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Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
Chris Reykdal, Superintendent

k12.wa.us

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() Action Required
(X) Informational

BULLETIN NO. 022-22 ELEMENTARY EDUCATION, EARLY LEARNING, SPECIAL PROGRAMS AND FEDERAL ACCOUNTABILITY

TO: Educational Service District Superintendents
School District Superintendents
School District Business Managers

FROM: Chris Reykdal, Superintendent of Public Instruction

RE: 2022–23 Balanced/Modified Calendar Study Grant Opportunity

CONTACT: Jon R. Mishra, Assistant Superintendent, Elementary Education, Early Learning, Special Programs and Federal Accountability
360-701-9321, jon.mishra@k12.wa.us

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND

In the 2021 Legislative Session, the Washington State Legislature directed \$200 million in a combination of state and federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds to the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) exclusively for learning recovery. The balanced calendar initiative is part of this overall \$200 million.

Research shows that students living in low-income communities attending schools with a balanced/modified calendar outperform their peers in schools with a traditional calendar. In schools where supplemental instruction is offered during some of the vacation periods, it can prevent students experiencing poverty and/or living in low-income communities from falling farther behind academically. A balanced/modified calendar has the potential to improve and equalize academic achievement. A reduction in summer learning loss means less review time at the beginning of the school year, and thus, more instructional time for all students.

According to the [National Association for Year-Round Education](#), "A modified calendar transforms traditional nine-month agrarian calendar into a calendar that allows for continuous education by shortening the summer vacation and adding more frequent breaks during the rest of year. Those breaks may be used for 'intersessions' where remediation and enhancement can occur. The shorter breaks stem learning loss and allow educators the opportunity to get the most out of the 180 days that most states mandate for instruction."

ABOUT THE GRANT

Grant funds are intended to support public school districts, educational service districts, state-tribal education compact schools, and charter schools (called “entities” in this bulletin) in a study of the feasibility and effectiveness of a student-centered balanced/modified school calendar in their local community.

During the 2021–22 school year, 24 study grants were awarded. Additional funds are now available for the 2022–23 school year through a competitive grant process. Funds will also be available for LEAs ready to implement a modified calendar. More information will be available at the May 19th informational session.

Interested study grant applicants must complete iGrants form package (FP) 173 detailing their approach to the pilot. Current FP 173 grant recipients will be able to apply for a maximum of \$60,000. New entities will be able to apply for a maximum of \$75,000. The form package is scheduled to open mid-May and close on August 11th. All funds must be obligated by August 31, 2023.

In addition to the funding, all entities will be able to participate in at least two statewide summits, job-alike sessions, regional meetings, and other activities to support the work. While grant funded entities will be prioritized for participation in the two statewide summits, there will be a limited number of additional participants. More information about the grant, including a list of grantees for the 2021–22 school year, is available on [OSPI's Balanced Calendar webpage](#) and on the [Association of Educational Service District's Balanced Calendar webpage](#).

INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

An informational meeting for current and potential grantees will be held on May 19th, 10–11 am. To register for the meeting, please [click here](#).

For questions regarding this bulletin, please contact Jon R. Mishra, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education, Early Learning, Special Programs and Federal Accountability, at 360-701-9321 or email jon.mishra@k12.wa.us. The OSPI TTY number is 360-664-3631.

This bulletin is also available on the [Bulletins](#) page of the OSPI website.

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