Some questions to ponder...
Parent & Employer	I have to tell you I think this plan is second only to Common Cause as one of the worst ideas ever to come out of the Knox County System. And I spend an average of one to two hours every night helping my child because of the incomprehensible Common Cause homework. I have three adult sons, so I know a great deal about the Knox County System. This is an awful idea, and if it is enacted I will be examining alternative means of an education for my 10 year old.
Parent & Employer	I really do not see a benefit to balanced calendar as defined by the diagram provided, especially when we remain in block scheduling for high school students, and still risk more than 1/2 the calendar between work on various subjects (such as successive levels of math, successive levels of science and also foreign language. None of the learning loss or "slide" necessarily experienced by 6-8 month breaks between classes taken in a block scheduling format are addressed by the proposed balanced calendar.
Parent & Employer	I really don't think there are any drawbacks to the balanced schedule listed in this survey unless you had 1 child in public and 1 in private and their breaks didn't match up.
Parent & Employer	I see no drawbacks to a balanced calendar
Parent & Employer	I see that the transition from school to college or school to the real world would be a sever adjustment due to the fact that in the real world or college you don't go to work/school and then get 2 weeks off then work/school and 2 weeks off. For a single parent it creates extreme difficulty all around. Increases the cost of child care that was not there before as I'm sure the smart daycares will raise their prices to accomodate. Sometimes it hard to get the student(s) to school as it is now if you give them more time off they really wont want to go. I don't feel it is a good balance of school / family life.
Parent & Employer	I see the potential for teachers to assign projects/school work during the break, therefore not really making it a break.
Parent & Employer	I strongly disagree with moving to a balanced calendar. I am a former Knox County teacher and a parent of two students. This calendar will not allow for summer jobs, long summer camps, or time to let these kids be kids. I have heard wonderful families say they will be forced to move their children to private schools to stay on the old calendar. Please do not make any changes that will take great families out of the public schools!!! Many families have one child at a Knox County School and another child at a private school. These families will choose sending both kids to private so their family can stay on the same calendar. Please, please, think this decision through. For those families who would like more enrichment in the summer please look in to other opportunities besides the traditional summer school option. Once again, I would ask for you to carefully look at this decision and choose to stay with our traditional calendar. Thank you.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent & Employer	I think a balanced calendar is best for the students!! It is a change that most people will have difficulty with however once in place, I think this calendar will work!!!
Parent & Employer	I would assume that the child care providers would need to adjust their schedule as well making this a non issue
Parent & Employer	I would be curious to know what teens only work summer jobs versus year round? I don't buy the argument of child care during breaks - what did people do when we had inclement weather? IF you are cutting 12 days from the summer schedule but giving 12 days back across Fall & Summer break the cost of child care is a moot point. Currently they have 3 days for Fall break and 5 for Spring break. By getting 10 for each they would gain back the 12 days that are being cut from the summer schedule.
Parent & Employer	If it helps my children and other children with their education, who cares about other drawbacks. It's tough raising children and there will always be challenges but ensuring a great education is the most important thing a parent can do for their kids
Parent & Employer	If Knox county doesn't allow after school care programs to be in the schools during breaks, many parents are going to be scrambling for childcare. I run an after school care program and not being allowed in the schools would hurt our company.
Parent & Employer	If the calendars between school are "off" even by just a few days on either sides, it creates more of a hassle for parents who teach in other school systems, like me. It's hard enough to deal with opposite spring breaks (loudon co, knox co, anderson co, etc) and widening these breaks but not guaranteeing them being the same as the others may require me to switch jobs.
Parent & Employer	I'm afraid they will overload the homework as it's very heavy already. I hope there's no homework over breaks.
Parent & Employer	Impact on small business within the community.
Parent & Employer	Increase in cost of child care. Possibly less options of child care. Disruption in the learning momentum of the students.
Parent & Employer	Increased costs for the school system, there must be a return on investment - raise the bar in preparing students for their adult lives.
Parent & Employer	Increased costs, multiple school districts in several states have reported increased cost when they went to balanced calendar. Increased building maintenance and transpiration costs due to having to retain employees through summer and local merchants that rely on summer break for seasonal work force is just a small portion on the of the economic impact that it is proposing. Knox county has already expressed that the budget is not enough to renovate current schools or add new ones. There is no logical reason that this should even be discussed until Knox county can effectively handle it's current schedule and schools. If this is passed myself and dozens of other parents I have talked with will have no choice but to move out of county to avoid this disastrous schedule.
Parent & Employer	Increased financial and emotion family hardship as affordable camps are not available year round.
Parent & Employer	Interference with enrichment opportunities provided outside of KCS Burdening students with prolonged stress and forced scheduling.
Parent & Employer	It does not make sense to me to have children go additional days when it's 90 outside when the trade off is more days in early spring when it's 40 and raining.
Parent & Employer	It has already proven to not work. Data says...research says...Data Data Data
Parent & Employer	It is just ridiculous.. The kids are put through enough crap to have to deal with a new calendar too!
Parent & Employer	It may take time; however, I feel once the balanced schedule benefits were seen and proven other institutions and establishments would follow suit. How about 4-day work weeks? :-))
Parent & Employer	It takes our kids away from us even more. Many of the advantages discussed are simply about using the breaks to provide more education to kids. What about spending time with families and the education thus is?

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent & Employer	It was to hard on our family
Parent & Employer	It would be very difficult for any child on the autism spectrum, as well as many other students. My kids had a hard time readjusting after the 2 weeks of snow days. Also that shortens our vacation window for the beach as well as causes childcare problems for working parents.
Parent & Employer	It would be very difficult for me to hire an individual for after school pick up and homework help with the balanced calendar and difficult to arrange childcare for 10 day blocks intermittently for a special needs middle schooler.
Parent & Employer	It would be virtually impossible for us to figure out how to have appropriate supervision for our children while we work. UT students are great for such supervision but would not be available during these long breaks (fall/spring) that do not coincide with their breaks.
Parent & Employer	Kids in extracurricular activities would basically end up going year round. Our experience with athletics, band, and other activities require participation during the Summer break. The balanced calendar is already targeting these shorter breaks as evident with the "Enrichment" category in the previous question. Families with multiple kids and kids involved in multiple extracurricular activities would be highly unlikely to be able to schedule a family vacation.
Parent & Employer	Kids, parents, and teachers need a break from school. School is not 'real' life and we need that!
Parent & Employer	Leave school how it is
Parent & Employer	Less opportunities for summer camps, less time with extended family, less time for arranging family trips, less of a true disconnect from school. Our family can provide a more varied program for our child than the school during a long summer break.
Parent & Employer	Less time for family , less time for summer camps, more time spent at school, more headache on parents making childcare arrangements, too big a difference with the college calendar for parents who have kids spread out in ages.
Parent & Employer	Local businesses that rely on summer labor will struggle. I run the karns pool for the Lions club. With the balanced calender we will be forced to close after 50 years. Our staff is all high school students and teachers
Parent & Employer	Longer summer breaks allow students to obtain summer jobs their sophmore, junior, and senior year to prepare for careers and to consider additional education after high school. Students need to learn about life through life experiences.
Parent & Employer	Losing a week of instruction due to a longer spring break with block scheduling is like losing 2 weeks(ie 1/2 month) of instruction with traditional scheduling. This adversely impacts all students on AP exams and EOC exams. Studies also show that routine is especially important for students with learning disabilities, and the additional weeks off for fall and spring break make it more difficult for these at risk students to readjust to their schedules.
Parent & Employer	Many after shool and summer programs don't charge by the day it's by the week or month, so please keep this in mind when switching to calendar that parents may have to fork out a little more for care. Please do not make it where there off days cut in the middle of the week either be in school ALL week or be out ALL week. Families will also be trying to schedule things and would be easier if they had the whole week and weekend to plan short gets aways.
Parent & Employer	Many employees rely on after school programs for child care. If these are closed during the balanced calendar it would be a scheduling nightmare for both employee and employer. Plus, the balanced calendar will drastically effect several Local businesses such as day cares, organized sports and summer recreational camps, etc....
Parent & Employer	Many families will use inter session breaks for vacation and/or travel. This will reduce plans for enrichment or reinforcement.
Parent & Employer	Many of the high-quality camps and enrichment activities that are available in the summer will not be available during the more frequent, shorter school breaks. These enrichment activities are important for a well-rounded child.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent & Employer	More breaks (also longer in length) means more time for students to get out of the academic flow of regulated weeks within a given school year. Even more so, students in lower-income/poverty-stricken areas of Knox County may not be exposed to helpful academic resources during these added and extended breaks because they will be at home where mom/dad/guardian will most likely be working (often times more than one job) which means more TV time or whatever else that will most likely not be academically helpful in any way for the student(s).
Parent & Employer	More breaks causes some students to not retain learned information so there would be more reteaching during the school year after each break. It's difficult for everyone to get "back into the swing of things" after a long break so that would occur more times during the school year. There may be more behavior problems as students get anxious for a break just like when students are a little more rowdy at the end of a school year or just before Christmas break.
Parent & Employer	more expense for school system infrastructure, heating/cooling, etc.
Parent & Employer	More problems for families that have two working parents. Parents will now have to take more time off from work to cover child services that are stop and go than if they pay for services one time throughout the summer. The balanced calendar is not as simple and life needs to be made simpler not more complex.
Parent & Employer	More problems if most neighboring school systems are on traditional calendar.
Parent & Employer	Most parenting plans would have to be re-mediated at a substantial cost to parents.
Parent & Employer	My child had special needs. The schedule disruptions would be horrible.
Parent & Employer	My child needs infrequent breaks and routine for behavioral purposes. More frequent interruptions and looking forward to breaks and readjusting from returns would be horrible. We have no childcare money to pay for breaks throughout the year. We have free childcare from a college student/ family member in summers. We would not qualify for assistance based upon other forms of assistance that we don't qualify for. I would lose my job having to stay home with my children.
Parent & Employer	My children spend summers with grand parents while we work. It will be harder to ask the grandparents to keep the girls more often during the year. This will cause us to make more expensive choices for care.
Parent & Employer	My experience showed that there were more latchkey kids due to schedule conflict.
Parent & Employer	No benefits to education children. Increased operating cost to the school system A basic scheme that distracts from improving the education of my children by expensing time, effort and money with no benefit to the children and their family!
Parent & Employer	No breaks for teachers if they will teach intervention during the two week rest period. And cost to air condition during longer summer session.
Parent & Employer	No drawbacks
Parent & Employer	No legitimate evidence that a schedule change will improve academic learning. The decrease in summer family time is a deal killer. Summer break is ALREADY too short!
Parent & Employer	None - great idea -
Parent & Employer	None.
Parent & Employer	Noted in item 4
Parent & Employer	Numerous families and parents have summers planned out years in advance and as an attorney in our community, many divorced parents only get to see their children in the summer; wherefore, their respective parenting time is disrupted by changing a centuries old public policy
Parent & Employer	Only drawback would be adjustment period, which would be short lived
Parent & Employer	Our two children are in two different school systems due to custody situation the balanced calendar will most definitely have an effect on things like family vacation and ability to schedule activities that both of our children can attend
Parent & Employer	People are very uncomfortable with change in general

Potential Drawbacks Comments

<p>How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?</p>	<p>Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.</p>
<p>Parent & Employer</p>	<p>Personally, summer is a time for families to live like families. We only have a few years before our kids are off to college. But, kids need some time to be able to work, make money for college, spend summer participating in sports activities and more. Aside from all that, I simply do not see what the need to change for the sake of trying something new. No studies were offered at the presentation. No debate was held although one teacher/football coach got aggressive when it was said that this is all news to us It was and is news to the families who haven't heard this was even being discussed only to find out it is being voted on in June. To me, it looks like a football thing. Every Hardin Valley coach was in there in support. Highly charged support if you ask me of the Balanced Calendar. Also, there are actually three options that were failed to be mentioned on the pie chart: Traditional, Balanced (longer summer) and Balanced (Shorter summer break). Why was this left off? This is not a fair presentation or depiction of the so-called Balanced Calendar.</p>
<p>Parent & Employer</p>	<p>Please see my previous answer concerning my experience with a balanced calendar.</p>
<p>Parent & Employer</p>	<p>Pretty much sums it up. I DO NOT want this to happen.</p>
<p>Parent & Employer</p>	<p>Previously mentioned was that the Summer loss would be reduced by shortening the Summer Break. Has anyone given thought to losses associated with extending the Fall & Spring Breaks by a significant amount? Just a thought.</p>
<p>Parent & Employer</p>	<p>Puts too much pressure on students and teachers to fit lessons into limited time spaces. In other words, it's too much segmentation of the year. I don't see how all these two week breaks throughout the school year result in less "learning slide" than a traditional summer break. Really, if the kids are actually learning things then they aren't going to forget them over a longer summer break. Too many breaks disrupt the continuity of the school year. So many kids gain valuable experiences during the summer that can't be quantified or squeezed into a shorter time span.</p>
<p>Parent & Employer</p>	<p>Routine is important for kids. This calendar makes school a year round thing - regardless of what it is called. All of the above mentioned disadvantages wreak havoc with family life and a routine. Additionally- there is actually MORE learning loss surrounding longer breaks.</p>
<p>Parent & Employer</p>	<p>Routine is VERY important to a family and the constant in-school/out-of-school changes will make it extremely hard on the consistency of our family schedule. AS well as extremely costly for childcare. My oldest child will also begin working soon out of state soon at a summer camp to earn money for college. Very few area of the country actually do balance calendar, which means that he will miss the first week or so and the last week or so of work at this camp ... the camp needs a commitment of the full summer, which means my son probably won't be hired.</p>
<p>Parent & Employer</p>	<p>shared custody arrangements with co-parents out of state, loss of summer school, loss of summer job opportunities for teachers and aides who rely on this income to make ends meet. ALSO, what in the world do you do with students who move into the district in mid-August from a district that hasn't started school yet? Do they just lose a month of instruction? ALSO, how much is this going to cost taxpayers? I read somewhere along the line the estimated cost would be significantly higher than traditional schooling.</p>
<p>Parent & Employer</p>	<p>Short term challenges related to certain businesses needing to adjust to the schedule. (i.e., daycare, etc.) Having students in school during "hotter" part of the summer.</p>
<p>Parent & Employer</p>	<p>Shorter summer breaks would not allow students to participate in important youth development opportunities like community service, volunteer work, mission trips, mentoring programs, and internships. This would also give parents less time to fit in all the important doctor visits (whether well visit, immunizations, testing, or surgeries) as well as eye doctor, dentist, orthodontic, and any therapies in a setting that doesn't conflict with the school calendar.</p>
<p>Parent & Employer</p>	<p>Some people do not have just summer jobs. It will have a severe negative impact to those already on a career path.</p>

Potential Drawbacks Comments

<p>How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?</p>	<p>Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.</p>
<p>Parent & Employer</p>	<p>Some studies may show an improvement in student behavior before breaks, but I think an inconsistent routine can have bigger, unintended behavioral consequences. As hard as you try you will never think of all the unintended consequences behind this idea. Since this is a great idea, why have nearly all the higher learning institutions moved away from a quarterly system? With the amount of effort put into this, think of the benefit that the students could have had if the level of effort were put into them. The biggest problem I see, is that we assume that all students need the same thing. Some students would improve and find benefit in the "balanced calendar." Other students who are doing well in semester system might have a great deal of trouble with balanced calendar. Yet other students will excel no matter were you put them. Then finally you have the ones that it won't matter what you do. When the education system comes to the reality that we cannot all be above average - a simple mathematical impossibility - I think the system can move on and find actual improvement. What are the actual numbers? How many students really do better? Why are we making this political? Give us some hard benefit or drawback numbers. Other potential drawbacks and consequences, are the schools A/C systems designed to handle the hotter summer months, when nobody is typically there? With the extra sessions is the energy usage of the facilities going to actually increase, and increase the operational and maintenance costs at the same time. Creativity is born from the idle mind... if we are trying to create tomorrows creative problem solvers, we need to encourage the conditions in which creativity is developed.</p>
<p>Parent & Employer</p>	<p>Sport calendars restrict moving some traditional summer activities to the longer breaks. Cost - one of the main reasons posed to reducing fall break from a full week several years ago was the savings of not running air conditioning in the summer, and that was just a few days. I can't imagine the increased financial burden on an already budget restrained system to add weeks in the summer.</p>
<p>Parent & Employer</p>	<p>Sports. High school kids will have to spend their breaks practicing and so will their coaches. Would this give them a break? Childcare facilities and working families. Our annual family vacations will be cut short because of the balanced calendar. Money - who is paying the teachers extra to spend their time working on enrichment or intervention? Where is this money coming from?</p>
<p>Parent & Employer</p>	<p>Students are currently given assignments (sometimes large projects) that must be completed over school breaks. I believe that these assignments would increase and end up taking over the other breaks, resulting in the students having only the shortened summer break to relax. I also do not understand how students would be able to obtain extra help during these breaks, should they need it. When my student has emailed teachers during breaks to ask questions about assignments that are expected to be completed over break, there is usually no response, as the teacher is "on vacation" although my student is not really able to be. Are the teachers really going to provide this extra help during their breaks?</p>
<p>Parent & Employer</p>	<p>Summer activities like swim team, recreational sports, etc. would disappear. Balanced Children....NOT balanced calendars</p>
<p>Parent & Employer</p>	<p>Summer break lends itself to significant learning outside of the classroom. The nicer weather allows for both inside and outdoor activities, and a tremendous amount of programs such as camps and clinics are already established in the summer. I don't see the likelihood of these same advantages with bigger breaks in the Spring and Fall. Also, traditional local summer fun activities like the pool and lake are definitely not available in the Spring or Fall. The summer break already seems too short to enjoy all its benefits.</p>
<p>Parent & Employer</p>	<p>Summer semester of college coursework; custody issues;</p>
<p>Parent & Employer</p>	<p>Summer sports disrupted. Hot weather in late July, early August is a burden on the infrastructure of older school facilities.</p>

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent & Employer	Summer will be almost impossible for children from 'broken' homes!!! As for parents who work in a place where it's already hard to fit a vacation in for everyone during the summer! - The children already spend the 1st week or so after a long break such as Christmas reviewing what they've lost during 2 weeks....you want to do this 4times a year!!! -Enrichment/additional learning opportunities during the breaks....are the teachers expected to work year round now?!?!?!?
Parent & Employer	Teachers are a in a privileged sector of the work force. Educating children isn't easy but it can be rewarding. Students are given days out of school for holidays, breaks and inservice days. The inservice days are meant for teachers to go to their job and get work done that they can't otherwise. Meet with their peers, plan the curriculum, grade papers. Teachers unless they are working throughout the summer are on vacation. Many don't have the luxury of a continued paycheck when they are off of the year. Now to the flip side of having children out of school, and I have seen this from an HR view point within a large corporation with locations around the world. When children are not in school, they are in need of their parent or guardian to be around. So thats time and money lost for them, and in some cases the company they work for. For many parents, taking off from work is a risk that they just can't afford. Children are left at home alone. Parental visitation rights also become a very expensive thing to adjust with needing lawyers and courts. Students don't need more frequent time from school between quarters, that isn't really going to help them. They need to be taught.. not taught how to take a test and then forget the information.
Parent & Employer	Teachers of children attending schools in other districts(including UT system) would have to find daycare for their kids for a portion of summer break
Parent & Employer	Teachers will rush thru curriculum causing students to be left behind.
Parent & Employer	Teachers would get less time off because some or all would be needed to staff the intercession intervention. Teacher burnout would be higher under the balanced calendar.
Parent & Employer	That would mean there are only certain times to visit family in other states. People that work in large corporations, as I do, would be unable to take a summer vacation due to this change. Several people in my corporation have children and our company only approves a certain number of people to take vacations depending on how many there are from each department leaving for vacation for those weeks. Thus meaning that several people are going to try and get the same weeks for vacation. Obviously my company would be unable to accommodate these requests, meaning several employees would be unable to take vacation during school breaks. I also believe that this would create a new problem. Obviously, parents are going to take their children on a vacation during school if they cannot schedule vacations during school breaks. This would lead to children losing valuable classroom time and they well get behind. I'd rather have the summer learning loss. At least with the loss they've learned and retained the information, they just need a refresher to recall the information. Whereas the child will have nothing to recall if they were not in the classroom to learn the information to begin with.
Parent & Employer	The big one is daycare issues.
Parent & Employer	The biggest one I think is child care. Good child care businesses will adapt to accomodate the new scheduling. Teachers may have difficulty getting in their continuous education courses completed in a shortened summer.
Parent & Employer	The breaks are only a benefit to the limited few students who would actually take advantage of the time to study/review the subjects that trouble them. My kids (and all of their friends) will not have transportation or access to any environment except home during the breaks, where they will entertain themselves exclusively and "lose their stride." Some kids function well with constant changes of routine, it's true, but mine do not. If we're to prepare them for the workforce, they should become accustomed to slogging through tedium. This is especially true in high school. Students are at an age where they really must learn the discipline of showing up, mentally and physically, when they'd rather be somewhere else.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

<p>How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?</p>	<p>Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.</p>
<p>Parent & Employer</p>	<p>The communities aren't set up for this and there is bound to be families that are lost in the system. The children lost will be the children that need us the most.</p>
<p>Parent & Employer</p>	<p>The first year would be tough on everyone but after the "growing pains" are worked out the calendar will become "normal" and run smoothly. Child cares and family schedules will have to adjust but in the end it is about the children and what is best for them, not who can make the most money</p>
<p>Parent & Employer</p>	<p>The frequent changes for divorced families that have court papers with a family plan will be required to revisit the issue with attorney fees and potentially causing much stress. Many teens as well look for jobs and parents only allow them to work when there is no school. We know that summer jobs are just that generally from Memorial Day to Labor Day (seasonal) so student who need the money for driving insurance or to help out the family will not be allowed the opportunity.</p>
<p>Parent & Employer</p>	<p>The kids will waste the extra time off doing nothing vs. all the activities there are in the summer. Extra cost to the school having to run the AC in the very HOT summer months. Snow Days causing even more missed school in addition to the non-summer breaks cause more disruption.</p>
<p>Parent & Employer</p>	<p>The majority of the employees who run the camps when children are out on break are college students. They will no longer be available because the college academic calendar will not allow them to obtain a job to help with childcare, camps, or etc. The tourism will be impacted in a negative way. The pools will not remain open as long because the high school students help in these areas. Would the city/county or other areas fail to open these areas because of the loss of revenue and time that they will be open is reduced?</p>
<p>Parent & Employer</p>	<p>The results of this survey are based on responses to the summer break being 12 days less than status quo. Year-round school will not decrease summer learning loss...unless you want to argue and spend a lot of time and money to prove that 12 days less school in the summer makes a statistically significant improvement in loss of learning. "Intervention" is already accounted for in the current calendar. If the year round calendar and current calendar are truly equivalent time-off, who will subsidize the cost of intervention during the "breaks"? Tax payers? Teachers? I spoke to my daughter's teacher and she confirmed she completed the survey and understood that the teachers would not be responsible for the "Intervention". Before a year-round school option can be fully comprehended, the parents and teachers/staff need to know the plan and expense. 12 months costs more than 9 months--what is the actual difference and are the teachers on-board with the plan to work more hours for the same pay? "Enrichment" during breaks? Again, I ask the question, who will pay for the Enrichment? A significant amount of 'summer' businesses depend on the June and July revenue. Will the Knox County Board of Education be responsible for cannibalizing their business models? Starting an Enrichment business will only increase the negative opinions parents and teachers currently have of the Board's lack of support for teachers (especially teachers with 'no child left behind' students). The teachers do not have the resources they need in the classroom. First, focus on a plan for maximizing teacher support and student learning BEFORE deciding to enter the 'fall,' 'winter,' or 'spring' camp business. While there are students that are 'not left behind' in a class with one teacher and 14 other students, there will never be sufficient time for students to master needed skills. Even meeting on Saturday's and Sunday's would not account for the disparity. There is a lot of government money in the school business and I understand the temptation for the Knox County Board of Education's desire to increase the authority of public education. The Board has failed the students, parents, and staff of the Knox Co. schools with 'no child left behind' students and will not receive my vote to increase their authority until the disparities are addressed.</p>

Potential Drawbacks Comments

<p>How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?</p>	<p>Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.</p>
<p>Parent & Employer</p>	<p>The shorter breaks will not actually be breaks. Student will spend their "breaks" doing reading assignment, writing papers, and completing projects. AP testing and exams will be more difficult. Also, depending on dates, graduating seniors would lose the opportunity to start college for the summer semester. This can have a variety of impacts including higher tuition if a student begins as a new student in August when a tuition hike has been implemented. Starting in the summer is also a good way for students to experience a college setting before starting school full time. In our case, we need our kids home in the summer to get jobs and help with family needs. Summer jobs, starting UT in the summer, and scholarships have allowed our oldest to go to college debt free. Balanced calendar/year round school would have prevented him from saving as much money or starting UT before the tuition increase in the fall of 2013.</p>
<p>Parent & Employer</p>	<p>The unusual weather this winter should point to the drawback of transition, particularly in the elementary arena.</p>
<p>Parent & Employer</p>	<p>The winter break is way too short. The winter break should be at least three weeks anything less than this is a useless change for us.</p>
<p>Parent & Employer</p>	<p>There are many employers that allot specific seasons for their employees to utilize vacation time, and most that do, center the available time around the summer months. I am concerned that some families will mess out on vacations if you shorten the summer break. I am also concerned over the move to a balanced calendar and how it will affect extra curricular activities out side of the school atmosphere.</p>
<p>Parent & Employer</p>	<p>There is no proven data presented by this school board to prove a "Balanced Calendar curriculum does anything about the loss of learning caused by a traditional summer. I personally had my son in tutoring from the end of school 3rd grade through the summer, to make sure he was ready for 4th grade math, especially times tables. Don't you think the reasonable thing to do is start 4th grade math off with what you stopped 3rd grade math with? Reasonable right? End w times tables, review them first thing in 4th grade. Noooo...they did not even touch on times tables until October 4th grade year. Start w graphing.. So who can tell me the children lose anything over the summer when they Don't even review when they come back! ! Give me a Break! This whole school calendar is Junk Science! !</p>
<p>Parent & Employer</p>	<p>They are all drawbacks. If you would stop allowing schools or sports to practice or take trips or have tournaments on holiday weekends or any break, then it would be ok, but you will not change this. So now no church will be able to plan a trip, or a family a vacation, since the school will fill every break. Wrestly tournament, choir trip, band competition, baseball trip, football practice. I teach Sunday School, and the school system has something planned every weeked already.</p>
<p>Parent & Employer</p>	<p>This is a coy way of making life harder on low and middle class folks. It's classist behavior that has deep racial implications.</p>
<p>Parent & Employer</p>	<p>This kind of calendar may also interfere with the private school sector to which some activities available now to my kids may not be as accessible as the change in calendar will make that difficult</p>
<p>Parent & Employer</p>	<p>Though these might be disruptions, I don't see them being troublesome for our family.</p>
<p>Parent & Employer</p>	<p>Too much segmentation of learning and a lack of continuity of the school year. Not enough time for truly creative thinking or learning to focus on longer term projects and goals. If kids are truly learning things they won't forget them over the summer break. If they are going to forget things they will forget them within a week whether the break is two weeks or eight weeks.</p>
<p>Parent & Employer</p>	<p>Too numerous to fit into this box.</p>
<p>Parent & Employer</p>	<p>Transferring into or out of the system. Teacher fatigue. Teacher morale. Additional expenses keeping buildings open for enrichment or re-teaching. Paying teachers for enrichment or re-teaching on an already stretched budget. Paying for more central office bureaucrats to implement a balanced calendar with money needed in the classroom.</p>

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent & Employer	Troubled students often lack the family systems to achieve success. The won't attend enrichment during breaks.
Parent & Employer	Unwed and divorcing parents who have Court ordered Parenting Plans that includes the traditional calendar will then have unworkable visitations. This means that every case involving these parents would have to return to the courts that house their court orders! This alone would shut down the court's docket for years! This also affects Child Support obligations because the State of TN counts quality days and gross income that each parent has.
Parent & Employer	We already have a "short summer break", as for child care we already have to make arrangements, summer jobs are there regardless of when summer break begins, once parents get used to the idea they will find it is more beneficial for all involved
Parent & Employer	We can't even fund related arts teachers and have been talking about cutting one of the best programs Knox Co has (Avid). Where in the WORLD are we going to find the money to fund this?!? The intercessions are great, but where is the money to pay for them? Also, a balanced calendar is a working parent's nightmare!
Parent & Employer	We have no idea how much this would COST! If you want a REAL answer about how people feel, you would have included the option of giving us BACK the fall break we used to have and was removed from our calendar several years ago.
Parent & Employer	who's ideal was this? I need to know so when elections come up we can vote this person or persons out!!
Parent & Employer	Why are we changing the schedule? It isn't broke so why fix it
Parent & Employer	Would be more in favor if there really were opportunities for kids to improve their grades during fall and spring breaks but it doesn't help if the grading period ends before the breaks
Parent & Employer	You are looking at tjis from a school staff point of view,and not from a working family point of view (jobs are hard to come by these days)
Parent & Employer	You mention summer camps... how about summer internships for high school students. That's much more serious! Students may be unable to participate in activities like internships that are paramount to getting into college.
Parent & KCS	"Enrichment" and "intersession" need to be defined. Potential drawback b/c one child may need "enrichment" and not get the time off siblings are getting. Also, who has to work during these "intersessions"? Employees often are parents too and if they are required to work during the break, then that is extremely disruptive to the family
Parent & KCS	#5 could be easily eliminated if community stakeholders and local business see this as an opportunity to seize. #6 I feel if we go to a balanced calendar it should be done as ALL or nothing, As a district , not just a few schools to " try it out" . This would help minimize the difficulty in other scheduling etc. Hopefully, UT / Pellissippi would coordinate some of their calendars to allow for easier planning to flow to also minimize scheduling glitches and maximize to seek benefits at their academic institutions and for their students as well as Knox. County families.
Parent & KCS	* What happens to instructional time in the winter/spring when we miss 10 days for snow, then we have a 2 week spring break?! * The 12 day summer difference will not help with learning loss. If they are going to forget information, that will happen anyway. The difference is in the parenting at home, not the length of time they have for summer. * In theory, having a week for intervention with failing students each break is a great idea. But the very students who need the help are typically the ones with attendance issues anyway- so they will not show up.
Parent & KCS	1.how would we make up for bad weather

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent & KCS	1400 unsupervised teenagers In our community. summer jobs for teachers and students impacted Many students hAve no rules on breaks and stay up all night or stay with friends. They get off schedule and it takes them a week to get back on track. The week before a break kids are already on vacation in their head and are not focused. Having more time off when it is cold means more kids couped up inside. We already have an obesity problem. Laying on the couch 3 to 4 extra weeks will not help. The cost to air condition the schools in the summer needs to be considerd, as well as the fact that the students who need the intercession are either not going to show up or they are the hyper active kids that need to be out playing the most. Let them be little, they have their entire lives to work year round. Don't take away their childhood. All of this testing and teacherevaluations is bad enough Stop trying to change every little thing!
Parent & KCS	A balanced calendar also conflicts with students taking summer courses, summer jobs/internships, and entering into summer programs.
Parent & KCS	A balanced calendar would negatively effect some programs that rely on the traditional summer break for practice such as band and sports teams. It would create a huge problem for families struggling to find child care that are unable to afford traditional options.
Parent & KCS	A shortened summer break could cause issues with camp activities.
Parent & KCS	Additional cost of heating and cooling.
Parent & KCS	Affects out of state custody visitations.
Parent & KCS	After the 2 weeks of during the winter weather days, my own children, as well as my students, had difficulty getting back into the school routine and required review- the very thing a balanced calendar is proposing to decrease.
Parent & KCS	After the 2 weeks off this winter I just found it was a very difficult transistion for everyone involved and did not see any benefits of 2 weeks of in the middle of the school year.
Parent & KCS	Again, back to the softball topic. My daughter will be moving into the 14 year old age group during the time you are talking about implementing this. The national ASA tournament which for her age group will be in Sacramento CA this year is the last week of July and first week of August each year. Once she moves into this age category there are many college scouts at this and other national tournaments that we participate in. Her team begins playing tournaments in March to qualify for these national tournaments and to play for 5 months and then to have to choose between attending school, which she has perfect attendance this year or letting the other 9 girls on her team down is something that she is already worrying about and it hasn't even been approved yet. If she doesn't attend these type of tournaments it could affect her college career which she has worked her whole life since tee ball to achieve. This could also affect not only her dream to possibly play college softball one day but also the amount of scholarships what would help us to send her on to school.
Parent & KCS	Again, the opportunity for our students who have no one watching over them to get into trouble is huge.
Parent & KCS	All
Parent & KCS	All of those listed as well as limited opportunities for teachers to hold second jobs outside KCS or attend graduate school during the summer sessions.
Parent & KCS	Although the shorter summer will initially see inconvenient, I believe with time it will feel completely normal. As for childcare, the local childcare centers already make adjustments for school breaks, and I am sure they will continue to do so. The family schedule will have the ability to be even more flexible. And students already have the same number of transitions or breaks throughout the year, it is simply the duration of the breaks that is under consideration.
Parent & KCS	Although this might be ideal for middle and high school, K-5 children have a hard time refocusing and getting back into the routine of school, losing valuable instruction.
Parent & KCS	An increase in the number of latch key children due to difficult childcare for elementary and middle school students. Potential increased in pregnancy rates due to more high school students not being hired for a shorter summer period.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent & KCS	Anyone who is a coach will be in season during the Extended Spring and Fall Breaks. This means there will be games scheduled during the breaks, which create required work during times that school is out of session. Coaches will get less breaks.
Parent & KCS	Are schools equipped to handle the heat in the summer time? Northshore is a new school and since the a/c doesn't kick in until the classroom are 72, on humid days, staff and children are uncomfortable and sweating on non summer days. Are older schools going to be able to keep staff and students comfortable to children can learn?
Parent & KCS	As a math teacher I am concerned that modules will not fall at good times for closing out testing. More disruptions during school year may not be conducive. I do not usually spend much time reviewing at the beginning of the school year for skills taught the previous year. I feel that is where summer school is beneficial for struggling students.
Parent & KCS	As a parent of a sports player and a teacher- I would have to take a lot of time off from school in order to travel with my child to sporting events.
Parent & KCS	As a teacher I have found that behavior worsens, attitudes are more counterproductive , and effort decrease when there is a break in the horizon. It is also difficult to get students back in the routine of learning. Sleep schedules would suffer. It would be emotionally difficult for elementary aged children. I don't think we can count remediation/intervention as a pro if there isn't a firm plan or allocated funds for it.
Parent & KCS	As a teacher, how would this effect our pay?
Parent & KCS	As a teacher, I was for a balanced calendar. However, now as a parent I see how disrupting my children's routine can be harder for them to me motivated for school. Another drawback is funding, how is the school system going to pay for the reteaching/enrichment during the breaks? And, when we start school at the end of July, how is the school system going to fund the need for more air conditioning in the schools when the temperatures are much higher than the rest of the year.
Parent & KCS	As a teacher, it is hard for custodians to get our entire school clean during the summer. As a teacher I always have to go back early to set up my class. Will the cleaning schedule change and if it does would I have to tear down and put back up on one of my shorter breaks? Also, I fear that the students who truly need a break will end up having to work during the extended time. I have had my own children in honors and AP courses and they have had to work a lot over breaks, which has made it difficult to do things as a family and I fear that this will interfere with other families. As a parent of band and fall sports , we already lose most of our summer for students to be ready for the fall. I hope that the shorter summer will not make it harder for families or the sports programs. We also have family all over the country. It is already difficult to see them with the various summer breaks, but this could make it harder for us to get together.
Parent & KCS	As a teacher, many of us are concerned that there will teacher in-service during the two weeks breaks that will be mandatory or structured in a way that in order to meet the PD requirement that teachers will need to attend those sessions during the two week breaks. Another concern is that teachers will assign projects, homework, or reading during the breaks. I think the normal summer reading requirements will have to go away.
Parent & KCS	As I teacher I find their behavior is worse, not better when they know a break is coming up and it makes me have to make sure a unit wraps up right before a break even if students aren't ready for it. I change my instruction day to day based on students' needs and progress the day before but with a break coming up I would have to be more rigid and be a slave to the calendar instead of where my students are

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent & KCS	As my earlier comments indicated, I don't see the benefit in the balanced calendar. Personally I believe the negatives outweigh the positives. Another thing to consider are the children with special needs (autism for example) that have a very difficult time readjusting after a prolonged break. It is extremely unfair for them, and all the children and staff effected by their outbursts, to have to deal with more 'hard' days. In my opinion there are no real academic benefits, and therefore it is unnecessary to cause other conflicts.
Parent & KCS	Asking teachers to work more. Teachers working more just by virtue of brains not shutting off over breaks.
Parent & KCS	At this point, I am not aware of the teacher responsibilities during the balanced calendar breaks. Will there be ADDITIONAL responsibilities REQUIRED of teachers, or will additional responsibilities be VOLUNTARY? If those responsibilities are REQUIRED of teachers, how is this an advantage for them?
Parent & KCS	Athletic calendars
Parent & KCS	Athletic schedules do not align with breaks. Not fair to student in those activities that do not get the time off.
Parent & KCS	Athletics disruption....students are home alone moe....if optional, students will not choose to do enrichment
Parent & KCS	Balanced calendar claims to have more frequent breaks but instead it offers longer breaks to the breaks that we already have.
Parent & KCS	Balanced calendar tends to result in higher rates of teacher burnout and turnover due to teachers having to work longer terms in order to accommodate enrichment and intercession. Also there are less economic opportunities for low income students as they are unable to secure traditional summer employment. In addition balanced calendar results in higher cost of the school system as capital costs increase and teachers must be paid more for instruction during intercession. Maintenance of the building is more difficult and therefore more expensive. The benefits of balanced calendar are mixed at best and there is simply in my opinion, no good reason to change from a traditional calendar.
Parent & KCS	Both calendars will impact families socially and economically. Deciding if that impact is positive or negative is yet to be determined after enduring the change
Parent & KCS	Breaks provide a rest/refresh for students, however through all the discussions and questions raised, the "intercession" for intervention and enrichment, does not allow for teachers to refresh and recharge. If teachers will be working through the breaks AND only 55% of teachers are in favor of a balanced calendar, strictly from a business standpoint (which education IS a business) the balanced calendar is not worth the price, monetarily, emotionally for teachers, and educationally for students. Not enough data for me to agree.
Parent & KCS	Budgets for family, inservice timing, budget for school system in HVAC/transportation, budgets for employees that are 180 day or less contract.
Parent & KCS	Causes conflicts with summer vacationing, as more school systems move to this type of calendar vacation destinations become increasingly busy during that time.
Parent & KCS	change is scary but people will adjust
Parent & KCS	Child care centers will adapt their activities, camps, etc. to align with whatever the school system is doing. Also, high school students will be on break at the same time providing childcare opportunities. Parents do not need to find care for any more days than they already are - just different days.
Parent & KCS	Child care may be a draw back for a few but most parents work 52 weeks a year any way. On another subject school employees would have less concern for summer s with no pay.
Parent & KCS	Child care providers would likely adjust their services for a balanced calendar as well.
Parent & KCS	Childcare and summer jobs are HUGE drawbacks!!!
Parent & KCS	Childcare and summer vacations , camps for school sports
Parent & KCS	Childcare expense would increase.
Parent & KCS	Childcare issues, attending school in heat of the summer

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent & KCS	Children having increased numbers of transitions back to school can lose time in class
Parent & KCS	Coming from a county in Georgia where a balanced calendar was in place, the Daycares and After-school programs were MORE THAN HAPPY to accommodate the children that are on break. They will go with whatever Knox County decides..... they don't want to lose money and it all evens out anyway.
Parent & KCS	Concerned about how the enrichment period would look. Will be it required, who will teach my child if he is required to go, will my child have the option not to go, and will have to transport to a different school for enrichment if required to go?
Parent & KCS	Concerned about who would provide the intervention and enrichment during breaks. Would it truly be a break for both students and staff?
Parent & KCS	Conflicts with sports and extra-curricular a- those students and teachers wouldn't really get a break
Parent & KCS	Constant transitions, pace more strict to conform to fitting lessons in quarters
Parent & KCS	COST
Parent & KCS	Cost more teacher overtime WITHOUT EXTRA PAY
Parent & KCS	COST How much is this going to cost? No research shows any academic benefit to a balanced calendar. Students will NOT show up for intervention or enrichment. Lower level students need a break too.
Parent & KCS	Creates a problem for summer sports and training camps.
Parent & KCS	Currently, During each break it is difficult as a parent to get my students back into the routine of school. More breaks will add to this stress.
Parent & KCS	Daycare will have a very difficult time staffing for short time breaks. A lot of child care businesses hire college students during the summer that will not be available during these interim breaks.
Parent & KCS	Days off due to weather or other. Where do you make that time up?
Parent & KCS	Difficulty staffing childcare programs during the year due to lack of staff available.
Parent & KCS	Difficulty with sports and activities that would have to continue to operate during "intercessions." Also the cost to tax payers for additional instruction for the "intercessions" would be problematic for a school system that cannot adequately pay its teachers a competitive salary.
Parent & KCS	Disruption of intensity of the school year -- kids would be "living for breaks" -- valuable momentum is lost. We merely need a change to a full week for fall break.
Parent & KCS	Divorced vivistation, summer school to past, Part time jobs, Out of stste family visits.
Parent & KCS	Do you know how hard it is on teachers to come back from even a 4 day long weekend? It takes me days to get my kids back on track. I can't imagine if they've been gone for 10 days!!
Parent & KCS	Do you plan to offer babysitting times during these breaks or is that what additional class time during breaks represents?
Parent & KCS	Does not enhance academics and I have personally seen it have more of an opposite effect.
Parent & KCS	Don't know any.
Parent & KCS	Either way the students are not learning anything but how to take a test! These are children's lives not numbers on a testing scale. Students aren't getting any actual " learning time" it's all about testing. Ask the children. They will tell you they are being tested so much they have no desire to try to learn new things.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent & KCS	Enrichment and Assisting the struggling sounds good in theory, but can you require attendance for either? If not, then there is no point in building in time for them. Also, it seems you would be paying a lot more in transportation. Most businesses are set up for vacations along the traditional calendar. It would be very difficult for my husband to be on an opposite schedule from my son and myself. Not to mention, if I had to work intersession weeks my son was off, that would mean child care for him for a week. Not sure we could afford that. Also, as hard as we are pushing kids, they need and deserve the time off to rest and relax. As teachers, we need to the time to rest and re-group as well. Teaching is one of the most stressful jobs a person can have.
Parent & KCS	Even less of a summer break for students who are required to attend band camp and football camp.
Parent & KCS	Families may go on vacation during the breaks between school because of shorter summer. This may result in more absences close to the beginning or end of the quarters. Teachers may feel pressure to work on lesson plans, grades, and other tasks when they should be taking a break to be refreshed for students.
Parent & KCS	Family schedules are different and it would take time for all to adjust. Some families may not have the money in their budget for extra baby sitting pay. Not all children need extra help and who would teach them? Will it cost the county more money?
Parent & KCS	Fine arts and athletics may be disrupted. Difficult finding school personnel to work events and consistency with practice may be challenging to maintain with students that are unable to provide transportation for themselves
Parent & KCS	For a lot of students, it will be more stressful. Students need more time at the end of the school year to wind down after a year of constant pressure of trying to meet state guidelines in their classes.
Parent & KCS	For children that struggle with transitions, the balanced calendar would create much anxiety that would in turn effect progress in school.
Parent & KCS	For students with Autism and Asperger's Syndrome, I see those students struggling with the routine changes and breaks.
Parent & KCS	from what I was informed: it costs more money to run school during summer and there is no data that show students have a better success on a balanced calendar.
Parent & KCS	Hard for humans to change behavior patterns
Parent & KCS	High school sports continue to participate during breaks
Parent & KCS	High school sports/ band schedules
Parent & KCS	High school students will never be able to find summer employment if this is put into place. As the parent of honors students, I cannot imagine the impact of being able to take fewer courses at the high school level.
Parent & KCS	How is it to be paid for?
Parent & KCS	How would contracts work with the Ines that do not get paid during the summer now like security
Parent & KCS	How would EOC's be affected for HS students? If the state does not change the date, we already do not have a lot of time to get all material covered. A balanced calendar would reduce that by 3 more weeks.
Parent & KCS	How would it effect Special Ed kids? Some have a hard time with the transition back in to the classroom after a break
Parent & KCS	How would sports be handled? Kids will be obligated to stay and practice during seasons. Band and other activities will not get breaks due to practice for competitions.
Parent & KCS	I think that it may be difficulty to get kids to come to school if they are "officially" on break.
Parent & KCS	I also work within Knox Co schools. I have observed that long breaks (Christmas, Snow) disrupt the learning and in my particular setting students have trouble behaviorally after returning from breaks. I feel that sometimes school year disruptions are hard on some students. Breaking routine can be difficult for special needs students.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent & KCS	I am a KCS employee on a 221-day contract and have not been told how it would affect my position, as I now come back 3 weeks before teachers and stay a week later. Would this make me work year round, and if so, would I get more built in sick or vacation days?
Parent & KCS	I am a school teacher and I worry that during these "breaks," more will be required of us. There always seems to be some sort of mandatory training that occurs, so our breaks are not true breaks. My school is not open on the weekends so even I wanted to use some of my time to prepare for my students, I do not have access to my facility. Also, I am concerned about my sons and their sports schedules.
Parent & KCS	I am afraid that the county will promise interventions, but they will not occur. I am also afraid that kids who need the intervention will not be made to go the intervention.
Parent & KCS	I am concerned about child care since my daycare allows me to pull my children out when I'm off over the summer (saving us around \$1,000 each year.) With the switch, I'm worried that it will force my daycare to change their policy and that could be at an added cost to us.
Parent & KCS	I am concerned that students who need intervention will get less and less of a "break"....
Parent & KCS	I am concerned that teachers will have to work during intercession time and then I will be forced to find childcare for my children during breaks.
Parent & KCS	I am not convinced by the assertion that classroom behavior would benefit because students know they have a break coming up.
Parent & KCS	I believe a balanced calendar would be optimal for middle and high school students. The primary grades (K-2), I feel have a harder time getting back to a routine and settling in after extended breaks.
Parent & KCS	I believe that daycare centers would adjust their pricing and availability to the school system as they are in the business to make money and to offer childcare services. Thus, the issue of lack of daycare is a moot point in my opinion.
Parent & KCS	I believe that if a balanced calendar does come to Knox County that the child care facilities and such would work out their schedules. Shorter summer break I think is all well and good not every family has the ability to spend whole summer with their child.
Parent & KCS	I believe that the learning loss that would occur with the more frequent breaks would offset any benefits from a shorter summer break.
Parent & KCS	I believe that there will be loss of learning during the 10 day breaks. Also, on the high school schedule, quarterly breaks will disrupt units of study. The length of a unit is not determined by the calendar, and therefore the completion of units may come at awkward times, such as after a break.
Parent & KCS	I believe the 45-10 model would minimize drawbacks over the 45-15
Parent & KCS	I believe the programs and camps that run in the summer would make themselves available during the 2 week breaks. Surrounding private schools, day care centers will follow the KCS schedule.
Parent & KCS	I can see a loss of jobs in the community for people who provide traditional child care services
Parent & KCS	I can't think of any.
Parent & KCS	I coach and have summer camp for sport. Not willing to sacrifice a full week with my own kids to coach others.
Parent & KCS	I do not feel that child care will be an issue. I believe the child care providers in Knox County will adjust their schedules to the KCS schedule similar to what those in Alcoa and Marrayville have done.
Parent & KCS	I do not feel that these drawbacks counter the positives of the balanced calendar.
Parent & KCS	I do not think making summer break just a couple weeks shorter will lead to less content retention. After a week or a weekend, students already have forgotten material. Also, I want to make sure staff is not working more with less pay. How will you pay for teachers to provide tutoring during the breaks?

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent & KCS	I do not think you are considering summer parental custostian demands. What about summer camps or student internships? This calendar does not seem to have any backing country wide. So I am curious again why you would consider it?
Parent & KCS	I do teach at an elementary school in the district that has received a grant so all children will receive free breakfast and lunch. I think the district needs to think about our at risk students and how longer intercessions might affect these kids who get free lunch as well as child care issues for struggling families where the parents have to work.
Parent & KCS	I don't know why we aren't talking about the money, we have technology labs sitting unused because no money for a teacher, outdated textbooks, oversized classrooms, and there is nothing proven that the children will benefit academically from this, yet this is the reason I was told we were doing this...We were given the analogy, at one of the meetings that I attended of building a skyscraper, and we wanted the best so how would we build it on the inside... I'm sorry but we have no business building a skyscraper when we can't afford to furnish it in the first place.I am a mother as well as having a job with the school system, the children have to have a review after every break anyways, it takes a good week to a week and a half to settle them back into routine. If we are worried about a loss of learning why do we have block scheduling at high school level, my nephew went a year without any mathematics due to block scheduling. A lot of parents like to teach valuable life lessons, having their child work summer jobs, not to mention some people NEED their chil to, so they can pay their own car insurance, what about all the money it is going to cost people to have to change the wording on parenting plans, the way childcare situations will have to be worked out, what about bus maintenance, air conditioning in the schools(the cost) there are so many more cons than pros that I see, I don't like the way I feel my tax dollars are being wasted on an experiment (as that's what I feel this is) that could be better utilized in needs we have now! Thank you
Parent & KCS	I don't think a balanced calendar would work for a system as large as Knox County.
Parent & KCS	I find in my own family that the first week after a long break is very difficult their behavior is not ideal, they seem to drag their feet with every activity. I don't see how having more weeks like that would be beneficial.
Parent & KCS	I guess I would be ok with it as long as the entire county is on the same plan.
Parent & KCS	I hope they can change this.
Parent & KCS	i just think there is not enough answers to implement this. Like where are all the childcare places going to put all these kids when parents can't take off work. Also, we saw from the two weeks of snow how hard it was to fall back into a routine. We would be doing this all the time.
Parent & KCS	I ould hate to see the balanced calendar as a way to enforce more inservice, remediation, make up work, etc on students and teachers.
Parent & KCS	I personally don't that much of a difference during the summer. 12 days.....that is not a big deal. If people truly pay attention, there are more days off with the Balanced Calendar. There are many benefits to it, but none of what you mentioned previously is going to change.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent & KCS	I stated this on the other page. The balance calendar is not cost effective too many unknowns and for nothing proven to be helpful. The cost of electricity will rise during summer months that children spend in school. That is money that could be used for other needs in classrooms. The buses will cost extra money to run during the hot summer months due to keeping air conditioning running properly for children and fuel for buses to stay running every day till children board buses. Also the employees will receive less pay due to the fact that the money will be stretched through out the year due to breaks. A lot of people will suffer for the less pay. Parents who already deal with custodial issues will suffer more due to the balanced calendar because they will be sending their children back and forth more which disrupts learning more. Also the extra cost of child care will also put a tremendous strain on parents who are already struggling. I do not see how balance calendar will benefit our students and their families. If anything it will add more stress to our childrens lives and the families of the children. I believe we should not do balance calendar. It is not cost effective and it disrupts families lives
Parent & KCS	I think actually it is easier to find child care for two week periods compared to 10 consecutive weeks during the summer. Easier for grandparents and other relatives who help with childcare
Parent & KCS	I think all bases of potential drawbacks, have been covered.
Parent & KCS	I think any summertime activity or vacation can be fitted to work with a balanced calendar. Daycare and other summer sports or activity programs will work around that schedule. Besides most programs, other than specific summer programs, continue throughout the year anyway. I don't believe there will be any drawbacks once everyone buys into the program.
Parent & KCS	I think everyone, meaning families, child care businesses, and summer jobs) will adjust for the most part. The only thing I really think that will be hurt will be community swimming pools. The expense of maintaining them cannot be recouped by only having them open only on weekends once school is in session.
Parent & KCS	I think it will take time for some families to adjust, but i think in the end it will be beneficial. I feel some families will not like the shorter summer due to family vacations. We are one of them, we love to take a late vacation. But, then again, we will all have to adjust.
Parent & KCS	I think it's going to create more problems than it solves. Once students have missed a week, there's a loss of learning. The summer will still be long enough to experience a summer slide, and longer gaps would be now be all during the year for more loss to occur. The intervention and enrichment groups sound like a nice idea, but those that need it the most typically don't attend. I've read a bunch of research from other districts that have tried it and are experiencing little to no impact on students' retention of skills. So, why create a change that will cost the district more money that has shown in the past to not make a significant enough impact in other places? Any available money should go toward technology.
Parent & KCS	I think making the struggling student attend intervention is not a good idea. They already feel inadequate and they will feel even worse to be made to go to school when others are off. Just a injustice to them
Parent & KCS	I think that it would be a period of adjustment for families, businesses, students, teachers, and the community, but I think (just like everything else) we would all adapt.
Parent & KCS	I think the child care issue will improve with time. The care facilities will adjust to the school calendar. Hopefully, the school system will be able to help accommodate parents who need to provide care for their children. This may be a discussion for the school board to have.
Parent & KCS	I think the childcare industry will adjust to the change in the school calendar, so I dont see childcare as a problem. It would be the same amount of time off, so whatever parents do with their kids in the summer is what they need to do with them when we are on break throughout the year.
Parent & KCS	I think the drawbacks are so many and are only partially covered in the six questions above.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent & KCS	I think younger kids would seem less structured and lack of focus. However, middle and high school students can understand the structure more and focus as necessary. Childcare is beyond a major drawback!!
Parent & KCS	I typically work only during the school year and not during the summer. If i had to find daycare during the extended year breaks i would loose money.
Parent & KCS	I understand the different situations that the shorter summer will affect, but I also know that my elementary and middle school kids get BORED after about 6 weeks of summer. I also feel like the child care systems will adjust (whether they like it or not...), and it may even be better for parents who have to get child care to split it up over the year instead of paying out so much over the summer.
Parent & KCS	I worry that the math and ELA teachers will be "expected" to work the intersessions for less than regular salary. If teachers are teaching they deserve their same daily wage.
Parent & KCS	I would not like for my child to be forced to attend school during breaks for intervention. It is not going to create a break for the student or teacher if they are made to attend. Optional/voluntary sessions would be fine.
Parent & KCS	I would not use the time off for intervention and additional exposure to content. Especially the weaker students need a break, so let breaks be for rest and recharging, not more drill.
Parent & KCS	If a student requires additional help during a break: 1. What if child doesn't have transportation to and from school. 2. Is low income and require free lunch 3. How long is the school day 4. Who will be teaching these classes 5. What if the child doesn't want to attend during a break
Parent & KCS	If it was a true break, that is fine. However, I am a teacher, and I know teachers will assign homework and projects over the breaks. Sports teams would have to continue practice over the breaks. This ends up meaning NO BREAKS because as a family, you can't really go anywhere because of homework projects or practices. The only way this could be successful is if teachers were not allowed to give work over the break, and it was a true break. AND if sports teams were not allowed to practice over the break, and that was a true break. Getting everyone on board with this idea may be impossible, but if breaks were REAL breaks, I would be all for it. As a teacher, I do not want to have to work over these breaks. In the summer time, I am really on break. Please keep this in mind.
Parent & KCS	If teacher inservice days were mandatory during these breaks this could be a drawback. If the inservice opportunities were there, but purely voluntary, I feel that this would be the best option.
Parent & KCS	If teacher inservice is held during the breaks I am 100% against it. This will mean that teachers will not have the opportunity to go on vacations with their families. Inservice should be held on a day after the grading period or one that will fit into the school time.
Parent & KCS	If the breaks are not true breaks, but rather times for intermittent intervention and/or enrichment, then it is not a balanced calendar. Furthermore, intermittent intervention and/or enrichment is not what students need. They need consistent quality teaching in smaller sized classes without lots of distractions.
Parent & KCS	If the goal is to provide intervention during this time, it would have to be mandatory. Otherwise it would receive the same participation and have the same impact as summer school.
Parent & KCS	If the purpose of the breaks is to have a break, students and teacher don't need to be doing intervention! It's should be a break for everyone!
Parent & KCS	If the teachers are required to work/inservice, it is not a break for them.
Parent & KCS	If we do this, it needs to be K-12.
Parent & KCS	If we look at what is good for students this is a step in the right direction
Parent & KCS	If your child plays sports that schedule will not change so family vacations can't happen during breaks.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent & KCS	I'm just concerned about staffing the interventions and enrichment weeks. I'm not sure how readily teachers would volunteer for this? Or how they would be chosen if many are interested? I just see staffing as a big problem.
Parent & KCS	In other areas that have implemented the balanced calendar, parents were face with increased childcare expenses. Also, unattended students (middle and high school age) had a greater opportunity to get into mischief throughout the year than they would have...had they been in school. (alcohol/drug issues, teen pregnancies, etc.) Typical issues when teens are left unattended and unsupervised.
Parent & KCS	Increase in pay????
Parent & KCS	Increased cost to provide transportation for kids needing intervention during breaks
Parent & KCS	Increased cost. Lack and necessity of additional funding.
Parent & KCS	Intercessions if not made mandatory will be poorly attended. Who pays teachers for time during intercession? How will we determine which t a hers are chosen? The ones who "volunteer" may not be the most effective.
Parent & KCS	Interfering with traveling sports teams.
Parent & KCS	It is always difficult for children to go back to school after a break. I have experience with this as a teacher and as a parent of 2 children in Knox County Schools. The more frequent disruptions in routine are very difficult for my young children and students. From a data standpoint, approximately half of my class went down on their STAR test scores after missing 2 weeks for inclement weather. I know that's a little different since it was unplanned, but it was still alarming to me. We have to spend a lot of time as teachers getting kids back in their routine. Students lose some over the summer, but they also lose instruction time when they've been out for 2 weeks and we have to go back over routines for several days. I can only speak as a teacher of young students (Kindergarten), and it may be easier for older students to get back in their routine, but in K it can be a struggle even after our very short Fall break. It would also be a struggle for my family because we have college students in the family. Our schedules are at least somewhat similar right now, and my children are able to spend time with their family members more than what we would be able to on a balanced calendar, since, as far as I know, colleges would not be taking this same approach. Finally, my husband is able to get more work over the summer since he has open availability, which he doesn't have in the school year because we only have one car, so it would cost us some hours at his job for the summer.
Parent & KCS	It will be more difficult and cause more disruptions on single parent homes and split families.
Parent & KCS	It will be more difficult to take courses for extended learning.
Parent & KCS	It will be quite expensive to enact a balanced calendar. KCS is strapped for money as it is.
Parent & KCS	It will cost the county a great deal of money to run a "balanced calendar". Where is the money going to come from to pay for teachers/administrators/etc.when they provide the intervention and enrichment classes?
Parent & KCS	It will cost the school system more money in the long run. The staff will have to be paid to work extra days to fulfill the intervention/enrichment programs. The longer breaks with intervention/enrichment will turn out to be babysitting for the Elementary and Middle Schools.
Parent & KCS	It would also offer the opportunity to take advantage of "off-season" rates and activities. Outside child-care would adapt to the new calendar as a matter of necessity.
Parent & KCS	It would kill athletics at the high school level. As a coach I would not "get" the time off like other teachers, and would not be compensated for my time. This after we got 2% taken away already and not gotten it back.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent & KCS	It's a challenge enough to get the kids into school mode after a weekend. Getting them back on track after a 10 day break would be worse. In addition, the kids who need the breaks the most would not receive them because they would be in "enrichment." It creates a bigger divide between the "haves" and the "have-nots." You are also putting more work on teachers who would have to teach intervention classes. If the kids aren't doing well in their regular classes due to motivational issues, you have just put them into more school, causing them to hate school and learning even more.
Parent & KCS	It's going to cost more in air conditioning which means we won't do it. There is a reason summer break is summer break. Agricultural communities and the heat in the buildings in the late summer months.
Parent & KCS	Its time for a change!! Kids do not need to be out that long in the summer they get bored also!
Parent & KCS	K-2will have adjustment issues
Parent & KCS	KCS would increase the over head costs of all the facilities to an already short fall budget. Thus eliminating compensation increases for more years. Result.....loose quality staffing to other districts. Safety of children in the excellerated gym heat over 100 index, due to KCS gyms without air condition Eliminating high school students to work over 40 hours to earn collegiate monies.
Parent & KCS	Kids on VERY HOT school buses
Parent & KCS	Knox County cannot afford this financially. The cost of running the air conditioners alone in the summer will be huge. We are too big a system for this to work successfully. This will create a nightmare for childcare, summer jobs, and sports/cheerleading/dance/band that use the summer break to strengthen their teams.
Parent & KCS	Knox County Schools calendar would not match University of TN Summer Session schedule for teachers who need to take college-level courses over the summer.
Parent & KCS	learning loss during 10-day breaks
Parent & KCS	Less aligned with University of a Tennessee schedule for adult employees who wish to take Summer Session courses at UT.
Parent & KCS	less summer family time.....fewer summer camps.....hard for student jobs.....more students will go to school during the breaks for remedial or enrichment work because the school system is likely to offer this ONLY during the time off.
Parent & KCS	Less time for Governor's School and college enrichment programs--less opportunity for job shadowing and work based learning--summer camp
Parent & KCS	less time for internships for high schoolers
Parent & KCS	Longer breaks would be nice, I am concerned that some children would be placed in school year round with no breaks and would suffer burn out by grade 3. A limit would need to be placed upon required breaks for students at some point. School climates are not appropriate for total parenting and majority influence for waking hour interactions.
Parent & KCS	Lower achieving students will be requested to lose their break to get additional help which will cause them to not like nor perform better In this system. The lower school and student will feel they are being punished.
Parent & KCS	Making teachers attend inservice during the breaks.
Parent & KCS	Making the school year seem longer. Less time for summer activities such as swim team, tennis team, etc. Cost of air conditioning during extra summertime days. Cost of tutoring/help during longer breaks. Less money to be earned in the summer. Less time for work experience during the summer.
Parent & KCS	Many families depend on their teenager to get summer jobs. Noone will hire you for a short amount of time. Do you really think a child who needs intervention is going to get caught up in a week or two? Really!!
Parent & KCS	Many families that are unable to secure childcare will often leave their children unattended while they are at work. Idle hands.....

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent & KCS	Many of our students need to hold summer jobs. This is a great way to teach them responsibility. Why would we even consider something that takes this away from them? Some of our high school students want to complete internships. My some has an internship in another state and will not be able to complete this if we take his summer break away from him. The issue with internships has not even been addressed by Knox County school officials. I must ask: Do they even care? It seems this is not important to them. It is however, very important when high school students apply to college and attempt to gain employment. I have worked in child care, so I have a huge concern for parent who will have to pay for an entire month of care just to have their child taken care of for those two weeks. Most child care centers will have to charge at least one months tuition for those two weeks just to make ends meet. Otherwise, they will not be able to provide care during those two week breaks. Most families cannot take two weeks off to care for the younger students in our county. I am also concerned with the frequent routine changes for these younger children. This often causes much stress for a younger student. This may cause difficulty with their adjustment to a classroom leaning environment rather than a day-care environment.
Parent & KCS	Many students are without proper home care during breaks. Could increase anxiety in students and be counter productive. Could also cause burn-out.
Parent & KCS	Market power will shift the daycare providers to adjust. There may be some short term growing pains. There may be more frequent transitions, but my experience suggests that they are less profound transitions.
Parent & KCS	More expensive for the school system-therefore the taxpayers.
Parent & KCS	My children play competitive sports and it will be very difficult for my child to go to the college id camps that are nation wide in the summer with the balanced calendar. I do not support this change.
Parent & KCS	My children would not benefit. This is just a way for the school system to get more tax dollars! I think the school board wants more money for activities they already receive funding to implement.
Parent & KCS	My only concern is for the students who aren't afforded meals at home..
Parent & KCS	My only concern would be extra curricular activities. My kids will not be in town during the breaks. They would miss anything that is going on during that time. Also, my kids are in elementary school. When they reach high school what will it do to their graduation dates and college transitions?
Parent & KCS	My parents are Elderly.... I spend my summers with them to help care for them !!
Parent & KCS	Need to compensate staff that would be involved in any intervention period (assuming that would during one of the two week breaks?)
Parent & KCS	Ness up our summer break! It's nice to have 60 days off in order to get something accomplished during the summer.
Parent & KCS	NO DRAW BACK as caregivers of children in school would know in advance how to adjust calendars, daycare, etc.
Parent & KCS	No drawbacks!
Parent & KCS	No information about other holidays through the year-if those are or could be worked into breaks. No information who would be working those extra "help" days during breaks(not just teachers but other staff such as secretaries, nurses, etc... No information if those extra days are mandatory or volunteer.
Parent & KCS	No potential drawbacks, childcare providers schedules will adjust to the school calendar.
Parent & KCS	No transportation for those kids who are involved with extra curricular activities (during breaks). Several activities continue during those times (band, sports, etc.).
Parent & KCS	None
Parent & KCS	None
Parent & KCS	None
Parent & KCS	None

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent & KCS	None!
Parent & KCS	None, I love it.
Parent & KCS	not a drawback for daycare the day cares will adjust for the community
Parent & KCS	Not a drawback, but day cares WILL adapt to the calendar.
Parent & KCS	Not matching calendars of friends and family in other counties for family vacations and activities
Parent & KCS	Of course there would be an adjustment period of time. Perhaps more than one calendar year cycle. But if the entire system is engaged in the new calendar model, the community will make comparable adjustments.
Parent & KCS	One of my concerns is that if we are going to provide enrichment/remediation during interim breaks, where is the funding going to come from to provide those services to students. Currently we are not providing enrichment for all kids.
Parent & KCS	operational costs for a balanced calendar, family vacation trips, summer jobs of students and teachers, less time for students to experience success outside of school, and with staff committed to meetings/inservices/interventions there would seem to be no real break.
Parent & KCS	Opportunity to improve income which is neither equivalent to nor representative of time spent working, preparing, and planning for profession or indicative of qualifications.
Parent & KCS	Parents finding child care, and the possibility that teachers who have summer jobs that are important for their families income will become obsolete.
Parent & KCS	Parents tend to have to pay more money out for programs to send their children to. Many after school programs in another county claimed that it was costly to staff their programs during these times.
Parent & KCS	Parents were posting on all the news sites about the difficulty of finding childcare during our snow days this year. They are going to be equally, if not more, frustrated with the balanced calendar having to deal with this three times a year.
Parent & KCS	Parents will use the "enrichment" time not as intended for learning, but as a free "baby-sitting" time .
Parent & KCS	Pay disruption for hourly KCS employees.
Parent & KCS	paying for more meals, increase in childcare fees, expense for other classes on break, transportation
Parent & KCS	people like single parents and grandparents can't afford child care now and all this means is that the children will be in day CARE LONGER and cost more HOWS THAT HELP ????
Parent & KCS	People living or working in other districts makes it very hard to have Knox on a separate calendar. I don't believe that you think about the logistics of actually having kids come on breaks and if you do that it negates the positive arguments. If you have them there over the break they might as well be in school.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent & KCS	<p>People who already have custodial issues with children it would make it harder for them due to the fact that they would have to send them back and forth more frequently to and from school, it would effect people's parent plans that are set up with the courts. Some parents would have to modify parent plans for divorced families and this creates stress for our children who are already having to readjust to the life of being passed back and forth from mom and dad. It would make learning more difficult for these children. The balanced calendar would negatively affect the pay that our food service employees receive. Even if the pay was extended through out the 12 months it would not help our employees because extending pay would be less amount per biweekly check then it is now. This lower pay due to stretching it through out the year would cause financial hardship and in return it will be hard for the school system to keep and find good workers to help in the cafeteria to take care of our students lunches everyday. If pay were increased it will also affect other needs that could be met for our schools. Another concern is that during the hot spring and summer months there would be a lot more money spent running air conditioning for the schools and keeping our buses in good running order and keeping them cool for the kids would be an extra cost , and in return it would take more money away that is needed for our schools. An example is that at our school we need a computer teacher, however due to lack of funding we are not receiving a new computer teacher and that is not fair to our students. If we spend more money during the hot months of the year it takes away from much needed help in the classrooms. Also as a parent and as other single moms struggle in todays world the cost of childcare is very difficult to afford. It will cost these parents more money for children who are out of school for those two week breaks. It would be very hard for these parents to survive. It also affects the ability for students to have summer jobs. I believe it is a positive learning experience for students to be able to work during the summer and this would be taking away if there is a balanced calendar. It also takes away summer vacation from the students. Families that are working constantly and don't get breaks often except for once a year this is the only time that most families can take a vacation. Since most employers expect a six month to a year notice for vacation time, and during the summer is the only time they can do this. The new calendar would disrupt vacation time. Also students who participate in sports during summer break would no longer be able to do so with the new balanced calendar. I went to a balanced calendar meeting and I was very disappointed. I had many questions and no one could answer any of them. The things that I have listed above no one had answers for therefore if the school system can not answer questions on the balanced calendar and do not know what they are going to do then how would the new calendar even work? If you are going to change something you have to have a plan and answers for the parents who send their children to school. The school system needs to answer parents questions because it affects the</p>
Parent & KCS	People who own time shares at a designated time of year would possibly have to sell. This could cause a financial burden
Parent & KCS	People will adjust to it like any other change.
Parent & KCS	People will adjust. Some people don't like change-no matter whether it is good or bad. People will schedule vacations differently-not just at summer. I would think a vacation scheduled "off season" would be cheaper.
Parent & KCS	planning family trips with other students not in KCS
Parent & KCS	Prefer being able to do other things with the family when weather is warm than in winter and during fall.
Parent & KCS	Preset vacations that are time shares will be affected.
Parent & KCS	Problems in coordinating sports, music, academic competitions with state and schools on traditional calendar. What happens to spring break period if excessive snow days? The use of time for intervention or enrichment takes away from break/family time, so would people use it?
Parent & KCS	Problems scheduling band camp and attending fall ball games during off weeks.
Parent & KCS	Problems with timelines regarding special education IEP's and evaluations.
Parent & KCS	Providing a better education for our children is not about childcare.
Parent & KCS	Re child care: any child care within the system would adjust making that easier.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent & KCS	Redisciplining students after long breaks during the school year - on the teacher end. Memory loss during the long breaks - with traditional, there are less breaks so less memory loss. Struggling students and low socioeconomic students will have more time home during the year. Will boys and girls club open during the longer breaks. Who will watch these students?
Parent & KCS	Remediation during breaks will seem like punishment for students. The teachers that must provide the remediation will also see it as punishment.
Parent & KCS	Research shows that there are NO DEMONSTRATED ACADEMIC BENEFITS to the implementation of this calendar. This calendar is NOT revenue neutral...actually, it will cost several million dollars. We don't have enough money in our budget as it is, so where is the money going to come from? With no academic benefits and no money to implement the intersessions, we should not even be discussing this.
Parent & KCS	restart of procedures after students return every time, resulting in less learning time than we have now.
Parent & KCS	re-working of custody agreements for divorced couples
Parent & KCS	School is only one facet of the learning process. Children need time in museums, camps, and with family. Just because some choose not to be parents do not punish everyone.
Parent & KCS	School related camps (like band and sports) already take a big slice of summer. With a shorter summer, the camps would have to be cut and that would harm the activity's preparation for a new season. If the camps were not cut, there would be no time for other summer activities.
Parent & KCS	Scientific studies have been mixed and there is no definite proof that it increases student learning.
Parent & KCS	See earlier comments
Parent & KCS	short summer,hot going back to school,no time for vacaction,childcare etc.
Parent & KCS	Shorter summer
Parent & KCS	Shorter summers means that attendance will be down at the beginning of school, a time when students cannot miss or they fall behind. Parents take vacations and disregard the fact that their child is falling behind. Also, after returning from a break, students are less motivated and it takes a day or two to snap back into the routine of going to school. You lose at least a day or two of instruction after the breaks because most students are not motivated to do anything. They are in the routine of being lazy, and that routine is hard to break.
Parent & KCS	Snow days are going to have a higher impact on academic performance. If days are simply lost during a term (not made up), the students receive less preparation for their EOCs
Parent & KCS	Some families attend church and are involved in other activities in other counties during the summer. The shorter break would cause our children to miss some of these activities which they really enjoy
Parent & KCS	Sports practices and competitions will be on a traditional calendar. Thereby prohibiting the scheduling of family trips and vacations during the breaks. Competitions in band, drama, choral activities will be scheduled on a traditional calendar, again prohibiting family trips/vacations during the breaks during the school year. As a retired educator of 35 years, I do not see any positive effect by cutting the summer break from 55 to 43 days in terms of student behavior nor lessening summer learning loss.
Parent & KCS	student athletes, cheerleaders, dance team members, band students, coaches, directors, and families would lose any benefit of the longer fall break due to tssaa schedule
Parent & KCS	Student behavior is more disruptive due to loss of routine. Exams for high school level AP students would be too early before the end of their course.No recent research that students scores increase

Potential Drawbacks Comments

<p>How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?</p>	<p>Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.</p>
<p>Parent & KCS</p>	<p>-Student burnout -Because a feature of any balanced calendar discussion is the opportunity to offer remediation to struggling students, I think burnout for these students is a serious concern as they would not get to take advantage of the longer breaks since they would be in remediation. 2- Unbalanced work-life - I think this burnout may extend to other students as well since teachers are quite likely to give projects, papers etc. over the intersession breaks. A healthy work-life balance is proven to improve productivity and I think there is great danger that this will simply become a much longer school year with kids spending their breaks completing school work. 3-Administrator burnout - administrators will not have the opportunities for breaks that they currently have. 4-Increase cost - paying additional salaries to maintenance, custodial staffs and to teachers who will be providing intersession teaching. 5-Research indicates to very little to no improvement in academic performance in systems using balanced calendar. The positive impact is seen most in lower SES and inner city schools where students may not have opportunities for enrichment activities if not offered by the school. Giving ineffective teachers a different schedule does not make them more effective & effective teachers are able to have an impact in the current calendar.</p>
<p>Parent & KCS</p>	<p>Student retention will be less with a 2 week break. During the 2 week snow break this year the students seem to forget everything they had learned prior to the snow. The students who currently struggle will not attend school during the 2 week break, the only reason they attend school now is because of truancy laws, and you will not be able to get them to attend.</p>
<p>Parent & KCS</p>	<p>Students in high school who play on athletic teams, band, cheerleading, etc would not be able to take advantage of the longer in school breaks because the athletic calendars would not change. They would still have to attend practices and games, therefore they would not get a break. Teachers already assign projects over fall and spring break so I believe they would assign longer projects due to a longer time away from class. Therefore again, Honors students would not receive a break. Any change in our local calendar has the potential to disrupt state activities for students such as Boys State, Girls State, and Governor's School. Any time there is a break, even a short one it disrupts sleeping schedules and routines established for school. It seems more frequent breaks would keep things in a state of disarray.</p>
<p>Parent & KCS</p>	<p>Students involved in travel team sports may have greater absenteeism as tournaments are often scheduled in the summer beginning on Fridays. It may be more difficult for teachers to teach all curriculum before AP exams. At the high school level, sport and band competition schedules as well as practice.</p>
<p>Parent & KCS</p>	<p>Students on free or reduced lunch may need additional food provided through a backpack buddies type of program on the longer Fall and Spring breaks or have the option of eating at school if they are in one of the enrichment or intervention programs.</p>
<p>Parent & KCS</p>	<p>Students take time to prepare for breaks and to re-enter the mode of learning. With longer breaks during the school year there will be more instructional days loss to student attitude.</p>
<p>Parent & KCS</p>	<p>Students that are involved in year-round sports (travel teams) may have more conflicts as tournaments are scheduled around a traditional calendar.</p>
<p>Parent & KCS</p>	<p>Students typically "check out" whenever they know a break is coming. This makes teaching more difficult. What happens when mother nature gives you a 2 week snow break in the middle of a quarter? If it happens close to the end or beginning of a quarter, you've missed a month of school. Lots of re teaching has to be done. What's the plan for that?</p>
<p>Parent & KCS</p>	<p>Students who have split parental custody and the non custodial parent lives out of state have less time together.</p>
<p>Parent & KCS</p>	<p>Students will be taking the State EOC test in the first week of May, not at the end of the course. They should change the name of the test to State MOC test (State Middle of Course Test).</p>

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent & KCS	Studies indicate that Balanced Calendar results in higher teacher turnover as well as increased capital costs (buildings are used to full capacity during the entire year). Also there is no evidence that balanced calendar shows any improvement in student performance past the first few grades of school.
Parent & KCS	Summer camps could be more difficult to staff since the University system, where many summer camp counselors are hired from, is on a traditional calendar.
Parent & KCS	Summer jobs for teachers seeking extra pay seems to be a primary concern among many staff members. Are creative solutions to this challenge represented in other districts using a balanced calendar. Perhaps these could be offered to illustrate how summer jobs could work.
Parent & KCS	Summer swimming
Parent & KCS	Taxpayer expense to pay for extended teacher contracts!
Parent & KCS	Teacher contracts would be something to consider
Parent & KCS	Teachers may not recognize the breaks as true breaks for the upper level students. The breaks need to be true breaks for those students who do not need remediation not extended time for a lengthy project in classes.
Parent & KCS	Teachers still work over those breaks so those breaks aren't beneficial for teachers at all. You will have a higher burnout rate.
Parent & KCS	Teachers would assign homework or projects on breaks.
Parent & KCS	Teachers would have to spend most of their break teaching
Parent & KCS	The 43 day summer break model is only 12 days shorter than our current traditional model, so the summer concerns and adjustments would be minimal. The drawbacks would be more of an issue with the 30 day summer model, but with the 43 Summer model that was presented with this survey, the challenges and adjustments would not be very difficult. Once the transitions are made child care providers would make the same adjustments, just as they do during summer and our current breaks with the traditional calendar.
Parent & KCS	The balanced calendar would make it very difficult for students to participate in (swim teams, marching bands, football camps ect.) Also the balanced calendar would prevent many students from working summer jobs or taking summer internships. I am concerned about how the balanced calendar will effect teacher interns, occupational therapy and physical therapy interns...their university will not be following the balanced calendar. I am VERY CONCERNED about students that would be in " intersection " for extra help. That group of students would not get the "break" to recover and rest.
Parent & KCS	The change seems very minimal. People in general are resistant to change even if it is a great change. I think the drawback is helping the community in general feel good about the change.
Parent & KCS	The cost of implementation.
Parent & KCS	The Daycare providers would have to hire employees (which are typically college students) that can work during the breaks. This would limit their availability which could cause the quality of the work force to go down because the good workers will be taking classes at that time.
Parent & KCS	The main objective for all of this should what is best for the students' education. Businesses and families will adjust just like they have with traditional schedules.
Parent & KCS	The only drawback I see is if only a few schools participate in the schedule. It needs to be system wide.
Parent & KCS	The parents that have to make arrangements for childcare witch has been mentioned !

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent & KCS	The proposed balanced calendar would not create as many drawbacks as some of the other models would create. I can see high school sports being affected in the fall as well as practices. Students are also going to have difficulty maintaining summer jobs. I am also concerned about the manner in which staff will be required to work on the breaks, and if additional pay will be provided for staff where in the budget will that money be generated. I also see a "zombie" effect when my students return from breaks that takes a few days to overcome. I see this being a continuing problem as the breaks get longer. This may provide slumps within the year that would affect testing and progress.
Parent & KCS	The school I teach at already has high attendance problems. Change is usually always difficulty. Superintendent should not make it mandatory for teachers to teach and/or reteach on weeks off.
Parent & KCS	The students don't seem to handle a two week break very well. After two weeks, they need to go through readjustment back to school and the school routine. This doesn't seem to be an issue with one week breaks.
Parent & KCS	The Summer Break is a wonderful opportunity for families to spend quality time together. I feel a balanced calendar takes those opportunities away from families.
Parent & KCS	The summer break is currently approximately 70 days long. Not 55 days as the model showed. Summer break would be drastically reduced.
Parent & KCS	The transition issue is a big one for the many children who suffer from autism.
Parent & KCS	The transition time is difficult for many of the children, especially those with certain disabilities. I think this will cause significant child care problems too. Also staff will not get to rest over the summer.
Parent & KCS	The transitions students have to adjust to between break and school are very difficult.
Parent & KCS	The unknown schedule for 221 contract workers that have students.
Parent & KCS	The way these questions are asked don't really make any sense to me. Yes, there will be a shorter summer.....why even ask???????
Parent & KCS	The whole community, including child care centers would have to "buy-in" to this calendar. Day care centers would have to let children go to daycare for these two week breaks.
Parent & KCS	There is a disconnect from academics prior to any break along with a time needed for refocusing after each break.
Parent & KCS	There is some speculation that some students and teachers would not have the breaks because of the need for interventions and/or enrichment.
Parent & KCS	This also sounds like teachers would in some way be forced to work during breaks as they are currently forced to spend much of their "off contract" hours doing school work and professional development. I am concerned that already overworked teachers will become even more overwhelmed and therefore less effective if they incur extra duties due to a balanced calendar.
Parent & KCS	This calendar has worked in Knox County so why must we change it?! If it isn't broke- why fix it?!
Parent & KCS	This isn't really a drawback but, the first couple of years may be difficult to transition. However, if the climate changes, so will the environment. Daycares will adjust their schedules to meet the demand rather than go out of business.
Parent & KCS	This model is more costly to the school systems. Coaches would be less likely to want to donate extra time to work with athletes, and athletes would have a difficult time keeping up with their sports schedules. Teachers and other stakeholders would not be as willing to donate their extra time to aid those students who need help due to fatigue and adjustment issues themselves.
Parent & KCS	This will cost millions of dollars to implement. WHY would you send out a survey without providing any ACTUAL DATA on which to base opinions.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent & KCS	This would depend on how much teachers are expected to be in charge of the intervention. Would the intervention be extra money? I see no need to put my child in daycare for four extra weeks a year because of a calendar change.
Parent & KCS	This would impact when my children go to camps during the summer. We would be in school when our camp is going on. How would we be able to continue with camp? The camp is not located in Knox County and would not change its calendar based on one school district's change of calendar. How would this affect band camp and football games? How would this affect softball games?
Parent & KCS	Those students who do not have someone to care for them at home will be at-risk. The students who need to work during the summer to provide for their families basic needs will not be able to find random 2-3 week long jobs. Many families, including any school staff required to work during the breaks, simply cannot afford childcare for 2-3 weeks. Instead, they rely on family who can make arrangements for the length of the traditional summer to care for them. It will be very disruptive to family's schedules. It will prevent students from participating in things like summer camps, mission trips, & time with extended family that is available during the summer.
Parent & KCS	Time fixes most of these. We can relearn a new routine. It just hurts a little at first.
Parent & KCS	Too disruptive in regular school transitioning-must do it 4 times, instead of once
Parent & KCS	Too many to count. See how it worked out for blount co. What's it say??? Hmmmm..... Doing the same thing over and over expecting different results is insanity. I think Eistien is smarter than you.
Parent & KCS	Troubled kids, behavior problems, strugglers are all going to be all of those things no matter which 180 days they are in school. After the past 2 winters with two weeks off occurring multiple times, I HATED having to transition my students and my own child back into "school" mode so much. As a teacher, it was hard on me too!
Parent & KCS	vacations
Parent & KCS	We already have so many breaks scattered throughout the year that I don't feel it would be any harder for students to adjust. I think it would probably be easier not to have so many interruptions and short weeks.
Parent & KCS	we are a school with extended days and already go back ten days before everyone else... our summers will suffer the most and will cause a bigger turn over at our school And our students behavior will not improve.
Parent & KCS	We need summer jobs to add to our income
Parent & KCS	What happens if winter is severe and several school days are missed during winter term? Are "snow" days still used? Or, are days made up during spring break time? Or what? I have not seen this aspect discussed.
Parent & KCS	What if we use a lot of snow days, followed by the long Spring Break and then have Good Friday off? That is a lot of time off to make-up and cover a lot of material prior to TCAPS, EOC and Final Exams. What if the local preschools, private schools and colleges are not on the same calendar as KCS? This will cause a lot of family scheduling problems during the breaks, etc. Summer sports: Swim team, golf, baseball, football practices, etc. Summer jobs for teenagers.
Parent & KCS	When I looked at the graphs I really didn't see any major differences to what we are currently doing. Yes there are a few days taken from here or added there but it seems to be very close. My only thought is when students come back from breaks they seem to "still be on break" and are having a hard time coming back. So the idea of having to "bring them back" more times makes me wonder is it worth it? The other idea I am wondering about is how does this effect ENCORE programs? More specifically music concerts. My thought is that they would go home on break but would potentially forget what we were rehearsing and then we would have to play "Catch up." This would make rehearsal preparations longer thus making our curriculum get off pace. Thus the students would not experience the entire curriculum.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent & KCS	When it is time for a break students check out a week before. No matter what the teacher does student behavior and participation diminish. More breaks equal less student involvement. These are children that need summer not robots. These babies shouldn't be inside a classroom when it is warm outside. I think this is a horrible idea and I will homeschool if this comes to pass.
Parent & KCS	When students have a break coming up their behavior is much more disruptive and they are not focused. The week before and after a break the lack focus is frustrating. We had 2 weeks off for snow and when the students came back they could not remember a thing. Year long classes have an even more difficult time because the students are already to maintain mastery of skills throughout a school year before they are tested.
Parent & KCS	When you have a child with special needs, it is extremely difficult to get them to adjust to anything new. If you have a student working a job, then it is hard for them to get time off for school events or functions. I don't feel that is appropriate for the kids or family. I feel it puts more stress than is needed and will cause the students to want to drop out at a faster rate.
Parent & KCS	Where will the money come from to pay for enrichment & intervention?
Parent & KCS	While change EVERYTHING. The low economic student who will here AGAIN loses!!! During the summer that gives the socioeconomic disadvantage students an opportunity to work and earn money. Along with learning the Six Pillars of Character. Give up your 6 figure salaries and pay the economic disadvantage students the monies they would no longer have the ability to earn.
Parent & KCS	While the balanced calendar would potentially be a great thing for the elementary age, I am concerned that it will have a negative impact on the high school level. Programs such as Dual enrollment could be negatively impacted.
Parent & KCS	Who will be teaching these "intervention" groups? Teachers? So, how would a balanced calendar impact a teacher's schedule? Speaking from experience, depending on the area, the students that need the extra intervention would not show up. Too many unanswered questions.
Parent & KCS	Who would teach the additional intervention/ enrichment during the breaks? Teachers and students are not going to give up their "breaks" for more school.
Parent & KCS	will hurt the special ed students who are use to a certain routine it will throw them off and will have a behavior problems
Parent & KCS	Will there be enough money from year to year? I don't want to start something and not be able to continue or have the teachers be asked to work more hours for free.
Parent & KCS	Would attendance be low during summer months until people got accustomed to it? I can see older kids being truant more.
Parent & KCS	Would cause less participation in high school athletics. Will also cause potential loss of revenue that these high athletic programs need to survive and compete on state level.
Parent & KCS	Would sports calendar change so that athletes would be able to participate in the breaks as well? I feel when they have games and practices during week long breaks we are punishing the students who make good grades and are involved in sports by not giving them a break.
Parent & KCS	Would teachers be responsible for in service or professional development during the extended fall and spring breaks? Also would teachers be required to teach intervention or enrichment during extended breaks fall and spring? If so these are negatives for teachers and must be made very clear to all stakeholders before any vote is done.
Parent & KCS	Would teachers end up having all inservice and other meetings during those breaks, thereby working an even longer contract with no pay.
Parent & KCS	Year round sucks

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Parent & KCS	You assume that students are going to come for the intervention times. Those students don't come to school now, which is why they need intervention. You can't give teachers a significant raise now, but you have money to pay for intervention. Students are not going to come to school during that "down time" for enrichment. They don't want to be "enriched", not even the good ones. And as far as a shorter summer break provider for greater retention...really... years ago, on the year-long schedule, we moved exams from Jan. to Dec because students couldn't retain material over the Christmas vacation. When we came back from snow days this year, teachers had to review material due to loss of learning. It was also hard to get students back into the learning routine and then it was spring break. When they came back from spring break, we repeated the same scenario again. The balanced calendar perpetuates that problem.
Parent & KCS	You can only do so much in the summer before everyone is tired of the heat and humidity. Have a long break in fall and spring helps us to be able to do so much more as a family. Area businesses (the ones we had) all worked with us for scheduling and there wasn't any problem with child care at all.
Parent & KCS	You will end up asking for more from your teachers and not compensating them for that time.
Student	•it wouldn't give students as much time in the summer for such things as traveling •not only would it be hard for parents with jobs, but also students who want to have jobs because the schedule would be too crazy
Student	1. Kids would be even more drowsy 2. Kids would dislike school even more.
Student	A balanced calendar is not cost effective. The money you are going to spend on getting a school up and going to just close it again in a couple weeks could be better used. Although you say there are several opportunities in a balanced calendar, I believe there are less opportunities. A child is not going to get the same personal growth opportunities in a school setting that he/she will get in a camp setting.
Student	A balanced calendar is supposed to avoid students forgetting material but a 10 day break is more than enough time for students to forget. A balanced calendar would severely hurt attendance and therefore fundraising for school sports like football since several games would fall during break times. Academic clubs could not meet during breaks because many students would be on vacation and would therefore hurt any attempt at planning school events etc. This calendar would do much more harm than good.
Student	all of the above. More likely to miss more school days "pretending" to be sick.
Student	Anger
Student	As a student who hates routine changes, I probably wouldn't do very well with the balanced calendar at first, unfortunately.
Student	Can you people not leave this stuff alone. This has been this way for a long time, and it's working fine.
Student	Children who take AP courses will have to wait almost a full year before taking the AP exams.
Student	could cause students to be more sleepy during school hours due to breaks and could also cause confusion
Student	could cause students to be sleepy during school hours and could be hard for their bodies to adjust to the new schedule
Student	Disruption in Aau traveling in the summer.
Student	Drastically decreased mental health, more stress to children, unbalanced work dates and times of parents, less starting income for young students
Student	During the school year I find it hard to have a job and do all the work assigned at school. So summer is really the only option I have to make money to last out the next school year.
Student	Early graduation Fall and spring sports
Student	everything

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Student	Extra curricular activities- band practice, (band camp is gone) football practices, games, baseball, and any other sport. Anyone that participates in groups that have to be at the football games don't have a break, because they have to practice.
Student	Extremely difficult, pretty much impossible for divorced families/families with working parents. Not everyone can stay at home and watch their kids in the middle of the yea for two weeks. This is just unrealistic and unfair.
Student	fuck a balanced calendar
Student	Gas money would go up; driving to school, which is pretty far for me, takes a long time, and adds a lot of gas money prices to our payments. Also, Boy Scout Summer Camp is a necessity. Less planning would be available with this new schedule. Also, we have Fall, Winter, and Spring Camporee; we need time to have a Camporee every season. It keeps us scouts prepped up for the bigger camps each year.
Student	How about foreign students who have family in other parts of the world, and typically go for 2-3 months during the summer to visit them?
Student	I can't think of any other ones, even these are easy to deal with.
Student	i have no idea
Student	I still hate it
Student	I think that students need breaks from school. Even though the balanced calendar would give more balanced breaks, I do not like the idea of intervention during these breaks. Students need to be "enriched" (by that, I mean challenged by vigorous work or given remedial help), but I feel like that would take away from their breaks. It is the teachers' job DURING SCHOOL to help those who are behind and/or challenge the students who are excelling. I feel like even if the school system does not require such intervention during breaks, teachers of advanced or honors classes will still assign homework, which would take away some of the break. That would not be fair if some students were losing their break to additional work and others who are neither excelling nor falling behind enjoy a full break.
Student	I won't be able to earn the money for my car insurance and my parents won't let me drive.
Student	interfere with sports
Student	It affects athletics as well. Athletes lose athleticism after seven off days, and the more frequent breaks mean less competitive athletes. This can affect scholarship amounts for some students.
Student	It will be very hard to maintain a summer job.
Student	It would completely ruin my entire summer teams and sports
Student	ITS NOT BROKEN SO DONT FIX IT
Student	Keep school schedule the same don't do balance
Student	Kids that rely on help during the summer/summer school need the longer summers. Kids need to make money and often find ways to support their family during the summer.
Student	Kids will make significantly less money. Families will have less time for vacation.
Student	Less classroom time to prepare for AP tests in early May.
Student	Less cost effective for schools, kids do not want to learn during the summer
Student	Less time for summer activities
Student	Less time to recover from stress from recent testing during the summer, less time to do summer assignments, less time to relax in the summer, forget information learned in the semester before a break, it makes it hard to get in the routine of getting up and going to school everyday, tight summer sport schedule, disappointed students from having a break and the having to go back to school
Student	Longer in between breaks may cause the same issue as a long summer break.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Student	Many parents, which are poor enough in Knoxville as it is, are going to have to spend more money on child care services. Summer sports are going to be messed up and may have to go into the school year. And sports teams will have to practice during their breaks, which nobody likes. People will lose money by having less time summer jobs. Everybody would like to have a longer summer.
Student	May interfere with multiple opportunities to enhance high school résumé, take part in something you are interested in, or attend educational "camps" in the summer. i.e. Governors school, girls/boys state, job shadowing
Student	more family time
Student	More stressful
Student	My child takes a week or so to get back into the groove of school following a long break. To have 4 long breaks instead of just two or three, if you consider spring break, would waste all that much more time for her to get back into the swing of things following all the breaks.
Student	No time for any fun!
Student	None
Student	None
Student	not being able to attend gov school
Student	Not enough time with family member for one on one.
Student	Not every child forgets the previous year over the summer. You can't fix bad memory. Also, it would interrupt things like band camp, or summer practices for any sport in general. This is not a good idea. And if the school boards really want this calendar, start it with elementary school children now and add it to other schools as that generation goes through middle to high school instead of throwing a new schedule on kids who have been doing what we have for years.
Student	nothing
Student	People getting off track with school work
Student	Possible loss of information learned before the quarterly breaks
Student	Shorter time to find a job
Student	Shorter time to find a job
Student	Sports such as football and extra circular activities such as band would be shortened due to the schedule and would decrease game attendance which in result would decrease the amount of money the school makes.
Student	Students involved in sports or activities would not be able to have these "prolonged breaks". They would still be at the school as they would be in the original schedule. Except they would not be provided a break. Their summer break would be taken away.
Student	Summer camp, AP testing, the breaks in between, etc.
Student	Taking frequent breaks makes it harder to get back into the swing of school. Also, it would make the year seem as though I am constantly working.
Student	Teachers expecting us to somehow remember everything over the summer just because it's two weeks shorter
Student	Teachers would assign homework over the breaks so there would never be a real break.
Student	The balanced calendar presents a potentially detrimental effect to families who have divorced parents whose custody is governed by a legal parenting plan. The balanced calendar would require once settled cases to be sent back to court to be renegotiated. This is not only a waste of time it presents a massive financial burden to families in our community with new added court costs and lawyer fees.
Student	The balanced calendar will create tremendous issues with students preparing to engage and enroll in college as the typical school year ends, the balanced year will not. Thus causing issues when preparing for and attending a college.
Student	The balanced calendar would take off part of summer break reducing the time that kids have to spend with their families and to finally spend some time OUTDOORS.

Potential Drawbacks Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please list any other potential drawbacks a balanced calendar would create.
Student	The break should be a break, not a time for extra essays and projects
Student	The school's athletic department will have very many problems. Since there is a shorter summer break, that makes the time for practices in the summer shorter meaning less time to prepare for the upcoming season. Do not forget about the two week dead period that every team has to have in the summer so that takes out a full two weeks of practices. Not to mention the two-a-days some teams have for 1-2 weeks and the amount of time it takes for tryouts which could also last about a week. This alone, takes out three weeks of summer. Add the two week dead period and that is 35 days out of the athlete's summer. leaving about eight days and some weekends for regular summer enjoyment with friends without having to go to practice.
Student	The whole thing.
Student	Their is no proof that this schedule helps the children attending these schools. Most of the schools that have tried the "Balanced Calendar" have failed.
Student	There would be only a few weeks before some people go to college.
Student	To many to list
Student	Too much change that schools don't need
Student	Two sibilings that go to different schools with different schedules.
Student	Very difficult in regards to childcare during these extensive breaks placed throughout the year
Student	When students are aware of an upcoming break, the tend to stop doing work and become more of a behavior problem.
Student	with the summer jobs because with the long summer break it is breaking into my summer schedule with work and it woundlt work out if i had to keep chaning my avaliability every time we go on break like every two weeks my h=job wouldnt be able to commuicate with me chaing the work hours for me becuase by the time they get my schedule in then we will be back in school.This is the major reason why i disagree with the balanced calnder
Student	Ya'll need to stop trying to stop. WE DO NOT have the money. This is a dumbass idea and ya'll suck ass.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent & Employer	"summer slide" is replaced by "bigger brake slide" of 3 times vs. just the fall
Parent & Employer	A balanced calendar is not going to improve a child's grades. Plus, the two week breaks will be awful to transition the kids back. Does anyone remember how difficult it was after the two weeks off due to snow?
Parent & Employer	Again, the summer is a unique season to enjoy outdoor activities such as the lake and pool. Also, many summer camp and clinic programs (scholastic, athletic & social) are well established throughout the summer, and unlikely replaced with larger breaks in Spring and Fall. Traditional summer vacations to family destinations could become overcrowded due to the smaller window of time. The summer is the best time for our family to enjoy each other and bond. We vacation, visit family, participate in camps and clinics and enjoy water activities. The thought of losing just one more of those precious days is very disturbing. Contrast that with the much smaller Winter break when your kids are ready to get back to school before it ends.
Parent & Employer	All students and teachers would benefit with more frequent breaks. The community would adapt and we could create a smarter workforce. Once a student enters the workforce, students have a difficult time transitioning into the real world where there isn't a long summer break. Shorter, family focused down time would help everyone in the long run.
Parent & Employer	Although I agree with the theoretical benefits of a balanced calendar, the specific implementation proposed doesn't seem different enough to realize the stated benefits. I think the transition from breaks longer than a week back to school is difficult and introducing more four of these in the school year doesn't seem worth the benefit. I would be more inclined to consider a more drastic change.
Parent & Employer	Are we ignoring the detriments to the successful students in favor of perceived benefits to struggling students? Who is ultimately more likely to improve the state of Tennessee's economy? Bigger government is not always better.
Parent & Employer	As a committed parent and a community leader, I think this is a huge negative for Knoxville. Families are already under tremendous stress, this will only add to it. It affects academics, athletics, family time, creates potential employment stress and increases the financial burden for parents.
Parent & Employer	As a former public school teacher, I believe the cost of changing the calendar is excessive. There isn't enough research showing it makes a significance difference in achievement and in fact the students who need "intervention," will not have enough down time. The same holds true for high achieving students in AP and honors classes who will be studying and doing assignments during "breaks." I don't see any reason to jump on an expensive bandwagon without a high degree of certainty it will be effective. I also doubt that public opinion is being taken into account since over a year ago private schools were being told that Knox Co would be going to a year round/balanced calendar.
Parent & Employer	As a sports parent and the increasingly competitive high school schedules/tournaments, I feel students would have more time to dedicate to their talents, as well as learn more time management skills like in college.
Parent & Employer	As an educator, coach, and parent I strongly oppose the balance calendar!
Parent & Employer	Asking families to love on a different schedule than family and all support groups will wreak havoc with quality of life. It is flat out disastrous for working parents...
Parent & Employer	At this point, this survey is premature. You have not told me which calendar you would use, costs, how kids would be impActed during breaks. I simply don't see enough information. I really want Fall break back.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent & Employer	Backing down from the 45/15 plan diminishes many of the strong arguments offered on support on a balanced calendar. It is important never to let the public lose sight of the fact that the number of instruction days and the number of break days DOES NOT change regardless of plan. I am amazed by the number of people who tell me they are against the balanced calendar solely because it just gives teachers longer breaks and more days off. I do truly believe the 45/15 plan is the best step (although not offered as a choice) but will accept the 45/10 as a politically motivated and necessary first step to achieving the ultimate goal of 45/15.
Parent & Employer	Balanced calendar in a county as large as Knox Co, will be detrimental to parents, in terms of childcare, churches, businesses. Most of the comparison I have seen have been to local counties such as Maryville and Oak Ridge are much smaller than Knox co and only have one high school. This simplifies these circumstances in a way that Knox co can not count on.
Parent & Employer	Balanced calendar makes it very challenging for teens who need to work a summer job. Shaving 10 days off of their available time to work, makes them undesirable to hire and train for the businesses. If the balanced calendar passes, teachers should not be assigning additional reading of novels, projects, research papers, etc. If you are going to call it a break, let the kids have a break and DO NOT ALLOW the teachers to assign additional work. My kids are honors students and both have way too much work to complete in the summer. If you shorten summer by 10 days, that is even less time to complete these assignments....many of which are required by students to complete but never discussed, tested, etc by the teachers. Colleges do not work this way...a break is a break.
Parent & Employer	Balanced calendar needs a lot more consideration before being implemented. How will day cares and school age programs adapt? How will divorced time sharing parents adapt?
Parent & Employer	barriers to proper implementation of a balanced calendar: 1) lack of school system resources to provide tutoring, enrichment and other benefits mentioned during breaks 2) calendar conflicts between university student and school system proposal (university students are a large portion of the pool of available mentors, enrichment teachers, coaches and childcare providers locally) 3) difficulty for working families to coordinate childcare, work and home calendars
Parent & Employer	Because I will also have a child taking college classes, the balanced calendar breaks will not allow us to take advantage of breaks for vacation opportunities and will have a negative effect on time opportunities for our whole family to spend together. I wanted to add this, as I am sure there are many in the same situation and I haven't seen anything to indicate this has been considered. Family time trumps any perceived advantage of the balanced calendar as far as I am concerned.
Parent & Employer	Being a dual career family and having had three children utilize daycare and later preschool before starting school, I do believe there is going to be a hardship on families and also on these service providers. This would also be true for single parent families. If a reasonable solution to that can be worked out, the implementation of a balanced calendar may be easier for parents to accept. Dual career and single parent families are a fact of life and it is not appropriate to ignore their concerns.
Parent & Employer	Between sports (multiple) camps, church camps and vacations, we barely fit it all in the summer now. Reducing that time would probably force us to take the kids out of school some for vacations, and at least one church camp that isn't nearby (so I can't see them adjusting). My situation may be unique, but vacations in the weeks prior to 4/15 and 10/15 are not an option, so squeezing them in the summer is our only option. In the event this does pass, and even if it doesn't, if learning loss is a true concern, I would expect block scheduling to disappear. If 2-3 additional weeks of summer cause that much issue, I can't imagine the harm from having math, for example, during fall semester one year, and not till spring of the next.
Parent & Employer	Can we please add school uniforms when we go to the balanced calendar? Seriously!

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent & Employer	Change is hard for some people. Change can be positive and it can also be reversed if it doesn't work. I say, "Go for it!".
Parent & Employer	Change is inevitable. Change to help our students be better and receive better instruction is vital. Let's stop worrying about the little inconveniences and embrace the bigger positives.
Parent & Employer	Child care places will adapt. I believe long summers make it tougher for kids to adapt to getting back into school mode.
Parent & Employer	Clean house with the current administration
Parent & Employer	Concerned with the afterschool programs being able to refocus their schedule with the schools new schedule. Please define the enrichment portion
Parent & Employer	Continuing education coursework for teachers may be difficult to pursue in the summer
Parent & Employer	Current intervention takes the form of credit recovery in the summer. Students read information about a subject on a computer and then answer questions about the passage online until they get it right and are able to progress to the next section. Ideally, some students may learn, although it is probably possible that some students answer a question A,B,C, or D until they get it right and then repeat that process with the next question. However, this does allow students to progress to the next grade, which is very important. A teacher may be present, but just for general oversight. Actual instruction by teachers is generally not part of credit recovery. At the school meetings, it was stated that the "intervention"(ie credit recovery) used in the summer would be used during the fall and spring breaks. This is a little misleading, as it SOUNDS like students would be receiving tutoring from a teacher when in reality they are engaged solely with a computer. In the summer, students have the incentive of not being promoted to the next grade to spur them to complete credit recovery. That motivation is lacking for kids to pursue credit recovery in the fall and spring.
Parent & Employer	Divorced female teachers and non-working mothers further monopolize their children's time and marginalize the role of the father in family life. Balanced calendar is poison to a single working parent. Name any American who has contributed to the progress of mankind. That person succeeded after a scholastic career based on a traditional school calendar. 1) Educate Children. 2) Fix Education Administration. 3) Allow teachers to achieve and progress based on MERIT ALONE. No gold stars, no raise. Too few stars, work somewhere else. 4) Make teachers and administrators at least as accountable as the students. Seems fair, right?
Parent & Employer	Do not do this! It has No Proven science behind a Balanced Calendar and it will cost more money that could be spent on REALLY ENRICHMENT programs. Why do we not have State of the Art computer labs in all the elementary schools? Why are we not teaching a foreign language to our elementary children? Why is the threat of reducing art and music still out there? So many things that could and should be changed in our school systems. A Balanced Calendar IS NOT SOMETHING WE NEED !
Parent & Employer	DO NOT GO TO A BALANCED CALENDAR! Messes up my job and my kid care!!!!
Parent & Employer	Do not proceed. The balanced calendar is shortsighted and ill fated.
Parent & Employer	Do not use breaks as an opportunity to reduce teacher downtime. I am also concerned about how the testing schedule will interface with spring break
Parent & Employer	Doesn't really matter what the parents think, McIntyre is going to do what he wants anyways.
Parent & Employer	fire McIntyre.
Parent & Employer	Generally, in favor of it but I do have couple of questions. Where would the shorter summer be taken, at beginning or end of school (I.e. would school end later in May or early June for summer break or would it start back earlier after summer break, as in late July or early August?). I am not in favor of them having to start back late July or early August, it is too hot then. Also, how will it work for instruction during break? Are all teachers available? And is it for the full 2 weeks or one of the two weeks?
Parent & Employer	Highly in favor of the change. I think it would be good for our system and students. I'll be disappointed if we don't change.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

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Parent & Employer	Horrible idea!!!
Parent & Employer	hurts one of Tennessee's largest economic engines that helps fund education - tourism Don't kill the goose that lays the golden eggs
Parent & Employer	I am absolutely opposed to this decision. We would most likely move both our children to private schools so they will be able to have the summer opportunities that they now enjoy. The summer has already gotten shorter since we were in school. Kids need time to recharge and fully enjoy a break. With a balanced calendar this does not happen. Please do not change the calendar.
Parent & Employer	I am in favor of a more balanced calendar but when looking at the pie chart on the first page of this survey, it appears that there is still a pretty lengthy summer break of about 40+ days. That is only a couple weeks less than the traditional summer break. Is it worth disrupting the entire school schedule for about 2 weeks of school? Why not go further and cut down summer learning loss even more?
Parent & Employer	I am NOT in favor of a balanced calendar.
Parent & Employer	I am opposed to a balanced calendar under the current plan and considering the block schedule format that exists in most Knox County high schools presently. I would prefer to see certain courses, including those where we need most gains as a society (STEM and foreign language) be taught full year. If the school system were to undertake that effort, then balanced calendar might enhance that effort to further avoid "slide" but until block scheduling is addressed in some way to remedy the slide that already exists when successive courses most often cannot be and are not taken back to back, I believe the argument that balanced calendar reduces "slide" is disingenuous as it would be applied to Knox County high schools. Also, i find that younger kids struggle with the transition from school schedule to break schedule. Increasing the number of breaks and/or their length would perpetuate and perhaps exacerbate that issue as well.
Parent & Employer	I am ready for a balanced calendar and have been for years
Parent & Employer	I am strongly in favor of better learning environment for children. I am not in favor of making more stressful situations for kids at home.
Parent & Employer	I approve of balanced calendar with respect to longer breaks, but opposed to those breaks being used for intervention. Further, I am concerned for single parents, summer camp counselors and summer programs that rely on longer summer breaks, particularly in this area (East TN and Southeast US in general), due to greater economic burdens. Overall neutral.
Parent & Employer	I attended 1st - 12th grade in the Knox County school system and I have children in the system since 1997. I have seen this discussion brought up many times. I hope and pray it will be defeated yet again. This is a MAJOR negative change to the family home unit/structure. I know there are "statistics" and "reports" to back up any idea someone has. I feel the most important issue at hand is to provide competitive salaries for great teachers to come to our schools. Then, leave these great teachers alone and let them teach! Their time and attention is eaten up with all these "new" programs, testing, reporting, meetings, etc. etc. just to have higher scores and get more money. Nothing makes a school system more successful and impressive than students who excel in both academics and life. Great teachers make this happen, not numerous 2-3 week breaks within a school year.
Parent & Employer	I believe "the balanced calendar" is a buzzword used when conversation runs to how to help children catch up with their peers. The final word in education, however, will always reside in the home that emphasizes the importance of and is involved in the student's studies. Without parent involvement, the schools can only do so much. And if Knox County cannot afford to wax the floors at each school during the 2015 summer break, where will the County find the money to keep the school buildings in use on an almost constant basis each year?
Parent & Employer	I believe it's a wonderful idea.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent & Employer	I believe the biggest problem would be with family adjustments to the calendar, i.e. working vacations around break times. I keep hearing about potential child care issues with a balanced calendar but any day care program should/would be willing and able to conform to a "balanced calendar" of their own to accommodate their customers.
Parent & Employer	I believe this survey is spun in favor of the Balanced Calendar. You failed to mention in the pie chart analysis of the third shorter summer version of the calendar. I believe all your benefits lack substantial facts to demonstrate that this is good for kids. Your verbiage like "some studies have found" and "many have asked for this balanced calendar" are not substantiated. They are cleverly written to say "we've done our homework" but in reality, you haven't. I don't know if this is good for the kids or not. But, you admitted in your presentation that you do not have any studies or any research to suggest this is the way to go. Only a passionate, aggressive football coach spoke up and challenged everyone in the room. That's not the way this should be done if you are really looking out for the best interests of the kids. This whole charade is a discredit to our families who trust this administration.
Parent & Employer	I can't make you listen, but there are plenty of private school's that offer better lunches and a better school calendar.
Parent & Employer	I do feel that the more frequently breaks could work to benefit families who would like to visist family or vacation at different times of the year.
Parent & Employer	I do not like the balanced calendar idea AT ALL.
Parent & Employer	I don't believe there is enough evidence supporting this calendar. There's nothing saying it's bad or good. So why change what we have? It doesn't make sense to me. Other school systems do this, yes, but they are MUCH smaller school systems. If it happens then it will be fine, but I'm OK if doesn't happen too. I feel like the ripple effect of what Knox County is trying to do will affect so many other things - private schools, colleges, daycares, working moms and dads, summer jobs, sports, etc. Why should we disrupt this?
Parent & Employer	I don't think there is any real data (with the exception of a lower socioeconomic demographic and non English speaking households) that a balanced calendar improves student learning or test scores. I think for the amount of money that will be needed to support a balanced calendar that the money could be much better used to help those demographics mentioned above. There is actually data from many cities such as Nashville and states like Virginia that balanced calendars don't work.
Parent & Employer	I don't trust the current school administration. They have gone on record as supporting year-round school, and I believe that if we start now by shortening the summer break, that it is just a strategy to "turn up the heat slowly" toward their goal of actual year round school - which I believe would be bad for teachers, students and families as well as for school budgets.
Parent & Employer	I fail to see that shortening the summer break by two weeks will have any measurable impact on summer learning loss. I'm concerned that funding will not be available to make remediation and enrichment available to all the students who wish to and/or need to participate in those activities.
Parent & Employer	I feel as though the school board and superintendent have decided they want a balanced calendar and are trying to sell the idea to parents. The balanced calendar does not fit post secondary school schedules and teachers won't work on breaks to "enrich" students or tutor. They will want time off like everyone else. This is being ramrodded down and should be piloted at a few schools first.
Parent & Employer	I feel like for every study that says a balanced calendar improves some aspect of student life, there's another that says just the opposite. Is there not some overall summary of studies that indicates whether or not the extra cost of students in school during the summer (air conditioning) is beneficial? My family is willing to work our schedules to the benefit of the children even if it means changing annual summer camp plans that have gone on for years. But there has to be a benefit or at least the expectation of a benefit.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent & Employer	I feel that KCS is using the lack of a third option (adding back fall break of one week) in order to skew the results of this survey to what they want them to be: in favor of balanced calendar. Until you know the costs involved, it is reckless to even consider this change.
Parent & Employer	I find it more than concerning that this issue will be presented to the school board over the summer when families are out of town and attention to school issues is not at its highest level.
Parent & Employer	I fully support this endeavor
Parent & Employer	I have a mixed opinion about the balanced calendar. While I did love it for the extra breaks, information retention, and improved student behavior, I feel it will put an undue burden on working families. I currently work at a community college and it would be difficult to find childcare for those breaks, not to mention incredibly expensive.
Parent & Employer	I have found that year around school does not help the student that much. I would like to tried balanced calendar to see.
Parent & Employer	I hear many complaints about childcare. Childcares will adjust with the school schedule just as they always have. Also, on a side note, I believe that High schools should dismiss out of school earlier than the elementary/middle schools. This would help with afternoon transportation and after school events/activities not running so late.
Parent & Employer	I hope that Knox County is seriously considering this change for students and teachers need a break after the rigorous 9 weeks. I believe it would truly benefit all stakeholders.
Parent & Employer	I in particular have a child that would greatly benefit from the shorter breaks to help with retention of school materials. Also, there would be less review time for teachers if summer breaks are shorter. I feel students learning will only be enhanced and they will be better prepared for College or Technical schooling.
Parent & Employer	I know people that are in the balanced calendar, and it has been a great thing.
Parent & Employer	I know people who say that they would be able to use the extra time to travel during the off peak season...but that's not the reality. Our breaks would fall during the same time that nationally most winter break, spring break and summer breaks fall. If traveling during off peak times is of value to someone our current schedule is the best one because we usually beat the crowds and get better prices in late May /early June before other schools around the nation let out.
Parent & Employer	I like the idea but the proposed schedule is awful. It makes new improvement and worsens the existing problems.
Parent & Employer	I personally like the idea of a balanced calendar however with the experience I've had in the past it seems that the students most in need of intervention rarely come during the breaks and those children who would benefit from enrichment generally do not get as many opportunities for said enrichment as could be possible. If Knox County decides to implement a balanced calendar it is my hope that enrichment opportunities for high or typically performing students would be just as numerous as intervention activities are for low performing students. Additionally as a working parent it is my hope that Knox County will once again open their doors to school providers such as kids place to operate during breaks when no staff are on campus. I am blessed to have a flexible job that my student can attend on occasion when school is out and his care provider is unable to open their doors however when looking at six weeks per school year of breaks this will no longer be an option for me; so many of our Knox County parents have never had this as an option and I believe it is imperative that the school system in sure that the change in calendar will not negatively affect working parents. My final concern is for the smallest and most delicate of our Knox County students studies have found that our young students in pre-K and kindergarten as well as our special needs students often have difficulties in transitional periods. The balanced calendar schedules will increase the number of these transition. And it is also my hope that Knox County will implement special measures to ensure that these vulnerable students are best taken care of.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent & Employer	I prefer the option for 10 day breaks between quarters versus 15 day breaks. Summer is shorter, but not significantly so, and having a longer Spring and Fall Break will give families more options.
Parent & Employer	I really can see how elementary age children could benefit from this schedule. I would prefer that my 11th grader could get a summer job and contribute to his driving expenses. The extra week in summer is a worth few hundred dollars, which is substantial for him. Overall, the changes won't be insurmountable and everyone will adapt, but I suspect the benefits will be negligible and teachers will be working many more poorly compensated hours as they try to fill the vacation time with extra-curricular value.
Parent & Employer	I really just haven't been given any reasons good, substantial reasons why this benefits my children. Mine don't need intervention, I don't WANT them in enrichment when you're promising them a BREAK. So, since these seem to be your strongest and most important reasons I can't support this. Maybe if you wish to implement this, you should dig deeper and give us some better reason and tell us how it's going to work financially because all the school meeting didn't have that info for the community.
Parent & Employer	I really think, especially for 8th and younger that summers are not ideally used in a traditional calendar. I think a balanced calendar actually contributed to the overall health of the family, even if difficult to initially adapt.
Parent & Employer	I run a major business in Knoxville as does my wife. We would probably look for alternate educational opportunities for our son in a different school district should this be approved. There is no way it could fit in our schedule.
Parent & Employer	I strongly encourage more information to be released, especially where additional programs and costs are concerned, prior to making this decision.
Parent & Employer	I support the balanced calendar provided the 8 class year (2 four class blocks) remain for high school students who currently have it. Don't do anything to reduce the number of courses available to a student through their high school career.
Parent & Employer	I think if you are going to make changes they need to smaller calendar changes and support the parents with allowing our regular daycare programs in the school. Forcing is not a good idea.
Parent & Employer	I think it would be in the best interest of the students and the teachers, if the Knox County Board of Education stopped spending money on surveys that tried to push their own agenda. Focus on the children, and the families. Pay attention to the needs of what is being forgotten cause of forced teaching styles. Get rid of Common Core, and ignore APUSH and go back to actually teaching our children.
Parent & Employer	I think it's a GREAT proposal and wish it was beginning next school year! Fall break is way too short and summer is way too long. I support this balance schedule 100%
Parent & Employer	I think that the opportunity for enrichment and /or remedial work during the breaks is excellent.
Parent & Employer	I think that the people deciding for schedule changes really need to remember working families. This puts additional stress and cost on these people.
Parent & Employer	I think the year-round schooling would help make the teachers' jobs easier, however dealing with the constant changing of schedules and the amount of skipping from learning to not, I do not think the balanced calendar is a good idea.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

<p>How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?</p>	<p>Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.</p>
<p>Parent & Employer</p>	<p>I think there are many factors to look into before any decisions are made. You are aware of the need for daycare centers, what about parents who work and can't afford those on the long breaks? It's hard enough to take off 2 days in the fall, and make plans for spring break. Imagine have to do that 3 or 4 more times per year? Not everyone has the luxury of being a stay-at-home parent to do so. I have a son in high school, who will be in summer school for Driver's Ed. He will essentially have a 2 week break between that, and band camp starting. With the proposed year-round calendar, his "vacation" would be gone. I have two children in elementary school, and going back to school after the snow/ice in Feb. caused a disruption in their classes, because it's harder for smaller children to re-focus after being gone for so long. Just because something works for someone else, doesn't mean it will work for everyone.</p>
<p>Parent & Employer</p>	<p>I think this is an idea driven by teachers wanting a break from working too hard. Allow teachers to teach and they won't get burned out. Provide our kids with what school needs to provide which is basic educational instruction and let parents raise their kids otherwise. We don't need public school, no matter how good it is and I think Knox Co is great, to think it needs to provide all of a child's education. That is my responsibility as their parent.</p>
<p>Parent & Employer</p>	<p>I understand from the school meeting I attended last month, that there are certain areas of Knox County that are pushing for balance calendar more than others to help address problems they are incurring. Would it be possible to make a test case for those 'problem areas' and leave the rest of the district "as is". We moved here to get out of a 'balanced calendar' school district and because Knox County/Farragut schools were ranked so highly in the country. It was so distructive to our home life in the last district that if Knox County moves to a balanced calendar we will probably be moving again.</p>
<p>Parent & Employer</p>	<p>I will chose to homeschool or private school four kids if balanced calendar adopted.</p>
<p>Parent & Employer</p>	<p>I will consider pulling my children from the Knox County School System if this change is made. The supposed benefits in no way outweigh the issues working parents will face in trying to find appropriate care/activities/supervision for their children during these inconvenient breaks.</p>
<p>Parent & Employer</p>	<p>I will have to take a second job to afford childcare during breaks and miss time with my children. My son's behavior will become more disruptive. Family members schedules will conflict that aren't in our district. This is a TERRIBLE idea. Not everyone can afford to make these changes. I do not fear change when it doesn't negatively impact my family, but this most certainly will. I am in such opposition to this schedule and it will cause such disruption that I will most likely pull my 3 children, homeschool them, and begin focusing on my at-home businesses as a source of income as opposed to my HR career that I attended school to pursue. It takes years for some families to develop a system that works for them. It's a fine balance of time, money, and hard work that a balanced calendar would completely demolish for many of us. The traditional calendar has worked fine for us. Your justifications for change are lacking in comparison with the disruptions.</p>
<p>Parent & Employer</p>	<p>I would be strongly in favor of a balanced calendar IF the students were definitely going to be offered intervention/enrichment at some point during the breaks. I will be HIGHLY dissatisfied and extremely unhappy with the superintendent and school board if the balanced calendar is implemented, and then it is decided that the budget does not allow for intervention/enrichment. It needs to be decided if the budget allows for this opportunity BEFORE the balanced calendar is accepted.</p>

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent & Employer	I would like the superintendent to elaborate more in the two week breaks where students would be offered "enrichment opportunities." I am the parent of two straight A students and do not want them to be forced to attend any sort of schooling during the breaks. It makes very nervous to hear the superintendent talk in media reports about these breaks offering extra learning time or intervention for students. I am strongly opposed to a balanced calendar if these breaks turn into mandatory "extra learning opportunities" for students that are not struggling.
Parent & Employer	I would like to see most frequent question and answer. I would need more information to form an opinion. I am concerned with change...
Parent & Employer	I would strongly support if extra time off during the year would help grades
Parent & Employer	If changes are made, I do not think it can be accomplished in the time frame suggested. I feel More time for child care arrangements during breaks will be needed.
Parent & Employer	If you are truly interested in feedback that reflects the communities opinion I would suggest that you don't ask "leading" questions to try to influence the outcome. Who wrote this? Shameful.
Parent & Employer	If you're going to implement a year round style calendar then have students attend school for more days and actually have more time for learning. Frequent breaks are a joke. Every break period is surrounded by slack instruction days, fall parties, spring parties, and an overall apathetic approach to time management in the classroom. I see this over and over.
Parent & Employer	I'm in favor of the balanced calendar with 10 day breaks and longer summer break. Not the 15 day breaks and shorter summer break.
Parent & Employer	I'm not sure that the benefits outweigh the difficulties a balanced calendar would cause therefore I can't say that I am opposed or in favor of it at this point. I haven't heard how the school system is addressing the difficulties a balanced calendar would cause. All I hear about are the benefits.
Parent & Employer	I'm sure there is research based evidence in support of the balanced calendar, but realistically, from what I've seen and experienced within lower-income, inner city schools, I struggle to see actual evidence of how added longer breaks will help students succeed in their comprehension levels across any/all academic subjects. I'm not completely opposed to a balanced calendar, but I would have to actually see the pros play out into reality for the students.
Parent & Employer	In my opinion, fiddling with the school calender is not going to improve learning whatsoever; but it will certainly cause hardship to many families who desire to bond, educate and travel with their children. The superintendent and school board should spend their time trying to improve the quality of education provided within the current schedule instead of needlessly reshuffling the calender. My 3rd grader said to me, "Dad, we spend 2 hours a day at school actually learning and the rest of the day is just fluff." Wow. By the way, I am in favor of a 170 day traditional calender.
Parent & Employer	In the 2014-2015 school years, Archers BBQ provided complimentary meals to 250 teachers and over 200 students(like the Karns football team, Powell baseball, etc) in addition to helping with fundraisers. If Knox County Schools goes to a balanced school schedule, it will negatively affect my business. If Knox County Schools goes to a balanced school schedule, my son will be going to private school. If Knox County Schools goes to a balanced school schedule, all of those donations will likely go to that same private school. Archers BBQ will no longer be able to afford to support Knox County Schools. Archer Bagley Proprietor Archers BBQ
Parent & Employer	Instead of spending unknown millions to make this change use the money address current system failurea. Increase staffing will help with student behavior and addressing needs of students wouldn't hurt. NAS and SPD students often have perceived behavior issues because they are struggling get their physical needs and sensory needs met and those aren't diagnosis that are seen as impairments to education.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

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Parent & Employer	Is it really the parents asking for this or the powers to be who would like to pass their personal agendas. Stop trying to hide what is truly is year round school which people understand not calling it balanced schedule to confuse some.
Parent & Employer	It is another "change for change's sake" from the school system. Only looking at the positives, not taking into account all of the negatives. There is no real reason to pick this fight with parents and the community.
Parent & Employer	It is strongly recommended that an economist evaluate before further consideration.
Parent & Employer	It's about time
Parent & Employer	It's just another ivory tower theory that won't function well in reality. People think they can create these things and make life conform to them, but life rarely conforms to human restrictions and constructions and theories and expectations. In nature there is no such thing as a "balanced calendar."
Parent & Employer	It's not a break from school if kids are receiving tutoring during the break. We need time for kids to be kids. I do feel bad for hourly wage employers cutting an extra 12 days off their potential work schedule.
Parent & Employer	It's obvious to almost each person I've had conversations with, that Knox County would not be investing this sort of time/resources into this if it wasn't happening. So I wish we'd stop wasting time/resources and just do it. Backlash will happen with our without all of these efforts and its obvious this is what the county would like to go to. It's frustrating as a parent and tax-payer to see these efforts continue for a pre-determined result. And I'm also frustrated in hearing one of the possible benefits is ""less summer learning loss"...and it's being marked as part of where the "hat is being hung" for this initiative, when the answer to the asked question of "is there data to show this improves learning/test scores/etc.?" (at one of the forums), the answer continues to be "no - we have no data, even from those schools close to Knoxville that have been on the Balanced Calendar. Very frustrating.
Parent & Employer	It's practical and rational and people should adapt fairly quickly. Really only 10 fewer days of summer break isn't significant and having breaks throughout the year should be beneficial for everyone.
Parent & Employer	Just do it. Don't "give it a trail run". If there is even consideration of going back to the traditional calendar, it should have a 5 year waiting period built in.
Parent & Employer	Just leave things alone...this is a nightmare in the making. You have NO idea what you are getting into!!!!
Parent & Employer	Knox County Schools has failed to commit to a schedule. They have also failed to provide any cost estimates for this schedule change. Additionally there is no data to support that this change will be beneficial to students at all learning levels.
Parent & Employer	Leave schools how they are
Parent & Employer	My child will be home schooled if this is enacted
Parent & Employer	My children worked with me in my business last summer which requires some late hours not suitable for school days. Plenty of private school systems stick to the traditional calendar approach (as do other state systems as well) which score as well or better than Tennessee. School scheduling is not the problem nor is it a sure-fire solution. Parental involvement and student motivation are much more important aspects for a successful outcome. My two oldest children, for example, both Halls graduates, could not have improved their grades with the new system. They were already at the top. So it would have done nothing for them. I see no problem with the two children I have still in school (Middle and High). I don't see changing the schedule doing anything to help them. So this is not for the benefit of all the children, it is an attempt to (perhaps) benefit a few of the struggling students or those in the elementary grades where development issues would apply the most.
Parent & Employer	My daughter will be a senior that it will go into effect so I am not in favor of making a drastic schedule change for her last year. If I had a child in middle school, I would probably have a different opinion.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

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Parent & Employer	My money says Mac wants it, it will be.
Parent & Employer	My most memorable childhood memories were made with my family over summer breaks. Trips to the beach, trips camping, trips to the lake, trips to the mountains, fishing, swimming, vacation bible school ect. We as a society dont spend enough quality time as families. The skills and morals we families teach our children while they are in our presence, is equally as important as anything they will be taught in school. Our children today need time to be kids. There is entirely too much stress put on these kids today. I would like see a school year that operates Setember (after Labor day) until June1. I feel the summer break should consist of June - August break. We as parents have a very difficult time with kids adjusting to school after Christmas break. I wouldnt want to go trough that 3 times during the school year. WE LOVE SUMMER!!!!
Parent & Employer	My primary opposition is the QUALITY of child care. While child care programs may adapt and be open, my concern is that it would simply be children sitting inside a building rather than engaging in outdoor and exercise-oriented activities that they can do outside in the summer. We work really hard to find summer child care that gives our kids outdoor and active experiences, and those opportunities would be limited in the chillier months.
Parent & Employer	My response is based on personal experience not how it looks on paper.
Parent & Employer	My son starts school i n2016. I hope the change is implemented before that time so he is on a consistent schedule.
Parent & Employer	My wife is an employee with KCS. A balanced calendar would disrupt the childcare routine that is in place with our younger children, who are not school-age. It is a waste of financial resources to pay for childcare during breaks if we are not needing it as they will be at home with my wife.
Parent & Employer	No one has been able to show that the studies of this shows enough of an improvement to justify the drawbacks.
Parent & Employer	Not a viable option
Parent & Employer	Not really a fan.
Parent & Employer	Not sure a case has been made to show the academic benefits for children who already exceed. Seems like pressure would develop for all kids to do extra academic work during the breaks. Funding not available for pie in sky buildings and teachers during breaks. Push for property tax increase and pay teachers a living wage! Superintendent needs to be more transparent to board and community about Broad Academy and how their agenda is shaping our community.
Parent & Employer	One of the worst ideas I have ever seen promulgated by an educational system.
Parent & Employer	Oops...I just did...on the previous page :-))
Parent & Employer	Opposed based on how hard transition is after short breaks. The 2 weeks off for snow was so very horrible to transition back to school.
Parent & Employer	Other area schooks are very successful with balanced calendar. This would be a welcomed change
Parent & Employer	Other districts have attempted calendar changes and gone back to the "old way" Parents arent doing their jobs helping their kids at home, and the County cant help there.
Parent & Employer	Please align schedule with surrounding school systems
Parent & Employer	Please do not do this. Kids won't be able to store up money in summer. Summer is already too short. The school activities, are hurting the churches and the family time to do activities. Kids miss every Sunday for some activity. And this is the regular ones.
Parent & Employer	Please do not implement the balanced calendar. Knoxville is not there yet. Our location to the mountains, lakes and several other attractions allow our families to enjoy the summer months A balanced calendar will also severely affect the summer work force availability for high school students.
Parent & Employer	Please do not implement!!!

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent & Employer	Please don't reduce the very valuable time that my kids and our family have together during the summer! This proposal would be very hurtful to us if adopted. Our kids need time to be kids in the summer and the schools already have them long enough!
Parent & Employer	PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE work with the other counties when you plan this. You will make SO MANY teachers happy if you do. We don't all teach in Knox Co even if our kids attend there!
Parent & Employer	Please reconsider this option. It may work well for some school systems, but Knox County is quite large. It will negatively impact many parents and their ability to work due to the childcare in the middle of the school year.
Parent & Employer	Primary reason we support the implementation of a balanced calendar is because it potentially would allow families more time for travel opportunities without children missing instructional school days.
Parent & Employer	Research needs to be conducted on the northern states that adopted then abolished the balanced calendar. They always rank higher in educational standards than Tennessee and it did not work for them. With the lack of proper oversight and slow implementation of Knox County on every other idea that has flown in the wind, this will be yet another nightmare for Knox County parents and students
Parent & Employer	Risk for conflicts with AP exams and other National testing. Conflicts with advanced academic programs like the Governors School. Does not lead to proven educational improvement. Studies get interrupted with frequent longer breaks. Less time for summer jobs makes it more difficult to compete for open positions. Less time available for summer internships. Impractical for adjoining school districts to work on different schedules. Difficult organize vacations and family reunions with less time available in summer. This issue has made it very far without a clear value proposition, leave the current schedule and organization in place.
Parent & Employer	See number 6.
Parent & Employer	Seems better academically and for families.
Parent & Employer	Seriously considering homeschooling over a balanced calendar. Do NOT want extra programs from the public school system; just expect excellent teaching of the basics and leave time for us to arrange any "extras," which we have done successfully.
Parent & Employer	Something to consider... The childcare providers that get the contracts for on-site care. need to be flexible for the families as well as staff that may need care during the breaks. We need to think of what is best for our children's future. Not them complaining about school schedules. They will complain either way.
Parent & Employer	Stop with the gimmicks. If you were really interested in fiscal benefits you would scrub the budget a wee bit better.
Parent & Employer	STRONGLY OPPOSED isn't even enough to describe how I am completely against a balanced calendar
Parent & Employer	Studies in other western districts have not show a clear advantage for this change. Why change. Focus on the curriculum
Parent & Employer	Summer breaks have been getting shorter for some reason, for years now. Possibly it is to get everyone used to a balanced calendar, I don't know. I have noticed summer being taken away for a while now. I don't think it's good for families at all.
Parent & Employer	The balanced calendar is a bad idea!
Parent & Employer	The balanced calendar is just a bad idea. It's some ivory tower theory that won't function well in the real world. It's bad enough that so much of our kids' educations are focused on passing standardized tests. All the segmentation of a "balanced calendar" will result in a loss of creative thinking and learning to focus on longer term goals and projects.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent & Employer	The balanced calendar you describe is really only a small tweak compared to the current one. It should be no big deal to adjust to this change even for those currently opposed. - I can share that I learned with a calendar that had LONGER breaks (except summer), and spent LESS time in the classroom, yet feel that I learned enough, and could have learned a lot more.
Parent & Employer	The cost to the tax payer and actual improvements to academic achievement have not been proven. Terms like "enrichment" don't equate with tangible results. I think you have more homework where numbers/research are concerned.
Parent & Employer	The disruption to childcare centers of all kinds... Summer camps, MDO's, Daycares, etc... is difficult to quantify. Additionally, parents with less flexibility in work schedules will struggle. With imposed changes, government should also offer every help available to small businesses and families impacted. My church MDO will suffer loss due to the change. My neutral position simply reflects my family's fortunate flexibility that will enable us to adjust in regards to our childcare needs. I once did not have such flexibility, and would have struggled were the changes made then.
Parent & Employer	The drawbacks definitely outweigh the benefits. The benefits seem to be for students with learning problems, which should be a minority. The measures taken to help those with problems should not affect the average or proficient students and their families.
Parent & Employer	The idea that children regress in the summer may actually be an issue with the style of teaching, not a problem with the children
Parent & Employer	The information provided so far isn't clear on the outcome of implementing a balanced calendar, I think KCS needs to provide more data clearly outlining the expected outcome of implementation. So far, there is only a list of "possible" benefits and disruptions. Families (ours included) also need to do their own research into other systems who have made the change.
Parent & Employer	The key word in this entire discussion is BALANCED. When reviewing the traditional vs balanced graphic, it is extremely clear that the balanced calendar as presented is still summer break heavy (maintaining the traditional summer vacation) and yet still manages to equally distribute the other breaks throughout the rest of the school year. While objections like child care arrangements are completely legitimate, I am 100% confident that child care providers will bend to the schedule of the entire county (which is exactly what they do now) and it will effectively become a non-issue. In my opinion, the balanced calendar is a total no-brainer - do it!
Parent & Employer	The only concern I have is that our teachers actually be given the same breaks as the students. I am concerned about requiring our teachers to work during the break times. Otherwise, I am happy to support and assist in any way I can.
Parent & Employer	The sooner the school system can announce the change with notice far in advance, the better. If the daycares, after school child care programs, etc. have time to schedule full-time care during the spring/fall breaks, I could be strongly in favor of the change. I have concerns whether these programs can adapt, due to having college students employed as workers of the programs. Please solicit these local entities in your surveys to determine how many would plan to offer full-time care during the breaks.
Parent & Employer	There are no truly substantive benefits and there are only minute benefits, which are clearly outweighed by the benefits, standards, comfort and stability that are derived from keeping the current and centuries old school schedule.
Parent & Employer	There is no information here. How much is this going to cost? Who will be helped? and to what degree will they be helped? For the children that aren't struggling, I am not interested in an enrichment activity for them. I prefer what is offered during summer break in the way of camps. Also, school is already a pressure cooker, I can't imagine wanting to extend that.
Parent & Employer	There seems to be a bias in this survey for a balanced calendar. That does not provide a fair hearing or solicitation of information. We all have biases. The survey is not completely free of bias in the presentation. This is evident in your final question (10) .

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent & Employer	There was a great deal of opposition for starting school earlier in August with many families voting for school to start the day after Labor Day. The survey for school year start time was evaluated in such a way to lean towards the School Boards preference. I hope this survey will be evaluated with less of a bias.
Parent & Employer	This appears to be poorly conceived and improperly executed. Not one person has been able to explain the costs associated with this transition. We continually expand the days the children are in school with little to no added benefit to the educational experiences and learning. I was recently advised by my school board member that this balanced calendar was already placed in the five year plan by the previous school board that basically rubber stamped anything that the superintendent requested. No wonder there was such a turnover in the school board during the recent elections. I can not stress to you how opposed I am to this plan.
Parent & Employer	This is another way McIntyre will destroy our schools. It goes right along with Common Core which is terrible,
Parent & Employer	This proposal is insane! A number of systems have tried this method and reverted back. Others have kept it but can point to no meaningful improvements as the result. The current calendar is not 'broken' and I can find little community / parental support for such a change. There are far more meaningful things KCS could pursue to drive 'Excellence for All Children'.
Parent & Employer	This will not fix the problems that are present in the school system. It will just create headaches for the community with little or no proven benefit to the schools.
Parent & Employer	Time for Dr. Mac to go!!!!
Parent & Employer	To me, the only way that the pro column outweighs the con column is if there is added instruction, which I think you are trying to do with the added help during the break... but what does that look like? What does it cost? Where does that money come from? There are too many unknowns for me to support this plan. If we are staying at 180 days of instruction, then all I really need is a true one-week fall break. Anything beyond that is a lot of angst and transition for very little benefit.
Parent & Employer	Totally against it for many reasons.
Parent & Employer	Truly horrible decision. We will move to private schools along with pulling all out current funding at our child's school bc we have all boys. I can't imagine having them home more during the cold months and expecting them to sit in a desk during the summer months
Parent & Employer	Until things like childcare during the breaks are addressed, I would say I am opposed. Several years ago, Knox County Schools changed their policy to no longer allow the various aftercare programs to operate in the schools during breaks. (Some schools do not have an on-site after care, I have been told that it is left up to the discretion of the schools principle). This will make the balanced calendar difficult for many parents in my area. There are not many child care providers that will take children on a two week basis ever 45 days, unless you are able to pay a premium. And I do not know of many employers who offer two weeks paid vacation every 45 days. As parents, we need to be more involved in our child's schooling, and I fear that the current proposal (without addressing the childcare concerns) would make parent involvement even more difficult.
Parent & Employer	very against this change
Parent & Employer	We are strongly in favor of a balanced calendar trial year hopefully in order to better access if this is truly the best direction for our school system.
Parent & Employer	We defeated in by another name 7+ years ago at the start of the current school superintendents employment with Knox County.
Parent & Employer	We haven't been told how much the proposed change would cost. Also there has not been mention of comparable sized school systems successes with the balanced calendar. We also hear about "summer slide" but use block scheduling in high school (which I do support). Really there seems to be no plan, just a wish that the administrators believe can increase compensation.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent & Employer	We need a better fall break. Three week breaks is too much of a disruption to summer break.
Parent & Employer	What do the top rated school systems in the US do? The best schools have great teachers and involved parents...no matter when they attend.
Parent & Employer	What happened to the other calendars that were being proposed at one point? We are asked to do this survey based on a 45 day summer, but one proposal I saw had a 28 day break. Is that calendar off the table? Either way, that should have been made clear in this survey. And the title is really offensive. "Support for a balanced calendar" is propaganda.
Parent & Employer	Where is the data?
Parent & Employer	While I can understand your reasons for wanting to go to a balanced calendar, it creates a hardship for the following reasons (I'm sure they are not new to you): 1. Lack of childcare (It is hard enough to find sitters during breaks if your child isn't in an after-school program already. Not every working family relies on daycare or YMCA programs.) 2. Enrichment Opportunities benefit - that is a laugh honestly. The families that can afford to do those activities already do them on the break, during school too. The kids that may need the most help, may not have the resources to take advantage of them no matter the length of the break. And what can really be accomplished in 10 days or less? 3. Intervention benefit - Unless teachers plan on sending homework with every student during the break and they plan to hold the students accountable for that work, how do you really explain this benefit? Again, not everyone has the resources to seek out intervention assistance for their child outside of school. Are they really going to do that during a short 10 day break???? Try sending home work during a break with only a handful of students and see what parent reaction you get back...it won't be positive because you have singled out their child. While it is good intentioned, it won't work.
Parent & Employer	While I will admit that I am romanced by the theory of longer fall and spring breaks, I simply do not feel that this plan has been fully developed. I cannot throw my support behind a change that will affect our entire community until someone answers the unpopular questions. Present me with a full marketing plan (not just a quick sales pitch) when you are ready for serious discussion. Whose idea was it to put the cart in front of the horse here? Do his/her bosses recognize how dangerous that strategy is? Are you hiring?
Parent & Employer	Why change it NOW! We have enough problems with all the other government requirements!!!!
Parent & Employer	Why is this balanced year brought up year after year? Is it an attempt to one day finally sway parents? Not too long ago parents rose up and protested the school board slowly year after year reducing summer break to the point the board had to give days back. It is short enough. Only twenty or so years ago it lasted until late September, now early August. You have taken enough away already.
Parent & Employer	Why pick a fight with the community that is trying to support you?
Parent & Employer	Will work hard to elect new school board members and KCS leadership if this passes.
Parent & Employer	Working in a PDO program we close when schools are closed so families that use our program for part time work with thier preschools would have a harder time during breaks
Parent & Employer	You are doing a great job of giving the public opportunities to have their voices heard. Again, it would be important that after school programs (ie YMCA) adjust their programs to support a balanced calendar

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent & Employer	You are trying to sell us off on more breaks but the truth to the matter is not about time off is how are we going to teach our children so much information in less time of school according to you Every child is different and learns in a different level and manner instead of being followers of other systems we should be looking into ways of perfecting what we have by giving Quality instead of Quantity. The majority of the school system staff has not been in the balanced calendar its something new to them just like common core is it really working? almost everyone is dropping it our summer schools are at a peak high right now.is it working?All of you went on a Normal school year and now Teaching Our kids Why Change Whats Not Broke. Give Us Quality Not Quantity
Parent & KCS	# 7 is poorly written. Should be 2 different questions.
Parent & KCS	#7 is completely worded wrong: rate your support or opposition for adopting then your opposing or in favor. This is a convoluted question. I am strongly opposed to adopting this calendar.
Parent & KCS	A balanced calendar will also wreak havoc on families with custody issues when children travel to other states for the entire summer and during other long breaks. I foresee situations where the parent with majority custody could end up with the child only during school sessions and therefore never really get quality time with their children during breaks in the name of equal time.
Parent & KCS	A balanced calendar will be a benefit for everyone-students, parents, and communities.
Parent & KCS	A full week for fall break would be ideal instead of an entire calendar change.
Parent & KCS	A longer school year even with breaks will add to discipline problems as students get weary of school, the teachers, and each other.
Parent & KCS	A sample school calendar would greatly help indecision on behalf of school staff, parents, and community stakeholders.
Parent & KCS	After 2weeks of snow days the students had suffered major setbacks....
Parent & KCS	After the two week snow break I had to spend time reviewing expectations in my classroom and had to review previous taught skills. This would be something that classroom teachers would have to do after each break.
Parent & KCS	Agree that extra breaks through the year is great idea. Full fall break is much better than spring break! No clear or consistent answers to how those extra help days during breaks work and who works on those days. What about extra snow days before or after break-how will those be made up?
Parent & KCS	All questions need to be answered so that people are more informed on how children will receive extra help and who will be providing this help during the off time.
Parent & KCS	always willing to try a new thing
Parent & KCS	Any calendar implemented should be in complete alignment to area college and university programs.
Parent & KCS	AP testing issues.
Parent & KCS	As a camp director, I know that child care will adapt to the balanced calendar. In addition, employment opportunities will be available during these periods. The benefits to the education and success of the children far outweigh any potential drawbacks.
Parent & KCS	As a former student that struggled in school, it would not help me at all. But it would cause more stress.
Parent & KCS	As a grandparent and former educator, I know how difficult it is for my son's family to schedule the summer camps and school enrichment activities within the current traditional calendar and breaks. I feel the balanced calendar would restrict their summer activities even further and as my grandchildren begin middle and high school, I think their school activities will further prohibit family time trips/vacations during the breaks in a traditional calendar, much less during a balanced calendar.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent & KCS	As a Knox County School Employee and parent of three Knox County Students I love the idea of a balanced calendar. I have no personal experience with a balance calendar but I know people who do and have heard only good things about it once the initial transition takes place.
Parent & KCS	As a School Counselor, I strongly believe this would also benefit children socially and emotionally. When kids start to get antsy and annoyed with each other, it would be time for a break. I have only heard good feedback from teachers who are on the balanced calendar.
Parent & KCS	As a school employee, I personally would love a balanced calendar as it would allow more travel opportunities for my family. However, after looking at the research and really contemplating this matter from a variety of perspectives, I don't believe this is the best plan for the students in this district.
Parent & KCS	As a teacher and a parent I think the benefits of a balanced calendar outweigh the traditional one, which was created to allow children to help their parents with farming in the summer. We need to adopt a calendar that is being implemented in academically successful countries around the world, and let go of an out-of-date calendar.
Parent & KCS	As a teacher I do not see the benefits which will then result in no benefits for the Children.
Parent & KCS	As a teacher I would still like to have inservice days NOT during the breaks. With the traditional calendar we would have had that time off and inservice days were sprinkled throughout the year. If we want to get rid of single inservice days here and there, cluster them and add them in front of or following the 10 days off.
Parent & KCS	As a teacher in Knox County I strongly disagree with any time impeded upon during the breaks by Knox County. That means no meetings, no required trainings, nothing. The breaks should not be interrupted for any reason.
Parent & KCS	As a teacher, I am very skeptical that teachers would actually get a break on the intercessions/spring and fall break times. We are constantly being asked to work substantially more than our contract hours, and often my school principal says things like use spring break "to get ahead"... breaks are breaks for teachers too. It is the justification of not giving us ANY Holiday time. We get so much holiday time scheduled into our calendar, but it is not holiday time if it is the expectation of our school leaders that we are working during this time.
Parent & KCS	As a teacher, the breaks seem beneficial for me and my students. We ask so much of young students and as rigor has increased so have behavior problems and frustration. Social skills and basic human understanding have taken a huge plunge and it can be a daily battle. So a break from time to time would be helpful to recharge. My fear is that if it isn't working, Knox Co will not consider going back. I have been here four years and it has been the hardest and most transitional years of my 15 years of teaching. Is this just one more thing to upset the apple cart?
Parent & KCS	As long as it is a true break for all students and teachers. It can't just be a break for the high achieving students the low achievers need a break too it can't all be enrichment an intervention
Parent & KCS	As long as teachers are off when the children are off, I can support the balanced calendar.
Parent & KCS	As long as there are not INSERVICE days during the breaks, it would be good!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! However, teachers should have the option of working during the 10 day breaks or NOT working!! If the plan is to make all teachers work during any of the 10 days of break, I AM STRONGLY OPPOSED!!
Parent & KCS	As previously mentioned the proposed 45-10 model better fits my answers, the 45-15 would increase transition times and cut into traditional summer experiences.
Parent & KCS	As with any major change, there will be opposition, but after a while it will become the norm. You can't please everyone.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent & KCS	As with any new change, families and communities will need to adjust. There are many surrounding areas that have a balanced calendar and they have adjusted just fine. I feel this will give families and teachers a more meaningful break during the year allowing for increased learning and motivation. My one concern is the families who depend on the free/reduced breakfast and lunch program and childcare. I would hope there would be a program in place to support these families or resources that will help them to adjust positively.
Parent & KCS	Bad for families and children.
Parent & KCS	Balanced calendar does not really offer more frequent breaks. The breaks that we already have are just longer. I would like to see a balanced calendar that really did offer more frequent breaks. Such as offering several 1 week breaks instead of six 2 week breaks during the school year.
Parent & KCS	Balanced calendar may be effective in some school systems , but I see it as another change that is not going to get to the root of our problems. Students are reading well below grade level when entering middle school ,and this greatly affects the manner in which they learn and operate in their classes. We are not solving these problems with balanced calendar. Sure the community may adapt and the students may get used to it, but is it fixing the current problems in the school system, or is it simply another change?
Parent & KCS	Balanced calendar would be beneficial to both students and teachers.
Parent & KCS	Balanced calendar would allow students and teachers to take advantage of various opportunities throughout the year rather than waiting for summer.
Parent & KCS	Breaks are breaks, school should start after Labor Day and end before Memorial Day. Time should be 8:30-3:30 with a 30 minute lunch and 10 minutes of rest, each day. Students should have PE, music, art, technology, creative play, and any other non-remedial torture. Sitting in a classroom on a computer practicing writing and math is really a poor way to motivate and help students learn. Making the day or year longer does not solve the learning problems. Most teachers and many caring students and parents will tell you-get the behavior problems out of the classroom and more active learning will take place. Right now every child must be educated (regardless of whether or not they care or wish to be there). That inhibits the entire learning process. A longer calendar will not solve the lack of learning problem.
Parent & KCS	Children and adults learn from unscheduled time and benefit from camps and work experience. IT is not my fault if some parents chose not to parent and offer their children opportunity. It does not take money, just time. Perhaps this is why so many are looking to home school.
Parent & KCS	Children, as well as teachers and staff, benefit from consistency and routine during the school year. The balanced calendar is broken up too much to provide the kind of structure most children need to enhance their learning.
Parent & KCS	Concern: Students who participate in sports will still be obligated to a traditional school calendar schedule
Parent & KCS	COST How much is this going to cost?
Parent & KCS	Could we add school uniforms too. Let's just make all kinds of changes for the better at one time! :)
Parent & KCS	Definitely more interested in the 2 week break balanced calendar than the 3 week balanced calendar.
Parent & KCS	Do it, and do it soon! Don't wait until 2016!!
Parent & KCS	Do not want to be expected to come in to tutor (do remediation for) students during the breaks, unless there is ample pay.
Parent & KCS	Energy costs? Please increase teacher pay. Really.
Parent & KCS	Everyone who I ve talked to who has personal experience with the Balanced Calendar is in favor of it. Kinda like holding your child back due to a late birthday, NO parent who has done it - regrets it. the Same goes for the Balanced Calendar

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent & KCS	Favor because I'm a teacher and daycare, breaks, transition aren't detrimental to my pay, schedule or child
Parent & KCS	For high school kiddos who need to have a job to help save for school and pay for everyday expenses, they are not going to be able to have job experiences because they will be over looked for their lack of being able to commit to a solid chunk of time. In an area with tourism being a big deal, our students are going to be lacking in all the skills that summer jobs have to offer.
Parent & KCS	For me, personally, I like the idea. I think it has some strong positives for the students (behavior issues and helping with kids feeling "burned out"), but it also is nice for us, as a family. It gives us the chance to travel during other times of the year, instead of only during crowded/expensive summer break. I do think that at first implementation, it will be difficult for people who need childcare. But if all of Knox County switches to a balanced calendar, daycares will also eventually switch to offer programs suited to the new schedule. They would have to adapt as nearly all the kids would be on this new schedule. I don't like this balanced schedule quite as much as one of the others showed to us a month or so ago. I can't tell you now what that looked like, but Fall Break was only 5 days, and I thought it was a great allocation of time. But this one would be ok, too. I definitely don't like the 15 days between grading periods and would be very against it.
Parent & KCS	From my experience, a balanced calendar is a asset to children's learning and retention.
Parent & KCS	Funding. No evidence-based research that it is better then what we have.
Parent & KCS	Good things and bad. Just hate the drawbacks.
Parent & KCS	Great idea! Hope we get it!
Parent & KCS	Has the cost of starting this type of calendar been explored and released to the public? My understanding is it will increase the budget significantly especially in the first year.
Parent & KCS	Having 2 1/2 weeks less in the summer is not a problem. I am a substitute teacher so I am on my kids schedule anyway. Childcare is not a problem. I would think that if Knox County adopts this schedule that the community would adapt to the new schedule too. My kids are in K and 1st grade so we are just getting started with school so we could easily adapt to the new schedule.
Parent & KCS	How do you pay for "enrichment" time?
Parent & KCS	How will it be paid for, what program will be cut?
Parent & KCS	How would schools be cleaned over shorter summer break? Would teachers still have to take everything down off the walls over summer and have less time to put it back up?
Parent & KCS	How would snow days be handled? How would teachers complete all necessary training ?
Parent & KCS	How would the system address snow days in a balanced calendar? Would there still be a built in allotment? If so, and that allotment is exceeded, do the children make it up on the intercession periods or over the summer?
Parent & KCS	How would this effect Central Office? How would that effect 200,205,211,216, 221, 226,232,242,255 employees on the days they are at work, and the days they are off?
Parent & KCS	I still have a lot of questions about the calendar from a teachers stand point. When will the in professional development for teachers occur, I am assuming not on the break days since that is a break for us to and those that have children do not have child care for them so that would be a change. We need more information or a statement about the teacher calendar for the balanced calendar. I am very much close to being in favor just need a lot more information.
Parent & KCS	I think we are just adding an extra break in the fall and in the spring and taking it away from summer. I don't see how that will improve student's academic success.
Parent & KCS	I agree only to the proposed balanced calendar at the beginning of the survey. I am not in favor of the one with three week breaks.
Parent & KCS	I am a current employee who will be resigning at the end of the year with plans to move out of state quite possibly before or just as this concept is proposed to be implemented.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent & KCS	I am a future teacher and have a child in the school system. I think the balanced calendar will be beneficial to all.
Parent & KCS	I am a level 5 elementary school teacher (2time teacher of the year) who is thinking of leaving my profession because of stress and burn out. If the balanced calendar is implemented, I may decide to stay in the career I really do love.
Parent & KCS	I am a teacher and parent and totally support the balanced calendar.
Parent & KCS	I am a teacher, parent, and community member and am very much in favor of this implementation.
Parent & KCS	I am curious how many "spots" will be available for enrichment and additional support during the breaks. Summer school is very limited as to how many students grade levels are able to send. At least initially, I am thinking that parents will be interested for child care reasons. Will the district be providing transportation, after-school care in some form? Will there be a support program for the special education students? Will all schools adopt the balanced calendar (elementary through high school)? How will high schools manage AP exams and graduation in time for summer enrollment in college?
Parent & KCS	I am extremely excited about the idea of a balanced calendar. I would have preferred a to shorten the summer break even more, creating lengthier fall, winter and spring breaks ... but I do understand the benefits of a smaller transition up front.
Parent & KCS	I am for it if there is a plan for the budget to address the issues with teachers.
Parent & KCS	I am in favor if is the 45/10
Parent & KCS	I am in favor of a balanced calendar with FUNDED intercessions and breaks for teachers as well as students. There has been talk recently of teachers being required to work during the break (in-service) and I am NOT in favor of that. One of the benefits, I believe, is the rest and recharge aspect of a balanced calendar. Teachers need this as much (if not more, sometimes) than students. Before I can fully put my support behind a balanced calendar, I would like to know the fiscal impact and the details of teacher contract time. It has been stated publicly by a high ranking KCS administrator that "the devil is in the details", but I believe we need to know this devil we call details in order to make an informed and educated opinion on a balanced vs. traditional calendar.
Parent & KCS	I am in favor of returning to a one week fall break. There is suggested plan giving in this survey about how to apply or pay for any interventions during the breaks.
Parent & KCS	I am in favor of the option which has two week (10 day) breaks, not the three week (15 day) option.
Parent & KCS	I am in favor of the plan as demonstrated by the graphs. I am not in favor of the calendar I have seen with 3 three-week breaks and a 4 week summer.
Parent & KCS	I am leaning more to "In Favor", however before I can truly commit I need more information about how enrichment will be handled specifically and there are still other questions that need to be answered.
Parent & KCS	I am looking forward to the balanced calendar.
Parent & KCS	I am nervous about the change, but I see it as a great opportunity. Vacations are much cheaper and less populated in the fall so that is a great advantage. I also think it gives families who do not live close to extended family to have more opportunities to visit.
Parent & KCS	I am not pleased with the way the community input meets are taken place.....really I received I an automated phone call the night before my area meeting. I had already made plans for my family. The information shared with the public has been incorrect on dates and times.. I am concerned about the increased cost this new balanced calendar will have on the system, KCS is currently cutting programs (AVID) but yet KCS is going to try an New program ?

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent & KCS	I am not sure how I feel about it. Children are pushed like robots in school now and more break is good. I don't believe that 10 or 12 days less in the summer is going to make that big of a difference in their learning. That seems a bit of a stretch. I think they need more summer, more fall break and leave the rest alone. They are children. I work in the school system and see how hard they are pushed and how they act when they have not had a break in a while. It is not fun for the teachers, EAs or the children. Why do they need to be pushed more than they already are. Some children are at school or some type of day care setting all day anyway, why increase it.
Parent & KCS	I am only in favor if the intercessions were optional teaching time for teachers. I do not want to work during a break.
Parent & KCS	I am only in favor of the 2 week breaks. If the school is considering a three week break I am NOT in favor of that calendar.
Parent & KCS	I am only in favor of the calendar with 2 week breaks. I am not in favor of the 3 week break calendar with the even shorter Summer.
Parent & KCS	I am only opposing at this time due to the fact that I have not heard what that will do to classified staff on a 221 day contract. How does this change our summer break since we only get a short time anyway and how will we get things ready for the new school year if we have the same amount of time off as the students?
Parent & KCS	I am opposed to making students participate in enrichment/learning during the breaks. It should be optional. What is a break for if you don't get to enjoy it - without school work?
Parent & KCS	I am overall in favor of a balanced calendar however, I would like more information on how the balanced calendar would affect ESY (summer school). If KCS will continue to require ESY to be offered then I believe this would greatly impact the staff and their families who work ESY due to the loss of 12 days off and creating a situation where these staff members have less time with their own families. This is an area of concern for myself and my children.
Parent & KCS	I am personally neutral to the balanced calendar. But I have sincere worries about many aspects of it. There are more questions than answers at the moment. Would students that have interventions benefit from not having these breaks? How much will it cost, and where will the money come from to pay for it? Especially in light of the current budget issues. What studies have you seen that show long-term benefits of the balanced calendar? Who would have access to enrichment classes? Would that make teachers be required to have in-service days over the breaks? If so, would they be compensated for that? How would we keep such a massive change from hurting our neediest families when it comes to food resources over the breaks and child care? Why have some schools went on a balanced calendar and then reversed that decision a few years into the experiment? Finally, why? Why are we doing this right now when there has not been a community or stakeholder request.
Parent & KCS	I am strongly in favor of only the 43 day summer model with 10 day breaks presented in this survey NOT the models that further shorten the summer and lengthen the breaks. As both a parent and an educator, I feel the advantages far outweigh any challenges. The rationale behind the traditional calendar is archaic, and if we are to do what is in the best interest of students, we must be willing to adapt to needed change.
Parent & KCS	I am strongly in favor of the balanced calendar. I believe the benefits are worth implementing the calendar.
Parent & KCS	I am under the old addage, if it is not broke, then why fix it. Alot of families have this time planned with their kids and I think they enjoy this time with their families. With all the changes that would have to be made there will be other areas that will also suffer such as day cares and summer jobs. This will do more harm than good.
Parent & KCS	I am very much in favor of the balanced calendar and plan to contact my school board representative to voice my support. Thank you for considering this for our students.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent & KCS	I am worried about how it will be funded and what programs will be cut if it comes down to a funding issue. I think tell everyone it will cost between zero to 20 million dollars is disingenuous.
Parent & KCS	I believe it is a stepping stone to additional amendments that would negatively impact student learning and teacher morale.
Parent & KCS	I believe that childcare programs will adjust to meet family needs (I used to work for school age child care program).
Parent & KCS	I believe the balanced calendar will be beneficial to students, parents, and teachers both academically and mentally.
Parent & KCS	I can see how a balanced calendar would benefit me both personally and professionally. I also can see how it would benefit my students. I fully support giving this a try.
Parent & KCS	I can see the benefits for our children!
Parent & KCS	I cannot see the benefit of stretching out the school year even though there are no additional teaching days. The only justifiable reason to stretch it out would be to provide more instruction. There is already a large enough gap between the beginning of school classes and the AP tests in the spring. Also students who take dual enrollment classes would have even more disruptions and changes to their dual enrollment classes vs their high school calendar. I believe the people proposing balanced calendar are looking from an elementary, stay at home mom mindset and are not seeing that this schedule is not the best for High School Students. I wish we would not rush into this decision and provide ample time to thoroughly look at everything that changing the calendar that has been in place for decades would effect.
Parent & KCS	I completely disagree with the balanced calendar, both as a teacher and as a parent. I believe the current calendar is what is best for us.
Parent & KCS	I do not support this calendar and I am willing to take any steps to halt this decision.
Parent & KCS	I do not understand question 7. It is asking 2 different things. I am strongly in favor of balanced calendar.
Parent & KCS	I do not want or agree with a balanced calendar.
Parent & KCS	I do not want to be on contract during the 10 day breaks. I want to have two full weeks off in the fall, winter, and spring.
Parent & KCS	I do not want to be required to return to school the last week of July with students returning first week of August in the full heat of summer. I wish there was an option on either calendar to begin on mid-late August (even if that means going to school after Memorial Day). The students are too hot to play and miss out on summer activities during the warmest time of the year. I think if a balanced calendar is not approved other options should be considered. As a teacher, I am not sure how many parents will take advantage of intervention/enrichment offerings if that is vacation time. In addition, how will those programs be funded.
Parent & KCS	I don't see where approximately 12 less days of summer is beneficial to increase learning.
Parent & KCS	I enjoy the traveling my family does during the summer as well as our family enrichment activities. My high school age children enjoy earning money during the summer at their jobs. I prefer the traditional calendar.
Parent & KCS	I favor the balanced calendar to help curtail the amount of review needed each fall, and to give students and staff more opportunity to rejuvenate at the end of a grading terms.
Parent & KCS	I feel that adding a full week of Fall Break would be a good alternative if the traditional schedule is kept.
Parent & KCS	I feel that it only is feasible if all levels of schools (Primary-High School) are on the same calendar.
Parent & KCS	I feel that the balanced calendar is what's best for all students' academic success. Families will need to prioritize their time off in a different way - sports, vacations, and family activities can still occur, but families will have to plan accordingly.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent & KCS	I feel this would be difficult for elementary aged children with regards to transitioning so frequently. They need and do much better academically with consistent schedules. I think the balanced calendar has breaks that are too long.
Parent & KCS	I feel this would not work simply because of child care for people plus summer break is when people have vacations and students have summer jobs. Plus the breaks through out the year i feel will not benefit the children just makes it harder to get back in the school schedule after a break. My opinion is this is a very bad idea. The school system has been like this as long as i can remember with no problems so why mess with it.
Parent & KCS	I feel we have let sports and under issues hold us back long enough. We grip because other countries are passing us. But they don't put activities before education. Too many kids are with grandparents any way. Day cares will work around a school schedule. They may have to rethink their implementation of their organization. But change can be good.
Parent & KCS	I find that everything we try to do always comes down to budget. I think that the idea of intervention and enrichment are nice but funding the teachers, facilities, and meals for those students will be difficult. Also, there is no way we can guarantee a student will show up for intervention because these days would go above and beyond the 180 required by the state. I just don't feel that enough of the questions have been answered to give this serious consideration.
Parent & KCS	I have a student who would have strongly benefited from a balanced calendar. She attended summer school 2 years in a row and I feel if KCS would have had a balanced calendar she would have retained more. I feel like there is to much time spent on "catching up" at the beginning of the year.
Parent & KCS	I have concerns about teachers - would teachers also be off during scheduled times off? If not, there would be another concern for child care.
Parent & KCS	I have experienced a balanced calendar in another district in another state. Both teachers and families loved the balanced calendar. Families learned to schedule family vacations during the shortened summer or on intercessions in October or March. I think if the district tries a balanced calendar, families might be pleasantly surprised how much they enjoy it.
Parent & KCS	I have never heard of anyone on a similar calendar/schedule say that they were unhappy with it. It has been my experience as a parent that children are excited for "summer" vacation for about 2-4 weeks, then they start saying "...there's nothing to do..." or "...I'm bored..." The benefits in the classroom would seem to outweigh any obstacles in the community.
Parent & KCS	I have researched balanced calendar. There is no evidence that it results in higher student performance past the first few grades (there is no evidence that it has any negative impact either). There are simply not enough benefits to justify transitioning to this calendar. Balanced calendar would in fact result in higher cost to run the school system as teachers would be working more days to accommodate the intercession and enrichment. Also has there been any thought to what mechanism would be in place for those students who refuse to attend those sessions? Given that low student performance is in many cases tied to attendance, it would be very difficult to find a way to force a child to attend school during a "break" when we have no effective way to force them to attend already under a regular calendar.
Parent & KCS	I haven't seen data that shows the shorter summer breaks help with retention and more frequent breaks help with discipline.
Parent & KCS	I just feel like we have these decisions handed down to us and nothing seems to remain the same. We are told it will be one way and then little tweaks over time continue to change it unto something very different than how it was originally presented.
Parent & KCS	I know we live in a town where alot of the reason we do things the way we do is because that's the ways it's always been, Let's try it for a time period and if it truly doesn't work, we can always go back to way it used to be. The way it is, is fine, but I think we should atleast try a balanced calendar. What could it hurt?

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent & KCS	I like the plan with the two week breaks best.
Parent & KCS	I like the Traditional Calendar, and would like it to stay as is. I DO NOT WANT the Balanced Calendar. I WANT and ENJOY my time with my Children.
Parent & KCS	I prefer a mix of proposed calendars. 2 week fall break 3 week Christmas break 2 week spring break
Parent & KCS	I really like the idea of a balanced calendar but REALLY would prefer to go into June and begin in September. It is really hot in August and this is the time the kids need to be with families in the pool and enjoying other summer activities. Recess is NOT enjoyable in August for the kids or teachers.
Parent & KCS	I save a lot of money by pulling my babies out of child care for the summer. If the balanced calendar happens, I will have to continue to pay during the breaks in order to save the spot. This will mean a lot of money loss for my family. We use every penny of our money already!
Parent & KCS	I say opposed for the reasons I listed prior. If the reasons mentioned will not be effected then I see no reason to oppose. It sounds like on one end it would be very beneficial for our struggling students, but could also be beneficial to our students who are making gains. They could do enrichment programs.
Parent & KCS	I still haven't heard anyone explain an ACCURATE reason why we would change. It's that simple. One side says, "It would positively impact student achievement," while the other side says, "There is no data to support that." The only justification I can see for either a balanced calendar or traditional calendar is "This is just the way I want it." I don't feel strongly in favor of one calendar over another, but I do feel strongly in my desire to understand WHY the calendar would be switched to balanced. The reasons listed in this survey really seem weak.
Parent & KCS	I strongly disagree with any possibility of 3 week breaks but I would support 2 week breaks.
Parent & KCS	I strongly support having a balanced calendar. I think it would be good for teachers and students alike. I also think the local community (daycares, etc.) would adjust their schedules to fit the new curriculum or risk losing business.
Parent & KCS	I support the 45-10 balanced option. I do not support the 45-15 balanced option.
Parent & KCS	I think a balanced calendar will be good for our students, staff, and community.
Parent & KCS	I think a better option would be to have a week back for fall break and only cut summer by a few days to allow for this!
Parent & KCS	I think daycares would be open for full time during those weeks school would be out just like they are now during school holidays or inservice days, so childcare wouldn't be a problem. Staff and student morale would be better because they have more chances to "recharge" .
Parent & KCS	I think it is a great idea for my family. There are some flaws though.
Parent & KCS	I think it is important for the school sysyrm, news outlets, & social media to be very clear that this is balanced calendar and NOT year around school.
Parent & KCS	I think it would be a great change!!
Parent & KCS	I think it would be better for the kids & the teachers. You r still getting the same amount of days off, they r just broken up. I'm in favor for it.
Parent & KCS	I think it would benefit everyone eventually.
Parent & KCS	I think it's a great idea!!!! I/we loved the "snowcation" this winter and I really think it did our family good to slow down for a couple weeks and rest. Huge fan of the balanced calendar!!!!!!!
Parent & KCS	I think it's a great opportunity
Parent & KCS	I think Knox County is jumping on the popular bandwagon right now without solid proof of data showing that this will help our students academically.
Parent & KCS	I think that a balanced calendar would offer students the ability to catch up midway through the year if they are struggling. It will also allow families additional times during the year to take family vacations other than during the heat of the summer.
Parent & KCS	I think that it should have been done YEARS ago.
Parent & KCS	I think that the breaks should be one week long vs. two weeks, unless teacher workdays were built into those two weeks.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent & KCS	I think the balanced calendar is a good consideration. I appreciate the district leaders asking for input.
Parent & KCS	I think the balanced calendar is an excellent solution to many problems that schools face and believe there will be community support once it is implemented fully and system-wide.
Parent & KCS	I think the choice of the two week breaks during the year is a better choice for students.
Parent & KCS	I think the data cited on the website is outdated and inconclusive. I do not think it is a good idea. I would be a proponent of reinstating the week at fall break and extending the school year by a week or so. Having breaks every two months is too much for working parents to juggle.
Parent & KCS	I think the potential benefits outway the negatives.
Parent & KCS	I think this idea will make this job immeasurably harder and even more stressful. the number of teachers who take anti-anxiety/ anit-depressant medication is already off the charts!!! Give your staff a rest. Also it is a huge problem for child care and summer jobs. most places are not so flexible as to let kids work a week here and there.
Parent & KCS	I think this is a great way to go.
Parent & KCS	I think this is a positive step in the direction of having a year round school calendar in which I think that the bigger difference can be made for children being able to learn more consistently
Parent & KCS	I think this is another example of a less than intelligent decision by the leadership of KCS.
Parent & KCS	I think we should try it for at least two years to investigate its consequences. The system needs change. Student apathy is at an all time high, and teacher morale is at an all time low.
Parent & KCS	I truly feel that you should speak to all the parents and staff in the community to truly get an accurate answer. there are so many things that could be done better and not put money in our super intendants pocket. I don't feel that the school board or our super indendant really cares, because it is all about what you want to see, not what truly benefits our childrens education.
Parent & KCS	I understand that concept and, in general, I am for a better schedule for our students if it allows them to have a better chance to succeed. However, I feel that there are more drawbacks than advantages at this point simply because parents are already stretched thin with most families having two parents working and sometimes working two jobs. Creating more scheduling situations for child care just adds to demise of the family-oriented schedule (in my opinion). Sometimes, certain traditions are OK to uphold. I believe that this is one of those cases. I do think there may be areas where we can adjust a few weeks here and there to help in this area, but a complete overhaul may cause more damage than help. I don't believe that longer periods off (summer break, for instance) hurts a child's memory whatsoever. Studies prove that children have an amazing retention capability. If we are worried about children remembering content, perhaps we should take a look at how we deliver our educational content. Kids still need to be kids and I feel that summer break is one of those long-time traditions that benefit them and allow them to enjoy some of the best weather of the year. In regards to summer employment...a large number of businesses that employ teenagers during the summer would like to have them available for a longer period of time. It allows the business to reap the benefit of additional help freeing up some time for upper management to address some projects that they would like to get done. Overall, I'm not completely opposed to a balanced calendar. I do feel like it's not necessary. The current system has worked for so many years I can't believe that it would be necessary to change it now. If we have a problem with grades and state test scores, I would take a look at how we address our teaching strategy; not change something that worked for so many years.
Parent & KCS	I will just restate that I believe the negatives outweigh the positives. Thank you for taking my opinion into consideration.
Parent & KCS	I will no longer have children in school by the time this is potentially implemented but I think it's a good idea. I'm weary of all the talk and just wish a decision would be made one way or the other. Be bold!

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent & KCS	I will work with any schedule/calendar that is chosen for our county. However, I am concerned that the benefits will not outweigh the problems with this schedule.
Parent & KCS	I wonder why it has taken this long to start a conversation about a balanced calendar. I see more positive for the students from the calendar than I do negative.
Parent & KCS	I would be in favor of a three week break at Christmas.
Parent & KCS	I would be in favor of the balanced calendar that included the 43 day summer break. I strongly oppose the balanced calendar that only had a 28ish day summer break.
Parent & KCS	I would be interested in trying it out for a year at least. I would hope that the school year would extend throughout the month of May, though, to hopefully prevent going back to school in July.
Parent & KCS	I would be willing to try the balanced calendar. However, I feel it will take many years to see if it is good for students, or not. Also, I worry that once we change, we may not be able to return to the original calendar if parents, students, the community and teachers don't like the new calendar.
Parent & KCS	I would like all of my questions answered before I feel like my choice is accurate. We need to know if intervention will be required, who will be teaching it, how will they be paid for their time, will teachers be required to be present during the off weeks, when will Inservice meetings be held, and is there a third option of a one week fall break?
Parent & KCS	I would like for the district to focus on other things that would help with the quality of education. Including, assigning a textbook to every child in middle and high school and using the material in the book. When students graduate from high school and go to college they will be expected to read the material in their textbook, and prepare for the next class. Our students now are not being taught this because they do not have a textbook to help them prepare. I think the rules for retention are way off. My daughter has worked hard to make A, B and C grades while other kids rarely go to school and make better grades and get passed to the next grade having attended maybe 1/3 of the school year. I have subbed in classrooms where a child does not know the basic skills from the grade before. I do not see how passing that kid to the next grade is doing that child, the child parents, or society any favors. We need to work hard to make sure everykid knows the skills. I also have great concern with how the balanced calendar will effect the budget. Which is an issue that everyone seems to avoiding.
Parent & KCS	I would like more information about who would be teaching the intervention and enrichment opportunities during the breaks and also how students would be selected to participate in these opportunities. Also, with the budget so tight, how will we pay those who work during the breaks?
Parent & KCS	I would like to have a clear idea of how a balanced calendar will effect Knox County Staff.
Parent & KCS	I would like to know if teachers are still able to receive in-service days. Teachers and assistants do not have enough days during the year to plan and work in their classrooms!!
Parent & KCS	I would like to know more details about why other states/counties that have tried the balanced calendar went back to the traditional calendar.
Parent & KCS	I would like to see KCS go longer than the end of May and not start until later in August. Since it isn't really hot when we get out, vacation time isn't really under way, and it's miserably hot when school begins let's just adjust that and leave all else alone!
Parent & KCS	I would like to see some concrete evidence where a balanced calendar greatly improves student learning. I have been told it will but not been proven of beneficial results. Just way too many ifs and problems for many families to do it on a whim.
Parent & KCS	I would like to see the specific calendar with dates, etc no just generalities. 9 weeks with zero days off can begin to feel suffocating. There are particular times in a school year that having that Student Holiday or Teacher workday came at just the right time because of teacher/student burnout!!!
Parent & KCS	I would look for other employment as a teacher and coach if we went to this plan. How about take the money it would cost and add it to our pay scale, we would stop losing great teachers to other districts and our "scores" would improve.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent & KCS	I would prefer two week breaks throughout the year rather than three week breaks.
Parent & KCS	If a child truly learns something, he/she isn't going to lose that knowledge regardless of the calendar. If they can't remember how to do something, or can't recall facts, then they never really knew them to begin with.
Parent & KCS	If Knox County adopted this calendar, local childcare and activities would adjust to meet the needs of local parents. Smaller schools and area districts may also adopt this calendar soon after. I think that most of the drawbacks would not be as problematic as they seem.
Parent & KCS	If teachers work more contracted days, they should be compensated more than 3%.
Parent & KCS	If the best option is a balanced schedule. Could the school system do a slow transition into it. Example: add an extra day a year to spring/fall breaks, take away a day at the beginning and end of summer each year til you get to a balanced calendar. Think how bus drivers and other part time employees will adjust with loss of time to make suppliment money. (Alcoa school bus drivers are full time employees. So they did not have a loss of pay like ours will)
Parent & KCS	If the kids who are struggling are required to do a attend a Voyager or Spire program during the break, I am 100% against that. Those programs are BORING BORING BORING. If there were creative, engaging activities for the strugglers, I would be for the struggling kids attending something. I just fear that those kids who struggle and hate school, will hate school even more if they have to have drill and kill while everyone else is out. PLUS, I am VERY CONCERNED with how to pay for this. What teachers will do the instruction during the breaks? There will definitely be more costs involved for KCS--electricity alone, not mention teacher salary increases for the extra work. Why has there been no mention of these costs?
Parent & KCS	If we are wanting to throw money at something that will benefit the students, why don't we look at things that have actually been proven to work? Smaller class sizes, for example, have been shown to have a tremendous positive impact on student outcomes. The balanced calendar has been studied for decades and even with all that time, has NEVER been proven to help anywhere, and it costs a lot of money. Has anyone bothered to talk with all the school systems that have tried it, found that it did not work, cost a lot of money, and then went back to traditional calendars? We do not need to "try" something that we know will not work.
Parent & KCS	If we could now get rid of block scheduling in the high school...
Parent & KCS	If we go to this calendar as a teacher I am likely to take a job that pays year round rates.
Parent & KCS	If you change the 2016-2017 calendar, families need to know by July 2015 since some vacations are planned a year in advance. If you can't announce a change before 2015-2016, you need to implement change in 2017-2018. In other words, don't rush it or you'll have a high absentee rate for students and teachers for the first week of school.
Parent & KCS	I'm concerned that "time to recharge" for teachers in he breaks between sessions may not be a priority as many teachers will likely need to plan and prepare for these intervention and enrichment opportunities. Also, teachers have traditionally had flexibility in scheduling some professional development during summer or throughout the school year. I'm concerned that the district will likely fill up teachers' break schedules with inservice and training, thus negating the positive effects of a break for teachers.
Parent & KCS	I'm in favor but these questions regarding who will work the breaks and how much will this cost need to be addressed. I'm assuming that the 45/15 option is not on the table as an option anymore?
Parent & KCS	I'm not actually opposed, I just want to see patience before implementing this! Let's discuss the potential problems and have solutions ready prior to implementation, during afterwards!
Parent & KCS	I'm only opposed because my twins will be seniors that school year, & I am concerned it will mess up some plans.
Parent & KCS	I'm pretty neutral. I see the benefits. I hate the changes our family will have to make to adjust.
Parent & KCS	I'm sure this survey is just something to say Knox County asked the community. I strongly believe this survey won't be taken into consideration.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent & KCS	I'm surprised to find out there's only 12 fewer days for Summer Break in the Balanced Calendar. It doesn't seem like in 12 days there would be a significant amount of additional information loss. I do prefer the Balanced Calendar on the whole especially if more affordable learning opportunities are available during the 10 day breaks.
Parent & KCS	In an email from the Superintendent to my school board member dated 3/1/15 he was asked if all teacher inservice/admin days will be scheduled during the 2/3 breaks. His response was, "generally yes with the exception of the perhaps a few days of preparation at the beginning of the school year". I am 100% against this and adding days to the teacher's working contracts.
Parent & KCS	In favor depending on what the breaks would actually be. Does staff work? Will compensation be apart of extra days? Don't you think when we are on a break the kids that are behind are the ones that would not be brought to school for those extra days?
Parent & KCS	In favor if it means that staff also are included in the break as well, with minimal disruptions in breaks with inservice.
Parent & KCS	In favor of 2 week breaks between grading periods but not 3 weeks . That would make the summer too short for any kind of family plans.
Parent & KCS	In favor only if there is funding for students to have opportunities for enrichment and intervention.
Parent & KCS	Increase in pay???
Parent & KCS	Is it possible to slowly introduce the balanced calendar over 4-5 years instead of changing it all in one year? This could be done by reducing a week of summer and making fall break a week longer. The next year take off another week of summer and add it to the winter break. And finally take one more week off of summer and add a week to spring break. Maybe this would help families and daycare workers adjust.
Parent & KCS	It is a horrible idea; just ask any of the students in Alcoa how bad it is.
Parent & KCS	It is about the students and my ELL students are greatly at risk and would benefit from the balanced calendar. It should be implemented for those students. Our more proficient students will prosper under any calendar. Let's do it!
Parent & KCS	It is my belief that a balanced calendar is best for students.
Parent & KCS	It is the same amount of required childcare, it is just spread out throughout the year, which defers some of the cost until October, December, ect. Having scheduled breaks allows for family trips throughout the year when the cost may be cheaper.
Parent & KCS	It makes sense as far as I am concerned. Those parents who work year round don't have 3 months off in the summer to care for their kids so I don't see how this is a major concern for them.
Parent & KCS	It personally would not affect my home life due to the nature of my family's jobs but I just feel so bad for the people whose schedules it would turn upside down. I still think it would be so much easier to just go to school 4 days a week so there is consistency and shorten summer and prevent burn out that way. That would help Childcare centers and parents alike as well as students who have jobs.
Parent & KCS	It will be hard for daycares to take afterschool kids all day every 45 days.
Parent & KCS	I've been given many articles that indicate the balanced calendar has extreme budget issues. There are also many articles that specifically name dozens of school districts that tried the balanced calendar and then later reverted back to the traditional calendar because there were absolutely no improvements made on students grades and it was costing the schools too much money.
Parent & KCS	I've been told by an administrator at our school that they've been told to "get on board" with the idea. It's happening. The community meetings were a JOKE.
Parent & KCS	Just knowing the behavior throughout the system from elementary and high school level. I can see it working on that level. It will give the breaks for the teachers,also. (less stressful hopefully)

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent & KCS	KCS has initiated numerous changes over the past four years. This particular one has no research to show that changing the calendar will actually benefit anyone, including students, and it will significantly disrupt a long cultural tradition of summer break for families. Younger children don't adapt easily to multiple changes, so they will benefit from leaving the calendar as it is. However, if KCS wants to consider an EXTENDED calendar, I'll be in line with support. But change for the sake of change is not good.
Parent & KCS	Keep traditional calendar, but add back Fall break.
Parent & KCS	Knox County has jumped on WAY too many bandwagons and this is yet another one. There is no significant research to back up the IDEA that a balanced calendar will improve learning or test scores. Teachers are now hearing that we will be required to work and/or provide child care for the weeks we are off on a balanced calendar. If this is true, it's a deal breaker for me.
Parent & KCS	Latch key children, summer work for high school students, pregnancy rates and funding are all potential road blocks.
Parent & KCS	Leave it alone.
Parent & KCS	Let well enough alone.....
Parent & KCS	Let's do this!!
Parent & KCS	Like anything new, there will be an adjustment period. The community will adjust, as they have in other communities that have faced the same implementation.
Parent & KCS	make more balance - shorter summer and longer breaks! My husband is a teacher, so the child-care is not a problem, but even when our kids are out of the house, we will be extremely limited in vacation and travel scheduling.
Parent & KCS	Many staff and students depend on summer jobs to help make ends meet. With the implementation of the balanced calendar those opportunities will no longer be available.
Parent & KCS	Many students (with academic/behavior/emotional) issues may choose to not attend the intersession days even if they are required. It's an excellent calendar for parents who work in the school system. Otherwise it could pose a real hardship on working parents.
Parent & KCS	Many teachers supplement their incomes with summer jobs. They would have less time to do so due to a shorter summer break.
Parent & KCS	More frequent breaks will cause for less burnout of teachers and students. Retention will increase academically for students. 12 days difference between summer breaks is not going to effect anyone's vacation plans. Day cares will adjust to whatever the county school system is doing. They are not going to shutdown. Let's do it.
Parent & KCS	More time needs to be taken to obtain more data as to the pros and cons of adopting this type of calendar. KCS needs to look outside the state of Tennessee and see what other school systems have done, and study the longer-term effects of this system. I have heard of school systems in Virginia who adopted this system and then went back to the traditional calendar because it was not working. We also need to give our children the opportunity to earn money and gain work experience during the summers. Plus, there are already program in place to help with the loss of learning over the summer. Cost is also a huge factor and a big unknown at this point. Thank you.
Parent & KCS	Most of my reasons for support are personal reasons - such as more frequent breaks to be at home with my children. My opposition to the balanced calendar is budget related. I don't want to lose positions because of budget cuts.
Parent & KCS	Most of our schools are at least 20% classes in out buildings. It gets extremely hot in the summer and making them go to school more in the hotter months could put their health in danger. I work in a kitchen at one of the middle schools, even with air conditioning it gets extremely hot in the kitchen and the cafeteria, that puts our staff at risk of dehydration or heat exhaustion. Kids are kids for only a small amount of time, rather than take away their time to be children to make them grow up faster why don't we focus on what they need the most of when they get older for the time we have them.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent & KCS	Most people think this is a done deal and these types of surveys are formalities.
Parent & KCS	My child attended West High and was privileged to have Mr. Gallo and Ms. Jackson as teachers. During one open house, Ms. Jackson said that her juniors needed a week long Fall Break due that the junior year is so challenging. Mr. Gallo shared that at least a week long Fall Break is needed so that students can go on college campus visits. It doesn't have to be either or with the Balanced Calendar vs Traditional as we know it. If Balanced Calendar is not approved, PLEASE PLEASE bring back the week long FALL BREAK! We live in such a beautiful area of the country in the Fall, many families would like to use that week to travel. Camping, hiking, site seeing, etc. I also think that we'll see less teacher absents - teachers will know that 9 weeks is a short time and a break is right around the corner. Teachers are known to take "mental health days"
Parent & KCS	My child goes to a private school and our schedules will not be the same. I would have to consider a different job.
Parent & KCS	My concern is also for those students who have summer employment !!!
Parent & KCS	My daughter is in 7th grade. She wants to be home schooled if the balanced schedule passes.
Parent & KCS	My family and I enjoyed the balanced calendar in Hawaii and would to see it here.
Parent & KCS	My family is not a fan of balance calendar!
Parent & KCS	My only hesitation in fully supporting a move to a balanced calendar is the cost. I have heard from some that it will cost a lot more to have a balanced calendar than to have our current calendar due to the Intervention and Enrichment during the breaks. I would like to hear from KCS regarding the cost comparison.
Parent & KCS	My opposition at this point is due to the lack of specific information. I would want to know the exact schedule proposed in order to support this huge change in schedule. Please do not change the schedule without providing specific information concerning the exact schedule. The school system has provided confusing information and seems uncertain about the number of instructional days and days of break proposed for students and staff. Are you proposing two or three week breaks? How many days will be instructional days? If you favor 9 weeks on and only two week off what happens to the extra days? all other models are 6 weeks on two weeks off or 9 weeks on 3 weeks off. Nine weeks on 2 weeks off leaves an unbalanced schedule and less days for families and staff? This seems like a swift change that requires more careful planning and a provision of honest facts given to all stakeholders.
Parent & KCS	My son will be in high school when/if it starts. It won't really affect us, but I do see where it would be for parents with younger kids.
Parent & KCS	Need to know more, though. Balanced calendar can look many different ways, and I would NOT be in favor of a balanced calendar that required more from teachers.
Parent & KCS	no
Parent & KCS	No balance calendar.
Parent & KCS	NO!
Parent & KCS	No! No! No!
Parent & KCS	None!
Parent & KCS	Not 100% for or against a balanced calendar. Can see both benefits & issues of a balanced calendar but not sure it will increase learning / retention of subjects for a larger majority of students. Every child learns differently but children who do not adapt to change may definitely struggle more.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent & KCS	Not enough data has been presented at the community discussion meetings that create a comfort in the parents and community in favor of a balanced calendar, however plenty of questions and oppositions have been voiced and discussed in opposition of the balanced calendar when intercession is imposed for enrichment and intervention. I understand the suggestion for it. However staffing it can create favoritism among teachers who volunteer, where other teachers can't due to taking care of family who are now out of school for 10 days. If you are going to try the balanced calendar, try it without all the add ins. Right now it seems that Knox County is adding too much. Balance the calendar and shut the doors for the 10 days, evaluate, assess, then move forward adding in intervention and enrichment, if necessary. Too many irons in the fire, Knox County. One step at a time.
Parent & KCS	Not in my county!
Parent & KCS	Not opposed to the possibility but recognize that non tested areas of importance to communities may be negatively affected by the breaks during the balanced calendar school year. It is questionable whether or not students that need enrichment opportunities will attend school during the 10 day breaks.
Parent & KCS	Not supported but the Superintendent is pushing that it is. How do we fund it.
Parent & KCS	Not sure how it actually targets our area of weakness. Honestly it seems to be more a change for changes sake.
Parent & KCS	Nothing but finding a reason to pay more money for day care and child still not home and not learning anymore from it. Also why are we giving children with discipline problems a bonus for
Parent & KCS	Oak Ridge keeps tweaking their balanced calendar, taking teachers' opinions into account. If this is enacted, will teachers be listened to? Dr. McIntyre has a bad reputation for doing whatever he wants to do, even though teachers are the ones who must carry it out. Teachers do not trust him with good reason.
Parent & KCS	Once again, I stress the importance of when we get our children in a routine of a daily school schedule, then have a break, how hard it is to get them back into the routine once school starts back-up again. Didn't we see this several years ago when Knox County had a week long break? Parents were not happy with it. Children need to be playing outside when it's close to 90 degrees in August, not in a classroom for most of the day. I would rather see the school calendar go later into May/beginning of June and start later in August. The Knox County School System is too large of a system to make a change to a balanced calendar. Since research shows that a balanced calendar would benefit children from losing knowledge over the summer, maybe there could be a few schools in the same area of Knoxville that use a balanced calendar for several years to see the impact it makes on the families and test scores. Families who are in favor of a balanced calendar could transfer to that school (be that they provide their own transportation). Families who are opposed could transfer to another school nearby.
Parent & KCS	Only the 45 on 10 off concept, not the three week breaks. That is too long.
Parent & KCS	opposed only because once a balanced calendar is adopted then KCS will try and make it 9/3 all the time.
Parent & KCS	Opposed until aforementioned issues are clearly communicated or decided upon. Teachers need to have these issues brought before them to vote upon. The outcome will greatly affect their opinion of balanced calendar. A 10 day break fall and spring needs to be 10 days off for staff and not bogged down with meetings.
Parent & KCS	Parents want a longer fall break. Please consider changing to one week Fall break and keep traditional schedule

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent & KCS	Personally I like the idea of a balanced calendar, however, there is NO empirical evidence showing it benefits student achievement and I am TIRED of Knox County spending \$\$\$ on everything BUT raises for teachers and books/computers for students. We already waste SO much money on instructional coaches and a top heavy district office. The only way I support this is by cutting instructional coaches and trimming our Chief (fill in the blank) Officers downtown!
Parent & KCS	PLEASE allow it to happen.
Parent & KCS	Please consider student growth data from districts who have gone back to the traditional calendar. In addition, please consider the impact of AP exams.
Parent & KCS	Please do NOT do this! False arguments: X: The "agrarian calendar" is a false analogy because planting and reaping are in spring and fall -- not summer. X: You can't compare the KCS school system with a system that only has one or two high schools in it. In fact, Nashville dropped it. X: There is NO COMPELLING evidence that retention is better. X: This will be a colossal waste of money that could be better spent in other ways.
Parent & KCS	Please do not ignore the voices of students, parents, and teachers who do not believe a balanced calendar will improve education.
Parent & KCS	Please do NOT implement a balance calendar. Students will learn even less if you do. I think it will create problems with AP testing, sporting, and summer jobs for both students and teachers.
Parent & KCS	Please look into the sports aspect of this.
Parent & KCS	Please make the change!!!
Parent & KCS	Please preserve breaks for teachers. Don't take their summer days and then ask them to work more
Parent & KCS	Please wait 2 more years! My daughter goes to summer camp in Alabama for 3 more summers. Most of the month of June.
Parent & KCS	Pleasing everyone should never be an option...we must do what is best for students!!!! Knox County should be operating under a balanced calendar.
Parent & KCS	Pleeeeeeeeeeeeease try the balanced calendar, if it doesn't work or you catch a lot of flack, you can always go back to the traditional calendar. I can assure you that most teachers and families will like it! :)
Parent & KCS	Provide us with more information/statistics on school systems that are implementing a balanced calendar. How many are already on a balanced calendar? How long have they been on a balanced calendar? What is their opinion? What was the most difficult aspect of switching to a balanced calendar?
Parent & KCS	Remediation MUST be done within the breaks. Otherwise, I think it's pointless.
Parent & KCS	Require additional information regarding the responsibilities of teachers during the balanced calendar breaks in order to make a more informed decision.
Parent & KCS	See earlier comments
Parent & KCS	shorten summer a few days and give us a week at fall break.
Parent & KCS	So many parents have the misconception that the number of days in the school year will increase thus taking away time from them to be with their children. They seem to think that their children will be in school year round aka all the time. This needs to be cleared up again and again for these parents that this is not the case.
Parent & KCS	Some of these items are opinions, and therefore fine to ask us. Others should be facts, of which we are not necessarily aware, such as less learning loss over the summer and better behavior. These are things for which we need to see research. My opinion on those items doesn't matter - whether they have been proven to be true or not should matter.
Parent & KCS	Sounds like a great idea!
Parent & KCS	Sports...how will these work? Lots of long breaks and I am not too sure how that will work. Will they be allowed to play during the breaks?
Parent & KCS	Strong supporter of the balanced calendar.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent & KCS	Strongly in favor, as long as teachers are not REQUIRED to work during the longer breaks, and would be given additional compensation if they had the opportunity to work during these breaks.
Parent & KCS	Students that play competitive sports will lose the opportunity to play in the end of season tournaments. This will cost the athletes scholarship money for college - Golf, Tennis, Baseball, Softball. These end of season (July-August) are what most college coaches look at when determining a scholarship.
Parent & KCS	Summer camps will have fewer attending because of less time. This could be a hardship for the lively hood of summer camps...especially family camps.
Parent & KCS	Summer jobs for high schoolers are a huge drawback. If high school is on a credit system, the balanced calendar will not help them. Only elementary benefits from continued summer learning. By middle school and high school, it is too late for much intervention to work.
Parent & KCS	Teacher salaries should increase, and childcare providers must be willing to adjust to provide appropriate care for children of working parent(s) associated and affected by the new calendar.
Parent & KCS	Teacher/Staff/Admin contracts need to be addressed. Teachers have been told that they will not be working any more or less than current schedule/contracts. But it has also been rumored that teachers will be expected to attend inservices and professional development during the breaks. This needs to be addressed in a clear and detailed manner. Other than that, this KCS teacher is 100% committed.
Parent & KCS	Teachers are for it 55% to 29% with 15% undecided in the most recent survey. It helps low level learners and low SES kids. We must attempt this calendar.
Parent & KCS	Teachers don't need a week of inservice before school starts give us three days. Like to have all of June and most of July off. I'd like to see the calendar on paper with exact dates or two different start and end dates.
Parent & KCS	Teachers will pay the price for this just as they usually do. You will force them to do the enrichment stuff so they will see no time off with their families when there are breaks.
Parent & KCS	The "Balanced Calendar" would not work for everyone, obviously. That is where home schooling, private schooling, and Charter schooling come in. Nothing wrong with the schedule. No "one" schedule should ever be forced on parents. They should always have a choice. Be careful, as a country. If all public schools were to go to a balanced calendar, this would not matter -- As long as parents and students always have other options. Be careful.
Parent & KCS	The balanced calendar does not impact the summer break to a point that people would be losing time for family vacations. The time lost is less than 2 weeks. This also gives families the opportunities to take vacations at different times within the year. As far as childcare goes I don't feel this is a valid complaint. Most of these children are in childcare on a regular basis anyway. The amount of time is the same, and childcare facilities only allow 1 week to have unpaid tuition for vacation. There is no extra money spent there either. Not a valid complaint. I am strongly for a balanced calendar I feel it will give the children and staff in the school system less feeling of burn out and will benefit the students retaining information and improve learning.
Parent & KCS	The balanced calendar is long overdue. The loss of time spent at the beginning of each school year "reviewing" previously taught skills is a huge waste of time. I am in favor of having an even shorter summer with slightly longer breaks between each quarter.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

<p>How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?</p>	<p>Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.</p>
<p>Parent & KCS</p>	<p>The balanced calendar is mainly being proposed to benefit the lowest rung of our society. The highest rung of society highly benefits from a long summer because those students do positive things with that time. For instance, my child goes to Boy Scout camp on his path to Eagle Scout, he goes on mission trips to help others, he goes to church camp to learn more about our religion, he spends time with both sets of grandparents to connect with another generation, and he works at a part-time job to raise money for college. I know many other students who have similar summers to him. While it is true that some of these activities could be moved to the other breaks, I do not think it is fair to destroy an entire communities way of life to help only a small segment of the population. The true intent of a balanced calendar is to help with the socialization of the lower socio-economic students who sit around doing nothing all summer. Instead of making everyone else change to suit the lowest 20% or so, why not leave the 80% alone and put summer programs in place to help those students. A summer program (not summer school) that provided free transportation and free food could teach students fun, interesting, and helpful skills without the pressure of standardized testing. Students could possibly choose a course of study. This would help with loss of learning in the students who do suffer from that, and students like my son who do not suffer from loss of learning in the summer would not have their lives disrupted. Stop punishing the rest of society because of the flaws of the lowest segment.</p>
<p>Parent & KCS</p>	<p>The biggest worry I've heard other parents voice is regarding child care changes; however, child care will simply have to adjust in order to accommodate the supply and demand or lose business in the long run.</p>
<p>Parent & KCS</p>	<p>The breaks between grading periods should only be one or two weeks. Anything more takes too much away from the summer.</p>
<p>Parent & KCS</p>	<p>The breaks will be a good time for social interaction that students really need. Social interaction is a skill that is missing in our schools today due to too much curriculum and testing. Students needing remediation will want to enjoy their breaks from school with their friends instead of having to attend school a week longer for remediation.</p>
<p>Parent & KCS</p>	<p>The businesses and families will adapt to the new schedules of school. The market will follow, it always does, change is difficult at any level but adjustments will be made and everyone will survive.</p>
<p>Parent & KCS</p>	<p>The only balanced calendar option I would support is 9 weeks/ 1 week fall break/ 9 weeks/ 2 week Christmas break/ 9 weeks/ 1 week spring break. We followed this schedule for a couple of years, and it worked very well. If we would change our focus in the school system, we would not need to be so concerned about students losing their learning. If students were taught to mastery on their developmental level, they would retain what they have learned. The atmosphere of testing, testing, testing and requiring students to do things beyond their skill set, is detrimental.</p>
<p>Parent & KCS</p>	<p>The only questions I have are about snow days being worked into the schedule, and if there will be transportation for students who need intercession time.</p>
<p>Parent & KCS</p>	<p>The only way this is helpful to families who work, is if everyone follows the same schedule (Elementary, Middle, High, and even surrounding school districts for sports competitions). You need to get daycare and camp providers on board so every break, parents are not scrambling to find childcare. Also, I am a music teacher. I do not want music events like All East Choir and All State Choir to be held during a break. When I am on break, I want a true break like I currently have during the summer. This applies to my children. I do not want them having school sponsored activities that would normally take place during the school year, during a break. That ruins family time.</p>
<p>Parent & KCS</p>	<p>The proposed calendar doesn't change enough. Our children will function best in school when they have consistent, year-round instruction. Also, a longer winter break (rather than shorter, which this calendar proposes) would be beneficial. With all the holidays, the children have very little time to actually rest in December.</p>

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent & KCS	The research appears conflicting concerning the benefits of a balanced calendar.
Parent & KCS	The state needs to adopt this calendar and we all should run it STATEWIDE!!!!!!
Parent & KCS	The summer loss of learning is even more dramatic at the high school level, particularly in classes like math and English. Some students will take a class in the fall, and not again until the following spring. This is a significant gap in a subject that many students experience. This is one of the faults of the 4X4 Block schedule that should be addressed.
Parent & KCS	The summers are getting shorter and shorter. What happened to coming back after Labor Day or September. It's going to be hard to get day cares and childcare with this calendar. Teachers and students need a longer break for the summer and a longer fall break. Their behavior would be worse too. They look forward to their breaks as much as the teachers do. Right now you can get something done in the summer and if you do a balanced calendar you want. I do not want this and neither do my school age children.
Parent & KCS	The two 10-day breaks are shorter than I expected for the KCS balanced calendar proposal.
Parent & KCS	There are too many unanswered questions. Once again, the cart before the horse. How are kids going to go to an intersession to get help in one week on nine weeks worth of material? And how do you know teachers will work this intersession, you don't. Will it be required? It is hard for me to vote for something that too many details have been left out. Or we could just iron out the kinks as they come, that would be good with thousands of kids!
Parent & KCS	There have been NO specifics given for me to give an educated opinion. Nor should this survey carry any weight with any decision makers due to the fact that the taxpayers of Knox County who would be paying for this change have not even been made aware that a potential tax increase could be enacted in order to pay for this change.
Parent & KCS	There have been way too many changes in Knox Co. over the last 3-5 years. And with many of the changes, it is only for awhile and then goes back to what it originally was. Our kids need stability, not constant upheaval and change. What happens when they decide the balanced calendar isn't working (like they did in Fairfax Co., VA) and then decide to go back to the regular calendar?
Parent & KCS	There is absolutely no tangible proof that this would improve student achievement. Also there is no way to prove that this is the singular motivating factor that has contributed to greater achievement among schools that have adopted the balanced calendar.
Parent & KCS	There is no evidence that changing the calendar has any negligible effect on student performance past the first few grades. Systems that have adopted this calendar find that it results in higher rates of teacher burnout and turnover as well as less economic opportunity for low income students as they are unable to secure traditional summer employment. Also balanced calendar results in higher cost of the school system as capital costs increase and teachers must be paid more for instruction during intersession. Maintenance of the building, which traditionally occurs during summer, must be done either at night or on a tighter schedule. The benefits of balanced calendar are mixed at best and there is simply in my opinion, no good reason to change from a traditional calendar.
Parent & KCS	This is an excellent opportunity if the programming is available to help the students who need the extended time during the breaks. It will not be a useful transition if we just rearrange the days in which we attend school.
Parent & KCS	This is exactly what the county needs, and it would benefit teachers and students in low performing schools well. it would also benefit other students and give them a well deserved break from learning.
Parent & KCS	This is good for kids.
Parent & KCS	This just does not work in my prior experience with it. Student test scores declined. Families were stressed attempting to find childcare. School staff who had to work during the breaks without additional pay could not afford childcare for their own children & ended up leaving the school.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent & KCS	This needs to be implemented in conjunction with a program that would utilize and pay high school students to work with you get students during the breaks. Students could apply and interview for positions including academic support, arts and crafts, athletic activities, etc.
Parent & KCS	This requires a societal/cultural change. We are a HUGE district and I am concerned that we don't have enough buy in for that change on a full county level. Without that it won't be successful. I also think in the long run it is what is best for students. I also think that our high school students might suffer. I have seen a high percentage of our high schoolers feeling like they must have summer jobs in order to prepare for their future.
Parent & KCS	This should have been done years ago.
Parent & KCS	Though child care is one of the drawbacks often discussed in the community, child care providers are in the business of making money. They will adjust their business practices to meet the needs of the community in which they work or they will shut down. Change is not always easy...but what's easy is not always in the best interest of students.
Parent & KCS	Too many unanswered questions. Not a clear plan of details
Parent & KCS	Transitions are exhausting, my students stay up till all ours and are out in the community running around being wild which causes more drama after the students return to school.
Parent & KCS	Transitions are rely where we loose instructional time in the classroom. A balanced calender has too many transitions and too much time off with in the year. As a teacher and as a parent, I think it would be incredibly counter- productive.
Parent & KCS	Try it and see how it works for 2 years and re-assess after the 2nd year.
Parent & KCS	Unless there is a plan for the schools with extended days this sounds exhausting for us
Parent & KCS	Very hard to book vacations with a short summer
Parent & KCS	Waste of our tax dollars
Parent & KCS	We already begin in early August. Districts in the NE USA begin after Sept 1. Those students identified for additional learning should be signed up for on-line courses and reduce facilities over head cost. This will benefit the retention of students on a low level and allow them to increase their knowledge to be par with their peers.
Parent & KCS	We currently have enrichment and intervention in our traditional calendar at our school. It's not needed to add that benefit.
Parent & KCS	We have not been told the amount of time we, as teachers, would be expected to give during the "intervention" weeks. I need to know this information before making a decision.
Parent & KCS	What does the research and data say about a balanced calendar and how much would it cost Knox County to implement a balanced calendar?
Parent & KCS	What happens to the calendar if the system is out for two weeks due to snow like this year? How are snow days worked into the calendar? It is way too hot to be in school during July! Lot of classroom are HOT and the teachers are told not to run fans. Most playgrounds don't have any shade trees because they have all been cut down. Children will not have enough time to enjoy swimming and other recreational activities before returning to school. Summertime is a great opportunity for high school students to work and save money for purchasing cars and insurance. What about band camps in the summer and the football programs? It is TOO hot!! I know this whole idea of a balanced calendar is about kids retaining/not retaining information during the summer. I am not for sure 12 days will make a huge difference. I have heard some students return to school after breaks and they are lethargic and less motivated to work because they have been home doing absolutely nothing. It takes the teachers several days to get them back into the routine of school and wanting to learn. I am sure this is already a done deal,so I will not waste anymore of my valuable time.
Parent & KCS	When you look at some of the opposition to the balanced calendar, most of it relates to change and humans are resistant to change. I think once the calendar is established and people have adapted, it wouldn't seem that much different than any other school year.
Parent & KCS	Where is the funding for enrichment and intervention activities going to come from?

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent & KCS	Where would we get the money to fund this change? It seems we can not come up with the money for our current budget. Many systems who use this type of calendar are spending more money rather than saving money. Who will be expected to pay for these intervention and enrichment programs our school board is using as "good points" to sell this idea? Please address this question in a future meeting. I have yet to hear any solutions to the issues this balanced calendar transition will cause with our already stretched budget. I may be more interested in listening if you were giving me real facts with research to back them up, rather than trying to sell me the idea based on your theory and what you hope will happen.
Parent & KCS	Who is teaching the intervention groups? What happens to the inservice days? I feel not enough details have been addressed. What does the calendar look like for ALL Knox Co Employees?
Parent & KCS	Who would be providing the intervention/enrichment during the breaks? Are teachers going to be responsible?
Parent & KCS	Why are we as a school system trying to fix something that isn't broken? There is NO data to support any move to a balanced calendar. Why are we not attempting to fix actual problems in the county like infrastructure, the lack of an actual "fine arts magnet high school," and a lack of true community schools. Also to mention the lack of pay and morale in educators. Why do we have so many highly paid positions in the AJ building? What do these people do, and why are they making twice what classroom teachers make? Why do teachers need to get a summer job, and why is the school system taking away that opportunity?
Parent & KCS	Why don't you just call it what it is...YEAR 'ROUND SCHOOL...
Parent & KCS	Why not "pilot" the program to at least see if it works before instituting it county-wide? Knox County is notorious for jumping in and then realizing that the "kinks" were not worked out, but then being too stubborn to pull back and correct the mistake.
Parent & KCS	Will teachers even get a break or will this be more inservice? How much more time will you take from them?
Parent & KCS	Wish it was this year!! It is so much better!!
Parent & KCS	Wished it could go into effect sooner than 2016!!
Parent & KCS	With the more rigorous standards being implemented, and the pressures that go along with those standards (including high stakes testing) I feel that children benefit tremendously from a prolonged summer break.
Parent & KCS	Working during the days off should be optional and not required.
Parent & KCS	Would like feedback from other school systems and their experience with it.
Parent & KCS	Would like to see Friday/Monday weekends scattered instead of longer fall break. To help refresh the teachers.
Parent & KCS	Would like to see some statistic data on the benefits from the schools that already have this in place to see if it benefits everyone. This would give everyone some more concrete information to take their decision on.
Parent & KCS	YES! PLEASE! I would totally take it next year. Haha!!
Parent & KCS	You are laying off workers and your talking about spending more money
Parent & KCS	You're gonna do what u want regardless. If I'm gonna work full time might as well be better paying job.
Employer	A point: Surely the downtown office has done research of its own on other school districts around the country whose schools and districts are similar to Knox County's in terms of ethnicity, race, economy. What have you learned from them? I'm an editor, proofreader, researcher who would love to work on this project -- calling representative districts to see how they've handled the issues that our county district will. I'd say we don't really need to reinvent the wheel if there are districts that could provide great information to us. I'm Becky at 661-7380. By the way, the next question (number 9) doesn't apply to me because I'm none of the potential bubbles. I am a freelancer/contractor in town now (recently retired from HGTV) and I am a full-time volunteer at a school in Knox County.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Employer	As a former educator, I am in favor of a balanced calendar. The only area that really concerns me is the home/school relationship and what supports will be given. How will parents and childcare providers be able to cover these 2 longer breaks per year? I greatly hope that those making these decisions will include other members from the community and not just Knox County officials. As I currently work for a large non profit serving economically disadvantaged students in after school- I greatly worry how we would provide care and if we didn't, what alternative would these students have? As our country has always been set up to provide summer care, it's very difficult to try to consider what we would do for 3- 2 week sessions throughout the year. Many of our families would not have care and may even struggle providing food for their children during this time.
Employer	As a taxpayer I need to have information as to the cost involved in the changes
Employer	Cost. Cost. Cost. Where is the cost information? Where are the details about the intercessions? This is as frustrating as the "community input meetings." It is a cushy opinion poll. No substance. No information. This is a dreadful waste of our time and money if this is the best you people can do! Seriously!!
Employer	I actually am ok with the calendar we have now. Do not understand need to change. Out of all the issues facing our schools - why are we looking at this??
Employer	I am only in favor because it will help the children BUT parents need their childcare options to allowed to remain open during breaks.
Employer	I feel like a balanced calendar would increase academic performance of students. Providing them with more spaced out time off will allow them the recharging time they need to avoid losing their attention span due to being burnt out
Employer	I have entered all my concerns in the previous comment section
Employer	I have seen the benefits in surrounding counties to a balanced calendar. IU think the benefits outweigh the drawbacks.It has worked in other counties and is what is best for children and learning, so I think Knox County should move to a balanced calendar.
Employer	I refuse to participate in this rigged survey. You should lose your jobs for this.
Employer	I think the traditional calendar is outdated....we need to move to current times
Employer	I would LOVE a balanced calendar
Employer	I would LOVE a balanced calendar!
Employer	I would make even more balanced by making summer breaks even shorter to 30 days.
Employer	It was stated that having a shorter summer break would reduce learning loss by students. The summer break is only shortened by 11 days. 11 days is not going to make a difference in that. As for the enrichment and intervention programs that could be available in the fall, winter, and spring breaks, they should be held before/after school and in the summer. The supposeded decrease in behavior problems would not happen if a student needs additional help during the extended breaks. Typically students with behavior problems need additional academic assistance because their negative behaviors interfere with their learning. Lastly, children thrive on structure. Disrupting the structure of children and adolescents weekly routine with intermittent 10 day breaks could increase behavior problems as they would frequently have to adjust to a different schedule. This repeated change in structure/routing could cause many other adverse effects. The pros presented in this survey do not seem to be accurate. Let's find other ways to provide increased academic support and work with students one on one to find the root of their behaviors so that we can address them appropriately.
Employer	It's completely unclear what problem is trying to be solved here? It appears as if someone is on a snipe hunt.
Employer	I've desired a balanced calendar since I began middle school in 2002. I honestly think it's a wise option.
Employer	Look at the data in other counties. They spent millions and have now done away it.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Employer	Most kids who work do so after school also. Day cares will adjust as they have in other locations and families could choose enrichment or remedial programs offered at school during breaks if they are offered.
Employer	NO TO BALANCED CALENDAR
Employer	Not thought out well. Will not fix any of the school's problems.
Employer	Please consider all facets of education when making important decisions like this. The arts, which have been proven to have invaluable benefit to students' learning and lives, are already under fire. This is among the many issues with implementing a balanced calendar. Additionally, many students have parents that work for the university or have other jobs that don't allow them to cater to a different schedule. Is this really a needed change? Is this being done to fix directly related problems, or simply as another way to fix issues that could be fixed by other means? Has quality teaching and attention to students' needs been established to the extent that this is the "only remaining option"? Please consider improving education in other, more necessary ways before making this enormous change.
Employer	Please contact other systems that have tried it. I think you will find that the costs far outweigh the benefits.
Employer	Please don't do this.
Employer	The one question is...what problem is KCS attempting to solve with a balanced calendar? Looking at the research data, there is no compelling reason for this change. The balanced calendar is a hammer looking for a nail. When you have a big hammer, every thing looks like a nail and you create more damage than you solve.
Employer	This community hates change but introducing a balanced calendar would benefit the students.
Employer	This is not a good idea. Even the research put forward by KCS shows that there's no conclusive evidence that it provides any of the benefits listed in the "potential advantages" section listed at the beginning of this survey. Implementation is problematic, costs will be much higher than expected, and we're now looking to add two new middle schools, plus Adrian Burnett needs major renovations. I have other concerns, but they seem to have been largely ignored so far by KCS administration and by a majority of school board members, so I'm not sure that this will make a difference either.
Employer	To help parents there needs to be coordination with child care facilities to change their schedule to accommodate parents
Employer	You are conducting a "survey" with no more specific information than was available at the Community meetings. The teachers, commission, and taxpayers have list all faith in KCS and this superintendent. How can we trust you when you have repeatedly lied and misrepresented information?
KCS	"Learning loss" has not really been proven and many of the large school systems that tried year round school have went back to a traditional calendar. One cannot match the experience gained by summer jobs held by students and opportunities to take vacations lasting several weeks or more. Teachers also often have summer jobs or take vacations in which they leave Tennessee for more than a few weeks.
KCS	:)
KCS	?
KCS	A balanced calendar might be a positive change toward changing negative attitudes in regards to the difficulties Knox county has already experienced. With a balanced calendar, teachers are more likely to feel caught up on the day to day tasks that take up a lot of time. I would support trying a balanced calendar for a few years, then reviewing pros and cons.
KCS	A balanced calendar would be beneficial for teachers as well as the students. This is a wonderful opportunity that I support fully!
KCS	A full fall break would be better.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
KCS	A number of school districts across the country have tried this approach and reverted to the a more traditional calendar. The reasons for that ought to be seriously investigated and reported on before a school system as large as this county makes this kind of significant change. Multiple research sources should be cited and made available to the public. Sadly, it appears that we have failed to learn over the past years from all of the initiatives that have come and gone as soon as they were no longer funded, that what looks or sounds good is not. Quoting an administrator, "the devil is in the details." Those details have not been vetted nearly enough to solve the giant headache this proposal will produce with very little actual proof that this is best for kids and their education.
KCS	A year round calendar is a terrible idea. This is money better spent elsewhere.
KCS	Add enrichment for high performing students and average students for a change.
KCS	After the two week break for snow/ice this past February, it was difficult to get myself back into the school mentality and routine. I noticed this with the students as well. It seems as though doing this four times a year as opposed to once would not be beneficial. I would also like to know how much of the break time that students have would be inservice time for employees.
KCS	Again, I have not seen test data from schools with balanced calendars that indicates learning improves.
KCS	Again, if classes are going to be on a block/semester schedule, then the whole point of changing the calendar is pointless. How about you listen to someone who sees the real learning loss?
KCS	Again, it's a preference. Parents are going to complain about child care. But, most parents may not have child care needs. Please, do not let that be a guiding factor. There is just as much research supporting a balance calendar as there is not. It comes down to preference.
KCS	Again, please do not have in services during the breaks for teachers.
KCS	All friends of mine in the Maryville/Alcoa School Systems have loved it! Students and Parents!
KCS	Although change is hard, I believe once we were accustomed to the balanced calendar, it would be something parents, staff, and students would benefit from and love.
KCS	Although in favor I really can see the school year going both ways. I wonder if the 12 less days of summer will really impact the "summer slide" as much as anticipated. I wonder how much time will be spent reimplementing behavior expectations and getting back into the "groove" after each ten day break. How many of those breaks will teachers be asked to teach the enrichment?
KCS	Am tentatively in favor IF funding is available to pay teachers for the interventions and enrichment opportunities and is made available in an equitable fashion for students and staff based in both need and interest.
KCS	As a parent of a special education child, I am so glad he has graduated and will not be affected by the calendar, but I feel for those families that are.
KCS	As a Special Ed Teacher, I just find it hard to assess and adjust my teaching due to no plan time so a break every 9 weeks would give me time to get caught up on looking at data and planning.
KCS	As a taxpayer, how much will year-long school cost? I would estimate a few extra million just in air conditioning costs during the summer. Will there be intervention? If yes, what is that additional cost? If no intervention, why is this change even being considered? What would be the point? I attended two of the meetings and raised these questions to the presenters both times. I was assured those questions would be considered in the survey? Does not appear that they have been, does it? And in March (?) board member Mike McMillan received assurances from Dr. McIntyre that an option for a traditional calendar with a week-long fall break would be included as an option. I did not see that presented as an option.
KCS	As a teacher and parent, I am strongly for this change.
KCS	As a teacher and spouse of a teacher we totally favor a balanced calendar

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
KCS	As a teacher I still have a lot of questions for how this balanced calendar would look for teachers as far as in-services and enrichment times .
KCS	As a teacher I want more information in regards to how the breaks fit into my schedule. Will I be required to do in service during the break time, I cannot not say strongly in favor with out this information
KCS	As a teacher on a longer contract than other schools, we already have to report sooner than other teachers during the summer, and on a balanced calendar schedule, this time is even shorter. Also, though it is not a listed drawback above, I am concerned about how fall football schedules that do not honor a balanced calendar schedule will work with band directors (and athletes) who will still need to rehearse in order to successfully perform at Friday night football games and Saturday competitions that will still be scheduled. The band will still be competing against schools who are not on a balanced calendar and get an advantage because they get to avoid those 2-week breaks where students will likely not be required to attend rehearsals. Also, if the breaks during the fall are to make up for a shorter summer, I believe that teachers would like to be able to enjoy those breaks as other teachers who do not have to worry about keeping up with a fall football schedule would enjoy. Lastly, the low-income community of my school depends on being able to send their children to school in order to work. It is an extreme setback to parents in this community to have to possibly miss work and/or miss meals provided for children that they may only get while at school. Many of our children depend on school lunch.
KCS	As a teacher that gets burnt out, I would love having balanced breaks to refresh myself.
KCS	As a teacher, I am in favor of the Balanced Calendar ONLY if I will truly be off for the entire 2 weeks. No In-Services, etc.
KCS	As a teacher, I strongly support a balanced calendar. I look forward to this moving closer to a reality.
KCS	As an educator, I am strongly in favor of a balanced calendar. The breaks between will provide opportunities for teachers to plan and participate in professional development. There will be time for reflection and research that aren't present in our current calendar.
KCS	As an educator, the summers are already short enough as we spend a lot of time working "off the clock" through the summer. Also, the custodial staff would have a tough time getting the entire school cleaned with two fewer weeks. Are you going to provide more custodial help in a balance calendar year? Additionally, support staff that depend on summer jobs who supplement their low pay would not be able to get a summer job as employers would not hire them for only six weeks.
KCS	As an educator, this would strongly influence my decision to stay in Knox County. We all need more balance. The demands of this job are extraordinary, place stresses on our home lives, and the opportunity to recharge and catch up more frequently would be a game changer for many of us.
KCS	as far as summer, it would not be that much shorter.
KCS	As far as concerns about child care, I think the local child care facilities would happily adapt to a balanced calendar. Parents and students are their clients and the local child care facilities should do what they can to make sure their clients stay happy and keep the children enrolled.
KCS	As long as it does not take summer break to 30 days
KCS	as long as we are not made to stay extra to tutor/etc and as long as the school days are the same and the number of vacation days are the same, just spread out.
KCS	As with any change there are pros and cons. There needs to be thoughtful planning that includes input from ALL that will be directly and indirectly affected by a balanced calendar.
KCS	At first it was said that they children would go 9 weeks with a 3 week break thus making fall, Christmas and spring break 3 weeks long, now it says only two weeks breaks every 9 weeks, why the change?

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

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KCS	At first it will take some adjustment daycare for example will adapt their schedule and so will parents and surrounding school systems
KCS	At this time, I don't have enough information about how Knox County is planning to implement this change, so I don't want to show support for it.
KCS	Bad idea. Need to keep schedule same and turn your attention to student attendance and parental involvement. Want students to care and appreciate learning/education....then it starts at home! Get parents caring for their students' education and engaging with teachers, hopefully changing the climate at home....which will help in the classroom (with more "buy in").
KCS	Bad idea.....mainly because there is no evidence to support this transition. There is no data that shows that a balanced calendar helps students become more successful, that it would reinvigorate teachers and school faculty, or that it provides better opportunities to reach those under-performing students. If it isn't broke (which it hasn't been for years), then why are we trying to "fix" it? Need more data, and need more reasoning (student oriented) for this move to a balanced calendar...and we just don't have that. Thanks for any consideration.
KCS	Balanced calendar is BEST for our students and children. Everything else will revolve around what the schools do. We must make a decision for our kids.
KCS	Balanced calendar will not improve student retention and students having difficulty will not attend during the breaks. The snowcation demonstrated that with being out 2 weeks students forgot most everything.
KCS	Based on past experience it really does not matter what teachers think the decisions will be made based on what someone has already decided.
KCS	Before I could fully support a balanced calendar, I would have to know how interventions would be assigned to teachers during those breaks, and if other time off would be given to compensate for the loss of those breaks.
KCS	Before rating support or opposition to the balanced calendar, I would like to see a sample calendar with dates attached. I am strongly opposed to starting school before the middle of August. Athletic activities such as football are often hazardous in the heat of summer. I would also like to know how the winter break would fit around Christmas. Many people need travel time prior to Christmas Eve.
KCS	Bring it on!
KCS	Change is hard at first, but usually positive outcomes help with the adjustments.
KCS	Child care will change to adapt to the school calendar because they will make more money by being open.
KCS	Child care will very difficult to arrange.
KCS	Concern for Maintenance and technology's ability to keep up with those larger tasks that are generally reserved for times the schools are unoccupied.
KCS	Concerned about the requirements for teachers during these breaks in terms of intervention, enrichment, and inservice. Will teachers be asked to work during these times?
KCS	Cost with the implementation of intercession - intervention and enrichment. Higher utility expense in the hottest season of the year.
KCS	Data has not shown it to be effective in maintaining the scores in fact recent studies have shown just the opposite Tulsa schools have shown a decline in student scores see Tulsa local tv report during the month of April 21015 cost of implementing this has not been evaluated. When asked no definitive answers are given. How can you consider a plan when the cost is not known. Who is going to be working with the children during the intervention weeks and how are you going to enforce their attendance. Coming to school when the other students are out will be viewed as a punishment to those students that need to . It will be just like summer school the teachers can recommend it to the parents but you can't require the to send their child.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
KCS	Daycares and summer jobs will adapt to fit student needs if we switch to a balanced calendar. This should not be a concern that would keep the balanced calendar from happening.
KCS	do it now and don't wait until 2016-17
KCS	Don't move to a balanced calendar advocating remediation during break. IF you do implement a balanced calendar, then the focus should be on better choice than year round schooling, or more breaks during school year. How this is presented to school communities, and the public will go a long way to opposition or support for any new plan. Learn from the implementation of Common Core, and NCLB, as public perception quickly becomes the reality.
KCS	Even with some good points, the bad outweighs the good on this issue.
KCS	Financial support must be considered with budgetary strains becoming more frequent for the district. Funding is hard to approve for the current system, let alone a balanced calendar that requires more funds at full implementation.
KCS	for every reason listed previously and more tax dollars to fund. teacher burn out if they worked the breaks.
KCS	for the balanced calendar shown on the graft, i don't feel some students will retain any more knowledge by the 44 day summer, than they did with the 55 day summer.
KCS	From what I've read and heard, systems that have adopted the balanced calendar love it. I think Knox County would be the same. The additional breaks for intersession and less loss of learning over the summer make it well worth it.
KCS	good
KCS	Good idea but opposes many teachers do prefer to be publicly neutral
KCS	great for many Knox County employees
KCS	Great idea!
KCS	Has anyone thought how this might impact the newer model "Community-based" schools? i.e.: Will doors remain open for family/community functions? Will adult learning classes still meet? Will outreach food and care programs need to be very much adjusted?
KCS	having a balanced school year would benefit everyone involved
KCS	How 'bout we figure out what and how we're supposed to teach before we start playing around with people's schedules.
KCS	How do you know if it will work until you try it....?
KCS	How does it affect teacher's contact days/pay?
KCS	How does this affect the vacation time (spring break, fall break, winter break) of KCS classified employees? This will have a negative effect on the maintenance department's ability to preform major repairs that are normally completed over the extended summer break.
KCS	How will this be funded?
KCS	How would providing staff for extra help during breaks or enrichment impact the school budget? Would at least one week between quarters for everyone be insisted upon to provide a break for every student and teacher?
KCS	how would staff be paid during the off weeks? 10 days without pay is a bad deal for bills !
KCS	How would this affect the number of teacher work days? Who would provide students with "intervention" during the breaks--as mentioned?

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
KCS	<p>http://articles.baltimoresun.com/1995-04-02/news/1995092192_1_year-round-calendar-traditional-calendar-schools-year-round Lots of research and more than 288 school systems that have tried it are back on traditional schedules. It is more expensive where money could be used to improve education in other ways. The most effective schedule with the highest scores are on a September to June schedule. Kids and parents are not settled into a routine in the summer. Students do not focus on learning indoors when the weather is nice out. The students' behaviors are worse when the weather is conducive to more outdoor activities. Routines are disrupted with breaks, especially when they are too long and too frequent, affecting behaviors as well.</p>
KCS	I agree with having a longer fall break. Fall is a regionally beautiful time that is great for hiking, camping, tourism, and it helps to have a recharging period for a week around that time.
KCS	I also feel it would help reduce teacher burn out.
KCS	I am a teacher working on a masters degree and rely on the summers to get multiple courses done. Implementing this before graduation will delay my finishing (currently August of 2016). I am in favor of balanced calendar but I want to finish grad school first.
KCS	I am a teaching in Knox County who would LOVE a balanced calendar. I feel that it would give me MORE family time due to the increased break time throughout the year. I also feel that the issue of daycares would be a short term one--it seems like most daycares would adjust to match the Knox County schedule within a year or two.
KCS	I am all for the balanced calendar. People I have talked with from districts that use this really like the calendar.
KCS	I am curious as to whether the Fall sports schedule would be changed to reflect the breaks.
KCS	I am for the balanced calendar if it remains the same for the next ten years. I do not want this time to be "cut into," and I do not want teachers who need this time away from teaching to feel pressured to work.
KCS	I am in agreement with the 9-2 model. I do not agree with the 9-3 model. I feel this causes too long of breaks between each 9 weeks causing regression, especially for the population I teach; CDCA special ed.
KCS	I am in favor of a balanced calendar IF teachers are not forced to staff intervention and enrichment sessions and IF teachers are truly away from school during the breaks.
KCS	I am in favor of a balanced calendar, but would prefer the one with the longer summer break.
KCS	I am in favor of intervention during breaks, but I don't feel that teachers should be required to work those breaks. If a teacher decides to then they should be able to offer their services for a supplemental stipend. The teachers should be allowed the same breaks as the students.
KCS	I am in favor of the 10 day breaks for intervention with a summer break.
KCS	I am in favor of the 45/10 option but think that the 45/15 option would lead to more loss and greater child care struggles for many teachers, parents, and students.
KCS	I am in favor of the balanced schedule 100%. I would be willing to talk to anyone who is on the fence about the calendar. It will be so beneficial!
KCS	I am in favor ONLY if teachers are not required to work over the breaks. Who is going to teach the intervention and enrichment groups? Volunteers? Will they get a stipend, or is this just going to be an expectation? I also worry about childcare. As a teacher, I can keep my kids home all summer instead of daycare, saving a lot of money. I don't see a daycare agreeing to me pulling me child out 4 times a year without paying. That is a big concern.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
KCS	I am not convinced that the "summer loss" is an issue. When switching to Block Schedule years ago, I was told that the research indicated that Summer learning loss was most dramatic in the first 2 weeks of summer and leveled off after that. Stopping the "Summer Learning Loss" implies that the loss continues from the beginning of the summer to it's last day. That can't be, based on history, the loss must at some point level off. That being the case, taking 12 days off the summer seems a miniscule attempt to stop the loss, like putting a band-aid on a sucking chest wound. Furthermore, in the presentation I attended, the PowerPoint clearly said that there was no guaranteed or direct proof that a shorter summer would reduce Summer learning loss. If we are concerned about learning loss, then why do the high schools remain on Block Schedule in which some students go 1 or 1.5 years between courses. (For example, a student who has English in the Spring as a Freshman and has it in the fall as a Sophomore has gone 8 months between English courses.)
KCS	I am not opposed nor in favor because I still have unanswered questions that would affect my opinion. I would like to know how it affects schools with extended days and teachers on extended contracts. Also, if teachers participate in the extra enrichment or intervention opportunities, how will they be compensated?
KCS	I am not sure how people are expected to make an informed vote over balanced calendar when there are clearly so many unanswered questions. A LOT of teachers work summer jobs to help support families. Teachers will have to be paid like the other counties who have a balanced calendar (Maryville City and Oak Ridge) in order to compensate for lost summer wages. A 3% raise will help but will not make up for the lost income.
KCS	I am not sure how this will affect me as a 221 employee...need more information
KCS	I am only in favor if it is not excepted for the teachers to work on their breaks without compensation. Dr. Alves has not been very forth coming with information so I feel that we cannot make an informed decision.
KCS	I am only in favor of the balanced calendar if teachers are allowed a two week break same as students. The teachers who work the enrichment weeks, should be purely on a volunteer basis. Not working these weeks should not be held against teachers at the school level by the professionalism rubric.
KCS	I am only in favor of the proposed balanced calendar which reflect two weeks off between nine-week periods. I do not support the three weeks off between nine-week periods.
KCS	I am opposed as written. I think it could be a great plan, but not what Knox County is planning.
KCS	I am opposed because of the lack of details provided, such as what the "enrichment" days will look like and what the costs will be.
KCS	I am opposed in a few areas with the uncertainty of how it would affect 200 and 221 day contracts. I (221 day) barely have time to prepare for the beginning of the school year seeing how my students do not come to us through regular channels. On the other hand, I am in favor, because I do see how the breaks would give us that "breather". Also, how would it work if we were to miss like we did in February with snow days.
KCS	I am so distrustful of the way this idea was pushed forward as if someone asked for it. I'm not sure what the end game is...but I have serious doubts it is for the kids.
KCS	I am strongly in favor of the 45/10 day option ... any more days than 10 is too excessive and encourages learning loss too, disrupts family schedules to extreme, and cuts more into the summer than necessary when the same positive(s) are accomplished with the 45/10.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

<p>How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?</p>	<p>Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>I am strongly in favor of this balanced calendar. When deciding, please don't let those who oppose mainly on scheduling factor into the decision. The main reason for this calendar is to help kids have less "brain drain" over the summer and to give them and their families times to recharge during breaks after grading period. Those who complain based on scheduling are selfishly not considering the benefits to the many and are only viewing school as a "babysitter" while they are working. Working parents have to find child care now over the summer, so they'll still be able to find it during breaks throughout the year. Thank you for considering this calendar and how the benefits greatly outweigh the drawbacks.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>I am strongly opposed to a balanced calendar. Our school system is too large to jump to this. We have not even piloted it at any of our schools. Other much smaller school systems did a pilot program for several years before implementing it across the school system. Maryville and Oak Ridge are examples.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>I am sure this has been researched for the best out come for Knox County Schools. I go with what is recommended by the Superintendent and the School Board.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>I am truly hoping that Knox County will embrace this change. As difficult as change can be, this is what our students need to thrive in school.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>I am worried about how the balanced calendar will be funded. I wonder which programs will have to be cut if this is adopted. I also think that saying it will cost between zero to 20 million dollars is somewhat disingenuous. I would hope the BOE would have a better idea of the cost before bringing it forward.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>I attended the information sessions on the balanced calendar. There were too many questions left unanswered. It was especially disturbing that the price tag for the balanced calendar widely varied. With the money problems that KCS has, we do not need to be spending any money on a calendar with questionable results. KCS needs to spend its money on teacher and aid compensation.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>I believe a balanced calendar can be really effective for our school district.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>I believe a balanced calendar would reduce the amount of re-teaching that occurs during the first month back at school. A balanced calendar will improve student behavior because it helps students to avoid becoming burnt-out.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>I believe a true balanced calendar schedule should have three weeks between quarters and a shorter summer break.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>I believe every change brings about it's own challenges but the community would adjust to meet a new schedule as they have with the current. If there are benefits for the students then it is a worthy change.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>I believe families who take their students out of school at random times for vacations will continue to do so even with a balanced calendar.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>I believe once the balanced calendar is implemented all teachers, staff, parents and students will see that there are much more benefits and drawbacks.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>I believe that all stack holders should be involved. Mainly local summer camps.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>I believe that if the balanced calendar is implemented as presented, that both students and teachers would benefit from this schedule. If teachers will be required to go to in services or training during the breaks, then I will not be in favor of the balanced calendar.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>I believe that teachers should get a huge raise if this is implemented.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>I believe that the balanced schedule would be more beneficial to a smaller school district not one as large as Knox County Schools</p>

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
KCS	I believe the balanced calendar is a necessary shift, especially as the school system continues to adopt new learning initiatives such as RtI2. I think it creates more fluid movement from grade to grade as far as data collection, and would make special education evaluations less stressful when looking ahead to summer. I also think other community businesses, especially childcare, would adjust to the schedule. The time a parent would have to take off would be the same, just at a different time of year. I also think that a balanced calendar would help the lower SES children who rely on the school for meals. This would create a more dependable calendar of meals, and would allow for outside agencies to more easily prepare to help feed families over shorter breaks.
KCS	I believe the balanced calendar would be beneficial for students and KCS staff.
KCS	I believe the benefits far outweigh the liabilities.
KCS	I believe there needs to be more information given to teachers on what their duties will be during the breaks before they are asked to vote or give a proper opinion on the subject.
KCS	I cannot fully state an opinion to how a balanced calendar without knowing how the extra intersessions would be funded. The breaks would be nice but I know that the "snowcation" this year affected many students transitioning back to the classroom. The breaks could create more review time for teachers after each break not just at the beginning of the year.
KCS	I can't wait!
KCS	I certainly think that it could benefit children in terms of retaining information. I do however worry that childcare, summer jobs (which are necessary for most of us), and schedule change could be harmful to staff.
KCS	I chose neutral because I am not sure yet what my stance is on a balanced calendar. I am curious about it and would like to try it but am not 100% on board with it yet.
KCS	i do not feel teachers should be obligated to work during any break or intermission
KCS	I do not feel that we have been properly informed of the details. I am choosing no opinion because I do not feel that I can assess a balanced calendar with out all the pertinent information to teachers. I cannot blindly agree to a change that would potentially have me doing more for no compensation. Teachers work hard enough with no compensation already - attempting to add more through a convoluted proposal is unethical.
KCS	I do not think that this should be implemented. These are just excuses to make the balance calendar more appealing to people who really do not know or do not care what you do with the calendar. You are affecting so many things that families and students are able to do in the summer. Students need the opportunity to earn money in the summer for either themselves or their families. The balanced calendar will take away time for this.
KCS	I do not think this has been properly vetted and the fact you are using this ridiculous survey is an insult to the intelligence of the people in Knox County
KCS	I do not understand the child care concerns---what do these parents do during the summer?
KCS	I don't know that my opinion really counts. I feel that if the superintendent, central office, and the board of education want this calendar, then we will have it regardless of public opinion.
KCS	I don't see any benefit to the balanced calendar. I don't like shorter more frequent breaks...
KCS	I DON'T THINK THE TEACHERS AND STAFF SHOULD HAVE TO DO INSERVICE HOURS DURING THOSE 10 DAY BREAKS!
KCS	I don't think there is enough information on what the teachers added responsibilities will be to make a decision at this point
KCS	I enjoyed more frequent breaks with my year-round calendar. The students got used to what we did and the families adapted. The community will have to adapt to whatever the school system decides. I was extremely disappointed that at the Carter community meeting, the overwhelming majority of people there were the staffs from the schools that had been encouraged to attend, and not very many of the actual community.
KCS	I feel it allows for more rest and recharging throughout the year. This will benefit BOTH teachers and students.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
KCS	I feel that 15 days off during breaks is too long and that will not be any more valuable than a traditional calendar. However, 10 days off will greatly improve skill retention and create an appropriate respite for students without impeding academics.
KCS	<p>I feel that many of the concerns about the proposed balanced calendar, while valid, are simply concerns due to a lack of information. The worries about child care during breaks, for example, would be fixed easily once we know when the breaks will be - the child care providers that already handle school breaks will simply adjust their schedules accordingly. It would be nice to have the additional breaks though out the year - it provides an opportunity for travel during non-peak seasons (and better weather). More importantly, this schedule allows for rest time to prevent burn out for teachers and students. It also would provide time for intervention for struggling students. This survey also mentioned enrichment opportunities - while this seems like a good idea in theory, I cannot imagine many students or teachers who would want to come to school on their breaks for "enrichment" though out the year. My primary concern for this calendar would be for the students who need intervention/summer school - if the break time is used for intervention/summer school, those students (the ones who probably already do not enjoy school and/or already are behavioral issues) would be spending almost all of their time at school. While this is "sold" as an incentive to get better grades, for some students, that it simply not an option or not the main issue. This would, in many cases, lead to more disruptive classroom behavior or worse attitudes. The "I'll just make this up in summer school" ideology becomes even easier with "I'll just make this up over fall break". Another issue that comes to mind is how the schedule will sync with other academic programs - specifically dual enrollment. There are a great number of students (I would love to see the data on this) who are enrolled at local colleges throughout the academic year- not just community colleges, but I have several students who attend class at UT. I've heard suggestions that Pellissippi might adjust their schedule to accommodate the new demand (for financial reasons) but there is no way that a major university would do this. This takes a great opportunity off the table for many of our highest achieving students.</p> <p>The other issue that comes to mind is the athletics schedule. The several school systems that have been offered up as an example of successful balanced calendar programs seem to all be much smaller systems than Knox County and therefore have less puzzle pieces in the mix. Sports schedules would have to be adapted at the local level to meet the calendar but could not be adapted at the larger level - for example: cross country athletes would be at the peak of their physical performance and season right as the state and national competitions are coming in the fall, at the same time as the extended fall break. It is not possible to "require" students to be at practice over breaks (especially when vacations will become those times, since summer is shorter) or to expect the same type of performance out of athletes who have been away for two weeks. This not only impacts athletic performance in competition but also impacts the financial bottom line for teams - two weeks of reduced ticket sales to football games times the number of games going on across the county on a</p>
KCS	I feel that more frequent breaks, not necessarily longer breaks are needed.
KCS	I feel that this will not be an strategic move. Also, when intervention thoughts are thrown around...this also means more work time for teachers which could promote larger burnout rates. I think Knox County is trying too many new things all at once. This is unsettling for students, teachers, and parents.
KCS	I feel that this would be a necessary change for Knox County to continue to grow and prepare our kids to be competitive on a local, state, national, and global level.
KCS	I feel that this would greatly benefit both the students and staff
KCS	I feel that with funding, scheduling, and lack of "real evidence" of student improvement. There is no reason to change anything from the system we have in play. Both ideas are good, but why transition and change this? Also, there is "some evidence" of student behavior changing. There is always lethargy in response to breaks, not refreshment.
KCS	I feel the balanced calendar leaves us in constant transition mode. No real opportunity to dive in , with such long breaks scheduled so frequently.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
KCS	I go back to my comments on coaching. That is my only apprehension about switching. You MUST consider what those coaches and athletes have to say. I have heard nothing about the effect on athletics in any of the conversations. Look at the number of students that is and the number of school employees and you will see it is something that MUST be considered.
KCS	I have friends and colleagues who have said that when they worked for schools with this calendar (3 weeks off between sessions), they were unable to feel like they actually had a break. It was difficult to really recharge. I would only consider supporting this if there were two week breaks in between sessions.
KCS	I have not decided just how I feel yet. If these breaks are not vacations, but time for student remediation/enrichment and/or teacher workshops/training, then I am not in favor of the balanced calendar.
KCS	i have two very nice pussy cats
KCS	I have worked with a balanced calendar before. I have a negative experience.
KCS	I haven't seen many answers to the most common questions. For example: How much is it going to cost? How are we going to fund these costs? Which kids are going to be able to come to the extra intersessions? How will they be chosen? How will the teachers be chosen to teach during the break? What if there are not enough teacher volunteers? What program will be used during that time? Will transportation be provided? How will we be sure that the students will be getting a break instead of being loaded down with homework during these breaks? There are too many other things we need to be worrying about right now and spending money on that we KNOW will benefit our students academically (smaller class sizes, new text books, developmentally appropriate curriculum, etc)
KCS	I hesitate to offer an opinion due to the fact that I have no children in the school system currently and am not involved in day to day school instruction.
KCS	I hope this goes forward asap!
KCS	I just believe that a balanced calendar would be a benefit to Teachers, Students and Parents. We have to understand that this a process, and that their will be some adjustments.
KCS	I just feel that teachers and students are so highly invested it instruction and our instruction has become so rigorous that periodic down time is needed to help both parties cope with the more rigorous instruction. It is very difficult for any of us to
KCS	I just want to say that the daycare systems that traditionally have summer set-up programs, would need to adapt to survive. It should not be an issue for parent to find child care because if they child care services want to survive, they would have to adapt to the change as well. Therefore, this should not be a drawback at all. Not only do students need these breaks, but teachers do as well. I understand that some teachers supplement their income with jobs in the summer, but as Knox County gets more competitive with their pay rate, less and less teachers will need to supplement their income. This is something that has been debated for a long period of time, and is now in the process of being adopted all around east TN. It needs to happen here as well.
KCS	I know one balanced calendar had longer breaks between quarters and shorter summer - that is an absolute NO in my vote. I really don't believe I have any say in this, that if the leadership in the county wants it, it will be a done deal despite what input is received from teachers, but I would hope at least there would be consideration to minimize the breaks between quarters. If the 2 week snow break is any indication with how my AP students did with that time, I am concerned.
KCS	I like the current calendar and would prefer not to change to the balanced calendar.
KCS	I like the idea, but working in this system & having children in a neighboring system creates the conflict for me personally. But I agree with the statements on the benefits page because I don't feel like a lot of people will take advantage of the potential for enrichment during the breaks.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

<p>How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?</p>	<p>Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>I marked opposed for question #7 only because there are still too many questions that are unanswered: funding for the intercessions; cost analysis (air conditioning buildings in July and earlier in August); solid research that shows that learning loss is less if summers are shorter; definitive answers about whether teacher inservice days will be held during the fall, winter, and spring breaks; and whether remedial sessions will be mandatory for students if they are behind (I can see parents of elementary students STILL removing their children from school for a week to go to Disney World or other vacation spots even when they have a two week break each grading period. Would they be required to attend intercession to make up unexcused absences?) These questions need to be answered. It seems ill informed to move to a Balanced Calendar just for the sake of doing so. Personally, it would benefit me to have breaks from the classroom more often, but I'm a taxpayer as well as a teacher. I would like to see a cost analysis before I decide. In addition, I would like to see the return of a one week fall break so that we wouldn't have so many parents take their elementary children out of school for that entire week. Even though we have only two official fall break days, elementary teachers find ourselves having to reteach skills taught during the three days of that week because of absenteeism.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>I personally believe that the total number of school days should be increased, such that the 177 instructional days are truly instructional days, with additional days provided for field trips, field days, and other school activities that have no impact on learning. Half-days are also a waste of time, as they break up the normal order of the school day such that students anticipate and become excited about leaving rather than attending to classroom activities.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>I prefer the 2 weeks for spring and fall break instead of 3 weeks, which was once presented.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>I really wish that Knox County would consider giving us a week back at Fall Break. I would gladly give up 3 days of my summer for that.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>I strongly believe that the balanced calendar will provide optimal breaks to prevent "burn out" in both students and school employees throughout the year.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>I think a balanced calendar will be beneficial in improving student achievement.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>I think a balanced calendar would be good for students and teachers.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>I think a balanced calendar would be highly beneficial for students and school staff.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>I think a balanced calendar would encourage more intensive student learning, year round.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>I think childcare will adjust.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>I think if the rest of the community adapts with the schools (i.e. student employment, child care), fewer people would object. From a teaching perspective, I see the summer slide decreasing as a huge benefit, but I feel for the people who would suffer in practical ways from having a schedule that doesn't mix with the community.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>I think it is what is best for students</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>I think it needs to be clearly communicated and logistically thought of relating to the pay and schedule for the intervention and enrichment. Similar to summer school, most of the students that need that intervention, also might not have ways to get home outside of the traditional school day.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>I think it will be a difficult change initially, but students and adults can usually adapt to changes like these.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>I think it will make the custodial staff (myself included) rush to clean sections of the school and never have a completely clean building or "clean slate" for the next school year. Yes we will be perpetually cleaning the building but as it is ongoing it will not get the annual deep clean that is needed.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>I think it would be more effective</p>

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
KCS	I think it would be something to try. It will be a difficult transition due to the large population that this change in the calendar affects...mostly because parents aren't used to such. However, teachers know how children, high-risk especially, lose academic ground with months off school. Day care is a big concern for me. Local centers will also need to be on board with this calendar change. It will be a shift for the ENTIRE community, not just the school community.
KCS	I think it would benefit both students and teachers.
KCS	I think it would help address staff burn out in providing more frequent breaks unless staff will be forced to provide enrichment activities during breaks.
KCS	I think its a GREAT idea, and the benefits for the children far out way any of the drawbacks for the parents.
KCS	I think most kids look forward to having summers off. I know when I was in school I love my summer breaks. My family took several month long trips that were great. If we went to a balanced calendar then we could never do that.
KCS	I think parents and teachers need more information about how it would actually play out to decide if they are in favor or not.
KCS	I think question 7 is confusing and should be worded differently. I DO support Knox County adopting a balanced calendar.
KCS	I think that it is a great option considering that several surrounding counties are also on the balanced calendar. This would put us (Knox County) on the same schedule as other school systems. It would be a big transition, however, I feel that it would be a positive transition and parents and students would get accustomed to the changes.
KCS	I think that the idea of summer vacation is antiquated and outdated. Students lose information, motivation, and retention of knowledge. A balanced calendar might be another step in pulling our district and our state out of the bottom quarter of states. Drastic changes are needed to pull our students back to the national baseline. Perhaps shifting the year so that there is more time for identifying need, tutoring, and academic intervention will enable our students to succeed.
KCS	I think that the loss of learning over summers is a huge drawback with the present calendar. Since students would essentially be out the same amount of days, I do not think it is that cumbersome. When we think about why we have the traditional school calendar it was based on an agrarian economy which we not longer have. Besides, since there is a huge group of opponents of public education who are worried about how we compete internationally, this is one way to boost those scores. I do not think it goes far enough honestly. I think students should be in school at least 200 days per year.
KCS	I think that the rigor and expectations in the classroom have increased so much recently causing so much stress and tension among teachers and students that all need some down time. It is very difficult to sustain that kind of pace for a long period of time without a break. Students get stressed and behavior declines.
KCS	I think that the summer break proposed in the graphic is still a bit too long.
KCS	I think that this will be a big undertaking, and all hands will need to be on deck, as it were. I think that it might be prudent to set up a task force made up of community members, educators, classified staff (including custodians), administrators, school board members, and other such stake holders, to really look at what the implications will be and maybe give Dr. McIntyre some guidance on how these changes might affect not only the schools, but the community at large.
KCS	I think the additional breaks in the year will help more students recover from illness. I would like to be able to schedule medical events that require recovery during Aug-May without having to take time off.
KCS	I think the breaks would cause more struggles for students when they come back. I know during the snow weeks it was a long week after to get the students back in the routine.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
KCS	I think the costs will outweigh the benefits. I would like to see a full week in the fall and then shorten summer by 3 days.
KCS	I think the initial pie chart included in this survey is deceptive and inaccurate. The reality of 3, three week breaks would make our summer vacation significantly shorter, which is not what is shown in the chart and is confusing to those people who are not informed about the actual end goal of the balanced calendar. Please try to communicate this staggered implementation plan better in the future.
KCS	I think the three week break in between the four semesters is way too long. I like the two week break calendar.
KCS	I think there are pros and cons to both types of school scheduling.
KCS	I think this is the best thing for everyone evolved all the way around. I think we are in need of the more frequent breaks as well as longer breaks at fall and spring holidays. It 's not going to make much difference in the summer break.
KCS	I TRULY DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH INFORMATION TO FORMULATE AN OPINION. WHEN WE TRANSITIONED INTO BLOCK SCHEDULING IN THE DISTRICT...IT WAS VERY DIFFERENT. HOWEVER THE TRANSITION PROVED TO BE VERY BENEFICIAL TO STUDENTS
KCS	I want to see a week long fall break. Even if we do not officially "adopt" the full balanced calendar, I would like to see a WEEK LONG fall break. I would also like to see a little more time at the midwinter break - - even if inservice surrounded it - - high school make-up exam day being the day the break ends is a very tight academic turn around for grades.
KCS	I wonder what the impact to the budget would be for the proposed calendar. While the number of instruction days remains the same, is there an increase cost for enrichment or camps?
KCS	I worked in Indonesia for 2 years and their calendar was balanced. I loved it as a teacher and I think the kids did too.
KCS	I WOULD BE IN FAVOR IF SNOW DAYS ARE STILL IN OUR CALENDAR! I have not heard how snow days will impact the calendar.
KCS	I would be totally for implementing a balance calendar as long as the issue of Fall Break and football games were dealt with.
KCS	I would be willing to try the balanced calendar, with a stipulation that after 2 years, an analysis of the effectiveness of the balanced calendar is conducted. Did test scores improve? Do the majority of stakeholders prefer the balanced calendar after 2 years?
KCS	I would examine how this will benefit our students who are our lowest performing students as well as how it can benefit those who are out highest performers. The next piece you will need to plan for is how it impacts teachers from a time and compensation point of view. How will our start/end dates be impacted? How will we address PD hours required? Make sure you place your money in people first, not programs and initiatives and they will support you.
KCS	I would hope that we would still keep our built in snow days. I would not want that coming off my breaks.
KCS	I would liike to see it start this coming school year 2015-2016. We should not have to wait another year.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

<p>How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?</p>	<p>Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>--I would like a call center made available to working families for help with planning affordable care for children and guidance in identifying activities and transportation to said activity if the balanced calendar is adopted. --Is it available to sit down with summer program provider administrators and begin the process of co-ordinating services. --Since Instructional Assistants are now Para-professionals with the equivalent of Associate Degrees, training, and experience, will contracts for tutoring or other services during the breaks be made available to replace lost summer job income? -- Can a type of apprenticeship program be engineered with area businesses to address student employment needs? --If the balanced calendar is not adopted, can online school be stipulated for addressing the scaffolding needs of students at risk for "Summer Slump" as indicated by Star and T-Cap testing? --Can leading or assisting with Family Literacy Workshops/Sessions for ELL families be an offering during breaks for which Instructional Assistants can apply?</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>I would like to give the balanced calendar a try, but under the conditions that if we find it is not working that we could go back to the traditional calendar or look at another option. I would not want the balanced calendar to be adopted for a long period of time and not be able to go back to the traditional if we find it is not working. I would also oppose a balanced calendar if it had a 3 week break in between. I think the 2 week break is sufficient and would not want any longer.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>I would like to see how this changes my schedule on a 221 Contract, in addition to the student schedule.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>I would like to see school start a little later. As we make a major change to Balanced Calendar, this would be a great opportunity to have school start an hour later. Students would no longer stand outside in the dark waiting for a bus.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>I would love to see the balanced calendar go into effect asap!</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>I would much rather we doing something that makes sense like increasing the school hours for middle school and high school than this major disruption to the traditional school year. Summers have been getting shorter and now they will be almost non-existent. Increasing instructional hours in the school day would be better. We already have the kids there. Their parents would have even less after-school care since the hours would be closer to what they are working and they would probably like that. Other countries have longer school days. We are already wasting some time during the days and we need to tighten that up and add in even more instructional time. The breakfast time at our school while buses are arriving takes a whole hour. Once again, I am not in favor of the "balanced calendar" for even more than the reasons I have already listed and I would, instead, like us to increase the length of our school days and get in more instructional time that way. I am not concerned about retention loss from the summer. I do not buy that some teachers spend a month reviewing at the beginning. I review as we go along. I also do not believe any of my opposition is going to amount to anything because the juggernaut to pass this just by "bringing it up for discussion" is like a runaway train. It's already been decided.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>I would need to see how it is set-up and see it in action before I say it is a good thing for students since I am a teacher. Also how will it work with testing and missed snow days?</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>I would not want school to start any earlier than mid August for students. However, I would not mind school ending a week later, at the end of May, to accommodate extra breaks during the second semester.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>I would rather see 1 week in fall and 1 week in spring with 2 weeks at Christmas.</p>

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

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KCS	I would suggest getting information from families in Blount County, Maryville City, or Oak Ridge, concerning how they deal with the childcare issues. Also, the clients of the Knox County Schools are the children and youths being educated in our schools. I think the emphasis should be on which calendar plan most adequately benefits learning over time. The European Plan, which Americans think is so superior, is more closely aligned with the balanced calendar plan. In addition, the current school calendar was best suited to the agrarian economy prevalent in America before World War II. We no longer live primarily on a schedule predicated on farming cycles. We should realize that and move on.
KCS	If a student will forget information over a 10 week break he will forget it over a 8 week break. If a student needs more than a partial class period of review, he never learned it in the first place. Plus, for how many high school subjects is this even a problem? Additionally, for high schools on the block schedule a student taking Math in the fall semester in one year will not benefit from the balanced calendar in terms of knowledge loss (if that is even a legitimate issue) if he doesn't take Math until spring semester the following year. Why are we considering implementing a strategy that at its best has exhibited inconclusive results?
KCS	If I knew kids would be required to attend remediation, have transportation, and be fed, I would be a strong supporter. Making remediation optional will create a whole new set of gaps. Lots of our poorest kids would never get a ride to school without the bus.
KCS	If it ain't broke, don't fix it!
KCS	If it isn't broke, don't fix it.
KCS	If it's not broken, don't fix it. Families have been working on the same school schedule for a very long time. Knox County is so much larger than school districts, like Maryville, that the disruption to family schedules could be monumental.
KCS	If parents are concerned about making child car arrangements during breaks, if think the school system should work with community stakeholders to assist with this issue. For example, the YMCA offers after-school care in several Knox County Schools. KCS officials could work with the YMCA to ask them to provide care for students on the school site during the 2 week breaks (with administrators rotating the days that they supervise); or perhaps the YMCA could offer child care for 1 week and the parents could provide care for the 2nd week. This is something that was in place at my previous school (who operated on a balanced calendar). It worked very well for parents to continue dropping their kids off at school during the 2 or 3 week breaks. The childcare program was only closed on holidays.
KCS	if parents having trouble getting their children to attend school now do you really think the balance calendar is going to make a difference if they are out a lot now they still will be
KCS	If the district implements a balanced calendar, I hope students will not be expected to attend summer school because their summer break would be too short (and, consequently, their behavior would not improve during the school year). Additionally, under a balanced calendar I hope teachers will not be expected to use their summer break for district meetings or professional development as we will need the summer break for family activities.
KCS	If the income/work hours can be addressed appropriately, I am in support of this.
KCS	If the program is done correctly and the students are provided the help that they need during the intersection periods then it will be great for the students and the teachers.
KCS	If the two week breaks are breaks for the teachers also then I would be in favor of trying the new schedule. Teachers should not be required to work additional days nor should inservice take place during the breaks. But it should be on a trial basis. After the first year of implementation it should be evaluated and a decision made as to whether to continue the balanced calendar.
KCS	If we are to continue to prepare our students for a successful higher educational experience and participate in a competitive work force we must continue to set high expectations, starting with a continual, less interrupted education opportunity.
KCS	IF WE GO OFF THE BLOCK SCHEDULE WITH IT!!!

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

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KCS	If we have the money to do the interventions then I believe that it would be beneficial, but if we do not have the money to do it correctly, then it does not need to be done.
KCS	I'm in favor as long as the details that would immediately affect the staff and students are in thought of and in place before the balanced calendar is established.
KCS	I'm in favor of trying the balanced calendar but I think there should be a clause somewhere that states there is an option to return to a more traditional calendar if the impact is not positive!!!
KCS	I'm more interested in a three week break at Christmas, two weeks at Fall, two weeks at Spring, and the rest at summer!
KCS	I'm not convinced this is worthwhile. Pretty pie charts don't actually show what a real calendar looks like, and I feel like a lot of kinks and details will be ignored until it is too late; once again, teachers will do the best with what they have, but why change it without a convincing argument?
KCS	I'm sure there's research that supports a balanced calendar just as I'm sure there's research that supports a traditional calendar.
KCS	In addition to the previously mentioned benefits, this would also allow families to plan for trips, during a time period other than summer or winter break.
KCS	In favor, especially if it was at least somewhat aligned with other balanced calendars in the area.
KCS	In order to say whether I am opposed or in favor I would need more information. For example how would teachers be compensated for the extra intervention or enrichment classes offered during these breaks? Also, how will teachers be affected who are on extended contracts?
KCS	In some respects for the proposal, in some respects against the proposal.
KCS	Is it possible for us to pilot this with higher need schools? I know many higher SES schools feel very differently about this than teachers at lower SES schools.
KCS	It does not make sense to wait for the intersessions to provide intervention. Wouldn't that money be better spent providing intervention along the way?
KCS	It is true one of the reasons I chose this career was the time off in the summers to be with my kids, so that I could build a solid foundation for them. I do not want the state to have the most influence on the.
KCS	It isn't very different. I don't think it would make much of a difference in improving behavior and academic standing.
KCS	It may take students a couple weeks to get back into school mode after a long summer. That would be as true with 43 days as opposed to 55. There are other ways to encourage kids to read during the summer, and to provide other enrichment activities. If you take away their summers, children won't have extended free time again for 60 years, when they are too old and feeble to enjoy it. Please protect this vital oasis of childhood.
KCS	It seems like a wise move for staff and students overall
KCS	It used to be that summer was a time of self-discovery. It was a time to spend long days outdoors making forts, exploring the woods, and inventing new games. I'm not sure kids do that any more. Today it seems to be more about computer games and TV. If it were as is was thirty plus years ago I would be against the move, but as our culture has changed, I believe balancing the year may prove beneficial.
KCS	It will also help teachers with planning and staying current on all required tasks.
KCS	It would be more informative and helpful to us before putting in our opinions to see the time frame for each of the sections on your graphs as in dates (ballpark ideas) for start and stop. Also what happens in a quarter that has weather issues. Will they be resolved then or at the end of year or just disappear? Shortened times make it very difficult as things are to finish all subjects in quality fashion.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
KCS	It would help to see what the calendar would look like if Knox County Schools implements a balanced calendar. If Summer Break starts at the same time as usual and ends just 12 days earlier then I am for it but if Summer Break starts earlier and ends earlier then I am opposed. Students, teachers, and families want to enjoy the nice summer weather so please consider starting Summer Break at the same time.
KCS	It would work well for me, but I don't have kids in sports or band.
KCS	It's already been decided - you really don't want my opinion!
KCS	It's time to change our thinking!!! Doing something because we've "always done it" that way isn't what is best for student learning!!!!!!
KCS	I've experienced this calendar as a student and a teacher. Of course its change so there are going to be some drawbacks, but overall its better for the students and the staff.
KCS	Just wondering what happens if we miss several days in the winter because of weather. How does that effect the schedule ?
KCS	Keep traditional
KCS	Knox Co is very vague on the cost of a balanced calendar. This is concerning to parents, staff, and all tax payers.
KCS	KNOX COUNTY NEEDS TO IMPLEMENT BALANCED CALENDAR
KCS	Knox County Schools need to adopt the balanced calendar. Neighboring successful school districts have implemented this type of calendar for years and their state test scores are great.
KCS	Knox County should consider a four day week.
KCS	Like I said before, we can do anything and give our best efforts if we all know that a more lengthy rest is right around the corner!
KCS	Like most things, once a change is done, no one will notice in a year.
KCS	Listen to the teachers and families.
KCS	make sure teacher's salaries are not affected negatively
KCS	Many of the potential drawbacks would easily be overcome with some time for a transition period. I believe that as time went on, people would realize that these drawbacks are not as significant as they first appear.
KCS	Most student data say it benefits the students.
KCS	My concern are those who depend on 10 weeks off in the summer to devote to the their second job that helps them stay afloat financially. Their Knox County Schools salary is not near adequate alone to survive financially.
KCS	My concerns are from a teaching stand point. From my perspective I feel students think learning is not important when they are preparing for a break. There are also more behavior problems.
KCS	My main reason for opposition to the balanced calendar is the affect it will have on children who have trouble with transitions. It will be restarting and retracting every time we come back from a break.
KCS	My major concern about a balanced calendar would be when the school year begins. I would find it easier to end and start school later than to go earlier.
KCS	My major concern is for the funding of the balanced calendar. I would not want two week breaks if students did not have the opportunity for extended learning during that time. To be fair, students would need transportation as well as lunches, teachers, school security, adm staff and the building would need heat and air. These will all be expensive if each school is allowed to provide the programs for their own students.
KCS	My only concern as an educator is the fear of little compensation (or none) if interventions are expected during the intercessory periods. We work so hard and the expectations continue to mount each year. I'm just concerned the interventions could be "enforced" upon us instead of an extended contract.
KCS	My only concern is teachers being forced (or strongly suggested) to work those intercession/enrichment dates.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
KCS	My overall opinion of a balanced calendar would be that it would create a positive and stronger threshold for children. Children need routine, structure, and more consistency in their learning. I believe it will allow children to obtain their skills and knowledge of a subject better and longer instead of trying to grind at the end of the year for testing and such.
KCS	Need more information to form an accurate opinion. Dates for starting, ending, breaks...Need more specifics please.
KCS	Need to examine how other counties have successfully implemented this type of calendar and use their method.
KCS	Non certified employees have not been given raises in years and if they are expected to do more duties because of the extra opportunities offered they need to be compensated for that.
KCS	none
KCS	None
KCS	None
KCS	Not enough information has been provided regarding the costs to implement and maintain a balanced calendar. What additional monies are needed to provide the extended learning programs? Other districts have implemented this and spent more in money to transition and support a balanced calendar. How would this affect KCS? We always seem to struggle for enough financial support and the community has not interested in adding additional costs to support increased school funding. There has not been enough information provided to make an adequate decision regarding a balanced school year.
KCS	Oak Ridge schools will be going to this calendar next school year...having them on similar calendars would be beneficial for people who might attend one district and work in another. Also getting them on the same schedule would aid in the potential conflicts with sporting events.
KCS	ONCE AGAIN. PLEASE LISTEN TO MY MIXTAPE. IT WILL SET KNOX COUNTY SCHOOLS ON FREAKIN FIRE. RAISE AWARENESS FOR MY MIXTAPE. http://itapez.com/mixtapes/dancehall/ijah-iba-forever-blaze-hosted-by-bobby-konders/
KCS	One of the main concern parents tend to express over a balanced calendar is providing child care for their children during the frequent breaks. However, this is not the responsibility of the school system and our schools should not be treated as "daycares" or "free baby sitting". Our school board should adopt the balanced calendar because it is what is best for students and teachers; not to provide needed child care for families. Besides, if Knox Schools adopts this calendar, daycares and child care services will adjust their schedules to accommodate parents' needs.
KCS	Only in favor for the balanced calendar option that is 9 wks on, 2 wks off then 6 wk summer break. Would like to know more information on the staff requirements during the intersessions (ie. Does staff gets 2 full weeks off during intersessions/breaks ,or does staff gets 1 wk off and 1 wk of inservice/teacher work days?)
KCS	Only in favor if it were the 9 wk / 2 wk balance... Not in favor of 3 week breaks... That is too much time to take off multiple times throughout the year!
KCS	Opposed to the first model. Open to the second model. Please present both options in the media. The only plan being pushed in the media and at schools is the first model.
KCS	Other systems in the state have switched back to the traditional system after giving the balanced calendar a try. Those locally that have made the switch to balanced calendars are city systems with just one high school (and more funding for their schools' programs). Many teachers in Knox County work 2nd jobs in the summer to help offset their low salaries. The balanced calendar takes away from that opportunity. Only suggested change would be to make fall break a full week.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
KCS	Our current evaluation system forces administrators to come up action plans to improve performance. When performance is on track, there is no need to change. One study was of two rural schools in Georgia that lasted three years. What about some studies that look at school systems similar to ours?
KCS	PLEASE do more research! Knox County is TERRIBLE about implementing something before they have worked out the kinks in it.....DO NOT LEARN TO LAND THE PLANE WHILE IT IS IN THE AIR! THAT IS TOO LATE! Get these enrichment weeks and the jobs that will be needed staffed and all expectations voiced BEFORE you decide that the balanced calendar is a good idea. If you are truly interested in feedback....answer the questions and quit avoiding them! If you are expecting math and science teachers to staff the enrichment weeks....and you KNOW that is who will need help....then you had better be expressing those expectations to the math and science teachers!
KCS	Please don't do it.
KCS	Please don't do this. Also, are State EOC times changing? There sure is gonna be a lot less time to prepare of them if note. The two weeks following a State EOC is pretty worthless class time, this way it will be almost 6 weeks?
KCS	Please don't try something that others have found to be a failure.
KCS	PLEASE implement a balanced calendar for the benefit of my students!!! Regardless of ANY potential or perceived drawbacks, this is in the best interest of our children.
KCS	PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE
KCS	Please provide more information for those who are not educated on what the balanced calendar entails.
KCS	Please see my previous comments. Thank you :)!
KCS	Please think twice before making this massive change. I truly believe that KCS has painted an overall positive picture of a possible balanced calendar, and left out many of the negatives (the unanswered questions). The meetings that I have attended were led by presenters who clearly agree with changing the calendar.
KCS	Please, please, please!! It would do so much for our students and staff to have the balanced calendar implemented!!
KCS	Quit talking about it and do it.
KCS	Schools with the highest performance scores are in the Northeast and operate on a traditional September to June calendar.
KCS	See previous reasons
KCS	see the previous boxes and if you really want to know more I could go on for hours on how this NEEDS TO HAPPEN
KCS	Special needs students would REALLY benefit from this
KCS	Summer is a great time of the year. Please keep it the way it is currently!!!
KCS	Teachers must receive additional pay for additional time. Teachers must receive breaks equal to the students. Professional Development must be built-in not added-in to the intersessions.
KCS	Teachers must spend weeks reteaching at the beginning of the school year in a traditional year. I believe a balanced calendar would allow current grade level teaching to begin earlier with much less reteaching.
KCS	Teachers should not be expected to tutor or do enrichment during the breaks.
KCS	Teachers who only have one income sometimes need the summer for extra work opportunities. Also, many people use the summer for various reasons which cuts their time short.
KCS	Teachers who work during breaks (coaches, etc) should be compensated accordingly.
KCS	THANK YOU for having the Neutral option (missing in several current and recent surveys which skews the results).

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
KCS	The 2 weeks of snow/ice were a perfect indicator that our students can be way from school for 2 weeks and come back just as strong or stronger. There was little to no skill loss during that time and students actually practiced skills they were deficient in during that time at home. The break brought them back revived and ready to go for spring.
KCS	The balanced calendar has been implemented successfully in many other systems. I feel that it would be as successful in Knox County.
KCS	The balanced calendar has shown no significant improvement in student achievement or levels of success. It really will do nothing, but change around time students will miss school. It will make a bigger impact on their mindsets and remembering of course material and routine to have longer breaks.
KCS	The balanced calendar will allow teachers time to recharge and have time to put on going PD learning into action
KCS	The balanced calendar would allow me to go on vacation in October again!
KCS	The balanced calendar would help in many ways. Although there are some negatives as well, the positives are far more important. Also, there are several options to address the negatives. The first year or two could see some difficult changes, but I believe the community would adjust and by third year, transition would be much easier.
KCS	The bottom line is cost. How much additional funding would be required to implement a balanced calendar? The taxpayers need realistic estimates of cost. Will enrichment/intervention be provided during the breaks? How will KCS pay teachers who work that extra time? Everyone in Knoxville knows that Mayor Burchett and Dr. McIntyre are not on the greatest of terms; extra funding for a balanced calendar won't necessarily be approved by County Commission (and the Mayor), even if the Knox County Board of Education approves a balanced calendar. Will intervention be optional or mandatory? Will buses run for intervention? The parents of students who need intervention most may not be able to provide transportation. Will lunch be served? The bottom line is cost. Please provide real numbers for cost.
KCS	The bottom line is not so much whether the current calendar is kept or "balanced". We are here by choice and know we can accept change, if change is necessary, or move on. The important thing is putting the precious time, energy and tightly squeezed pennies we have available to the best possible use in KCS. The children and their NEEDS come first. Are they really on the top of the list?
KCS	The breaks are already offered with this school calendar. Also, the breaks would not match up with area colleges or private schools. I am not in favor of longer Fall and Spring breaks. I would be in favor of longer Summer breaks though.
KCS	The calendar is the calendar. Once it is voted on and passed don't respond to complaints by making incremental adjustments.
KCS	The calendar should not rest solely on parents being able to find child care; the child care industry will adapt to whatever the schools decide to do. Families need to be more flexible with vacations and transportation if it is in the best interest of children.
KCS	The comments that I laid out in the last section are the most influential in my determination as to whether KCS should go forth with the change. I also do not believe that I have enough information about how this will affect teachers to make the decision. I could not attend the informational sessions and therefore was not privy to the conversations occurring during those meetings. A FAQ's on relevant questions asked and answers given by school administrators would be helpful for addressing those needs.
KCS	The community will find a way to conform to the schools system's calendar. We are too large of a district to let this sway our actions. Do what is best for kids. Just like most change, people will oppose it at first, but they will adapt quickly in the end.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
KCS	The consequences and negatives of a balanced calendar, both academically and in the community far outweigh the benefits of a balanced calendar. Take a look at the number of school systems in NC and Nashville that are equivalent to our size and there is evidence that a balanced calendar simply does not work.
KCS	The idea of moving a 55 day summer break to a 45 day summer break is not much of a balanced calendar. I suppose this is better than nothing.
KCS	The intercessions truly need to be breaks for students and teachers with no school requirements. I like the idea of having arts/athletics opportunities, etc for those students who will be around and want that type of enrichment opportunity. (As well as the staff who would want to work some extra days WITH compensation. There should NOT be any required professional development or inservice that is required of teachers during the break. If we are truly to re-charge (students and staff alike) the intercessions need to be free from required activities.
KCS	The model is excellent. Please explore all schedules and how they would relate to the balanced calendar. In high school, in particular, the sports schedules would be an issue. Would students be expected to still be at school (sports, arts, etc) during the breaks? Are the sports schedules going to line up with the breaks?
KCS	The money.. where will it come from for the enrichment and intervention? This is my major concern. If the funding is not there, then the balanced calendar doesn't have a strong case for switching.
KCS	The overwhelming voice that I have heard is that Knox County students and teachers do not want or need this change. There is NO strong data that says this works and it is just another example of the county trying something new without the original actually being broken. I understand that education changes. The needs of students, families, and teachers change. That is fine, but EVERY SINGLE YEAR there is a new BIG change in Knox County. We don't know what works anymore because it changes constantly (without reason or genuine regard to the people it affects most). This idea needs to be tabled for a while. Let us work through the more important things, like a brand new (again) curriculum.
KCS	The recommended calendar show one week less than normal for students. I don't think that will impede summer jobs. Family vacations can be spread out throughout the year, and not just one season. I don't think the new schedule will disrupt lives; it just changes how and when activities are done. This may mean families will have to prioritize what's more important, but I think the students will be just fine.
KCS	The resistance comes from the adults - kids will adjust and be better for it!
KCS	The snow days this year were a welcome relief from school felt by staff and students. We all returned in a better mood and more focused and able to work. It gave me an idea what a few weeks off would feel like and it improved our overall milieu in the school.
KCS	The sooner the better
KCS	The traditional calendar was originally set based on spring planting and harvesting seasons. This does not apply to Knox County Schools. I believe the balanced calendar would be most appropriate and effective for the most people of all ages.
KCS	There never seems to be enough money and staff available for remediation and enrichment.
KCS	There are many other ways that are proven to help students academically. Smaller class sizes would be a much better way to spend money than to implement a balanced calendar.
KCS	There are some possible good things here, but if it will increase teacher days and teacher work hours, then it should come with additional pay. If it is truly to recharge, then teachers should have that two weeks to do with as they choose. Also, many teachers have taught for years because they were on same schedule as children. Would this still be the case?

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

<p>How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?</p>	<p>Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>There are still too many unknowns that prevent me from forming an opinion. Would teachers and students be required to teach/attend intervention or enrichment classes or is this optional? Would teachers be required to attend in-services during the two week periods or would it actually be a break for them?</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>There are too many unanswered questions about moving to a balanced calendar. I don't get the feeling that KCS has really considered all of the implications. Rather, it feels like someone downtown said, "Hey, let's try a balanced calendar. Hopefully that will positively impact student growth. We'll figure out the details later; for now, let's just get everyone on board." I'll get on board when the details are worked out, such as who will provide enrichment if it's offered, how they will be compensated, and whether it will be a requirement for teachers; who will provide intervention if it's offered, how they will be compensated, whether it will be a requirement to teach, and how the county will make sure students attend; whether inservice or faculty meetings will be required to take place during breaks. These are just some examples. And this survey is a joke in so many ways.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>There has not been enough information given about what the breaks would look like in terms of academic supports.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>There is no evidence whatsoever, that a balanced calendar has any long term benefits for these kids. This will cause a huge increase in operating expenses on both the school and the parent.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>There is no significant data that supports the rationale for changing to and supporting a balanced calendar. The cost, potential issues, and potential problems with this proposed calendar far outweigh whatever "gains" the students may make. I DO NOT support a balanced calendar, and neither do the majority of Knox County's stakeholders. DO NOT pass this.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>There is no solid data that links a balanced calendar with less student retention. This is just a gimmick to promote another agenda. If students forget with a 2 day fall break, they are definitely going to forget with a week or two week break.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>This is the right thing to do for promoting student outcomes and learning. If we want to make real, significant gains, we need to do this for our children.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>This is the stupidest thing ever. This should not happen.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>This isn't supported as much as the BOE and Superintendent would like to think. Where is the hard data? I would submit that the interest in this is not supported by a representative sample of the school clientele population.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>This survey is skewed - when the results are tabulated each item will be tabulated individually and not in tandem with both sides of the debate as each individual presented his/her responses.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>To me, the pros of a balanced calendar strongly outweigh the cons. So many students lose information gained during the school year over summer break. The balanced calendar offers opportunity for students to bridge the gaps between breaks.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>Too many drawbacks to make this work. The current system is not broken so don't mess with it. This sounds like another of the Broad Groups recommendations. Summer sessions have always worked for students who need it. Add enrichment and everybody is happy.</p>
<p>KCS</p>	<p>Unless the calendar changes drastically (e.g. a year-round schedule), I don't think we'll see too many benefits from this. I'm not sure I buy that students forget more over a 55 day summer break compared to a 45 day summer break; all of the forgetting isn't happening in those last 10 days of summer.</p>

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
KCS	We are going to do some serious rearranging to accomodate this. Every teacher is going to have to arrange pacing and assessment so that it ends before a 2-week break. Many teachers are going to have to create work that students will accomplish while they attend school during the breaks, even if the student's problem is that they didn't accomplish work assigned to them during the normal hours. The immediate expectation of this calendar, is that it will work. So if student assessment does not go up, it will fall to the teacher. I do not believe for one minute, that we will honestly try this, and admit after a year or two, that it didn't work. Rather, we will "fix the teacher". I'm not a bitter guy, I am very positive about my career, I enjoy going to work in the mornings. I work many extra hours. I have been selected teacher-of-the-year at two different high schools. But just once, I'd like some honesty in a decision like this, and a willingness to admit; two years from now, that this was a bad decision.
KCS	We need a more detailed look at the calendar and it's requirements. How would this affect professional development? Are enrichment/tutoring sessions required? Is there compensation for enrichment/tutoring? Would the calendar start in 2016 by shortening the summer and starting in July, or would we begin the 2016 year in August, and implement the breaks in starting at Fall Break? Too many unanswered questions to make such a huge judgment call.
KCS	We need more information such as how the intervention time would be structured. Who would teach this? Would bussing take place? Would teachers get paid more for working the breaks?
KCS	Whatever is decided is OK with me.
KCS	When I worked at Alcoa, the balanced calendar made life easier, and my family loved it! Every school system should have a balanced calendar!
KCS	Where did the idea come from to bring this up when there are so many other things to be addressed? As a diversionary tactic, it's terrible; people are picking this apart for all its flaws and still noticing the county's lack of proper implementation of special ed, dyslexia training, parent frustration with contradictory communication and lack of communication, teacher morale, critically flawed evaluation systems, coping with egregious errors on the part of the state regarding legislation, and questionable business practices. How is there time to brainstorm about a calendar with no consistent data supporting it amidst all these other issues that are being addressed (they are being addressed, aren't they?)
KCS	While your pie chart graphic looks pretty and and tempting to be in favor of, rumors of requiring teachers to attend inservice training cause me to reject the idea as a teacher. I think it would be a horrible idea for families trying to find childcare during those breaks. Also, transportation for intercessions equates to more money and scheduling transportation headaches.
KCS	Who is going to work during the breaks to enrich/remediate students? High school classes require higher level content specific instructors.
KCS	Will have a very negative impact on athletic sports
KCS	Will staff receive the same time for breaks?
KCS	Will there be public transportation offered to the families whose children will participating in school the 1 week out of the 3 weeks break? Who are the teachers who will be doing the reteaching or enrichment during that time? Will theaters volunteer to teach during that time with compensation or will teachers be assigned to teach during that time with no choice in the matter? How will that affect the percentage of which students are claimed for TVAAS? Will the participation of students during the 1 week of reteaching/enrichment be done as a voluntary approach or will it be mandatory?

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
KCS	With the additional stress placed on our students due to increasingly difficult curriculum, the routinely scheduled 10-day breaks would give our students time to download and come back refreshed. I don't see the change as a shorter summer which, honestly, can become tedious. I see the Balanced Calendar as giving staff and students time to reflect and regroup for the next quarter. I strongly support the change.
KCS	Without a substantial increase in salary balanced calendar adds a increase burden on teachers who are already over burdened
KCS	Would classroom teachers be responsible for teaching the interventions during the break? Or would this be a voluntary thing? If this was a requirement of teachers, then teachers wouldn't be getting those extra days to recharge
KCS	Would like to know more detailed information regarding additional support for struggling students and enrichment during the 2 week breaks.
KCS	would like to see what a school calendar would look like
Not Answered	Child care is my main concern. We are a 2 parent family that works full time. Our extended family lives out of state. Currently, local summer camps rely on college students to staff their programs. Who will be available to staff child care programs for 10 days at a time, 3 times per year for full working days??? What will these changes do to established after care programs at local churches, non-profits, etc??? Also, what is the financial impact to the school system surrounding these changes?
Not Answered	I am very intrigued to hear what public opinion is on this. We sure are scared of change.
Not Answered	Please provide clarity on how snow days would impact the calendar. If our family is making travel plans, I want to be confident that school is really out of session. I don't like to have my child miss class.
Not Answered	Question 7 is confusing as to what you are asking.
Not Answered	The main thing is that the whole district needs to go, not just a set of pilot schools, or some such; it will be an unholy nightmare administratively, especially for schools with a lot of transient students, if everybody isn't the same. I think people's biggest fear may be the childcare issue, and I honestly believe it won't be a problem. In a school district this large, child care providers will figure out a way to adjust to our schedule; they'll have to, if they want to stay in business.
Not Answered	The proposed schedule does not seem as extreme as some I have seen and I would be inclined to be in favor of the schedule as my child became older (currently 1st grade). Is it possible to reserve this schedule for middle and high schools only?
Not Answered	The school calendar needs to be consistent among elementary, middle and high schools.
Not Answered	This seems like just one more step towards the establishment of year round schooling. Kids already have to start school at the beginning of August. I'd be more open to this rebalancing of the schedule if they'd take some school days off the calendar and make them free again. Kids need time to work, and play, and do things besides be in school. Free up some time and some might even be able to learn a bit of a skilled trade since the education system chucked every bit of practical learning out the door years ago.
Not Answered	Will high schools also
Not Answered	With school systems already lacking funding and constantly complaining about not getting the money they need, how the heck do you expect to get approval for the tremendous increase in cost for these extra activities and "learning" that we will supposedly gain? What will end up happening is this calendar will go into effect and they will either have to drop these extra benefits or cut other school programs for them.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	<p>#1. Concerned teachers would assign heavy homework during breaks which would equal no "true" break for students. #2. Concerned that the 10 day breaks/intersessions days shown on the schedule will shrink over time to be only 8...6...2..until there are no break days at all. #3. No marked success for area schools already participating in balanced school year models. #4. Students either care about school or they don't. The amount of breaks during the school year won't change that. In fact, it may hurt because the kids who need the intersession days may not take advantage of them and a 10 day break is just enough time to lose what may have been learned during class time. #5. Where will the funds come from (or what programs will be cut) to implement a balanced school year? We need to spend money where it's needed most. Get focused on building new schools and repairing/improving the ones already in use. How many elementary schools have classrooms in trailers or mobile buildings? How about we look into fixing that? What should have been a temporary fix to overcrowding has become the accepted (bad) answer.</p>
Parent	\$\$\$\$\$ are the enrichment programs free?
Parent	<p>1) I have SIGNIFICANT concerns about the increasing percentage of anxiety and depression in today's youth - from middle school through college. I believe that allowing "opportunities" to learn during time that should be considered breaks will only serve to further stress the high achieving students, who already carry a notably high stress level, to participate in yet another experience to elevate their standings. These kids already have homework assignments over every break, whether fall, winter, spring, or summer; therefore, the "time off" does not actually equate to a true break, which is one of the primary "benefits" touted for the balanced calendar. Increased stress and still no breaks = increased anxiety and depression in students. This could be devastating!! We must help our youth learn how to have a break and enjoy it for what it is truly intended to be, not further compromise their mental and emotional well-being by seeing an increased amount of work expected during these breaks. 2) Similarly, the majority of students who would most benefit from these classes/remedial opportunities are the very same ones that will be LEAST likely to take advantage of the opportunity, for a myriad of reasons, including lack of personal motivation/vestment, lack of parental interest and support in academia, lack of financial support, need to work more hours during time away from school, etc. 3) There has been no data to conclusively support that learning is lost during the summer; in other words, no evidence to support that the "summer slide" truly exists. Additionally, there have been more schools across the country that have adopted a balanced calendar, only to later discontinue it. So with no evidence to support "lost learning" and no studies that indicate conclusive generalities as to why the balanced calendar was dropped, is this really the time to be considering such a drastic change? 4) Teachers will be unable to acquire additional income during the shorter summer as easily - working for only 7 weeks (if they take no vacation, given inservice prior to school start) will make them undesirable hires. 5) Though an 8 week summer break is better than some of the other proposals I have seen, opportunities for participation with Governor's School will be limited, allowing only 3-4 weeks of remaining vacation around which family vacation and recuperative time will need to be scheduled. 6) For two income households, which still currently comprises the majority of households attending Knox County schools, the two-week intervals for fall and spring break will be particularly difficult to navigate from the work place. Many employers will find their employees battling for time off with their children, either for vacation time or because of a need to provide childcare for them, and I anticipate this increased friction will be extremely disruptive for the work place for many families.</p>
Parent	<p>1. Although it is true that a balanced calendar would mean that students would spend less time in a Summer job, they would have the opportunity to continue working for an employer at Fall & Winter breaks. 2. Many families, like ours, in which a parent works for a company where it is difficult to get a vacation week in Summer, could take vacations during Fall or Winter breaks under a balanced calendar.</p>

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	100% Opposed to the balanced calendar.
Parent	11 days of summer difference is not that significant for retention when compared to the level of disruption that this change would have on child care, family activities, etc. And I believe that it's foolish to think that children will be doing "enrichment" activities during the additional time in the fall, winter and spring.
Parent	2 year planning period.
Parent	30 days for a summer break is absurd. The kids have short enough summers as is.
Parent	A balanced cal. takes away the long period of summer. It doesn't give them time to clear their heads and really think about who they are, where they're going and what they want to do in life.
Parent	A balanced calendar does not reduce the summer break enough to justify disrupting the entire school schedule. This places additional financial strain on already hardworking families to come up with mid-year child care.
Parent	A balanced calendar has more negative aspects than does the traditional calendar in terms of affecting family life.
Parent	A balanced calendar is a great fit for our family! I'm all for it!
Parent	A balanced calendar should be approved more than a year in advance so families and the community can adjust plans accordingly.
Parent	A balanced calendar will enhance student learning.
Parent	A balanced calendar would benefit our family.
Parent	A balanced calendar would cause us to seriously consider other schooling options including moving.
Parent	A balanced calendar wreaks havoc with many of the most important elements of family life, child care, and a child's opportunity to grow and learn outside of the classroom, learning loss is not minimized but rather maximized surrounding more breaks. A summer break allows children to engage in activities that are every bit as important as the classroom: jobs, travel, family time, enrichment experiences that teach them about the world and their place in it. I am deeply, deeply opposed and beg the board NOT to recommend this.
Parent	A balanced schedule makes sense for less burn out on the teachers and students.
Parent	A balanced school year is a positive move toward improving the educational system. It looks good on paper, so let's try it. If, after a proper trial, we see a backwards trend in scores, then we can go back. How we educate should be fluid.
Parent	A better plan could be developed.
Parent	A calendar will not fix the accountability problem of our culture. There will be no improvement in learning and behavior until there are consequences.
Parent	A change like this would cost me, and many others, time with our children and thousands more dollars to go back to court. As important as learning at school is, learning from a caring and loving father or mother is MORE important.
Parent	A few school systems in the area have adopted this calendar. I feel confident that the KCS has collaborated with those systems to address the positives and negatives of possible implementation.
Parent	A less controversial change would simply be to turn our 2-day Fall break into a full week Fall break. That would be a simple change and will give students/staff a chance to recharge their batteries and rest a little. As a minimum, I would like to see the 1-week Fall break instituted in the KCS calendar.
Parent	A longer break between each quarter would give our family time to regroup and look at the weak areas in our child's studies and therefore give us the opportunity to work on those weak spots during the break.
Parent	A lot of children already have short attention spans. Longer breaks make it worse. They forget the lessons.
Parent	A more favorable schedule would involve starting the calendar school year closer to Labor Day and longer breaks in the winter.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	A shorter summer break would interfere with swim team, sports and other summer camps in which we typically participate.
Parent	A summer break shortened by 10 days should hardly pose a hardship to anyone. All the breaks during the year are still intact. I don't think changing the calendar will be a major transition at all.
Parent	A traditional calendar has always worked so why change it??? Also, children that need intervention would have to go during the breaks in the balanced calendar so these children would not receive equal time during the break period.
Parent	Absolutely against balanced calendar initiative.
Parent	Academically, I am in favor of it but it will negatively affect our family financially. I work in a different school system and will need to find child care for the first time.
Parent	According to the information I have reviewed, the balanced calendar would have a shorter summer by 12 days. So 12 days makes a big difference in summer learning loss? What about the disruption before and after breaks? The majority of the country is not going to a balanced calendar because it has NOT been proven to work. If a parent doesn't value education, then a child won't. This is not based on the number of days a child goes to school. I sincerely hope that the people downtown would support their teachers and quit trying to change things every few years. Support your teachers and pay them more. I am sure they all work harder than most of the people downtown who make 2 to 3 times what they make.
Parent	add 3 days to fall break to make it a week for "recharging" . take 3 from summer break
Parent	Add Full week back for Fall Break and be done with this nonsense
Parent	Added my comments to the previous page.
Parent	After looking at KCS own evaluation of the literature, I see how inclusive the case is for "balanced calendar". I appreciate that Dr. McIntyre uses a data driven approach to improving our schools. However, the data for balanced calendar simply does not show a clear, repeatable positive effect on student achievement. In the absence of clear data I cannot support a move to balanced calendar. Instead of trying anything and everything to forward the goal of improving our schools, we should redouble the efforts on raising standards and commit to Common Core. If achievement continues to rise after a change to balanced calendar, to what will the increase be attributed? I am concerned that balanced calendar could muddy the results from our move to increased standards.
Parent	After school child care to be open.
Parent	After school programs should be allowed to operate even during breaks as they provide an important place where our kids feel safe and are familiar with the environment and parents can continue to work
Parent	Aftercare!!!
Parent	Again, as previously stated without knowing the specific dates surrounding the school year proposed new breaks and balanced calendars dates, I cannot support this at this time.
Parent	Again, uniforms would have a greater impact on learning and would be easier to implement.
Parent	Again, unless the county wants to pay for the day care costs, the I do NOT want to deal with the balanced calendar - it's not really balanced, it appears it is just convenient for some of the county employees and staff
Parent	Again... I just don't see this as significant enough change to effect anything
Parent	All concerns are the normal in maryville and oak ridge. Actually if we look at overall ratings both maryville and oak ridge school systems rate higher than knox county maybe that balanced schedule will help overall rating
Parent	All negatives outweigh positives. Additional need for child care, kids who spend summers with divorced parents, high school kids with summer jobs. I think after winter break there is a slide in learning that requires a ramp up after break. With balanced calendar the kids would have four ramp ups rather than the two they already have. Keep the calendar as it is!!
Parent	All of the research I've read has not shown and significant improvement for the kids.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	Along with a balanced calendar, we should consider later start times to the school day. It has been scientifically proven that children, and teens do better on test etc. when they sleep later in the morning. They simply have a different biological need to sleep. This may actually be more beneficial than changing the calendar. We should attempt to conform to their schedule instead of forcing them to adapt to an adult schedule.
Parent	Along with the strain on the kids, it will be a strain on the parents that work. We will have to try and get childcare more often and adjust our vacation schedules. Many of us have a 1 week period in the year where we can take a family vacation. If you change the school year to be on that one week then you are taking that away from many families. This will only lead to resentment from the kids because they will not see it as more frequent breaks but as losing their summer. As for retaining more over shorter breaks, if they are really learning the information then they won't lose it no matter how long their break is!
Parent	Although I have noted that I am currently opposed to the balanced calendar adoption, I do see that many benefits are available if implemented. The largest concern that myself and fellow school parents from my community have voiced is that there needs to be a defined goal/purpose for making such a drastic change. That goal would then allow the Board and community to measure all aspects of the balanced calendar program both logically and quantitatively.
Parent	Although I see some advantages to a balanced calendar, a growing concern I have is for the students and their need for "true" breaks. While "enrichment" may be needed for a struggling student or "enrichment" may be added for a high achieving student, I fear that when and if a balanced calendar is adopted additional projects and assignments will be given over these "breaks" and families and students will experience more stress due to these added demands. I fear the "balanced" calendar will likely look like year round school. While I understand the need for a challenging curriculum and I agree that our students need to be challenged, as a parent and school volunteer I see the daily stress and struggle that my children and other children experience. I think we need to be very mindful of the need for students (and parents) to have true breaks from the demands of school.
Parent	Although it will be difficult for my child who has a hard time with change in anything but I have noticed the difficulties that my children have had with their education coming back from summer break and I'm willing to try it if it will help their education
Parent	Although it would be difficult and a change I think it would be worth trying it
Parent	another option to a better "balanced calendar" would be to keep the same 2-day fall break since students just started fall semester not too long ago. it would be disrupting to students who just started learning for the new semester; it would be far better to have a longer winter break from 10 days to 15-20 days. even if students need to have remedial help, this longer break will be more constructive.
Parent	Another option we would like to see is to start the school year three days earlier and give a full week break for fall break, leaving the rest of the year the same.
Parent	Any change is difficult. Sometimes it seems more difficult than it actually becomes. It's not like snow days where you are scrambling for child care. When it's all laid out in advance a lot of the perceived difficulties will iron themselves out as the families and communities change to fit the new schedules.
Parent	Anything that would give our kids a head up in life it's worth giving up a week and a half of summer time.
Parent	Approximately 5 years ago, the fall break was reduced to 2 days so that the start date of school could be moved back a week. That year, the early date that was postponed was August 11. Next school year it appears that students will be starting on August 10, but they will still receive only a 2 day fall break. I feel like Fall Break is being held hostage to the balanced calendar push. If the students are starting this early in August, RESTORE THE FULL FALL BREAK!

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	Are teachers expected to spend more time in the school with the balanced calendar? It sounds as if with the extra help offered or extra break activities that teachers will have more hours added to their schedule thus a pay increase would be expected. Also, how much more expensive is it to have kids in school during warmer months of summer with the air conditioning? Have all these extra costs been considered and will these extra costs be passed along to the schools thus reducing the amount of funding they get? Just curious. I suppose I could look into it.
Parent	Area Mother's Day Out programs would suffer.....by the way, they were not invited it the "day care provider" meeting. I feel like this is all being thrown together and you are not listening to community feedback at the meetings you held. Where is the full week fall break option? Isn't our budget short anyway? How are you planning on coming up with money to foot the bill for the additional costs?
Parent	As a community and a nation, we need to place more of an emphasis on education and less on extra-curricular activities and vacations in order for our children to grow and become leaders within this ever changing nation.
Parent	As a family with two working parents, it is difficult to find childcare for three children with break occurring frequently throughout the year. We sign our children up for a summer program and would prefer to continue with that as opposed to having more breaks throughout the year.
Parent	As a former high school teacher and parent of elementary and middle school age children I strongly agree to a balanced calendar for both educational and personal reasons.
Parent	As a former teacher in a school taking advantage of a balanced calendar, I cilydbt be happier that Knox County is headed in this direction. I look forward to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	As a high school teacher and parent of high school students. I see NO benefit. I do not want to see students sitting home during colder months inside for 2-3 weeks at time. They would not take advantage of it. Most find employment in the summer but would just waste the school year time or use it to get into trouble.
Parent	As a parent of a special needs child sticking to a specific schedule is much needed. There is no assistance for my 14 yr old daughter and we do not have family around to help. Finding child care is impossible and this new schedule would also make it hard for family's to take vacation time as well.
Parent	As a parent of a struggling child, this calendar is an excellent option. If the entire county is taking part in the new calendar, area daycares will adjust appropriately. PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE get this calendar approved.
Parent	As a parent of an active child who struggles with focus and summer learning loss, I am in full support of a balanced calendar.
Parent	As a parent, it is my responsibility to teach my children during the summer and breaks, continue reading programs, work on math...etc. If I feel my child is losing this during the summer, then I am not doing what I should. Kids need breaks. It helps build the motivation to learn. I feel like Parents need to step up and do some more education at home if their child is needing it. Summer is meant for summer vacations and family time.
Parent	As a working parent of a special needs child, I'd just like some attention to the issues of working parents and what we are to do with our children during these extended breaks. I'd like if the school system could partner with camps or something to make enrichment options available so that these breaks are fun instead of a dread for everyone involved.
Parent	As a working parent, I would much rather take my vacation days during summer when we can enjoy the outdoors. Taking days off during Fall and Spring and hoping for nice weather is not something I'd welcome

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	As an educator and parent of an upcoming 9th grader, I am very much in favor of this calendar. I believe the key to widespread support and to winning over the public at large is going to be in the finesse of the presentation by the school system. I also believe great consideration needs to be given to how the break time is used so that it is not an extra burden, but a true enrichment/remediation opportunity.
Parent	As earlier stated my biggest concern would be that the breaks worked into the school year would be lost due to projects or papers. In my opinion, this negate having a balanced calendar and instead turn it into a traditional year with a shortened summer. As a parent of 4 kids in the Knox County School System I know this would result in a drop in motivation.
Parent	As evidenced by surrounding school systems, the after school care/day care facilities will adapt their schedules to accommodate their customers. It also allows for trips during the off-season with the extended breaks.
Parent	As far as the proposition goes right now, I disagree with it. I do not think that the break times should be filled with intervention or enrichment activities. I think that 10 days should be everyone getting a break. The doors to the school closed and it becomes a true break, teachers and staff included.
Parent	As I sit here today, I am slightly more opposed to the balanced calendar, but this is based off of my own research looking at credible research studies on the impact of balanced calendar on increased testing scores/learning (does not seem to have any significant impact). However, I am open to discussing pros and cons.
Parent	As Knox county does not rely on a tourist or agrarian-based economy, the old calendar offers no real benefit to the community. I would like the opportunity to provide my child with important life experiences (such as visiting extended family) outside the summer months. The transition would be difficult for some, but I think worth the effort based on the positive outcomes I have seen from schedules such as this in North Carolina. Frankly, I would be fine with year-round schools with significant breaks scattered throughout.
Parent	As long as there is not more than a couple of weeks in between sessions and they still get a decent amount of time off for summer.
Parent	As mentioned earlier if these are truly read will reflect why my opposition is so strong.
Parent	As mentioned, my biggest concern is childcare. If the school really intends to do the enrichment classes and as long as the childcare providers are willing to change their schedule, I would be in favor of the change. thanks for letting us voice our opinions.
Parent	As much as I can appreciate this from a teaching/pedagogical perspective, the nightmare it will create in terms of finding child care for ten days twice a year would create an enormous hardship for families, and therefore, I have to strongly oppose the idea. If that were not a factor, the general principle behind the idea does have some merit. There are just too many dual income families in the county who would be forced to either leave kids unsupervised or incur great expense in ensuring their supervision during those off weeks in the spring and fall, for this to be a practical idea, in our view.
Parent	As parents we see both pros & cons, but definitely disagree and are opposed to a balanced calendar.
Parent	As stated before, after my children doing it for 4 years it was a nightmare! The transition issues shine were horrible but the off scheduled were even worse in being able to count on anything else.
Parent	As the parent of an AP student my child will have less time to prepare for the AP test as there will still be lots of class time left after the test in May which will not change dates even if Knox County goes to a shorter colander. I also believe that students will be given lots of homework over the extended breaks and not have time just to be children.
Parent	As with all change it should be eased into as much as possible. I believe it should start at the end of the 2016-2017 school year and not the beginning!

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	As written earlier in this survey, we have family members in central Indiana where this is used and nobody seems to care for it, as it is nearly impossible for families to take their vacations during a shortened summer break, and not all adults are capable of taking vacation time during the breaks in the fall and spring.
Parent	At first, like anything different, it will take time and effort to get used to the balanced calendar. However, over time, it would greatly benefit a child's learning and progression from one grade level to another. The extra breaks in between will only help to benefit everyone including the families.
Parent	At the meeting I was for the balanced schedule and I may still be for it. But after having more time to think about it I do see some concerns. I see the breaks are not more frequent, Fall and Spring Breaks are just longer (if I understand it right, Winter break is very similar). At the meeting, Administrators said there is no definite proof of scholastic improvement and the improvement that has been seen is nearly immaterial. My concern is there would be a reduction in Summer break for a few days extra added to Spring and Summer break. With the extended absence several times a year I think (opinion based, no scholastic evidence to back this up), there is a risk of incurring "summer learning loss" several times a year instead of just in the Summer. And is the Summer learning loss going to be drastically less by only being out 9-10 weeks as opposed to 12 weeks?
Parent	At this point, I am only opposed due to concerns about childcare. If this issue could be addressed, I don't have further concerns.
Parent	Bad idea
Parent	Bad idea! This will be very disruption to children with more behavior problems and stressed parents.
Parent	Bad idea, do not attempt to implement this balanced schedule
Parent	BALANCE CALENDAR ALONG WITH CORE CIRRICULUM HAVE BE THE TWO WORST CONSIDERATIONS OF THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM TO DATE. PLEASE PUT AS MUCH EFFORT INTO TEACHING THE CHILDREN AS THE SCHOOL SYSTEM HAS PUT TIME AND MONEY TO TRY AND PUSH THIS AGENDA. THE TAX PAYER OR PARENT REALLY DO NOT HAVE A SAY OR A VOTE... YOU ARE JUST FOLLOWING THE GRANT MONEY FROM THE GOVERNMENT TO IMPLEMENT THESE ITEMS. IT IS NOT ABOUT THE CHILDREN IT IS ABOUT THE MONEY. JUST BE HONEST ABOUT THAT FACT. WE REALLY DO NOT NEED THE SMOKE, MIRRORS AND SURVEY. IT WOULD BE GREAT IF YOU HAVE THE COMMUNITEE MEETING AND SURVEYS YOU ARE DOING TO SIMPLY IMPROVE THE EXISTING SCHOOLS WITHIN THE EXISTING SYSTEM. NEW IDEAS SAME POOR RESULTS.
Parent	Balanced calendar can create a hardship; especially, for parents who are new to the area and have no extended family here, working parents, single parents, etc. One would have to find childcare for frequently. Parents may not be able to take off work to stay home with young school age kids during these longer breaks.
Parent	Balanced calendar is a good idea as long as day care and camps in the area are ready, too. As long as there are places my children can go on the breaks, I think it's a good thing.
Parent	Balanced calendar is better for everyone that's why Maryville school are excellent
Parent	Balanced calendar is in best interest for educating our children and building skills
Parent	Balanced calendar should be implemented. My family strongly agrees with this measure.
Parent	Based on the information provided, we are incredibly opposed based on the fact that 12 days in the summer is not significant enough and 10 days breaks after each quarter will cause children to struggle getting back into the swing of things.
Parent	BC increases expenses with no proven benefits. Please don't do this.
Parent	Because we could not change schools in our daughter's senior year of high school without causing a greater disruption, we would remain in Knox Co. schools but if our children were younger we would move to a better district.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	Before a balanced calendar is implemented, it would be necessary to have concrete information about the availability and cost/funding for enrichment programs as well as more information about intercession opportunities. It seems that the cart is being put before the horse by Knox County in this situation. Further, more research should be done about the nationwide implementation of balanced calendars and whether they really produce the benefits that are touted. I understand some of the benefits, but it seems like the main root of those problems is in the home and the lack of parent involvement, so I would like to see more programs put forward to help those families and children who need it most.
Parent	Before I can express my support for adopting a balanced calendar in the Knox County Schools, I would like to be able to meet with a knowledgeable person from the Maryville School system, who could respond to the concerns we in Knox County are feeling and expressing. They implemented the balance calendar in their schools a few years ago and certainly must have addressed these same concerns and issues. It seems only reasonable to be able to speak with someone who would be able to discuss these and how and if most of these concerns were handled during their transition to a new school schedule. Since they have not returned to their old schedule, someone should be able to tell us why the transition was successful.
Parent	Before I can form an opinion, I need to know the expected cost (narrowed down, not just \$0-20 million) of implementation and how beneficial it will be to make this change for our students. I know from what I've seen so far, there isn't much out there that shows a great improvement in student performance overall for this. I'm just not sure it is the fiscally responsible thing to do.
Parent	Before making this decision, I would have to be provided with additional information. Especially pertaining to childcare.
Parent	Best idea this administration has ever had!
Parent	best if fall break remains the same 2-day period while extend winter break to 15-20 days. this way summer break wouldn't be so long as present.
Parent	Best think Knox country could do for the kids. And teachers. Parents and businesses will adjust.
Parent	Better for kids, easier to transition back to school after summer, better for families giving them more opportunities to vacation during different times if the year. Child care facilities and camps in town should be adapt to new calendar for those families that need it.
Parent	Better use of assets all around.
Parent	Both my children have special needs and I think this would be very beneficial for them!
Parent	Bring back fall break
Parent	Buy in from employers to support change and working parents Compensation for teachers; optional participation in intervention/enrichment during breaks
Parent	By changing some inservice days around, taking out fall break and adding those days to the Christmas break or as regular school days would help. Inservice days the first day back after a break are stupid. It seems like with all the other holidays and breaks already the children aren't ever at school to learn anything.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	By putting education first, ahead of the personal agenda of the yuppie parts of town (I'm a yuppie, just one with common sense), we will only see our children prosper. Those complaining about not having a long enough summer break to go to the beach should not affect the education of the majority of the children in the county. Maybe if we start putting education first we can turn this county around and start graduating students who can actually read for a change. Every "downside" that people come up with is laughable. Child care providers will change their schedules to match that of the schools, so will the vast majority of those "activities" people are yelling about. There is no legitimate reason for children to spend a huge portion of the year out of school, all in one stretch (and we're only talking 10 days, I really wish it were a shorter summer and longer breaks to be more balanced but at least this is a start), unless those children are working on farms. Unless Knoxville has become Iowa, I doubt many of them are working on farms. Please put my children's education ahead of those beach bunnies. Do the right thing and make the school year balanced!
Parent	Can always go back if it turns out to be a disaster.
Parent	Can there be data shared about student learning improvements? Maybe from school systems that have already transitioned from traditional to balanced calendars. Did test scores rise? Did classroom grades rise? You mention that behavior/discipline decreases, but what about academic performance?
Parent	Can we try uniforms along with balanced calendar would really cut down on bullying
Parent	Change is hard for everyone, there will be growing pains associated with it, but like anything, after a couple years and everyone adjusts, it will be like it had always been that way.
Parent	Change of this nature has benefits but the negatives outweigh the benefits.
Parent	Child care centers will adapt to a balanced calendar. Children will not be left without child care. This is the biggest complaint I hear about moving toward a balanced calendar and its silly.
Parent	Child care concerns should be addressed!!!!!!!!!!!!!! This could put financial strain on families who do work and can't afford to take 2 weeks off at a time due to lack of childcare
Parent	Child care for 10 days in a row three times per school year will be difficult for my family especially since I have a special needs daughter that is used to routine.
Parent	Child care is a huge issue for families that have both parents working.
Parent	Child care. As a single parent I can not afford after school daycare year round. Know daycare lets you bring your child only on breaks every few weeks. I would have anyone to watch my child when she's out of school. This would be extremely hard on single working families. I don't know what I would do if this were to happen.
Parent	Childcare
Parent	Childcare during the shorter breaks. The children that need "enrichment" or special attention will not get a break. Also who pays for it? What about the use of more resources to keep the schools open during warmer and cooler times? How will snow days be incorporated?
Parent	Childcare facilities will adjust. I say let's do it
Parent	Children are much more adaptable to change than adults...the Opposition to balanced calendar is mostly coming from the adults who are afraid of change...kids will benefit greatly from this, and adults will too...they just do not realize it at this point... Folks in Maryville LOVE this...
Parent	Children are resilient. They can adjust to any change. I am willing to bet that most of them would enjoy the extra breaks. My child did forget a lot that she learned last year due to a long summer break. It took her awhile to readjust and learn what she forgot.
Parent	Children in Knox County have always had the current calendar. Children have graduated and done well for themselves just fine under the current calendar.
Parent	Children need to understand that their education is their job until they graduate.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	Children needing learning intervention are the minority. I know, because my son is one of them. He has attended summer school for two years, which drastically cut into our summer plans. But we also knew that it would benefit him. He also got help on a regular basis early in the mornings via tutoring. But I think you're risking student burnout when you say the prolonged breaks give kids more time for learning intervention. I know it would be too much for my son -- or any child for that matter. I dont think that's a strong enough reason to change the calendar. Our summers are already too short as it is -- next fall's start date is Aug. 10! Way too early when you compare start dates with their cousins' return to school. If anything, we would prefer the children get out of school at the very end of May or beginning of June so they could have a much later start date more on par with many other parts of the country. My kids have summer camp, vacations and more that we all look forward to in the summer. It's difficult enough now to do all that we want to do when practically the whole month of August is taken away. I am strongly against a balanced calendar for both of my children. Thank you.
Parent	Children still have a significant summer break and I believe having the additional time in the fall and spring would help reduce "burnout". I think it is easier to push through when you know you have a break at the end of the quarter.
Parent	Children who excel will continue to excel. Children at risk will continue to be at risk. Changing the breaks won't change their home life of the children at risk. Our family takes an extended family vacation every year in late May/early June to beat the crowds. We used to take it the 2nd week in August, which is what we bought. Fortunately for you, there aren't many of us left with children in school that remember school starting right before labor day. Several years ago there was a pouch to start even earlier in August. Thankfully, the BOE listened to the community and gave us those days back. One last thought - Expense. What will be the additional cost to bus children the extra days for enrichment/remedial help? What is the added cost to cooling the schools during the extra days in the summer? Will there be additional costs for teachers to teach the extra days (enrichment/remedial help? What other costs will there be?
Parent	Community camps and childcare opportunities will adjust to balanced calendar.
Parent	Concentrate on education, not destroying the calendar.
Parent	Concerned about students being in school during the hot weather. Based on when the beginning of the school year is, we may not benefit from the tax free weekend to purchase school supplies. My support partially depends on how day care and after school care is affected. Biggest concern is once my child reaches 12, what is she going to do during these 2 week breaks? As it stands now, there are plenty of summer camps to fill up the time. If there aren't the same opportunities during these breaks then these are lost weeks for our children. Since I work full time I would need organized activities during these breaks, as least for 1 week of the break.
Parent	Concerned there is no research to show that the change will benefit a majority of students
Parent	Concerns of how it will affect those already in upper middle school and high school
Parent	Constantly signing up and reviewing options for these breaks would be taxing for working parents. It would be a 'break' for those in the school system. I am a clinical counselor in W. Knoxville and work with families. I often see the aftermath of the pressure that students deal with in terms of over achievement. I am concerned that a balanced calendar could add another layer of academic pressure to parents who encourage over achievement and overwhelm their children.
Parent	Cost my family more money in child care. No real student achievement because of it according to latest research

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	Could we also lengthen the school day please so that kids are not rushing ALL the time? For some kids this means that they rush lunch and then don't get a full lunch or make themselves sick because they eat too fast. I see this at the school clinic as a volunteer every time I work. Lunch should be something the kids really look forward to. A time to connect with friends, recharge, and get ready for the rest of the day.
Parent	Court costs to change parenting plans. Let's not talk about parents who refuse to cooperate on a parenting plan. What about daycare arrangements??
Parent	Create strong curriculum that fosters love of learning and also helps maintain retention. That will create happy students. High stakes testing will not. Teaching to the test will not. When will Knox County learn this? Sad.
Parent	Creating a balanced calendar should not be the discussion, but rather how can we change the quality of education so that our students are better prepared to compete on a national and international stage. I don't think the balanced calendar will have a positive or negative impact on quality of education.
Parent	Currently, aftercare programs that are held by third party companies at the school are required to be closed during spring, fall, and winter breaks. If those companies were allowed to maintain operation through these breaks, that would alleviate the burden of finding childcare for the working families. Allowing these programs to remain open (eliminating the difficulty of repeatedly finding extra childcare) would also lead to more support of the balanced calendar.
Parent	Daycare options are still available no matter when school is in session.
Parent	Daycare/activities have to be arranged for the same number of days regardless of how they're arranged. Longer breaks through the school year would allow both teachers and students a chance to catch up if necessary. Knox Co breaks don't necessarily happen at the same time as others now (college, other school systems, work), so implementing a balanced calendar wouldn't necessarily disrupt anything. Only real drawback I see is that teachers would have more trouble finding supplemental summer work.
Parent	Daycares, afterschool cares will adjust. The only drawback I see is loss of two week income for teenagers summer pay.
Parent	Definite pros & cons but biggest concern is finding such frequent short term, part time childcare.
Parent	Definitely in favor if high learners/gifted students have more opportunities for enrichment. 30 minutes once a week is NOT enough time.
Parent	definitely worth trying
Parent	Difficult for me to say if I am for it or against it due to the fact that our family has no experience with a balanced calendar. I will not know how I truly feel about it until we are actually exposed to a balanced calendar personally.
Parent	Disrupts sleep schedule. My kids love to sleep in during summer break. 2 weeks is not long enough to recover from 45 days of sleep deprivation.
Parent	Do it
Parent	Do it Do it Do it!
Parent	Do it! We had it in IN and loved it!
Parent	Do not care for the changes or the problems it would be causing . Public schools keep getting worse.
Parent	Do NOT do this. There is nothing wrong with the current system. For all of the reasons previously outlined, do NOT push this down parents and students' throats via a carefully crafted public relations campaign. This is not in a student or parent's best interest. Especially single parents. And today, more than 50 percent of homes are broken and divorced and stressed to the max. Thank you.
Parent	Do not go to a balanced calendar. Let the kids enjoy their summer break. Let the kids enjoy what they do best....be kids.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	Do not implement a balanced calendar. It is only balanced for a select few (it may help elementary students, but it will hurt middle and high school students).
Parent	do not like the balanced calendar
Parent	Do not want to see this happen! Leave things the way they have been for years! Sometimes change is not a good thing.
Parent	Do the research on those who have tried it and went back.
Parent	Does our school board think that Not Having a balanced calendar has affected their ability to make wise decisions? I think most have done extremely well under our basic way of teaching. We need to get back to letting our teachers have an input to our children's learning.
Parent	Does it save money for Knox County Schools? Does it cost more to change to a balanced calendar. It seems students would attend during warmer summer months which would cost more on utilities.
Parent	Does the non-academic students really matter. It appears this is in the bag. Therefore, I have no clue why this firm of communication is provided?
Parent	Doesn't work for single parent homes with few childcare options
Parent	Don't change the very little time you give us with our children. This is a cowardly idea! Leave our family time alone!
Parent	DON'T DO IT
Parent	Don't do it!
Parent	Don't do it.
Parent	Don't leave out us "little people" we make up the community too.
Parent	Don't see why such a large district is trying to mimick smaller districts who chose this option.
Parent	Don't use our students schedule as a method to fix deficiencies in curriculum. Not bad educators bad choices of what and how material is taught. Balanced calendar places undue pressures on students and families to be legislated to change lifestyles. This will negatively effect some students going to college due to lack of funds earned during break periods. Everything the education system is doing currently is playing with fire and the students are the ones getting burned. Do it differently in Knox County and don't just follow the crowd.
Parent	don't want it
Parent	Educational and extracurricular programs will be made available during new short breaks. The overreaction of the fall backs are not relevant compared to the potential benefits. Students of all ages could really benefit from the year long calendar school year.
Parent	Either make school year round or leave it as it is.
Parent	Enrichment and Interventions can be achieved successfully with a regular calendar.
Parent	Even employers locally in the state are adapted to the current way. It would make it incredibly difficult for working families to plan around this given employers would not be prepared for the change. Changing the culture is bigger than just the school, kids and families. I do not see where the State and School Board are in touch with the ramifications and prepared for the total fallout associated with making such a change.
Parent	Even if you fix the sports problem within the county, you will have a problem with scheduling events with schools that are not on the same type of calendar. We had huge problems with this in the school system where I taught.
Parent	Even though I may seem more opposed to the calendar, I wouldn't mind trying it out to see how it works.
Parent	Every household situation is different but can cause problems for childcare during those breaks for some families. With both parents working the companies cannot let everyone who has kids take vacation during those times. maybe childcare is not available for some families because of the cost. There job could allow for one parent to be with them after school therefor not needing childcare during regular school. It might not be feasible to pay for childcare just for a spring or fall break. A good example of this is when we have snow days like this past year. What problems did everyone face during the "snow break"?

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	Every parent that has a parenting plan with Knox county will have to have that revised! Since divorced parents with kids in Knox County follow the traditional school calendar.
Parent	Everyone cries that daycare will be at risk. To keep their money flow going these facilities will adjust to accomodate changes in school days.
Parent	Everyone hates change. It requires effort, planning and adjustment. In this case I believe the benefits out weigh the drawbacks.
Parent	Everyone Would Benefit From A Balanced Calendar!!!
Parent	Excited about the learning oportunities for students.
Parent	Families can spend more quality time with their children and not have to pull them out of school anyway over the 2 day fall break. Many parents do this, so they miss school anyway. Having a balanced calendar would prevent children missing school over winter breaks when families want to travel. Family time is very important for children.
Parent	Financing the calendar could be large.
Parent	Fire McIntyre
Parent	Fire McIntyre . Hire from Knox County only. At least hire a Teacher.
Parent	First Common Core was FORCED on our children for no particular benefit other than to line the pockets of the companies who sell testing materials. We have lost MANY good teachers who taught more than just book knowledge due to poor student testing. News Flash - a lot of good students don't test well. I'm just happy one of my kids graduates this year and the other graduates in 2017 so they can be out of this miserable school system.
Parent	First, check the rate of teens getting pregnant over the summer long holiday. They are bored and get in trouble smoking dope and having sex more frequently. I know 25 years ago they did, so I'm sure they are more today. The most important reason for a balanced schedule is balance. Students do not have time to get help in classes they are weak in or just to relax well for a good vacation with the present schedule.
Parent	Fix the learning curriculum first, we the parents don't know what our kids will be learning week to week and common core standards is a big giant mess and our kids are paying the price
Parent	For 2015, school is starting August 10th. I don't really see the need for major schedule disruption for an extra 8 days for fall break and 5 for spring break.
Parent	For divorced parents with custody arrangements this would make a huge problem and cost many \$\$\$ in lawyer and mediation fees to change current parenting plans!!!
Parent	For families with kids in different schools (especially private vs public), it will require some adjustment or compromise.
Parent	For me, it would help the childcare issue. We have to pay extra in summer so that cost would be more spread out throughout the year
Parent	For our family, the traditional calendar is easier to manage.
Parent	For parents who have younger children, and who both work, would prove to be very difficult to work around child care if you have longer breaks of an extra week.
Parent	for the working family, it would be really hard to manage the daycare just for 10 days three time an year and parents work environments may not allowed for the parent to take 10 days off from work three time.
Parent	For those of us poor parents that would like vacation, it is more of a possibility with the longer breaks that are not just during the summer
Parent	For those of us who work and do not currently have to pay childcare, we would find ourselves having to have full day care on these breaks, resulting in more expense for our family, an expense we cannot afford to add.
Parent	For what it is worth, I do not want to change the current calendar, however, my impression is that the change is going to be forced upon us whether we are in favor of it or not.
Parent	For working parents this is less weeks in the summer to find child care for consecutive weeks.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	For younger children, the breaks create a broken routine. This causes our household a great deal of frustration and anxiety when preparing to go back to school. Also, a balanced calendar makes child care extremely difficult for parents who must work full-time. This would be a tremendous challenge for households in this situation. For older children, summer jobs help these young adults prepare for a future of work expectations and financial responsibility, even for children who are college bound. For kids that participate in clubs or sports during school, summers are the only opportunities for the "first" job experience. Learning the importance of financial responsibility is just as important as a quality education. For a household with an elementary school aged child, as well as a high school student, I can't see how a balanced calendar would work successfully for our situation.
Parent	From an educators veiw point this would be good; however, it conflicts with parents arranging for childcare. In addition the balanced calendar would make it hard for daycares to have staff to supervise kids when there will be conflicts in Knox Co. schedule v college s.
Parent	Further decreasing summer break and putting these days into the winter break.
Parent	Generally I am in favor as long as organizations around town step up and provide camps for kids to attend during the fall, winter, and spring breaks. I do feel that summer is a little too long at times and by the time we get toward the end of the summer break, my kids are bored and I am ready for them to be back in school on a regular routine.
Parent	Get it implemented asap
Parent	Get UNIFORMS TOO !!!
Parent	Give us back the full week Fall Break. Good
Parent	Giving students time to recharge is important. The block system is difficult for some students and can be very stressful. More frequent breaks could possibly help.
Parent	Go ahead. I will simply move or homeschool.
Parent	Go for it!
Parent	Go for it!! I am a big Fall vacationer and I am excited at the possibility of this becoming a reality!!
Parent	Going to a balanced calendar would cause me to have to consider taking my kids out of Knox County Schools in favor of private school or home school.
Parent	Good luck with possible implementation. It is a wonderful idea
Parent	Great idea!
Parent	Great idea, and long overdue. Looking forward to implementation.
Parent	Great opportunity for our kids and families to get a new set of mind.
Parent	Harder to find childcare
Parent	Hardship on many families that do not have flexible work environments and costs to find alternative childcare during the three two week breaks.
Parent	Has anyone looked into the AC cost for adding those 12 days of school in the summer?
Parent	Has been successful most places it was implemented. Change is hard and people Are resistant, but that doesn't mean it's not time for change.
Parent	Has nothing to do with balanced calendar but please do away with common core and homework. Children spend enough time in class then have to come home and sit and work on more work the remainder of the evening especially if it is something they do not understand to well.
Parent	Have yet to find strong support that a balanced calendar has proven beneficial to student success. It seems that many schools who adopted the balanced calendar eventually returned to traditional. I think the answers to student improvement are through other means, rather than calendar changes. I do agree we need to explore possibilities to help our youth. This method has been explored by school systems and proven a lack of significant results.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	Having 2 week breaks between the grading periods is excessive. The continued starting and stopping would interrupt the rhythm of the school year and the learning process. I can see the benefit in expanding the fall break to a week similar to the spring break. But any more time off than that between grading periods, in my opinion is not reasonable. The summer break is as important for children to be children. Time for summer camps, vacations, and other activities during the summer is an important part of childhood, and should not be taken away. I believe that the learning loss is more of a myth, and it is more just getting the kids started and back into the rhythm of school. Having the longer breaks during the year will create more challenges than solutions.
Parent	Having a child with two full time working parents, I feel this will impact our family in a negative way. With more time off on Spring Break and Fall Break - what do we do with our child? Will the entire community conform to the new balanced calendar? How can I be guaranteed this will happen? It's not fair to the parents, or employers of parents, to have to use up all their personal time off to provide childcare. My child currently goes to summer camp at a private school, and has for 6 years. Why should/would a private school change their policies to accommodate my child on the extra weeks off they have for Spring and Fall breaks? Instead of a balanced calendar, why can't children go home for the summer with a workbook that reviews what they learned in the previous grade? Make it a requirement to be returned to school, when the next school year starts. We require our child to read, do a workbook and keep her mind fresh over the summer. If students are struggling in school, they should request a tutor, or to attend summer school. It's not fair to the students who aren't struggling. It's also the responsibility of the parents to review schoolwork at home, even over the summer. I don't see how a 12 day difference in the summer is going to help children remember what they learned the previous school year.
Parent	Having experienced a 2 week snow break this winter, it was much harder for my children to transition back into school. This calendar seems like such a minimal change that it doesn't make sense to disrupt our entire schedule for 10 days off of summer break. It seems like change just for the sake of change, not for any actual results.
Parent	Honestly, the Fall Break is OK the way it is, 2 days are perfect here. The Winter Break (Christmas Break) is the one that should be extended to 10 days. If this would be the new balanced calendar, I would've been strongly in favor for it! Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.
Parent	Hope it passes!!
Parent	Horrible for parents trying to regroup a kid after even a week of being off and guarantee you less curriculum time because of ramping up and down for the long times off
Parent	Horrible idea and I will repeat.....my family will move away if this happens.
Parent	Horrible idea.
Parent	Horrible idea. I don't see how anyone will benefit. And I hate that I will still have a child in school that could be affected by it.
Parent	How about less service days, less half days, less day trips, and more teaching towards the end of the year, when it seems no teaching is being done.
Parent	How can KS afford to do this?? They are cutting the wrong corners now!!! There needs to be changes in the Administration in the way of cuts to help fund our issues we have now!. GET RIDE OF THE DEAD WOOD!! then weed out the poorly performing teachers and admins in the schools. There are teachers that refuse to communicate with parents and are allowed to do it. I have watched it for 3 years now at CBMS. Revamp transportation downtown!! with all the employees you should NEVER reach voicemail or have the phone just ring off the hook. THINK about the little people and there means of making a living in the summer!
Parent	How is KCS planning to fund a balanced calendar?
Parent	How much is this going to COST... because it's going to involve some cost if there are kids that will go to school during those breaks.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	How soon?!?
Parent	How will this work with the athletic calendar? Will students have to compete during their weeks off?
Parent	How would it effects AP class schedules and test taking that is scheduled nationwide and cannot be altered? Can the dates can be changed to be given closer to the end of school? This needs 5 be researched. It seems that our brilliant students are not being taken into account with this calendar.
Parent	How would students in high school manage AP courses? It seems like, although at meetings, school board members expressed a belief that all grades or no grades would switch to the balanced calendar, it may be necessary to keep high school on a traditional calendar so that AP courses are not interrupted. The school system I am familiar with having done this is split. I do know families with one child on traditional and one child on balanced. It may not be reasonable to present this issue as all or nothing.
Parent	How would the extra help for students between brakes work? Would it be the length of a normal school day? As a working parent I would need transportation for my child.
Parent	Huge financial cost on middle class and low income families that will be forced to adopt a " balanced " schedule.
Parent	I actually find that the more frequent longer breaks the students have they seem to do poorer academically. So a balanced calendar while theoretically may seem to allow children time to catch up and review as is suggested, actually does not do this. In my opinion, it actually takes children a while to get back into the swing of things after a break of more than a few days. Making fall break and spring break longer can be detrimental to learning in the long run. I find that their learning is more disjointed with the longer breaks. In fact, the extended summer break in my personal experience gives a parent looking for enrichment resources to still do a great job at finding an enrichment program that the child can focus on and benefit from and still have a two and a half week additional time and complete break to take a vacation. We need to ensure that the children are the ones to benefit academically and not let other inconveniences get in the way. I oppose the balanced calendar and prefer the traditional calendar.
Parent	I actually view a two week break for fall and spring to be too long away during the school year. I feel it would take students some extra time to "ramp up" when they return. The winter break being two weeks long is expected and most classes either start new at the beginning of the 2nd half, or classes start back up in a different instructional section so you don't lose as much there. My traditional views of what summer vacation is for also sway my opinion in favor of the longer break when more outdoor and vacation activities can occur.
Parent	I against this as well as the majority of the parents at Blue Grass!
Parent	I agree either way.... I do however believe a change in schedule will benefit more than hurt the students and teachers. Longer breaks are very needed for psychological rest for both teachers and students.
Parent	I agree there will an adjustment period but I feel the benefits will outweigh the disadvantages.
Parent	I agree with the 10 day breaks, but not the 15 day breaks and much shorter summer. I would strongly disagree with a 23 days summer!
Parent	I agree with the balanced calendar only if it is the proposed 2 week breaks. 3 week breaks as originally discussed as option 3 would not be beneficial
Parent	I also believe it would be easier for the student to see a trajectory of their skills/ grades/ behavior and adjust quicker. I like that the grading periods correspond to a quarter. Two grading periods in a semester seems more vague somehow.
Parent	I also worry about our kids sitting all those days . Middle school kids get limited gym and physical activity . These kids need to be moving every 9 wks and once a week. Physical activity is very important for learning !!!!

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	I also, see that it allows for more family time, and keeps kids from getting into trouble because there bored with school!
Parent	I am a proponent of a balanced calendar, but have a suggestion if the balanced calendar plan is NOT adopted by Knox County. I hope at very least that future calendars, beginning with the 2016-17 calendar, could be changed to add in a 5 day fall break instead of the current 2 day fall break. This would at least mirror the 5 days off for spring break. I believe students would greatly benefit from these extra 3 days off.
Parent	I am a registered voter and I will not vote for anyone that is in favor of this.
Parent	I am a strong supporter! I hope this is implemented!
Parent	I am against the balanced calendar and plan on contacting my elected officials. I vote!
Parent	I am all for a more balanced calendar for my child. The shorter summer breaks are great & the longer fall break is actually easier than just a couple of days. More time for family gatherings in the fall.
Parent	I am all for it as long as my son has the opportunity to take extra credits during the summer to try to graduate early. Because he started late (because of his birthday) and because his elementary school (Moreland Heights) held him back a year, my son will be almost 20 years old when he graduates. For his safety, e needs an alternative to going to school.
Parent	I am all for it!
Parent	I am all for it! I think it will be a huge benefit to our children!
Parent	I am an advocate for education and think that as a whole a balanced calendar would help prepare students a little more for the real world and be a help for society. Yes, it can hinder a family from taking the vacation they want and may cause problems for childcare but when it really comes down to it, a balanced calendar would create a more structured environment for those kids that may not get the structure at home as provided by the academic environment.
Parent	I am an advocate of the balanced calendar. My only real concern is that summer swim teams will not be able to have a complete season if the summer break begins in May (as it currently does). With a 43-day summer break, a regular swim season is possible as long as the break encompasses the months of June and July. May is still a bit too chilly to start outdoor swim practices and other warm-weather activities.
Parent	I am completely in favor of this change ASAP --- pending resolution on childcare during 2 week breaks.
Parent	I am concerned that these breaks will not be family time... It should be stressed that there will be no homework or projects that interfere in this time.. It's what I love about summer break... My family's stress level drops to next to nothing.. It's good for all of us.
Parent	I am currently opposed to a balanced calendar. As both my husband and I work, child care is already an issue at the winter and spring breaks. We are able to manage the summer thanks to camps that hire college kids as counselors. Unless you can guarantee cost effective activities (not paid babysitting, true sports or academic activities) at all the local elementary schools during the breaks I think you are going to create a lot of stress for working parents.
Parent	I am currently opposed, but I could probably be convinced with a little more education. It also helps that I have a senior and a junior, so my life won't be affected too much.
Parent	I am excited but also nervous it might interfere with a current planned vacation next Summer.
Parent	I am fairly neutral on this... I don't believe the summer difference is significant enough to improve the loss of learning issue. However, I do believe that the 2 week break after every session is valuable for intercession - provided that intercession can impact/improve the previous sessions grades. I.e. Would be in favor provided the two weeks after a session can be used to remediate problems from the previous session - i.e. that grades are not closed our prior to the break, but after the break.
Parent	I am fearful that the transition to a balanced calendar would be chaotic and disruptive when it is initially implemented.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

<p>How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?</p>	<p>Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>I am firmly opposed to the balanced calendar for a number of reasons. Mainly I am concerned that children will not receive enough time to decompress from the school year, the balanced calendar will not allow enough time for us to fit in all of the enrichment activities we offer our children in the summer, the school calendar is already disjointed enough, causing a lack of continuity in routine, and that summer jobs, internships, childcare, and similar activities will be detrimentally affected due to the disjointed calendar. Children and parents need a break from KCS dictating their schedules. My children are very intelligent and successful students. They place a lot of pressure on themselves to perform at school. The summer break is truly the only time they are free from the stresses of projects, TCAPs, homework, and the school schedule. Winter break does not provide this release. I understand this is a concern for a small amount of students, however I believe it is important to consider the needs of the highly successful students who do not suffer typical learning loss, but rather will suffer from extending the pressures they experience. Furthermore, we provide our children with enrichment outside of school, that I fear can not be replicated in the school system. In the summer time we travel around the country and abroad, we explore museums and history at the source, we volunteer our time serving those disadvantaged, we study literature and math that challenge my children beyond anything they have experienced in the classroom, we expose our children to businesses and career opportunities, we spend a lot of time outdoors in the Smokies camping, hiking, and swimming in the rivers, our children participate in sports camps, overnight camp, sports teams, and science camps. Many of these activities are reliant on warm weather and/or continuity. I fear that the balanced calendar will severely disrupt and inhibit the enrichment opportunities we provide our children. I fear that these enrichment opportunities will not and can not be replicated by KCS. I feel that the school calendar's existing holiday breaks, in service days, and winter weather days are already disruptive to students. I imagine that adding more breaks to the calendar will only disrupt children's learning. Routines and habits are vital to success. I believe that interjecting more breaks into the school year will only cause more disruptions in learning. And finally, I am concerned with the scheduling conflicts that will arise from the University of Tennessee operating on a different calendar, parents needing to find childcare for inconsistent periods of time, and children lacking enough time to engage in activities that require an extended time commitment, like summer jobs. It is for these reasons and others that I am strongly opposed to the balanced calendar for Knox County Schools. I understand the points made in favor of the balanced calendar, but they do not outweigh the detriments in my opinion.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>I am for balanced calendar, but it must be done k-12</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>I am generally in favor of this system but am concerned that it will morph into a longer school year overall with more instructional days and fewer, shorter breaks. I do not support that idea and will be seriously displeased if it eventually occurs. The main benefit of a balanced calendar is to give breaks more often and to better schedule courses at the high school level. If schools would pay to hire more teachers and get a decent curriculum (which we currently DO NOT have) we wouldn't have to worry as much about the number of instructional days.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>I am in agreement of the Balanced Calendar and would have loved to have seen this implemented when my children were younger. The childcare issue could be addressed within the school. Adjoining counties have aftercare programs in the summer that are operational during the breaks.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>I am in agreement with a Balanced Calendar as long as those 2 week breaks throughout the school year are used as complete breaks, not a time for teachers to schedule projects, book reports or other homework.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>I am in favor as a past educator in another school district. I am aware of the academic advantages of a balanced calendar. I have the added advantage as my wife is at home with the kids. For those that have a single income or otherwise do not have someone to watch their children while they are at work I can see how this could be an issue. Day care centers as well as summer baby sitters hopefully can adjust.</p>

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	I am in favor as it stands with the present information. However, my opinion would most likely change if this current information and plan changed.
Parent	I am in favor as long as a break is considered a break, and not time for additional homework.
Parent	I am in favor as long as the break between terms is 2 weeks & not 3 weeks. I believe 3 weeks is much too long during the school year leaving much too short of a summer break.
Parent	I am in favor if it reflects sample # 1 45/10.. Not in favor of a 28 day Summer.
Parent	I am in favor of 2 week intercessions with a 3 week break at Christmas.
Parent	I am in favor of a balanced calendar.
Parent	I am in favor of a balanced calendar. However, my children and husband are not, and they are adamant in their stances, as are most of my neighbors and others in my community. I wish you luck.
Parent	I am in favor of a longer Fall Break with the time difference made up with an earlier start to school in August. I am NOT in favor of the 28 day summer break calendar.
Parent	I am in favor of moving toward a school calendar that better supports students learning all year. However I was surprise to see that this whole discussion boils down to changing summer break by only 12 days and doesn't add any instructional days. I need more information to be in favor of a balanced calendar.
Parent	I am in favor of the balanced calendar that includes 10 day breaks (the 2 week calendar).
Parent	I am in favor of the implementation of the 45/10 balanced calendar since the summers are very long and some of that time can be used during the year to give the students a break and catch up. The 45/10 calendar still gives students time to have summer activities, enrichment, and family time. I am strongly opposed to the 45/15 balanced calendar, as it takes away too much of the students summer. Summer is an important part of childhood and is the only time they can be completely free from the worries of the classroom. Intermissions during the school year could still demand study and project time during them. Three weeks intermissions would cause learning loss and disruptions to routine all through the year. I sincerely hope Knox County is not surveying us on one balanced calendar, but still considering the other. They are completely different and not interchangeable.
Parent	I am in favor of the suggested balanced calendar model. I am pleased to see that the three week breaks between grading periods and shortening the summer to a mere six weeks has transitioned to the current version. I feel the two week breaks will benefit both students and teachers. I do hope that the breaks are exactly that...breaks...not an opportunity for lavish assignments. Thanks so much for offering the survey opportunity to parents.
Parent	I am in favor, but I am very concerned that this increased time in the classroom will also increase my taxes!!
Parent	I am in strong favor of a balanced calendar. I believe it would benefit my son to have enrichment during the breaks.
Parent	I am in total disagreement of this. This isn't going to fix the leading issues, facing Knox county, parents are still not going to help with homework at home and still not going to be involved, teachers are still going to face the same problems, students will be absent just as much or more, and drop out rates will probably go up. Not to mention the family time that will be stolen from families.
Parent	I am neutral at this point- want to be in favor, but no real evidence that fall and spring activities will be available for students.
Parent	I am not in favor of a balanced calendar. The difference in learning loss between a summer break of 43 or 55 days (approximately 2 weeks) is negligible. Enrichment can happen over the summer as easily as it can during a 10 day fall/spring break. Making families adjust to a new calendar is a hardship.
Parent	I am not in favor of changing to a balanced calendar.
Parent	I am not in favor of moving to a balanced calendar

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	I am not in favor of nor opposed to the idea, but if it is going to cause taxes to go up, I don't think we should do it. People pay enough in taxes as it is, we don't need to do anything that would raise them.
Parent	I am not necessarily opposed or supportive. I feel that there needs to be more information about what alternative study options will be available by the schools during these additional breaks. During the traditional Summer Break there are camps and activities to engage students. There are no known camps for a two week winter break or Fall Break! If the purpose is to strengthen the learning and leaving no one behind, I am not sure this is the fix.
Parent	I am not opposed to the balanced calendar. I am concerned however, that your survey states that the total amount of school days will not change, but it also states that the breaks could be used for remediation or enrichment. Will these be mandated? Will these "extra" opportunities for enrichment diminish the amount of enrichment in daily schedules? I would like to see enrichment integrated into each day rather than built into extra school experiences. Lastly, I have seen much research about how a balanced calendar can combat the achievement gap. But, I do not think it will solve the problem. Knox county has only lost about 10 days of summer with the plan presented in this survey. I hope that, should the county choose the balanced calendar, it is with the understanding that just changing the calendar will not change results. Closing the achievement gap, while doable, is a complex issue.
Parent	I am not sure why the school board is in favor when there is not enough research to show this will lessen learning loss.
Parent	I am of the belief there are too many breaks as is during the school year. Having worked with KCS for 14 years, I really believe we'd be better served with fewer breaks during the school year, less interruptions of classes with non-academic bothers and begin school after Labor Day, ending early May!
Parent	I am ok either way. I like the idea of the breaks that can help the kids with extra help if they need it. It is a good change for kids to see what it is like to work a little closer to the real world schedule and not have summers off.
Parent	I am okay with it as long as those Spring and Fall breaks are real BREAKS. Weeks off, as they would be in the Summer. If you're going to push to have school activities during those weeks, forcing the teachers to work on them and the students to work, then I will strongly oppose the new calendar. I am not motivated by the whole "knowledge loss" thing. I mostly care about my child getting the breaks they need to experience other things in life. If the new breaks are a thinly veiled step to shorten the Summer and move towards year-round school, I strongly oppose it.
Parent	I am only in support for the balanced calendar year if it is for the longer summer option which has only two weeks off during grading periods. This option allows for a good break from school which students and parents truly need. This time from school allows opportunities for important family time consisting of vacations & visiting out of town family. Most families will say their current summer schedules are full! The shorter summer option and having 3 weeks off during grading periods is excessive time off during those grading periods and the summer is not long enough to accomplish things on a "families list".
Parent	I am opposed because it seems to shorten our summer break and lengthen our fall break to which child care will be difficult to obtain.
Parent	I am opposed to more than 2 week breaks during the school year.
Parent	I am opposed to the "balanced calendar"
Parent	I am opposed to the balanced calendar as it is presented here as I believe it will create work for teachers during their "breaks". I am not a teacher and I am not married to one. But I know many that simply get burned out. If longer breaks are provided 4 times a year but teachers are required to provide enrichment to lagging students during those times, then it is of no help to teachers.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	I am pretty sure the school system admins have already made up their minds and this survey is just to make us feel like we have some say-so in the matter. Our family will have to adjust to what ever happens either way good and bad.
Parent	I am really concerned about the balanced calendar concept. As an educator myself (at the University level), I believe in developing new pedagogical techniques that will result in demonstrably better outcomes for students. My issue with this plan is that it seems there is real potential to have the opposite of the intended effect. Other techniques like flipped and blended instruction have show far more promise at improving teacher morale, improving children's test scores, and most importantly, bringing some fun and enjoyment back to the classroom. That is what our young people should be experiencing when it comes to learning, the magic and joy of discovery. Thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts.
Parent	I am slightly in favor - but not totally sold on it being more of an advantage.
Parent	I am so opposed to year round school that I have looked into donating money to organizations that will fight the implementation of it. If my school board representative is for year round schooling, then I will donate to his/her opponent in the next election.
Parent	I am so strongly opposed that I would consider removing my child from school if this were to happen.
Parent	I am strongly against this
Parent	I am strongly in favor of the balanced 10/43 calendar as illustrated at the beginning of this survey. However, I would be less favorable of a different balanced calendar illustration.
Parent	I am strongly in favor of the option submitted with this survey of 10 day breaks and the 40 day summer. I am not in favor of the other option I have seen floating around with 15 day breaks and an even shorter summer.
Parent	I am strongly opposed to a balanced calendar. I strongly believe that the harmful affects will far outweigh any benefits derived from the change.
Parent	I am strongly opposed to the balance calendar proposal.
Parent	I am strongly opposed to the balanced calendar and hope that it is not implemented in Knox County schools.
Parent	I am strongly opposed to the balanced calendar.
Parent	I am strongly opposed to the balanced calendar. - difficulty for students to return to their schedules after so many breaks during the year; it disrupts the rhythm inherent in the traditional calendar - severely diminishes family time with family and friends who follow traditional calendars -I am a single parent. Are you kidding? Do you even understand the tremendous juggling act that has to occur to parent two children alone while working full time? This is laughable. You are going to have a whole lot of children in Knox County who are sitting alone in houses for entire days and weeks at a time and that should never happen.
Parent	I am strongly opposed to the balanced calendar. I think it will be a huge inconvenience for parents and students. I think if people are going to be in school anyway for "enrichment" they may as well just be in school. It will cause problems with sports and summer jobs. It will be a huge disruption and there is no point to it because it has not shown to have any academic benefit. Most every parent I have talked to is strongly opposed for these reasons.
Parent	I am strongly opposed to the balanced calendar. I volunteer a lot in my children's classrooms, and I see how difficult it is for the children to get back into a routine at school after having time off. With the balanced calendar, there are too many breaks that would interrupt their routine. I also worry about how the spring semester would be affected if we have a lot of snow days again. If Knox County votes in favor of a balanced calendar, we will likely look at private school options for our children.
Parent	I am sure you already have your minds made up and it doesn't matter what we say, but thanks for giving us a forum to voice our concerns. Now ... will you listen to them? Doubtful. I am pretty much done with Jimmy Mac. Isn't there a better person for that job?

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	I am thoroughly opposed to a balanced calendar and I am opposed to the lack of neutrality KCS is showing in presenting the balanced vs traditional school calendar. KCS is attempting to promote and "sell" the concept instead of simply presenting the facts. As an educated parent with 5 college degrees, I understand the proposal and can make an informed decision. Other parents may lack knowledge of the way a balanced calendar works and simply buy into the sales pitch due to the persuasive language used with presenting it. I think both the Balanced Calendar and the Traditional Calendar should be presented factual with no persuasive language to sway parents. I am not buying a car, I am interested in my child's education. Please keep your sales pitch.
Parent	I am undecided. It would help to see what a potential school calendar might look like.
Parent	I am very concerned about people who require child care.
Parent	I am very concerned that the KCS will implement the balanced calendar without overwhelming community support. The two week snow-break we had this year made it hard for students to transition back to school. I ask you to think about how this would have worked this year with all of our missed days. The students would only returned to schools shortly before receiving another 2-week break.
Parent	I am very doubtful that school projects will cease for high school students during the mid-term breaks. We already spend the summer reading and researching. I don't want a shorter summer and projects to do over the breaks. In addition, my children play/have played high school sports which will continue during the breaks. Therefore, we will not have opportunity to leave town during this time. Personally, my work schedule is not conducive to this calendar either since I am a CPA. The two week breaks will fall at some of our busier times of year. I will not be able to take an extended break from work during this time. When my children were younger, I would have embraced this calendar. But at this point, I don't think the benefits are worth the cost. Who is paying for the enrichment programs?
Parent	I am very excited for this change..
Parent	I am very involved at my son's school & have not heard one person, parent or teacher that supports the balanced calendar. This movement is coming from people who are out of touch with how children are actually are learning. Please listen more to your wonderful teachers, who are on the frontlines of education & support them with the respect they deserve. I think you will be hard pressed to find many parent to agree this is a good thing for their families & children. Implementation will not go well, so don't expect it to..
Parent	I am very neutral in my opinion. I believe my family could adapt to either calendar.
Parent	I am VERY strongly opposed to the proposal!
Parent	I appreciate the willingness of the school district to always look to better help the children of Knox County, and I appreciate the opportunity to take the survey. Thank you for all that you do!
Parent	I asked my current 5th grader and she is also in favor of the balanced calendar.
Parent	I attended a community forum on the balanced calendar. No one could give me solid evidence and even admitted that there is no data to support that this change is beneficial for my child's education. I can not support a change that is not in the best interest of my child. I can't help but believe there is another agenda at work here being presented as " what is best for the kids". I think it is a bunch of bull.
Parent	I believe a balanced calendar could be beneficial to students; however, it would seem even more beneficial if perhaps some study materials were also provided or made available to students during breaks/intersessions.
Parent	I believe a balanced calendar would enhance learning in this educational system
Parent	I believe a modification of the 9/2 calendar is best for Knox County. A slightly shorter summer break (really by August 1st and the heat of that month summer has become tiresome). What parents want most in this area is a one to two week fall break.
Parent	I believe if implemented, then many people that are currently against this proposal will adapt and even prefer the changes.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	I believe if this is implemented that the community adjusts. Childcare facilities will adjust. Change is good. I think that having the longer Fall and Spring breaks will help break up "burnout" therefore will help the child be more focused.
Parent	I believe if you allow the teachers to teach instead of tying their hands the traditional school year would be adequate. It is already hard enough for parents to get off work at the same time as the other to have a family vacation and shortening the summer vacation will make it even harder. Strongly opposed. If it happens I will be home schooling my child.
Parent	I believe it is beneficial to both teachers and students. The concern I have is the additional funding that will be needed to make the balanced calendar happen.
Parent	I believe it makes excellent sense. I believe that the people who are up in arms about it fail to understand that the school isn't adding additional days off - those days were already there. I wholeheartedly agree with this idea and look forward to its implementation.
Parent	I believe it may be a transition at first for some families. But, it will eventually become the norm
Parent	I believe my student would greatly benefit from the much needed breaks. Summer break is still available just somewhat shorter. The longer the break, the harder it is to get my student back in the school routine.
Parent	I believe parents and teachers alike will grow to LOVE this calendar. Even the ones who oppose it currently.
Parent	I believe some of the surrounding area failures with balance calendar are due to the fact that they have not been generally implemented county wide. It would only be a special district like Maryville or Oak Ridge and not implemented County wide. If Knox County does balance calendar then I believe all the other supporting programs and employers will adapt.
Parent	I believe summer camps, child care centers, etc would make the changes necessary to accommodate the new balanced calendar. I think the benefits strongly outweigh the negatives. The biggest positives are mainly no longer forgetting lots of information during long summer breaks & the children having school fatigue during long quarters with only short breaks between.
Parent	I believe teacher retention will be hurt by a move to the "balanced calendar". I don't believe that the children will receive more help over the breaks that exist. I see this as a high cost/low yield plan and the idea of a "balanced calendar" being a positive move has very little documented proof. Spend the money on better support for teachers, more teachers and finding ways to engage parents in the education of their children.
Parent	I believe that a balanced calendar should be a community benefit, not something pushed onto parents. As a single working parent of a kindergarten student with no family to reach out to, my biggest concern is that my daughter will suffer the child care transition. The short breaks do not allow for child care facilities to appropriately create programs and curriculum that make children feel safe, important, and comfortable when these types of breaks are included. I can take vacation for 1-2 days in a row to accommodate small breaks now, but I cannot take 10-15 days numerous times throughout the year. I believe care providers need a buffer time to be able to review with parents and create agreeable action before the Knox County School system decides the fate of the children involved.
Parent	I believe that some schools in surrounding counties already have a balance calendar, they seem to be a little bit ahead of the game. If anything they get to be more flexible with vacations since the kids get more time off. One week may not be as busy as normal because we have a bigger selection
Parent	I believe that the problems with our education system are not going to be solved by changing what days children are in school. Why don't we spend time looking at different ways to educate, instead of wasting it on scheduling and the hassles this is going to produce.
Parent	I believe the balanced calendar is just an excuse for the teachers to have frequent vacations. Studies show that it does nothing to improve student performance.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	I believe the balanced calendar would be best for the kids. While it may be a but inconvenient for some parents due to childcare issues we need to focus on whats best for the kids. Childcare options will always be available.
Parent	I believe the balanced calender provides more flexibility and better learning opportunities for our kids.
Parent	I believe the break between quarters would be very beneficial to students. It would give a chance for some to catch up if lagging behind other students. It also provides a needed break that allows some to relax from the stresses of today's school environment.
Parent	I believe the Winter break should actually be longer by a week for various holiday celebrations. Shorten the summer break by a week.
Parent	I believe there are both advantages and disadvantages to the balanced calendar. I don't like the fact that summer break has been shrinking for years already. Now this will make it even shorter.
Parent	I believe there could be many positives to the balanced calendar. The main negative is childcare for working parents, especially parents with children too old to go to traditional child care centers. Schools would have to expand after-care and/or create full-day day camp type programs to fill this need.
Parent	I believe there should be another way to address the problem if educators feel that student retention is this big of an issue. I have not read much information or data as to what the cost would be to implement this new calendar. One would have to be curious why there has not been much mentioned about what the final cost of making all of these schedule changed would be. It is my understanding from what I have read that the school board is already having major problems balancing the current and future budget, maybe this is why the cost has not been addressed up to this point.
Parent	I believe there will be increased cost assoicated with the balanced calendar the school system has not yet addressed. Also I believe the results assoicated with an improved learning enviroment and test results are mixed at best and I am not convinced these will improve with a balanced calendar approach.
Parent	I believe this is a good idea for our children and our teachers. Our teachers get burned out as well and I believe the breaks will assist them in getting the breaks they need.
Parent	I can agree that the slightly shorter summer could improve learning. That's most important even if there is added expense.
Parent	I can agree with the concept of decreased learning loss by shortening summer break, however I do not agree with the idea of increased intervention and/or learning support. If the number of instructional days remains the same, the amount of intervention time will remain the same regardless of the frequency of school breaks.
Parent	I can imagine how this would put some families in a very tough position to finding proper child care and greatly increase the odds of children being left home alone or with marginal supervision.
Parent	I can only be strongly in favor if it matches Oak Ridge. I teach in Oak Ridge and would love Knox County to adopt the same calendar to make the calendars match. Easier on families (there are many teachers in Oak Ridge who live in Knox County) and easier for childcare, activities, intervention times, enrichment, etc. if it were all coordinated and the same.
Parent	I can remember as a child sitting in school during the first 3 or 4 weeks of a new school year. I remember thinking "what a waste of time. We covered all this stuff last year!" I know why they did it, but it is still a waste of the precious amount of time that teachers have to cover the new material. I sincerely hope that KCS will go to a Balanced Calendar.
Parent	I can see benefits to both sides and would probably prefer the schedule remain where it is. However, we would welcome the change to try it and be on board with any necessary changes.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	I can see the benefit of the 45/10 option. I DO NOT like the idea of the 45/15 option that was presented in the meetings. The 45/15 option would create too short of a summer and difficulty transitioning back to school after three full weeks off on the school year breaks.
Parent	I can see the benefits of it, but I have a business in my home and I cringe at the thought of having to keep my child occupied or at least have something to do every 6 weeks for 10 days while I am trying to get my work done. He is too old for day care and not old enough to be independent.
Parent	I can see the benefits, listed as such. I am however concerned for younger children and the problems it presents in introducing them to a school schedule. It is hard enough on young children daily now. I can definitely see the benefits for older children, but as mine are all younger, my opinion must reflect that point.
Parent	I can see the plusses in the systems and have experienced it myself as a high schooler in an international school. The negatives of finding child care, children in hot unfair conditioned busses and the inability to earn summer money concern me. My family negatively experienced the drawback of me not earning money to pay for "extras". This schedule personally will not work for our family with one in private and one in public.
Parent	I cannot stress enough how important it would be for kids place to be able to be at our school during the breaks. The program provides a great service to working parents and our children. Having to take our kids out of our community to a remote location is a burden to the parents.
Parent	I cannot support a change in the traditional calender at this time. I do not believe the research points to the need for a balanced calender. Even if there were benefits, how would we pay for it? I watched the board meeting where they were not able to find money to fund the programs that are currently in place There was not enough money to fund the building projects that are needed.. Also, they were not able to honor the 4% raise for teachers. So, why is Knox County Schools even thinking about making changes that will need to be funded?
Parent	I could go either way as long as major changes would not occur, such as not changing early graduation, etc. Faculty and administration should not expect extra work or assignments to be due over these breaks. They are called breaks for a reason. If teachers can not effectively teach during class time than that problem needs to be addressed. If a balanced calendar is not implemented, I vote that Knox Co still has a longer fall break as in the past.
Parent	I could see this being difficult for some families. Question: What about adding some time off to THANKSGIVING week? It seems silly to have fall break, then only attend two days during Thanksgiving week.
Parent	I did not realize that summer break would be that long under the balanced calendar
Parent	I disagree that the balanced calendar improves the summer slide. The research indicates this is not true for stronger students. The balanced calendar benefits weaker students/those students whose parents may not take a fully invested interest in education. Parents involved in the child's education take advantage of the summer break for expanded /continued learning.
Parent	I disagree with the balanced calendar due to child care and stability issues. We have a 12 and 10 year old that would not benefit from this type of schedule. We are working parents and getting child care during those time's would be difficult. Our children are not old enough to stay at home alone during the breaks. We have care during the summer but that would not be an option during these breaks.
Parent	I do have an opinion about this because I have three Knox county students and their best interest at heart. i went with neutral because I see the benefits and like the two week breaks but my main concern is summertime heat on buses with no AC and at school in gym on the track.
Parent	I do like a balanced calendar similar to Alcoa and Maryville. Not the really, really short summers, but slightly shorter summer.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	I do not believe in this is a good idea in the next five years. Balanced calendars require a lot of mental preparation as well as adaptation.
Parent	I do not feel a balanced calendar for high school students who are involved in performing arts or sports. Losing 2 weeks of practice time would negatively impact these programs. Even if these activities did hold practice during the 2 weeks off there would be transportation issues. Also, what about the increased costs and wastefulness of food that will have to be thrown out every break due to spoilage. This is a terrible plan that I strongly hope does not pass.
Parent	I do not have the ability to take additional time off during spring & winter breaks. I do not rely on daily after school care. I am unaware of any "camps" that will be offering off season care which is typical during summer.
Parent	I do not like the calendar presented at the beginning of this survey. The other balanced calendar that we were able to see (through news articles, etc) gave an option of a little longer summer break and still balanced the year out a bit more.
Parent	I do not like this option at all. If there are learning/retention issues, then that should be addressed individually - as you are essentially requesting the parents do during "frequent breaks" during the school year. If the at risk kids are not getting help during the summer, they will not get additional help during the breaks. Again, this is not a necessary calendar. Look at the neighboring counties that are already voting down this idea.
Parent	I do not mind going to a balanced calendar school year, but would prefer for the school year to end in June and begin again the first of August.
Parent	I do not see any benefits to a balanced calendar. My family is not fortunate enough to have the means for one parent to stay at home to accommodate this schedule -- we both work. We both have to work so that we can afford to live in West Knoxville, where the Knox County Schools are the highest achieving. We don't have many options for care during these long random breaks. Currently, we use an after school program and the YMCA summer camp. We would have no options for the breaks and don't have enough PTO to take off work each of the 10 day breaks. Moreover, if child care was available, it would likely cost a lot more in the random breaks instead of the consecutive care that is available in the summer. I understand that we already experience the long breaks somewhat with Christmas break, because it is 10 days but normally companies provide time off during those days, which helps alleviate some of the child care issues. A better representative of the balanced calendar is the 10 consecutive days missed due to snow in February 2015. This was a huge hindrance in terms of child care, because the after school program was not offered and our daughter is too young to stay by herself. I can only imagine having to overcome that situation multiple times a year. It was extremely stressful. So, no, the last thing that I want is a balanced calendar.
Parent	I do not see any educational benefit from taking a little from summer and stretching out fall and spring break. Not only will kids be distracted and forget where they left off in the classroom, the poor teachers who are already being unfairly judged by exam and testing scores will suffer from the test scores of students who are not in the classroom enough.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	I do not see how an advantage listed is more "frequent" times off. The time periods are the same. They are not more frequent, just a difference in length of time off. Each quarter in school is still 44 days. There are not added periods of time off. There is still a fall break, Christmas break, spring break, and summer break. I also do not think that shortening the summer break by 12 days is going to make a big difference in the amount of information a child retains or loses. That is a weak argument! If it was a difference of being off 55 days versus being off say 10 days, that would make a difference, but not 55 to 43. I also think the balanced calendar could cause problems for many parents with childcare during two week breaks during the school year. It would also limit time for summer jobs and quite frankly, summer school. I do see an advantage of having time and finances to do camps spread out at different times of the year instead of all in the summer, but that is not enough of a reason to override the other issues. I do not see enough of an advantage to change to a "balanced" calendar. I do not think you have proven the point as to how this would be beneficial for students.
Parent	I do not see how just eliminating 12 days from summer will effect the "summer slide."
Parent	I do not support a balanced calendar at all
Parent	I do not support a balanced calendar
Parent	I do not support a balanced calendar, however since my students are on a block schedule I think that there should be changes to the school calendar to account for the large number of snow days during the Spring Semester. The last two years, the weather made the Spring Semester two weeks shorter than the Fall Semester. If the school year was started a week later in August and went a week later in May, it would build in enough snow days to Spring Semester so that the students got almost equal instructional time in each semester.
Parent	I do NOT support it!!!
Parent	I do not support the balanced calendar.
Parent	I do not think a balanced calendar will make a great difference in the larger scheme, positive or negative, in general. It may change childcare and schedules, but the difference in breaks and such are not much less or greater. The breaks after grading periods could be an issue with some as far as child care, but could also be used as some to take advantage of using the time to take a family vacation they may not have had enough time to do with previous schedule. I think most can deal with it the way it is, or make changes necessary without too much difficulty. It does not affect my schedule any, but I think the school needs to look closely at those that it may affect. I see that being the only real issue with a balanced schedule, if it even is. I do want to say that I appreciate ALL of the parents being contacted and opinions being asked on this matter as it is not a small one. I feel because they were asked, resistance will be minimal. That is all most parents ask, is just to be consulted in case there is an issue. Thank you again for asking our opinions.
Parent	I do not think it is a wise decision.
Parent	I do not think that a balanced calendar will be successful.
Parent	I do not think that a strong enough case has been made for the calendar change. However, I doubt that this survey will have any impact on the decision as it appears that the superintendent and commission are going to implement it regardless.
Parent	I do not want a balanced calendar
Parent	I do think that our current summer break is about a week too long, but 8 weeks is not long enough to get all of our summer activities in. Also, I wish we could have a 5 day fall break, instead of 2 days. That break is not long enough, but it doesn't need to be 2 weeks.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

<p>How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?</p>	<p>Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>I do understand that there is loss of learning for some students over the summer but that is on a child by child basis. You are setting up a program based on the need of those students, not all of the students. The children who you plan to enrich and reinforce during the "off weeks" are unfortunately those students who are probably ALWAYS going to need a little "extra " help. Maybe there could be a summer session for children that fall into this category. I feel that labor day to memorial day - like when we were all kids - is the way to go. This world is so fast paced and life has become so hectic, I vote for allowing the kids to be kids...because summers are for the kids and most will never get that "free" - no worries lifestyle again post high school. I realize I am probably in the minority with this school of thought but our most recent education plans (no child left behind, common core, etc.) may have put us in this position and I think reaching back and helping the specific children these plans have negatively affected would be more beneficial then a calendar change.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>I don' t know the point of asking my opinion when my opinion doesn't matter in the final decision. Why ask if you will do what you want regardless.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>I don't believe that any of the studies have proven to any degree of certainty, in any or all of the different types of schooling environments, that a balanced calendar works best for all students. If anything, I think the more frequent breaks would be disruptive to the flow of the academic year. I also feel that many children need their longer summer break, away from fellow students and teachers. They need that time to recharge, to grow and mature so they can return to school in the fall ready to face the next grade level and challenges. A child can change a lot over the summer when they aren't faced with daily peer pressure and drama, don't take that opportunity for self-discovery and maturation away!</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>I don't believe the calendar is the issue with children's performance. I believe that the standardized model of education is not creating children who know how to and love to learn. please consider alternative education models. please. http://www.educationrevolution.org/store/</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>I don't believe the community as a whole is prepared to make this transition beneficial for students. If I felt that the community outside of the school system was prepared, I would be in favor of the change. I would also be more inclined to support the idea if private schools and possibly local colleges were involved in the decision so that schedules for a larger community could be coordinated. I think it would be irresponsible of the Knox County school system to make the changes when there are so many other "groups" that are following similar schedules. If there were more buy-in from the community as a whole, the transition would be smoother.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>I don't feel that this would be the best option for our children. I already disagree with block schedules and trying to fit a full year of education of one subject into a 9 or 18 week period. It is hard enough to pull that off at college level.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>I don't see any major differences between traditional and balanced schedules regarding break lengths</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>I don't see how reducing the summer break by 12 days is going to reduce the summer slide. We already have too many days off during the school year which wreak havoc on a child who thrives on the structure of school.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>I don't see how shorting the summer break is going to help with learning loss. Are the kids going to forget that much in 9 days? Daycare becomes a concern, sports, and vacations become impacted.</p>

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

<p>How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?</p>	<p>Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>I don't see the benefit. . . the summer is only 11 days shorter, but there are 3- 10 day breaks throughout the year. I see learning loss throughout the year. Also, what happens during TCAP testing? Once the testing is completed, is instruction completed too, as it is now? Our students go to school for the final month following TCAPs and watch movies or go on field trips that aren't educational in nature. What happens under a balance calendar approach? I absolutely despise how the current teaching/education drops off after TCAPs and there is so much stress put on testing.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>I don't see the benefit. And I do see many downsides. Family, church, vacations, exercise, imagination, play, and working to save for college are all benefits of a longer summer. The only benefit Knox county says is less summer loss of material.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>I don't see the point of doing this unless there is strong evidence that it improves learning. At this point I can't see any such evidence. Knox County Schools also has failed to articulate good reasons for the switch and the reasons they mention are contradictory. On one hand intervention and enrichment during breaks are mentioned as a plus. But then it is suggested that longer breaks during the school year will help avoid burnout. How does that happen if many of those kids would be in school during those breaks? You can't have it both ways.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>I don't see the support from the community or parents or teachers that would be needed to make this a good idea. I feel that this would be a waste of tax payers money for someone's agenda that is no longer involved in our schools.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>I don't see why we would change to a balanced calendar, you are basically talking about 12 days in summer, a not needed fall break, and a longer spring break. The change is more trouble than it is worth with not enough facts and statistics to back up the benefits of a balanced calendar. Many schools that have used a balanced calendar have gone back to traditional. Also, I don't have faith that Knox county schools would use the extra days wisely, just more time to cram for TCAPS, SAT-10, Common Core, or whatever other ridiculous standardized tests they can throw at our kids. How about more hands on learning, more classes held outside, less standardized tests, more real world learning and experience, more trust between teachers and school boards. These are real issues that need addressed, not how long our breaks need to be. So I would like for our Superintendent to stop focusing on when do we take our vacation days and more on how to bring back a teacher/ student system that will build trust, confidence, and pride in both teacher and student. Stop focusing on how to get every student to become a great test taker and focus on how to get every student interested in learning.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>I don't think cutting summer short by a couple of weeks will truly cut down on summer learning loss. I don't think a balanced calendar is fair for working parents who don't have more than two weeks vacation to take. Not everyone has the money to take their kids to Disney world or anywhere else on "off" peak weeks. The weather is still so hot in August - it doesn't seem right for the kids to be sweating it out in school (also, I am sure the utility bills will place a burden on the city).</p>

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

<p>How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?</p>	<p>Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>I don't think that a balanced calendar is going to create a learning environment where teachers don't have to revisit concepts just because it provides a shorter summer. I would like to see evidence as to how a balanced calendar compares to restructuring a school day in terms of student achievement. For example, there is evidence to support that some physical activity at the beginning of every school day improves student attention. I feel that either calendar has its merits and it depends on what the goal is as to whether one would be better than the other. If the goal is to have students be more engaged and retain more information than I don't feel that a balanced calendar achieves that. Additionally, having the "breaks" that the balanced calendar offers be beneficial in terms of extra tutoring or enrichment of students means that the county has to have people to be in charge of those programs, which means more money. Throughout this school year I have heard talk of the balanced calendar, but it is always about what the community thinks of it. A question I would like to have answered by Knox County is, what is the goal for implementing a balanced calendar?</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>I don't think the Knox County School District takes the following into consideration when favoring a balanced calendar: - Household where 2 parents work full time and cannot take extended time away from work multiple times a year. If doing so, this will leave family without time to take away from work during summer break for traditional vacations. - Children who are leaving Elementary School and entering Middle School, and child is not mature enough to remain at home by themselves during extended breaks throughout the year, yet the child is too old for traditional child care will leave families in a bind where there are 2 full time working parents in the household. - How can parents be certain affordable child care or camps would be made available in the community where they reside to accommodate a balanced calendar?</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>I don't think the parents will be listened to regardless of our opinion. The school board will do whatever it wants based on the overall "good of the budget." One prime example of this is Block Scheduling!</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>I don't think this will "fix" any of the problems that people think are "wrong" with the schools.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>I don't think we have enough information to make this decision. What I do know leaves me strongly opposed. We don't know what the costs will be; student academics likely won't improve for the majority of students; I worry about AP testing; I think summer break plays a valuable role in job experience and in letting little kids have time to be little kids; the balanced calendar will create stress for our family with two working parents; we have received no information on how this works for school systems comparable to our own in size and demographics; I don't know how camps and such will find quality additional staff when they can only offer jobs for 2-3 week breaks. We need far more information before deciding the calendar change is necessary.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>I don't understand what is wrong with the traditional calendar. Could the problem with students having trouble retaining things they learned be contributed to all the extra work and requirements that have been placed on them? Some children are going to excel or struggle no matter what kind of school calendar they are on. Many people have been successful on the traditional calendar and that includes many people that are wanting to change this calendar.</p>

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	I don't want it. It doesn't work for my family, and I don't believe this is the answer to our educational problems. I can see why people are choosing more and more to home school. The system is set up only to help those who are falling behind. My daughter who stays bored at school, and is an achiever, does not want balanced calendar. She is tired of being teamed with kids who constantly need help, and she isn't the only achieving child who feels this way. She can't wait for school to be over, and I truly don't blame her. When the system starts meeting the needs of the kids who can achieve or who only struggle a bit, as much as those who can't, then you will have the test scores you want. I think lessening the pressure for testing on teachers and students is actually part of your answer to some of these academic woes as well. Balanced calendar is not the answer.
Parent	I don't want the balanced calendar, but I would like to have a full week for fall break like we have for spring break.
Parent	I don't want the school system to have my child any longer than they already do.
Parent	I feel a balanced calendar could benefit our family as I have two children with learning disabilities, and a shorter summer would seem to be in their favor; I also think the flexibility this would give our family for arranging travel/vacations at "off-peak" times is a big benefit
Parent	I feel a balanced calendar would be too disruptive to family schedules.
Parent	I feel as a parent that this could cause a huge disruption to a family schedule. Parents do not get 2 weeks off at a time from work during the year. That leaves either child issues a problem, or older kids left home by themselves for hours on end while the parents are at work.
Parent	I feel as if this plan is the popular trend right now just like common core. Extra steps that are not needed. If its not broke dont fix it.
Parent	I feel Balanced Calendar will be a positive effect!!!! I DO NOT LIKE THE BLOCK CLASS SYSTEM, 4 classes to long need 7 classes, just like eating, instead of 3 big meals 6 little ones..... this will make a healthier, energetic school/class experience....Block system is mundane, boring, stagnant....BLAH.
Parent	I feel children should have a summer break to have a break. And to get a job and learn something that can't be taught in school.
Parent	I feel it would be great..
Parent	I feel like if its not broken don't fix it. It is a break for the parents as well as the children.
Parent	I feel like it's a horrible idea, I am a step mother, my husband is a great father & we spend as much time with his son as his mother allows. His summers are already busy with his mothers side of his family & he is in band so that takes up some of his summer as well so getting to take him on vacations or family reunions is already hard & this "balanced calendar" will make it even harder or make it not possible for us to spend time with him. I also feel like once you reach collage age you grow & you have responsiblitys you don't have as a child kids need to learn to play & enjoy warm summer days. There is more to learning then sitting in a classroom more less all year around.
Parent	I feel like this will be great for the upcoming year.
Parent	I feel like this would have more of an effect on parents with younger children. As a parent of older children who do not require daycare or after school care, I am neutral. The daycare issue is the only issue I believe would be a problem with the balanced calendar.
Parent	I feel my family can adjust with either decision. I slightly would like to see it for the teachers. When teachers are rested and have time to plan through out the year then the students will have better experiences
Parent	I feel once it is implemented and people adjust they will be happy it changed.
Parent	I feel public school systems currently only teach for the children to pass the government monitored tests. Therefore, I don't feel retention is an issue unfortunately.
Parent	I feel strongly to maintaining as long a summer break as possible...June & July with all the pressure on students and teachers; they need some extended time away from the classroom.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	I feel students depend on the money they can make during the summer and this is drastically taken away. I also feel we would have to pay teachers much more to teach during the breaks, which adds costs - as well as transportation cost
Parent	I feel that a balanced calendar makes logical sense! My initial concern as a working parent was child care during the breaks. After giving it more thought, daycares will simply need to implement the balanced calendar in their schedules. I have no doubt that my current daycare wouldn't handle the change with flying colors!!! Go for it Knox County!!
Parent	I feel that a truly balanced calendar with equal length breaks between quarters would probably be more beneficial in preventing loss of information during the summer break and provide more opportunity for needed help. I am skeptical that shortening the summer break by 12 days is as effective as advertised.
Parent	I feel that children will be more excited about school. Knowing they have longer breaks to look forward to, but after 2 weeks, most children will be ready to return. Having 3 different kids on 3 different academic levels, I see benefits for all involved. I sincerely hope this passes, and look forward to having more opportunities to have fun with my children throughout the year!
Parent	I feel that equal breaks evenly spaced would lessen "burn out" and give the students something to look forward to while increasing their attention while in school.
Parent	I feel that it is important for high school students to have the opportunity to work summer jobs. This will be much harder with only 8 weeks of summer. They need a good idea of what hard work is before we send them off to college. Schools intrude enough on our family life. Lets leave things as they are and continue to allow for a block of school time and then summers for family time. In addition, what a mess it would be if we have 2 weeks of snow days and then are out for 2 weeks in March. Thanks.
Parent	I feel that it's a good idea but Knox County is not involved enough in being sure that the families of elementary-aged children have adequate access to nearby, affordable quality child care. The "it'll all come together" attitude is unacceptable. Surrounding districts that have this offer low-cost child care direct to families at the schools during all breaks, and I think this is part of what makes the programs work. I also think Knox County is not adequately taking into consideration the effect on preschoolers and their families, who will also in many cases be forced to follow the same calendar. Tougher rules regarding preschool supervision and licensing means there will be far fewer options for child care for these kids if the preschools shut down for weeks at a time, and it's not good for their learning patterns either (consistency is very important to them). Knox schools can easily take a "not my problem" attitude to this because they are only judged (endless standardized testing!) on how elementary-aged students perform, but remember these younger kids are the very ones whose performance you will be responsible for in a year or two, and you need to work with preschool providers to be sure these kids are as ready as they can be.
Parent	I feel that Knox County Schools need to focus on a different approach to solving learning loss, one that rewards and encourages families to make learning a priority even when school is not in session. I personally feel that unless you get to the root cause of learning loss, you can't fix it... no matter when students go to school.
Parent	I feel that the added breaks would help with both student and teacher burn out. The students would know there's a break coming up and would hopefully stay focused and work hard!
Parent	I feel that the cart is being put before the horse in this situation. There is no plan or funding for intercession, either intervention or enrichment. It is disingenuous for the proponents of this plan to act as if without intercession, there are really benefits to a balanced calendar.
Parent	I feel that this schedule will allow more learning time and less reviewing time especially upon return from summer break

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	I feel that traditional holidays should still be respected. And it would be wonderful if some school sponsored activities are offered which are more affordable than traditional day cares, and geared toward middle school children. They don't like baby sitters, and get bored at home, no matter when the breaks are.
Parent	I feel the balanced calendar would be especially challenging for working parents. I am extremely concerned with the level of quality care/camps/activities that would be available during these 10 day breaks.
Parent	I feel the proposed changes will adversely affect the school, the students and the community, as well as adding undue burdens to the financial side. All of which are proven facts from other school systems that have tried the balanced calendar school year.
Parent	I feel the school board is trying to ram this down the throat of our community. The public forum provided very little in the way of detail or cost. Furthermore, I know of numerous school systems that experimented with some form of a balanced calendar and have reverted to the traditional model.
Parent	I feel this change would have a detrimental effect on our family, I want what is best for my child but I feel strongly that this isn't the answer.
Parent	I find it hard to believe that shortening the summer break by 12 days is going to have any measurable impact on "learning loss."
Parent	I find it interesting that you did not discuss the budget increase. I am sure it is too early to determine the exact cost, but you haven't done the discussion due justice if you never mention that the budget would have to be increased. I would love to know the superintendent's plan for coming up with the extra money, because if we have to raise taxes to pay for it then I am opposed to any balanced calendar proposal.
Parent	I find no logic to the premise that 10 less days of summer vacation would have any significant effect of retention, which appears to be the main idea behind the balanced calendar.
Parent	I grew up in Germany on a balanced calendar with "only" six weeks of summer break. It is still working just fine for millions of children in Europe. And most countries there rank higher in tests.
Parent	I grew up with a balance calendar, my kids were raised with a balance calendar until we move here, I was able to see the benefits. Furthermore the different experts for kids (pediatricians, sociologists, doctors,...) support a balanced calendar
Parent	I had a long talk with my children (boys - 4th grade and 7th grade) about this option. Both were enthusiastic about spreading time off out more and longer breaks in fall and spring. Shorter summer was not a concern.
Parent	I had a similar schedule in FL when I was younger and we all absolutely loved it! Our parents did as well!
Parent	i hate it
Parent	I hate Mrs. Bosse.
Parent	I hate the entire idea of it.
Parent	I hate to say opposed but I have some strong reservations about it that make it difficult for me to be in favor of it either.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	I have 3 sons that participate in activities during the summer that do not end until late July. These activities occur during school hours through the last week of July. Then we take our vacation during the break that occurs before school starts. I strongly feel my kids benefit from a longer break away from the hassle they receive from bullies at school too. The longer break gives more of a "reset" socially and allows time to move on or build self esteem. Another point is how they don't really get a break during the school year days off. I was angry that my children came home with regular homework/worksheets to be completed over Christmas and spring break!!! They deserve a break. It's one thing to have them keep their reading skills up which we do even over summers. But honestly, if the teachers send homework home over spring break now, what's to stop them from sending it home during the balanced calendar breaks.
Parent	I have 4 students who are strongly against the switch to a balanced calendar, they would rather be home schooled than change.
Parent	I have a child starting 6th grade and a child starting K next year. Our family has 2 working parents. Regardless of what calendar we are on, we struggle finding appropriate childcare for afterschool care. (This will not be a problem for my upcoming 6th grader). However, it will continue to be a problem for our youngest. The schools that have afterschool care should be given permission to be in the schools during the breaks. Without this allowance the school system would be putting an unfair burden on working families.
Parent	I have a hard time believing any feedback received from these surveys and meetings will have any impact on policy. I think you guys have already made up your minds about it. I'm just looking forward to seeing who gets the blame when we don't see academic improvements as a result of the change.
Parent	I have a neutral opinion to slightly opposed given my personal circumstances with my children's visitation schedule and our blended family time (vacations).
Parent	I have attended the meetings where comments and questioning were addressed. I have also read in the paper quotes from our administration and am disappointed to read how inaccurate a representation they convey how parents feel about the potential change. In the meetings I have attended only one person in a crowded room stated basically you adjust yet your life to meet the school year change, all other parents were opposed. Why experiment with schools that are thriving.
Parent	I have been hearing that there is a proposed balanced calendar that gives only a 30 day summer break. While I am in favor of the model that adds 1 week to Spring and Fall breaks, I am NOT in favor of only a 30 day summer break.
Parent	I have been in Knox County for 15 years. My impression of the KCS Central Office is that they will jump on band wagons to give the appearance of doing something. I see this as a band wagon. A much better approach that will actually make an impact is to mandate after-school tutoring and summer school for struggling students. If KCS is determined to spend money, then I highly encourage an investment in sports and arts programs and AP courses in low-performing schools so that their students have the same opportunities as those in the best-performing schools.
Parent	I have considered changing school districts strictly to accommodate my desire for a balanced calendar for my child. With the current calendar, I feel like my child is burnt out by Jan/Feb and the summer seems so far away! I feel burnt out too. I am sure that childcare programs would adjust to accommodate parents' needs. While I do need part-time childcare, I don't feel like it would be any more inconvenient to find it during periodic breaks than it is to find it in one long stretch of time over summer. I'm excited about the possibility of the balanced calendar and hope that the benefits outweigh the inconveniences.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	I have experience in the classroom. For a couple of days before a long break, the students are giddy and learning is disrupted due to their excitement. Upon returning, it can take a couple of days to transition them back, so adding more long breaks increases the amount of class disruption.
Parent	I have family members in other states who have gone to a balanced calendar school year and have nothing but high praises!! I've personally watched my son struggle to get back on track after the extended summer break, even with us utilizing Summer work packets and Summer reading recommendations. Every year he advances in school, the harder/longer the transition back into a classroom setting seems to take. For folks whining that childcare will be difficult need to realize that daycare centers, etc will have to adjust to the new calendar if they expect to keep business. Change is not a bad thing! It will take time to adjust, but is NOT a bad thing!
Parent	I have friends from Maryville who had positive experiences with that system's (perhaps just one school?) balanced calendar when they used it. I am concerned about how a balanced calendar would affect the school system's budget (teacher pay and increased cooling costs for buildings come to mind).
Parent	I have know parents in several states who have adapted the balanced calendar and they all have said the benefits far out weigh any negatives.
Parent	I have little to no issues with the change should it take place as our family would have little if any issues with the calendar change. The only issue I see is if there were a big change for the Christmas break as I get a bit of time off and the currently coincide, as long as that break didn't change very much, I would have no issues. Summer is my most expensive childcare time anyway so moving the expense around the year wouldn't be an issue for my family. As far as helping prevent the summer learning slide as was referenced, I don't see how it can help much between 55 to 43 days; there isn't that much change in the days off in my opinion.
Parent	I have lived this, 1 with a child that did well and 1 with a child who did poorly so I can look at it from both sides of the issue but also from an open perspective from a family facing multiple issue potentially with it, not just the issues posed but others. It will not bode well in the long run at all. There are many other issues not being addressed such as the poor condition of the schools heating/cooling issues currently in Knox county schools. Also the issues currently with buses breaking frequently. More frequent schedule means no long break to repair all the buses that need it and it will fall to "on demand" repairs which they try to do now and fail!
Parent	I have mixed views on balanced calendar, so I am not sure what I would prefer.
Parent	I have NO desire to implement a "balanced calendar".
Parent	I have not spoken to other parents but will engage them starting now.
Parent	I have nothing else to add.
Parent	I have one child in private middle school with a traditional calendar and I teach in that private middle school. My other child attends Knox County public elementary. The balanced calendar would cause me to pay for child care for my youngest child with all of these schedule differences. Our family vacations would be greatly disrupted because of these differing schedules. Overall, I think this balanced calendar is a rash decision being made by the Superintendent and his administration without taking into consideration all of these consequences this would cause the families in Knox County.
Parent	I have one child, in high school, so the child care issue wouldn't affect me. I think it makes so much sense, and have been envious of my friends who live in districts that follow the balanced calendar. I would even like to see 9/4/9/4/9/4/9/4.
Parent	I have read through the studies on the web site, and the results are mainly inconclusive. I have talked with people at Maryville city and they do not like it. The longer fall and spring breaks are pointless and actually disruptive to the calendar.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	I have seen no research (and I've looked) that shows any improvement in student performance as a result of a balanced calendar. If "summer learning loss" is really reduced, and/or there's more time for enrichment or remedial activity, test scores should reflect the change. There is just no evidence that the balanced schedule is better. That leaves the question of why change from the current calendar to a new one. None of the benefits posited seem to have any basis in reality, so to get my support for a change you'd need to present some additional advantages that actually have research and data supporting the case that they are in fact advantages. Change for the sake of change is a bad idea, just as clinging to old ways in the face of better ways is also a mistake. At this point, I've seen no evidence - and neither have several research studies specifically looking for effects - that implementation of a balanced calendar has any impact on student learning. It is important to me, therefore, that some other justification be put forth before transition to a different calendar.
Parent	I have voiced my disapproval to each school board member. Only 3 acknowledged my letter.
Parent	I have yet to see any concrete evidence which shows improved academic success through the implementation of a balanced calendar with other school systems. I have read statements such as "some studies" or "results may indicate", but nothing has been presented with overwhelming evidence to support the results which have been claimed by the superintendent.
Parent	I hear mostly negative comments unless it is in the media!
Parent	I honestly wish that Knox County would stop treating parents like they are stupid. All I have heard is more frequent shorter breaks. Like I said before there is no more frequent and the breaks are way too long. The way it is has worked for years so leave it alone. Also when I went to the school meeting on this their reasoning behind this was that the kids are all too poor for summer camp and vacations so they do not need a long summer. That was insulting! My children do both plus sports. There is no support in my home for this and if it does happen all my children will be removed and placed somewhere else. I will not allow the needed summer break to be taken from them. If you take the summer away you will notice the children will not be rested and ready for the new year.
Parent	I hope it goes through its a wonderful idea
Parent	I hope it goes through. I believe extended breaks during the school year benefits both kids and teachers moreso than a longer summer break. I love the idea of having a nice fall and spring break for better weather vacation opportunities. I like the idea of enrichment being offered in between quarters too. I love it!
Parent	I hope Knox County will move in favor of a balanced calendar with 2 week intercessions. I feel like many families would be in favor of this change. I would like to see KCS preserve an 8 week summer. Many children do swim, scout camps, and other outdoor activities in summer, and if we shorten the break too much they may be unable to participate in those kind of activities.
Parent	I hope that the community would adjust and provide some child care opportunities.
Parent	I hope that you take the opinions into consideration. Everyone is saying that Knox County will do what it wants regardless of all the hardships this will create for parents and the community if the calendar is implemented. Plus, I don't understand putting money into this when my above average student has an assistant do his reading group because his teacher has to teach the bottom 10%. Why isn't my child good enough for a teacher?! If we have extra money, let's take it to high qualified teachers who only teach the 10% and 25% all day long. This is punishing the students whose parents do their job at home!!
Parent	I just ask that implementation of a balanced calendar be given notice well in advance, in order to plan for the coming year.
Parent	I just don't see a reason strong enough to change to a balanced calendar. More cons than pros.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	I know teachers love their summer breaks but this is for the students benefit not the teachers!
Parent	I know this survey is pro-forma and the district will go ahead implementing a balanced calendar no matter what, because it will make the district look more "progressive" and in step with latest fashion. Nevertheless I decided to do my part and fill the survey regardless.
Parent	I like it just for fall break time increase -should be a choice made by 90% teachers
Parent	I like the 2 week breaks between grading periods. I wouldn't like if it was longer than 2 weeks.
Parent	I like the idea of a balanced calendar in theory, however the solution for parents who both work isn't an easy one. I have strong reservations regarding availability of quality childcare/camps during those times. Many families can't take a vacation or go out of town each and every break due to work obligations, So I need for a child care solution is a serious one
Parent	I like the idea of a balanced calendar very much
Parent	I LIKE THE IDEA OF ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS FOR THE INTERSESSION BREAKS DURING A BALANCED CALENDAR, BUT AS STATED IN THE SURVEY, THESE ARE NOT DEFINITE PROGRAMS THAT WILL BE AVAILABLE. FOR TWO WORKING PARENTS, CHILDCARE DURING THE PROLONGED INTERSESSIONS/BREAKS OF THE BALANCED SCHEDULE RENDERS MAJOR CONCERN FOR MY FAMILY. I CURRENTLY CAN'T SEE CAMPS OPENING UP FOR THESE SMALL, TWO WEEK INTERSESSIONS AND IF THEY DID THE COSTS WOULD BE EXPECTED TO BE HIGHER THAN "OUT-OF-POCKET" WITH THE CURRENT SCHOOL SCHEDULE.
Parent	I like the idea of longer breaks thorough out the school year. Personally, I think it will be a welcomed change for my family. I think it will help recharge everyone.
Parent	I like the idea of Steady learning with less time to lose your information, but more breaks
Parent	I like the idea of the 2 week fall and spring breaks, and I don't mind a shorter summer break. My kids get bored by about week 8 in the summer.
Parent	I like the longer, frequent breaks that would be offered. I do not like having to find childcare and trying to rearrange my schedule. My husband and I both work full time. Changing schedules aren't always easy for us to do.
Parent	I like the proposed schedule that is on this survey. At one time, there was another option that shortened the summer break even more. I do not like that option. I like the 10 day breaks after each quarter and the 43 day summer break.
Parent	I like the way it is. No need to change.
Parent	I liked the 9 week in school 2 week off school version
Parent	I liked this idea better when it shortened the summer to 30 days. This watered-down version hardly seems worth the effort.
Parent	I look forward to a balanced calender being implemented in Knox County.
Parent	I look forward to having this new calendar implemented.
Parent	I look forward to Knox county schools adopting new ideas and changes. My family will embrace these changes positively.
Parent	I look forward to the balanced calendar...Just wish it had been done sooner. I think for children like my son who is in 4th grade whom I have a really hard time getting to school sometimes will truly benefit from more frequent breaks in his school schedule....Also I wonder if for the parents who are just soooo dead set against it...could we not offer a school or 2 with a traditional calendar...Although I truly believe that once parents realize how much better this is it won't be an issue any longer.
Parent	I love it. I hope during these school year breaks there are additional programs that students can participate such as music, athletics, or further educational camps like at the zoo or other businesses. Maybe even earn school or grades as credit for doing extra
Parent	I LOVE that students could receive enrichment and or help during the breaks. I hope this is implemented immediately after starting a balance calendar.
Parent	I love the idea of a balanced calendar. I hope it is implemented at the earliest opportunity.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	I love the idea!
Parent	I may have missed any mention of snow days. Will these effect the short breaks if excessive snow days are required? Speaking of snow days, I believe most with children will agree a 10 day break may actually be too long. Shorter more frequent breaks may be a better fit for the students.
Parent	I might be more inclined to appreciate a longer Thanksgiving Break rather than a longer Fall Break, since we rarely do anything special during Fall Break but like to see family around Thanksgiving...and Fall Break is so close to Thanksgiving and Winter breaks.
Parent	I oppose mainly because of childcare concerns. With a 6 and 10 year old, I don't know how I would find childcare during the long fall and spring break periods. High school kids will want to take advantage of their short two week break and college kids will not be on the same schdule and therefore will not be available as they are now during the long summer break.
Parent	I OPPOSE THE BALANCED CALENDAR.
Parent	I overall, would most likely be moderately in favor of the calendar as provided in the opening diagram. I see the shift as fairly minimal as it is presented here. Any additional migration of days would make me strongly reconsider any support.
Parent	I personally do not have any children who require childcare. I am past that season in my life. However, I do have friends who have children who require childcare. This new schedule will cause a problem for some of those folks. I think incorporating a longer fall break would serve my family's needs. I would hate to put any undue duress on these other families with childcare needs. PLEASE make Fall break longer:)
Parent	I personally feel that the school system will opt for the balanced calendar regardless of how the community feels. I can see how this would work in some of the smaller communities around Knoxville, but I feel there are too many schools and after-school programs and activities that would be negatively impacted by the move to the balanced calendar. It would be a hardship on my family if the same childcare options were not available because of the change in the schedule, and it is my understanding at this time that the childcare options I have now will no longer be in place if the balanced calendar is adopted.
Parent	I personally know that by April, when Tcaps roll around, my kids are at the burn out starting point. They begin to lose interest & just want to hurry & get their home work done, & every morning begin to drag. I feel the balanced calendar would take away from family time & being a kid. Kids should get to enjoy being kids, not pushed full of information that may or may not be helpful to them in their adult life. They have time to learn as they discover who they are growing up & who they want to become & what they want to do. To me personally my time is more valuable with my kids than anything in this world. They have plenty of time to learn as they grow, but parents can't get back time they miss with their children. I also feel this could cause a lot of teachers to get burn out to. I would hate to lose great teachers.
Parent	I personally think that parents need to consider what's best for the students as a whole, instead of their family vacations which could be scheduled around the new breaks dates. Just saying.
Parent	I prefer the traditional calendar just because it's been that way for so long, however I'm not opposed to the change either, so either way is fine in my opinion. I don't feel strongly one way or another.
Parent	I preferred the balanced option now shown on this survey, with the significantly shorter summer. I don't think a slight change to the calendar will do much of anything.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	I realize that there are concerns about childcare and summer jobs and I can see where that would be an issue. There are SO many other school districts all over the country that have implemented a balanced calendar and I'm sure they found that the communities adapted. Childcare centers adapt to these schedules and offer options during breaks. "Summer jobs" become split out during breaks so there are still opportunities for students to work and gain skills. Breaks are offered during some "off season" so that families can potentially enjoy these opportunities to travel or visit family when there is less crowding, etc. And the children (and parents) get a little relief from the "burnout" by having breaks during the year. And it really could help with the issues of long breaks and the loss of skills while some families are not working on academics at all. I agree that breaks ARE necessary and important, but shorter, more frequent breaks would allow for rest without completely forgetting all that they are working on during the school year. GO BALANCED CALENDAR!!!!
Parent	I really don't believe it is in the best interest of both the student and teacher. 1st less summer is a horrible idea. I don't understand why we continue to take away from the children in this area. They need that break the most! The children need all of their summer, just as many of the teachers do to spend with their families. Extra time off in between regular school session is great, but aren't these days added to time already in place? Lastly, how is it a break for the students and teachers if one or the other are still in school for enrichment or even intervention?
Parent	I really don't see much difference in the change. I think year round schooling would be more beneficial to students. Think of the change!
Parent	I really don't think the students who need the most help will show up for extra instruction during breaks :(
Parent	I really hope parents concerns are taking seriously. I feel the survey will not be taking seriously and the board will do as they please. I hope this will not be the case.
Parent	I really hope this goes in. Many surrounding counties do this as well and love it.
Parent	I really think it needs to be "balanced" even more. I am paying for summer tutoring to prevent learning loss and I don't think this slightly shorter summer break will change that.
Parent	I really think you need to take another look. The summer reduction is not enough to make a measurable difference with summer learning loss.
Parent	I see benefits for and against it. I have heard there are multiple potential calendars. The one presented here seems practical but local child care options would have to be expanded for working parents.
Parent	I see benefits to both balanced and traditional. I will miss having a longer summer break though.
Parent	I see more opportunities for learning, and for vacation. Not everyone can afford to take a vacation in the summer.
Parent	I see more upsides, than down. Kids will retain more with a shorter summer break. Also, I look forward to hearing what enrichment opportunities -- arts, etc -- will be made available. It seems like this would be a good opportunity for things that we're too busy in the normal school day to have. Everyone is worried about test scores... it would be nice to have some outdoor/natural science enrichment (where kids get into creeks, etc) and some art like pottery or something that is more involved.
Parent	I see no need in changing other than just to make a change. It seems more of a political move as opposed to a move to benefit the children
Parent	I see no substantial reason for the change, nor has the board or Superintendent made any valid case for the change.
Parent	I see none

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	I see the balanced calander as a drawback to families as a whole, but especially to families with two working parents. There is no way parents will be able to get enough time off from work to cover the days required with the balanced calendar. The traditional summer camps will not be able to adapt due to their heavy reliance on part time help, such as college students, who will not be available for such short and sporadic durations as would be required. Essentially a whole new type of child care would be required and there is little if any evidence it would benefit the children at all. In fact it would interrupt the school year more often and require catch ups after every break instead of just at the beginning of the year. There are many more points that could be made against this idea but I'll leave it with the point that I am against the balanced calendar and think it will hurt the children and families more than it could possibly benefit them.
Parent	I see the benefits for both personally and academically. Would the academic programs during break be free or would it cost the same as what summer camps charge. They seem to be very expensive.
Parent	I see the positive and negative of both. With kids who are older and can be at home by them self for short times and one who has a more flexiable job it does not impact me as much as it would those with younger kids.
Parent	I selected neutral because I don't believe a balanced calendar will have an impact on my child. However, I do believe their are serious negatives to consider for those children who don't have a quality learning support network at home.
Parent	I SERIOUSLY THINK THAT ALL OF THE BREAKS ARE A DISTRACTION. IM SORRY IF THERE ARE SOME CHILDREN THAT FORGET OVER THE SUMMER. HOWEVER, THAT IS PART OF PARENTING TO MAKE SURE THAT DOESNT HAPPEN.
Parent	I still have not came to a conclusion if I would like or dislike a balanced calendar.
Parent	I strongly agree on the implementation of the balanced calendar. Anything that could potentially benefit my child's development and future are important and should be implemented. Changes are challenging but worth it when our children's future are at stake.
Parent	I strongly believe that the "summer slide"would not be as much as an issue if our schools were not teaching our students just to pass a test. If the schools objective was to foster a lifetime love of learning rather than teaching our kids how to take tests, retention of information would not be an issue.
Parent	I strongly believe the balanced calender school year will only help our students in the long run. It will be adjustments at first but more of a continous school and structured environment will only promote education and hopefully many students will improve. This is their job....thats what i tell my children. This is your priority from Kindergarten. Until college to learn and be prepared for college and a job. Sports and other activities come second always. Im excited about this calendar, hope its approved!
Parent	I strongly feel students are over burdened already. There should be more time for family and time to be a child, not less!
Parent	I strongly support
Parent	I support a modified year-round calendar, as proposed, but would not support a true year-round calendar.
Parent	I take responsibility for my child. I have her read & do math worksheets during the summer. I plan field trips and athletic events. Her championships are scheduled at the end of the summer. Some of these events are not just on a local venue. They are statewide & even nationwide. Will these become excused absences? These programs are preparing her for potential full ride scholarships to a university. I think parents need to do part of the work in education. The school can't fix it all. This will also cause big changes for child care facilities, camps & other programs.
Parent	I think a balance calendar will work great. It will provide more time in a school atmosphere and allow the student to focus on school, without taking long summer breaks.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	I think a balanced calander is helpful especially for special Ed students because it is harder for them to retain information over a long break. Besides the fact that it makes work schedules much more difficult, a balanced calendar is better for some students.
Parent	I think a balanced calendar is needed.
Parent	I think a balanced calendar may be a good idea. One of my biggest concerns is how much homework, test and projects will be expected to done during the breaks. Children need time to shut down instead of worrying about what is due after the breaks!
Parent	I think a balanced calendar would also provide families his other family members live out of town and opportunity to visit throughout the year.
Parent	I think a balanced calendar would be great. The students and parents can use the breaks to recoup and have time together, along with a break from strict schedule and stress of testing and work.
Parent	I think a better balance would be to shorten the summer to about 30-35 days and redistribute the other days between longer semesters, and a slightly longer winter break, perhaps 3 wks winter break.
Parent	I think all this is : 1) answer to babysitting 2) taking more family time away 3) creating more stress on kids academically.
Parent	I think having a more balanced school year may help reduce those with attendance issues.
Parent	I think is great
Parent	I think it has some positives and negatives. My biggest concern with younger children is childcare during the extended breaks.
Parent	I think it helps prevent burnout and allows families to take vacation during times of the year when rates are lower. I also believe it helps with retention of learning. It can be problematic when you have children in Knox County and college trying to coordinate vacation
Parent	I think it is a great idea and actually wish it would start this upcoming 2015-2016 school year.
Parent	I think it is a great idea and LONG overdue!
Parent	I think it is a great idea! I feel that the obstacles I have heard against the balanced calendar will take care of themselves. My only concern is the effect it may have on school sponsored sports and the schedules being different for each county in the state....but I feel that will also work itself out.
Parent	I think it is a great ides. However, I do believe teachers need to have a strong say in this decision.
Parent	I think it is a horrible idea. Don't fix something that has worked for years. You will have more kids pulled for either private or home schooling.
Parent	I think it is going to put an additional burden on the daycare/aftercare businesses to employ additional or replace the workers they have. Most aftercare businesses employ a large number of college students which would be in class during balanced calendar breaks for Knox County.
Parent	I think it is the way things will be done in the future and will be a good thing for Knox County.
Parent	I think it makes complete sense and have talked to many other families who have been on the same schedule for years. The only drawback I see is how it runs into travel summer sports but Im sure the sports will adjust
Parent	I think it should be left alone. People who visit other states such as NY would have less of a chance to visit because the month of July is basically the only time the schools are closed here and there.
Parent	I think it will be a great idea and hope that we start this in Knox Co soon.
Parent	I think it will benefit our children in the long run to have a balanced calendar.
Parent	I think it will help so many kids for different reasons. My son struggles and I think not having big breaks will help him excel without having so much time but also give him a break so he doesn't get so worked up and shut down.
Parent	I think it would be a great step in education improvement in Knox county.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	I think it would be a mistake to have a balanced calendar.
Parent	I think it would be an improvement for students and teachers
Parent	I think it would be beneficial if part of the adoption included the addition of a graded course at the middle/high school level that focuses on students doing something productive during breaks. Credit could be earned by working a job, volunteering with a non-profit, traveling somewhere interesting, reading a non-fiction book, or simply working to master a new skill. Students would be required to journal, blog, or even photo journal, about what they are doing, and what they learned on a daily basis. I believe that such a course would encourage learning outside of the classroom.
Parent	I think it would be great for elementary k-5 students; not sure it's the best for middle and especially high school students who either have advanced or artistic studies, or in some cases summer jobs
Parent	I think it would be great!
Parent	I think it would be great! I have always wanted this for my children. I think this will help them from getting so burnt out on school, and defiantly better for the kids for summer break. I have always said they lose everything they learn while on summer break. I think it would work out for parents as well. I work m-f and every other weekend so this would be awesome. I hope this happens soon! This is exciting
Parent	i think it would benefit everyone involved.
Parent	I think it would help with the school/work/home balance and family vacations, etc
Parent	I think it would improve the school year overall to have this new schedule.
Parent	I think it would keep kids more focused on learning, and teach them to be more on a schedule like in the real, working world.
Parent	I think it's a good idea; not a dramatic shift, but I also only have one child who is high school age. Could be more difficult with younger ones in different schools, etc.
Parent	I think its a great idea with preparing our children to be successful adults!
Parent	i think its a step in the right direction and with 2 kids in school, we would figure out how to make the necessary arrangements.
Parent	I think it's a wonderful idea, and I'm sure all childcare facilities will transition just fine!
Parent	I think its great for children and staff. I think grades would continue to increase for the better and testing scores would increase for the better
Parent	I think it's really the way to go; I think the three breaks throughout the year are going to be better than a little bit longer summer break.
Parent	I think kids will get less time off and teachers will be working more. My child is an A student and I want him to continue to have a summer, and to be allowed to be a kid.
Parent	I think longer breaks during the school year would ease student and teacher burn out. Also, in the summer, it is only 2 1/2 weeks shorter of a break.
Parent	I think most arguments against the balanced calendar make some faulty assumptions, with the biggest being not enough time for vacations, not having adequate childcare, and interference with employment. Summer employment for teenagers might be an issue, but there is plenty of time for vacations (maybe during intercession) and child care providers will adjust.
Parent	I think most parents who work have arranged for after school care for their children. Maybe the school system could offer extended care during two week breaks. Other school systems do it and parents work around scheduling conflicts. I understand it may be inconvenient to some, but I feel the benefits far outweigh the costs. I also hope that year-round non-certified salaried (IT), administrators, and central office staff, with the exception of maintenance and custodial, still get paid the same and are still allowed a portion of paid days off during the breaks. Also, for it to benefit teachers, I hope they don't make them spend a lot of their time in in-service trainings so as to lessen their time off but give them the choice to work with kids for enrichment or other options that they would have in the summer.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	I think most ppl opposed are fearful about the impacts to childcare and work schedules. I would be more nervous too but have worked a more flexible job this past year which reduces my anxiety. The snow days were a sneak peak as to how my family would enjoy some down time together, more time to work on school projects, etc. My daughter had a private tutor in 1st grade and I can see how this calendar could have benefited her. In the past, I have used a college nanny for childcare and that could be difficult with this calendar. Traditional child care would need to adjust and I am sure it would. We have moved away from June-July and August summers... let's adjust more!
Parent	I think parents will see that daycare will make changes to support the calendar.
Parent	I think shortening summer break by only 12 days is well worth the extra breaks it would give students and teachers to relax and regroup for the next semester.
Parent	I think that a week in the fall would be a benefit. However, I think that if they are giving more time during these few weeks and less in the summer, the teachers would give them work to do and they would not actually have a true break from school.
Parent	I think that considering a change to the school calendar is a good thing. As I understand it, the traditional calendar is based on the agrarian calendar when school-aged children were needed to help at home. As society has shifted away from this type of agrarian system, it makes sense for our institutions to follow suit. I am strongly in favor of the balanced calendar and hope that the KCS will continue to work towards implementation. Thank you.
Parent	I think that if a balanced calendar were adopted kids and teachers would be refreshed more often and would have a better attitude about school while they are there. It is much easier for children to work hard toward shorter term goals and I think overall performance would be improved. I also think that the community would adjust to the balanced calendar and camps and childcare options would be available according to the new schedule.
Parent	I think that it is inevitable as we are no longer bound to an agricultural lifestyle and research clearly shows the advantages of such a system. Therefore families will make adjustments. However, considering the size of a large local employer, UT, and it's lack of conversion to such a schedule, there will definitely be negative impact to family opportunities to spend time together and potentially increased need for child care.
Parent	I think that it would have a lot of benefits for the students and the parents! I am strongly for implementing the program!
Parent	I think that many opposed to the balanced calendar are uninformed or scared by the strange claims that they will not be able to find childcare, or their child will miss VBS, or their school will no longer have a sports team. These claims are totally unfounded and I think you should continue trying to spread the actual facts of a balanced calendar.
Parent	I think that the kids need their summer break as it is now. They need a break from school and I think it benefits them in the learning process. They need time to prepare for the next year, especially if they are transitioning to Middle school or High school mentally and emotionally.
Parent	I think that this is a good idea but when I think of a balanced calendar, having a 40+ day break is still a rather long break. It seems as though the school year would be more balanced using a trimester model with longer interval breaks during each term of the school year. This may interfere even more with summer jobs, vacation schedules, etc but it is a better picture of reality for students. I don't know many occupations that have 6 weeks of vacation consecutively. More intervals spread out over the course of the year may be a better solution as we aim to prepare students for the real world they are hopefully being prepared and groomed to participate in.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	I think that this is not a decision that should be rushed. While my family can roll with the punches on this so to speak, most parents will need time to adjust to this change. Also, more parents may support this change if they know that, for example, the extra 5 days of spring break will more than likely not require additional child-care arrangements. Possible reasons for this may be because at-risk children are in the classroom anyway and that other children are participating in optional enrichment or focus-group activities on the same normal school day schedule during this break. But without knowing what these extra activities are and how they will or won't affect family schedules, it is hard to completely back this program.
Parent	I think the 2 week breaks are two long and would cause too much disruption to my child's routine. I know after Christmas break and after our 2 week snow break this year, it was difficult for her to get back into the routine of going to school. I think extending fall break to 1 week is a good idea and taking those days off of the summer break but I would not extend spring break any further than what it is now.
Parent	I think the balanced calendar could be beneficial for my family but even more so for children whose family structure is lacking in enrichment opportunities, parental involvement or food security. A shorter summer would help those children.
Parent	I think the balanced calendar is more logical. I think they need a shorter summer break and longer breaks for the other seasons. It's really not that big of a difference anyway.
Parent	I think the balanced calendar is well planned. Students will still have a large summer break but with longer breaks throughout the school year. I think the students need longer breaks to regroup and not feel so "bored" or "tired" from so many consistent weeks.
Parent	I think the biggest complaint comes from the "unknown". If more parents had an opportunity to speak with parents from other area schools that participate in a balanced calendar, and hear the positive feedback from personal experience of those parents, they may be open to the change. Once it is in place and it becomes the norm, everything else will fall into place.
Parent	I think the kids would be recharged and ready to learn after more frequent breaks from school. It makes much more sense to spread the academic year more evenly over the year. Summer break is too long.
Parent	I think the name of it basically says it all. It is a more "balanced" calendar/ schedule.
Parent	I think the schools should offer enrichment activities to help working parents with breaks.
Parent	I think the summer break should be shorter. If you are going to change it, make it a truly balanced with breaks being split evenly between 6 time periods.
Parent	I think theoretically the idea of a balanced calendar can work for certain schools and certain demographics if a strategic plan is set into place years in advance to allow for the cultural and economic changes. I think KCS is too diverse and too large to accommodate such a change regardless of the planning involved. The data I have read supports a balanced calendar being beneficial to schools where the majority of the students are underperforming. This is not the case in KCS and we do not need a one size fits all approach.
Parent	I think there are alot of parents that think the only way to get their week back for fall break is to have the balanced calendar. My suggestion is to have a week off for fall break and add those few extra days to end of the school year.
Parent	I think there are definitely many positives to a balanced calendar. At first, I wasn't sure I wanted to support it, but I think there could be many benefits. I do, however, feel very strongly that this is an actual "break" and not time for teachers to catch up and assign students tons of homework causing students to resent and not look forward to the breaks. There must be policies and guidelines drawn up to limit teachers from doing so.
Parent	I think there will be both excitement and complaints from people no matter which calendar is chosen.
Parent	I think this calendar is a great idea

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	I think this is a Great idea, although it is going to cost me more to find out what to do with my kids while both parents are working. Would be great if the school offered something at a discounted rate. Maybe offered tutoring sessions (for free) for those falling behind.
Parent	I think this is a terrible idea
Parent	I think this is a wonderful idea and will greatly enhance our public school experience. We have five children, some in elementary and some in middle school. I hope the new calendar will be adopted for the 2016-2017 school year!
Parent	I think this will be of no benefit and will be a tremendous upheaval to only lessen summer by 2 weeks. 2 weeks is not going to improve learning loss.
Parent	I think this would be a huge mistake. And I would very disappointed in our school board if they voted in favor of this. I think, this decision should be put on a ballot and the voting public should get a chance to vote on it. Because it doesn't just affect the people with students in school. It will effect the entire county in some way.
Parent	I think this would be a waste of the tax payers dollars. Rather than doing this, try helping parents instruct their children how to learn in school and how to increase knowledge-retention during breaks. Rather than telling me that I have to miss out on more time with my children during the most opportune time (as I work more during the spring and fall), why not tell those who are bad at helping their children learn to be a better parent. I feel as though you are penalizing the wrong person by moving to a balanced school system. Furthermore, teachers deserve pay raises and they shouldn't have to work more just to get paid more. The school board should not justify this shift to a balanced school year by saying it would help teachers make more money. That's a terrible thing to say. As a professional in Knoxville, I feel like that has poor tact.
Parent	I think trying something different is a good idea- change can be challenging but we need to think about what we're doing for our kids and how we can set them up for success. Doing nothing will not ever make a different.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

<p>How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?</p>	<p>Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>I think we Americans are always on a quest to gain more time. Is a calendar change really the solution? Should we look at the quality of breaks our children get during the day first (before we change days)? Could we achieve the same goal by making the school day more hospitable to parents, teachers, and students? Kids need time to socialize and have real breaks during each day. Longer lunch periods. Longer breaks for teachers. As a working parent, I have had to spend close to \$80,000 over my career in childcare costs. If you made the "school day" last until 5--like 9-5 with instruction ending at 3, but art, theatre, music, sports incorporated into every school day for kids--we'd have a happier, healthier society. And Christ, please, get rid of the TCAP test-taking, soul-sucking curriculum. We are not training creative, critical thinkers--we are training line workers who will have no ability to figure out how to face challenges that will arise in their lifetimes. Social intelligence *is* an important intelligence to cultivate. If you are going to take away their summer to do this, then you MUST NOT replace that time with drills and silence and academic overload. People need time to think and process the material given to them. Part of that process is social. Teachers need it too. We need to look at value in a different way. Our kids do not need more structured break time as you are suggesting. Do you understand what the costs are to middle class families with 2 working parents? I know the myth is perpetuated that there are stay at home moms just waiting around for their kids to come home, but the rest of us get put through financial strain and marital hardships during imposed breaks. When there is no extra income, who can afford to stay home with kids? The snow days this year just about killed us. Please consider the financial strain you put many hard-working families in every time you close schools. School hours are very hard for us to manage anyway. All three of our kids were in elementary school at the same time and we had to spend close to \$1,000 every month for two hours of care because we both work. I hope you will consider the benefit of quality of time spent during the school day and look at adjusting hours before you look at putting large breaks in during the school year.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>I think we need our children to keep up with other countries regarding education and working towards helping them become more marketable not just nationally but worldwide.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>I think we should add more days of instruction to have year-round school.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>I think we should look at extending school year later in the month of May instead of starting the school year so early in August or even backing it up into July.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>I think with the addl time off in the fall and the spring in would be an added change and it may be what kids need to break it up a little the other time didn't seem much different to me.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>I think you should leave well enough alone. The current school calendar has worked without issue in the past.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>I totally agree that our students lose focus during the summer. Who doesn't after a vacation but I don't think 10 days in the Spring and Fall will make it better. Again what are we going to do for 20 days ...sit at home and play video games and eat and say they are bored. Spring break for many get to do cruises but many do not.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>I truly hope that KCS will adopt the balanced calendar. I have a patient who works for Alcoa and he loves it. Everyone adapted very easily to the new routine. My vote is yes.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>I truly hope the opinions of the PARENTS and STUDENTS are involved with the choice that is made since we are the ones who will be the most affected.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>I understand that this new schedule would make it difficult more my family to schedule time off on breaks because I have elementary school age kids to college kids at home. However, my kids struggle during the long summer and don't practice or enhance any learning skills. Knowing you have more breaks would be beneficial to my older children who tend to get burn out and my younger children who need less break time and reinforced learning</p>

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	I understand the goal of curbing summer learning loss, but as a working parent, I have a hard time getting appropriate care for my children for the summer. I would be more reconciled to it if there were programs made available for advanced students, and not just for intervention or remediation.
Parent	I used to think a balanced calendar was a great concept, until my older son got a job as a counselor at Boy Scout Camp. I believe the responsibilities of that position will benefit him far more in the long-run and would outweigh any benefits of a balanced calendar. It is important to not, however, that he is already taking all AP and Honors-level courses, so academic retention over the summer has not been an issue.
Parent	I want a balanced calendar for my kids. I believe they will learn/perform more, obey better, have more fun during breaks, and get more involved in enrichment programs. I believe in a balanced calendar for kids and family overall.
Parent	I want a balanced school calendar. The concerns for daycare are negated by the fact that daycares already provide afterschool care and would develop childcare programs during the breaks. Additionally, many Knox County elementary schools already have afterschool child care that also provide child care during breaks and the summer. There are currently neighboring school systems that have used the balanced calendar for several years. The traditional school calendar was implemented when we were a predominantly agrarian society, which is not the case today. It is time to move for the Knox County Schools to move forward into present day society. Change is not easy, but it is necessary for progress.
Parent	I want more information before I make a decision. I would like to see this on an actual calendar, not some pie chart. I want to see a start date for school and what the actual dates are they would be out of school. I also would like to know is this the only time off the students and teachers would get or would they have government holidays. I do not feel that we are being given all the information that we need to form a valid opinion and make a good decision for our children. If this is voted in and then grades go down or it does not do what every report says it will do then what. We must remember that this is all about our children and what will help them.
Parent	I was initially in favor of the balanced calendar because I thought the Summer break would be much shorter. Honestly I believe there should be more instructional days. Days added to the school year. This does not seem as well thought out as I would like. It seems to put additional childcare burdens on the parents without the structural support needed to meet those burdens. For example, are there existing "camps" in which single working parents could place their kids during the longer Fall and Summer breaks? Christmas break is traditionally easier to cover but that break is reduced by 1 day. Summer break must be covered now and there are numerous camps available to do this. Under the balanced calendar, these breaks are essentially the same, but the 2 longer breaks come when the structural support and traditional support are nonexistent.
Parent	I was originally for it but since have researched and I do not see any benefits in other areas of changing to the balanced calendar. I think it is a waste of funds.
Parent	I was strongly opposed at first, however, after looking at more information, this could be beneficial and if the school district feels this is best, we will support it and figure out how to make it work for our family and how to utilize the benefits. Thank you for taking the time to consider and address our concerns as parents.
Parent	I was under the impression that the summer break would only be 30 days and I would highly support the calendar if so. I'm still in favor but not so sure that the change from 55 to 43 days will make that big of a difference.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	I wasn't completely supportive of it until I asked my son who will be a rising 9th grader. I think we should get the kids' opinions also. He said he would like the extra breaks. He got me thinking and I think I would too as a parent. The balance is exactly that a "balance between work/school and life" for both the students and parents. Maybe it would be easier on the teachers as well. I'm not sure.
Parent	I wasn't really in favor of it until I realized the summer break is really only 12 days shorter than on the traditional calendar.
Parent	I will definitely have to adjust to the changes but they are not barriers that cannot be overcome. My issue will be that I work in a private school where a balanced calendar has not been brought up. If my three young kids are off for 2 weeks, I will have to pay even more for child care.
Parent	I will highly consider private/home schooling for my kids if Knox County changes to balanced calendar. Any change to the calendar should have a voucher program attached to it.
Parent	I will homeschool my kids to avoid balanced calendar.
Parent	I will strongly consider home or private schooling any family members if summers continue to be under assault by government agencies.
Parent	I will withdraw my child.
Parent	I wish along with a balanced calendar, uniforms for all grades would become mandatory
Parent	I wish it could start 2015-2016!!! So excited for this possibility!!! As a former kindergarten teacher in the Knox Co Schools and now a mother of a student, I am completely in favor of a balanced calendar from a teaching perspective and from a mother's perspective!
Parent	I wish the county had a full week off in the Fall, but otherwise keep the breaks (2 weeks winter, 1 week spring) and summer as is (minus a few days for the extended fall break)
Parent	I wish they could start it in next school year!
Parent	I wish we could do next year !!
Parent	I work for a school system that is on a balanced calendar and I love it!
Parent	I work in a school district that has adopted a balanced calendar and it would be wonderful for my children to also have two weeks for Spring and Fall Breaks. I am also in support of the balanced calendar because of the possibility of intervention as long as there is money in the budget to pay for the teachers who work extra time to provide that intervention.
Parent	I would also like to a push toward uniforms for Knox Co. Schools; the switch in calendar could be a good time to do so.
Parent	I would be concerned that there wouldn't be enough teachers to support the amount of students that would need the enrichment or help during the out of school time for everyone that needs it. I feel many more students will have the backsliding more often than just when school starts up in the fall.
Parent	I would be for it if and only if the after school care programs would be open. Otherwise I am totally against it. Since they are closed now when school is closed it is hard enough to find a babysitter let alone having to figure it out 3 times a school year.
Parent	i would be for this balanced calendar
Parent	I would be in favor if ALL schools were on this balanced calendar but with some children in a Catholic school and in college who are not on a balanced calendar it would be very difficult for parents to plan any family time together, which is critical to the family.
Parent	I would be in favor of any even shorter summer break. I have experienced the loss of learning with one of my children during this long period away from school.
Parent	I would be in favor of it if I didn't think it was going to end up costing me more money in the long run, and I question the quality of care I will be able to find in Knoxville. I see the advantages academically. But, Knoxville is not prepared to handle care for 60,000+ children nor can the average parent afford it. I think some parents will have to consider moving out of the county.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	I would be in favor of the balanced calendar that offers a 43 day summer break. I strongly oppose the balanced calendar that only offered a 28ish day summer break. Since that was not shown in this survey, then I am assuming it is off the table.
Parent	I would be in favor of trying it for a year or two trial before making it permanent. Government agencies and employees will have a much harder time coping than any of the students, so leave an escape clause.
Parent	I would be in favor only if the school helps enrich my child more and help her advance in her studies instead of using her to help other kids during group study sessions. If she's excelling in class and bombing the standardized tests I think it a little more focus on kids like her would be greatly appreciated and may even improve not only state report cards but help her during college SAT and ACT testing.
Parent	I would be interested in the names and dates of the studies mentioned. The benefits listed are vaguely worded. Another choice for a calendar- for example, a week in fall on the traditional calendar like we had several years ago, would make sense. Why is there only one "balanced calendar" option? Additionally, why in the world was Survey Monkey used for such an important survey? A person can take it as often as he or she desires.
Parent	I would be more eloquent but my only answer is: Horrible idea.
Parent	I would be more in agreement if we could start school later in year, i.e., late August or after Labor Day. It is still too cool to go on vacation with school letting out in early to mid-May.
Parent	I would be more in favor of the balanced approach if it were even MORE balanced. More like 4 three week breaks, instead of 3 ten day and a 43 day break. I don't see much difference between 55 days, and 43 day break. That's basically 2 weeks, and i don't see that you gain much in the 'summer slide', or 'learning loss' department.
Parent	I would be more in favor of the balanced calendar but feel it is just one step towards ending summer break all together in the future.
Parent	I would be okay either way. I would much rather talk about changing the curriculum, than the school year.
Parent	I would be tremendously disappointed if the county chose to implement the balanced calendar.
Parent	I would enjoy the more frequent, longer breaks for more vacation options. However, I'm not certain that the studies have shown it to be a benefit to students and it sounds like it also may be expensive. I'm not sure how realistic this will be to implement.
Parent	I would even consider pulling my child out of this system if this is approved
Parent	I would even shorten the summer break for a proposed 43 days to 25-30 days. But the current proposal is a step in the right direction.
Parent	I would have marked strongly in favor without the concern of the childcare situation. With a young child, it was a challenge to make sure that she maintained the information she learned during the school year during summer break (as much as I tried). She thrives in a routine-based environment, and I think this would help as well. It would also give families additional opportunities to spend time together other than the summer months. However, my main concern is trusted childcare programs being able to fill the gaps during the year.
Parent	I would highly Support this calendar
Parent	I would lean slightly towards in favor of the change...I would be interested to see it done as a test phase, to see if the benefits truly outweigh any drawbacks.
Parent	I would like more information on the costs - have heard that it will increase costs. I am also curious about teacher opinions - do they agree with the benefits ? Will the schools offer any child care options for parents that need it ?
Parent	I would like the 2 weeks option for breaks. 3 weeks is going to make the summer break entirely to short.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	I would like to hear more about the cost associated with changing to a balanced calendar. I would like to hear more specifics on enrichment programs. Have area pools, camps and other community programs been consulted on how it would affect them?
Parent	I would like to know how this will benefit our children and the teachers.
Parent	I would like to know if the board has sought the reasons why the balanced calendar was discarded after implementation in surrounding counties in the region
Parent	I would like to say that I am in favor of a Balanced Calendar but, I would like to see it presented on an actual calendar.
Parent	I would like to see a balanced calendar with more total days of class time
Parent	I would like to see a happy medium, such as perhaps a full week for Fall Break as well as Spring Break and cutting summer back by 1 week.
Parent	I would like to see Fall and Spring enrichment programs in our school since those breaks will be longer and child care will be an issue. I am in favor of a balanced calendar but could also be flexible either way.
Parent	I would like to see more information, such as proposed school calendar dates for the implementation of a balanced calendar before making my decision. Child care during the long fall and spring breaks would be a challenge for me and other working parents like myself that struggle to find child care during those breaks while I am working.
Parent	I would like to see some days added to the year to allow for a full week for Fall break again and maybe a couple extra days at Spring Break or around Easter. This is what Maryville is doing for their balanced calendar.
Parent	I would like to see some research that supports all the stated benefits. I don't believe this change in calendar is supported by many studies that show actual benefits....
Parent	I would like to see the balanced calendar implemented for elementary/middle school, but high school level keep current schedule to offer: 1) opportunities for those students lacking to attend summer school to gain loss of credits 2) opportunities for summer employment/internship for career building 3) opportunities for summer activities for citizenship and character building.
Parent	I would like to see what plans are being made for enrichment and remediation. I know the details can't be completely worked out, but more info would be appreciated do that we can see thought was put in for this benefit of the change in calendar. Also, Thank you for allowing input and keeping us posted on calendars as they become available.
Parent	I would love to see it happen next school year, but that's not going to happen.
Parent	I would love to take my family on vacations in off-seasons! And, the kids really enjoy the fall/winter/spring breaks of a balanced calendar.
Parent	I would need additional information to persuade me in favor of this.
Parent	I would need more information on how it would benefit students like my son who are ADHD. If I saw information that it could/would benefit him, I see no reason to oppose it.
Parent	I would need to see compelling data that shows statistical evidence that the balanced calendar improves lives of children and improves their learning experience in a geographical/demographical area comparable to Knox County. Why fix something that isn't broken?
Parent	I would not at all mind the fall break going from 2 days off to going a full week. I feel it might be harder to get back into a " school mindset " if we are off 2 full weeks in the fall and the spring. The summer break is may be a little long, but if you are stopping for a 2 week break here and a 2 week break there, I feel it would mess up a continuity for learning. It takes kids a little while to get acclimated from summer break to fall school, and AGAIN, these breaks seem just a little excessive to me.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	I would not be opposed if the organizations that offer summer camps in Knoxville would be able/willing to offer camps to provide child care coverage for breaks during the year. Without the mass availability of quality child care options, the balanced school year creates a difficulty for families with two working parents that do not work for the school system.
Parent	I would not have bought a home in Knox county if I knew they were thinking of balanced calendar.
Parent	I would not support the balanced calendar unless it was an effort by East TN counties (Knox, Blount, Loudon, Sevier). We are too intertwined to all be on different schedules. To me, this is about the forest and not just the trees....think bigger. Also, if I were a working mom with younger children, I would hate to try to manage the daycare. Most daycare facilities don't accept drop-offs for a week or two as it disrupts the normal schedules for their full-time children and the workflow of the business.
Parent	I would oppose if my children where younger (K - 3rd aged). Now that I have a middle schooler it wouldn't be such a struggle for us to arrange child care that meets our needs.
Parent	I would possibly like the 3rd option of bringing back a week of fall break .
Parent	I would prefer an even shorter Summer break (35 days) with the extra days built into school time and snow days.
Parent	I would prefer to see an even more balanced calender with a traditional track system.
Parent	I would rather be ale to travel in the off season for less money and better weather. A balanced calendar offers more options for travel not less. The children will be smarter and better adjusted for real life when they don't get an entire summer off. I just think it is better all around.
Parent	I would rather homeschool than go to a balanced calander.
Parent	I would say - adopt a balanced calendar for 2 years period of time, and do another survey with people who can compare both calendars.. First, we have to try.., and then we will be able to vote wisely.. Now, it is hard to predict all the outcome..
Parent	I would say I'm mildly in favor of a balanced calendar.
Parent	I would start off small and working with what is already available. I recommend combining the Thanksgiving break and the fall break to make a week long (5 day) fall break and just close the school for the week. It will save money, and provide an extended break that the school board appears to be looking for.
Parent	I would support a more balanced calendar, despite the drawbacks. Moving from 55 to 43 days is NOT going to give the benefit of a true balanced calendar. As the primary goal of a balanced calendar is to ease the transition into the next grade, the 55 days need to be shortened drastically, with either longer, or more frequent breaks throughout the year.....maybe 4 20 day breaks or 3 15's and a 35 or something.
Parent	I would support a traditional calendar with a week for fall break. However, since nothing is in here for costs of moving to a balanced calendar and the research done on balanced calendar does not suggest a big benefit to our kids, I do not feel we have enough information to form a strong basis for moving to a balanced calendar. Also, based on what I have seen in the news this week, I feel this is not a valid survey for determining how parents in our schools feel about changing to a balanced calendar. This is one other thing that is making KCS look incompetent and makes parents such as myself wonder what is going on with our school system. It is hard to believe that people with doctorates and master degrees would think this survey would generate valid data. Also surprised to hear on the radio this morning that most of the board members were good with this survey when they have complained about this type of survey in the past. I guess it depends on their own agenda as to whether or not they support how something is being done.
Parent	I would support it or would likely support it if it were adopted statewide, and not just county-wide. It makes no sense to be the only county in the area to adopt a balanced calendar when it cause so many difficulties. Have it be more uniform and you would get more support for it.
Parent	I would take my child out of Knox County Schools and put her/him in another county.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	I wouldn't mind an even shorter summer break. With the increase in what students are expected to learn, additional school days would be beneficial, however I am sure that would be costly.
Parent	I've always been a big believer in "if it's not broke, don't fix it". However, I'm speaking without knowing what the data shows. Maybe it is broken and I just don't realize it? So, I checked "opposed", but I'm actually somewhere between opposed and neutral. I would check the box for "I'm not educated enough to have an opinion at this point...need more data/rational" if it was an option.
Parent	I'd like to learn more about how we would do it before I take a stronger opinion.
Parent	If a balanced calendar is adopted, our family will strongly consider alternatives to the Knox County public school system (ie private school with a traditional calendar, home school, etc.).
Parent	If a balanced calendar is implemented, there is a strong possibility that I will pull my daughter out of Knox County schools.
Parent	If a balanced calendar is in effect, it would be beneficial to have older High School students have the earlier school hours to be able to work or take care of their siblings after school. As it stands an older sibling in high school can not be home before their younger brother or sister gets off the bus.
Parent	If anyone on the school board were truly concerned about "brain drain", they would re-consider the block scheduling implemented in many Knox County high schools. With block scheduling, students have breaks of at least SIX MONTHS between concurrent classes in a particular subject. This is especially disruptive for math and foreign languages. For high schools on block scheduling, "brain drain" over the summer break is miniscule compared to "brain drain" between sequential courses. For these students, there is zero potential for improved outcome from a "balanced calendar." And yet, high school students will bear the brunt of negative consequences from a shortened summer - less time for work, interships, sports camps, volunteer work, etc. Further, many schools around the country have adopted a "balanced calendar". In no case has there been a demonstrated improvement in student outcome as a result of balanced calendar. I keep hearing people say "the results are inconclusive". That is not true. The results are conclusive. The null hypothesis is upheld. Balanced calendar produces no measurable improvement in student outcome. Yet one effect of a balanced calendar is certain: it WILL increase the required budget for Knox County Schools. Let's not waste our resources on an idea that has been tried and proven not to work. - Jennifer Hay, mother of three children presently in Knox County Schools.
Parent	If balance calendar is adopted, I will seek a private school with traditional schedule.
Parent	If balanced calendar is implemented we will look elsewhere to meet our kids' academic needs.
Parent	If certain kids have a learning loss in the summer, offer summer school for them....let's not impose a horrible idea on everyone because of it. Working parents can depend on camps in the summer...if you mess that up, you will create chaos for kids & parents alike. LET THE KIDS HAVE A SUMMER FOR GOD'S SAKE!!!
Parent	If child care was not an issue then I believe lots of parents would be for the idea.
Parent	If county do want to change the schedule , they can shorten the summer break and make winter break longer!
Parent	If daycares or afterschool programs would work with parents to help financially.
Parent	If fall break was a week instead of the 2 days now I think it would be perfect as is....
Parent	If I changed the calendar, I would like to keep 1 week spring break, have a 1 week fall break, and have a longer winter break, with a slightly shorter summer break.
Parent	If implemented I will strongly look into other options either private School, homeschooling or moving.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	If intervention and enrichment activities are such a benefit and are very easy to arrange in fall, spring and winter, why not do the same during summer break to prevent loss of knowledge etc.?
Parent	If it gets approved I think we need a new school board
Parent	If it is adopted it would have to be system wide but even then it would be more difficult to coordinate schedules with family in other areas or students on private schools.
Parent	If it is implemented, we may change schools!!!!!!
Parent	If it's only like a week difference and they get more off for fall and spring break I am in favor. But it's still so hot in August, I think school needs to start back like it use to in sept after Labor Day
Parent	If Jim Macintyre can't get a middle school for thr Gibbs communit, why do we need his leadership in changing the school calendar? If it's not broke why fix it? It's worked for all these years, why change it?
Parent	If KCS can provide helpful support and ideas for the community that will be most disrupted by this change (i.e., day care facilities), I think the implementation of the balanced calendar will be received more positively. Ultimately, the decision needs to be based on what is best for students...not what is best for day care providers, family vacations, etc. If we keep the students' best interest as our main priority, I am supportive of the balanced calendar. Thank you for asking for our input!
Parent	If Knox Co would get back to teaching instead of worrying about test scores that mean more money in somebody's pockets there would be no need for a balanced calendar! Stop trying to fix something that isn't broken,let these teachers TEACH!!!!, not waste half a school year worrying about test! If my child's teacher can't teach and know what my child needs,that's your alls fault!! No test is going to prove anything!
Parent	If Knox County adopts a balanced calendar I will be taking my children out of Knox County Schools.
Parent	If knox county adopts the balanced calendar plan I feel as though my daughter will have to go to school elsewhere. This plan is a disaster for single parent and dual income households.
Parent	If Knox County adopts the balanced calendar, we will likely move our children to a private school with a traditional calendar.
Parent	If Knox county goes to the balanced plan I will explore other educational options outside of the Knox county school district. I will also become active in holding those school board members and the super intendent responsible for the decision at the ballot box.
Parent	If Knox County pursues a balanced calendar, childcare centers, summer camps, etc. will have to adjust to the needs. So many of the drawbacks will eventually smooth themselves out.
Parent	If parents would participate in their childrens upbringing, help with homework, make everyday alearning moment.we wouldnt need to worry about a better school system. Our school has had to step in and be a parental role, taking the time away from being a educator. We have a good system, just a poor society only getting worse and expecting everyone else to be responsible for them.
Parent	If teachers are required to provide intervention for students during breaks they should get paid accordingly as that would change the number of days in their contract. Also, many students check out early before break and need adjusting time after, so more breaks means more inattentive, unproductive classroom time.
Parent	If the balanced calendar goes in effect I and my family will learn to adapt. I too don't care for change; but sometimes it's necessary. However, the old saying of "don't fix/mess with something that isn't broken" is running through my head. Look what common core is doing!
Parent	If the balanced calendar is adopted, I hope Knox County Schools will communicate with community groups that provide child care or camps to help working families find child care options for these extra breaks.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	If the balanced calendar is the one proposed at the start of this survey with 43 days for summer vs 55 days for summer I am in favor of that, however if a balanced schedule is being looked at with 28 days for summer and 15 day breaks in fall and spring I AM NOT in favor of that! That is not long enough for a summer or long enough to do anything with family!
Parent	If the balanced calendar was for the 10day break then I would be supportive. I do not believe that the 15day break would be beneficial because it would cut too much out of the summer break. Again, the key is coordinating with the child care entities to ensure they are able to manage the change in plans; especially the ones at schools. If the school offers an after school program, it should continue in the school during the breaks; otherwise you are forcing parents to make other arrangements for an extended amount of time or interrupt their daily schedules to drive across town to take them to the Y or Kids Place.
Parent	If the district had money to burn, I wouldn't have a problem with this. However, we have been implementing all types of new programs, some of which (like this) have no positive proven track record..
Parent	if the private schools follow suit
Parent	If the schools are able to offer programs for tutoring during these breaks (low cost or free programs for low income students in different areas), I could see the educational benefit for students who are struggling. A one week break can be disruptive, let alone a two week break. As a former teacher, I know students often have a difficult time refocusing and getting back into the routine. This shouldn't change much for the spring and winter breaks, however the Fall break is another issue. This break comes just as the kids are getting into the swing of a new year. Two weeks off seems to be too much time. Consider a one week fall break and a three week winter break. With the holidays, the winter break seems hurried and chaotic. Some extra time, instead of less time, would allow for some breathing room and could benefit many families. One of our high schooler attended a private school in which the first week back to school in January was reserved for special tutoring and internship-like, hands-on studies, as opposed to traditional classroom learning. This also helped students to get excited about returning to school and eased them back into a learning frame of mind. If Knox County is seriously considering changing the calendar, programs like this need to be discussed, planned and initiated along with the new schedule.
Parent	If there were proof that students had benefitted from shorter summer breaks, I might be in favor. Also, if the breaks were truly used for intervention for the students that need the extra help, I might be in favor. But if that is a part of the plan, I don't see how it is helping the teachers get a longer break.
Parent	If there will be a program for the kids during the breaks it can really change my mind.
Parent	If they decide to implement this I hope they take the 12 days we lose of summer vacation and use them to finish school in May - it's not quite warm enough for the pool/lake and my family likes to use our summer break to spend time together at the pool/lake.
Parent	If this plan goes into practice, I have every intention of yanking my kids out of this pathetic school system. I can only hope and pray that others will so the same. If our school system refuses to work for us and with us (as it has proven it won't) then it needs to be shut down. I hope enough parents will start to stand up for the students and their best interest.
Parent	If we are going to balance the calendar then summer break should be shorter, maybe 20 days at top.
Parent	If we have 7M to spend on our students to enhance academic performance, let's add teachers, add technology, refurbish our buildings, etc. Changing the weeks we go and don't go to school will not affect academic performance.
Parent	If you are going to give the "kids" more "breaks" then make the school day longer and quit having the half days - waste of time -

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	If you are going to implement the balanced calendar and use retaining knowledge as a reason, then you need to look at getting rid of your block schedules in high school. If 2 weeks less summer break will help students remember, then what about the 7 months they go between some courses? I think this would be a stronger argument for retention than shortened summer break.
Parent	I'll move mine to home school.
Parent	Im a single parent and I've heard this type of calendar is more difficult for single parents
Parent	I'm all for it!
Parent	I'm all for it, I say let's try it out!!
Parent	I'm all for it, I think we should give it a try!
Parent	I'm concerned with the sense of urgency in implementing the balanced calendar for all of Knox County. Have you considered implementing the balanced calendar in a few selected schools? For example, under-performing schools might benefit from the intervention and enrichment part of the balanced calendar.
Parent	I'm concerned with the sense of urgency in implementing the balanced calendar for all of Knox County. Have you considered implementing the balanced calendar in a selected few schools? For instance under-performing schools might benefit from the intervention and enrichment part of the balanced calendar.
Parent	I'm for a balanced calendar as long as intervention is made a priority during break times.
Parent	I'm glad to be included in a survey. I hope the school board listens to what the community has to say before jumping in to the balanced calendar.
Parent	I'm in favor as long as teachers are fully paid teacher "instructional work pay" for extra days or extra work.
Parent	I'm in favor of education, period
Parent	I'm in favor ONLY if there is no intercession. The longer breaks between quarters is greatly desired by most--WITHOUT the added expense of intercession.
Parent	I'm looking forward to the implementation of a balanced calendar. I think the longer breaks between quarters will be a good time for family activities, and greatly look forward to a shorter summer break.
Parent	I'm not against a balanced calendar but I am against forcing teachers and some students having to work/attend during the breaks. There are better ways to help struggling students that are currently being ignored.
Parent	I'm not giving up my Summer vacation time for your balanced calendar!
Parent	I'm on the fence. Parts of it would work very well for our family, however, it would devastate us from a point of view of private childcare, and traditional summer activities and camps. I do not believe there will be any money for enrichment, and that that would not occur. The schools don't even take kids on field trips now, so where is the money for that kind of thing going to come from?
Parent	I'm opposed at this time with the information that's been presented so far. I did attend a parent information meeting offered earlier this spring at one of the area high schools. I'm happy to see that the other balanced calendar option that would create even longer mid-year breaks and an even shorter summer is not an option presented in this survey. I would never support that particular option. I'm willing to revisit my opinion of the calendar presented in this survey after more information is available about how it may affect the KCS budget, teacher burnout, student intervention and other things I questioned in the comments section.
Parent	I'm opposed to just mildly adjusting the schedule. This should be a more drastic year round approach to make breaks more understandable for children with equal expectations each break.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	I'm saddened and troubled that the balanced calendar is being promoted as an answer to the educational needs of our students. This agenda shows a complete lack of understanding of the serious challenges facing our students and educators. Shame on you Knox County Schools.
Parent	I'm still not sure if I'm for or against the balanced calendar. I feel like I need more information.
Parent	I'm the type of person that would prefer to work four 10-hour shifts and get 3 days off, allowing more time with my family, as opposed to working five 8-hour shifts, with only 2 days off. People have to recoup from being at school or work all day. I know that as adults we have to work year round, but I do not believe our children should be forced to go to school year round. They are children and do deserve to be children during the summer. Throughout the year there's so much pressure on grades, attendance, behavior and extracurricular activities, that a nice long summer break is something wonderful to look forward to.
Parent	In addition to lost learning days, a balanced school year would have to cost the count more in utilizes and maintenance labor. I would MUCH prefer that money be spent on the children...or even the teachers who are leading our nation's future.
Parent	In all I think this kind of schedule would be a lot better just by the breaks the kids would get. Learning wouldn't be boring for them cause they would get those breaks in between.
Parent	In favor if after school care issues can be resolved with Kids Place After School
Parent	In favor if Fall Break is NOT 2 weeks and follows the same schedule as UT.
Parent	In favor of balanced calendar only at the elementary and possibly middle school level, if the sports calendar could be worked out at the middle school level. Also support the balance calendar only if it is truly used with enrichment activities, and enrichment activities should be well planned, and supported and promoted by school staff.
Parent	In favor of the 45/10 option, not the one. Kids and families still need a summer break, and the 45/10 option still offers a substantial amount of time for this.
Parent	In favor of the 9wk-2wk plan but need more info on funding for teacher's pay, transportation and feeding of children during intervention or enrichment weeks.
Parent	In favor, but only if daycares will be able to accommodate. Otherwise, it would be a true hardship.
Parent	In looking at the actual break down of days, the only real change is moving summer break days into a fall break. I think proposing it this way seems less disruptive than the idea of a "balanced calendar," which gives an impression of the whole year being disrupted
Parent	In looking at the comparison between the two calendars, there isn't that much difference between them, but it will cause problems with childcare. The only benefit I see in changing to the balanced calendar is that fall break will be longer. I would like to see it return to a full week instead of just 2 days.
Parent	In my house the parents are strongly in favor, but the student is not, so we end up in the middle, to be fair. This also happened in the advantages poll, but not the disadvantages poll.
Parent	In my opinion as a former educator in music education, I see drawbacks to implementing a balanced calendar...however, I do think that if it is implemented, these programs will eventually adjust accordingly and adapt. I would like to see research data that supports the positive effects of a balanced calendar in these extra curricular areas. I would be "In Favor" if these concerns were alleviated.
Parent	In my research, there is nothing that shows academic improvement in students when comparing grades and test scores prior to and after the implementation of a balanced calendar. For students that would need academic help during the breaks 1. would not be able to participate in the "potential" athletic opportunities, and 2. would not be able to have the break from academics that their peers would enjoy.
Parent	In order for this to work for families where both parents work, all the childcare centers and camp centers in Knox County will need to adopt the same schedule.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	In summary, I think the proposed balanced calendar would be an easy transition for students, families, and the community. I feel the current school-year calendar is far outdated, and no longer meets the needs of the students, their families, or the community. The proposed balanced calendar seems like an excellent way to further move toward the goal of providing our students with the best learning environment.
Parent	In the advanced social settings and higher paced learning some students have become over-stressed, anxious, and overall burnt out on school. With additional time to refocus, rest, pick up a new hobby, develop new interests and enjoy a slower paced 10 days makes sense in this immediate, high demand world we are preparing them for.
Parent	In the information session I attended, those conducting the session admitted there's no evidence this will improve student performance. Isn't that what this should all be about? Also, it was stressed in this session that balanced calendar is not year-round school, but the National Education Association defines the 45/15 option as "the most popular form of year-round education." Seems as if school system officials are spinning it for their benefit. Hidden agenda?
Parent	In the information we received at the meeting, it looks like there is very little benefit to a balanced calendar. It even said some students perform better after the summer break. It seems to me Knox County Students would be better served with some targeted intervention in the communities that are more affected by "summer slide". Maybe access to the camps and enrichment activities they normally do not have.
Parent	In the literature you have provided, I don't think you have made a particularly compelling case for why this is better for the students academically. Specifically, detail is lacking regarding how student remediation would occur during breaks. Will teachers be available during the breaks or will this be their opportunity to take vacation/recharge the batteries? Additionally, although our family is not in a situation where both parents work full time, I think parents who are in that situation are going to want to know (not hope) that camps and programs will be available during the extra breaks. Otherwise this schedule will place significant child care strain on families in that situation.
Parent	In three year I will not have a interest in the school calendar. Then you can do what ever you would like.
Parent	Increased taxes to support year long schools. Evert time you turn around the school budget gets bigger. What will it be when you want year long schools. Shorter time for teachers to get more educational opportunites
Parent	Information about balanced calendar has been very misleading. More information should have been made available for which option you will be considering. I am absolutely opposed to the option that is 45 days of school with a three week break.
Parent	Information not retained over one Summer was not truly learned. Rethink methods of education. Some skills, such as with ballet, basketball, soccer, piano, etc. need frequent practice to maintain a certain level. Facts that I learned in grade school are still with me years later. What are students retaining and how did they learn it?
Parent	Ingesting so much knowledge requires breaks, we get them as adults, I took four 2 week vacations last year, 2 of them without my son. A balanced calendar would allow us to spend that time together.
Parent	Instead of 10 days in March for Spring Break, it would be really nice to have a week in February and a week in March or April so that families could take a winter trip on off season.
Parent	Instead of looking @ a balanced calendar, the BOE should be looking at ways to improve our failing schools.
Parent	is there a way to shorten the summer break? summer break of 43days is still way too long

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	It appears that intervention and enrichment are being listed as an advantage of a balanced calendar. Intervention should take place regardless of the type of calendar you have and intervention should not be limited to breaks. I do not believe a balanced calendar alone will meet the intervention needs of KCS students.
Parent	IT COSTS MORE MONEY AND NEVER INCREASES EDUCATIONAL RESULTS. look at nashville and alcoa and oak ridge... does no one do a fiscal feasibility study before raising this question? it seems like this is a scam to increase federal funds and union dues; it certainly doesn't increase the students' educational performance; merely the paper in someone's pockets
Parent	It depends on child care provider during this time.
Parent	It doesn't seem very balanced if the summer is so long. Why make the change for such a small difference?
Parent	It essentially seems as if 12 days are being taken from summer and distributed throughout other breaks during the school year. Personally I see nothing wrong with this proposal. I understand that extracurricular activities might be concerned, but this isn't the first place this has been done and those programs have flourished in other areas. Also they are extracurricular activities. I'm more concerned about my child's education. I like the opportunity for them to be offered extra help. I'm in the camp that if they commit to a school sport or after school activity they will uphold their commitment regardless of an extended break or not.
Parent	It had been implemented before my son was about to graduate
Parent	It has been about 7 years since my child's school was completely ready to begin when school starts in August. She has had years with no teacher being hired until Sept., not enough chairs and or textbooks and sometimes not enough classroom space. If system can't get ready for the following year after a 3 month break, how are you going to be ready with less time to plan?
Parent	It has been the same way for 100 years. Not sure if this would make a difference or not. Hence, this is why I am neutral. I don't feel 11 days one way or the other during the summer is going to make any difference. You are adding a week at spring break which allows another 7 days to forget things they learned. I think it is a wash and a waste of time.
Parent	It has worked in other counties.
Parent	It is a bad idea
Parent	It is a change for our county, however others have been doing this for a while. The child care issue is probably the biggest, but I would think that would adjust with the balanced calendar as well. That would provide many high school age kids an opportunity to work during breaks if needed. Personally, I am looking forward to taking time in the fall to go places that we couldn't do with just 2 days off.
Parent	It is a huge step that we are thinking of taking and it might need to be implemented in stages to alleviate the issues of summer jobs, child care and athletics as well as AP testing. Extending some of our current breaks and reducing the summer slightly to begin with might help ease the entire system into a more balanced calendar in the next 5 years.
Parent	It is an intrusion into family life to force working parents to operate on a schedule that is in opposition to extended family, college students and all other resources for QUALITY care. This calendar inevitably will lead to weeks of school sponsored institutionalized care vs. rich activities and growth outside of school. The classroom is NOT the only important learning environment. Extended time to experience the larger world is every bit as valuable. Extended time to be with extended family is equally important. For heaven sake- isn't this just completely obvious???
Parent	It is better for student learning that is a fact. From an academic perspective it should occur. I don't know how it will affect summer camps, summer jobs, and child care for parents during the year.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	It is going to be difficult with keeping a routine schedule with two weeks off and then back to school.
Parent	It is inconceivable that the new balanced calendar can be implemented without additional funding. The additional funding used to help those children lagging behind, during the quarterly breaks will have to come from existing resources. That being said Knox County Schools would simply be taking educational resources away from one child to give to a struggling, possibly less motivated, less intellectually inclined child. As a result Knox County children on average did not gain any educational benefit, rather the intellectual average was shifted to the left. Additionally, as a public school system that is tax payer funded, Knox County Schools should at the very least allow the tax payers of Knox county to vote on this proposed plan. I would feel much more comfortable with changing to the balanced calendar knowing that it was the desire of the majority of Knox county stakeholders rather than the hidden agenda of a select few.
Parent	It is not necessary to change.
Parent	It is not that much different than the existing calendar, so I do not see a reason to change.
Parent	It is something we would all have to get used to. We enjoy the long summer break but I agree that skills are lost during this time. Day care centers will follow the money and make slots available for students who need care during the new schedule. Also, I wonder how many families will actually take advantage of the staggered time off for "instruction and enrichment"?
Parent	It is the worst thing that could happen for Knox County children and families! This is being contemplated at the behest of administrators and teachers, not for the best interests of Knox County students but, for the interests of administrators and teachers! Added costs, less family time, more pay, no better education, schools abandoning the balanced schedule, etc. the hypocrisy of brain drain concerns when schedules are built with big breaks in learning is laughable! What's broken about our schools that are top ranked nationwide? Schools here that don't excel are the fault not of the schedule but of the lack of leadership from administrators, teachers, teacher's union and parents. Engage on that level before you punish excellence!
Parent	It is time for our community to move away from a school calendar built around an agrarian society. There are many businesses and organizations that operate around our traditional school calendar. Some of those entities will have a more difficult time adjusting their business plan and their complaints can distract from what is most important: the greater responsibility for educating students.
Parent	It is very hard to decide if I am in favor or opposed. Changes in child care is a very difficult burden on me, as a single parent, and families as well. I also have a family member that helps with my student that has a traditional school calendar, not affiliated with Knox Co, that would be an issue as well. However, my job is full time all year but the summer months are the very busiest months, so extra days off during my slow time, comes with a balanced school calendar. My student also loves his summer camp and I don't want that taken away. It is a difficult decision that I cannot chose a side, I will leave it up to the school administration.
Parent	It isn't best for children. The only reason we are considering the balanced year is because Knox County Schools paid 1.2 million dollars to a consulting firm from Boston, and this is what they recommended.
Parent	It makes sense, but I don't like changes, so it would take some adjusting on my part. I'm sure some of the students would have trouble adjusting too.
Parent	It seems like a lot of to-do for no clear, measurable benefits. Bottom line-- if a clear majority of teachers support this change in order to increase break/"breathing" time between grading periods, then THAT should be the deciding factor.
Parent	It seems once a survey like this is out that the decision is already made.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	It seems to be just another instance of high-performing students being drug back down to the mean. Give our students a chnce to fly, instead of coming up with a great way to clip their wings. My son is a sophomore, so I'm VERY GLAD it will have little effect on him. What about the shortened time for AP class instruction before exams are taken? The proposals I've seen extend the school year by about a week (into late May), but AP exams are given the 1st week of May.
Parent	It seems to me that families who depend on childcare during spring, summer, fall, and winter breaks now would still be spending the same amount on childcare, since the breaks are simply spread throughout the year, and kids would be attending school for the same number of days they do now. Also, I would assume local childcare facilities and organizations would adjust their availability to accommodate the new calendar.
Parent	It should stay the same
Parent	It sounds difficult on families for vacations, day care etc but everything will confirm to meet these needs. Employers will hire kids as always but in a different way. With everything that is being taught so early in grades and so fast the kids that get behind never have a chance to catch up. This will help.
Parent	It was difficult for my 2 children to adjust after the 2 week snow break. I can't imagine doing that twice a year knowing that snow could occur again.
Parent	It will be hard to accept at first, but I am sure we will get used to it. The two week breaks after each grading period will be nice for teachers and students. The summer will go fast, like it always does, but 8-9 weeks off in the summer is plenty of time for vacations and going to the pool.
Parent	It will be very difficult to expect employers and day cares to accommodate school schedule changes for more time off needed for working mothers. They will have to probably use their own vacation days or sick days in order to care for their children, not to mention extra expense to pay for it.
Parent	It will be VERY HARD for working parents to find childcare during the longer breaks. I work part-time and my husband is a manager at a restaurant - which means he works long hours. During the summer, our children attend a day camp on the days that I work. They went to pre-school here and I trust these people to watch after and care for my children. If we have longer breaks every 9 weeks, I am not sure what I will do with my children while my husband and I are at work. I take my vacation during the spring and fall breaks so I can be with them when they are out of school. I cannot take 2 or 3 weeks every 9 weeks to be with them. This situation is very upsetting to me. We also enjoy our long summer break and all of the opportunities that comes with summer. My son is behind in his reading and he sees a private tutor twice a week during the school year and over the summer break.
Parent	It will disrupt the schedule currently set however, the benefit for learning loss and kids' attitude toward learning out weight the disadvantages
Parent	It will not work for our family, we will be forced to put our child in private schooling. The only time to visit grandparents is in the summer. We will not sacrifice this for an absurd change.
Parent	It will take some adjustment period for all families
Parent	It would be a disruption more than anything.
Parent	It would be helpful if Knox County Schools provided enrichment programs at the schools during the shorter, more frequent breaks. This would help parents deal with childcare issues during the breaks.
Parent	It would be important that the school system and/ or community provide child care and extra enrichment oportunities during the breaks to avoid disrupting working parents.
Parent	It would be neat to try and see if it works better then the traditional plan we have now. If it does not work then have the option to switch back.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	It would be nice if a few schools could try it and give feed back to the rest of the county. Obviously pre K through high school for a certain area so that families wouldn't have children on different schedules. And I worry about some students being forced into taking care if themselves too young because their parents just don't have the help or money to get child care arranged.
Parent	It would be nice to have alternative times to take family trips instead of being forced to do it during the hot, expensive, crowded summer months.
Parent	It would cost the school system more money to operate - staff pay, electrical bill, bus operations etc.
Parent	It would force us to immediately look at private schooling for our children. I will be voicing my displeasure that this is even being considered to my city councilman and state representatives.
Parent	It would keep the students focus more on school without the long summer break. Students need to be reminded that school/education is the top priority!
Parent	It's a bad idea that leaves more problems than it solves. I've seen it happen before. I would hate to see Knox Co. make that mistake.
Parent	It's a bad idea.
Parent	It's a bad idea. Many teacher parents and administrative personal are against the balanced school year. they are just afraid of speaking out and losing their job, I've talked too many of them myself and they have said this but they're scared of losing their jobs for speaking out.
Parent	IT'S A CHANGE BUT COULD WORK, IT'LL JUST TAKE GETTING USED TO PEOPLE COULD ALSO TAKE A LONGER VACATION DURING END OF YEAR HOLIDAYS.
Parent	it's a difficult decision but I do like the idea of longer breaks through the school year. Children start to get restless toward end of summer so the timing might be right. The only issue I have is when kids go back to school during warmer months. I would like to see school start closer to end of August.
Parent	It's a start. We also need more hours of instruction, homework, and greater educational challenges.
Parent	It's a step in the right direction, but far from the reform we actually need.
Parent	It's a transition. Once in place it'll work fine, just a little change. Summers will be busier for School families!
Parent	It's about time. Thank you!
Parent	It's all political nonsense with no regard for what is best for students ... as usual.
Parent	It's much better for kids and learning.
Parent	It's not a huge deal to me, the kids are going the same amount of days, and off the same amount, it doesn't matter when the "off" days are, I think that it all comes to expel not liking change.
Parent	It's not that I have no opinion or am neutral, I am unsure and need more specific information about what the balanced calendar would look like.
Parent	It's only 8 days! What's the rush, and why push so hard.
Parent	Its proven better Education WITH Academic retention
Parent	It's proven to increase student retention of information and our kids need all the help they can get. What worked for me 30+ years doesn't seem viable for today's world. Oppositions of child care... all can make a shift, as has many other communities - they won't lose days to care for our kids, the days will just change. It could make hiring personnel a little more challenging as it won't be "summer" job for older teens as much a year round. But its doable.
Parent	It's time for knox county to catch up with other cities
Parent	I've been in favor of this since my child started school, and he's now in 6th grade. I personally know other teachers and students (along with the parents) that have been on this type of schedule, and they loved it.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	I've done the research on a balanced calendar via peer-reviewed journal articles and can find no empirical support for the idea of a balanced calendar. I would like the district to spend time and other resources elsewhere and simply do not support the idea of a balanced calendar.
Parent	I've not seen a bit of evidence that year-round school has a positive impact on learning outcomes. You're making this up.
Parent	Just as there are success stories with this, there are also schools that are moving back to a traditional calendar. I think students will have an excuse to let go of information learned in a previous term because now they have a break.
Parent	Just don't do it.
Parent	Just please use the two major vacation holidays in the schedule when parents are off in particular Labor Day
Parent	Just re-implement full week Fall Break
Parent	Keep it up with the program
Parent	Kids do not want to be in school in the dead heat of summer. They will not have the attention span, they will be hot, wanting to go outside etc. this calendar is only beneficial for the learning challenged kids and the kids who need more constant supervision bc of behavioral problems. The smart and well behaved children are now having their summer taken away. If you want a year round school, do like Oak Ridge did and start with a couple in the lower income areas. If a family really wants year round, they can choose to go to that school, but don't punish everyone for the slower learners.
Parent	Kids have to grow up too soon as it is. Let them have full summers to go visit grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins and go to the beach and build family memories. You have moved spring break so soon in the year that you have to go to Florida to have warm weather (so at least a 3 hour longer drive than to Myrtle Beach and drive because we are a family of 6, we can't afford flights). Move spring break back out at least 3 weeks so that we can enjoy spring weather not winter weather. Get rid of some of the student holidays and add those back to summer, the teachers and kids don't need a break. Teachers signed up to teach, they knew what kind of schedule they were getting into when they decided to become teachers. But give the kids back the days in the summer so they feel like they really did have a break. You've changed the grading chart to where a B used to be a C back in the day, so you've added a strain there, you've taken days from the summer to give them days during the school year which prolongs school. Let them be kids.... let them have days to remember and reflect. Soon we will be a society that has no imagination and can't regenerate because we've not let anyone be a kid and learn how to decompress. Do not mandate my child's life already, the government does it enough on us as adults.
Parent	Kids have trouble going to sleep early enough on school nights during daylight savings time. The balanced calendar would reduce opportunities for enrichment when the weather is nice enough to take advantage of them. I feel strongly that there are already too many interruptions during the school year that affect learning continuity. Having more breaks throughout the year will keep families from developing routines.
Parent	Kids need more summer break to have rest and get ready for next year
Parent	Kids need breaks. It allows them to decompress. They do not deal with stress like adults. We expect them to perform at high standards. These breaks will give them the chance to just be a kid and will have a positive impact on them.
Parent	Kids need to be kids and enjoy summer!
Parent	Kids with no supervision get in trouble. Lower income children especially. Those just happen to be the kids whose parents work 60 hrs a week for little pay, or sit around the house asleep all day because they were up all night doing God knows what. Either way. The lower income children depend on the school system to feed and supervise them.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	Kids would like the longer breaks more frequently. They say summer is too long and they miss their friends. Also, summer camps are not that great unless you are able to pay \$\$\$\$\$. It would actually save my household money having the balanced calendar.
Parent	Knox co public schools have very little to offer. Horrible wish I could sell my house and move away from knox co.
Parent	Knox County does not have enough money to fund this experiment. And if Knox County chooses not to include the intersessions due to lack of money, there is no reason to implement this calendar.
Parent	Knox county has over the last year reduced the onsite childcare at Rocky hill to only be available during inservice days plus two less weeks in the summer. Being a single parent this has forced me to depend much more on family in order to avoid a lot more expensive options. A balanced calendar would create even more challenges and camps are not an affordable option for all parents.
Parent	Knox county needs to provide after school care in every elementary and middle school if the balanced calendar is implemented. Working tax-paying parents will need support to help with the transition.
Parent	Knox County Schools has failed to provide any concrete details of their balanced calendar plan. The length of breaks, structure of intercessions, and costs are just three things that come to mind which have yet to be adequately explained to the public.
Parent	Knox County should definitely transition to a balanced calendar!
Parent	Knox county should not use a balanced calendar school year schedule. This type of school year poses problems for Lowe income families and single parents alike to arrange day care. I do not agree with anything dealing with this type of school year schedule. I would consider moving from Knox county if they go to this type of school calendar.
Parent	Last 3-4 weeks after taps are wasted. Need to be more efficient in time currently. Last week of school is a joke
Parent	Leave it alone
Parent	Leave it be...it's always about money...find the money elsewhere or make administration take pay cuts. You are overpaid as it is.
Parent	Leave it like it is.....fix the failing inner city schools instead.....
Parent	Leave stuff alone. Children and parents have a schedule for a reason. If you go changing everything then you are not only doing it to the children the parents have to adjust everything around it. And don't jobs won't allow them to.
Parent	Leave the calendar aloneit would cause more problems than it would good !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
Parent	Leave things that have worked for years alone..
Parent	Leave what has worked alone
Parent	Less time for summer activities and possibilities to learn some extra skills during the summer.
Parent	Less time for summer activities and possibilities to learn some extra skills during the summer.
Parent	Less time spent reviewing lost information will result in more time to introduce new information. The kids can take a little more time to really understand the new material. In the long run, this will lead to an overall higher level of education. Childcare facilities will adjust their schedules to accommodate the new school schedule, and working parents will be able to find childcare. My main concern is for the teachers. They are already underpaid and under appreciated. Taking away two weeks of summer and dispersing it throughout the year may effect their ability to gain summer employment that they depend on to supplement their income. The gap between what they make and what they deserve must be bridged!!!
Parent	Less Un-Supervised Down Time for Students that could lead to troubled teens. ie: A Couple summers ago a house in our neighborhood was totally destroyed on the inside by teens with nothing to do,
Parent	Let the kids have their summer break as it is. This idea stinks and needs to be voted down!

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	Let the kids swim and play while it's warm and nice outside. Then work hard during the other months. Thanks for taking time to read these!
Parent	Lets do it
Parent	Let's do it!!
Parent	Let's do it!! I feel like we have been talking about it for years!! I understand the concern but it would be in the best interest of the students and teachers.
Parent	Let's start it THIS Fall! Great improvement!
Parent	Like our input really matters.. the superintendent and board have proven time and time again not to really care what the parents think.
Parent	Living in East TN the summer break should be during July and August which are our hottest months. I could not imagine students trying to learn during summer in East TN in classroom with out AC working. It also looks like KUB bill would be even more than another months based on temperatures.
Parent	Lots of parents and educators in our community have been speaking very favorably about the new balanced school calendar. This is a very exciting time for us!
Parent	love it
Parent	Love the idea of a balanced calendar! Summers should be around 8-9 weeks. And we need a better fall break. Two days doesn't help.
Parent	Love the idea of balanced calendar wish it went in place years ago
Parent	Luckily, we are a family where one parent stays at home. We have the ability to adapt to a balanced calendar. The working families will have an adjustment to make.
Parent	made students at elementary , middle and high school schedule more like college schedule.
Parent	major concerns for and against previously noted
Parent	Make childcare available and we are on board.
Parent	Makes childcare very hard
Parent	Makes Homeschooling even MORE appealing!!
Parent	Makes summer easier
Parent	Many of the summer camps we rely on for childcare are staffed by university students who will not be available if camps are offered during inter sessions. This may pose challenges for camps that try to adapt to provide options for parents during the intercession breaks.
Parent	Many of us are transplants to West Knoxville. As is, our school calendar does not fit with much of the rest of the country (ie. different Spring Break, early start/end to Summer Break) which makes it very difficult to see extended family. Going year round will make it even harder. Going year round will also be disruptive to our children's sense of routine and I feel time will be lost getting them back into routine. Yes a long summer break is also disruptive but it is one break and we are meant to plan accordingly. It's like adjusting to time difference when traveling. Doing it once is much easier than doing it multiple times. You don't stay in your old time zone thinking that you will travel back soon anyways. Kids are not going to hold onto their school routine thinking it's only a couple of weeks. They will slip and it will just make it harder. Also, please consider those of us volunteering for free at our schools. We run hard during the academic year and need a break too! Our school has a phenomenal PTA, but we may loose some volunteers if we are going year round.
Parent	Many Seniors are already graduating and starting college or some type school after high school now and not staying the whole school year and I believe they are missing out on some activities that they will regret. This balanced schedule would provide a basis to experience more of there Elementary, Middle & High School years.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	Maryville schools, Blount County and at least Johnson City schools are already on a balanced calendar. Therefore, obtaining empirical data reflecting the benefits/struggles of a balanced calendar should be easily made available. Either the "local schools" that are already using a balanced calendar already show dramatic scholastic improvement or the data does not reflect dramatic scholastic improvement. Why not make that data available to the public which will either support your position of the benefits of a balanced calendar or it won't. Why not learn from the experience of others before we make a huge decision such as this ?
Parent	Maybe you should try to put more time into teaching practical knowledge and not watering down your material with subject matter that pertains to no usable life skills. This seems like a way to benefit the county and not the children
Parent	More breaks could be beneficial if teachers reported grades before the breaks and parents could actually see them. Parent portal is gone and I don't have access to my bikes grades he has to log on and show them to me
Parent	Most studies show that balanced calendars/year round schools do not have any higher of a success rate with retention of learning during a break than traditional calendar schools.
Parent	Mostly because you work against the working family I am opposed. We have a very good aftercare program working at Rocky Hill Elementary School and the system will not let them operate during breaks except for summer. What are we to do? How about we bring our kids to your offices?
Parent	My biggest concern with the balanced schedule is child care during breaks. Will the school be working with after school programs and summer break programs to provide continuous care for the children with as little hardship for families as possible. I really want a more balanced calendar for my child.
Parent	My child does better with a routine, and being out for such a long time at summer makes it really difficult for him to get back on track when school starts back. I think the shorter summer break with intermittent breaks to regroup would be very beneficial to the majority of students.
Parent	My child does well in school. However, for the children who need extra help, I can see why a balanced calendar could be beneficial. I do worry about the longer breaks during the school year. Many parents can not afford child care.
Parent	my child doesn't attend public school, so this decision doesn't affect me at all, but as a former teacher I do not see a single benefit and think it does more harm than good.
Parent	My child has to have a consistent schedule in order to function. He does not do well with any disruption to this.
Parent	My child is in high school and would only be affected by the change for one year; therefore, less of an impact on my household as compared to others. High school students would not necessarily be affected by child care issues. Also, I'm not confident that the majority of the students would take advantage of the additional downtime (intersessions) to catch up on academic problem areas.
Parent	My child is one that struggles with maintaining her levels during the summer. Then in the Fall it is a struggle for her to keep up.
Parent	My child plays football and is at the school throughout the entire summer. So in theory this is no different.
Parent	My child would be a senior the (proposed earliest) year the balanced calendar would be implemented and I am concerned how this would impact my child before beginning college.
Parent	My child would like to have the balanced calendar.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

<p>How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?</p>	<p>Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>My children do not want to move to a balanced calendar either. They feel that a 6 week break would not feel like summer and would not give them enough time to recharge for the next year. As a teacher, I can tell you that students have usually forgotten material after a 2 week break. I teach special needs children. My county missed 3 weeks of school in February, and returning was hard. Students had to relearn the material we were working on. I can't imagine having that length of break every 9 weeks. Parents of our CDC children might have a particularly hard time finding someone to watch their special needs children during breaks. Also, having school during June and August would potentially cost the school more in air conditioning costs.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>My children get into a new learning routine over the summer, and they do a LOT of reading, which they don't do during the school year (they're too tired to do more work). I worry they wouldn't have enough time in the summer (on a balanced calendar) to make the most of alternative learning activities.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>My children hated this at their old school. They do better with the current schedule and they also behave better with the current schedule.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>My children have always struggled to get back into the school routine after summer break. They also get burned out as the year progresses so a break in between would be great. I feel like everyone, including child care facilities will adjust to the a new balanced calendar in time.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>My children never complain about going to school, but love knowing that days off will be soon. Also I worry about them falling behind and the middle of the year intervention time to focus on the areas that are a struggle would be amazing.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>My children will love this!</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>My children will not be in school by the time this would take place. The only issue i would have would be less summer break. I would like the time off between semesters. I'm neutral on this subject though.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>My children's father lives not only out of state, but across the country. This would extremely complicate visitation and the expense we have. It is strongly possible that we could not afford for them to have as much time with their father. Their time with their father is more important than any of the issues you have listed as benefits to the schedule change.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>My concern is as a single parent is is very hard to find someone to help me with my child when there is a winter, fall and spring break. Because some of these locations are closed also when there is no school open.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>My concern is for those who have to find child care for the breaks</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>My concerns are disruption to child care and necessity to arrange this for two 2-week periods of time every spring and fall and a more narrow window to plan summer activities, vacation, etc.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>My concerns are the effect on AP courses and additional cost for enrichment/remediation! My biggest wish is for a longer fall break than the current break offers bc families can't take beach vacations during spring break due to the excessive partying of teens & young adults at most beach locations the entire month of March. If Knox County doesn't move to a balanced calendar...please consider at least a week break in the fall!</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>My family consists of my husband and I and 5 children. We have a student in college and another entering in the fall. With our senior student graduating and entering college, that will leave us with one student in the Knox County school system and 2 other students in a different system. For our family, that will result in potentially 4 different school calendars to work around. Family and family time are vitally important to the wellbeing and upbringing of our kids. Family time has been drastically encroached upon over the years with the increasing amount of academic requirements placed upon the kids and teachers. Please help protect the family and the time they have to spend together. VOTE AGAINST THE BALANCED CALENDAR</p>

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	My family in West. Tn is on this schedule and they all love it. I truly hope Knox Co. does this!
Parent	My family utilizes PT/OT/and Special Needs majors college students for child care due to the fact that our youngest son (enrolled at Cedar Bluff Developmental Preschool) has disabilities and both parents work full time. He is not able to be enrolled in a typical day care due to his disabilities. A Balanced Calendar will make it extremely difficult to secure full time child care for two week periods during the mid-year breaks.
Parent	My first preference would be to have 1 week off for fall break. Perhaps having a week plus 2 days for fall and spring break to give the teachers inservice time and a vacation too.
Parent	My friends whose children are already using a balanced calendar in other cities complain about it because the longer, more frequent breaks are not really time off from the routine - children's homework and sports schedules still go on through breaks - so essentially "time off" from school is basically eliminated for students and families. Everyone needs time off to recharge. And summer is also a great time for kids to try something new - things they don't have time to do during the regular school year, such as learning to play an instrument, taking up a new sport, volunteering at a summer work camp, going to science or nature camp, taking an art class or going to governors school. Please don't take away this opportunity!
Parent	My girls like the idea.
Parent	My HS student is already on the "Block" system and hard for students that need a slower class. Her math and other related subjects are already 8 mos to a yr apart and knowledge is lost. I wish it were only 55 days apart. The balanced calendar won't change this.
Parent	My husband is a teacher so I am in favor of a balanced calendar.
Parent	My initial response was to oppose this; however, after giving it some consideration the idea actually seems to make more sense that children would thrive better in a more balanced environment, as we all would. Now if we can just get corporate America to jump on board with a 4 day work week and 3 day weekend-life would be perfect!
Parent	My main complaint is shorter summer and kids who have learning differences having to go to school year round, even during breaks. I would support a traditional calendar with a longer fall break, however.
Parent	My main concern is childcare.
Parent	My main concern is that with fewer weeks in the summer, there would be much less opportunity for earning money and having any sort of break. Furthermore, if there are snow days that accumulate like this year, there would be the possibility of being off 2 weeks for snow then 2 weeks for spring break. That would be very hard for AP classes etc.
Parent	My mother taught in a county that has a balanced calendar and it worked well for everyone.
Parent	My older kids, one starting High school and the other a Senior have both commented they would like the balance calendar to keep from forgetting and having to start over on lessons.
Parent	My only comment would be that summer break is still too long. I believe more instructional days should be added, so that teachers have time in the classroom to teach subjects and ideas that are glossed over now due to time constraints.
Parent	My only major opinion is child care. As long as I know the place my child resides right now during after school & holiday & dinner breaks is asking you accommodate to the changes I am all for it but being a single parent with minimal help leaves me at the mercy of child care facilities
Parent	My only opposable point, seems to be the case of constant structure and opportunities during breaks. Creativity employing previous quarters subjects should be encouraged, which creates a balanced calendar by definition
Parent	My opposition due to the summer job problem would be universal and employers would have to adjust for everyone so it would lessen the problem. I like the fact that the kids would not be so bored in the summer and would not need so much reteaching of skills. I'm curious as to when the summer break would be.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	My opposition is primarily the result of the conflict with my child's summer athletic calendar, however she is a member of the class of 2017 so the effect on us is minimal.
Parent	My son forgets so much during summer break, I think it would help with retaining lessons.
Parent	My son has ADHD and I feel that I balanced schedule will make him more stressed out
Parent	My son is ADHD and shorter time away from school is a big help for him.
Parent	My son would do better in a year-long school calendar. I don't see the number of transitions here being any more or any less than the current number. As for enrichment, it is REALLY hard for 2 parent working families to find summer programs that are really really unique and also provide hours that accomodate an 8-5 or 9-6 schedule. I would really worry that those "enrichment" programs would still be 9-12, leaving my children unable to participate. Please please try to encourage these programs to offer longer hours... without charging an arm & a leg.
Parent	My sons are good students and even agree with the element of boredom by 35 to 40 days into Summer. Active children are ready for a transition to organized structure at regular intervals. We're losing them to an xbox gaming cave in the summer. When the children are ready to go to school before Summer ends, they are already ahead of the adults. And, they enjoy the extended breaks. Summer break is too long, that's from my own kids at 13 and 16. Let's catch up.
Parent	My support or opposition to a balanced calendar would be determined by the actual dates that are proposed for this calendar. If the summer is solely the month of July, then I am strongly against. If the summer is split between a portion of June & July then I would consider. I think at this point enough information has not been provided to parents/taxpayers to make an informed decision on this matter. How much additional revenue will this cost the school system and the city/county government? Is this really the best usage of funds?
Parent	My understanding is there has been no conclusive evidence that a balanced calendar will help academics. So my question is why would we go to all of this trouble and disrupt our schedules and make things harder on local businesses when we aren't even sure it is going to make a difference? Our family will be mentally and financially affected by this change just in the area of childcare alone! I currently don't need childcare on school days and hire a college aged child that keeps my younger children during the summers and Christmas, and we scramble during fall and spring break. She would not be available for the longer breaks and my husband and I do not have enough vacation days from work to cover it. Who is going to keep my kids? No day care is going to take them for 4 weeks a year.
Parent	My wife and I are split
Parent	My wife and I both work full time which makes it difficult to provide care during long breaks. Due to the length of Winter break, we alternate days off and share in watching our children . The balanced calendar would essentially create 3 Winter breaks per year. We have planned vacations in the past during Spring break and/or Fall break, but my wife and I don't have enough vacations days to keep our children home for 6 weeks of break outside of summer.
Parent	My youngest child is currently an 11th grader- I doubt the change will occur before she graduates.
Parent	My youngest child will graduate from high school in 2016, and our family will not be affected should there be a change in Knox County. With that in mind, my opinion may not mean much, but I would support the balanced calendar. I am not clear on what is meant by 'enrichment' opportunities during breaks, but I would be interested how the budget would be adjusted to pay for additional learning. The potential benefit of these opportunities should outweigh the additional cost. If scheduled breaks are filled by activities that engage and teach, it becomes an almost, year-round calendar. When we become adults, we work with an undivided calendar and our traditional school year does not reflect this. A balanced calendar might be considered better preparation for what lies ahead.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	Need a 5-day winter break for vacations that aren't during the busy holiday season.
Parent	Need to correspond to UT and Pellissippi breaks for family and dual enrollment.
Parent	Need to make child care arrangements during breaks is the biggest issue for parents in my opinion. I think the children will adjust fine.
Parent	Needs more exposure.
Parent	never supportive of anything that serves a small minority compared to the majority.
Parent	no
Parent	No "proven" data has been shown concerning student improvement. No plans have been developed for the remediation programs. Childcare concerns are an enormous issue. What about staffing issues for additional programs? What about in-service requirements? Too many unanswered questions exist. Knox County is not ready for the balanced calendar plan.
Parent	No additional comments
Parent	NO AND MOVE DADDY MAC BACK UP NORTH!!111111
Parent	No Balanced Calander
Parent	NO BALANCED CALENDAR!!!!!!! I do hope that McIntyre takes all this into consideration but I don't believe that he will, he seems to be a my way or the highway type person and I am sure that he wants this to be a balanced calendar system.
Parent	No benefits to balanced calendar
Parent	No considerations has been discussed regarding how a changed high school calendar may negatively impact summer internships between high school and college.
Parent	NO NO No. what research is there to show the benefits, especially long-term, despite the cost, of implementing a balanced calendar? what research is there to show learning increases, especially in secondary levels?
Parent	No one is talking about increased costs or providing any factual data to show WHY it would be better
Parent	No published price tag for a summer break that's only 12 days shorter. Almost two weeks will not make a difference in the amount of knowledge retention.
Parent	No purpose for frequent breaks.
Parent	No shorter than 8 week summer vacation. 8 weeks needed in summer to achieve full recharge as well as travel.
Parent	No thanks!
Parent	No way...
Parent	No work during breaks. No projects, reports etc. defeats the purpose. We deal with it now
Parent	No, no no!!!! This is a horrible idea!
Parent	Non
Parent	None
Parent	none
Parent	None
Parent	None
Parent	NOOOOOOOOOOOO

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	Not a good idea. It's just a way for the school board to appear to be doing something useful, without considering how it will impact the families throughout the year. My suggestion would be to take a few days from the summer break and have a week long fall break like the week you get for spring. Just for example, this year and last year due to the poor winter weather the kids missed two weeks of school. This in and of itself was highly disruptive to the families with school age children because now they have to make arrangements with work or child care that they weren't counting on. Changing to a balanced calendar is a bad idea. Do you really think kids are going to seek out extra help or enrichment during a break? If you believe that then you need to see a psychologist. Who's going to pay for this extra help and enrichment? Will it increase our taxes, will families have to foot the bill for it? Who exactly will be allowed to get this help? Is it just struggling students or can anyone get the extra help. If you are doing your jobs correctly and actually educating our children as opposed to teaching to State Standardized Tests, then you wouldn't have to consider just a poor plan. Children have been going to school on the traditional type calendars for years, and they have seemed to turn out all right. Do not move to a balanced calendar, because if parents wanted a balanced calendar they would have said so a long time ago.
Parent	Not all children from split families/homes will have the same academic calendar. This will result in delayed learning, lower state scores on academic testing and general disruption especially for children with IEP's.
Parent	Not all children live with both biological parents. Less summer break mean less time the non-custodial parent gets with child/children. Not all non-custodial and custodial parents live in the Same state. That means more money out of pocket to arrange different visitation and asking for holiday breaks off from work. Which we all know is hard to ask for. Not every child or parents live the ideal lives and this is a burden for many. Strongly oppose balanced calendar.
Parent	Not at this time.
Parent	Not broke don't fix it.
Parent	Not enough benefits for the trouble. 2 weeks now but if you open the door I know there will be more changes coming. Leave these poor kids alone and let them enjoy heir time off.
Parent	Not for it at all. As previously stated, I will home school my child.
Parent	Not In favor of balanced calendar at all. Where u work high school kids work also and it will mess up the way not only our business runs but lots of others. It will cost more money to keep schools hearted/ cooled since the heaters and air will be running all year round and not turned off for traditional summer break. Day day centers will ha e a difficult time running g.
Parent	Not in favor of the "balanced calendar" as it appears in the graph. Kids need summer breaks. They also, however, need more frequent and longer breaks during the school year, too. This needs work.
Parent	Not in favor.
Parent	Not much change - no much value.
Parent	Not much difference between the two calendars.
Parent	not sure if the school will provide instructional assistance during the 2week breaks?
Parent	Nothing else to add.
Parent	nothing other than to add again -- hope you coordinate with area schools to link up fall breaks and spring break.
Parent	Noting that there are cons and benefits, I don't have a strong feeling. I disagree with the concept of it aiding children noting loss of learning over the duration, but that begins to become philosophical.
Parent	Observation: Questions in this survey seem weighted towards the potential positive impact and benefits to students, and perhaps biased against the possible real negative impacts on some parents/family - despite which, I still strongly agree with implementation.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	Of a real change...this watered down version. I am in favor of but think it is not nearly what is needed.
Parent	Of all the things Knox County could do to improve their schools, this is probably the worst idea and waste of resources.
Parent	Of schools that have switched to a balanced calendar, the amount of improvement hasn't been significant. To switch to a balanced calendar isn't a wise use of resources.
Parent	Of the two balanced calendar optioning that have been presented, I am mildly opposed to the more modest change, and strongly opposed to the fully balanced calendar.
Parent	On a personal side, I like the traditional schedule, but I feel the balanced is better for the kids, which is more important.
Parent	Once families see how it works they will love it.
Parent	One concern is that there would not be childcare during breaks; however, since counties like Blount County have adopted balanced calendars, many organizations have implemented day camps, etc. to fill the vacuum. In fact, it has created more child care camps/opportunities.
Parent	One of my children struggles a little in school. Having to tell him that while everyone else is on break, that child would have to attend enrichment sessions, would cause great distress for and with that child. This child already has decided he doesn't like school. Making him go "extra days" will only plant that thought further into his mind.
Parent	One of the pros listed enrichment opportunities during the longer breaks between quarters. How would this be possible? Families who could not afford camps or provide transportation would not be able to participate if this is an outside-of-the-school opportunity. If it would be an in-school event, teachers would not get a break. Or this would increase costs to hire additional staff if someone other than teachers would be facilitating the enrichment classes. If parents provided for their own students enrichment opportunities, the less advantaged children could be left further behind if parents could not afford enrichment classes or provide transportation to these classes. If parents are providing the enrichment, again the less advantaged students might be left out due to parents' jobs or lack of home supervision and tutoring, etc.
Parent	Only 2 people are allowed to be off at the same time at my work which makes scheduling very difficult. I'm really afraid that the balanced calendar will result in less family vacation time as summer is the easiest time for me to take leave from work. I'm also sad to think of less time for summer camp which my son absolutely loves.
Parent	Only comments is the one already stated - the hope that teachers will not pile on homework and allow the students to have a rest during the scheduled breaks.
Parent	Only in favor for 10 day interval breaks during school, nothing longer. And nothing shorter than the 43 week break for summer.
Parent	Only in favor of the nine and two schedule, not in favor of ever moving to the nine and three schedule.
Parent	Only interested in the 10 day breaks with 43 day summer. The 15 day breaks is too much and takes away too much summer.
Parent	Only the plan that was shown not the original plan to have a 28 or whatever day summer!!!
Parent	Only wish it was for next year!!! :-)
Parent	Opposed to the current proposal...break periods are too long!
Parent	Originally, I was strongly opposed to balanced calendar idea because of the many summer non-school activities that could be negatively impacted, but realize now that the summer break is only slightly reduced, so I think most of the activity organizers could easily adjust to accommodate effectively. More material breaks in fall and spring could allow time for quality enrichment travel/activities, during seasons that may be more conducive to such travel/activities (as compared to summer season).
Parent	Other schools do it. Looks like peer pressure to me.
Parent	Our children are already overweight

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	Our family has seen many benefits on a balanced calendar while attending a Putnam County school, and our students appreciated more frequent down time, which allowed them to be more fully engaged at the honor's level.
Parent	Our family members in the Indianapolis area are currently on a balanced schedule both as teachers and students. They feel that there are have been no negatives that they were unable to adjust to with minimal effort. They also felt that the longer breaks provided greater opportunity for their family to experience more family time together through travel and off campus learning opportunities. They do see an impending issue with summer employment. Their children will be responsible for paying for a percentage of their college tuition and fewer days in the summer would lessen their earning ability overall.
Parent	Our family strongly supports the balanced calendar. We know it works and is the best option for our school system. Change isn't easy but once implemented, others will see the benefits outweigh the negatives.
Parent	Our family would love a balanced calendar!!!
Parent	Our ONLY issues with the proposed balanced calendar are child care and inconvenience in regard to work schedules/vacation availability.
Parent	Our primary concern in our household is the change in child care for us. It is quite expensive to maintain child care in a household that both parents work.
Parent	Our support is contingent upon the quarterly breaks being true breaks from assigned schoolwork. Our concern is that teachers and administrators will give out assignments to be completed over the breaks and the opportunity for students to relax and recharge will be obliterated.
Parent	Overall this brings change we the parents & students are not use to. We are going to effected by the new decision, sometimes you have to change to move forward in success. The question should be addressed to the students to find out what is the most beneficial to them.
Parent	Parents (and children) don't want this change and feel very strongly against it. It is very frustrating to be at the mercy of others to have this decision forced on us & to then be stuck with the outcome we don't want. We have not talked to a single parent that is in favor of this change. The two week breaks in the fall and spring will be wasted time for students and very disruptive in everyone's schedules. Having those 2 weeks off will be disruptive to the students as they more often must adjust to being in or out of school. This is not a positive change for an otherwise very successful school system.
Parent	Parents need more information regarding the balanced calendar.
Parent	Parents will have to provide child care for their children the same number of days per year. Day care, babysitters, etc. will accommodate. I think that the deciding factor in making this decision is what is best for our children's education.
Parent	paying for child care may be a problem for some and I fear that "enrichment" will be taken out of the current school calendar and offered during the breaks instead. Then, there will be no breaks and what is the point?
Parent	People are afraid of change. What it comes down to is what is best for the kids? Things like childcare and other scheduling conflicts will work out...they will adapt to the publics demands. Those things should not influence this decision. We should do what it best for our children's' education, not what is convenient for the adults! Summer would only be 12 days shorter! People need to look at the big picture!
Parent	People who are divorced will have to spend court costs and lawyer fees to redo parenting plans, to adjust to a new calendar system.
Parent	Perhaps for the optional after-school enrichment style programs available at some of the Knox Co. Schools could be offered during the longer breaks. This option would be a help to working families that may not be able to take off time for the break and creates an opportunity for new skill development or remediation outside of budgeted instructional days.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	Personally I am more busy in the summer and the other school breaks might benefit our family vacations.
Parent	Personally I highly disagree as a parent we should have a calendar because my children get to spend less time with realtives and have fun.I believe that the balanced calendar is useful but not helpful.
Parent	Please adopt this. Our children are struggling to keep up with the academic competitiveness of the world. Lets vote to give them the best chance.
Parent	Please allow our children to continue with a traditional schedule. It works very well, and it would be very hard for us to switch.
Parent	Please be proactive in addressing problems. One that I know of is after school programs like Kids Place having access to school facilities during breaks.
Parent	Please consider a better system for morning drop off or a later starting time.
Parent	Please consider adopting this measure! A balanced calendar would greatly benefit our family.
Parent	Please consider how the balanced calendar would affect the entire community if it is implented. I hope the opposition voices are heard with the same authority as the supportive voices.
Parent	Please consider parenting plans parents. Court costs are extreme! Daycare needs!
Parent	Please develop a balanced calendar draft and traditional calendar draft with dates for the 2016-17 school year so the community can compare.
Parent	Please do not change to balance Calendar for High Schoolers, already the HS kids start summer when it is too early, end summer when it is very hot, fall break before Christmas holiday is a waste. Prolonging spring break in Knox County HS means before school year ends in a semester system the courses will remain incomplete, and the kids will sit for EOC or Final exam while half finished half learned subjects are never learned thoroughly. Rather a long summer helps parents and kids to go on a vacation, visit colleges, take international trips, study for ACT/SAT, weather good enough to utilize the valuable parent children time in a productive manner. Please do not change from traditional to a balanced calendar, so swiftly, rather take 2-3 more years to understand what the change means to poor working parents, middle class or high middle class working mothers who has a full time job, all parents from different parts of the society and all different levels of school kids.
Parent	Please do not do implement a balanced calendar, we currently have a good calendar!
Parent	PLEASE DO NOT DO THIS!!! I have friends from other states that did this for one year and it was a complete failure. They returned to regular schedule the very next year. The PROBLEM is that you are making a decision for the ENTIRE county when the entire COUNTY does not have problems. Decisions need to be made by a school by school basis. That is the problem that needs to be fixed
Parent	Please do not impose the balanced calendar. There is not strong evidence it will help the children and it would be an unnecessary change. We have family that lives out of town and they have a traditional calendar. It is nice to have the entire summer to plan for trips to see them. It would not help to go during the other breaks as they would be in school at that time.
Parent	Please do not take away my child's summer. The situation is not broken, do not try and fix what is not broken.
Parent	Please do not take away the blessing of family time in the summer. Trips and vacations and reunions are already tough enough to fit in without shortening the weeks available to do this.
Parent	Please do not take away what little free time children have in the summer!
Parent	Please do Not try to fix something that is not broken!!!
Parent	Please do this! I think the students and teachers will benefit greatly from this. Childcare and other such things can be arranged.
Parent	Please do this!!
Parent	Please do this!!! My family begs you! Bring us out of the middle ages!

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	Please DONT do it. Actually prefer starting after Labor Day and going to beginning of June
Parent	Please don't do it. It is going to cost our family money in childcare and custody court battles if this is implemented. The current system is not broken. In my opinion, there is no real benefit to making this change and will only hurt some families. It will hurt them emotionally, if they have to go through court for custody visitation issues. It will hurt financially, regardless.
Parent	Please don't do this to working families. When the schools were closed due to the weather this winter, it created all kinds of stress for our family because our places of employment were not closed. If the balanced calendar is adopted, that would cause exactly the same kinds of problems for us because it's unlikely any camps would be available during the many breaks throughout the year.
Parent	Please don't mess up what we have. It works and adding more is gonna be hard on everyone. The teachers need their breaks also. They countdown those days before summer break. Think about the unrealistic things.
Parent	Please don't take summer away. There is not one month that the students don't get a few days off anyway.
Parent	Please don't. Let the kids be kids. We put too much pressure on them already.
Parent	please explain how the transition will be enforced between the current calander and the balanced calander...will the summer break in 2016 be normal length with the following summer being shortened?
Parent	Please go to this calendar as soon as possible.
Parent	Please go to this calendar. It just makes sense for everyone!
Parent	Please help bring balance to the lives of families. The balanced calendar will help our children thrive and provide a better overall learning experience.
Parent	Please ignore the noise from people that do not understand the benefits. This is what is best for our kids.
Parent	Please implement the balanced calendar immediately!!
Parent	Please keep the Traditional Calendar especially for the working parents and the ones who have to arrange daycare
Parent	Please leave the school calendar the way it always has been. This new calendar will disrupt local jobs, summer pools, vacations, summer jobs for teens, childcare, etc. Please stop trying to reinvent the wheel with our kids education. School boards are always trying to try some new thing and then years down the road see it doesn't work.
Parent	Please listen to your parents and students!
Parent	Please make sure you have enrichment opportunities for all academic level of students, including advanced. Please do not limit these activities to indoor only. Make time for an educational hands-on field trip during school in summer like visiting a manufacturing facility or science or history museum for 4th grade and up. Give opportunities for students and parents to give feedback on enrichment activities.
Parent	Please make winter break longer and fall break one week.
Parent	Please pass this, I think it would help students adapt to what they will experience in the world after school.
Parent	Please plan out carefully and give parents a lot of advance notice. Also, give the option to roll back after year or so if it doesn't work.
Parent	Please PLEASE take into consideration the effect this will have on working families . It is already hard enough to find childcare during he current breaks we have! I'm not sure how we would manage to find child care for the longer breaks.
Parent	Please read number 6 written answer.
Parent	please see first page of survey
Parent	Please see my previous comment. I am in favor if Spring break were later March/early April, and summer break started in June instead of May.
Parent	Please see previous note.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	please start asap. I am looking forward to it changing.
Parent	Please stop changing things and let the teacher teach. We put people on the noon and in space under the old system ,teach them reading,wrighten math,spelling.They will learn to think .
Parent	Please stop telling us that there is less learning loss. This is speculation only and nothing has proven this statement You take summers from 55 to 43 days and all of a sudden there is magic retention? There is a rhythm to the current schedule. Taking two week breaks throughout the year is not only too long, in my opinion, but gets my kids out of their learning rhythm. It is of little interest to me what Oak Ridge and Maryville do with their schedule. If we thought it was so wonderful, we would move there. In fact, I know know more people who have moved to Knoxville to not have their calendar
Parent	Please take into consideration local breaks of major universities. I would love to vacation with all my children at the same time.
Parent	Please try to provide some sort of day care or supervision access
Parent	Please, please, please adopt the balanced calendar!
Parent	Please, please, please don't do this. There is no evidence that it truly enhances learning, as the school system admitted in the Karns balanced calendar meeting. It is clearly just someone's agenda, for what reason I can't see. Children benefit from a longer summer break. School days are long, many nights are filled with homework. Testing puts a tremendous stress on our kids. They need a full summer break to decompress and just BE KIDS, enjoy vacations, church camp, sleeping in late, whatever they want to do. The winter break is just long enough to disrupt bedtime schedules and routines, particularly for families with younger kids. Doing that three times each school year will create havoc for some families. Also, it will hurt families, including ours, financially because it will limit our teens' time for summer jobs, which are very important for helping to pay for college. Less money that our kids can make over the summer means less money for college, which seems to be counterproductive in a school system that is trying to raise graduation and college admission rates.
Parent	Please, strongly consider all options before mandating this across the county
Parent	Please. This is the best idea
Parent	Potential burn out for teachers if they are the ones teaching/tutoring during the breaks
Parent	Proponents of the balanced calendar claim that it will help prevent loss of knowledge during the summer months. However, you are only shortening summer by 2 weeks. I doubt that is going to do anything regarding loss of knowledge. Also, Knox County claims it will provide enrichment during the extra time off. What kind of enrichment? Where? What about students who need transportation? I attended the forum at Central High. All of those questions were asked, but there were no answers. The school district needs to have concrete answers to parents' questions before it asks parents to commit to this. I have little faith that the members of our school board will have these details worked out before they vote on this.
Parent	Prove to me that students going to school more days out of the year will make them smarter and I just might agree with you on a balanced school year
Parent	Put it to a vote in november. Please make public the results of this survey
Parent	Put out information on how snow schedules/ cancellations would work.
Parent	Question 7 should read: Are you for or against adopting a balanced calendar for Knox County Schools? I do not support adopting a balanced calendar.
Parent	question 9 is confusing
Parent	Question number seven cannot be answered accurately: there are two items of discussion wrapped into one response. It will,produce flawed data that can be swung in favor of either opinion.
Parent	Question? Do the teachers also receive the two weeks off as well? If not, then I don't agree. They need time too.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	Quit trying to be cute and come up with trendy little things to make it seem like you all are doing something. Just teach the kids and emphasize to parents their involvement is as vital as anything else.
Parent	read my previous comment.
Parent	Reduce the number of breaks given during the school year. The fewer disruptions the better. It will be difficult to get a child to bed during long Summer days when it is still light outside at bedtime.
Parent	Regarding the cons, I don't think some people have considered that childcare facilities would offer programs during breaks the same way many do now during school breaks. The more communities that adopt balanced calendar than the less disruptive it will be for people with calendars that don't coincide.
Parent	Research data results from other schools systems that have implemented a balanced calendar shows that often costs go up and the BC does not deliver on the promises made.
Parent	Respectfully request that you do not go to balanced calendar
Parent	Ridiculous. Just because other districts or systems have done it, doesn't make it right for Knox County.
Parent	School has more pressing needs than this calendar change. Learning fundamentals is important. Get rid of this common core thinking nonsense. Koreans, Japanese, and Germans are passing us by.
Parent	School is a struggle for my child so I feel this would help him being out of school for so long in the summer. Returning to school in the fall is a huge issue for him.
Parent	Securing quality child care is the obstacle. Children will at home alone while patents are working.
Parent	See my notes on previous question.
Parent	See other comments.
Parent	See previous comment
Parent	see previous comments
Parent	See previous comments on earlier pages. Best regards and good luck with the evaluation effort.
Parent	see previous comments. From reading a few articles, the balanced schedule has not achieve the desired impact. Seems like another attempt by the education community to improve the education standing and with each change from "no child left behind", outcome based education, common core, etc. Each new strategy as only worsened the overall educational standing. Maybe it is time to refocus on education and providing the means to teach students how to think through areas rather than assume it is the schedule or the students. Allow administration to hold accountable those teachers not performing well. You do not need a standardized test to do this. A decent principal, just like a decent manager in a company, knows who is or who is not performing well or teaching well. All of the changes in approach are having the biggest impact on the students performance stop changing the system and revert back to the approaches that seem to work (Mid 80s and earlier)
Parent	see previous page for comments. ? about whether High Schools and Elementary schools across the board would all adopt the Balance Calendar schedule.
Parent	See prior comments on the costs of a balanced calendar.
Parent	Seems like a great idea!! We all want our children to succeed & the implement calendar will only help our children successes in the future! 🍀☺️ children!
Parent	Serious enrichment opportunities would need to be present, including those that would allow parent involvement.
Parent	Shame on this school board for allowing things to get this far.
Parent	Shorter, more frequent breaks will be more conducive to the overall learning environment.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	Shouldn't make other schools adopt a balanced calendar because two schools proposed it. Property and Liquor taxes currently help fund schools. How will this be funded? Tax increase? Teachers I've talked to in Maryville City schools hate balanced calendar, Alcoa City schools love it and this is Oak Ridge's first year: no opinion yet.
Parent	Show me the research that says we should do this and I'll get behind it. Until then, I remain strictly opposed to the major upheaval the change would cause.
Parent	Since daycare is a very big factor in how this will affect my schedule, I would be in favor, if daycare during this "intercessions" is provided at the site. I'm not in favor if providing daycare is going to be difficult to navigate.
Parent	Since the primary focus of schools is to increase learning, a balanced calendar would be the most beneficial to the children. Also, I think the longer breaks in the fall and spring would give everyone something to look forward to, and allow for family time and trips throughout the year, potentially when the rates for traveling are cheaper.
Parent	So all it looks like you are doing is adding a Fall Break and taking those days away from Summer Break. My opinion of a balanced calendar in the past was that the school went year round with only a small summer break.
Parent	So many have concerns about summer child care. We live in a capitalist system. Simple economics tells us that if there is a demand for something, there will be a supply. If there is a need for child care for 2 weeks in October and 2 in March, then the same organizations that create camps for summer, or provide child care, will do it during those times.
Parent	Some are worried about daycare...daycares will adjust their schedules accordingly. They will have to. People are worried about summer vacations...I think it would be great to be able to take vacations at different times throughout the year. By the end of summer, I always see parents complaining and so ready for their kids to be back in school. You shouldn't have that complaint anymore. My son will be starting school in the fall and I really hope the balanced calendar is implemented.
Parent	some disadvantages but the benefits are greater
Parent	Some kids are in summer programs that will be very beneficial to their future not the mention a working family may not be able to fight to find time to spend with their loved one to have a vacation it will put a lot of strain on the working individuals who have to put in there vacation time by seniority
Parent	Some of the states that had the "balanced calendar" are going away from it. They found no real benefit to the students, it didn't improve their grades.
Parent	Some people have said they don't want to take the long "fun" summer break away from their children. I remind them how miserable everyone is at the end of the school year, and how long it takes to ramp up at the beginning, and that a balanced calendar will also take away that pain.
Parent	somewhere between in favor and strongly in favor
Parent	Sooner the better!
Parent	Sounds as if the "breaks" aren't really breaks at all. It is my understanding if your student is not progressing in any particular area they are made to go to school while others get a much needed break. Opposed!
Parent	Specific support / study results for the benefits of a balanced calendar and budget should be provided. The school board should consider creating opportunities / venues to provide additional assistance to specific groups of children who need it. Imposing such wide spread change without proper support and just based on "potential benefit" is unwise. The worst part is, you are reducing the "true break" that my children need.
Parent	Sport activities, church activities and vacations will become a burden and I believe those extra activities are just as important as school!
Parent	Sports for athletes that play travel baseball in order to get scholarships. Will it interfere with tournaments?

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	Stay out of our lives outside of school. Give the students the survey. They are the ones who have to experience it.
Parent	Stop it.
Parent	Stop pushing false research study agenda. Maybe do something about what a student actually learns instead of how many days they attend.
Parent	Stop trying to fix that which is not broken.
Parent	Stop trying to reinvent the wheel. Tweak the things that need it but leave the smooth running machines alone. Worry more about how the kids are acting in school. Bring back common sense, courtesy, self respect and discipline that matches the child not a blanket statement of no tolerance because you are too scared of a system that caters to a government and not the kids themselves.
Parent	Strongly disagree to the balanced school year it is to hard at times just to remotivate children after the short breaks we have now. This year when it snowed and my own children were out for extended amounts of time then spring break shortly after their grades fell tremendously.
Parent	Strongly oppose balanced calendar.
Parent	Strongly opposed
Parent	Strongly Opposed really sums up my position.
Parent	STRONGLY OPPOSED!
Parent	Students finding summer jobs and working is often a better education than being in the classroom. They do not need 10 days to recover from the quarter. I would be in favor of shortening all the breaks and making summer longer so they can gain more practical experience in the workforce.
Parent	Students involved in sports or other activities will not be able to go out of town during the fall and spring breaks because the sports and other activities will still continue during that time.
Parent	Students need to go to school more. I was hoping this was going to add more school days not just more them around throughout the year. USA is already behind globally and the gap is widening every year.
Parent	Students needs to stay in school all year. schools Should have short summer breaks
Parent	Students that dual enroll or take summer classes would find conflict with the change of schedule. Also, as a former teacher I can tell you that coming off of any break was difficult. You spent a lot of time "reteaching" material and it seemed the material before a break was always harder to recall. I fear creating longer breaks during the academic year will increase this problem. The summer break whether it is shortened or not will require about the same amount of reteaching. I think you will probably lose more teaching time with lengthened breaks during the school year. It would make more sense to length winter break and add a week long fall break. The winter break isn't as hard to get over since it splits the semesters.
Parent	Students would be more focused in school. Know they only have x amount of days til next break, something to look forward to, resulting in striving at school. Not getting the burned out stage.
Parent	Summer break is much too long and kids often get in trouble as they are often alone while parents work. Too much spare time leads to inactivity = obesity and unhealthy lifestyle. Parents need to adapt and you won't make everyone happy but for the kids best interest and health, balanced calendar makes the most sense. Hopefully teachers, bus drivers and school administration will agree.
Parent	Summer break is only a 12 day difference, hardly noticeable. The major concern would be child care arrangements.
Parent	Summer break may be around 10 days less, but Spring and Fall Breaks are longer and allow more flexibility for family vacations at the breaks.
Parent	Summer is a time for alternative enrichments. It is the not the responsibility of the Knox County School system to provide this. Nor do they have the the full interest of the student to be aware of what the student needs.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	Summer is more family time and fun activities. It helps groom child into extra curricular activities and with no pressure on them. It also help people to work and get good experience.
Parent	summer learning loss alone is a great reason to move to balanced calendar. our educational achievements seem to be far below the most other parts of the country...at least at the state level. let's start moving to improve our standing in the nation.
Parent	Summer time as a kid is a chance to be a kid. The schools push harder and harder to make kids learn faster. It seems realistic to expect that kids including young adults need time to be carefree as before they know it, they are expected to be full functioning adults.
Parent	Summer time is family time. It is time for me to spend with my son. I need this time. A longer summer break also gives us time to take more trips like hiking which decreases childhood obesity.
Parent	Summer too short
Parent	Summers need to be longer so school is not starting in early August, three and four day weekends need to be eliminated, three days is plenty for fall break (years ago there was no such thing as fall break or three and four day weekends). Eliminate all the days teachers waste doing things other than teaching (party days, plays, concerts, outside presentations,etc. My kids have way to many days, especially around holidays and end of school that are not teaching days. There should be 180 teaching days. Schools waste a lot of time on non school related activities. Especially in elementary and middle school. If I ran my engineering business like Knox country runs the school system, I wouldn't have any customers. And stop trying to nickle and dime the parents that can afford to pay to cover the parents that can't. Taxes should pay for 100% of the required school materials and activities. And stop the fundraisers. My kids don't need to learn to be salesman in elementary school. They can worry about that when they are old enough to get a job. And it would be nice to end the rip off that is school pictures. Way way way to freaking expensive. And certainly not required twice a year. Pictures are just a back end fund raiser or schools.
Parent	support more/ longer breaks. intervention is not fair for all kids. either parents will not bring them, or the same children will be expected to come each time. should have more tutoring during the school day before and after. Not take kids breaks away.
Parent	taking 12 days away from the summer break and adding them to the other breaks does not seem like a huge change. it should not be a big deal for most families, but if it helps the kids to achieve better results at school, it sounds like a good idea.
Parent	Teacher Unions have better input then being one sided, Having no good real teaches input, puts all of this at a disadvantage
Parent	Teachers must given some homework to be completed during the breaks, if not the break would not help the students to stay on the path of academic success.
Parent	Teachers need summer jobs and might need the extra pay for a longer summer. Kids may also need to work.
Parent	Teachers need to be paid more for providing intervention during breaks. Would it be optional for them to work during those times?
Parent	Teachers spend several days getting kids back in school mode after breaks which would further shorten class time.
Parent	Terrible Idea
Parent	Thank you for allowing parents to speak into this with this survey.
Parent	Thank you for asking for input in a format other than a town hall-style meeting!
Parent	Thank you for asking. Would hope all the remaining counties follow what Knox County Schools does, go or no go on balanced calendars.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	Thank you for considering this change for Knox County Schools. As a parent of Elementary children, I am particularly concerned about loss of education over the summer. It concerns me that teachers have to spend the first few weeks of school bringing students up-to-date. Even though parents can try to help students retain learning, 11 weeks is a particularly long time. I am not really concerned about camps, summer jobs, child care, etc. Those elements will all work out in the end and any business that are affected by this will be able to revamp in order to follow the dollars. My major reason for supporting is to make a stable, year-round environment that encourages learning, coupled with periodic breaks and I feel like the balance calendar would achieve that goal. Thanks for your time and consideration on this major measure.
Parent	Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share my opinion.
Parent	Thank you for giving parents an opporutinty to share their thoughts before making this decision.
Parent	Thank you for reviewing our learning environment to keep up with what is best for our students. Life with those we love and building relationships is what's most important!
Parent	Thanks for keeping our schools safe
Parent	The option to have school daycare /activities during the breaks.
Parent	The 9 on 2 off schedule being looked into is by far the best option!!
Parent	The additional costs associated with the balanced calendar could be used for employing additional teachers throughout the county.
Parent	The additional funding it requires does not outweigh the benefits of the balanced calendar
Parent	The additional time throughout the year may enable more family time and more family trips to see further away family and friends.
Parent	The amount of educational material the children retain is more important than the number of days of summer activities they get to enjoy. A balanced calendar gives our children a chance to have a better future in their careers with better educational value.
Parent	The argument about loss of retention during the long summer break is fake. Student schedules are currently often set in long blocks of very few subjects during a period. Somehow nobody is worried about forgetting learned topics when no class related to a study area (e.g. mathematics) is being taken for a whole year. A rational schedule should contain all core classes all the time. "Balanced calendars" are continuously being pushed for the convenience of everyone else besides the students.
Parent	The argument that a balanced school year would require parents to make more child care arrangements is inaccurate - it is just arranging it at different times - the amount of time needed is the same whether balanced school year or traditional.
Parent	The bad weather already in some parts of the country during late fall and spring make it difficult on any family having quality outdoor time and I do not believe that this fixes the problem of children having issues of learning or schools increasing test scores.
Parent	The balanced calendar argument is hypocritical. You claim it is to reduce learning loss which occurs because of long summer break...yet in actuality a balanced calendar DOUBLES the # of long breaks. Thus a balanced calendar would double the learning loss and increase time needed for teachers to remediate students during each year.
Parent	The balanced calendar data from other school systems has been tortured to fit the mindset of those that know absolutely nothing about educating children.
Parent	The balanced calendar does not have more frequent breaks as implied in question number three.
Parent	the balanced calendar does not work very well for my family. i work at UT and my husband is in health care.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	The balanced calendar example on the first page is not the same balanced calendar I have seen implemented in other schools. The intercession breaks were 3 weeks long and the summer break was around 6 weeks. If you are going to go to a balanced calendar, do it the right way! Don't try to do a modified version!
Parent	The balanced calendar has a lot of potential, but also the possibility of simply reshuffling the same deck. It would be a shame to blow this opportunity.
Parent	The balanced calendar has pros and cons. More frequent breaks would be good, The shorter summer would be a loss. Enrichment during breaks may or may not work due to transportation and child care. Would not be fair to some children that also need a break. Need more tutoring during the school days.
Parent	The balanced calendar idea seems to completely discount the cost and difficulty parents will face. The additional breaks throughout the year will result in significantly increased child care costs, or, alternatively, forcing one parent to stay home. If the State of Tennessee were to invest millions of dollars in making child care affordable, the balanced calendar idea would make a lot of sense. But we all know this will not happen. As it is, the balanced calendar will impose an unworkable burden on parents. For that reason, it is an absolutely terrible and unrealistic idea. Honestly, I find the idea almost insulting in terms of its disregard of parental obligations and finances.
Parent	The balanced calendar is being oversold as the next great quick fix for poor test scores, low graduation rates, under-prepared college students, etc. Proponents of balanced calendar are also completely dismissive of childcare issues. The proposed calendar will be especially damaging to working mothers. Could the superintendent please survey major Knoxville employers to determine how many extend 6+ weeks of paid vacation spread out over the course of the balanced calendar? It would be helpful to know where to send resumes.
Parent	The balanced calendar is better for students. The traditional extended summer break is no longer valid to today's working households or to creating students that are prepared for college.
Parent	the balanced calendar only removes 12 school days from the current calendar, and I feel that the children and parents could benefit from frequent breaks. Vacations can be planned around the school calendar- this is the same method most parents use now
Parent	The balanced calendar schedule needs to happen. This is a great benefit to the children in Knox County.
Parent	The balanced calendar seems so similar to the calendar we have now that I wonder if the benefits would be worth the trouble to switch over.
Parent	The balanced calendar would be inconvenient for my family. It is much more negative than positive in my opinion.
Parent	The balanced calendar would create an extreme burden on parents - they must take off from work during non-summer days to care for their child, or they must hire caregivers to take care of them - both these alternatives are extremely burdensome to meet. This is a severe penalty on the parents. I expect little to no benefit to the children from the balanced calendar. In fact, I believe the opposite will occur, and we will find the balanced calendar is a detriment to learning.
Parent	The balanced calendar would greatly interfere with my home school schedule for my other child.
Parent	The benefits far outweigh any drawbacks. As with anything new there will be an adjustment period but we as parents should readily adapt as this option is best for educating our children in an effective manner.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

<p>How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?</p>	<p>Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>The benefits listed are only as accurate as the extent to which we actually enforce them. We cannot expect teachers to use 10 day breaks to help those students who are struggling to catch up AND list teachers getting a break as a benefit. Who will be helping the students? Block scheduling remains a bigger deterrent to students retaining knowledge in science, math, etc. than a balanced calendar can possibly correct. Implement balanced calendar, WITH required intercession for those struggling, and drop the block schedule system. Math, science, English should be YEAR ROUND initiatives. They are not incorporated into other subjects throughout the year enough to help with retention. I would be strongly in favor if we initiated all 3, but as is, I am neutral because I do not see how we can promise so many benefits without having the staff to accomplish the remedial sessions or the process to help alleviate the information loss from block scheduling.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>The benefits provide some excellent arguments. I have no doubt they have been voiced and strongly thought through with knowing minds and caring hearts. Truly! However, today's society is so overly driven and exhausted. I fear that succumbing to this balanced schedule would short change the concepts that are so important to growing up (play, exploration, down time, and figuring out where the mind and heart goes to with NOTHING you are obligated to do). True behavior problems will remain no matter what you hang over their head ("there's a break soon") and that doesn't affect my daughter who has an endearing affection for school and learning. True educational downfalls won't want to do extra work on breaks in my opinion and will create more work for teachers, principals and school officials who are truly trying with some families yet those families may be the least caring about the deficit of their children's learning. Just my opinion from working with ages 2-30 in gymnastics, tumble, dance and cheer. I appreciate the voice in the matter and wish good luck to those making hard decisions for the masses.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>The calendar is published at least a year in advance. Saying that a balanced calendar would impact family vacations seems unfair to the calendar. Knowing in advance should all plenty of time to work in a summer vacation or during one of the breaks throughout the year. Since the calendar itself is the same number of days, the childcare is actually spread out not increased.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>The calendar works if KCS doesn't abuse the teachers, students and parents with an abundance of PD. I teach straight 9 weeks then I have my 8 days off. I come back refreshed and the students come back refreshed and ready to learn. Our PD is the week before students come back in the summer and then on certain days. This calendar has eliminated the use of summer school because of the enrichment/intervention time. Companies and daycares work around the schedule because they know of the benefit. We have after school programs to help accommodate the parents (just like a daycare but not as costly).</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>The change is really not that big!!!</p>

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

<p>How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?</p>	<p>Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>The comment made earlier about kids who realize a break is in the near future that might prevent them from misbehaving therefore causing less discipline issues is totally false in my eyes. I believe that there are many children who will misbehave no matter what and that some children simply do not want an education. Summer is a chance to recharge and to accomplish things that can not be accomplished during the school year because of the work load. This gives kids an opportunity to accomplish different things for their resume for collages and shortening the summer would jeopardize that. Most kids not all but most who are having issues in school would not take advantage of the 2 week breaks in between to get extra help to catch up etc. The superintendent needs to spend a day at school just watching the kids and realizing that not all kids are equal as much as we want them to be. Wishing a balanced calendar will fix the issues is dreaming. We need to spend more energy trying to find out what the kids who can't do the scholar work can do to feel good about themselves and successful. This could perhaps be learning about mechanics vs issues they will never use in real life. Spend your energy and time trying to help the trouble making kids find a purpose and a fit. Not all kids are made to go to college and we need a balance in society. That is where you need to spend your time and energy. Not trying to go to a year round school system.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>The community as a whole will also need to buy into this. Full-time working parents will need quality child care options. Camps will have to adjust.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>The community is calling this a shift to year-round school. Implement a stronger push to break that misnomer and inform people of the difference between year-round and balanced.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>The community meeting presentation stated that there is not enough research to prove that a balanced calendar would lessen summer learning loss. Can you honestly say that cutting the summer short by 12 days will help my child retain more knowledge? If a parent doesn't value education, than a child won't. You can send a child to school every day of the year and if a parent isn't involved then it doesn't matter.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>The community will adapt, some for the good and some for the bad. Overall, I believe for the good.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>The community will adjust. It's best for student achievement and teacher effectiveness. Please make this change!</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>The concept for balanced calendar is a win-win situation for teachers, students and parents all around. This new system will enhance learning opportunities without getting burned out. Education must come first before vacations or summer jobs.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>The core points stated in this survey support its benefits and implementation.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>The cost for single parents (or those with both parents working outside the home) is my major concern. This could be addressed by discussing plans for affordable childcare during the breaks while also discussing this calendar.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>The cost to families is to great.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>The current calendar is perfect the way it is, no need to fix something that isn't broken!</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>The current schedule is outdated in my opinion, and should be changed. I also understand that the balanced schedule may provide opportunities for teachers to make more money by teaching extra classes during the longer breaks. I'm all for good teachers having a chance to make more money. I don't agree with automatic raises for bad teachers, so this is another plus.</p>
<p>Parent</p>	<p>The data to support or refute the benefits of a balanced school calendar vs traditional school calendar is weak and equivocal. In truth, difficult to measure outcomes given the multiple variables that can confound the data.</p>

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	The difference of 12 days in the summer break is not going to help with learning loss. More days in school without so many holidays will increase learning. Current days out of school is ridiculous. Stop wasting the first four weeks of school getting set up and in review of things kids are supposed to already know to be in that grade. Stop wasting the last four weeks after tcaps of the school year with non learning related activities.
Parent	The evidence from your own provided research is mostly underwhelming. In reviewing the studies myself, most of the research provided indicated limited to no academic benefits. Often when conclusions are made in favor of a balanced calendar the "positive impact" is actually just slight if any, the effect sizes are tiny, and the research can't be generalized because the studies are so small. Additionally, there were several studies that showed no improvements at all. And lastly, be careful about overstating the results of these studies. Using words like "potential" and "possible" can be misleading to the public. Anyone that understands research sees right through these ambiguous and meaningless words and further has the insight that "significance" often does not equate to meaningful differences. The bigger problem is the lack of family structure and support so resources would be better spent toward that end.
Parent	The feedback I have had from friends and family in other areas of the country who have experience with a balanced calendar and from people locally who live in Oak Ridge or Alcoa and have alternative school calendars is that the challenge is profound when dealing with extra curricular activities such as music, art, dance, sports, and jobs/interests because tournaments, camps, and enrichment opportunities still assume most people have a traditional school schedule.
Parent	The graphic comparison is very confusing. They do not equal the same total number of days. In order to compare apples to apples, both charts should show how 365 days are allocated. The number of in-service days and weekends should also be included for comparison purposes.
Parent	The high school kids some other activities during yhe summer . School is not all in their lifed
Parent	The idea of a balanced calendar is a bunch of bulls***. It's a chance for a bunch of people to get together and reinvent the wheel. It works the way it is. It has worked this way for years. Leave it alone!!!!!!!!!!
Parent	The Idea of shorter summer break is good. Would like to have a longer winter break (which might mean less school days lost due to snow)
Parent	The idea that summer child care would become problematic is ridiculous. Child care is a business, businesses adapt to the needs of their customers. If an entire county transitions to a calendar already in use in neighboring areas it seems highly unlikely that providers would not adapt.
Parent	The is no metrics for successful implementation of a balanced calendar. No one has stated how the school system will monitor balanced calendar nor figure out if the change was positive, negative or neutral. The administration has not provided any quantitative or qualitative justification for this change.
Parent	The kids will have less opportunities for jobs, summer internships, etc. If your kid is in band or sports camp, there goes your summer. Knowledge loss over the summer is overstated. If you want to fix that, get rid of block scheduling. Not every kid wants or can handle college, so stop trying to push the college experience onto all kids.
Parent	The main reason that our family supports the balanced calendar is because of the longer breaks in fall, winter and spring that would help students with stress and burn-out during the school year. We would even support a shorter summer break so that less time would be spent on review of things learned the previous school year.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	The majority of perceived "draw backs" will quickly work themselves out once the new calendar is implemented. For example, child care providers will have no choice but to make adjustments as well in order to accommodate the schedules/needs of the families they serve; there will be plenty of time for family vacations to still take place in the summer, but will also provide for opportunities to take those vacations at varying times throughout the year, which is not as feasible with the current calendar; children who might have difficulty making more frequent adjustments from home to school schedules and vice versa could be provided with opportunities for services/enrichment to address the skills necessary to cope with that aspect of life in general during the school breaks. As an educator and mother, I am strongly in favor of implementing as many opportunities as possible toward the goal of providing our students with a "balanced" education.
Parent	The one thing i feel should change is the spring break being 10 days i feel you should put those extra 5 days back into summer break. if you remember this year we lost loads of time due to snow and then had spring break the very next week. my children only went back to school 1 day before spring break. I feel they would be better served for summer break rather then having my children home for 2 weeks or potentially even longer due to winter storms .i think spring break should stay at 5 weeks otherwise im not happy with a balanced calendar
Parent	The only benefit I would question is the reduction in learning loss in going from a 55 day to a 43 day summer break. It seems to me that if loss were to occur . . . the incremental 12 days in the traditional schedule might not contribute as meaningfully to this loss as communicated.
Parent	The only issues I have is child care and breaking up the routine. I would like to learn more about academic help during breaks for children who are struggling.
Parent	The only question I have is the date changes in the summer. I'm a proponent of adding the days in the summer on the front end in May rather than starting back in July. It makes more sense for the school economically as those days are less expensive to heat and cool the schools and allows kids better days for swimming and water sports, which is popular during summer break.
Parent	The ONLY question that matters is: "Will it be a better education for the students?" As an ex-educator, I have NO doubt this will benefit almost all students. It does not matter how some businesses, organizations or groups may think it will affect THEM. It is the children who should be at our forethought, not the businesses.
Parent	The only reason I am in favor of this is so it will match another district with a balanced calendar. Otherwise the added economic impact on my family would be negative and the potential positive impact is suspect.
Parent	The overall adjustments needed to support the balanced year calendar for some families could be very significant. I think if this was not a factor, then I would be more agreeable to balanced calendar plan.
Parent	The potential benefits are limited, and the drawbacks are for certain. So why make this change? To fix the problem of summer learning loss, the key is to add more school days. Thanks for opening the discussion!
Parent	The problems we have in our culture and our community is the degradation of the family. This adds to family interruption, more government involmnet over parents, and even more reason that our teens will be "bored" without being able to work summer jobs. This puts more teens on the street looking for things to do rather than teaching them the responsiblity of time management that holding a job teaches them. This is not learned in a book sitting in a chair in a school. I believe this will add to the numbers of school drop outs and decreased graduation rates.
Parent	The proposed "balanced" calendar is just a slight modification of existing calendar, not enough change to qualify the transition in my opinion.
Parent	The proposed change will impact my child during her senior year. She is on a plan to graduate early. How will this impact her?

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	The schedule should stay as it currently is.
Parent	The School year has worked so far Why change ,it would confuse the children!!
Parent	The sooner we get away from an outdated agrarian calendar the better.
Parent	The students who are involved in sports would probably burn out faster because they would not be able to take advantage of the breaks because of practice.
Parent	The summer break, as shown, is still too long to be considered "balanced." I have been unable to attend a meeting, however, and I realize there may be logistical challenges to opening schools in the summer heat. This is a good start.
Parent	The traditional school calendar was developed to allow students more time away from school while the weather was nicer, probably due to the number of rural families who relied on farming for their livelihood. The balanced calendar matches current lifestyles better, allowing students to refresh more often between school terms. I believe the balanced calendar provides a better learning environment for children considering present day lifestyles.
Parent	The two week break between quarters seems like the perfect amount of time.
Parent	There are already too many breaks as it is through the year. School year should start at 9/1, remove the fall break, and stop with all the I service days.... This also would allow for better contingency for snow days. "Won't work" you say? It worked just fine when most of the parents were in school.
Parent	There are certain activities and family time that will be missed. Will children be excused for items such as this?
Parent	There are more opportunities during the year for family vacations with a balanced calendar. People who don't live in their hometowns where they have family around them continually have to wait for long weekends to visit family - which is exhausting to always have to use Christmas and Thanksgiving to see family - and not be in your own homes for those holidays.
Parent	There are no clear benefits to this calendar other than giving the teachers more breaks. They already have the summer off. I work 51 weeks a year in a high stress job. This calendar change would make that even more stressful and would increase day care costs.
Parent	There are no reliable studies proving the benefits of balanced calendar. All of the studies say "potentially" or "possibly". Personally, I can't see that 12 days taken from Summer break and broken into Spring and Fall break could possibly make that big a difference in "Summer learning loss". I don't believe it makes enough of a difference to disrupt every parent, child, and caregiver's schedule in Knox County.
Parent	There are no studies that show significant student achievement by going to a balanced calendar. No info on cost or how it will be implemented. Why don't you look at changing the block scheduling in the high school. That would actually help student achievement. My son has been a year without math because of the way his schedule fell. Why don't we fix that?

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	<p>There are other diverse learning and experiential opportunities available to students and their families during the summer that would be infringed upon with the so-called "balanced calendar". Exposure to varied experiences outside of the four walls of a classroom allows for transfer and application of the knowledge and skills obtained in previous environments to new environments. A child's increased freedom and capacity during the summer to visit a variety of places such as museums, science camps, athletic programs, music, art, and reading festivals, etc. and to participate in volunteer and service hour programs would suffer, but these are necessary enrichments and conducive to a healthy, personal well-being and in turn the common good. These alternate experiences allow children to demonstrate learning gains and maturity as well (if not empirically measurable on a standardized test) and far outweigh the minimal losses, which may always occur in particular areas of academics no matter how long the passage of time. Some specialized programs related to additional formation of youth (and even adults) in the areas of academics, health, internships, or religious education operate optimally during summer months in which voluntary participation increases due to more private time management which families are entitled to possess and enjoy. Travel for vacations, including visits to long distance relatives or even educational destinations would also be negatively affected by the change to shorter time periods. Some families may even rely on teenagers to help support the household through part-time or full-time work or may need younger members to help with the caretaking and transportation of older and infirmed relatives. In turn, many government industries and private businesses which rely on summer travel and activity might not see long term economic benefits were such plans to become the norm in many places. While there are certainly pros and cons to both the traditional and balanced calendars, the traditional calendar still provides families and their children with less constraints and hardships and greater opportunities and time to cultivate a healthy and productive culture outside of mandated work environments. Parents are the first and primary teachers of their children. Just because a few families may not take full advantage of what a longer break can offer for cultivation and enrichment of home life does not mean that government may suggest or enacts interventions and solutions, which end up creating hardships for the many and marginalize other learning opportunities.</p>
Parent	There are other school systems doing it successfully. Don't see any draw backs.
Parent	There are published studies that provide the pros and cons of a balanced school calendar, however, I have not found a definite correlation to the balanced calendar and improved student performance or retention. I am not certain that the perceived benefits constitute change. It feels as if this is change for changes' sake.
Parent	There are too many unknowns for this decision to be rushed into. Although the community meetings stated numerous times that no decision has been reached and that the administration and board are not pushing this, the rapid move towards this seems contradictory,
Parent	There has to be structured opportunities for kids during the two week breaks that will not interfere with parent's work schedules.
Parent	There is just not enough info for me to be in favor at this time.
Parent	There is little to no scientific data supporting the success of balanced calendar.
Parent	There is no additional learning time and the advantage of the summer appears to be overstated. This appears to be more a benefit to the teachers to have time off between sessions and reduce non-paid time during the summer. Also, there is no mention of the potential slide during longer breaks.
Parent	There is no data other states have done it and now backed off. This will be as though parents said yes and wanted it. Thats a lie. Parents didn't say he lets have balanced calendar
Parent	There is no need to change what isn't broken. Spend the time, money and energy on supporting the needs of individual struggling students and leave the rest alone please.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	There is no way to know for sure how this turns out unless we try it. Losing knowledge over the summer has always been a concern for me, so for that reason, I would like to try the balanced calendar. One thing that is important to me though is that teachers are not negatively affected in any way. They work hard enough with not enough reward - monetary or otherwise - so if this calendar negatively impacts them in ways that the parent community is unaware of, I would be opposed to it. In fact, if there are teacher reservations about this calendar, I would like for them to be brought out and discussed publicly because I want my child's teachers to be happy. Without happy, fulfilled teachers, there isn't much point in doing this at all because whatever learning gains we might achieve would be lost in the classroom. If the teachers are unhappy in their jobs - as with any profession - their effectiveness is decreased.
Parent	There is not nearly enough information about costs for me to be sure about this. As a general note, its absolutely pathetic how this sorry school system can't account for what we get for additional money invested into specific programs. That we are being surveyed on this without budget projections is a clear example of how terrible the KCS leadership is from top to bottom. Please let everyone know in leadership that we are all very aware of how bad they are at their jobs even if they don't.
Parent	There should be a choice type magnet school that maintains the traditional schedule for those desiring that option.
Parent	There should be an option for a traditional calendar at a few select schools that could receive student transfers.
Parent	There would be more opportunities for family vacations throughout the entire year.
Parent	There's no data to prove it, but I feel after each of these three week breaks you may possibly lose a week getting the kids motivated and in the mindset of working. I haven't seen this touched on during any of the discussions.
Parent	There's obviously more factors in a balance calendar than what's listed in this survey. I'm very neutral in the decision to implement. The existing summer break is longer and seems to carry a longer transition period at the start of a new school year. However, frequent and longer breaks throughout the year is an adjustment and something this county has never experienced. The school year may change but parent work schedules won't; something to consider. If studies support better quality of learning with neutral costs to the county, I'm in agreement to implement. What about the cost? There's no mention of that. This potential change will be a challenge for all involved. Thanks for releasing this survey to allow people opportunity to share opinion.
Parent	They have discussed this since I was in school MANY years ago! As a kid I was not in favor of it because it is change! But I think if it happens everyone will adapt!! My child now is Ok with it! In my profession (accounting) I am unable to to vacation at spring break or fall break due to tax deadlines. After school is out the price goes way up. This will give my family more opportunities for vacation!
Parent	Think we should go back to regular school.....8 classes from August till May....
Parent	This calendar was used before and did not show any positive effects or improvement on the grades, I do not think this will be really beneficial for children and their parents.
Parent	This change would create a financial burden on my family due to transportation and child care costs.
Parent	This does nothing to balance the school calender. All it does is extend fall, spring break and reduce the summer. I don't understand how that is balanced? Hopefully this study was done at no cost to the tax payer.
Parent	This I believe would become very difficult for those with several children to find child care for them since you can normally find summer camps, but not fall and spring camps of that length

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

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Parent	This is a good start. Whatever outcome of this discussion, at least make sure that we get a full week of fall break. The extra 3 days on the summer can surely have no real effect for anyone but it is certainly missed in October.
Parent	This is a plan that we cannot afford. Trying to compare how this would work in our large district against smaller, less diverse districts such as Maryville or Oak Ridge is like comparing apples to oranges. The needs and resources of the Knox County Schools can in no way be compared to these other districts. Why are we wasting our time and money on this?
Parent	This is a terrible idea. Teachers and kids need to stay in the zone and work once schools starts, and wind down and enjoy a break during summer. Summer is already too short. The idea that in between time offers more support for struggling students is a waste. Students have plenty of support from teachers. What they need is motivation from parents and punishments from home for slacking off.
Parent	This is a very expensive poor choice for our county. I want to see estimated costs to tax payers BEFORE the board votes.
Parent	This is a waste of taxpayers money to consider this!!! While I appreciate the effort to improve our educational system, the calendar is the least of our problems.
Parent	This is a wonderful and beneficial idea and I support it completely.
Parent	This is all well and good in theory, but this negatively impacts the lives of families, not just students.
Parent	This is best for our kids, society, and the school system. Less down time and less time Re-learning
Parent	This is first year in the Knox Country SD (we moved from PA) and are thrilled that a balanced calendar is being considered. At our previous school, it was something that would never be considered.
Parent	This is good for all students' learning. Yes, it will be an adjustment, but it will help our students. This shouldn't be about middle and upper middle class families' improved or inconvenienced vacation/travel plans, it should be first and foremost about students', teachers', and schools' abilities to foster more productive learning communities. And it is NOT additional testing, which is the absolute worst approach to education reform public schools have faced in decades.
Parent	This is not a good idea.
Parent	This is not balanced enough
Parent	This is the best idea Knox County has ever had. The childcare places will have to make the switch as well to accommodate those folks who need it.
Parent	This is was is best for the students so any drawbacks are small in comparison.
Parent	This isn't a new concept and if other counties and communities can do it, so can we. I think the most concern is childcare options. How do other communities handle it? Once those fears are at ease, I think it's a win-win.
Parent	This may cause financial hardship job loss, and childcare difficulty for parents. It also may interfere with extra curricular activities and family time during the summer
Parent	This new calendar will help my child succeed. Thank you.
Parent	This question is confusing and redundant. Am I "Strongly in Favor" of "Support" or am I "Strongly in Favor" of "Opposition"????
Parent	This schedule is not good for working families. It creates too much problems with child care, especially day care, so unless the day cares are on board, it creates too much of an issue trying to find care solutions every 44 days as opposed to to just spring and summer breaks. With my wife and I both working we can make a short break of a day or two work around our schedules, but 10 days at a time every 6 weeks or so is putting too much on an already busy schedule and having to make care arrangements that often is a strain.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	This school system has way more issues to deal. The budget sucks, many of the teachers are awful and need to be replaced by those who can actually teach. Tenure needs to go away as if the teachers are not meeting expectations in teaching they should be canned. There needs to be a parent survey for each teacher rating them with communication and how much the parent feels their child has learned during the semester. At high school level it needs to be a student survey and this needs to be linked to merit increases. Many of your teachers are POOR communicators and push learning and teaching off on the students and parents.
Parent	This seems to be coming from the school board down to the families, when it a should come from families up to the school board.
Parent	This survey is pointless. You are essentially asking whether I agree that a balanced schedule has both pros and cons in the abstract. Well, duh -- of course it has both pros and cons in the abstract. The salient inquiry is whether those pros and cons exist in fact. For example, in the abstract, it seems like a balanced schedule would help students retain information year to year, since the summer break is shorter. But has research actually shown that? Because, if it hasn't, then retention isn't really a pro -- it's simply a presumed pro for which there isn't actually evidence, which means it should be ignored for purposes of making this decision. And so it is with the presumed pros and cons -- we don't know whether they're valid and worth considering unless you show us evidence to support or refute them. This survey is premature -- give us evidence on these points first, that is, help us to see the facts as they really are, then ask us how we weigh those facts.
Parent	This survey is poorly worded, and the data received will be confounded by misinterpretation. Try again please.
Parent	This survey makes it obvious that balanced calendar is going to happen in Knox County. This is a poorly worded effort to allow the public a voice.
Parent	This takes kids from being kids and turns them into employees School becomes a job
Parent	This Type of calendar would assure the kids don't get burned out on school, with frequent breaks in between quarters, which would could potentially help our children with Learning.
Parent	This will give the superintendent room to speak, we are trying. I know that we needed to ask for an extension No Child Left Behind, that does not reflect the teachers drive or dedication in Knox co. ; in my opinion. We are better, we will do better, it helps to begin again.
Parent	This works only if teachers and support staff get breaks too since child care expenses will go up for many if they must find odd week child care for younger children. Will KCS hire tutors and enrichment programs to fill in while teachers are on breaks with their families. How will that work? Expense? Security? Competency? Etc.
Parent	This would allow for travel / vacations other times of year
Parent	This would also adversely affects student sports schedules.
Parent	This would be so hard for dual income families as well as children who thrive on routine. Please don't force this on working families!!
Parent	This would be very difficult for students who have a divorced parent living out of state. With divorce and custody comes a strict parenting plan that will need to be completely rearranged. Students have enough to worry about without having to change up not only their school time, but also time with the out-of-state parent. This places stress on the child and the divorced parents. I also understand other parents' frustration concerning child care. Although, I do not need additional child care, I understand that it would be more difficult for those who would need to change all of their child care plans as well. The only positive I see is the reduced learning loss. It is a positive thing, but I'm not sure all students' lives should be changed around for that one reason.
Parent	This would create a childcare nightmare for us. My child also already has a hard time getting readjusted to school days following the traditional fall and spring breaks... lengthening them will only make that interruption worse.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

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Parent	This would make it harder for families to find extra care thru out the school year instead of it just being a summer program.
Parent	This would mess up childcare and vacation times for our family
Parent	Those opposed will be more vocal and against change in general but feel tweaks to the schedule are needed. At least a 1 week fall break.
Parent	Those summer camps are typically staffed with college students who are also out for the summer. It is going to be rather difficult to find workers for camps during those breaks in the fall and spring. In addition, I have a son with Sensory Processing disorder/OCD/Anxiety. Change in routine is extremely difficult for students like him. I notice Knox County caters toward traditional families with "normal" kids and stay-at-home-moms. Those are the people who are in favor of this balanced calendar. Please consider families with 2 working parents or single-parent families, children with disabilities, etc.
Parent	Though I strongly agree with the balanced calendar I strongly disagree with the intercession period. How are our teachers suppose to get a mental and physical break during the Fall and Spring intercession if some are required to be there? It seems to negate the purpose.
Parent	Though I'm not strongly opposed to the balanced calendar, I feel that a full two week break between each grading period is too long. It is really just long enough to get everyone off schedule. If there are benefits to having more of a break, I would prefer to have one week off in the fall, one week off in the spring, and keep the two weeks off around Christmas. Regarding shortening the summer vacation, I'm not sure how much summer slide is prevented by going back to school two weeks earlier. By the time you have been out of school for two months, I would think that a large amount of the "slide" has already occurred. I actually feel that we experience some slide during the year by having off more than a week at a time. We definitely felt this over the past winter when we had so many snow days.
Parent	Too much change in schools right now, especially curriculum. Can we only reinstate fall break as a week break for now?
Parent	Too much change. Kids need structure. You will be causing alot of problems. It will take too long to get back into a schefule THEN it will be time to start the cycle all over again!!!! All they are going to go see is more time off..not learning
Parent	Too much disruption with parent's work schedule / child care issues
Parent	Too much time is spent each new school year in review. A balanced calendar would practically eliminate the need for review allowing more class for new skills and concepts.
Parent	Tradition is no reason to keep education on an outdated schedule. I think Knox county should do what is best for educating young minds today and that is a balanced calendar in my opinion.
Parent	Two less weeks in the summer are INCONSEQUENTIAL compared to the benefits of this plan. Most parents are dying for their kids to go back to school by the end of the school anyway. This also allows families to have affordable vacations at less popular times of the year (i.e., fall break). I think they long breaks between quarters will be a good thing, unless the teachers/school system don't manage the study schedule around longer breaks (i.e., finish a section just before each break). I have faith that the school system and the teachers are smart enough to figure this out. also, daycares will "fall in line" because they will have to...those that don't will see huge enrollment drops.
Parent	Two of my three kids have a hard time with those 10 day type breaks--just long enough to get completely off school schedule, then bam--you have to get back into it, even though we try to maintain school type hours during the break. It is especially hard for my son who struggles with anxiety. I really don't think going back 12 days sooner will reduce summer loss. You still have a substantial break there of 45 days. I think teachers would benefit greatly from the break which would also be a positive for the children. Some teachers who work other jobs during the summer may miss those extra two weeks income though. Child care would be an issue for working parents. And putting them in "enrichment activities" can be expensive.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

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Parent	Two schools shouldn't dictate what all other schools should accept. Many children are already in Summer School. What kind of professional development can teachers get during a two week period? (Fall & Spring) I heard one teacher, from another school, say she would take another vacation during Fall or Spring with the extra pay.
Parent	Two weeks will do nothing in helping retain knowledge!
Parent	undecided
Parent	Unless a childcare solution at no additional cost could be reached for the fall, spring, and winter breaks, I am opposed.
Parent	Unless all counties, private schools, colleges and camps went to this type of schedule it would cause ongoing problems for families. I am strongly opposed!
Parent	Unless camps (Webb, Tate's, etc.) adjust to this schedule as well, working parents are going to have significant difficulties obtaining child care. There will be children who are left without supervision, and with inadequate safety situations.
Parent	Unless there's affordable/free child care for parents who work or parents who have small school aged children that can't stay home alone.
Parent	Upon first hearing this idea of balanced calendar, was opposed. But after more thought, it could be what's most beneficial for the students' educations, which is truly what matters most.
Parent	Use the time to incorporate the arts back into school.
Parent	USE THE TIME YOU HAVE MY KIDS TO TEACH THEM! LEAVE OUR SUMMER ALONE. WE ALL NEED ED TIME OFF TO REGROUP. DON'T RAM THIS THROUGH! NO BENEFIT FOR MY FAMILY.
Parent	Very bad idea.
Parent	Want summer break with my children to be allowed to just be kids
Parent	Waste of money
Parent	waste of time and money to go any further in investigating because it shows NO benefits to children. Students who are having trouble need help on-going.
Parent	We are a one child family where my husband and myself both work. All 4 of our parents are deceased and neither of us have local siblings to care for our daughter in emergencies. She is 8 and obviously unable to stay alone. We both work in surgical pathology and already have an exceedingly difficult time taking off for a single snow day. A babysitter is impractical due to cost. Can you afford \$10 per hour for 9 hours per day for 2 weeks? Because that's what we paid during the 2 weeks of snow days. Many summer camps (those offered during working hours 730-430) have been full since the beginning of the month. I know this because I had to coordinate our week-long family vacation as well as childcare for the entire summer well before the beginning of April. I think that the balanced calendar does not account for families with 2 working parents and no nearby family to help care for the student(s) during holidays. I agree that learning loss would be minimized, but I truly see no additional benefit and for our family, that benefit does not outweigh the inconvenience/impossible task of coordinating seasonal camps multiple times per year.
Parent	We are concerned about what kind of disruptions the additional breaks will cause for our work schedules and the community's ability to provide childcare during these breaks. We are two working parents and we have two younger children in daycare.
Parent	We are NOT in Boston! Get over it.
Parent	We came from Metro Schools (Nashville TN) and we liked the Balanced Calendar.
Parent	We can have a balanced calendar but it will cost McIntyre his job!
Parent	We don't teach children before holidays now, time is spent in class watching movies
Parent	we feel strongly that this calendar would allow for better learning/rest ratios. Not only for the the students but also for the teachers. We have hard working teachers who need time to breathe and stay high energy and effective. Families, students, teachers and community would benefit from this!!

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	We feel there are too many negative implications that a balanced calendar poses on the student, parent, and teacher.
Parent	We found it shocking that Knox County was still lacking this progressive approach given the good overall good schools here, especially in Farragut. We've been very pleased except for the very poor condition of facilities, a top five scholastic school shouldn't have such poorly funded facilities with grass growing up through the asphalt in the parking lots. Especially when the burden of paying for every extracurricular activity is placed on the parents. Where is the money being spent???
Parent	We have experienced both the traditional calendar and the balanced calendar; the balanced calendar works best for us, hands down!
Parent	We have one child left in Knox County Schools & she will graduation in May 2016, i.e. she/we will be out of KCS before the balanced calendar would go into effect.
Parent	We like long summers to travel and see family, etc.
Parent	We like the idea of the balanced calendar but not having 7 periods in a school day which is what our son said was proposed
Parent	We need a balanced calendar. Summer breaks are too long and a lot of wasted time due to length.
Parent	We need DETAILS about this calendar. Parents have proposed many questions, but nothing has been given a straight answer yet....typical of KCS.
Parent	We need less school and more character, behavior, attitude focus!!
Parent	We need schools built. Carter got a new Elementary and now they are feeding into the middle school. There needs to be an addition to the middle school. Gibbs has need a school for years. Why don't we supply the schools before changing the schedule. Concert on having the building and smaller classes. Kids that need help now are not getting it how is changing the school schedule going to help with this problem. Don't upset the apple cart. Fix the problem and get more schools built. I don't mean in just one part of Knoxville. West Town gets everything. It needs to be all of Knoxville. Go to AI, and TX and see the schools. They ate all over not just one section. Kids should not still be bussed an hour of the morning and an hour in the evening. The there needs to be balance through out the whole city and county of Knoxville. You build the schools the people will come. They came back to the Carter area. Look at the increase in the elementary school. The has to feed to the middle and High School. Build in the areas where thete should be schools and stop the bussing and killing parts of Knoxville. The Schoold need to be through out the whole area.
Parent	We need to try it.
Parent	We oppose the proposal as is. Making this change before the 2016-17 school year is too quick. I would suggest a gradual change to these "breaks". People handle change better, if it happens gradually.
Parent	We really hope it gets implemented as I think our children would benefit from a two-week break each October and March. I also think it would make the beginning of the school year easier on our children since the summer break wouldn't be so long.
Parent	We seem to be so black and white with no gray. Most of the parents I talk to agree that we should have middle ground between a 2 day or 2 week fall break. I would support giving up a little of the summer break for a 5 day Fall Break and 10 day Winter Break (as opposed to 11) and leave spring break alone.
Parent	We should be doing year-round school with more academic time instead of this alternative "balanced calendar" approach that lacks the statistical evidence of improvement.
Parent	We still have not been given full information for everyone to be able to make an informed decision such as what additional cost the could entail and where those monies would come from.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

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Parent	We use summers to prepare for upcoming courses and for our high school students to take college classes. this would disrupt that. I would hate to see the calendar changed because bad parents do not make their children continue learning during the summer. Many students also work during the summer, or volunteer. 10 days difference doesn't sound like much, but it is when a student is trying to earn money to pay for their gas, insurance, clothes, etc.
Parent	We value spending our summers together as a family, traveling and spending quality time as a unit. We look forward to our summers and changing it would be changing our family traditions.
Parent	We were never asked if we wanted it. It is being implemented by the governing body with no concern for public opinion. I do not care which days the kids are off school--that can be worked with. I do not agree with the intercession or enrichment aspects of the breaks in fall and spring. Those weeks should be BREAKS, period. Give the kids time off. Mine will never attend an enrichment session. They will be going on family vacation and unavailable for school during that time.
Parent	We will move school districts or go to a private school if Knox County votes this in. I will not allow my freshman daughter to have her aspirations and dreams of playing pro softball squashed because the school system wants more money. We are having to pay significant amounts of money for my step daughter to attend prospect camps in the fall because she is on a balanced calendar at Alcoa and misses out on the week long World Series Showcases and Nationals which provide huge college exposure.
Parent	We would all fight at my work for who is going to be off work
Parent	We would be more favorable of a balanced calendar if all of our kids were in public schools. We are very supportive of the idea but it would have a greater impact on our family and others in our situation. This is he reason we offered a neutral opposition.
Parent	We would love a balanced calendar.
Parent	We would love for the schools to provide some sort of childcare for the children during the breaks. Traditional childcare requires you to pay even when the child isn't present, to hold their spot. This would be extremely costly with a balanced school schedule / calendar.
Parent	Weather is better for travel, esp. international travel in the spring or fall and much cheaper too:-)
Parent	West TN or middle TN has an all year long school and children love it.
Parent	What about families with some of their children in private schools? What about the working poor parents who have little to no job flexibility?
Parent	What are the enrichment activities planned for the Spring and fall break?
Parent	What happens will also depend on the leadership at each school. The amount of homework given to students during the break, how teachers handle students after returning from long breaks (some teachers, at least one at Bearden, constantly yells at her students), and how the school can help families with a new balanced calendar will be a result of the teachers and the principal.
Parent	What provisions are you going to make for families that cannot afford childcare arrangements?
Parent	what will be the potential tax consequences to the Knox Co residences to maintain the additional childcare expenses, and heating/cooling of the school buildings?? (I would assume a raise in our property tax)?? Would like to see comparisons with counties like Blount/Oak Ridge that are already doing this...Thanks!
Parent	When I moved to Knoxville 10 years ago I opted to purchase a home in the Farragut School District because of the strong tradition in academic excellence. Farragut High School is one of the top 10 in the state and I would hate to make changes to the school calendar that could adversely affect something that is not broken. Clearly, the plan Farragut High School has implemented is working and working well.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	When parents work, it is often difficult enough to find childcare during breaks. I strongly believe a balanced calendar would make this even more difficult, not to mention the other reasons already listed in this survey. I think children need the longer summer to be children and enjoy themselves or to work and earn money if they are older. The summer break is shorter than it used to be when some of us were still kids in school... let's keep it the way it is! :)
Parent	When the children were out for snow and then went back a few days and then were out for spring break it was difficult getting them back in the routine. Why change something that has worked for years give them back their summers
Parent	When the surrounding county schools have already gone to a balanced or moderated calendar, it means we are behind, as usual....
Parent	When would breaks take place? What month would summer be taken in and fall break when would that happen?
Parent	while I am no fan of change for the sake of change, seeing the graphic made most of my opinions neutral. If detailed study has proved any of the positive implications I would not oppose the change. Others may agree with that stance and simply need some support for those statements.\
Parent	While I have initial hesitations about the balanced calendar on account of childcare arrangements, I suppose that if the entire Knox county follows the balanced calendar, that child care and afterschool providers may eventually follow suit, and this will no longer be an issue/concern. Overall, I think the advantages of the balanced calendar far outweigh the negatives.
Parent	While I mark in favor. I have many questions that need to be addressed. What does intervention/enrichment look like- a certified teacher, an aide, or a computer? What is the time- all day, half-day, five days, etc.? Will lunch be provided, busses, etc? WHAT IS THE DOLLAR AMOUNT ASSOCIATED WITH THIS MINIMALLY SUPPORTED (real research) OPTION? I can't even fathom implementing this unless we the stakeholders know the cost. 0-20 MILLION is huge when we are already cutting teachers to pay for upper administrative positions. Where is this funding going to come from??? I'm not a fan of the devil's in the details. Tell us exactly what it will look like and then maybe we can thoughtfully and thoroughly evaluate it..... not some "vision" or scheme to keep us guessing. SHOW US THE PLAN!!!
Parent	While I think it will be an adjustment, I think the balanced calendar will be a good thing once we get used to it. I am curious as to what the summer break would be. If surrounding counties are doing it successfully then so can Knox County.
Parent	While I think the balanced calendar would be beneficial to a small percentage of students, I think it would be better to target schools at risk, rather than the entire school system of Knox County. I think this would be detrimental to younger students particularly.
Parent	While I was at once on the fence about a balanced calendar, what I noticed during our two week "snow" break this winter is that grades for both of my children dipped down after the return to school. Both teachers expressed that they were trying to get the kids back into a routine. My children both excel typically in their classes and I am a parent who does a lot of additional work at home during the school year. It became very disconcerting to me that over those two weeks they seemed to have slacked off and it took them another two weeks to get back into a good groove/routine. It is for this purpose that I am strongly against a balanced calendar. The children will also have less time to just be and enjoy being outside during the warmer weather. I feel like summer break gives them a chance to recharge their engines and reset their minds for the upcoming school year. Yes, it takes time in the fall to get them back into a groove, but from what I witnessed this winter, it would be just as difficult to get them back into a routine, but they'll be doing it four times per year rather than just twice (fall and Christmas). Thank you

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	While there are initial concerns for many, I think most that have adapted this program love it and are very pleased with the academic results as well.
Parent	Who really benefits from the new arrangement? I'm concerned children and families are not first in this decision. No knowledge of this, just wondering what is so bad about the current system.
Parent	Who wants this besides McIntyre?
Parent	Whos going to pay for all the changes???
Parent	Why all or nothing approach? Why not 1wk fall and spring break?
Parent	Why are school systems who switched to this program now switching back? Sounds like it didn't work. I'm all for helping to improve student performance but let's take advantage of the time currently dedicated for school and do a better job with it. You say it allows for better retention, more intervention, etc... This only works if parents/students are interested. If they aren't interested now, what makes you think they will be interested at all???
Parent	Why are you asking us the kids need to tell you what they want because they are the ones in school right now. They need to be the ones to answer these questions so you can get there opinion on what they think. Make them fill out a survey like you do to the teachers but do it for the balanced schedule.
Parent	Why call it a 'Traditional' school calendar? It has become clear in today's society that the word 'Traditional' is a pejorative.
Parent	Why can't we have a week fall break? How is making the summer shorter by 12 days going to really improve student test scores and behavior? It seems like having a two week break would be more of a problem for kids who thrive on routine. What about snow days? What about team summer camps for high school kids who play sports and go based on college schedules?
Parent	Why can't we shorten the summer break by a few days and get the fall week long break back. More rest then, a slightly shorter summer break.
Parent	Why did I learn more and perform better in less time than students spend in the classroom now? Do you really think more classroom time will make things better!!! Fix the real problems. The quality of teacher and quit advancing the bad students that drag the rest down.
Parent	Why didn't you include the third option of a return to the traditional schedule with a full week fall break?
Parent	Why experiment? No proven benefits. Also no \$ promised for enrichment and I do not believe there will be enrichment offered
Parent	Why fix things that are not broken?
Parent	Why not change the time elementary students arrive at school like 8:15. Some or most would get around an hour more of sleep or rest. The middle and high school students should be starting at 7:30 - 7:45. They are getting more prepared for the work force or college and should be learning to get up, therefore less late night mischievous.
Parent	Why wouldn't the 4th quarter also be 44 days making all the quarters and summer break all equal thus actually being balanced.
Parent	will pull my children out and homeschool if the BC passes
Parent	Will the interventions be required? How important will the enrichment activities be to the academic education? Will there be a cost for enrichment or interventions? Have you considered shortening the school day because we are already going much longer than required. Will school begin in July? Why does school end so early in the spring?
Parent	Wish it would begin 2015-2016 school year.
Parent	Wish we could have done this sooner but better to have started than not at all.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	with child care that will causes parents to pay more and who will provide those services if they are not going to be provide during the regular school year. Also why do we have the spring breaks so early/plus i would not be able to spend a total of 10 days off the job to be home with my child. for employees that work for Y12 we work a 4/10 (6am to 4:30pm) work schedule and this would not work with my or many work schedule
Parent	With family work schedule I would have to pay out a lot extra money for child care, unless after school programs would remain open when school is on break, not open just during summer time.
Parent	With more frequent breaks, it would be more difficult for the working parents and for the student to find different arrangements during the breaks that will also create student behavior problems.
Parent	With schools already complaining they dont get enough money, I dont see how the expense for things like "extra learning opportunities" can be paid for. I keep getting begged for help supporting the schools because of this money shortfall, and now you are telling me you want to spend a LOT more on other programs. So what do you plan to cut to make this happen? Or will you just implement this calendar and then "oops, we dont have the money for the benefits"?
Parent	With some kids, there may be significant advantages or disadvantages to the balanced calendar. Personally I would like it because we can go to Disney when it is not 100 degrees outside. I am very curious to know when the fall intercession would be. If it is around Thanksgiving break, then I'm all for it!!! I just really don't think it will make much of a difference either way to our family. I would really rather not start back to school any earlier than what we do now, so my vote would be to begin summer break later.
Parent	With the balanced calendar, the summer break should be in June and July. Otherwise, the balanced calendar will greatly interfere with summer activities such as summer swim teams which are prevalent in Knox County.
Parent	With the large amount of students that rely on school lunch to be fed on a daily basis ... Would this help or hinder that dilemma?
Parent	Without having specific details laid out, my largest concern for a balanced calendar would be funding. We currently don't have the necessary funding available to provide excellent education for our children, and I feel a balanced calendar is only going to add more costs without an improvement in classroom education. In my opinion, I would rather see smaller classrooms where the teachers can work more directly with each individual student. Another issue is that currently, after TCAPs in April, my children are essentially done with academic work. Without seeing a calendar with dates, I'm assuming that Knox County, on a balanced calendar, would start a little earlier and end a little later than what we are currently accustomed to. It makes no sense to extend the school year past the current date, when that is only adding "instructional" days that would not be used for academic purposes, and, in fact, would decrease true instructional time.
Parent	Working adults may have a problem with a balanced calendar and they should make arrangements without compromising the support and adoption of the new schedule.
Parent	Working parents do not want longer breaks during the regular school year. There are lots of childcare options and camp during summer vacation, but working parents do NOT want to have to identify and line up frequent child care with friends/family for 10 days or so throughout the school year. Also, it breaks the children concentration on learning and have to review when go back from breaks. Frequent breaks does NOT enhance learning! For students already struggling to keep up, it just sets them back further each time they take a break. There will always be needed review time when returning from summer break, no matter what. This just sets the stage for more review time needed prior to each break. I do not know any working parents (who work outside school system) that want it. It sounds like those who work within the school system just want more vacations for themselves.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	Works fine if the whole state goes to it. Otherwise it will cause conflicts.
Parent	Would a balanced calendar increase my taxes?
Parent	Would be the worst decision ever for already struggling school system. I would highly consider home schooling or spending what will eventually be part of my retirement to send my kids to private school where they have a real school calendar. You have to crawl before you walk and walk before you run.
Parent	Would be very beneficial
Parent	Would have been nice to have been given the proposed calendar (when exactly the "on" days and "off" days would be throughout the year) in order for us to make a more informed decision.
Parent	Would like a few more days during September or October break. Would rather have 2 extra weeks in the Summer than 2 weeks at Spring and 2 weeks at Fall.
Parent	Would like to know what the associated cost would be and how we would pay for it.
Parent	Would love a balanced calendar!
Parent	Would love for Knox co to get in the balanced calendar
Parent	Would love love love tjis
Parent	Would love to see this as a two working parent family.
Parent	Would our taxes go up to fund this calendar?
Parent	Would prefer the calendar that has 10 day breaks if it is passed.
Parent	Would rather see 5 day breaks for fall and spring
Parent	Would strongly prefer starting two weeks earlier rather than a week off each end of summer break. This is the calendar Alcoa follows. Love having school out before Memorial Day.
Parent	Would students be required to have intervention during the breaks? If so, they wouldn't get the time off. Also are the holidays figured into the balanced calendar?
Parent	Would take some getting used to but is needed.
Parent	Would teachers be available to provide support to students who are having diffulties during the extended break periods between quarters? The extra time for extra support would be a huge benefit for those students who are having difficulty with their current curriculum, if the teachers were willing and able to provide it.
Parent	Would the state help families with one parent or both parents in the home with child care?
Parent	Year round indoctrination is the goal.
Parent	Year round school will add more expense to the schools. Most of the schools don't even cool correctly during regular school year let along in mid summer when temps are high. It is a ridiculous idea with very little consideration of the families and schools expense.
Parent	Year round school with 3 weeks on, 1 week off rotations would be better for retention. The school system needs an online option for class attendance. This way children who need to be out due to illness or some other reason can still attend the class without having to physically be in the school.
Parent	Year-round school can only be detrimental for learning. Not to mention the social and familial impact.
Parent	Yes! PLEASE adopt the balanced calendar. So much better for today's kids. That schedule is dated and does not work for today's kids anymore.
Parent	Yes. Please make it happen.
Parent	You are asking parents, who are unaware of research either in support of, or opposed to year-round schooling. You have not presented the research, nor the resources for doing so. As it currently stands, academic achievement is not demonstrated in year-round schools, particularly for at-risk students. Anyone can have an opinion, however, basing a significant decision on the uneducated views of parents is not wise.
Parent	You could make a large majority of people happy by simply reinstating a full Fall Break....
Parent	you did not provide enough information.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	You don't offer any real enrichment activities anyway! Are you really going to offer them during breaks?
Parent	You gave only one model to base this survey from but did not say it was THE choice if we were to switch - well if I say I am ok with a balanced calendar whose to say you don't change drastically different - narrow down to one or two definite picks then ask...
Parent	You have compared with very small areas. Some have tried & gone back to traditional after much expense!
Parent	You have seen my comments in the previous section, but I also can't imagine how difficult this would be on families where both parents work!
Parent	You HAVE to consider the 2 working parent families. If there is no after school care allowed to operate during the breaks that will be of great hardship to families who don't have any other child care options and it is not fair to the kids to make them attend "school" even during the breaks.
Parent	You hear year round school and you think no summer break for the kids, but having those days moved to the fall and spring making those times off longer are much better in my opinion
Parent	you make the change seem small but it is huge and students that apply themselves and work hard during school need the longer summer break to decompress
Parent	You need much more research on this. Have you seen the number of school systems going back to traditional calendars after trying a balanced one?
Parent	You should consider a even shorter summer break ten days is not a big difference. Children like my child who is a slow learner need year round attention in order to be successful
Parent	<p>You talk about students that need more intervention style education assistance being able to get it during breaks when school is NOT in session...?! I'm confused, if these students need this help with either retention (need to shorten the summer by 12 days so you can make longer breaks in instructional time during the school year) or specific topics... Where are they going to get it? Are the teachers still going to teach during the breaks or are there going to be off campus sites? Which brings me to my next point. Focusing specifically on retention, it seems quite arbitrary that the difference in the ability to retain information is the difference of 55 days versus 43 days?! And when retention is an issue why then would we increase the the gaps in instructional time during the school year? Gaps in the school year are just that, gaps in the building blocks that are the foundation for the skills learned over the course of a year. It seems rather short sighted to focus on 3x 44 day and 1x 45 day session when the school "year" should be the focus to prepare our children for academic achievement. My wife and I are blessed with a son that loves learning and is neuture by the dedication of his teachers and the patience of his parents as he works every school day on his studies. I realize we may be a rarity in the grander scheme of things. As we enter the Summer we even request guidance from his teachers on activities he can do during the summer to retain the year's achievements. We also have him read at least 20 minutes a day sunday through thursday in the summer. Our son looks forward to his complete summers off. But not just for the break for the every day, but for other activities, Scout Camps, BSA STEM Camp, our annual family 2 week vacation with my extended family in WV and his opportunity to spend 2 weeks with my wife's family in IL and IA. See summer is not a time to just "goof off". Summers are for experiences that make us well rounded people who can better relate what we learn in school as having practical real world applications. We are a product of our education and our experience. By shortening a time when that would have come naturally to increase the gaps in instructional time at the risk of retention seems counterintuitive. From your included research citations, this type of balanced calendar has no specifc corelation with information retention. Why would you even offer this and say it's to help retention. Please do not fall to fad science and poorly researched concepts just because it's new and shiny. Do not fix what isn't broken. Invest in the students with the classrooms and teachers that we have. Give them the help they need in school and not during breaks from it.</p>

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Parent	You will have to spend the first day or two of each break reviewing. Long weekends, take off occasional Fridays, serves as breaks. Our summer is booked, my child is taking photography to help with her year book position, a public speaking course, and I require books to be read. My concern is loss of summer time and lots of dead time between breaks.
Parent	You won't change the students till you change the parents.
Parent	You would also be putting local summer camps out of business. Kids need a real summer vacation. It would hurt travel plans. Would be expensive during the year for Child care during breaks.
Parent	You're asking people to vote for something with no idea how much it costs. Would you buy a car without knowing the price? You've been going around and trying to sell this garbage without providing ANY ANSWERS to the questions being asked at the meetings. All you're doing is "push-polling". SHAME ON YOU!
Student	Also I am a Christian so I go to multiple camps over summer. All of them are way out of the Knox county area or out of state, so the camps would not change the dates for me/us so I would either not go at all or skip a week of school.
Student	Although I can see the pros and cons of a balanced calendar, I think the existing system is perfectly fine. It is too soon to say if improvements the school system has made, such as teacher evaluations, have improved student performance, so I think it is too early to make another huge change.
Student	As a high school student I understand how this calender appeals to elementary school students and families. But for high school students that are trying to prepare for college and careers this calender would be a huge hindrance to that preparation.
Student	As a student who is interested in the myriad summer opportunities, a shorter summer vacation would be detrimental to my own studies. Events such as long-term internships, studying abroad, and Governor's School will all be interrupted.
Student	As a student, I like the idea of having longer fall and spring breaks while not detrimentally decreasing summer vacation. As a Freshman, I would like to see the balanced calendar implemented before I graduate.
Student	As a student, I think a balanced calendar would benefit me more than the current schedule.
Student	As a student, i'd miss the longer summer however I am in favor of the longer breaks overall.
Student	As long as community camps and businesses are willing to make the shift, I am in favor of the balanced calendar.
Student	Balanced calendar is all in all a terrible idea and will ruin many, if not all, extracurricular activites and an already declining band program.
Student	becauyse i mean it is just wrong we need to keep it the way it should be the way it is now
Student	Changing the routine of things would not be ideal and the students will have a rough time with it. If we go through with this, the 2 weeks they would get off after every quarter will make them forget a lot.
Student	Children would have to look over things to remember what they learned if there was longer breaks. Taking away 2 weeks in the summer is not going to change the "summer slide". Honestly I think it's a bad idea and should not take effect.
Student	Don't do it please. Begging you. With all my heart. Too many changes to the school system. Just stop
Student	Everyone in favor of this idea needs to stop immediately.
Student	fuck a balanced calendar
Student	Fuck this idea. Ya'll are dumb asf.
Student	Great idea, but the shorter summer means regular summer internships are cut short. These internships are often times hard to fit into the two week gaps between quarters.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Student	I am as strongly opposed to the balanced calendar as I am capable of. This issue will only serve to cause more problems, and not solve anything. Especially for students who are lagging which appears to be the champion reason for this calendar. These students struggling do need help but they will not submit to surrendering their two week breaks to increase their academic achievement.
Student	I believe that a balanced calendar would take away the chance for many opportunities that can be experienced over summer break, e.g. internship, summer job, or family vacation.
Student	I believe that it would be the best thing to do for our schools. I, as a student, am in strong favor of this. I hope that next school, we are on a balanced calendar.
Student	i dont like my family plz help me
Student	I don't want to live at school just so some people can get better grade scores.
Student	I really really hate it. I mean really hate it.
Student	I strongly dislike the 9 to 3 week balance calendar versus the 9 to 2 balance calendar.
Student	I think that a balanced calendar would not benefit us. Usually coming back from break were all sluggish and struggle with school, therefore more breaks would make a real problem.
Student	I think that are summer break should still stay the same with the balanced calendar because that is less time for student to get everything together for the next school year, and it will effect summer activities, sports and jobs
Student	I think that you basically want us to go into year round school but you just don't want to do it yet... This balanced schedule has good breaks but you really just took our summer away...
Student	I think the business loss for local businesses, especially summer camps and daycare centers should be examined very closely. Especially summer camps. I have friends who work solely in the summer months when they are off of school and next year college, but if the KCS summer is cut, then so will their hours. Something to be examined. Academically, I'm absolutely in favor, but the possible effects that it has on the local economy should be examined very closely.
Student	I would be totally ok with it AS LONG AS we kept the block schedule at Farragut High school. There has been talk of putting on a 7 period schedule or something and I think that would be a bad idea. Being in one class for 90 minutes means you can get more done than a 45 minute period.
Student	I would like the balanced calendar but the shorter summer break isn't that great but you have slots more time outta school also
Student	I'd be between "Opposed" and "Neutral/No opinion". This is because it's not perfectly balanced, 10 days is a lot but it's not enough to ruin a summer job or vacation or camp.
Student	IF IT ISNT BROKEN DONT FIX IT
Student	If the balanced calender was a person, I would call them a bearded tosser.
Student	I'm going to have to stop going on vacation
Student	Im moving if you do this.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Student	<pre>import java.awt.*; import java.awt.event.*; import javax.swing.*; public class CrapsStats extends JFrame implements ActionListener { private CrapsGame game; private JTextField numberIn, statsOut; // Constructor public CrapsStats() { super("Craps test"); Container c = getContentPane(); c.setLayout(new FlowLayout()); c.add(new JLabel("Number of games to run:")); numberIn = new JTextField(5); numberIn.addActionListener(this); c.add(numberIn); statsOut = new JTextField(18); statsOut.setEditable(false); c.add(statsOut); game = new CrapsGame(); } // Called when a number is entered in the numberIn text field public void actionPerformed(ActionEvent e) { String s = numberIn.getText(); int nGames = Integer.parseInt(s); int result, gameCount = 0, winCount = 0; Die die1 = new Die(); Die die2 = new Die(); while (gameCount < nGames) { die1.roll(); die2.roll(); int total = die1.getNumDots() + die2.getNumDots(); result = game.processRoll(total); if (result != 0) gameCount++; if (result > 0) winCount++; } numberIn.setText(""); statsOut.setText("Games: " + gameCount + " Wins: " + winCount); } public static void main(String args[]) { CrapsStats window = new CrapsStats(); window.setBounds(100, 100, 300, 100); window.setDefaultCloseOperation(EXIT_ON_CLOSE); window.setResizable(false); window.setVisible(true); } }</pre>
Student	It is a horribly cruel idea in hind-sight of the students in every way possible.
Student	It is nonsensical to fix what isn't broken. The system we have now has yet to fail us. Resist adding the annoyance of a balanced calendar just for your own satisfaction!
Student	It is too big of an unneeded change
Student	It may be beneficial for teachers but for students, families and parents this is not a good idea. This will create much more difficulty than simplicity. The cons far outweigh the pros.
Student	It sounds bad to me but I have heard it is actually pretty good.
Student	It sounds like a great thing throughout the school year, but my concern with going to school into June is that it limits opportunities you may have been able to reach without a balanced calendar. Governors school was a great experience for me and I believe everyone should have the chance to apply if they please.
Student	It would honestly throw off everyone's schedual. Students, like myself, almost memorize the entire Calander for school.
Student	It would not be beneficial to many students. Students that overachieve and are involved in sports or activities will be more likely to continually be stressed due to no break from the school environment
Student	Just do it.
Student	Just don't let it hurt the arts
Student	Make the breaks more balanced. For example, 2 weeks of fall, summer, winter, and spring breaks. If this creates scheduling issues just remove one of the holidays.
Student	My family would not be able to find time to transport me to and from school because they would be working (decrease my attendance)
Student	never do this please
Student	No change in student behavior.
Student	No comment
Student	No one I know wants this. We are in school too much the way it is.
Student	None
Student	Please please please think before you implement this. Please use common sense and resort to teacher's opinions rather than the political gain leaders may or may not gain from this. Please think.
Student	Really, don't mess with something that doesn't really need to be messed with. Go deal with a bigger problem; don't try to busy yourselves with something this small and insignificant.

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Student	Students often get more antsy before break, and constant, prolonged interruptions between learning would make it more difficult to remember the information discussed in classes, especially for Finals and AP Exams. Also, the summer learning loss could be remedied with homework over the summer or participation in various school-related camps and activities. In addition, teachers would not really receive a break during the off-times if they are expected to provide enrichment and extra help for students.
Student	Summer is far too long, and these two week breaks will give me something to look forward too.
Student	The Balanced calendar sounds nice. the transition for students to a shorter summer break would effect some things such as we would have the same amount of school days BUT it would feel longer and the students would grow tired and start to get bored and slack which is one problem but other than that is sounds almost perfect.
Student	The balanced calendar system could potentially be very good for many students. I am a student who usually leaves to visit family in another country, and many people with similar situations may argue that it creates problems for them. However, I feel that the system only cuts out a small amount of days from summer break which does not effect my visiting family whatsoever.
Student	The balanced calendar will alter a students life, and may turn their family life for worse. For example, parents who work specific jobs will not be able to see their children even more, and there will be a greater loss for student bonding with their families. There may be pre-planned times earlier in the year that cannot be altered. Think about the students and parents. Students going to knoxschools have always been under the same school term, and may not want it changed. I strongly disagree with this hang in knoxschools scheduling.
Student	The Farragut system is already on a traditional calendar. It would be a hard transition, and I feel like it's pointless.
Student	The long summer break allows for a good transition between school years and allows for a substantial amount of contiguous time outside of the pressures of school. For children where school is a survival resource, having that big break is a big drawback and for those children a balanced school year will be a lot better.
Student	The summer break gives students plenty of time to have fun and relax after having rough and difficult school years. The school schedule is already crazy enough with the curriculum being crammed into a short amount of time. Constant transitions from school to breaks makes it harder on students, teachers, parents, and extracurricular activities.
Student	The summer break is still too long so the students could still forget what they learned.
Student	There could potentially be a problem for students enrolled in AP classes and dual enrollment classes. Colleges will not be on the same calendar as Knox County.
Student	This doesn't work at the moment. Try again in a few minutes.
Student	this will mess everything up so dont do it
Student	Throughout the school year, it doesn't seem like we ever get real time off except for summer. I think it would be better to have more time off to get a break from the stress of school. Just make a rule that teachers can't give homework over the breaks
Student	Totally disrupts Summer activities, including GKAIISA summer swimming, which is very popular for all students ages 4-18.
Student	We should have early release.
Student	While I like the idea of more frequent breaks, I dislike the fact that I will lose my summer job.
Student	While the balanced calendar would improve learning, a child's life should not contain school year round. The classroom setting ruins imagination and adventure that every child and teen needs to grow properly. The balanced calendar would destroy the child's already set routine. I feel that if KCS goes with the balanced calendar, it will not only cause home problems, but also problems within the classroom.
Student	Why would you do this to us WHYWHY WHY!!!!11!!!!@!!

Additional Balanced Calendar Comments

How would you identify your relationship to Knox County Schools?	Please add any additional comments pertaining to the implementation of a balanced calendar.
Student	With a father that strongly advocates the balanced calendar, I think the benefits outweigh the losses. I'm all for it.
Student	Would also decrease summer boredom
Student	Would be very disappointed if this system were implemented
Student	Would school start earlier or end later? Where can evidence and other school systems experiences with the balanced calendar program.

Additional Questions for Parents/Guardians

Assuming cost and transportation were not a barrier, which of the following opportunities would you be interested in taking advantage of for your child during school breaks?

Educational intervention program offered by the Knox County Schools

Not interested	Somewhat interested	Moderately interested	Very interested
Count	Count	Count	Count
1085	329	300	287
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
54.2%	16.4%	15.0%	14.3%

Recreation program offered by the Knox County Schools

Not interested	Somewhat interested	Moderately interested	Very interested
Count	Count	Count	Count
917	518	487	401
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
39.5%	22.3%	21.0%	17.3%

Enrichment program offered by the Knox County Schools

Not interested	Somewhat interested	Moderately interested	Very interested
Count	Count	Count	Count
776	496	518	538
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
33.3%	21.3%	22.3%	23.1%

Recreation program offered by local community or religious organizations

Not interested	Somewhat interested	Moderately interested	Very interested
Count	Count	Count	Count
795	529	580	411
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
34.3%	22.9%	25.1%	17.8%

Enrichment program offered by local community or religious organizations

Not interested	Somewhat interested	Moderately interested	Very interested
Count	Count	Count	Count
804	548	537	423
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
34.8%	23.7%	23.2%	18.3%

Additional Questions for Parents/Guardians

To what level would you anticipate a switch to a balanced calendar would affect the following aspects of your experience with Knox County Schools?

Satisfaction with schools				
Very Negative Effect	Somewhat Negative Effect	No Effect/Neutral	Somewhat Positive Effect	Very Positive Effect
Count	Count	Count	Count	Count
288	252	802	571	464
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
12.1%	10.6%	33.7%	24.0%	19.5%

Ability to help my child with school work				
Very Negative Effect	Somewhat Negative Effect	No Effect/Neutral	Somewhat Positive Effect	Very Positive Effect
Count	Count	Count	Count	Count
139	164	1100	568	403
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
5.9%	6.9%	46.3%	23.9%	17.0%

Ability to provide my child with educational experiences outside of school				
Very Negative Effect	Somewhat Negative Effect	No Effect/Neutral	Somewhat Positive Effect	Very Positive Effect
Count	Count	Count	Count	Count
278	225	753	589	526
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
11.7%	9.5%	31.8%	24.8%	22.2%

Quality of family life outside of school				
Very Negative Effect	Somewhat Negative Effect	No Effect/Neutral	Somewhat Positive Effect	Very Positive Effect
Count	Count	Count	Count	Count
319	269	554	576	658
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
13.4%	11.3%	23.3%	24.2%	27.7%

Additional Questions for Parents/Guardians

To what level would you anticipate a switch to a balanced calendar would affect the following aspects of your experience with Knox County Schools?

Opportunities to engage in meaningful experiences together as a family

Very Negative Effect	Somewhat Negative Effect	No Effect/Neutral	Somewhat Positive Effect	Very Positive Effect
Count	Count	Count	Count	Count
327	259	509	570	708
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
13.8%	10.9%	21.4%	24.0%	29.8%

Achievement of work/life balance

Very Negative Effect	Somewhat Negative Effect	No Effect/Neutral	Somewhat Positive Effect	Very Positive Effect
Count	Count	Count	Count	Count
351	300	563	536	625
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
14.8%	12.6%	23.7%	22.6%	26.3%

Ease of child care arrangements during school breaks

Very Negative Effect	Somewhat Negative Effect	No Effect/Neutral	Somewhat Positive Effect	Very Positive Effect
Count	Count	Count	Count	Count
412	333	1090	250	286
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
17.4%	14.0%	46.0%	10.5%	12.1%

Vacation opportunities

Very Negative Effect	Somewhat Negative Effect	No Effect/Neutral	Somewhat Positive Effect	Very Positive Effect
Count	Count	Count	Count	Count
412	256	391	506	809
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
17.4%	10.8%	16.5%	21.3%	34.1%

Parent Comments

Please share any additional comments regarding student break time activities.

"Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning. But for children, play is serious learning. Play is really the work of childhood." -Fred Rogers

A break needs to be a break

A break should be a break! No enrichment or interventions should be offered, only recreation.

A break should be a break. No intervention is needed at my home. No enrichment is wanted. Also, tell teachers the longer "break" is not a time for extra homework or home projects. I know some kids may need intervention but then the argument for the benefit of a break to recharge is invalid!

A break should be a genuine "break" for students and teachers to recharge.

A break would be used for family time.

A longer Winter Break would allow for safer travel to visit relatives out-of-state during Christmas season.

Above does not apply to my child.

Adamantly opposed to balanced calendar options

Additional art and music instruction would be a nice addition!

Again I think these are questions designed to make parents believe there is benefit without cost. How could a school system which cannot afford to improve itself, technology, buildings, maintenance, lack of teacher to student ratio, etc afford to add more programs that it simply can not pay for without additional cost to taxpayers?

Again, this gives families additional opportunities for vacations and other activities.

All our sport programs take place outside. I do not know how practice schedules will work with kids needing to be home for homework/school during typical summer months

Although a balance calendar would provide bigger breaks throughout the year, if KCS were to implement a balanced calendar, those teachers attending summer school, via community college/university, would get little to no break at all. This would increase fatigue and burn-out issues resulting in a diminished performance in the classroom. (Just saying...)

Another thought is again the fact that now it seems there will be more breaks for the students to "forget" things they have been working on. This is not just in the ENCORE class but also in the regular class. How would the curriculum and pacing guide need to be set up in order to accomodate the new schedule? Would teachers have to finish their particular concept before the break so as to not have to deal with loss coming back?

As a full time working mother, it's hard to pay for child care during these longer breaks. And to have the KCS charge more money for enrichment/recreational activities is even harder. When my child needs both programs and you charge more money for them is a extreme hardship.

As a responsible parent, I would take the opportunity upon myself for any necessary educational intervention throughout the school year. Also as a responsible parent, I would take the opportunity to find and provide enrichment and recreation programs for my children if needed.

As a teacher I would cherish the additional family time.

As a teacher, I would also want the opportunity to stay home with my children during these breaks. My concern is only that I would be required to work the intervention programs. I would not be in favor if this is a requirement of teachers. Otherwise I am in favor.

As a working parent child care during the expanded breaks is my greatest concern with the balanced calendar.

As always, with 3 children and 1 income, we are concerned with costs; however that isn't any difference than calendar issues.

As I previously mentioned, I think community organizations would modify their schedules to suit the school schedules. I'm all for the balanced calendar.

Ask yourself this....if you are going to have enrichment programs when the students are on break for 10 days then why don't they just go to school instead of being on a break??

Assuming cost and transportation were not a barrier? It's going to cost me whether through taxes, working additional hours without pay as a KCS teacher, and/or the cost of childcare.

Because my child has family that is out of town, we usually spend the entirety of our breaks out of town. This pushes me to be in favor of the balanced calendar.

Both my wife and I are teachers, so our children do work during those off times anyway. However, if the school provided a specific enrichment opportunity our children would be interested in we would take full advantage of that.

Breaks are for family time

Parent Comments

Please share any additional comments regarding student break time activities.

Breaks are necessary for our children to absorb information and relax. We cannot be afraid of changes because it will interfere with childcare. School is NOT a babysitter. I know there will be good programs available to enrich children in other ways.

Change in atmosphere and meeting new friends provides a fresh renewing. Activities outside the class room are needed for the well rounded student. Breaks can offer enrichment with organizations that focus on mission and volunteer work. These type of life experiences provide the well rounded student who collegiate universities seek.

children learn when they spend time traveling with family also spend summer break learning about nature.

Children who are not doing well will not benefit from intervention programs during the "break" All kids of all learning abilities need down time! Misery will ensue if children are not allowed time to rest

Children wouldn't need the above opportunities if they were in school learning during the regular school year. Also, I believe they would have the same problems that they supposedly are having at the end of summer, having to re-learn. Each break they take, they will have to get back into routine for learning and more than likely, have to review everything again.

Cost is a consideration for having student take advantage of any break time activities. It is very expensive.

Currently Gresham Middle School is hosting a local church. Throughout the school year, my child has been approached by this church, seen literature handed out, and even felt as if the school was accepting of this and has felt like he should get involved cause it was expected of him. I would like very much if Knox County Schools stopped this kind of partnership and kept religion away from the school, property, and most importantly our children. If we the parents want our children to be taught about some sect of religious belief, I am sure that we can manage to take our children to church, temple, or other place of worship. So, no I would not like to see any program offered by religious groups from the community. From the ACLU "The United States Supreme Court has long held that the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment prohibits school-sponsored prayer or religious indoctrination. Forty years ago, the Court struck down classroom prayers and scripture readings, even if they were voluntary and even if students had the option of being excused. School Dist. Of Abington Township v. Schempp, 374 U.S. 203 (1963); Engel v. Vitale, 370 U.S. 421 (1962)."

Currently Knox County Schools utilizes the Boys and Girls Club for after care enrichment and care in some schools. (Hive Time and after care at some schools). I have witnessed the level of care given (or not given) with and by this organization, and I personally would never allow my child to be under their supervision. Additionally, as a parent, I would only enroll my child in a care program that is monitored and regularly inspected by DFS (Unless the school staff is directly involved).

Depends on the community organization and the program offered.

Does a 12 day shorter summer break really make that big of a difference in student retention?

Don't wring out poorly performing students by putting them into intervention programs. They need rejuvenation, too. Plus, if kids know there are intervention and "make-up" opportunities during the breaks, they will not necessarily give their best during actual school time. They need to work during school time, they need to rest during breaks - every child!

During summer, my children and I love the flexibility that's possible. Inservice days are hard to find appropriate childcare. I'm concerned that a Balanced calendar would require more stress to plan for child care during the breaks if KCS employees still have obligations.

During two week breaks I would not be interested. We would be more apt to travel to avoid summer traffic. Also Florida weather is nicer in Spring.

Eliminate fall break and all the teacher work days and add those days to summer vacation and please do not change to a balanced calendar

ENDLESS OPPORTUNITES HERE !!!! This is the part of the calendar that excites me most: yet I worry it would not be Feasible to all economic levels . Community Stakeholders are imperative at this level . Providing local Businesses professional developments on how this could potentially benefit them in return for their support is again , Imperative!! SUCCESS in this Area , in my opinion, is where we will see the MOST gains for our Children. This is not just a district level decision , IT IS A Community DECISION and I hope As Knoxvilleians we will embrace it as a whole

Enrichment programs for struggling students is ideal. Knowing you child is with qualified professional is priceless

Enrichment should be at the schools with the opportunity for certified teachers to lead the activities. Unfortunately, this will cost Knox County more.

Parent Comments

Please share any additional comments regarding student break time activities.
Enrolling children in educational or enrichment programs during their breaks?? Kind of defeats the purpose of the break, don't you think?
Family time and other experiences besides school for development
fire McIntyre.
For my situation since I am a KCS employee I would keep my child at home with me on breaks.
For smaller children I think all the transition would be very difficult on them and cause them to have a lot of anxiety.
For some of the break, it would be down time/rec time/family time, some work, & any required reading/studying
Funding should not be spent on "break time activities". The budget needs to "directly" address academics for all children. If there is funding for enrichment activities, add it to the regular school day as an elective so all children have access to the activity.
Hard to get daycare and childcare workers to get on balanced cake far.
Having a partial day remediation or tutoring session would also be preferable. ACT prep sessions, as enrichment, could prove advantageous.
High school students would not be able to have jobs during the balanced calendar breaks.
How could Knox County Schools afford to offer these options?
How do you propose to pay for such programs?
How is this going to be funded???????
How will these be funded. It cannot be funded without tax money, so it is a barrier. Do not assume anything is free.
How will you make students that are struggling come to school during breaks to get extra help? Buses? And will teachers be paid extra for coming to tutor during the breaks? What if the student that is struggling does not come to school? What will be their punishment? And for students that are above average, what will they do? They will not want to work on breaks, they are kids and will want to play, but then parents will have to higher babysitters for the extra weeks.
I already take advantage of enrichment programs by the community (zoo, iJams Nature Center, UT, etc).
I am a teacher and I am with my children during school breaks.
I am concerned about losing the opportunity for summer camps (which cannot take place during cold breaks) and swim teams (likewise). I am also concerned about my children not being able to attend national youth gatherings offered by our church denomination during the summer (planned with a traditional calendar in mind!)
I am concerned that even with the best plans in mind the school system would not have the budget to follow through with the plans.
I am fine with the balanced calendar but not at the experience of my wife who is a teacher's time. You get enough of her time with our family already.
I am heavily involved in the BSA, we provide enrichment activities to thousands of area youth (male and female). The younger groups have a hard time with breaks, the older age groups thrive in the enrichment activities offered in the breaks.
I am interested in anything that would allow for my son to continue this educational growth, but I too know how important it is to have some periods to relax as well.
I am not sure how we would ever ask the question preceded by a statement that says, "Assuming cost and transportation were not a barrier..." In education, cost drives most decisions, as well it should.
I am very concerned with how teachers will be used during the break time. Many teachers are also parents and provide the childcare to their personal children during the breaks.
I am very happy with the childcare and recreational/enrichment programing that I currently utilize. However, I am always open to new and possibly better ideas. I do feel that it is unreasonable to assume that "cost and transportation [is] not a barrier." There are costs associated with every action and inaction, and the location to which my child might be transported is a serious concern. Do any of the people who are planning this out have school-aged children themselves? Did they (the parents) study economics and child psychology in high school and/or college? Did they pass? Are you hiring?
I believe it is naive to assume that parents with children needing intervention will seek it out during a 2 week break. Particularly with families from challenging socio-economic circumstances or parents who have felt disenfranchised by public education.
I believe that students may need enrichment or intervention, but students need some time off (other than weekends), during the intermissions.

Parent Comments

Please share any additional comments regarding student break time activities.

I chose to work for the school system rather than a corporate job long ago so that my children had the benefit of a mom at home when they were home, at this point, I'm not going to farm them out, unless it is something I've arranged for them privately. Regal Theaters, and pizza sound pretty good to me!!!

I currently do not have a child in the system. My 3 year old will be attending Ritta Elementary.

I declined involvement of a summer enrichment program due to the early start time (7.45 am). I understand how this benefits working parents over summer, but it did not work with our schedule. Further, enrichment at school has the tendency to feel a lot like school to the kids. Some of the outside program leaders are great (UT, Beardsley, CAC, etc.), but I'm sorry to say that Knox County has a prevalence of intolerant, rude, strict and, in my opinion, incapable, staff members and teachers. We have experienced some GREAT administrators and teachers as well, but our overall opinion of Knox County Schools leads me to NOT want my child enrolled for time 'off'.

I do not believe the county can produce evidence as to why a balanced calendar will benefit students. Once this gets out into place like every other government program you will never get rid of it. What is so wrong with the current calendar. This country has produced many amazing people on the current calendar, but we need to replace it? Garbage!

I do not think that the choices for question 11 are worded correctly. My husband works year round and so I, a teacher with KCS, stay home during the breaks with our kids.

I do not want my child to have to "go somewhere" during a break. I want to be with my child during the break. This why I became a teacher, because I wanted to be a MOM and a teacher. I love my breaks and summers with my children. SO...PLEASE do not schedule KCS employees with meetings or events or ANY type of work during a break. Right now our summers are true breaks, and therefore, precious time with my children. I have a hard time believing that these breaks would really be breaks. I think teachers would be needed for training, for sports practices or games, expected to take field trips and performance trips during a break to not miss school time etc. This ruins breaks for teachers. We NEED the solid recharge time that our current short summer offers, and I do not think the "Summer Slide" is as bad as everyone thinks. Within a week of review, my students are right back to where they started and ready to progress and learn more.

I don't need programs offered by Knox County schools. I prefer to spend time with my child!

I don't want my kids in institutionalized care beyond school. as a working parent I work with extended family and college students to allow my kids the FREEDOM they need during school breaks. There are many valuable activities/experience other than the classroom. The idea that families be asked to follow a calendar totally out of sync with extended family and support systems is just awful and highly disrespectful of the families role (vs. the schools) in a child's life. Please do NOT do this.

I don't want you taking care of my kids on breaks....I want them to experience other things...girl Socut camp, church camp, sports camps, camping, hiking, travel, vacations, time with grandparents.....

I feel students need to spend time with family during their breaks. They also need "down time" to relax and not be on the go all the time.

I feel that children need time to play hard as well as work hard.

I feel that offering remediation throughout the school year, rather than just in the summer (ex. summer school) would greatly benefit students. This would allow teachers to continually offer "catch up" skills throughout the school year rather than only during the summer months.

I feel that the current schedule of summer camps (news sentinal) could increase and become more diverse given longer breaks in the spring and fall as well as summer

I feel while down time is important, planned "play time" is a plus. In today's society we tend to participate in less and less physical activity and mental stimulation. America is becoming more and more reticent...lethargic...LAZY

I firmly believe that this is a huge waste of tax dollars, time and effort. Several studies show that the balanced calendar model is counter productive to student retention and learning, so much so, that school systems which adopted this program have now turned away from it and gone back to the traditional calendar once again. Please restore my faith in the system that my voice is actually heard and this survey was not a waste of my time as many of them seem to have been.

Parent Comments

Please share any additional comments regarding student break time activities.

I have a daughter with a learning disability, she works like crazy during school and needs time off with more school being thrown at her. She picks a book or two to read during the summer and some of the work and trips she has she has to do math, but she needs time between school years to not have to worry about school and be a kid. She starts high school this fall and she is going to be overwhelmed with work, the summer gives her plenty of time to relax, have fun and get prepared for the next school year. During the school year all she does is school work, no playing or fun stuff. Most of her childhood has been school work and school programs. She grew up way to fast.

I have a special education student. I can't answer yes to taking advantage of sessions during the breaks without knowing if any of those would be geared towards or focused on those students and their needs.

I hope enrichment means opportunities for children who are academically advanced.

I hope that all activities are voluntary and not mandated by Knox County Schools.

I hope that there are enrichment programs offered as well as intervention programs.

I hope we do a balanced schedule!!

I just wonder what sort of "activities" would be available (both financially and physically) for ALL Knox County Schools, especially for lower-income students within inner city schools. I also wonder who will be working these break time activities, and will they all have the same quality in academic benefits for students across Knox County...?

I know the writing is on the wall, and I recognize that you don't really care what we think. However, this is a dreadful idea, and you may be certain I will vote against, and donate to the opponents of, any elected representative who supports this plan.

I like the camps that UT offer for the summer (art, woodworking, science, etc). However, they are very expensive. If Knox County could offer something like that during summer or intercession, I would be very interested in signing my children up for those programs.

I look forward to spending time with my child during the breaks.

I personally think that question 11 is misleading. While I can make arrangements for my child during the summer (45 days or longer), it is unfair to project that same arrangement for a much shorter break. Try getting a sitter for a few days every few months. It's not a dependable form of childcare. Day cares aren't going to open for people who aren't already enrolled.

I question the feasibility of partaking in enrichment programs during the two week breaks. I would be interested to know how many private organizations would be able to staff and offer them.

I really believe that this is a complete non-issue - child care providers and community organizations will simply adjust their schedules to match that of the school system, as they do now.

I stay home with my kids in the summer and we travel a great deal, which makes it difficult to be involved in local activities that require attendance on a regular basis. We do take advantage of the Knox County Library's summer reading program.

I think child care and sports would adjust to the new calendar.

I think enrichment and intervention during these breaks would improve our graduation rate.

I think it is unwise to assume cost and transportation is not a barrier. Someone will have to pay for this. Our county's budget is already too stretched as it is. We will be putting more money into this than we have. Or will the solution be to force the teachers to work those extra weeks in order to provide these services? I am sure there is no money in our budget to pay them for six weeks of extra work. It is most unfair they will have to work six more weeks without more pay.

I think many of my students would benefit greatly from either free activities provided by KCS or other activities provided by the community, and they DEFINITELY would benefit from more immediate remediation after instruction.

I think my children deserve this time to be kids. We are constantly going during the school year, and our students have extremely high (and sometimes unrealistic) expectations to be so young. They need time to just play.

I think parents with regular jobs will have childcare issues, but if other programs were offered for a minimum fee for the school year, I think parents will be ok.

I think that the breaks should be used for fun activities and school related.

I think the YMCA could really benefit the enrichment of the students during the off periods.

I ultimately complete surveys by going to the polls and voting.

Parent Comments

Please share any additional comments regarding student break time activities.

I value my family time and the time we spend together traveling and playing together during our summer break. This still does not look like the calendar changes that I have heard the Board is considering. I would be very disappointed in a school system that failed to provide specific information concerning the true changes we would experience as parents and as employees.

I value the opportunity for my children to be on a break during student breaks.

I value unstructured family time and family travel time during summers.

I want more interventions for gifted children, specifically in biological sciences.

I want my child to have a summer in which they can learn, grow, and experience life. They are pushed all year long which turns children against learning.

I want to be a part of my child's break time activities.

I want to spend as much time with my children when I have the opportunity. I am my children's first teacher and want to be involved in their education as much as possible. We explore sports camps, library excursions, friends, and vacations. I am not overly interested in full break opportunities when I can be enjoying my family by being involved with rich opportunities and experiences.

I was a single parent for a couple years when girls at Lotts. Child care would be good for working parents

I was home with my child

I will be the parent.

I will fight this

I wonder in the upper grades, students could earn the right to experience some internship or coop experiences that might help them to see the benefits of the classes they are taking that semester.

I would like for my children to be involved in recreational or enrichment programs but as a single parent I feel challenged by time, transportation, and sometimes expenses. How would these issues be addressed or recognized?

I would like these to be offered at no charge or at discounted rate especially for those that are KCS employees.

I would love to be able to spend time with my kids in the different seasons.

I would not invent the wheel. I would go to other systems that are already doing this program and discuss in full detail what is working and what is not working.

I would not send my child to school on breaks!

I would not take advantage of enrichment programs offered locally. I might consider traveling to historic locations so my children could experience that.

I would prefer to engage in private family trips to enrich my child's overall education.

If a student is falling behind during the first 45 days of class and they have the opportunity to have an intervention it will only be successful if the pupil/teacher ratio is kept low.

If during the break my child was at a Knox County program offered by the schools they would have no break from the scoop which is part of the reason for a balanced calendar

If I feel that the time away from school can benefit my kids in some way and I don't have to miss work (thus not able to care for them \$\$ wise) I'd be more interested.

If it is a break, why would it be spent doing school related curriculum?

If it's considered a school break, I'm not sure that I want my kids having to get up early and adjust to another schedule. Sometimes breaks just need to be breaks.

If my children were younger, I would be feeling very anxious about what child care programs will be offered and who will work them - since many summer experiences are staffed by college students.

If my time off as a KCS teacher is not interrupted by Knox County then I won't need any child care.

If school is going to be out, I do not want myself working or my children having to go during these breaks. A break should be a true break.

If the balanced calendar is implemented, there would be no time for student summer activities and vacations too.

If the needs of my student aren't able to be met by the school system currently we have no use for the school system during breaks.

If there was evidence to show that our students would benefit significantly, this should be considered. We have experienced much change in the last several years. If there is little benefit, why are we even looking at this?

If you had a child who played middle or high school sports it would be hard to plan a vacation during those breaks because they probably wouldn't be allowed to miss. That should be taken into consideration when planning games or practice. I would rather take a vacation during the fall break.

Parent Comments

Please share any additional comments regarding student break time activities.

If you offered enrichment and recreation to the students your insurance costs and transportation costs would increase. Unless the BOS is going to offer additional money it is hard to believe you are not going to run into a financial issue with all these "new programs" Secondly it would seem you will run the teachers into a coma working so many additional hours or you will have to employ more staff, which will cost more money. All for summer knowledge loss? Seems like a lot of costs to retain some information.

I'm confused as to why the click here graphic above is different from the initial graphic used before the survey begins. Exactly which calendar is being proposed by KCS?

I'm unable to answer question number twelve because cost and transportation are factors and cannot be discarded.

In our situation, as with many families, our vacation time is spring/ summer only, many families take advantage of lower spring rates which are offered now because school is out at the end of May instead of during June---officially summer. The winter months offer very little for families with limited or even average incomes. More winter vacation lends itself to inactive, bored children on video games.

Intercessions allow the possibility for prolonged, out of school field trips.

Interest only in extended summer months

Intervention classes offered but not required. Students will feel punished.

Intervention for Knox county schools is called credit recovery and is accomplished on a computer. Personal instruction (ie tutoring) from a teacher and textbooks are not part of this kind of intervention. Intervention is trying to bring students up to grade level in their school performance. Enrichment is opportunities to learn that go beyond the traditional classroom experience, such as a field trip.

Isn't it called a BREAK?!

It breaks my heart that in today's society our children are being raised by the school system instead of their own parents.

It is a break for a reason- I would not require my child to work on their break

It is a break. It is time to relax and not stress out

It would have been nice to know prior to buying a home in this district.

It would not be harmonized with other school districts in the province

It would totally remove students from getting valuable work experiences in a true job environment. Being able to show you could balance work with school and other activities can sometimes set a student apart when competing for a job when they are thrown into the workplace

It's unrealistic to ask people to ignore cost OR transportation. These are major issues and unless you're planning to substantially increase the school budget, none of these will happen. And the children who would most benefit from these activities (as part of a balanced calendar) are the least likely to be able to afford the time or money to attend.

KCS has economies of scale, but limited fiscal discipline. Private entities offer better opportunities and do so on limited budgets with fiscal controls.

Kids place. If you are offering enrichment, etc. at the school then just offer school

Knox county list if free activities during break. Zoo, aquarium, dollywood, wilderness of smokies.

Knox County Schools cannot and should not "have all the answers" for how to care for our children by offering their own assistance. This is supposed to be a mutual partnership with the families. KCS needs a break from the kids just as much as the kids need a break from KCS.

Leave schools alone

Let the kids be kids. They need to play with their friends in the neighborhood, ride bikes, swim, play backyard sports, read, use their imaginations. Why do we need all these activities for them during their alleged "breaks?" Who will pay for all these programs?

More information is needed to answer this. Who is paying for these programs and are employees required to work them?

More involved community leaders mentoring "real world" skills--workshops? Paid internships?

Most sports are played year round so I don't think it would be an issue.

Most students that need help during this time will require transportation.

My child does not need intervention, so sports/enrichment/educational/social would be fun for him as I may work during those break anyway. My other child is not school aged.

My child does swim team and other sporting camps. I don't need Knox County to make my activities.

Parent Comments

Please share any additional comments regarding student break time activities.
My child is committed to a summer job, as well as a summer camp not located in Knox County. These are recurring summer activities. It would be extremely difficult for any part of our summer schedule to work if a balanced calendar is adopted.
My child is gifted and does not require these activities. She participates in programs for gifted children at other sites.
My child who is currently in school does not need intervention at this time, but may benefit from enrichment. However, my younger child may need intervention when he gets to school, and if that is the case, I would be interested in KCS intervention programs.
My child will do activities with me that take his mind off the pressure of school. These activities are educational in nature and provide a method of learning without the stress of school. Such as fishing, hunting, hiking and other outdoor events including Boy Scouts for the past 6 years.
My children are of the age where they would want to have a summer job. The balanced calendar will make this very difficult.
My children are older and have their own activities planned during their "off time".
My children enjoy being home during breaks. We allow our children to participate in activities such as church or community organizations, however mine would not be interested in attending intervention or enrichment at school as it would mean in all actuality, no break for them.
My children enjoy being home during breaks. We allow our children to participate in activities such as church or community organizations, however mine would not be interested in attending intervention or enrichment at school as it would mean in all actuality, no break for them.
My children have always participated in summer swim team programs. Shorter summers would not allow these programs to function at a beneficial level. They wouldn't have time to condition and hold meets. Many older students need to have summer jobs in order to save for college and personal expenses.
My children have to go to another state to be with their other parent during the breaks. I hope that this calendar will help cut down on the traveling back and forth that our children have to do during the school year and give the children longer breaks with their other parent.
My children love their current private summer camp activities and our summer vacations.
My children stay so stressed out all school year, they complain of their over stressed, frustrated, grouchy teachers. I feel this plan will just make things worse. I also have a child with a summer job who needs the money from work, I also work another job in the summer and our family depends on the extra income. I also have a son that is stationed in Alaska, Mother in law in Canada, Father in law in NY. We work most of the summer to afford these trips to visit our family. Each of the trips requires several weeks of travel.
My children visit out of town family during the summer, we go on vacation, we visit friends who have moved away, they play outside, they go to camps and learn.....Balanced calendar would remove most of these activities.
My children would receive no benefit from spending their more frequent breaks with a child care facility or recreational program. I do not entrust my children in the care of strangers.
My concern for students is that they work summer jobs.
My daughter works as a lifeguard during the day and a restaurant at night to get money for herself. The schedule changes would not allow her to be responsible for her own money.
My daughter works over the summer doing horse camps. This new schedule would completely ruin her chances of attending Maryville College in the Equestrian field.
My grandchildren participate each summer in zoo camp, art/music camp at their church, basket ball camp, tennis camp, and Bible school. My daughter-in-law and I (former educator) provide them with summer enrichment at home to enhance their preparation for the upcoming school year.
My idea for the use of the extra time would be to take a 3-5 day vacation in the spring/fall and have time to recover from it by getting my family ready for the next beginning semester such as school supplies, clothing etc. I would still participate in the same summer activities that we presently participate. There is also the opportunity to serve in the community with the extra time. My parents and in-laws need help so we could use the spring/fall time to travel to visit them and offer to complete odd jobs they need help with.
My son has reading tutoring, occupational therapy, and vision therapy during our breaks. The recreation activities like summer camp or sports camps can not be an experience provided by Knox County Schools.

Parent Comments

Please share any additional comments regarding student break time activities.

My student is a TAG student and advanced in all areas. When he is out, I enjoy having the same schedule so I can be at home with him doing what parents are supposed to do with their children.....having fun and enjoying one another's company. If we have inservice days he stays with my parents, but they live an hour away. That means up super early and transporting him there prior to beginning my day. He is a type A personality and stresses over doing well. He needs the break more than being pushed harder.

My students are high school and participate in non-school activities during the summer

None

None of the above. The purpose of balanced calendar is time away from school, not to spend their breaks at school plus instructional days, that just adds school days to the school year and negates purpose of balanced calendar.

Not interested in these programs offered. I do not agree with balanced calendar

Not sure how much enrichment can really happen in a week break. All the segmentation of activities seems too unstable and disjointed to be of benefit.

Of course we would be interested, assuming cost and transportation weren't barriers. That's a no-brainer; however, they are issues for our family, as well as the majority of families I know in KCS. I'm not holding my breath on that one either.

One Balanced Calendar system that I know uses the first week of each break as Intervention. Some children stay home during breaks alone or watching other siblings. Even if this is the case, it is better to break that time up with Balance Calendar than for such a long summer. I think school trips such as Gettysburg, New York, Camp Wesley Woods could use the two week breaks for those activities. Some say that the Balance Calendar affects football programs in negative ways. This is not the case, Alcoa's Football State Champions is proof of that.

One of my boys will be out of high school and the other will be high school age when this is implemented. So the activities during breaks are not of interest to me because of their ages.

One primary concern about the balanced calendar is its impact on student's ability to take advantage of out of city and out of state programs. Intersession opportunities could not replace what would be missed, so local offerings are not of interest.

Opportunities and activities vary depending on child's interest level and cost

Our family engages in multiple learning opportunities during breaks

Our summers are already completely full from beginning to end at this point between vacation and multiple sport camps

Our younger children that are not in school yet are going to have to go to day care more of the year. This will cost us more money and not allow us to prepare them as well for Kindergarten.

Parents need to step and become the parent in-charge of their offspring. School is only one part of a child's education.

Part of the reason that I love teaching is because I get to stay home with my child for the summer.

People are just going to find care. The idea that this is school enrichment time is a nice idea but not realistic at all.

Please allow enrichment and intervention programs provided by Knox Co to be taught on a voluntary base. Please do not make I/E a requirement for teachers or penalize teachers who are unable to comply.

Please give opportunities to the good and smart kids.

Pool visits stop Summer job for students. How make up snow days during balanced year

Re: Potential Enrichment via Knox County Schools - please offer cursive writing and I might be interested. Re: Recreation/Enrichment via Community/Religious Organizations - We are VERY much in support of the current programs offered by Knox County private schools however I DOUBT seriously Webb School/Tate's/Sacred Heart and CAK will adopt the same proposed balanced calendar.

School-based community based agency programs were not listed as a choice. My children attend school-based programs that are not operated by KCS. We would like to continue, but would also need these programs available during break times.

Since daycare is really not available to middle school kids it would be helpful for the parents have a place with activity especially for this age since it is limited in community.

Since I am a teacher for Knox County Schools, I look forward to spending my breaks with my daughter, so I do not require any outside activities for my child.

Smaller government please.

Parent Comments

Please share any additional comments regarding student break time activities.

Some families need a place for multiple aged children. Some kids need a place to get meals or they go hungry. Transportation is a huge factor. With kids in multiple schools, how are we to get them to any of these programs on our own? I also think businesses that count on college and high school labor will be impacted. This conversation has not been loaded with details.

Something for high schoolers who struggle

Something not thought of with the Balanced Calendar is the parents that work from home- when the kids are out for longer breaks during the school year the parents that work from home are still trying to work from home! This is an added burden on those parents, their employers and the families.

Sometimes a break just needs to be a break. It's can be ok to not have every day programmed.

sounds like it may become year round school for some kids that may take enrichment or intervention programs just for it to be "free" child care. doesn't seem fair to me really

Sports teams can also hold extended practices and camps, which I would have loved when I was coaching cheer.

Students should be able to take vacations and participate in summer activities. We do a lot of living history re-enactments and this would seriously remove those opportunities. Those events are not held during the other scheduled breaks proposed.

Students would not be free to take advantage of summer breaks because school assignments such as research papers, studying for tests and required reading will be given over the break periods and students will participating in sports and certain extracurricular activities will have to stay in town to participate. Many community programs available during summer breaks are staffed by college students who would not be available for those programs during breaks in the middle of the school year.

Success of this transition is allowing plenty of time and communication for community partners that provide programs/child care time to make this change. I encourage you to reach out to these groups both for profit as well as the churches that provide these services. Reach out to different parts of the county as well. I recommend First Baptist of Fountain City as a opportunity to engage someone who runs a daily program that ebbs and flows depending on when school is in or out.

Summer camps that my child would attended would be greatly affected and I don't like that! Summer breaks visiting family and places because of my husband's job wouldn't coordinate with balanced calendar. So not happy at all!

That clause, "Assuming cost and transportation were not a barrier..." - that's paramount. I can't stress this enough. The bus would literally have to pick my kid up and bring him home just like a school day, and at the same times (and at the same cost.) I'm curious to see whether these activities are set up during regular school hours, or if they're all \$50 per child - plus pocket money and lunch, and go from 10am-2pm like so many other "opportunities." Who's paying for those things? Taxes? Government incentives? Just curious.

The community should not be expected to provide subsidies for my children during breaks.

The cost & availability of child care directly relates to the amount of time employees miss work. Unless these activities babysit for 8-10 hrs Mon -Fri, they are not supporting parents!

The enrollment of these enrichment programs always gives priority to students performing in the lowest academic percentiles. My children never get afforded the opportunity to participate in summer school enrichment because they are not "low" enough. I am not convinced that this will not occur during these increased breaks with the balanced calendar scenario .

The intervention and enrichment programs are a great opportunity to address both students that need remediation and more challenging opportunities. This also helps address parents' childcare concerns.

The intervention time seems primarily geared to keep teachers in the classroom for more contract days.

The program options listed above by Knox County Schools would be wonderful due to the fact that it is a very diverse school system. There are many families who cannot afford the typical summer camps to send their children to and they miss out on any extra learning or activities that other children benefit from.

The school is to educate. Their mandate is not to care for kids all year long. Give me my kids back. If other parents don't want to be parents that's their deal.

The schools don't need to get into babysitting, parents need to fix that within their communities.

Parent Comments

Please share any additional comments regarding student break time activities.

Their lives are scheduled to the limit, with school, sports, church. And clubs they just need down time to get away and relax. My children travel most of the summer. We have family in Alaska, Canada, NY, DC, NC, CO, and FL. My mother in law, oldest child and grandchildren live out of the continental US and this is our only time to visit them. My children need this time with their family. We are very out doors people and many of our activities are during warm weather.

There are many rec. Centers in the Summer that kids can go to Mon.- Friday from 8-5pm only \$20 a kid!! For the summer!

There would be no way I would just hand over my child any program that I don't know who is employed or who is working there or their history. Taking a a huge risk no knowing who is watching or around your children. Too many molesters, criminals, non-background checks, irresponsible ppl. No!

These are children and being a child is their job. They shouldn't go to school 24/7. If you go with a balanced schedule some kids will go all the time because of interventions. Kids are not puppets you can play with. In my opinion this is nonsense.

These breaks would afford children to participate in extended field trips that they otherwise would not be able to do. An example is that an orchestra group from Maryville Junior High went to Disney during their break this year to participate in a music competition. This gave the students a real stage to show their talents. Priceless!

These breaks would not be breaks for those of us with students in sports. The fall break is not a break, students are required to be at practices and often their are games.

This calendar creates too much strain on parents to find childcare during working hours over the breaks.

This is family time!

This is most difficult aspect for our family in considering balanced calendar. It would be helpful currently, if enrichment opportunities, help with homework or community programs for special needs middle school children were available with transportation from school to the location.

Time to visit out of state family. An European vacation time.

Too expensive to pay for the additional day care. Very disruptive to employees schedules.

Understanding that there will be changes within the traditional summer childcare offerings, I hope that people will realize that day care providers and camps will adjust to the new balanced calendar and that fun new offerings will be created.

Until Knox County Schools can get scores up in general, teachers and communities happy, I think taking on additional programming is not a good idea.

Usually programs offered to the masses are glorified babysitting. How are lower income parents going to afford this additional cost? Will are taxes by raised to cover the expense. Also most lower income students rely on the school meal plan for 2 meals a day. Longer breaks take that away more frequently.

Very interested in Knox County sponsored programs especially if an employee discount is provided. I spend many hours at my school unpaid in which I paid a sitter to watch my children in order to prepare for the coming school year.

We are a one-worker household. Thus, we do not have the money to do camps or vacations. Our time is spent with family and friends and church doing various activities. I don't think Knox County should be getting into the business of child care. I would say the Balanced Calendar will have no effect on our situation from a child care standpoint. As far as intervention, I am not sure what that is other than more school work provided in order to give struggling students more class time because you said in the potential benefits of balanced calendar that there are more frequent breaks that will help students from getting tired of school. And the ones that are struggling are now going to go to more school? Not to be picky, but that seems like you are fixing a problem with more problem, if your benefits are on target.

We are moving too fast with this idea. If there is no enrichment offered at the same time intervention is offered, you are going to lose the support of your "meets" and "exceeds" students and families.

We are not in the state in the summer

We have been told that students who are required to attend school during breaks will have bus transportation. This seems unlikely when considering costs. this needs to be addressed clearly!

We have our own things we do as a fam.

We have used church organizations for child care needs extensively when the children were younger.

Parent Comments

Please share any additional comments regarding student break time activities.

We like to use break times to allow our children to participate in activities that are interesting to them, but not necessarily a part of the school curriculum or that they may not have time for during the school year (trips, museums, and learning to code, working on science or engineering projects, etc.).

We mostly enjoy a time of unstructured activity.

We need a full week fall break again

We need to look at the sports at the high school and middle school level. This was the first year, since we did away with the week long fall break that our family was able to do anything, since we usually spend every Friday in the Fall at the high school football game. There are many sports that are finishing up at the time of fall break, such as volleyball, golf, football, and cross country.

We participated in enrichment activities offered at prior school. Those experiences are some of the things my son still talks about and offer important opportunities for learning hands on and off the core system that our missing today. I think we need this and those activities might capture a struggling student and make all the difference. It also allowed teachers to teach something fun and they were excited and engaged in planning those session so I think increased job satisfaction was also a product.

We stay busy enough on our own with sports. Any time off we are not busy with sports we rest.

What happens to athletics during that week? Do games still get scheduled during that week? Can that be a required "Open Week" for games?

What kind of leading question is #12? You know there will be a cost!

What the schools offer is just for people that do not have a job.summer school for example,8:00am to 11:00am tell me how is a working person supposedly is going to tell his employer that he has to be at work late and leave early you will not even allow that of your employees

What will be the out of pocket expense for these programs?

What's the purpose of breaks if the students will be engaged in educational/enrichment programs st the school? Hours would need to be the same so parents wouldn't have childcare issues. Seems to defeat the purpose of the breaks.

When students are off from school and they are not yet driving, parents must take off work to transport the kids to these activities....with a balanced calendar, you are disrupting my time at work multiple times per year to provide transportation to these activities which normally do not have start and end times (9 to noon or 9 to 3) that work well with an 8 to 5 business schedule

When they are out of school, they are out of school. I would not want to send my children to school or to a school organized program when they are "on break."

Where is the third pie graph that was supposed to be in the survey? Eventually you will need to fund teacher salaries or ask them to work during breaks or complete all there in service hours, and pay for additional transportation costs.

While it might benefit some children who are able to travel during breaks, I'm afraid some might be left at home alone. Also, I would like to see where the funding is going to come from for enrichment programs.

While rest and breaks are important, it would also be useful and fun for children to have a variety of opportunities.

Who is going to staff these breaks if they are offered by Knox County? As a teacher, most of us want the time for a break!

Who will run the school enrichments? Teachers?

Who will work these jobs? Paid full time? Able to work full time with benefits?

Why would these programs not be offered with the calendar we have in place now, i.e. why are these just now being brought up with a balanced calendar? I also do not think that many people will be interested (or some may show interest but not actually engage in any of these activities) in an intervention or enrichment program b/c the whole point of a break is to take a break...students need the down time to recharge. School has already become such a stressful atmosphere and with the amount of testing and the difficulty of the curriculum (i.e. no time for fun learning projects anymore), students desperately need time to decompress.

With Knox Co not paying staff competitive wages I don't see how offering students during breaks is possible. Offering opportunities during break would require paying staff more money. I feel that parents should have a responsibility in their childs education and not depend on the school system for everything. I feel that many parents will treat what is offered as a free babysitting service.

You can't say that these times are "breaks" for KCS employees if you expect them to provide these enrichment programs.

Parent Comments

Please share any additional comments regarding student break time activities.

You give a long break and people leave town. There is no true enrichment time for those who might need it. Generations have spent specific weeks at camps and this type of school calendar takes that opportunity away from so many kids who NEED the social and psychological growth these types of camps and traditional summer programs offer.

Parent Comments

Please add any additional comments pertaining to child care arrangements during breaks.

Additional breaks will disadvantage working single parents. Get my boss to give me 4 weeks of vacation, get the family courts to modify my parenting plan, and I'll be the most ardent supporter of the balanced school year. But you can't do that. Whether or not anyone at the School Board or within KCS can recognize it, this plan promises, guarantees to further erode the sanctity of the family. Zero divorce rate: great idea. 49% divorce rate: further disadvantages already struggling working single parent. Unless they work for the schools.

Again - just a few years ago, I would be answering the question above with "very difficult."

Again, I believe any child care manager/facility should/would be willing to conform their programs with a balanced calendar in order to accommodate their customers.

As a parent that works from home it will increase our stress level. My kids would not get to go on a vacation like the school board thinks all of these parents and kids will be- they will be sitting on their bottoms at home watching their parents still work their full time positions.

As a single working parent of a high achieving child, I rely on summer day camps to provide both care and educational enrichment beyond what the school system can provide. Having access to opportunities to learn outside of the classroom is very important to me and my child.

As previously stated, I am sure that child care programs will adapt and offer care. My concern is what the child care options will include. Rather than outdoor adventures, my concern is that my children will be sitting inside a building doing indoor activities. Our focus during school breaks is on active playtime and spending lots of time outdoors.

Camps, etc. need to change schedules BEFORE you enact this calendar, not after.

Caregivers and community daycare centres may have different schedules

Child care are their rules they are not the answer to everyone's needs but they provide for the most part a costly alternative

Child care can be so difficult to obtain already. Waiting lists start for summer months in advance. How will parents plan for two week breaks? Most PTO programs aren't going to provide enough PTO for parents to just vacation with their children on breaks. What will they do now?

Child care facilities and private childcare providers will adjust.

Child care facilities will adapt to whatever the schools decide.

Childcare throughout the year would be a significant issue for employees, especially those who rely on summer camps and VBS as affordable summer childcare options. Those options would not be available throughout the year, especially those staffed by summertime/college help. Businesses would no doubt be affected by missed employee time.

College students are our go to. We will be off of their schedule which has taken a while for UT and Knox county to get on the same calendar breaks.

Day cares can't find workers....they'll be in school Child care will go up.

Depends on particular dates chosen, but our family will ALWAYS work it out, as our child is our top priority, whereas our child is just another face in the crowd to Knox County.

Difficult for the fact that child care expenses double during breaks.

Divorced parents that have their visitation based off previous school calendars will find it very difficult to change their arrangements. I for one, see more of my children during the summer vacation than I do throughout the school year. When I do see them during the school year its only weekends and school breaks land with my ex. This would shift the days dramatically in the others favor and causing a shift in child support as well as time away from my children.

Does not effect me but the concern here is for single parents possibly having a difficult time finding child care during breaks

Dual enrollment at local campuses would not be on a similar schedule. This is a want to plan, not a plan that research supports as a clear betterment for learning.

During the 2 week snow break this year, it was absolutely chaos in terms of not getting any school work done despite the fact that assignments were made and could be checked online. At the end of the 2 week break, our principal left a message that only 13% of students had checked their assignments. Based on the snow break, I find it very doubtful that students that are already falling behind in their classes would use extra time off to study.

Extremely disruptive.

Parent Comments

Please add any additional comments pertaining to child care arrangements during breaks.

families who use extended family and college students to care for kids during breaks- are left without child care at all. Sending kids to school programs during breaks is not an option. In this climate of "education reform" They need more experiences outside the classroom- not fewer.

Finding child care for the same cost will be impossible. It will hurt our family's budget.

fire mcintyre

Fortunately, we're adjusted our work schedule to reduce workload in the summer and take advantage of additional free time with our children. We do not have that luxury in the Spring and Fall.

From the last question, it may be somewhat difficult as to how the afterschool program will treat this new schedule and working around this change.

Going from 1-week Fall/Spring breaks to 2-week breaks will make very little difference.

Has also been reported that child care costs for parents have almost doubled going to this schedule

How about the administrators that want this program take a 10% pay cut. Then see who is interested in this stupid idea.

I am mostly concerned about child care arrangements/costs when considering balanced calendar. Both my husband and I work full time and carry a substantial amount of responsibility in our jobs, thus making childcare more difficult. When considering the balanced calendar, we would be required to provide childcare arrangements more often and consistently vs, just the need for a few days here and there that grandparents can most often accommodate out of town.

I appreciate the focus on family... we need more focus on family all around!

I as a single parent, already have problem childcare during regular breaks like Christmas and Spring Break. Making the school year nontraditional does not help me at all!

I believe 100% that child care providers and community organizations will simply adjust their schedules to match that of the local school system, as they do now and as they always have. This is simply a non-issue.

I believe child care, after care, and programs such as Big Brothers/Sisters would expand and develop programs designed to facilitate the balanced program.

I depend on my relatives for help with child care when school is out and I cannot not stay home from work. Even now I am challenged with them being out of town at times when we are on break and I need help.

I do not know what to do.

I employ a UT student to care for my TWO children after school and through the summer. I would not only NOT have that student available to care for my children due to the schedule change, they would want a job for the entire summer - which I would not be able to give them - I would LOSE my child care if the switch is made to a balanced calendar and my kids would probably be home alone due to the ridiculous "balanced" schedule. That is NOT a positive change in any way nor will it benefit their education.

I think it is very clear where I stand.

I use college students as sitters in the summer months. These students would not be available for random weeks during the school year

I use students from the community college where I work to serve as babysitters during the summer. With a balanced schedule, they wouldn't be available during most of the breaks because they would be in school themselves. I would prefer not to have to take the kids to a community/school-based camp every day of a break.

I will have to either quit my full-time job to accommodate this schedule or homeschool my children as an alternative.

I will pull my child from Knox County Schools if they choose to go to a balanced calendar.

I would have to pay more weeks of a full time rate rather than a pay time rate

I would have to take time off at different times of the year on a balanced calendar which is appealing- better rates at the beach in the fall.

If it's that big of a deal then people need to send their kids to private school or home school.

If my child had projects to do or someplace to go for a few hours a day, that would be great. Having difficulty this year because she turns 13. YMCA stops at 12 years old. Wish she could continue to go.

Parent Comments

Please add any additional comments pertaining to child care arrangements during breaks.

If my children were younger, it would be very difficult. As it is, I am certain that these longer breaks will be wasted time that could have been better spent working during a longer summer. It's already very difficult to get back on track after fall and winter break. The best breaks are the Friday/Monday off/long weekends, which are long enough to recharge without messing up the routines too badly. I seriously dread having three of these long breaks per school year, and expect it will make my son feel like he's constantly starting at the beginning. He's very routine oriented, and it takes him a long time to develop a "system." However, I will change my opinion when I know more about how the school system plans to implement continued learning opportunities during the breaks.

If the local child care organizations add the extra "break weeks" to their coverage, this will be a non-issue. We have utilized both Bearden United Methodist and Central Baptist Bearden churches.

If this is adopted, all parents just need to make arrangements around the school schedule and make what's best for our children a priority.

If you need child care this will cause more frustration and greater family expense.

In speaking with several child care centers, there is a strong concern about how they will find and train qualified staff members, and some think their turnover rate among staff will increase.

It all depends on if after school care programs are allowed in the buildings during school breaks. Parents are extremely worried about that.

It could be very expensive to try to find child care during the school year for extended periods of time. We are able to arrange child care within our family over the summer but doing so during the school year would be difficult and we could have to arrange for a paid provider.

it depends on how providers adjust to new schedule

It is easy for me as a stay at home mom, but on the same hand, I'll get 50 calls from working friends who want me to help with their child during the break.

It would be easy if the school-based program was open during breaks.

It would be impossible for me to find the quality of care and the experience my children get from their current summer programs. This type of program will not be available during the new Fall/Spring breaks and I would struggle to find supervision for my children with which I would feel comfortable. In addition, it is not possible to replace the high quality experiences they have at summer camps.

It would be nice to have local daycare/childcare centers adopt the calendar as well. Offer part time care for school age children, most do not allow you to bring a child "part time" and many parents can't afford to pay the full-time fees when they are not going full-time. I would like to hear their opinions on this matter.

It would be very difficult for me. I am not sure what we would do if you switch to a balanced calendar. I cannot afford a babysitter for those two weeks. We make by on the short breaks with help from friends/family, but the longer breaks would be a disaster.

It's very difficult to answer this series of questions without having an idea of dates involved.

Knox County Should offer free After School Care for Children. Ask the Government for After School Grants.

Last year my 4th grader could stay home with my high schooler. She is now going off to college so I will have to find different childcare arrangements.

Leave schools alone

Limited programs available, with minimal spaces available, and elevated expenses! During Summer, camps can range from \$100.00 to \$250.00 a week, but at least there are plenty of camps to choose from! Now, if the schools were encouraged to allow regulated after care companies to operate on school grounds during the breaks, it would make the proposal less threatening for many families.

Many after school and summer programs don't charge by the day it's by the week or month, so please keep this in mind when switching to calendar that parents may have to fork out a little more for care. Please do not make it where there off days cut in the middle of the week either be in school ALL week or be out ALL week. Families will also be trying to schedule things and would be easier if they had the whole week and weekend to plan short gets aways. It isn't the students that are lacking it's the teachers we have teaching in this system who just dont give a crap. The administration has been notified numerous times and nd does nothing.....therefore the only person this hurts is the students.

more money out of pocket by either taking off work or paying for child care. It is easy to have a family member keep a child for 1-2 days, but to have extended days off creates more of a need for a formal child care setting.

Parent Comments

Please add any additional comments pertaining to child care arrangements during breaks.
Most middle school students are too old for after school care or child care during breaks unless private sitters or private camps are employed, at an expense. Many people have no choice but to leave middle school kids as latch key or home alone during summer and school breaks. When both parents work full time, as in my family, additional breaks from school do not provide additional family quality time as we cannot get off work just because our kids are home. But we do not feel that middle school kids are best off left home alone (or with other middle school kids).
My child care provider is already working on a plan anticipating this change
My child does not and will not need any kind of educational experiences outside of school. (As said in the 3rd statement)
My child is getting to the age he needs less of this, however at earlier ages systems are in place and will be difficult to arrange.
My children are old enough to stay at home alone so child care is not an issue for us.
My family manages now and will continue to manage regardless of any change that Knox County Schools does/does not implement. Balanced calendar will provide a negative challenge to our ability to spend time with family living outside of the KCS district. It will further limit the times when we are available to vacation with out of town family/friends. If we chose family/friends over the school schedule, we may be forced to sacrifice school attendance and/or "educational experiences outside of school." See? There is no free lunch. "Opportunity costs" always exist.
My older kids look out for theyounger ones and I am sure services will adapt to the new schedule quickly.
My son played baseball at Bearden....he got no spring break....if you make it longer that is added time that we would not have been able to get away. Unless the TSSAA is modifying their calendars, then myself and my house are strongly opposed.
Not all parents are affluent where cost of child care would be minor expense.
Number 15 would be easy to difficult at times, depending on work schedule.
On site providers ned to be flexible enough to offer care during those times.
One of my children needs the morning summer classes to be ready for the next year. It is a concern what our schedule would be if I we will need to find private summer tutoring.
our family relies on sports and enrichment activities run by university students. If school and university calendars are not compatible this will have a strong negative impact on our arrangements.
Please don't penalize traditional two parent households to appease other family types
please read previous comments
See previous statement.
The Boys and Girls Club is awesome and provide multiple activities during summer break times
The community thinks you've already made the decision and will manipulate the survey to fit your needs
The facts are not there to substantiate the benefits of a balanced calendar let alone year round schooling. The impact on younger grades is significantly smaller, but the impact on higher grades would be substantial. I am very opposed to this change, and I am prepared to campaign to remove any leadership that supports it.
The most difficulty in child care arrangements will be for my youngest child who will just be starting kindergarten in the fall. I can't leave him home alone as I may a teenage child. I would not want my teenage child having to spend every break as a babysitter.
The primary issue for me is not childcare (I can stay home with my children) but rather loss of enrichment activities.
This has nothing to do with child care. Please provide evidence as to why i should support this change. This is being shoved down our throats like many other government initiatives. Obviously elected officials know how we should all run our families and this calendar is the best way. Shameful!
This is all predicated on the agencies that provide child care making the change as well. If they don't, my support changes dramatically. Again, early and often
This will increase my child care bill by \$500-\$1000 a year, FOR NO BENEFITS
Unless daycare programs are allowed into the schools on breaks, this system will not work for my family. I love my provider and do not want you interfering with my program. It works and they have earned my trust.
We are lucky. As it stands now, we are able to make it work. But, if my wife has to return to work because of financial needs, we are in a world of trouble. No day care is going to take kids for 3-4 weeks at a time and we have no family here. It would be very tough. I would say for the majority of either single parent homes and homes with two working parents, this is a big mistake. I hate to imagine the hardship. Good luck with that one.

Parent Comments

Please add any additional comments pertaining to child care arrangements during breaks.

We have a parent at home now so it's easy for us to switch. But we used after care before and worked essentially the same. The program in the area adjusted to support the school. I never noticed an issue with hiring staff or finding space in a program.

We have a stay at home parent in our family and child care is not an issue.

We have child are closely linked to the UT calendar and a combination of part time jobs with odd hours for one parent so that we can provide a quality home situation for our children. Altering the calendar to include more frequent schedule changes will be very difficult for our family and job situation.

We have no family here so I must find child care in order to work and some of the summer programs frankly have had shorted hours, been over ratio, under trained and with unqualified staff and not of really good quality. Summer school, which we tried one year made my younger child frustrated and unhappy. I hate the thought of subjecting him to this over and over esp when he will already have trouble with the constant transitions from schedule changes. My older one will have a really hard time finding a summer job.

We have no family in town and both parents work. It will be difficult and potentially costly to move to a balanced calendar.

we rely on family but childcare places will adapt

We use the summer break as opportunity for our family to bond and get away from the rest of the world. Since we are able to operate on our own schedule during the summer, we try to be respectful of the time our children spend in class during the school year with as few abences/appointments as possible. If the balanced calendar cuts into our family-life experiences and travel, however, then we would therefore begin to take those missed experiences during the school year without as much concern for the school calendar.

We utilize Kids Place and have experienced challenges as KCS has eliminated their ability to be on-site during breaks. With the balanced calendar it would be imperative that on-site care be allowed

When union employees request time off it is done by seniority. If all Knox schools parents at my office request time off during the weeks our students are out of school, there is no guarantee i will get time off with my kids.

with my older daughter going to college I wouldn't have someone able to watch my youngest and I don't want her home alone.

Working full time, it's hard to find full time summer childcare. They usually stay at the same place, but I don't want to put them in somewhere for 2 weeks, then pull them out. And do it again and again and again throughout the year.

Yet another reason this balanced calendar is a bad idea.

You would be altering dramatically an entire communities way of life; however, I know that Knoxville is not a huge metropolitan city like Boston or Chicago, but we as East Tennessean have a very respected and deeply rooted tradition, which should not be disturbed and this proposal does just that

Again having to pay when my children are not in childcare because I am a teacher, and I save a lot of money pulling them out in the summer.

Although I no longer need childcare, I believe the child care providers would adjust their schedules to meet the needs of their clients

Although my child is does not require child care, it would be very very difficult for many. I'm wondering if it will cost more overall for parents to switch to a balanced calendar. The problem is people don't have extra money, and will not see the benefits of it, because family only see how much it will cost them.

Another parent works at a different school system not on balanced calendar....kids would miss the other parent.

As a family, I would appreciate having alternate options for travel/vacations during off-peak times of the year.

As a Knox County employee, I would be home with my children on breaks.

As a teacher and parent in KCS, I wish there was a higher rating for the work/life balance I'd anticipate improving with the balanced calendar.

As a teacher I do not have any concerns about childcare since I will be off as well, but I do really worry about other families with 2 working parents.

As a teacher I will have the same breaks as my child so it won't be an issue for me.

As a teacher, I am able to watch my own children during breaks, but I can see where it might be a challenge to people with other careers.

As a teacher, I am off during breaks. My only problem is child care on inservice days.

As an employee of knox county schools childcare will not be an issue.

Parent Comments

Please add any additional comments pertaining to child care arrangements during breaks.
As long as child care providers are open during intersessions for full time care, as they are during winter, spring, and summer breaks, I do not anticipate and issues with child care arrangements.
As long as daycares and after care programs follow same schedule then it shouldn't be an issue
As long as staff and students have the same schedules, child care would be easy.
As long as staff has the same breaks, I am in support of the Balanced Calendar of 45 days on and 10 days off.
As long as teachers are not expected to have work obligations during those breaks, I will be home to take care of my two children.
B/c I am a school employee, child care is not an issue.
Balanced calendar would have no negligible impact on child care arrangements for me as my children will soon be of the age that they do not need constant adult supervision (however as they are still minors there will always be some level of supervision needed).
Being an educator, I am pro balanced calendar. However, I want to know how a balanced calendar will affect KCS employees. I've only seen questions regarding student/family issues. Are PD's offered during the breaks? Who is teaching the interventions during the breaks? My responses to this survey can vary based on the details mentioned above.
Camps and day cares would adjust; supply will always meet demand to make money.
can be very tough at times finding child care
Child care arrangements for families who do not have extended family support or who are single, divorced parents make it extremely tough to find child care arrangements in the best of circumstances. There are very few opportunities to find adequate care in our society because it is not important enough for any one entity to make the changes necessary for working parents.
Child care cost will increase for families with younger students. More teenagers will be at home by themselves during these two week breaks. Has anyone with the school board considered this fact? At least during the summer, I have family in another state who can help me with my children. Not all families have that and I will not have that during the school year during those "break weeks". That is all our county needs - more children and teenagers at home by themselves. Do you not realize that most parent have to work and cannot just take those two weeks off? Not good planning if you want my honest opinion. Please do not force a balanced calendar system on our teachers and students. They deserve better!!!!
Child care facilities in the area will adapt to the school schedule in order to please customers.
Child care facilities will change to follow the schedule of local school districts. This has been the case with other school districts using a balanced calendar.
Child care is a surmountable problem which can be addressed with proper planning like the numerous other systems which have successfully adopted the balanced calendar.
Child care is much easier now that my mother is retired. If I didn't have her for childcare that would be my biggest concern.
Children are already in daycare and after school centers. Which are overcrowded and costly.
Children attend private school
Considering I would most likely be working during at least one week of those breaks, it would mean I would have to pay for childcare which I do not pay when the break is only during the summer. Therefore, it would affect my family budget.
Costs for summer programs probably won't decrease, but there will be additional costs to find childcare during extended breaks. Or I will have to use more time off during this time and not have any actual vacation to use with my child during the summer. Its basically causing a financial burden to our family.
Curious to know if the balanced calendar is cost effective and if employee's will actually have the 10 days off or have professional responsibilities during the 10 day period.
Currently I do not pay for child care. My children are able to come straight to my room from their dismissal and they work on homework. We leave and I have no need for child care. When my children go to the middle and high schools, I will need to have some sort of transportation to the school for them because I will be unable to pick them up. My husband works so he will not be able to either.
Currently I work for KCS so my arrangements are pretty doable. If at any time that changed, ease of arrangements could be very different!
Day cares WILL adapt and accommodate for the calendar.
Daycare facilities will change to accommodate childcare needs if Knox County goes to a balanced calendar.

Parent Comments

Please add any additional comments pertaining to child care arrangements during breaks.
Do not need child care arrangements based on my children's ages
EASY , if again the community rallies around to support. Difficult, if the Knox County schools do not reach out for help at the community . STRONG Partnerships a must !!
Easy as long as I am not required as a Knox Co teacher to be working during these breaks.
Even though my child can stay home alone during breaks, I don't like to have her stay there as a young female.
Help is available during traditional break times. I would suffer a huge loss of income and be left with no help on the balanced calendar.
However I'm on school schedule. Others may not.
I am a KCS employee. Required in-service should not be during each break unless Knox Co. is willing to pay a daily basis
I am a substitute teacher so I am on my kids schedule anyway. Childcare is not an issue. I like the idea of having a longer break in the Fall to travel to places during the "off season" as a family.
I am a substitute teacher so it would have no affect on my situation.
I am a teacher, I would have to find child care during intercession and inservice. Most programs do not take kids just during these times so I have been told I would have to pay for year round child care even if I don't need it all the time. Thesection breaks would be spent in childcare and not with family like it is in the summer.
I am lucky enough to have a family member to help, but most people are not.
I am lucky that I am on the same schedule as my children. However, I think daycares will adjust schedules rather than lose business.
I am not aware of the teacher's role during balanced calendar breaks, so I do not know if I will be REQUIRED to perform additional teacher responsibilities. If, as a teacher, I am required to perform add'l responsibilities during breaks, then childcare will be a challenge; however, if I am not required to perform additional duties, then childcare is a moot point.
I am sure child care will adjust IF this happens, but I have retired parents that can help- others do not have that ability!
I am sure there will be plenty of opportunities during breaks for childcare. I think it will allow for better vacation opportunities, cheaper vacations, and more time as a family. I think there are a lot of positives if people take the time to look. However, ultimately, the schools is tasked with providing the best education, not the best childcare.
I believe child care would make the appropriate adjustments.
I do not feel that "vacationing opportunities" should even be in the discussion regarding the balanced calendar. Yes, it would be nice to visit Disney during an "off season" but not at the expense of my childrens' education.
I do not require childcare from a daycare.
I Do not think many people will be affected by childcare arrangements, simply because I believe childcare facilities will adjust to new schedule by changing accordingly.
I don't have children young enough to need child care; plus, my husband and I are teachers so at least one of us is home when our kids are not in school. However, the child care facilities' will adjust to the school calendar whatever it is; it's their business. If they don't adjust, they go out of business. I don't think it will be an issue.
I feel like the entities who currently provide summer activities for children will begin or continue to offer options that will also occur during the intercessions/breaks, including enrichment classes, sports teams, public venues such as museums and parks, daycare/childcare/aftercare, etc.
I feel we will be charged a premium ("gouged") by providers
I have a child that is on the autism spectrum. I find it very hard to arrange child care. In my current situation I am able to use a hired babysitter that can work well with the child. The babysitter has told me that they can not commit to working as much as a balanced calendar would require. The child struggles with changes in routine. Constant changes in the school year routine like a balanced calendar would have a very negative affect on him. My other neurotypical child is excited about the possibility of more breaks but apprehensive about the loss of summer vacation.
I have a unique situation though.
I have already voiced my opinion.
I have none
I have sacrificed a full time career to be home with my kids. I now substitute teach, so I can be home when they are.

Parent Comments

Please add any additional comments pertaining to child care arrangements during breaks.
I have the ability to stay at home with my child and have family that would care for them. The summer child care issues do not effect me.
I hope that my childcare center will just be able to adapt to the new schedule, so for now I am saying "Easy" on that last question. If they do not adapt, I hope it will be easy to find other options, as I will probably have to work for part of the breaks.
I only marked very positive affect on the family aspect because I would take advantage of the longer breaks to spend quality time with my children. However, I'm sure the majority of households will not do the same. Instead, I anticipate children being left in child care programs on tax payer dollars and parents letting the school system and government raise their children.
I stay at home with my kids on school breaks regardless of the calendar.
I think if the district as a whole moves to the balanced calendar, child care providers will adjust their schedules to accommodate the kids in their programs. Supply & Demand
I think if the entire Knox County School system was on the same calendar, the child care facilities in our community would adjust accordingly.
I think it would be a good idea to look at high school students assisting with younger student programs during the breaks. High school students could get service hours.
I think most daycares and summer camps would adjust to the new calendar.
I will have to find random child care and it will be very experience.
I work for KCS..
I work in the food service for a knox county middle school, so I would be off when they were and there wouldn't be a problem with child care because I would be home with them..
I would enjoy alternatives to a summer vacation.
I would find it difficult to anticipate any switch in a balanced calendar and the impact it would have on our lives because it is unclear at this time what the true plan is concerning the balanced calendar. Please offer more specific information before adopting this change. Be honest, provide specific facts or please do not change the calendar. If the calendar is different than 6 weeks on 2 week off or 9 weeks on 3 weeks off, I would be strongly opposed.
If community /private childcare providers for birth to five will alter their schedules to provide care for KCS employees then that would remove a huge barrier for many families.
If I were to work intercession, I would lose money due to having to pay for childcare.
If I were required to teach enrichment or intervention it would be very difficult to make arrangements for my children during breaks in the school year. I do not have the extra money to pay for daycare.
If it weren't for the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Tennessee Valley, we would struggle with child care. This is an organization that should be supported and touted by EVERY school. The for-profit shades and similar programs offer only a fraction of what's available through BGC. I HATE that the schools partner with them instead of BGC.
If the break is a true break and I am able to be home with my kids like I am in the summer, everything would be fine. If I was expected to do ANY work, any type of trip or meeting, childcare would be very difficult because the person who watches my kids will want to be on vacation with her own kids.
If the daycares and after school programs conform to the balanced schedule and adjust their schedule accordingly, then it should be very easy to find child care during the breaks.
If the schools went to a balanced calendar, the summer programs would adjust.
I'm a teacher, so fine except for I service days
I'm a teacher, so this isn't an issue for me assuming I do not have to work during the break or attend extra inservice meetings.
I'm hoping that my current child care arrangements would be an easy transition
Im not sure about my school aged child during breaks at this time. It depends on the length of my contract with KCS in the coming school years.
I'm not sure how to answer these questions without knowing how this schedule will effect KCS employees that work 221 days. What is the proposed work schedule on the 10 day breaks? Summer break?
In my experience in another state, child care providers work easily with a balanced school calendar, once it was put in place
Initially, it may be challenging, but the market will drive the daycare providers to serve the needs of their consumers.
It depends on how closely KSC staff holidays coincide with the student holidays in the balanced calendar.

Parent Comments

Please add any additional comments pertaining to child care arrangements during breaks.

It depends on how many/when the in-service days would be. I am the sole provider for my child and it would most likely be difficult to get someone to care for her just a handful of times spread throughout the year.

It depends. I became a teacher to have the same breaks as my child. If the breaks are just opportunities for KCS to require meetings or trainings I will have an issue with child care. If the breaks in the balanced calendar are TRUE vacation times, the balanced calendar will provide more vacation opportunities for my family and not be a child care issue.

It has the potential to be difficult if I am having to still work, but he is off.

It is costly, disruptive, inconvenient, and doesn't lead to better knowledge retention.

It is my job to figure it out. The school is not a babysitter.

It just shouldn't be so costly because that would mean an expense parents would have more often throughout the year instead of just the summer.

It will be easy providing I am not required to work intervention sessions as a teacher.

It would depend on the way we staff schools for the intervention/enrichment periods. Since I am the primary caregiver over school breaks if I am required to provide intervention to my students I will not have care for my own children.

It would depend on what other child care arrangements are set up around town for Knox County students to participate in.

It would not be hard to make arrangements for my child during breaks, but it would not be easy. It would take some work, if needed, but I could do it.

It would only be difficult if I was required to work during those enrichment/intervention times. Otherwise, since I'm a teacher, I think it would work out ok. I'm also just concerned about the additional cost of employing all these teachers for these programs since it's outside of contract hours.

It would truly have a negative impact on our family time in the summer, as well as hardships caused by the inability to keep job and cam commitments. It would also be difficult to find sporadic child care.

Its not a major change it will actually give you note family time here and there..and breaks

Knoxville and specifically West Knoxville is very, very expensive for child care to START with. For a two year old it ranges from \$933.00 to \$955.00. As an educator that is a high percentage of cost going towards child care.

Middle school age is difficult to find care. Summers have more access to college students to watch. Many parents may not feel comfortable leaving their 12-13 yr old home by them self. Daycare don't really take that age.

Most after school programs operate off of the school schedule so when the school is closed so are the after school programs.

Most of these questions will depend on how my contract will be changed.

My ability to make childcare arrangements during the breaks would all depend on whether teachers work additional days or not.

My child care for long term care is not in this county like it is over the summer.

My child is in high school and does not need child care.

My child who is currently enrolled in KCS is about to enter High School and requires little supervision during breaks. However, I have a child who will soon be entering kindergarten. At first, the adjustment to child care during breaks will be challenging, but my child is in day care, like the majority of children, and I expect they can adjust their schedules accordingly. Although I would also expect day cares to charge the "summer rate" during the 10 day breaks to accommodate for the loss of that rate if summer were reduced from 55 to 43. They would also need more staff during those breaks. My previous experience with day cares has been that they have not increased the rate charged for spring break or winter break, but a longer fall and spring break may cause that to change. Parents may balk, but it really comes out about the same. My other concern is that I enjoyed having my older child enrolled with Kids Place and plan to do that when my daughter begins school. Would Kids Place and other on-site after school providers have access to the building during the spring, fall, and winter breaks?

My child will be in middle school next year and he has an older sibling and grandparents that can also help as far as child care if needed.

My children are 14 and 16. They do not require child care during the day. So, fortunate for me, this is not an issue.

Parent Comments

Please add any additional comments pertaining to child care arrangements during breaks.
My children are at the age where being home alone is not a good idea. They are teenagers and there a definite drop off in camps or activities at that age. They do not drive yet so I am their mode of transportation to places. If there are breaks every 45 days or so, it would fall on me to organize their days and try to get them to activities while also holding a full time job. I would also be reluctant to leave them at home all day long unsupervised as they are teenagers and might not always make the smartest decisions.
My children are high school students. I would think this to be difficult for younger children.
My children are now in high school so childcare is not an issue for me.
My children are older. This may be more of an issue with younger children.
My children are reaching an age where they are beyond child care. However, they are at an age where I do not want to leave them at home by themselves. My spouse travels a great deal, so I carry the burden most of the time.
My children will not be affected as they are graduating this year.
My daughter-in-law is considering returning to the work force from being a full time homemaker and mother. A balanced schedule would bring about an added problem with child care so the school schedule change to a balanced calendar might prohibit or delay her return to work.
My household manages to maintain one stay-at-home parent. If my spouse were to work or return to college, the balanced calendar may have a negative impact.
My input is based on my schedule as a KCS employee, which would not affect childcare.
My oldest with sports will never get a break.
My only child remaining in school at that time will be 15 years old so childcare wouldn't be a problem for me , but I can understand it could be for a lot of people.
My own children would not be in KCS during the transition.
My youngest is in High school and drives. I also work for Knox co and would be off, my concern is for parents it will be difficult for childcare.
My youngest will be in high school and the other will be graduated and living at home during her first 2 years of college so I don't have any issues.
None
none
Once again, I wonder how many children would be left alone, while their parent has to go to work.
One of the few perks to my job in the KCS Food Service Department is that I have the same days off as my children. If I ever changed jobs, childcare would be a huge issue without grandparents living in Knoxville to be our childcare during after school hours and the new potential 2 week breaks.
Only in favor of model presented in survey.
Options will abound, parents need to understand that there will be opportunities for child care. Businesses need to make money just like they did before and they will adapt to the changes to provide opportunities.
Our breaks typically concur with collegiate breaks and we utilize college students for care. This would not be available. Thus professional child care facilities would cost more than current fees.
Planning ahead for childcare would not be any different than planning ahead for current breaks.
Programs such as day camps will likely be developed by entrepreneurs and organizations to fill the needs of parents for childcare.
Provided that teachers are not required either formally or informally (i.e. given/not given TEAM points based on teaching/leading groups during breaks) then I will be home with my kids.
since I also work for Knox Co. schools, I would be on the same schedule. Also, my children are old enough to stay home without adult supervision. Thanks
Since I am a teacher with Knox County schools, it may be very difficult to arrange childcare for my children, since they have NEVER attended childcare. I don't want to start down that road. I want to be available for my children and family over breaks. One or two days is easy, however 10 days for intercession is too much.
TEACHER'S NEED A BREAK!!! LOW TO NO PAY. GIVE US A BREAK!!! AFTER ALL, THE DISCIPLINE IS AN ALL TIME C A N ' T DO ANYTHING. IT'S WHAT NEEDS TO BE ADDRESSES IS DISCIPLINE . CHANGE THAT.
Teachers need that time as well as the students to recharge.
The balance calendar negatively impacts child care because it would cost more during two week breaks. No balance calendar. Arrangements for children is very difficult to make due to costs.

Parent Comments

Please add any additional comments pertaining to child care arrangements during breaks.

The balanced school year will cost parents extra money and some children will undoubtedly be at home unsupervised.

The childcare facility operates on the Knox County calendar so I think it would be easy for them to arrange their schedule.

The statement about opportunities for extra help for those students needing it during the breaks concerns me because both of us work for the schools . That said , if both are required to work at that time then less time is possible for family during the break.

The summer is the time for family breaks and vacations. Shorter summer breaks and longer "breaks" that aren't really breaks for the kids that are forced in intervention classes are not equal for all students under a balanced calendar.

There has been no information to say if teachers will be off with the students. If they are, then there will be no difficulty finding child care. If we are not off, then I am strongly against balanced calendar.

This hinges on the requirements of teachers over the breaks. The expectations for teachers has not been made completely clear. If teachers are required to work on the breaks beyond the normal expectations then this will make finding childcare more difficult.

This is not a concern for me as I work for KCS

This is the main concern I have heard from parents about longer breaks...

This would add a huge expense and Knox County doesn't pay well to begin with.

We have always done what we need to for the children....we enlist help from family members.

We travel home during summer breaks so our child could spend time with cousins, grandparents etc. working around another districts school break and ours, they may not line up preventing quality family time that we have experienced for the past 8 years.

What does this do to High School sports and practices and games...It seems it would make it even harder than it is now to juggle!

When you all change the schedule, all of the child care/after care places will follow suit. No big deal.

While my daughter is capable of staying by herself at home, I feel sympathy for the single moms who would be forced to deal with this issue. Our school system is simply too big to pull this off successfully.

Will teachers be required, strongly encouraged, or offered professionalism rubric points for working during breaks? If I am not able to care for my children because I am required, encouraged, or made to work for professionalism points during breaks, then it becomes very difficult to find childcare for my children.

Would teachers be required to provide enrichment opportunities during breaks or remedial help during breaks? How are these programs going to be offered? If teachers are working during breaks, family time will be non-existent. Also, high school teachers give lots of homework over breaks. If it is a school break, assignments should not be given so these students can spend time with their families or go on vacations or work extra at jobs.

Additional Questions for KCS Employees

To what level would you anticipate a switch to a balanced calendar would affect the following aspects of your experience as an employee of Knox County Schools?

Effectiveness in my role				
Very Negative Effect	Somewhat Negative Effect	No Effect/Neutral	Somewhat Positive Effect	Very Positive Effect
Count	Count	Count	Count	Count
161	288	1400	1208	1155
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
3.8%	6.8%	33.2%	28.7%	27.4%

Difficulty of work				
Very Negative Effect	Somewhat Negative Effect	No Effect/Neutral	Somewhat Positive Effect	Very Positive Effect
Count	Count	Count	Count	Count
210	458	2475	640	416
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
5.0%	10.9%	58.9%	15.2%	9.9%

Satisfaction with work				
Very Negative Effect	Somewhat Negative Effect	No Effect/Neutral	Somewhat Positive Effect	Very Positive Effect
Count	Count	Count	Count	Count
219	309	1236	1378	1059
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
5.2%	7.4%	29.4%	32.8%	25.2%

Overall stress level				
Very Negative Effect	Somewhat Negative Effect	No Effect/Neutral	Somewhat Positive Effect	Very Positive Effect
Count	Count	Count	Count	Count
283	436	1023	1334	1141
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
6.7%	10.3%	24.3%	31.6%	27.1%

Additional Questions for KCS Employees

To what level would you anticipate a switch to a balanced calendar would affect the following aspects of your experience as an employee of Knox County Schools?

Time spent on work				
Very Negative Effect	Somewhat Negative Effect	No Effect/Neutral	Somewhat Positive Effect	Very Positive Effect
Count	Count	Count	Count	Count
283	435	2014	884	588
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
6.7%	10.3%	47.9%	21.0%	14.0%

Opportunity to try new things at work				
Very Negative Effect	Somewhat Negative Effect	No Effect/Neutral	Somewhat Positive Effect	Very Positive Effect
Count	Count	Count	Count	Count
166	215	1868	1241	713
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
3.9%	5.1%	44.4%	29.5%	17.0%

Opportunity to try new things outside of work				
Very Negative Effect	Somewhat Negative Effect	No Effect/Neutral	Somewhat Positive Effect	Very Positive Effect
Count	Count	Count	Count	Count
287	320	1342	1331	927
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
6.8%	7.6%	31.9%	31.6%	22.0%

Work/life balance				
Very Negative Effect	Somewhat Negative Effect	No Effect/Neutral	Somewhat Positive Effect	Very Positive Effect
Count	Count	Count	Count	Count
320	372	955	1346	1214
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
7.6%	8.8%	22.7%	32.0%	28.9%

Ability of students to learn				
Very Negative Effect	Somewhat Negative Effect	No Effect/Neutral	Somewhat Positive Effect	Very Positive Effect
Count	Count	Count	Count	Count
187	259	1132	1514	1108
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
4.5%	6.2%	27.0%	36.0%	26.4%

Additional Questions for KCS Employees

To what level would you anticipate a switch to a balanced calendar would affect the following aspects of your experience as an employee of Knox County Schools?

Behavior of my students				
Very Negative Effect	Somewhat Negative Effect	No Effect/Neutral	Somewhat Positive Effect	Very Positive Effect
Count	Count	Count	Count	Count
251	400	1449	1200	885
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
6.0%	9.6%	34.6%	28.7%	21.1%

Ability to earn additional compensation				
Very Negative Effect	Somewhat Negative Effect	No Effect/Neutral	Somewhat Positive Effect	Very Positive Effect
Count	Count	Count	Count	Count
259	284	1791	834	544
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
7.0%	7.7%	48.2%	22.5%	14.7%

KCS Employee Comments

Please list any other ways a balanced calendar would affect you.

1) It would disrupt the flow of my class adversely and immeasurably. Too many starts and stops. 2) Greater amount of breaks does not guarantee more studying or retention. 3) Change for change's sake is absurd. It is not balanced but disruptive.

Ability to earn additional compensation has yet to be explained in detail. I have no idea what this means. Would it be voluntary or required? How much? Also, after being off two weeks for snow recently, I witnessed first hand just how difficult it was for my students to return to school and get back into the routine of learning. I had to reteach a great deal of material. It was also very difficult to motivate the students.

Additional compensation is nice but it is not a trade off for spending time with my own children. I preferred the bonus structure previously in place as opposed to this because it did not require me to work when my children were not in school.

Again , I see this most benefitting the students who do not have a Positive support system outside of school.

Again, my only concern is that I would be required to work these intervention sessions. This would create difficulty for me with childcare. If I had to get childcare this would be an added expense that any compensation would not be enough to make it worth it to me.

Again, not sure where additional compensation would come from. I would rather not cut the quality teachers that we are cutting in our buildings.

Again, this depends on what "balanced calendar" looks like.

All of these questions would depend on how many students are receiving enrichment or intervention. How many extra hours will I be spending teaching. All of these questions would "Just Depend" on so many different circumstances.

Anticipating being required to work during the breaks for no additional pay, it is concerning to provide childcare for my own children. It is concerning that it would create difficulty to met requirements of my position if there were breaks during the school year & I was not working during that time, there would be pressure to squeeze more work into the time school was in session. It will greatly increase stress level in an already stressful position.

As a classified employee, if our work days increase in numers then our pay should also reflect this.

As a permanent sub I would not want to be required to work during the breaks.

As a school counselor I might be able to offer enrichment opportunities that include college visits. I think this would be an incredible opportunity for our students.

As a special education teacher, I feel that the balanced calendar would help to decrease instructional loss during the long summer break. The breaks although more frequent are only a little longer than normal. I don't feel that my students would have a very difficult time transitioning from school to home.

As a teacher, my stress would increase due to my concern over volunteering for intercession or being assigned to intercession. My stress load will affect my work ethic, my ability to stretch myself, try new, things, explore new educational opportunities. I will be concerned about time management with intercession requirements. I am stressed right now considering this. I believe trying a balanced calendar means trying it without any additional caveats involved. Balance the calendar and give parents, teachers, and the community an opportunity to adjust without adding to the stress of balancing a new way of life for all involved. Once everyone has their feet underneath them, add in the voluntary option of intercession. This need to happen gradually and not all at once. Stretching takes time and patience. Stretch a person, parent, child, community, member, teacher too far too fast and they snap, fray, or become overly discouraged and stressed out. That is the antithesis of what Knox County is trying to do.

As an educator, I find myself working beyond the school calendar year and going back to work at least a week before the calendar year begins. With a balanced calendar, I think I would never really stop working. I think this would add to the stress level of work.

As substitute, does not have a huge impact.

As the PAC teacher (IN School Suspension), I am concerned that immediately before and after breaks, I will more discipline problems. Typically, those are the times that are the hardest, when children have to transition from home into the class room.

At the end of the 1st 9 weeks grading period this year I was really wishing I could have some time with my struggling students.

Balanced calendar would make getting additional and advanced degrees much more difficult.

Being a sub, there would not be any eventful change for me. But as I have stated before, in my opinion there would be no change in the students behavior.

KCS Employee Comments

Please list any other ways a balanced calendar would affect you.

Being a TA I have to work outside of Knox Co to help support my family. With the balanced calendar it will limit that opportunity. I love my job and obviously don't do it for the money but feel that we are already underpaid.

Being able to have time to regroup and plan for the next quarter would be valuable. I would also enjoy being able to have quality time with my family during our shared, extended breaks.

Both teachers and students need a break from school. Studies have shown that student stress is at an all-time high over test scores along with the move to force students to select a college while still in elementary school (mine have personally experienced this). Minimizing breaks means less time to recover from the already crowded school year. Although on paper the calendar looks the same, in fact it is not as there is always the realization that one is not truly "out" of school but only on a shortened break. Having been on the 221 calendar for the past several years, my stress level has increased steadily as I have felt no break. I am exhausted by fall break, which was not the case under the traditional calendar. Teachers as well as students need a break in which they are not expected to work.

Cannot answer these questions until the in service professional development question is answered

Could schedule dr appts during the two week breaks - less sick days/time taken.

Couple balanced calendar with removal of block scheduling and KCS would be on the fore front of Tennessee education.

Even if I wanted to work the intersessions (and I don't), where is the money going to come from to pay for it? We already are out of money for the bonuses that were promised when we started the strategic compensation program. Also, it has been stated that teacher inservice will be held during these breaks, so no thank you, I am not ok with that.

Even though the mid-year breaks get longer, teachers will probably be required to perform additional duties during these breaks (intervention or enrichment). So that will add to my workload, require me to perform duties to which I'm unaccustomed and not currently trained in, and will also pose a problem with childcare if I'm not actually on break all of the days my kids are on break.

For special education I would be able to determine if child was losing skills over the break. For some children this will be upsetting if they have difficulty transitioning. I am concerned about IEP deadlines and evaluation deadlines for special education students.

Honestly - as a school counselor, this will provide built-in times where I anticipate being able to get caught up in work duties.

How will it effect days off for teachers? I do not want to have PD days during the breaks if it is supposedly treated like summer break. I also don't want to have to pay for daycare during these breaks. Daycare will not work with teachers during break

Huge loss of income and need to be home at times that do not work with my 2nd job.

I am a bookkeeper. I don't believe I will be compensated any additional money.

I am a sub

I am a substitute teacher so I would anticipate the same level of job availability. Life happens and teachers still need time off for personal days. I think the kids would have a better behavior if they new a long break was coming soon.

I am just curious as to how our pay would be set up for the cafeteria workers, we get paid now every two weeks, and no pay during summer.. How would they fix that for us?

I am nervous and excited about the balanced calendar. I can't imagine the different ways as an employee that I would be affected. I am a substitute teacher so some parts of the balanced would not affect me. Even though I feel nervous, I believe it is a good change.

I am not sure how it will affect my 211-day contract time. Hopefully, my contract time will NOT be reduced.

I am not sure how my time off in the summer would be affected. I would probably have at least a 2 week shorter summer that is time that I would not have off with my kids and husband. We normally have a baseball filled summer. My son plays travel baseball and it would be harder

I am not too keen on working during the breaks IF this happens. I like the idea of visiting family and being with my children, so they are not in childcare or with my retired, elderly parents

I am only a substitute teacher.

I am terribly interested in the details of teacher contract time on a balanced calendar.

KCS Employee Comments

Please list any other ways a balanced calendar would affect you.

I believe the intersessions would allow me to participate in ELP opportunities for intervention. I know students come back in better moods after winter break. I anticipate the same with students returning from these two week breaks. (I consider three weeks to be too long.) I would anticipate having more time with family, which would benefit my outlook on work and life balances.

I can not honestly answer some of these questions until I see how this would affect me as a Knox County employee.

I can see how children in our remedial reading classes, those who need the help could benefit, but parents may not be able to commit to enrichment programs during the breaks or afford them. The constant breaks could really throw some of our kids for a rough time with adjusting, settling in and then they are out for a break again. Could be a bad cycle for them.

I cannot earn additional compensation because I have a small child who will need to be cared for.

I cannot see the advantages.

I do not know how a balanced calendar would affect my aspects of teaching since I have never taught using a balanced calendar. I know, I personally would like more frequent breaks not longer breaks.

I do not want students or teachers to be required to work/attend programs during the breaks.

I don't anticipate any problems pertaining to me as a Knox County School employee.

I enjoy my job and can't imagine the satisfaction being any higher than it is today regardless of the calendar implemented. I have a high morale, little stress, and love to spend time working! Either calendar choice would work well for me. Thanks.

I feel as though the students need these breaks with the opportunity to have the extra help during the breaks. The breaks will allow teachers and students to refuel themselves to get through the year with more ease and positive energy.

I feel some times that we would be required to attend mandatory seminars or training classes that would further hinder my ability to spend time with family and force me into a child care situation I currently don't have. How is making my family expenses rise gonna help even with more compensation?

I guess I feel like I would never truly be away from the job. Sometimes, I need that mental break so that I can focus solely on my family and home which often seem neglected during the school year.

i have been told of no funded enrichment opportunities.

I have no interest in earning extra money by working during intersessions. My biggest concern is that with so many breaks kids are on and off again throughout the year. Being in an elementary school the days leading up to a holiday or break are unruly at best & present a much harder time for me to teach.

I haven't heard a word of how it will affect my job. I am a 221 day contract employee and the balanced calendar scares me a little as far as MY time off. My pay scale is so low (too low) for the amount of work I do. The vacations are the trade off. If I end up having to work year round I would most likely leave KCS and I have heard other classified employees say the same thing. Maybe our concerns are unfounded but since no one has said how it will affect our jobs we assume it may take away the amount of our time off.

i just have to ask, has anyone ever taught students the week before a break? It is utter chaos. There are more discipline issues that week than ever.

I just started a new content area this year, and it has been extremely stressful and draining trying to learn what I need to know to stay ahead of my students this year. I can see myself using part of each break to reflect on lessons/units I just taught. I have not had time to do this this year because I have to just move on to the next unit. I could also get caught up on any work from the lessons I just taught, and then actually have time to plan ahead for more effective lessons for upcoming units and prepare for them better. I can possibly even see getting with other teachers and working together to plan more effective lessons. Also, there are so many different resources I know I could probably be using in my classrooms, but I just don't have the time to evaluate them or get familiar enough with them to actually implement. I could spend time doing that. Finally, I would love to have the time to increase my background knowledge of my new content area. I have a whole catalog of books, magazine articles, and documentaries set aside for "when I have the time," but now it seems I never have the time.

I look forward to my summers off. It's the time of the year when you get to swim in a pool in your own backyard and have cookouts with friends and family that is otherwise impossible.

I love that I would get to spend sometime catching up on valuable family time throughout the year. I would be more likely to pour more personal time into lessons and students during school if I had times to catch up on being "Mommy" though out the year.

KCS Employee Comments

Please list any other ways a balanced calendar would affect you.

I need more information and data from school districts who have adopted a balanced calendar to answer the above questions.

I need summer work to add to our family income. This cuts it down to 30 days. And less if we go on a vacation.

I really wish that someone would explain to us our role during the two-week intervals.

I see so much regression over the summer months; it feels like the first nine weeks is almost entirely review.

I still have questions about my role as an educator with regard to the balanced calendar.

I teach band. Summer camps and preparing for a competitive marching show and a festival band would be very difficult. I also need to work during the summer, as my compensation from Knox County Schools cannot support my family by itself. At the high school level, dual enrollment students will suffer. Our breaks will not line up with college breaks.

I teach inclusion classes. These kids cannot handle going to school more. They would go all the time due to interventions the school would expect them to do.

I teach students with Emotional disturbance, they can not handle getting out of their routine. Constant routine changes would be very disruptive, or my students would never get a break because these are the kids whose parents would have them at school every time the doors were open just so they could have a break. These students also can not usually be left home unsupervised, their parents would have difficulty finding someone to watch them. Some of them would just be allowed to be out in the community causing problems.

I think it will give teachers a needed break between each 9 weeks. It would allow us to rest, and then reflect on student achievement to plan for the next 9 weeks. I am all for it.

I think it's very difficult to get the students back in a routine after a long break. They are tired because they have stayed up late, gotten little sleep, and have a hard time getting re-focused. They also tend to forget what we have studied - I saw this when we had the two week snow/ice break this winter. We will be doing that same 2 week break 3 times with a balanced calendar along with summer. At least with summer, we just have the one long break plus Christmas.

I think some students it would be hard on.

I think that it could potentially be problematic for adhering to state timelines on evaluations for those of us that complete them.

I think that the balanced calendar would allow for so many things that are only good. While of course I don't want to lose my summer, the benefits are so many. I think we have to look at the ultimate objective which is better student achievement. This can be a huge step in that direction.

I think you would spend a lot more time reteaching routines/expectations after each break.

I want to be completely off work when the breaks happen. I do not want to come into work on the breaks because I have two very young children at home.

I work at Central Office. I am not sure how this will effect us, for NO one has mentioned this to us yet.

I work with the special education population and the frequency and length of breaks will be detrimental to their learning and progress on IEP goals and objectives.

I would be able to be with my kids in different times of the year, we could take advantage of different things to do during different seasons. I also think we could go to Disney when we could actually afford to go!! Haha! I feel like I would be more focused and driven knowing that in nine weeks I would have two weeks off!

I would enjoy having extended breaks so that I can think about any changes I need to make in my instruction. With no time between grading periods, one cannot think, let alone plan, about implementing new ideas.

I would just hope that having the 2 week breaks would not mean reteaching students classroom expectations each time they returned.

I would like to know the dynamics of who will be doing the trainings during the breaks. If a teacher or principal wants to have all of the break off, is that feasible?

I would need to be off when my own children are off to avoid having to pay childcare.

I would need more specific information concerning the planned changes before I could make a more favorable decision. My family life is extremely important to me, I am unwilling to give up my vacation and family time during our breaks. I also use summer time for trainings so I would like more information concerning these changes, we are not well informed at this time. I find it difficult to believe that Knox County could create a fair and balanced calendar if they are unwilling to follow the successful models that have been developed.

KCS Employee Comments

Please list any other ways a balanced calendar would affect you.

I would not appreciate the intercessions being required for teachers to teach. I would recommend that the intercessions be offered as extended contract opportunities for teachers who would like to teach during these times. Otherwise, I would like to spend my intercession with my family since summer is shorter & my children will be home.

I would spend classroom time after each break reviewing my expectations, behavior rules, and classroom routine.

I wouldn't need to seek additional employment if my checks were administered as a 12 month pay period.

If I am chosen to teach intervention, I would have to find childcare for my children. There is no one reliable or close that I can afford to do this. The teachers who need the money and choose to work the interventions would also have a difficult time if they are single parents or have no one to care for their children.

If I had to teach during breaks I would not be able to care for my own children.

If I'm gonna go year round might as well get better pay & better job.

If it is true that teachers would be attending inservice and other mandatory training during the breaks, especially with out additional pay, I don't see the benefit as far as teachers are concerned. In my experience, behavior of students is worse after a break due to a break in routines. I typically take two lengthy vacations in the summers, which is when my wedding anniversary falls and accounts for one in mid-July. I would feel like I am too rushed to enjoy a summer break.

If mid year breaks are too long, the behavior of kids just before the break is difficult. Additionally it takes time to readjust to coming back to school after a long break. It may also interrupt a unit.

If the expectation is for teachers to work or attend extra in service during the 2 weeks off in between each 9 week period, it will be difficult to stay ahead, plan, or catch up.

If we had the two week breaks throughout the year and we have another snowmageddon, we could lose a month of instruction. How do you recoup from that without taking away from other breaks and oops...there goes what summer break that we do have...not to mention the loss of instruction could be phenomenal.

I'm a sub.

I'm not sure how to answer these questions without knowing how this schedule will effect KCS employees that work 221 days. What is the proposed work schedule on the 10 day breaks? Summer break?

I'm not sure why KCS is even considering moving to a balanced calendar. I have read all the information posted on line and in discussions and have not even been remotely sold that there is any great benefit to be derived from this. I think in the long run, it will cost the school system more money. I think the bigger issue we should be weighing is block scheduling. I totally disagree with the concept and would like to see the school system move back to the core subjects being all year long. My children are freshmen in high school and have not had a foreign language yet. We should focus on the important things and a balanced calendar, in my opinion, is not one of them.

It would improve morale because we would not have that LONG period with little to no break from August to December. Also, teachers would have more options to make doctor's appointments and would not have to take sick days.

It might be easier for me to visit family in other states during the slightly longer breaks, but longer break around Christmas would be even better since winter weather and winter travel can be dangerous.

It will personally allow me to see my family out of town more frequently.

It would affect being able to get Inservice hours

It would negatively affect everything listed above even if more money was earned it will not fix the emotional stress for parents and children.

It's hard to get back in the swing of things after a break, and I believe the student and the teachers will suffer the same "fall out"

Kids get bored during the long summer and we can't do nothing much because I don't get paid in the summer so the new schedule would help us not be without a pay check for so long

Less time off increases retention of information and would give students less time to "get out of the routine" of school.

Many educators including myself have additional employment during the summer. I am opposed to this plan unless there will be \$\$\$\$ compensation. Current employment for our family outside of the school year would not be possible during 2 week breaks.

Might work more on time of summer break

More opportunity for large maintenance projects could be done.

KCS Employee Comments

Please list any other ways a balanced calendar would affect you.
More pay checks!
More time to catch up on grading and planning during longer breaks.
More work
My biggest concern is the re-teaching that may have to occur throughout the year after the breaks. I would be interested to know if there will be adjusted testing schedules.
My biggest reason for supporting the balanced calendar comes from 15 years of working with 11th graders who were struggling. If I could have pulled a small group of them mid-semester to help them close some skill gaps and catch up to their peers, many students might have been able to achieve more academic success.
My children take a vacation with each parent and visit grandparents who are many hours away during the summer. There will be time for nothing else if our summer is reduced so drastically.
my concern is that teachers will be adding more to our plates and not have the time off we now have. We work incredibly hard most of us 50-60 hours a week. We need the time off to be with our families and to reboot for the next school year.
My main school is Gap Creek Elementary,an Christenberry's after school program ,I also have the opportunity to work in a wide verity of our schools in our school system.Sporting /Special Events. I thing over all it would be very affective/beneficial for our school system. For our children.
My only major concern with this as a teacher is that AP exams are scheduled in the first two weeks of May. If we switch to a balanced calendar, I'm worried that the lopsided nature of the beginning of the year and end of the year would mean less instruction time prior to the test, and more "downtime" after we have finished the curriculum once AP testing is over. The idea of my students still needing to stay in the class one month after they have taken their exams is a little ridiculous.
My time off would not be the same as my husband's. We would never be able to do anything together as a whole family. That is a huge drawback for me. He deserves to be a part of family vacations and going places to take our child to experience new things with him.
na
Need down time, break from scheduled routine.
None
none
Not really sure how it will affect a 221 Registrar position. Already put in a lot of extra time. I love what I do, aside from my position's main responsibilities, i greatly assist the counselors, etc. Not really sure how the new calendar would change my type of contract & how we would handle preps for next yr w/ enough time.
Not sure how it would affect my job as far as pay. With the current pay, sometimes it can be tough when we don't get a full check for the days that are not paid. If the two weeks off affects our pay then it will be tough. I just don't know how that will play out.

KCS Employee Comments

Please list any other ways a balanced calendar would affect you.

Our county does not have the money to pay for additional compensation during these two week breaks. I realize it will be forced upon me and I will have to agree to keep my position. I will still love my students and enjoy my time with them - that is who I am as an educator. However, my family will suffer even more than they already do with your unrealistic expectations. (We are trying to teach and train children, not produce cookie cutters.) To add six weeks of teaching is unfair to me, my family and my students. Yes, I know the board has said they will be able to raise the funding needed, but I am not sure this is possible. In other schools in many counties and states who tried this, they had no choice but to force the teachers to work the break weeks in order to deliver what was promised to the parents and students. Most were never paid additional compensation for their time. It became part of their "contracted hours" and they had no other options but to accept the unfair treatment as they had to have their jobs. I believe that is what our county is planning to do here. There has been no evidence presented to prove otherwise. I ask my students each day to provide evidence to prove their answers. Could our Knox County school officials and the board start doing the same? Provide us with the evidence to disprove my concerns about what will happen to the teachers during these breaks. I have no problem with working during a few of these breaks, but I certainly do not want to be forced to work more weeks during the year- WITH or WITHOUT extra pay. I was a chief supporter of balanced calendar when it first got started. I even meet with some of my fellow teachers (inside my school and outside my school) to ask them to consider this. However, after listening to the meetings I attended and speaking with several parents, students and educators - I now realize it is not a good idea at this time. Perhaps later on, but not now. I have also researched this and can honestly tell you my concerns with this have grown over the last several months. This poses too many problems for the community and for our budget. I now see after much research - it will have a negative impact on the teachers in our county. Thank you for the opportunity to voice my point of view. I am confident you will listen and consider my concerns, just as I do each day with my students. This is coming from an educator who loves to teach and spend time with her students, not someone who is just wanting to be difficult. I do want what is best for my students and I am not sure a balanced calendar system is the right thing for them at this time. We have too many budget concerns to move in this direction. Our community is not ready to accommodate this change. We need more preparation time and more planning to make this a positive and successful change. Let's move in the right direction for our students. Let's put them first!

Overall, I am in favor of a balanced calendar. I believe KCS strives to grow students. At Holston, we not only grow students... We grow teachers! Change is a good thing. I am looking forward to identifying all of the POSITIVE ways in which a balanced calendar will affect my personal and professional life, as well as the lives of my children and students.

Pay increase greater than 4%

Pay schedule is a question for security department.

Pay: I work food service we already are paid every two weeks during these breaks will we be paid? We make very little money now so to say it will be divided up doesn't give us a good pay check

Please don't patronize KCS employees by suggesting there would be opportunity to earn more money because of a balanced schedule. They need family time as well. Think of the kids and family first, not your own agenda.

Professional Development scheduled during our two week breaks would not be good. I would like to have the opportunity to work in my classroom over the short breaks 1 or 2 days at my leisure but would not like to be required to attend PD sessions. The two week break would be a great way for teachers to reenergize and plan upcoming lessons but on their own time.

Retrain students every time they come from break. Teachers will end up working on "breaks" and work even more than they do now!

KCS Employee Comments

Please list any other ways a balanced calendar would affect you.

Reviewing after spring break is difficult, after winter break very difficult. The other longer breaks would not help. Having talked with teachers in other systems, I know that the longer breaks simply becomes a time to get caught up on grading and is not a TRUE break like summer. Thus it has made their lives more stressful. It would also prolong the stress of waiting for the hammer of evaluation to hit you. The stress of teaching would only get worse. A two week break is not a real break. You are still in the middle of a semester or grading period. Not everyone can afford to go on vacations during the two week breaks, so we would just be stuck inside in poor weather instead of being able to enjoy East TN in the summer. Large household chores that get done in the summer would not get done in the other breaks because who wants to clean out a closet if you only have two weeks off? People in other counties who have only had balanced calendar for a while say they like it, but if you talk to people in other states who have had it for years, you would find that more of them want to go back to a regular calendar than keep the balanced calendar.

School procedures must be retaught after each break. Learning time would be lost each time students return from a break.

Since I am a substitute teacher, I would imagine that I will not be needed as much since permanent teachers will be able to go to doctor or training during the 10 day periods.

Some of our students have a hard time with breaks, because of home life, lack of access to hot meals, etc. I love the idea of a balanced calendar, but I hope these kiddos can adjust to the more frequent breaks.

Students already fuss about the time spent in school and testing requirements. Let's make it more of a prison.

Students do NOT behave better when a break is coming. They check out mentally and accomplish nothing. The last week of school is always a waste. Now we will have that wast for 4 weeks during the year as we anticipate the long break ahead. I think this will strongly impact focus in the classroom, and provide a huge challenge.

Summer is a time when teachers go back to school and also work on materials for the upcoming year, yet we still have time for a vacation. I can't juggle all of that with a shorter summer. Also, the time off during the year would just mean we are "on call" for those times for intervention, etc. Knox Co. can't afford a significant pay raise for teachers now. How can the system pay for staffing during intervention times and the additional transportation/building maintenance fees that would be associated with those times?

Summer job wouldn't be feasible because of shortened days available to work.

Teachers are afraid that PD will be required during the two week breaks. Working as intervention or enrichment should be optional ! not Required

Teaching is an exhausting profession. Always knowing that a significant break is around the corner would help encourage me to give my all for the duration of the quarter.

That my calendar would not be very balanced. I do not see nor have I heard any specifics about how the interventions take place during the break periods. How long are they? (the entire break) How are the teachers compensated? (ELP wages) Who is "expected" to teach during these breaks? (Math and ELA teachers) I do not know these answers and can't seem to find someone who knows the answers.

The ability to earn additional compensation is not 'real-world' costs. For the equivalent amount of time I would earn much more by just working at a gas station. I can use my education and earn even more by teaching or tutoring independently during this time. My current pay is for 10 months. I have other degrees that I can use if we go to longer year schedules where I get a little less time off and make much, much more than I do now. Much, Much more. I value my summer time to spend with family.

The balanced calendar model presented in this survey would allow our family to travel to a wider variety of places at different times of the year instead of only during summer months, and have more frequent breaks together.

The behavior of students could really go either way. They are now "excited" whenever there is a break in sight. They will still have the same amount of breaks, so I should still see the same 'level of excitement' (over the board behavior) with a balanced calendar.

The break means constantly retraining students on expectations and behavior after each return. You have to review what you did two weeks prior before moving on, which means lost instructional time.

The effects are less for a central office employee. There could be more difficulty in connecting to schools during break time when central office is open. However, the breaks may also open opportunities to interact with school staff when kids are not there.

The extent to which it would effect my child in terms of work given by teachers over intersession breaks would greatly impact the effect that the change would have on me.

KCS Employee Comments

Please list any other ways a balanced calendar would affect you.

The fact that Green is extended day is going to make it harder for teachers. 44 days with no break is going to exhaust teachers and behaviors are going to go off the charts. 10 days of no structure for breaks will make it harder for teachers to get them back on track.

The only reason I say negative is again the negative reasons listed before.

The only time teachers get a true break is in the summer. At any other break during the school year we have to bring work home, catch up on work, plan activities for our students, grade, do inservice and other projects required throughout the school year. As long as I have a current and active class they are on my mind and I am working. Therefore, taking days out of the only true break we get is like taking away rest. All other breaks I have a class on my mind and work that always needs to be done. The only way to reduce the stress of teachers is to give us paid time to do our administrative work such as more inservice days that we actually get to work in our classrooms and prepare for our students instead of being forced to sit in meetings that are irrelevant. I take work home most nights and weekends during the school year so I have no doubt that I would be working during these balanced breaks as well. A teacher cannot teach effective lessons, plan activities, and do all of their grading in 4, 40 minute plan times a week. Usually one or more of these times is taken up with meetings other than the weekly PLC. If you want to reduce my stress and balance my family time, then balanced calendar is not your answer.

The rumor is that teachers will be required to work either doing professional development, teaching intervention, or providing child care during weeks off. If that is the case, then it is not a balanced calendar. It is a creative way to get more work without paying us for it.

The schools days before major vacations (spring or fall or winter break) are major disruptions with many absences and lack of attention. Doing that multiple times for an even longer break is unnecessary.

The students and staff need the long summer break offered in the traditional calendar to come back refreshed and rejuvenated and excited to start another school year.

The time off would be spent planning, which I have very little time of now, to be more effective. I would also have time to catch up at home and devote to my family thus diminishing stress.

The transition between break and school is very difficult for my students

There is not enough evidence to support an increase in student learning or behavior. We will not have that data until the program has been in place for a few years.

This all assumes that these extra breaks are my breaks too.

This is about the students, it helps them hold onto knowledge and succeed at their rate. We will have to adapt as student begin to see how they can use this to move faster in school.

This would be positive for my students and less stress on me as a teacher. More frequent breaks would mean my quality of life would improve and I might actually stay with Knox county schools and the teaching profession as my health would improve!!!

This would limit opportunities for AP training.

Tired of working for free. I will be expected to work during breaks.

Unsure of how this plan would affect departments with state mandated time constraints

We don't know enough about the use of the breaks and "enrichment" to gauge how it will affect me

We have been on the 221 calendar for the past several years now, and my stress level has increased steadily as I have felt no break. Also I am exhausted by fall break, which would not be the case under a traditional calendar. Teachers as well as students need a break in which they are not expected to work.

What about snow days, I know that this year was an exception, but how will bad weather affect the calendar? Would the testing dates stay the same?

When Kindergartens come back from a longer break in the middle of a school year, it is close to starting over with a lot of things.

Will Classified staff have the ability to earn extra compensation? That would be nice, especially since our summer will be shorter and the opportunity to get a summer job will be shorter and less likely to happen

With the extra costs of enrichment I feel teachers will be cut and paid less.

Would like to know more about any increased compensation. I've heard nothing about that. And as an educational assistant I already make very little and have issues as a single mom finding care for my daughter when I have to work and she is off. More compensation might greatly effect my opinion. Thanks for taking the time to listen.

You have already taken our bonuses away so dont force me to work more for less and cost me time with my family.

(I substitute teach.)

KCS Employee Comments

Please list any other ways a balanced calendar would affect you.

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A balanced calendar may cause myself and others to possibly leave the profession. Every year there seems to be a push to make changes to curriculum, textbooks, schedules, assignments, etc. that decrease the consistency for which we all desire (in a job, but also in managing student bodies). The balanced calendar is just another idea that would provide an unnecessary change/disruption to the norm. There has been nothing wrong with our past calendars....consistency is key to having successful students. The more consistent we are the more successful our students are, and the more they can focus on the content/curriculum, instead of the newness of an ever changing schedule/calendar.

Ability of students to learn depends on the students and class - answer is not applicable in many cases

ability to travel more times a year to see out of town family which makes a happier worker

Absenteeism is high already and research has shown a higher absenteeism rate with balanced schedules. Turnover of employees is higher with a continuous need to mentor or train new incoming teachers leading to more expense for the system.

Absenteeism of students would be higher because parents take breaks for summer vacations. I do not appreciate starting over every nine weeks when we have had a break to get students back into a routine and manage behaviors. This takes two weeks every time you go back after a break. Students are also off task when the weather gets warm and they anticipate an upcoming break. Frequent breaks create more learning loss and off task behavior that takes too much time to readjust, then another break is in the works.

Again this is the way it is written with the interventions in place. I fear eventually those interventions will not be optional.

Again, I am OK either way.

Again, make sure we have the monies not just imaginary monies. And don't eliminate positions to do this. I also do not want to be forced to teach off contract for sake of leadership rubric.

All concerns were addressed.

Already mentioned

As a KCS employee I am not paid during the breaks. Therefore my paycheck will be affected by the breaks and I will have to work harder to budget my money to make ends meet. Also with the balanced calendar I will not be able to work a summer job for 5 weeks. It is already difficult enough to try to find a summer job for the 10 weeks that we are off but it will be impossible to find a job that will hire me for only 5 weeks. Also I will not be able to work a job for 1 or 2 weeks during the short breaks. This will result in loss of pay. Also when there are breaks it cuts into my overtime and I will not be making overtime. Therefore I will be working long hours and getting straight time for it. This in turn lowers morale for the employees and there will be a large turnover of employees. In order to retain employees there needs to be a change where the overtime is still paid when there are breaks during that pay period. I am strongly opposing the balanced calendar because it will strongly affect my pay and I will not be able to work the summer therefore losing more money. Many school employees have to work 2nd and 3rd jobs to make ends meet resulting in fatigue and quality of work at their primary job. This makes the quality of their work in the school system go down and they are not doing their best. It also makes classified school employees like myself look to other places for jobs resulting in the loss of good employees and paying more money to train new employees.

As a school secretary, answers to these questions would depend on what my work schedule would be with the balanced calendar. I'm not sure if I would be working any days during the fall and spring breaks. I'm also not sure how this would affect my summer schedule.

As a teacher at a magnet school we provide extra activities and opportunities for students. I am interested in how our after school programs associated with the magnet program will be affected, as well as our performances.

As a teacher on an extended contract (we usually start 10 days before other teachers), how will this affect my summer break? Will we still be an extended contract?

KCS Employee Comments

Please list any other ways a balanced calendar would affect you.

As an AP teacher, I will actually be able to assign and cover more material by utilizing the break time. However, for my other classes, I worry about the behavior and attitude of students going into and coming out of breaks - all teachers know what the days leading up to and coming from breaks can be like with student excitement and I worry that the length of the breaks may cause additional class time to be lost - especially after the break, in trying to reorganize and refocus the class. Coaches will face a great deal of obstacles in terms of time, student focus, student success, and finances with the new calendar. I do enjoy working for additional compensation (I have always worked in the school during the summer) but worry that many teachers, myself included, will not want to work through the breaks since those breaks are there for rest and to prevent burnout. This concern may be alleviated once an actual calendar is seen. For example, I might be willing to work a few days of fall break for intervention because I would still be able to rest on the other days, but I would not want to work for the full break.

As I begin the adventure of going back to school, I do have to worry what this shift would mean for my school schedule, but I am confident that I could manage to find a solution that works. I also think that longer breaks dispersed among the year will give school staff greater opportunities to rest and recharge, thus making both their experience, and the experience of their students, great and more rewarding.

As someone who teaches extracurricular activities that are competitive on the national stage this would be a huge detriment to those activities and the students involved in them. I think the negative outweighs the positive in this situation.

As stated previously, I am not in favor of teachers having to return in July. This cuts into many summer activities that I would like to do, including time with family and friends in other parts of the country who are on more traditional schedules.

As the bookkeeper of the school I would find it more difficult to process bills with the additional breaks. Winter Break and Spring Break already creates a catch up time that adds stress. It would be nice to have the opportunity to earn additional compensation but it likely would just add additional time to my job in which I am already not compensated for.

Balanced calendar will be a bigger burden on my family financially due to the fact that I am able to save a lot of money in the summer because I don't have to put my child into daycare.

Balanced Calendar would help me catch up with my work at school. I would have time to prepare more effective lessons. I could help my students catch up with their studies so that they could pass my class or earn an A. I would actually have a life between August and May. I would be able to teach longer without getting burned out. It is best for our kids and it is best for our teachers.

better more effective planning specific to each class as it grows throughout the year

Can't believe you continue to ask all these questions without providing more information!

Child care would be very difficult for me and my husband. Our young children would be home during the breaks with me however we would have to continue to pay for services during the breaks. It's a waste of financial resources if we are paying to just "hold our spot" in a childcare program until the break is over. We feel strongly that our children should be at home with me during the breaks as this has been our plan for summer break.

Childcare and a disruption of our home life routine more often. On the other hand, I like the idea of being able to spend larger chunks of time with my family spread out through the year.

Compensation for employees and effect on employees with contracts longer than 200 days or less than year-round has not been openly discussed. I am unclear how my days will be affected.

Compensation would be important to me. I earn almost as much as KCS pays me during the summer.

Cost

DEEZ NUTZ are not as good as my two fine pussy cats

Do not anticipate major changes.

Downtime would provide opportunity to service technology efficiently and thoroughly.

Every time there is a break, my students come back even more undisciplined and off schedule. The increased duration of breaks will not increase student learning but harm it, especially with Special Education Students and students at high risk for gang involvement.

Finding child care - negative effect until the daycare systems allow for more breaks to be taken without penalty (paying for time not used).

good

KCS Employee Comments

Please list any other ways a balanced calendar would affect you.

Good grief! How would any of us know these answers without first hand experience with a balanced calendar. Sometimes it seems there is NO logic in the decisions and clearly the question asked of us by our administration. Please apply some common sense.

Harder as a coach.

Helps custodians thoroughly clean the building during breaks, which can help decrease illness in the schools.

Honestly, my greatest fear is that the time off between sessions will be taken up with inservice hours and intervention. It's not that I do not want to work, but at the end of the school year I am mentally, emotionally, and physically exhausted. The idea of having two weeks off from teaching but other requirements that have yet to be determined makes me extremely uncertain that this is the right direction for our school system. Change for the sake of change isn't always positive.

How would I be able to earn additional compensation?

How would teachers be chosen to provide remediation for students during the breaks?

How would this change the work schedule for staff on a 221 day contract? How would this change the work schedule for staff on a 200 day contract?

I would be out more money for childcare.

I am a coach and I feel that the sports that do not have a long break in the middle of the season, like football, soccer, baseball, and softball, that a balanced calendar would initially be detrimental. It would be detrimental because it would be harder to get a good crowd to see a game during a break. This would hurt revenue.

I am a coach, please look at all comments regarding balanced calendar and athletics. Knox County NEEDS to talk to coaches and athletes about the possible move to a balanced calendar. It will effect coaches and athletes more then anyone else at the high school level. It will be a negative effect and it must be considered.

I am a special ed teacher and many of my students do have trouble adjusting back to a routine after an extended break. It generally takes 1-2 days for my most challenging students after an extended break of 2 weeks or less. For this reason, I would not want any breaks longer than 2 weeks in scheduled length. Repeated opportunities for this throughout the year would mean more learning time lost for some of our most challenging students.

I am always up for any new strategies that could benefit our students with their learning.

I am concerned if we start back to school in late July-early Aug. the HVAC system will not be able to keep up with the higher temperatures our region experiences. We cannot adjust the room temperature past 72 degrees to cool, and when it's in the ninty's outside, it will feel like closer to 80-85 degrees in the classrooms. This could affect student learning negatively and also have a negative effect on the student behaviors and possibly even parent behaviors.

I am concerned that the HVAC system will not be adequate in the hotter parts of the summer as the balanced calendar is introduced. It can barely keep the temperature at 72 degrees now. When it's warmer weather, that affects students learning and the work environment teachers work in everyday. If it's too hot in the classrooms, students may tend to not be as engaged, OR even easily angered which could lead to classroom management problems.

I am highly concerned that teachers will be expected to "work" (unstated of course) over the breaks by doing grades, report cards, professional development, planning, preparation, etc., without being compensated for the work or time engaged.

I am in favor of a balanced calendar. I do not want to teach during the breaks. If that is going to be required, I am NOT in favor of a balanced calendar. If we have an option to teach or choose not to teach during the breaks, that is okay. I only want to work during the breaks if I choose to.

I am interested in how this may affect summer activities such as professional development workshops for teachers and summer camps for students. As a music teacher, a slight concern of mine is students forgetting music for an upcoming program during an extended break.

I am not one who likes change, however, if a balanced calendar is adopted for Knox County Schools I will adjust.

I am not sure this makes much difference in the long run. Sounds like a new thing to play with. The longer breaks in between would be nice but not sure they will be doing anything great in the education process.

I am satisfied no matter the decision. I love teaching no matter the schedule.

I anticipate no breaks/no pay increase for staff. Got to make way for those Broad Fellows!

KCS Employee Comments

Please list any other ways a balanced calendar would affect you.

--I anticipate that with each reinitialization of the school session there will be a loss of student focus. I believe this will increase the time spent going back over the information taught at the end of the previous session. --I believe that the applied performing arts and sports students will also loose ground (guitar, violin, band. orchestra, theater, rack, soccer, tennis, football, gymnastics). Consistency, directed training and practice are critical to the performance and development of the students. This is especially true in the early stages. Self-directed learning comes later with maturity in the craft/sport.

I believe a balanced calendar would result in teachers spending more time working without pay and would eliminate the opportunity for us to earn money at other jobs during the summer. I believe it would negatively impact our income. I do not believe a calendar change would positively impact the students either.

I believe I would be more rested and refreshed after the breaks to work with teenagers!

I believe my stress level would decrease with a balanced calendar. The breaks would allow me to relax, travel, recharge, attend conferences.

I believe that spending a massive amount money to transition to balanced calendar is a horrible idea. The money could be spent hiring more teachers and then we will see student knowledge retention increase.

I can't assume or predict these items since I have no experience with a balanced calendar and I have taught for 25 years with the regular calendar.

I coach so am worried about year around sports schedules

I currently work summers for additional income; with a year-long schedule, that opportunity would be lost. I have personally observed the "learning loss" and behavioral issues that take place during a two-week snow break; I can only imaging how bad that would be for a scheduled two or three week break. Also, I noted in the boxes to check that ordinary taxpayer...you know, the sheep that would be fleeced to foot the bill?...are not included as an option. As a taxpayer, the potential additional cost of a year-long calendar with intervention would affect me far more (higher taxes) than it will as a teacher. If one were paranoid, one might ask why the school at which I work is needed. Makes it easier for the administration in the AJ Building to retaliate against those teachers (and the principals of their schools) if they do not toe the party line?

I do like that there will be other times during the school year to take vacations.

I do not understand why you don't have "I'm not sure." as a choice for the question above. That would be my answer. I don't have enough information to form an opinion yet.

I do other things outside of KCS that will allow me during the fall and spring break to really work those 2 weeks.

I do summer school each year. I don't know how that would look with balanced calendar. I like that I do it all at once, which doesn't seem possible with a balanced calendar.

I don't feel that I have been adequately informed as to whether these breaks are for vacations, or time for student enrichment/remediation and teacher workshops/training. As a result of this lack of information, I am not sure as to how this new calendar will affect me.

I don't think it will. It just switching some days around. We aren't really losing or gaining days. I don't see any fore seeable problems.

I feel as a special education teacher who provides instruction for eight different courses, case manages 25 students, and other duties, that should be compensated for the extra work that is needed just "do my job effectively." Any additional compensation may require more work than is actually put in now as such would be expected to be compensated for work beyond the 220 day contract.

I feel that comments Dr. Alves has made about inservice being during breaks would disrupt my work/life balance. I am highly suspect of any additional compensation. As we all know there is no money so where is it going to come for? I feel as though there are too many unknowns and teachers will be forced to work during the breaks without additional compensation for fear of losing their jobs.

I feel this would help reduce "burn out" that happens during the school year. Two weeks provides enough time for me to rest and relax before I have to return to school. I feel I spend most of my break going to appointments I have put off during the school year. This would give me one week to run errands and one to rest.

I have a child that will begin K in the the 16-17 school year, as a future parent I see this as a positive as my child will get a chance to enjoy a break and school each season. This will open up new opportunities for us that in the past we may have been to tired/work out to participate in.

I have a summer job. I will be losing income and will possibly have to work harder during the school year.

I have always participated in extended contract and have been pleased with student results.

I have difficulty answering the above questions with the choices given. Poorly worded questions and answers.

KCS Employee Comments

Please list any other ways a balanced calendar would affect you.

I have worked in a balanced calendar county. I spent time during the breaks planning my next units. I came back planned and ready to work. I didn't feel like I still had things to finish from one nine weeks while I was beginning another.

I know it will provide a lovely balance with work/life. I grew up having it in my schools. It was fabulous!

I know that in other school systems where the balanced calendar is used the teachers that work the enrichment sessions get to charge the students a fixed amount and the teachers get to keep that money. That is why they enjoy it.....they create the sessions, they do the teaching, they pocket the money. If you are going to additionally compensate any teacher that staffs the extra sessions, how much money will they get to keep?

I like the idea of 1 full week Break in Fall and Spring with 3 day Thanksgiving Holiday..and 2 week Winter Break. I am fine with the 9/2 suggested Balanced Calendar. I DETEST the 9/3 suggested Balanced Calendar.

I need to know what the different contracts that KCS employees "balanced calendar" would look like.

I note the 15 day break calendar is off the table. I would have preferred that model and given up more summer, especially for the Fall and the Winter breaks. The longer Winter break may also save some snow days (if they occur during that time) I believe when everyone gets used to a new schedule, they will see that the 15 day breaks would serve us better. That would give one week for intervention and still have time left to relax and let lessons sink in. I'm excited about the possibility of balanced calendar. I hope everyone sees it this way. If we cannot adapt to new ways, how can we ever grow and succeed?

I personally make one-third of my annual income during the weeks off for summer break. As for the students, I feel as though re-teaching upon the return from any break will be an issue for those who struggle the most no matter the calendar.

I support if professional development is planned during working weeks and not during breaks.

I suppose since teachers are no longer encouraged to get advanced degrees that this shortened summer would not affect their ability to go to school and get the next advanced degree??

I teach students with severe disabilities that often require consistency, structure, and repetitive practice to learn. The balanced calendar could impact these critical areas that impact my students success.

I think a balanced calendar would have a positive overall effect on KCS staff and students.

I think by spreading the work out, this can only benefit the mental welfare of teachers and the retention of information for children. Teacher burn-out seems to be happening earlier and earlier each year with the increased pressure of high-stakes testing and with all the extra work thrown on our shoulders. I believe spreading this out will actually help the health of teachers and, in turn, that can only benefit the students.

I think it would be good on the mental aspect of staff members. By the end of a long run with no breaks staff are very tired. As is the students.

I think one common perception of going to a balanced calendar would be that there would be less information lost during the summer. I don't think this is true. Whether there is a summer break of 10 weeks or 6 weeks (or somewhere in between), there will be considerable information lost and I as a teacher will be rebuilding those basic skills regardless. On top of that, moving to a balanced schedule will create more academic retention loss within the school year due to the 2-3 weeks off periods. This will subsequently cause me to lose more academic teaching time as I will have to spend time after each break reviewing forgotten content.

I think some of the Work/Life balance and satisfaction with work for employees in general will be reduced a little bit if Summer Break starts earlier with a balanced calendar.

I think the annual deep clean of summer and "clean slate" for the next school year is better than a perpetual cleaning cycle where the whole building is never clean all at once.

I think the balanced calendar would make planning evaluations for special education easier. It is very difficult to complete assessments over the summer, and this would allow for some days before and after summer break to complete assessments.

I think the extra breaks would allow more time to evaluate student progress and prepare for the next

I usually have PRN employment during the summer to offset the amount of income I gave up to be a teacher.

I usually teach summer school and if we go to balanced calendar, I would want my breaks and not doing intervention.

I will see my husband even less than I already do. He is a teacher for a different county. We both coach different sports. With this calendar, I won't be home when he is home and we won't share the same breaks. Forgive me if I sound angry and hateful. But I am. I deserve to feel selfish... This won't create an opportunity for me to travel more, etc. I will be at home. Without my family.

KCS Employee Comments

Please list any other ways a balanced calendar would affect you.

I will have to spend a lot of time reviewing and reinforcing due to the amount of the breaks.

I wonder if there would really be a better work/life balance or if teachers would end up having to be at more trainings or required to be offering enrichment to help with parents' child care situations on the more frequent "break" times and end up taking away from the ability to have more family time. I am afraid it might turn into much more contract time at the same pay rate.

I work another job during the summer. I have the time during the summer to get this done. I come in early and stay late every day to help get the things done at school. I don't get paid for this time. I do this because I care about the students and my fellow staff members. I would lose money by going to a balanced calendar because I would not have the time after work to work another job. I love working for the school and would hate to have to leave because of this.

I work two part time jobs in the summer and wouldn't be able to work them, take a vacation with my out of state family, and do my professional development over the summer. The possibility of adopting the balanced calendar while my own children are small would create many difficulties for us. As a teacher, the only benefits I can see are that I would get two weeks to plan ahead. The snow days we had this year were not beneficial to my class. My special ed students had a hard time getting back in the swing of things. Even the student's parents noticed the behavior issues we had spiked after every break. PLEASE consider keeping our schedule the way it is now. Thank you!

I would be able to be more prepared because I would have the time to get caught up and also time to plan effective lessons for upcoming objectives. Even if I spent a week of the breaks working on school things, I would still have time to rest and get refreshed to power through the next 9 week period. I would not feel so worn down like I do around April or May when I am sometimes just trying to survive because I am spending so many hours getting myself and students caught up. I am also an evaluator so having the extra time to get caught up would be critical in helping me decide to keep my role as an evaluator. I will be more likely to stay in the classroom if we switch to a balanced calendar because I feel like I will not get so burnt out and worn down like I have the past 6 years I have been teaching.

I would be effective in that more frequent breaks would alleviate stress level and allow me to be more rested and less stressed when school is in session.

I would be extremely interested in opportunities for working enrichment sessions during the breaks.

I would be in "work mode" for an extended period of time with a balanced calendar. Each summer it takes me a few weeks to wind down from the school year before I can rejuvenate myself. Our jobs as teachers are very demanding. We need time to rest and recharge. We also need time to reflect and begin again. Some of my best teaching ideas come in the summer because I have time to ponder and think about ways to improve instruction.

I would be unable to attend many professional development activities that I usually participate in during the summer at the college level. I also feel that between inservice days tacked on at the beginning and end of each cycle I truly would never have a break and a chance to recharge and destress. I also think the compensation for the extra time will not be commensurate with the added number of days and amount of work expected. The recent snow days had a very negative impact on the continuation of the learning routine. It took several days to get back on track. What will happen if we add more frequent breaks? I think a week-long Fall break is really what parents and students would like to see, but that is never discussed as an option. Furthermore, I have not seen convincing evidence that this has been proven to increase student learning and retention of knowledge or aid those students who need extra remedial help.

I would benefit from the longer Fall and Spring Breaks during the year to recharge/refocus. Also, taking a trip during those breaks would be cheaper because it is not during peak travel season. Maybe school field trips could be scheduled during the intercessions to reduce loss of instruction time and stress to get students work for their absences.

I would have more opportunities to make various appointments (such as doctor or dentist appointments) throughout the year without having to use sick days from school. A balanced calendar would also allow me to improve my overall effectiveness as a teacher by providing more time throughout the year to reevaluate my plans and teaching strategies.

I would have more time during those breaks to plan for more interesting and enriching activities for students.

I would like students to come back to school with out as much "summer slide" and not near as much time spent on review of past learning; we could actually go forth with on grade level material.

KCS Employee Comments

Please list any other ways a balanced calendar would affect you.

I would love to offer enrichment to my AP/Honors students that would be very beneficial. Having breaks every 9 weeks would be wonderful also for recharging my creative teaching batteries. Honestly, summer is too long for me. I'm ready to come back earlier. Two week breaks would be great for enrichment and rest throughout the year for everyone.

I would need to adjust to the change.

I would not be able to care for my children during the breaks.

I would not earn enough extra compensation over what I would lose in my summer job to make this worthwhile.

I would not have as much time to work and earn extra needed income in the summer or to do training in the summer offered in other parts of the country. I know that there supposedly would be compensation opportunities in the school year, but there is not enough money now for such things. That money is not going to increase by changing a calendar. Also, every time there is a break, students lose focus. After every break, there is extra time needed to retrain the students, refocus them, and reteach them. State testing objective numbers and my evaluation scores do not allow much forgiveness for this.

I would not truly get to take a full break in my role as an educator. I prefer the traditional calendar.

I would not want a balanced calendar to be used to force teachers into committing to teaching during the breaks involuntarily--for Professionalism points, for example. The summer break is only reduced by 10 days. That is not a significant enough change to improve student retention of learning.

I would support decisions made by the county and continue to do my job to serve staff and students to the very best of my ability. I work on and off calendar days because that is my nature and I'm always eager to try new things for the sake of academic excellence and for the development of the whole child. I don't feel I should make judgements one way or the other--that school communities and families should have the greatest say in this process since they are most directly affected. I do think we need to study schools that have tried this, kept it or abandoned it. I've been in systems that did this with a few schools in the district and not the entire district and with elementary only. Some kept it and some did not for different reasons. I know you and your committees are doing that now and I truly appreciate the participatory process you have provided for investigating the benefits and concerns with balanced calendar.

If the breaks are actually breaks and not in-service, then it could mean a positive influence. But, if the "breaks" become unscheduled in-service "opportunities," then this is a scam.

If this doesn't you can go back to the old system. I think it will work as soon as parent and others get on board

If we align our balanced calendar with Alcoa City Schools, then I would benefit by having the same schedule as my sons. This would be very encouraging for me personally. If it didn't align, then it would not be encouraging and my responses above would flip the other way.

If we had at least an 8 week summer and two two-week breaks, I would be more in favor. A shorter summer would cause issues.

I'm a caregiver for my husband and in the past he has had major surgeries in the past and with the grace and mercy of the Lord we have been able to schedule the surgeries in the summer when I was off and I didn't have to use that many of my sick days. that was a great load off my mind. and now if it was to happen I don't know how I would schedule it with less days in the summer.

I'm completely against a balanced calendar as it would disrupt several aspects of both my personal and professional life.

In a perfect world, teachers' pay should increase yearly with the cost of living. It could appear that the average teachers' pay will increase with the additional pay outs over the 200 contracted hours. Will this skewed reporting negatively impact teacher pay?

Influence my coaching schedule in a negative way.

It is difficult to answer any of these questions definitively because I can see the positives and negatives of each section above, especially concerning student behavior and ability to learn.

It is hard to answer some questions since I have never worked on a balanced schedule.

It might affect music programs. The ability to have enough time to learn the music and then provide a performance.

It might affect my position at my church because I sometimes direct Vacation Bible School in late July as well as teach VBS.

It seems to be all about some folks making more money.

It will be very important to know how teachers will be assigned to work interventions during breaks, and how they will be compensated. Will it be more money, other time off, or just more work without compensation?

KCS Employee Comments

Please list any other ways a balanced calendar would affect you.
it will give opportunity to have more quality time with your family and the children will not be going home for the summer without food
It will make it easier to use vacation days when I want to, rather than feeling pressured by my supervisor to get them all in just before June 30.
It would allow me to be off longer with my children who are in Oak Ridge City Schools and will be on a balanced schedule.
It would allow my time off to be more flexible.
It would appear that due to a shortened summer break, summer opportunities for required professional development hours would be curtailed and would have to be completed during the breaks.
It would be more beneficial for teachers to see how this would really be broken down in between grading periods, breaks, and so on. Right now it is a "big" idea that poses a lot of questions on the logistics of this balanced calendar. There hasn't been much insight into where things like testing, evaluations, and more would fit in on this model. The balanced calendar just shows the break down of instructional days and breaks.
It would be nice to travel in the fall when everyone isn't traveling.
It would depend on how Professional Development and Inservice Days are distributed. If teachers are expected to spend a portion of every break in meetings/in-services, then the benefits of balanced work/life disappear.
It would give a needed break to both students and teachers just before burn out hits!
It would negatively affect the amount of time spent at home doing summer projects and negatively affect the amount of time spent with family and friends.
It would not only reduce stress for both teachers and students but it would also allow teachers and students to get the much needed rest between 9 week grading periods.
It would provide an opportunity to reflect and make adjustments. I currently struggle to take any days off during the school year; therefore, I am anticipating a little more time to spend with my own children during breaks instead of just a day or two.
It would provide more professional development opportunities, and I love the idea of using breaks to work with struggling students.
I've heard rumors of pushing all professional development to the breaks. This is not good.
Just a comment about the additional compensation aspect. At this point, classified are not allowed to be compensated as much as certified. I would suggest that in most of the break times, positions be opened up to either certified or classified since they are considered enrichment and many classified personnel are highly capable of completing those activities. If there were an application process to be able to happen, it would allow more classified to also benefit from additional compensation. This is particularly true in the area of technology and science.
Less burnout at end of year
Less stress
less stress with more time off, able to take trips throughout the year
Less time for travel in good weather. Less time to recover from the stress at school. Less time for additional work outside of school. Staff needs time in the real world to be able to relate to today's business needs.
Less time to spend on projects and time with my family
Loss of summer income for me and my student's who depend on it. I would also loose money with daycare costs.
Make it more difficult to plan special Ed meetings
Many students with disabilities do not do well with breaks. Several 2 week breaks would just increase their regression.
Missed practice time.
MIXTAPE http://itapez.com/mixtapes/dancehall/ijah-iba-forever-blaze-hosted-by-bobby-konders/
More energy, less days taken off during the year for doctor/dentist appointments because they can be scheduled for the times off. Better vacation dates.
More work, less pay
My ability to earn income during the summers. I am interested to see who would actually work during the intercessions and how we would be compensated for that work.
My child goes to a private school and my school calendar will most likely not line up with his. This will put a burden on my family and reduce the time spent together.
My child goes to a school that follows a traditional calendar causing a conflict in schedules.

KCS Employee Comments

Please list any other ways a balanced calendar would affect you.
My children are home from college during the summer. We spend family time together, take family vacations. Neither college has a balanced calendar...so my time with my college students would be shortened.
My children attend a different school system which would be a challenge with our family schedule...all the breaks will be different from theirs.
My children attend Oak Ridge schools, so getting on the balanced calendar would put me on a similar schedule as them...that would be lovely!
My children will be part of a balanced calendar next school year because we live in Oak Ridge. I voted for it there and the community is making the necessary adjustments to continue with football, childcare, etc.
My concern is learning loss over the frequent 2 week breaks as well as how state testing dates would be affected by this shift.
My concern is whether a block schedule would still work and remain as the daily schedule at my school if we do switch to balanced calendar. With my content area, 90 minute classes are very important to ensuring that students have enough time to learn and work.
My husband is a farmer...so we work the farm all summer and usually Spring Break.. It would mean we could take a trip in the fall now. :)
My job deals heavily with state-imposed deadlines that are not affected by school breaks. A balanced calendar would therefore potentially make my job more difficult by significantly shortening the number of available school days before the deadlines. However, I still feel that a balanced calendar would be in the best interest of the students.
My major concern would be getting school opened each year with only a small break. I currently have a 5 week summer and work on Wednesday mornings, How long would I be off during the summer? It is stressful and demanding to get school opened. We can't spare any of the days before the students arrive. t
My opinion on student reaction is partially based on student behavior/learning level of students after 2 week Snow Break.
My position with Knox County involves assessments. I primarily assess preschool students at Head Start which are not technically part of KCS. If we make the change and they do not it will strongly impact my ability to effectively complete my assessments in a timely manner.
my program would see the least effect since my program is a nontraditional setting, however, it would interfere with my other work outside of school
My school work consumes my weekdays and my Sundays as it is. A good portion of my summer is spent on PD. If you shorten my summer, my stress level will go over the top! I'm already on a happy pill thanks to all of this.
My school-aged child is on a balanced calendar schedule in another system so it could potentially put our breaks at the same time and give our family the opportunity to travel at alternative times than the summer.
My son has sensory disorder and routine is key to making him happy. The larger breaks will get him used to a way of working his day and then it will be uprooted and changed. He is still small and I hope that this will not be implemented when he gets into the school system.
My students loss of structure during breaks. Having to reteach classroom rules and procedures after each break.
N/A
na
NA
NA
NA
Neutral
No affect as I am retiring
No idea! Don't know enough about it, other than the distribution of days! That's not enough information.
No information has been provided as to how the schedule might look for special areas, library, special services and special ed. Often changes fail to account for these personnel until after they are implemented.
None
none
None
None.
Not an employee, your survey keeps directing me to these answers

KCS Employee Comments

Please list any other ways a balanced calendar would affect you.
Not certain as to the unanswered questions, as I believe it would be a benefit to a certain population, and a detriment to others.
Not sure all teacher s will get the benefit of the additional pay- it usually goes to those I the know!!!!
Now that my own children are out of school and on their own, I was looking forward to applying for several science or history related teacher travel/learning opportunities that are offered through various organizations (Earth Watch, National Geographic Society, NOAA, etc.) . These are all summer opportunities. Moving to a Balanced Calendar will narrow the window of these opportunities. Great learners make great teachers!
Once again, until a plan is in place with all of its components, this question is mute.
One of the courses that I teach in the Fall involves building muscle memory for the students. That is difficult when your content is interrupted by breaks without rehearsals.
Our CDC-A students probably won't do as well. Not sure?
Per the previous page, there are general tax payers who are concerned with the education of students. There is no section for them to click. Public education is for the public good. If teachers are being harassed/don't trust administrators or supervisors/have conflict with central office, why would they put which school they work at? Is there a secret ombudsman position that's been created?
really no affect because I work a 255 contract at the AJ building and my wife and son go to school in Hamblen County (Manley School). However, if Knox County did go to the Balanced Calendar my wife and I have already discussed what we may do and that is to move to Knoxville so she could teach and my son could go to school here.
Re-certification coursework; custody issues when the other parent is in another county or out of State.
Scheduling events, rehearsals, camps, trips, etc. outside of the normal school calendar with extended breaks. I feel many students and families will be forced to choose between extra-curricular activities and sports or extra time working part time or traveling with family. I also feel there has been a lack of understanding intersessions versus extra-curricular activities and which one would take priority for students. Many teachers at the high school and middle school level depend on extra-curricular student participation as the life blood of their programs.
school wide initiatives such as musicals, grade-level events and other activities would have to be more carefully planned ahead of time as to not overlap. Fine Arts Portfolio units could no longer "extend" into another quarter as easily.
sounds like a vey hard thing to try to pay all employees -
Students usually struggle to regain focus after the two-week December break, and I struggle to help them do that. More two-week breaks will increase the challenge.
Summer jobs would be affected, therefore, changing my income.
Summer too short
Teacher inservices will likely take place during the break. That is not giving us a break.
Teachers are already the most accountable people in our system. For students who choose to work, and just cannot "get it", the balanced calendar extends the school year. It will help them. Much like existing summer programs do. For students who choose not to work, teachers will create yet more opportunities for them, thus reinforcing the message that student learning is a teacher's responsibility. This is going to increase my stress level.
Teachers are concerned that they will be gently pressured or encouraged to offer remediation or enrichment during the two weeks off. We are told that admin cannot "make us," but there is concern about saying no. It seems like schools will have to interview people from other schools who are interested in earning the extended contract money if there aren't teachers at the base school who are interested. Just putting some thoughts out there.
Teachers are not treated in a professional manner and I do not believe our opinions are given much value. The morale is as low as it has ever been.
Teaching is getting more stressful each day. It would be an unbelievable stress relief for all parties to move towards a balanced calendar.
The athletic calendar would not coincide with this calendar, so any coaches or staff who work with sports during either the Fall or Spring semesters (and their respective student athletes) would not have the opportunity to have the full 2 weeks off during the intersession breaks because of athletic events. This is unfair to both the teachers and the students.
The balanced calendar may impact opportunities for professional development during the summer months. Professional development may also be enhanced by opportunities created during the intersessions.

KCS Employee Comments

Please list any other ways a balanced calendar would affect you.

The balanced calendar would allow me to go on a trip in the fall.

The current extended summer break allows me to conduct business in the schools without interrupting the students. With a balanced calendar, I will not have enough time to complete my auditing duties between fiscal years.

The disruption will be immeasurable, permanent, and ugly.

The most important aspect is student learning. I expect that teacher pay will still be abysmal as it has always been in this area, but I did not enter the teaching profession to get rich.

The most significant benefit personally would be the breather it offers between quarters, a chance to catch up, relax or adjust before the next quarter. Teachers are also largely restricted to vacations in the summer or at Christmas time (when everyone else is taking them too). This would present some opportunities to do things in the non-peak time, including some short (week long at most) student trips that would likewise be cheaper and less crowded during the "off season". As we travel a lot as a family, this is important to us.

The nature of my job description would mean I would have to work outside of the calendar with my students to ensure they are reaching the same success level as they are with a "standard" calendar. Honestly, if the balanced calendar is passed and it is as stressful as I'm anticipating...it may motivate me to seek employment elsewhere.

The students don't come back from break refreshed and ready to work. They come back wound up and have to be brought back to a state to learn.

The students typically become disengaged and less motivated near Spring break, Winter break, and Summer break as it is. I don't believe that the 10 day breaks in between will be of benefit to their retention of information. Also, the Snow days that we encountered this year were proof of that...most teachers said their students needed quite a bit of review from the material that was currently being taught before moving forward.

There is potential for increased behavior in a special education classroom due to frequent breaks

This calendar would benefit me--as an educator--having more time with my family, however, the benefit is only because I am a teacher, not a parent outside the education workforce.

This is a no brainer for KCS. The advantages are superior to the disadvantages. It is the RIGHT THING to do!

This is specific to my family: My children attend school in a neighboring county. These additional breaks would allow me to do the mom things that I miss out on like eating lunch with my children, meeting with teachers, and working for the school.

This job is emotionally draining in addition to stressful and time-consuming outside of contract time. We need more opportunities to recharge mentally and emotionally. Our students benefit when we're not exhausted in every way.

This will affect my life in many ways. Some of which are the stress level of the job, the opportunity to try new things outside of work, and the ability to earn additional compensation because what we get paid is not nearly enough for the job that we do and the things that we must put up with each day. People who are making the decision to go to a balanced calendar are not in the classroom each day to deal with the issues and obstacles that are faced each and every day with the students. These people are sitting in their office dealing with adults each and every day and not in the classroom where all of the work is being done with the student. The people making the decision on the balanced calendar work year round and not with the students so to them this calendar looks great, but to the ones on the front lines every day with the students should have the final say and not the Superintendent or any one individual. Why have so many tried the balanced calendar and then went back to the way that we are doing it and the way that they used to do it. Because they have found that it has not made that much of a difference in the students ability to learn and retain knowledge as they originally thought. They have found that the balanced calendar did not work, so why not learn from their experience instead of trying to make it work. We must work smarter by looking at the reasons people have gone away from the balance calendar and use our brains and expertise to make decisions on previous findings instead of what we think or have been told by someone who is trying to sell this Balanced Calendar idea to us.

KCS Employee Comments

Please list any other ways a balanced calendar would affect you.

This will impact me greatly because I have some very specific plans for my summers. These include mission work and volunteer opportunities I would like to try if given the chance. The schedules for the mission work are unalterable so I will be prevented from ever participating in this particular project again. This makes me extremely sad. Also, I would like to further my education and summer is a prime time for working on that. Major projects in the summers take time!! That is what it is all about--being able to accomplish a different project either related to your professional life or not although most teachers use summers to hone their skills in some way, I'd wager. Time to regroup and accomplish a summer project will be ruined. I did not get into education because I get the summers off. I got into it because I believe in the power of education to transform lives. However, I see no reason at all to change the traditional summer break. I would rather see an increase in instructional hours during the school days we already have on our calendars. This makes far more sense to me. As far as I'm concerned, summers have been getting shorter anyway for years and enough is enough.

This would affect me in a very positive way. I have a baby that is due in November, and I will have a small child at home/daycare for the next five years before he/she enters into kindergarten. The balanced calendar would allow me to have more time throughout the year, and would create a very positive experience. I would like for my child to grow up in a school system with a balanced calendar as well. It is better overall for student learning, and gives children a much better chance at not losing skills that are taught over summer break.

Too many questions still left unanswered.

Until it's in place, it's difficult for me to predict how it would affect me. I feel that my job effectiveness and role at work would remain the same no matter what calendar I am operating under. I do feel the stress of the job on teachers and students would be reduced due to the breaks. I don't know how that would affect absenteeism. Maybe that would be positive too?

Vacations in different seasons!

We seem to have to teach the kids how to do school again after every break. Behavior is always rough coming back because they are out of their routine.

Well it would be difficult to take summer classes to earn my Educational Specialist Degree during the summer. Although I feel as though I am nothing more than an evaluation number at this point anyway. Advanced degrees are not really recognized or valued anymore!

When would teacher evaluations take place? Will teachers be required to attend in-service during the breaks?

Will classified employees be able to earn additional compensation?

Work in Central Office. Grew up in GA where year round school has always been in place

Working in technology, those extra weeks in the fall and spring would allow me to catch up on Schooldude tickets while fewer teachers/students are in KCS buildings.

Would love to know how it will affect a 221 contract..as to when I would start and end for the year....looks like a very short break for us

Would not affect my work at all.

Additional Questions for Students

Assuming cost and transportation were not a barrier, which of the following extra help or enrichment programs would you be interested in taking part during school breaks?

Extra help with math			
Not Interested	Somewhat Interested	Moderately Interested	Very Interested
Count	Count	Count	Count
211	88	71	77
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
47.2%	19.7%	15.9%	17.2%

Extra help with reading			
Not Interested	Somewhat Interested	Moderately Interested	Very Interested
Count	Count	Count	Count
313	53	34	30
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
72.8%	12.3%	7.9%	7.0%

Extra help with writing			
Not Interested	Somewhat Interested	Moderately Interested	Very Interested
Count	Count	Count	Count
277	60	49	40
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
65.0%	14.1%	11.5%	9.4%

Drawing and visual arts			
Not Interested	Somewhat Interested	Moderately Interested	Very Interested
Count	Count	Count	Count
277	74	34	44
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
64.6%	17.2%	7.9%	10.3%

Music			
Not Interested	Somewhat Interested	Moderately Interested	Very Interested
Count	Count	Count	Count
243	61	51	74
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
56.6%	14.2%	11.9%	17.2%

Additional Questions for Students

Assuming cost and transportation were not a barrier, which of the following extra help or enrichment programs would you be interested in taking part during school breaks?

Drama			
Not Interested	Somewhat Interested	Moderately Interested	Very Interested
Count	Count	Count	Count
282	49	45	54
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
65.6%	11.4%	10.5%	12.6%

Public speaking			
Not Interested	Somewhat Interested	Moderately Interested	Very Interested
Count	Count	Count	Count
251	61	60	50
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
59.5%	14.5%	14.2%	11.8%

Dance/Tumbling			
Not Interested	Somewhat Interested	Moderately Interested	Very Interested
Count	Count	Count	Count
312	32	31	49
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
73.6%	7.5%	7.3%	11.6%

Basketball			
Not Interested	Somewhat Interested	Moderately Interested	Very Interested
Count	Count	Count	Count
292	47	42	42
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
69.0%	11.1%	9.9%	9.9%

Soccer			
Not Interested	Somewhat Interested	Moderately Interested	Very Interested
Count	Count	Count	Count
290	58	28	48
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
68.4%	13.7%	6.6%	11.3%

Additional Questions for Students

Assuming cost and transportation were not a barrier, which of the following extra help or enrichment programs would you be interested in taking part during school breaks?

Swimming			
Not Interested	Somewhat Interested	Moderately Interested	Very Interested
Count	Count	Count	Count
282	49	45	47
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
66.7%	11.6%	10.6%	11.1%

Martial Arts			
Not Interested	Somewhat Interested	Moderately Interested	Very Interested
Count	Count	Count	Count
280	59	44	38
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
66.5%	14.0%	10.5%	9.0%

Health and wellness			
Not Interested	Somewhat Interested	Moderately Interested	Very Interested
Count	Count	Count	Count
282	60	44	38
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
66.5%	14.2%	10.4%	9.0%

Science and technology			
Not Interested	Somewhat Interested	Moderately Interested	Very Interested
Count	Count	Count	Count
212	67	71	81
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
49.2%	15.5%	16.5%	18.8%

Computer skills or programming			
Not Interested	Somewhat Interested	Moderately Interested	Very Interested
Count	Count	Count	Count
238	61	58	80
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
54.5%	14.0%	13.3%	18.3%

Additional Questions for Students

Assuming cost and transportation were not a barrier, which of the following extra help or enrichment programs would you be interested in taking part during school breaks?

Video making and editing			
Not Interested	Somewhat Interested	Moderately Interested	Very Interested
Count	Count	Count	Count
237	63	58	72
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
55.1%	14.7%	13.5%	16.7%

Gardening and nature activities			
Not Interested	Somewhat Interested	Moderately Interested	Very Interested
Count	Count	Count	Count
275	56	45	54
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
64.0%	13.0%	10.5%	12.6%

Hiking and other outdoor activities			
Not Interested	Somewhat Interested	Moderately Interested	Very Interested
Count	Count	Count	Count
193	66	80	97
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
44.3%	15.1%	18.3%	22.2%

Community service			
Not Interested	Somewhat Interested	Moderately Interested	Very Interested
Count	Count	Count	Count
181	73	82	95
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
42.0%	16.9%	19.0%	22.0%

Activities sponsored by a community organization			
Not Interested	Somewhat Interested	Moderately Interested	Very Interested
Count	Count	Count	Count
206	75	78	69
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
48.1%	17.5%	18.2%	16.1%

Additional Questions for Students

If your school were to change to a balanced calendar, indicate how you would be affected in the following areas:

Satisfaction with school				
Very Negatively	Negatively	Neutral/No Opinion	Positively	Very Positively
Count	Count	Count	Count	Count
107	71	120	113	77
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
21.9%	14.5%	24.6%	23.2%	15.8%

Ability to succeed at school				
Very Negatively	Negatively	Neutral/No Opinion	Positively	Very Positively
Count	Count	Count	Count	Count
65	54	147	123	98
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
13.3%	11.1%	30.2%	25.3%	20.1%

Enjoyment of time in school				
Very Negatively	Negatively	Neutral/No Opinion	Positively	Very Positively
Count	Count	Count	Count	Count
122	53	138	94	81
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
25.0%	10.9%	28.3%	19.3%	16.6%

Enjoyment of time outside of school				
Very Negatively	Negatively	Neutral/No Opinion	Positively	Very Positively
Count	Count	Count	Count	Count
103	58	84	100	139
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
21.3%	12.0%	17.4%	20.7%	28.7%

Student Comments:

Please share any other activities that you may like to participate in during breaks.
Alone time screw school #LOL #InAPClasses
Animation and cartooning; I've always wanted to learn how to properly draw so I could make cartoon shows.
Any sports or physical activities....
Anything related to programming or computer science would be a lot of fun.
BAND CAMP! I'm on the color guard.
camp
cheer
cheer
Cheerleading if my school got it
cheerleading
Church activities
Construction
Cooking classes
cummenity pool and crafts and arts together
During said 'breaks' students would not want to be involved with the school, with the exception of continuing practices for sports they are already involved in
Family vacations during the fall and spring breaks.
fishing hunting
Football
football
For many students, the only time that they can work is during a break
Foreign Languages
Gaming
Getting sleep and working. Most teachers will just give more work for over the break thus making it so it is not a break but just school outside of the building.
Gymnastics.
I do not need the balanced calendar to provide programs already readily available with our current system.
I feel that students, like myself, would have no interest in being involved in any form of activities during said 'breaks'
I HATE THIS IDEA!!!
I like to do vollleyball and golf too.
I plan to take summer classes at Pellissippi to benefit my teacher preparation pathway at CMA.
I would enjoy using the time to study and prepare for my classes along with the extra time for breaks. With the current system of breaks, I spend much of my breaks doing homework, but I feel that would change with a balanced schedule.
Kids involved in sports will already be spending their breaks at practice.
Making manga
National Competitions (Science Bowl, Mu Alpha Theta Math Convention, etc.)
netflix eating not doing homework hating school
No activities could succeed during breaks because the instructor and/or a number of students would be on vacation or unavailable. Why have activities during the break when keeping a traditional calender wouktd be so much easier to plan events with?
parkour training
Perfect...now just get rid of common core and we will be good!!!!
Programming basic software in Java, C++, and Phython, Knox County Schools don't have classes for those, so I have to rely on my own study and practice.
Relaxing. Students need a mental break, and by the ends of the grading periods you can see a steady decreasing trend in my grades. After being stuck in the routine of high school for 44/45 days at a time having a 2 day break (fall) doesn't cut it.

Student Comments:

Please share any other activities that you may like to participate in during breaks.
Running
Soccer because i am on the team at Farragut Highschool.
Softball
Softball
softball
Tennis
Tennis
Tennis or other team sports
There will be no chance to participate in enrichment opportunities. It's a joke to believe that you think enrichment opportunities will lead us to support this pointless initiative. Nothing will be accomplished in these two weeks. No enrichment opportunity would be useful if it was for two weeks.
Track and field
Track and Field
Track and Field
Transportation and cost are a barrier. This is a stupid question. I can do all those things now. This is a trick to get us in school all year long.
Travel.
Trips to other continents for honors students, or historical purposes. Mission work in developing countries or countries suffering from devastation.
Ultimate frisbee
Ultimate frisbee, scouts, baseball, job
video games and not school for "intervention" not a good idea
Vollyball
Why would I want to do more school over a break.
Working more on a mechanical base, designing robots or working on cars.
You should include tennis over the break options.

Community Employer Comments

Do you have any additional comments about the opportunities or challenges you anticipate for your place of employment in the event of a switch to a Knox County Schools balanced calendar?
A balanced year could affect provincial exams
A change like this might actually INCREASE the possibility of us participating in community events that support the schools - we are very busy during the summer and unable to participate during that time, but the longer fall / winter / spring breaks would provide a new opportunity for us.
About half of our 35 employees in Knox county have elementary school aged children and have expressed concern about how it would affect child care arrangements. Personally, our youngest is in high school.
Absenteeism will increase up to 13.7% on some weeks; less on others.
Again, number 20 is easy to difficult.
All of our employees try to take off at least one or more weeks during the summer time. Currently there are many weeks to pick from for those families that have children. If the year round school proposal is adopted, the number of weeks that our families with children could pick from would be much more limited and we would have to limit the amount of leave employees could take during the summer in order to meet our obligations as a business.
As long as area child care providers adjust it should be ok. It may help spread out time off request around. Typically spring break and Christmas we have more request than we can grant so it's hard to balance everyone's needs.
As stated in a pervious comet I work at a parents day out program for preschool and we follow Knox County school calendar so when Knox County is off we are also off . Well for one week or one day for spring and fall break is easy for parents to make arrangements for that if we are off for two or three weeks it makes it more difficult if the parents rely on us for childcare during a part time job
Besides my full-time job, I also help run a summer recreation program in the community - it depends on high school and college students who work and serve as the role models for the younger children. Cutting the summer 2 weeks shorter would certainly hurt that program. Cutting it any further than that would probably kill the program.
Businesses that employee college and high school students will have a difficult time covering shifts when their breaks do not line up
Businesses will lose valuable employees over absenteeism caused by the Balanced Calendar. No-one besides school employees experience the advantage of only working 9 months a year. Don't rub it in our face. There are more working parents in the county than all school employees combined. How much do you want an already tense relationship to deteriorate. I.e. "where do you want these torches and pitchforks?"
Current breaks during the school year already provide a strain on many of the parents I work with, requiring them to take time off from work for short breaks (2 weeks or less). With a limited amount of available vacation time, increasing the number or length of these mid-year breaks would be extremely difficult for parents.
different sales trend when school is not in session
Employees would have to potentially use their PTO/vaction time if they could not find a sitter and could potentially be forced to take days off they did not have which would then be unpaid.
fire mcintyre
First retailers need the summer break to drive business. Second due to increase in business we add extra help during those months. Next we count on those breaks to bring in summer availabilities. We do not need associates who can only work 45 or so days. It is too much of a hassle to us and to them. Retail sales due to families taking vacations during three months versus one and a half with your balanced idea will drop causing companies like mine to cut payroll not increase. This will change tax intake. It only snowballs from there.
For #17, we feel that it would have somewhat of a negative effect on our program, due to the time and inconveniences for the adjustment. However, we feel that it would be a positive effect on our children and families, once everything is in place.
For smaller construction projects, extra breaks from schools would allow time for the work to be completed during the school year. Currently, most all work is required during summer only.
fortunately or unfortunatelly, there are not many employees at my place of business with kids in the K-12 grades. Therefore it would not place additional burden on the place of employment, only on those employees who have to take extra time off, make alternative arrangements or work from home which can result in reduced productivity.
Has been shown to increase local business operating expenses due to increases sick time taken and list productivity due to not having child care and parents missing work to care for child.
Have to work with parents around an already known / set schedule for work. More time off neede for school breaks, less production on our end.

Community Employer Comments

Do you have any additional comments about the opportunities or challenges you anticipate for your place of employment in the event of a switch to a Knox County Schools balanced calendar?
Having a long break without employees in October because they want to vacation with kids when we are preparing for the holiday season is unacceptable! This calendar is going to create lots of employer/employee problems. They will want to go away and I will have to say no!
How do I honor schedule vacation requests for everyone during a brief summer? Not everyone wants vacation in fall winter.
I am concerned that the three-week breaks will create difficulties for employees to find child care and create an absenteeism problem. A fall break of up to 2 weeks could help better schedule vacation with employees although I would still have some concerns for absenteeism with childcare.
I am employed at a private school. The change would either force us to change to the balanced calendar or create an influx of students during "breaks."
I am in construction and most employees have children. More breaks during the year is more time off my employees will need. We can not afford for people to be out very much.
I am not sure why this question is relevant. My place of employment is an advertising agency. We do offer summer jobs and internships periodically, but it is not the backbone of our company. We can simply do without those positions because they do not affect our bottom line. They affect the kids, I am certain.
I currently donate to seven Knox County Schools and many other school related extra curricular activities. Our studies have found that going to a balanced calendar will cost our company at least \$10,000 a year in lost revenue and increased payroll costs. This loss in sales and increase in costs will result in a total stop of all donations to the school system.
I do not typically hire students directly, but I have concerns about all my staff trying to take off during the same vacation periods, or otherwise altering our schedule to transport their kids to activities that start later than normal school hours and end earlier in the day. Also, the distraction of wondering what their older kids are doing while unattended and alone. At least during the summer, we can stagger everyone to have a different week off.
I employ some high school students but we will adapt to what is needed
I feel this survey is a good thing but definitely not clear as to giving my opinion. It's almost backwards and hard to answer. Sorry! If the calendar changes please make a 1 week fall and 1 week spring break. Go slowly!
I have a handful of teachers whose children attend and they would be more likely to want extra vacation weeks. This would be negative. They would be going back to work earlier from summer so that would have positive impact. Employees children could cause issues with scheduling.
I have a significant concern regarding how my employees would find care for their children during the Fall and Spring breaks.
I looked at doing this with my current employees before. When I had someone working for me that moved to the City of Maryville, I hadn't planned on the impact that would have on my company. I had to plan on one of my critical employees not being able to show up for work. We ended up parting ways. If Knox County went to a balanced calendar, I would have to find others to replace those that couldn't be here. That replacement would be permanent. When I am not here, my employees are lucky if they don't have to be, but I expect the work to get done. If they can't be here, cause their kids are out of school too.. I have a business to run not a work when we feel like it. If you want to make the calendar year round - all year, and give students and teachers breaks like the government does, then that's worth talking about.
I run a private preschool and will we adjust our calendar to reflect that of Knox County's. We may offer enrichment or care opportunities during the break. We are waiting on the decision of Knox County and then we will move forward.
I suspect employee absence to increase during fall and spring as they have trouble making childcare arrangements under a new calendar.
I switched and took this job based on the school schedule that my children currently have. I would no longer be able to spend quality time with my children if Knox County decided to switch. And my husband is in school as well and he would not be able to spend much time with them because of the changes that Knox County wants to make.
I tend to believe our employees and company would adapt, but most already have some difficulty saving vacation days to accommodate Fall break plans as it's later in the annual vacation cycle. I think a larger Fall break could compound this problem.

Community Employer Comments

Do you have any additional comments about the opportunities or challenges you anticipate for your place of employment in the event of a switch to a Knox County Schools balanced calendar?

I think I am for a balanced calendar, but my husband does believe it will change our ability to hire summer help. I think we will adapt. We hire many high school students during the summer. I don't see why them working two weeks less will be a problem. But, I just wanted to mention my husbands comment. I: however, do believe we could adapt.

I think our organization could adapt to a balanced calendar and I think that a balanced calendar is beneficial for children that need a slower pace or extra help. I feel that the questions asked are not inclusive of the current landscape of childcare, enrichment and educational opportunities during out-of-school time. Input in developing this survey from the out-of-school time community would have been helpful in making the questions more meaningful and relevant.

I travel for my job. It won't have an effect on me as much as it will on my daughter with her lifeguarding and restaurant job.

I will be forced to fire half of my staff when Knox county goes to this

I work at a Mother's Day Out that goes on Knox County's schedule.

I work at a private Christian school that as far as I can see has no intention of switching to a balanced calendar. I feel like most of our breaks will occur at the same time but leaving my kids with more time off.

I work st a college with international & out of state students that have children that attend Knox county schools & they go home during breaks. Thus would greatly impact potential college students with kids wanting to come to Knoxville.

I would highly consider taking my children from public school. I would hire a tutor and homeschool my children.

If opportunities for child enrichment/child care etc are offered through the county it will be fine. But if the county and or private organizations do not have programs available then my employees will not be able to work during the spring and fall breaks since they will have to care for their kids. That will be a hardship.

In the summers.we have extra staff due to UT pharmacy students. They help us cover vacation for regular staff over the summer.

It will result in lower employee moral due to corrective action for absentees.

It would be an adjustment and will require give and take but if everyone works together and is forward thinking it will work.

It would be difficult for some who can not afford additional child care help but I presume the school system and other agencies would help to provide those opportunities at little to no cost.

It would be difficult to take vacation time for family vacations/trips throughout the year vs. during the traditional summertime period.

It would be up to me to make sure I had my vacation time according to her schedule. Plus my mother is retired which helps me alot.

Its hard to get time off as it is now and to tell them that a person has to make extra arrangements for more Time can be the straw that breaks the camel's back

It's hard to know all the answers until the plan is in effect.

It's not my work's responsibility to make sure I have childcare for the random 2 weeks my children will be home throughout the year. It is ignorant to think employers will make special arrangements

Just concerned about employees with child care needs. We employ hundreds of women with children.

Knox County needs to work DIRECTLY with employers in the area on this transition.

Larger businesses would see little affect, but small businesses would likely struggle if they have numerous employees with school age children.

Leave schools alone

Lots of mothers work at my company. It's hard enough for all of them to fit their vacations in during the summer as it is. I can only let so many off per week because I have to have a sub. College students cover their classrooms while they're on vacations. The two week intercessions will not help this because I will not necessarily have those college students on these breaks.

Many families have children in both Knox county and private schools that follow a different calendar. That would create a huge difficulty for families who are trying to educate each child based on individual characteristics.

Maybe not for me specifically, but I know the college students who generally work the summer School Aged Care Programs in our private school would suffer because their schedules may not be accommodating to the balanced calendar.

Community Employer Comments

Do you have any additional comments about the opportunities or challenges you anticipate for your place of employment in the event of a switch to a Knox County Schools balanced calendar?

Most of our employees are moms...they are also the ones who must leave to pickup and deliver kids to school and all extra activities. We have used high school kids in the summer to provide them experience and help our staff....but with a balanced calendar this will prove to be more challenging when one considers the vacation times of staff as well as the students who have chosen to try to gain real world skills. Our office would probably NOT hire any high school students due to the shorter summer break....and for a student to come in for one week in fall and one in the spring will not be cost effective for our business.

Moving to a balanced calendar means that small businesses will have most employees all trying to take their vacation days at the same time during the summer and/or breaks. A longer summer break spreads this out. I would imagine that we would have to implement a restriction to vacation timing, which will be very unpopular with the employees, and the spouses of the officers of the company who will have to be at work when others are on vacation.

My business serves children from several counties in the Knoxville area. We already do our best to adapt to the schedules of numerous public and private schools. If Knox County changes their calendar, we will adapt again.

My business would not change or alter our hours of operation to accommodate the change in Knox County schools.

My employees and their family schedules would be negatively impacted

My employees will have to make slight adjustments, and I will need to support my employees in this regard. Nothing out of the ordinary, as the total number of schooldays remains the same. My employees should also benefit from a better work-life balance.

My job will not allow me to have time off in the middle of a semester. Summer only.

My manager has a child of elementary school age. She would have a difficult time finding affordable care for him during these frequent breaks.

My place of employment has several employees that are mother or children in Knox co schools. They find it challenging to work with their daycare facilities that follow KCS calendar because they are often closed or offer limited care options when the schools are closed.

My place of employment is a 24/7 healthcare facility. No adjustment will be made to accommodate this change in schedule at my organization.

My place of employment will not be changing anything for Knox County Schools

NO

no

No organization (unless it is personally owned or is a childcare provider) will be impacted by this policy regarding work schedule for the overall organization. The school doesn't set the schedule for most businesses. To my knowledge, no outreach has been made to businesses to help make concessions for employees impacted by this proposed change. My business will be negatively impacted because you are limiting the time when everyone can ask off for summer vacation; everyone will be wanting the same weeks to cover the extended breaks; etc.

Not that you all care but again in a department like ours there would not be enough weeks in the summer to get all of us a vacation

Our business is especially busy in the summer which is already too short of a school break. An even shorter summer break would put a huge burden on our ability to focus on that work without having to worry about getting kids to and from school and doing homework and so on. Not every person in this town works in a season-neutral business in climate-controlled offices for a set number of hours per day. The longer days of summer means for us being able to work longer hours in order to provide service to as many people as possible each day. If one of us has to stop that work to deal with more school stuff it only causes more stress for everyone. In our lives there is no such thing as a "balanced calendar." The long, hot summer days require working more hours per day than the rest of the year. It is the design of nature in our part of the world that the summers require a different calendar than the rest of the year.

Our company is dependent on tourists. Therefore we need and employ a large number of students in the summer months. Without the availability of students on summer break as our summer workforce, we will be detrimentally affected.

Our summer program (a 10-week summer camp) would be destroyed because it cannot meet in the building during the school year (we have a preschool in the building during the school year and cannot have both programs running simultaneously due to DCS requirements for the classroom space). This summer program is the primary source of income for our children's programs for the rest of the year.

Community Employer Comments

Do you have any additional comments about the opportunities or challenges you anticipate for your place of employment in the event of a switch to a Knox County Schools balanced calendar?
Parents are going to face more scheduling difficulties and need more flexible work schedules.
Parents if children who attend our preschool program may not like the extended break that would come during the school year
Please provide evidence as to how the quality of my childs education will improve based on this new calendar.
Preschool - the consistency for young children won't be there. The transition time getting back into a routine will be hard.
Re: Challenges - Potential staffing coverage due to childcare issues. Lack of overall employee vacation/personal leave time, physician offices are rarely closed. Re: Opportunities - Student patients would have more opportunities for appointments without missing school.
Scheduling issues and even possible termination of employment.
Special concern for transitions for our youngest children.
Spring Break is already our most difficult staffing week of the year. I cant imagine adding another to it in the fall.
Staffing during multi week breaks. There outs not time too add temporary staff too meet need to cover vacation time.
Summer Employment of students would affect my business as well as the potential hires.
terrible.
The balanced calendar is a bad idea!
The majority of our employees do not have young children or they have family close.. We have always made adjustments for any employee to deal with family issues.
The only issue I don't know about yet is the sports camps/off season during the summer.
The preschool I run serves families in Knox county and private schools, trying to balance the needs of both can be difficult but doable while all us a similar calendar. Changing Knox county's will force us to choose which group we will serve best.
This is not a good option for Knoxville, TN and the Knox County Schools.
Traditional holidays followed by the federal government are adhered to by us. Adding additional vacation time will only deplete our staff and cause us as the employer to look for other employees that can work through the balanced calendar. We cannot adapt our work load to the changing calendar.
Transportation concerns and other child care issues become an issue when otherwise it would not be an issue in the workplace.
We are a tourist based business that does 75% of our business when school is out for summer. I fear deeply the balanced calendar from that point of view.
We are in a time of mobile which leads to flexibility--time for companies to realize family comes first and leading to more employee happiness, thus production. This calendar switch would be a win-win for both sides (not to say there are sides).
We don't have facilities to allow staff to bring their children to work, and the financial constraints for the staff for added child care would be awful. It has to potential to be very distruptive to our company
We have 2 employees that have kids in Knox county schools. We both have to juggle who gets time off with kids when they are out of school. We are lucky, that we can bring them to the office, but what kid wants to stay in the basement of an office all day for days on end. Otherwise, we pay out more than we make for childcare.
We have some single parents with school age kids. They would not have enough vacation days to cover all these two week breaks if they can't secure "intermittent" childcare.
We will be forced to restaff about half of our business. Firing all high schoolers that work for us.
We work with at-risk children, and I believe that this will hurt them - not help them.
We would expect significant personnel away from work during breaks when childcare would not be readily available.
We would have to change our school year calendar to match Knox County's calendar. Our teachers and staff are paid hourly and draw unemployment during the summer. The two week break in the Fall and the extra one week in the Spring may cause issues with pay/unemployment for staff.
Well, they really wouldn't have much other choice but to accommodate. Move, adapt, or die...
What makes Knox county need to be different than universities?
While some people can bring their kids to work, some can't. While I would love the chance to travel with my kids "off season" and do things with them unless I have a place that is safe where they are comfortable when l'm at work I can't be comfortable and focus on my job.

Community Employer Comments

Do you have any additional comments about the opportunities or challenges you anticipate for your place of employment in the event of a switch to a Knox County Schools balanced calendar?
who knows...
Will cause a lot of child care issues for single mothers or fathers, who do not qualify for child care assistance. I am myself one and I employ several.
With 30-50 employees, having several employees out at the same time to accommodate school breaks would be difficult. Most employees will not be able to afford child care.
Workers may have more childcare issues.
Working at the health department, we see a lot of children through the summer catching up on their vaccines (kindergartens and children entering 7th grade. This will affect our workflow as summer is the usual time to get these immunizations before school starts. How it will affect us, I do not know yet.
Working parents have it hard enough, this would create an even more stressful situation for them. This is a bad idea.
would affect our business in both customer traffic and staffing needs
Would certainly reduce the number of high school students we hire and schedule. I don't think that should be a major factor in the decision however
As stated previously, it will make many of my single parents unable to attend college or if they do it creates another obstacle to their success.
Finding available childcare options for my single mom employee
I am aware of several business in the area that are centered around childcare. In talking with these business owners (and church leaders), they are concerned about the negative impact of the balanced calendar.
I am mostly concerned about the effect the switch will have on our business. I am hoping the school system will allow us to provide care in the schools to the students during the breaks, especially if that time is used as an enrichment time. I do believe this will be a positive change for our children and am hoping it can also be a positive change for their families and our program.
I am very much in favor of a balanced calendar from an education perspective. But I am very concerned with the affect on the weakest in our communities- the families who struggle to make ends meet, the ones who need support and care. Those three two weeks could mean that some of our kids may go hungry or be caring for themselves. It would really help after school care providers if we were given some information about how other care providers (who work in a balanced calendar setting) handle these situations. Some advice on structure, staffing etc. would all be greatly appreciated. It would also be helpful to receive information on the intercessions and their structure, as soon as this is approved (if it is approved). Reason being- if only some students receive enrichment and remediation (or if it rotates across a year), this creates a whole new situation that would have to be addressed.
I refuse to participate in this rigged survey. You should lose your jobs for this.
I would not wants own children (they are out of college now) to have this calendar. I will homeschool any future grandchildren before they have to endure this. There are no benefits and many many drawbacks. The fact that McIntyre and his high paid central office staff can't even design a better survey than this is enough to make me vehemently opposed.
I'm concerned about the frequent breaks and how this could affect employees who need child care. I am also unsure if we would be able to hire part-time summer staff of upperclassmen for such a short duration. However, in all fairness, most of the positions we offer are not really geared toward part-time summer only workers--we have complex positions that take a month to train. Therefore grade school students wouldn't have been highly considered candidates in the first place with their competing activities and inability to commit for longer periods.
In answering these questions I was answering them from a parental perspective not an employer perspective. However my days of dealing with KCS have been over since 2012.
Many of our agents are young mothers and reducing free family times even by one day in Summer or Fall will impose restrictions to planning for the family unit.
My agency would make adjustments as needed.
My concern is not about myself or my workplace. My concerns are the effects that this is going to have on our children.
None
None

Community Employer Comments

Do you have any additional comments about the opportunities or challenges you anticipate for your place of employment in the event of a switch to a Knox County Schools balanced calendar?

Several of our staff have children enrolled in KCS therefore we would have to follow the school calendar. Also, several of our families .pre-school age children and children in KCS and would not want to have the children on different school schedules. A two week break is a hard transition for our young children.

simplify your survey, I can see the possibility of many false answers that should be true. The wording is very confusing and mis-leading- almost as if the system is trying to trick the public in answering questions that would wrongly indicate support for the new calendar.

The biggest challenge that I anticipate is hiring staff, and finding a morning staff for just 2 week periods at a time. Also, parents are worried about the additional costs of having our program open for full days for two weeks. Given that our hours will greatly increase during those periods, we will be forced to charge almost double our weekly rate to afford to pay staff.

The fall and spring breaks now show us how difficult long breaks are. We have employees needing off and we can't let them all off. So many have to find temporary care which is impossible to find for a few days, let alone almost two weeks

The issue with students is not the amount of attended days, or distribution of them, but that the parents don't care and that causes the kids to not care.

We have many Knox County School parents that work for us while their children are at school. When their students are out for breaks they do not work. We have college students that are out during Knox County's current breaks and they can cover the extra work load. When the Knox county school schedule does not line up with the college calendars, like the last fall break, we are forced to turn down work or hire temporary workers Both of which cost us a lot of money.

We would have a much shorter pool season and less staff.

We would not be able to provide childcare for the students we now serve in the summer.

We've received calls from many of our parents asking if we would provide programs during the 2-3 week intersessions. After seriously looking at the options, there is no way that we can provide a quality program under such circumstances. Other childcare centers I've spoken with seem to echo these concerns. We keep hearing "childcare centers will adapt"...well folks, it's not that easy.

Why? Why are you doing this? You haven't even told us if interventions will be offered, and for those kids who need interventions, isn't that why we have COMMUNITY SCHOOLS? Why let the tail wag the dog on this? From what I've read, many schools who try a year round calendar switch back to the traditional calendar. Cost is the major reason. You haven't told us a single thing about cost. Would I agree to buy a car that has mediocre at best reviews, when I don't even know how much it will cost? Do you think the citizens of Knox County are this stupid?

Community Employer Comments

Briefly describe your type of business.
"mom and pop" type restaurant
1/2 day preschool
2 day a week Mother's Day Out Program
54 yr old Industrial Engineered Products Sales Business
A technology R&D firm.
Academic
accountant
Accounting
Accounting
Accounting business
accounting center
adaptive reuse
Advertising Agency.
After school care director in a Knox Co School
After school program
Afterschool and Summer Day Camp
Afterschool child care
Afterschool program. We need to be allowed to remain open during breaks. Parents need us!
After-school programming
air conditioning and heating repair, installation
Architecture and Engineering firm
Arts Center
Asset protection
Athletic venue
Audio-Video Contractor
Auto Dealership
Auto motive parts sales
Auto Sales Dealership
Automotive
Banking industry
Banking/Customer Service
Big 4 Company, extremely busy and growing.
billing clerk
Blount Co Schools
boutique
Building supplies
Bus driver
business account manager
Business/Healthcare field
Call center
Call center and business owner
CAR DEALERSHIP
catering company
CEO of the 4th largest private company
Cheerleading gym

Community Employer Comments

Briefly describe your type of business.
child care
Child care
Child Care Center Director
child care center owner
Child Dev. Ctr.
Childcare
Childcare center for children 6wks to 12 years
Childcare program located inside of a Knox County School.
Children's Museum
Children's science museum
church administrator
Church
Church
Church
Church
Church and self-employed
Church based Preschool following Knox Co. Schools
Church camp. We already have trouble scheduling our camp to not conflict with other churches. This compressed time only compounds the problem even more.
Church/Child Care
Church-based preschool
Client relations
Climate Counselor
Climate Counselor
collections
Commercial Construction
Commercial Industrial HVAC
Commercial Real Estate
Commercial Sales/Manufacturing
Communications
communications
Community College
Community Mental Health Center
Community non-profit
community pool
computer room floor sales
Construction
Construction
Construction
construction
construction
Construction
Construction
Construction and Manufacturing
Construction contractor

Community Employer Comments

Briefly describe your type of business.
Consulting
Consulting Engineering
Consulting engineering firm
Consulting service
Contracting Business
contractor
Contractor
corporate management
Corporate Office
Corporate office of global manufacturing company
Counselor
Counselor/Therapist
CPA Firm
CPA firm
Credit Union
Customer service
Daycare Center
deals with millions of lives daily
Decline to share.
Director of youth ministry
e911
Early Childhood Program
Early learning facility
Education
Education
Education and Health Care
Educational
Educational Housing
Educator/Coach
Elections
Electrical Contracting and Landscaping Business
Electrical contractor.
engineer
engineer/consultant
Engineering
Engineering
engineering firm
Engineering in Utilities industry
Engineering workshop
Enviromental
Faculty at Univ Tenn
Faculty member at South College
fashion wholesale
Fast food
Federal Investigator.

Community Employer Comments

Briefly describe your type of business.
Federal Program for low-income children and families - Head Start
Film and Video Production Company, often we work 12 to 18 hour days. I a not running a warm blanket business where you can just wrap up and relax.
finance
Financial
Financial
Financial advisor
financial planning practice
Financial Services
financial services
Financial services
Firefighter
Food delivery
food service
Former KCS teacher
Former teacher
Fort Sanders Regional Medical Center
fueling
Full service real estate company
Full time childcare with an afterschool program.
government
Government
Government
Government
Government Lending
Graduate student at The University of Tennessee
grocery store
Hair Salon
Hair Salon
Hardware
Head Start
Head Start
Head Start
health and wellness education
Health care
Health Care
Health care
Health Care Center
Health Care Provider
Health Care.
Healthcare
Healthcare
healthcare
HEALTHCARE
Healthcare

Community Employer Comments

Briefly describe your type of business.
healthcare
Healthcare
healthcare
Healthcare
healthcare
Healthcare
Healthcare
Healthcare
Healthcare Practice
Heat & Air service
High tech engineering firm
Hospital
hospital
hospital employee
Hospital nurse
Hospitality
Hospitality
Hotel
I am a director at a youth mental health facility. My husband is a director at a technological school.
I am a preschool director of a Faith Based Program in Farragut
I am an attorney.
I don't see a spot for taxpayer. Am I not a valid stakeholder in this process? You are going to ask me to pay for something, and not only have you not told me what it will cost, you aren't even interested in my opinion? I work for an engineering consulting company in Oak Ridge (but live in Knoxville). I ask perspective employees what opportunities they took advantage of in high school outside of the classroom. Year round school would elongate most of the key experience these kids share with me: travel, governors school, working to pay for college or car insurance... I would not want to hire someone with such shallow experience as this calendar would allow.
I MANAGE A TANNING SALON W/ LONG HOURS
I only checked community employer because there was no category for "none of the above" I have no direct stake in the balanced calendar beyond my taxes
I oversee the summer programs at a private pool/tennis club. We hire high school students and our break even point is based on the current 10-11 week summer. A shorter summer would cause many families to rethink their membership, as it wouldn't really be beneficial. We have already heard from a number of our members who are OPPOSED to this idea.
I own a Small Business consulting firm, that helps small business hire, train and grow their workforce as well as set up administrative systems that work with high efficiency.
I own an automotive sales/consulting business
I own Archers BBQ.
I provide private music lessons for children.
I refuse to participate in this rigged survey. You should lose your jobs for this.
I run a hotel
I teach in a private school
I work as a community partner in an elementary school
I work for a church offering children's and youth programs.
I work in a community mental health agency that works closely with KCS.

Community Employer Comments

Briefly describe your type of business.
I work in a pediatric practice that has over 50% of our patients needing school health services - we have diabetic and endocrine students who need health services to help stay healthy. Longer breaks results in worse care and harder transitions.
I work in an doctors office.
in home counseling for Foster Care Children
Information Technology
Information technology consulting
Instructor at Pellissippi Community College
instructor/ professor
Insurance agency
Insurance agency
Insurance Agency
Insurance Company
IT Consulting
Job placement for youths
Knox County 911
Knox county criminal court
Knox County Government
Knox County Health Department
knox county school board member
Knox County Substitute Teacher
KOC
Laborer
landscape design firm
Landscaping/AC repairs
Large truck dealership
law enforcement programs in the schools
Law firm
law firm
Law firm
Law Firm
Law firm
law firm
Lawfirm
Legal
legal servies
Local insurance agency
local non-profit
lubricants distribution
Lumber Distribution
Mail-order/Internet sales and fulfillment
Mall
Manufacturing
Manufacturing
manufacturing

Community Employer Comments

Briefly describe your type of business.
Manufacturing
Manufacturing
Manufacturing Plant
Manufacturing, marketing, distribution
marketing agency
Marketing firm.
MDO
Media company
media company
Medical Billing
Medical Clinic
Medical field
medical office
Medical office
Medical office
medical office
Medical office
Medical office practice
Medical practice
medical practice
Medical Practice
Medical Practice and Medical Billing Company
Mortgage business
Mortgage servicing, employing approximately 650 team members
Music Therapy Private practice (i.e. healthcare)
my business
Non profit
Non profit
Non profit
non profit
Non profit - Youth Services
Non profit, youth serving organization (includes sports and afterschool care)
None of your concern
Non-profit Child Counseling Organization
Nonprofit healthcare organization
Non-profit mental health center
Non-profit organization
Not for profit after school child care for 2 prek and 4 elementary skills in Knox county
Nurse for a Urology Group at UT
Nurse Practitioner
Nursing
Offers athletic teams and classes for school age kids
Office
Office Management
Office mgr

Community Employer Comments

Briefly describe your type of business.
Online learning (higher education)
Orthopedic office
OSHA medical administration
Our business provides parties and events for the community. We rely on student workers as well as families who have time off and are in need of activities.
Our organization works as support staff for students in Knox County schools.
outdoor pool
Own child care center which doesnt provide school age care
Parent-child coaching for families with at-risk children
Parents Day Out
Parents day out
Pediatric medical office
Pediatric nurse
Pediatricia
pharmacy for long term care facilities
photography
Physician office
Physician's office
physician's office
Picture Framer
pool
Pool/Country Club
Preschool
Preschool
Preschool
preschool
Preschool
Preschool child care which follows Knox Co school calendar
Preschool teacher
Preschool teacher
Preschool we follow knox Co
Preschool Weekday Program for birth to 5 years
Preschool/Kdgn
Printing
Private Christian school
Private Montessori School
private mother's day out teacher
Private preschool
private preschool and summer care program
Private Preschool/School/School Aged Care Facility
Private School
Private school
private school in Knox County
Private school offering summer program for all local students
Professional Business Counsel and Strategies

Community Employer Comments

Briefly describe your type of business.
Professional Consulting Services
professional office
professional services
professional services
Professional services.
Professor
Professor
Program Management
Property Management
Property Management
public accounting firm
Public service
Public service
Radio Systems Corporation (PetSafe)
Real Estate Document Management
Real Estate Investment, Rental, Inspection, Management
Real Estate Sales
Real estate, marina, apparel and rental properties
Recreation
Recreation business that primarily hires college students.
Recruiting firm
Recycling
Recycling and salvage
refridgeration tech
Regulatory
Religious institution
religious organization
Research
Research - National Labs
Residential and Day healthcare facility
restaurant
Restaurant
Restaurant
restaurant
restaurant
restaurant
restaurant
Restaurant
Restaurant
restaurant in mall
restaurant owner
Restaurants
resturant
Retail
Retail

Community Employer Comments

Briefly describe your type of business.
Retail
Retail
Retail
Retail
retail
retail
Retail
retail
Retail
retail
Retail
Retail
retail business with medical/insurance-driven division
Retail Drugstore
Retail establishment
retail fashion industry
Retail Optical Shop
Retired KC teacher and spouse of current KC teacher.
RN/hospital
Sales
Sales Customer Service
School bus driver
School partner
School-based afterschool enrichment programs
Science & Engineering
Scientific research and education, four of my employees have children.
Self employed
Self employed cleaning services
Self employed, both myself and my husband. We both run our business.
Self employeed
Self-employment.
Sell 3D printers - travel
Service
Service
Service business
service industry
Service industry
Service Industry
Service industry
Service Provider
Services
services
shoe store
Shopping
Small biz insurance

Community Employer Comments

Briefly describe your type of business.
small business
small fitness facility
Small Information Technology Business
Small medical office of less than 30 people
small professional office
social work
social work
social worker
Social worker
Software
Software engineering
Specialized retail
Speech therapist at a health care center
Staffing
Staffing
Steel Manufacturing
store
Summer camp
Summer camp
Summer Camp Program
Summer camp.
Summer lawn work
Summer Recreation Program
Swim club owner and coach
Swimming Pool
teacher
Teacher
Teacher at Knox County Head Start
teaching physician
Tech Based
Technology supplier
Telecommunications
therapeutic /educational
Therapeutic Massage Clinic
Title, closing and settlement services for commercial and residential transaction.
Tourism
Tourism in Sevier County.
tourist industry
transportation
Transportation delivery
University
University of Tennessee
utility
Utility Company
Veterinarian clinic

Community Employer Comments

Briefly describe your type of business.
Veterinary Clinic
We provide fluid components to subcontractors in security facilities
wholesale distribution
wholesale/retail/licensing sales
Work in a church office as an administrative assist.
working with children outside of school
Wound care sales
Young Life nonprofit