

# Knox County Schools Balanced Calendar

*Excellence for Every Child*

# WHAT IS A BALANCED CALENDAR?

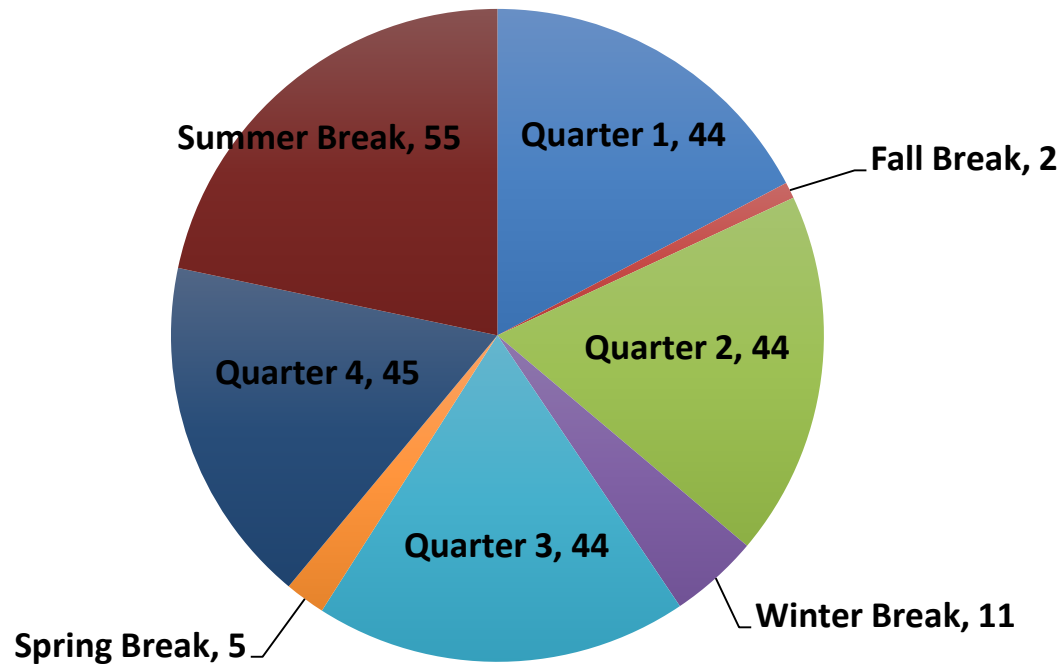
---

- Structures school to best meet the needs of students
- Not a “year-round school”
- Reorganizes and maximizes the school year to provide more continuous learning
- Can reduce summer learning loss
- Reduces the long summer break and distributes those days throughout the school year producing more frequent breaks
- Several different types of balanced calendar models



# KCS'S CURRENT CALENDAR

Traditional Calendar -- SAMPLE

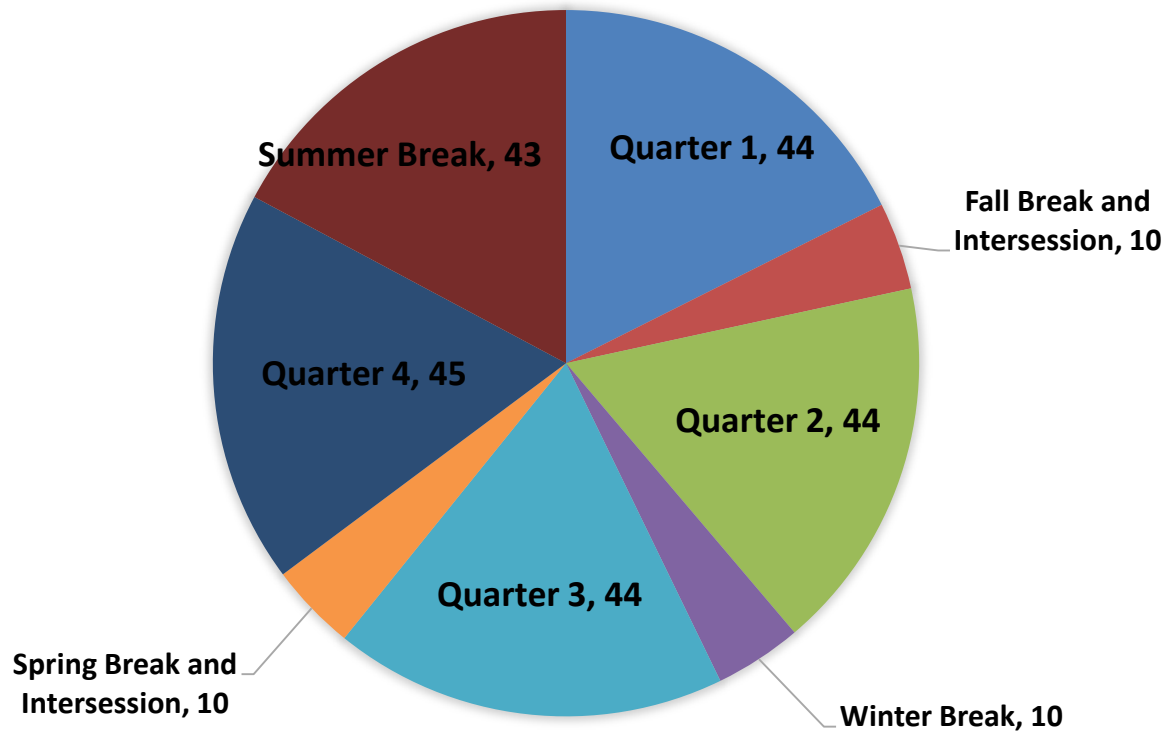


■ Quarter 1 (Fall) ■ Fall Break ■ Quarter 2 (Fall) ■ Winter Break ■ Quarter 3 (Spring) ■ Spring Break ■ Quarter 4 (Spring) ■ Summer Break



# SAMPLE #1 – 45/10 BALANCED CALENDAR

BALANCED CALENDAR -- SAMPLE OF 45/10

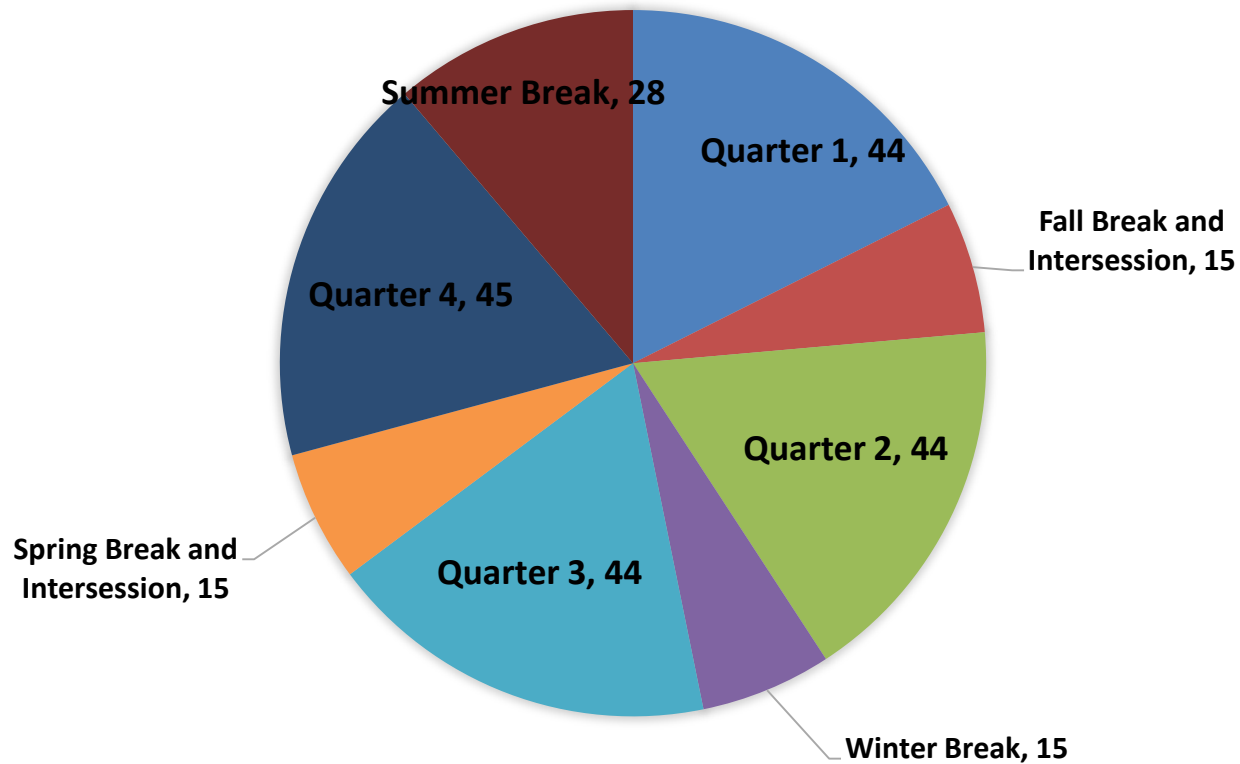


Roughly an instructional block of 45 consecutive days, then a 10 day break/intercession. Summer break of 43 days.



# SAMPLE #2 – 45/15 BALANCED CALENDAR

BALANCED CALENDAR -- SAMPLE OF 45/15



Roughly an instructional block of 45 consecutive days, then a 15 day break/intercession. Summer break of 28 days.



# WHY CONSIDER A BALANCED CALENDAR?

---

- Potentially increases instructional time by providing opportunities for intervention and enrichment throughout the school year rather than only during the summer break
- Can lessen summer learning loss
- May improve student attendance and reduce discipline problems
  - Research shows more frequent breaks and timely instructional support improves teacher and student attitudes and morale
- Teachers can earn additional compensation
- Professional development opportunities



# WHY CONSIDER A BALANCED CALENDAR?

---

Increasing interest from teachers, principals, parents and students:

- Austin-East Magnet High School and Fulton High School first presented a proposal to the Board of Education for a balanced calendar in 2011.
- Balanced calendar was mentioned by name 50 times by stakeholders during Insight Sessions, as something they would like to see in the future. Changes in “scheduling” were advocated by 170 stakeholders. This was the most popular programmatic change.



# WHY CONSIDER A BALANCED CALENDAR?

---

- 55% of teachers agree or strongly agree that the district should implement a balanced calendar (December 2013 Teacher Survey results)
- District Advisory Council (DAC) discussions last year prior to approval of 2015-2016 calendar were generally favorable toward a balanced calendar
- DAC discussion in November indicated interest in engaging school communities and the community at large in a broader conversation about a balanced calendar and its implications.





# POTENTIAL DISADVANTAGES

---

- Academic gains are inconclusive
- Shorter summer may affect some family vacation traditions
- Shorter summer would require changes to traditional models for community activities such as athletics and summer camps
- Could result in different schedules for students and parents if not implemented system-wide
- Could increase costs if intercessions are used for extended learning time



# WHAT OTHER DISTRICTS USE A BALANCED CALENDAR?

---

- Alcoa City Schools
- Maryville City Schools
- Oak Ridge City Schools (beginning in fall 2015)
- Emerald Academy (Knox County Charter School – beginning in fall 2015)

