



Oklahoma City Public Schools

CONTINUOUS LEARNING CALENDAR

Staff Meeting - December 7, 2010

Moving Forward

“We can no longer afford an academic calendar designed when America was a nation of farmers... That calendar may have once made sense, but today, it puts us at a competitive disadvantage.”

- President Barack Obama

March 9, 2009



It's Time



Research Findings

- A University of Missouri-Columbia study concluded, “On average, all students lose about a month of progress in math skills each summer, while low-income students slip as many as three months in reading comprehension compared with middle-income students.”



The Continuous Learning Calendar

- Year-round education reorganizes the school year to provide continuous learning by dividing the long summer vacation into shorter, more frequent breaks.
- Students in a year-round program attend the same classes and receive the same amount of instruction as students on a nine month calendar.
- The year round calendar is organized into instructional blocks and vacation periods that are evenly distributed across 12 months.

Taken From - Evaluation Brief , North Carolina Public Schools



Continuous Learning Calendars

Oklahoma City Public Schools have several sites using the continuous learning calendar.

They are:

- Horace Mann Elementary
- Moon Academy
- Sequoyah Elementary
- Westwood Elementary
- Douglass Middle/High School
- Rogers Middle School
- Webster Middle School



History on Continuous Learning Calendar In OKCPS- Sequoyah Elementary

- The faculty, staff, parents, and community at Sequoyah Elementary believed that a more continuous learning calendar would alleviate the opportunity for students to “forget”.
- Student’s showed academic declines after being out of school for an extended time in the summer.
- The Continuous Learning Calendar provides opportunities for enrichment and remediation during the intersession/break.



What is Intersession?

- An intersession is a break in the school schedule when students in grades K - 12 who are falling behind in their class work or earning failing grades can attend school to receive tutoring.



Why Consider Continuous Learning for the Entire District?

- We are a District In Need of Improvement.
- 90% of students qualify for free and reduced lunch.
- 17 schools are on the needs improvement list.



Why Consider Continuous Learning for the entire District?

- The Continuous Learning Calendar will give longer breaks through the year which will allow for intersession.
- Intersession allows for continuous learning by providing opportunities for immediate response with remediation.
- Idea has been discussed in Strategic Planning.



Advantages

- Less time spent re-teaching concepts students have forgotten over the summer.
- Less time spent in re-orienting students after school breaks.
- Intersessions are used for remediation, credit recovery and grade make up for students who need extra time and support.
- Research indicates discipline problems are reduced.
- Professional development activities can be held during intersessions, the off weeks of the school year. This would reduce the need for and cost of subs.



How do the two calendars compare?

Traditional Calendar 2011-2012	Continuous Learning Calendar 2011-2012
Classes Begin - August 22	Classes Begin – August 1
Fall Break – October 20 and 21	Fall Break – October 17 – October 28
Thanksgiving Break – November 23-25	Thanksgiving Break – November 23 – 25
Winter Break – December 19 – January 3	Winter Break – December 12 – January 3
Spring Break – March 19 – 23	Spring Break – March 12 – 23
School Ends – May 25	School Ends – June 1



Questions?



Frequently Asked Questions

- Why would OKCPS want to change from a traditional calendar to a continuous learning calendar?
 - To provide additional opportunities for our children to be academically successful.
 - Intersessions will provide opportunities for additional days of instruction to children who are falling behind.



Frequently Asked Questions

- How would this effect athletics?

The CLC will not effect athletics. Coaches must understand before accepting a position that they will be practicing and playing games during periods of times when school is not in session. Administrators must understand this also.



Frequently Asked Questions: Athletics

- Some starting times at schools have been adjusted when the school day ends at 3:10 PM. Much of our Athletic schedule is controlled by OSSAA, so we must play games when school is out of session.



Frequently Asked Questions: Athletics

- There will be a cost factor associated with using a CLC program district wide.
- We must have heat and lights during the periods when we are out of school for athletic practices and games.



Frequently Asked Questions

- What implications will this have on my check?
 - Pay periods will be combined due to the ending of one contract and the earlier start of the new contract.
 - This will effect everyone on contracts for less than 248 days.
 - After the initial combined pay period, paychecks will resume as scheduled.
 - Detailed information will be provided when a start date is established.



Going Forward

- Discuss the possibility with the Board of Education.
- Host community and parent meetings.
- Create a district task force to work on planning, timeline, etc.
- Continue communications as more information is available.

