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Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
Chris Reykdal, Superintendent

k12.wa.us

July 6, 2023

Action Required

Due date:

Informational

BULLETIN NO. 044-23 Elementary, Early Learning, and Federal Programs

TO: Educational Service District Superintendents
School District Superintendents
School District Business Managers
Tribal Compact Schools
Charter Schools

FROM: Chris Reykdal, Superintendent of Public Instruction

RE: 2023–24 Balanced/Modified Calendar Grant Opportunity

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

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND

Research shows that children from low-income communities attending modified-calendar schools outperform their counterparts in traditional-calendar schools. When supplemental instruction is offered during some of the vacation periods, it can uphold and create learning gains for students who may not have access to outside-of-school learning opportunities, and prevent them from falling 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."

During the 2021–22 and 2022–23 school years, 43 balanced/modified calendar grants were awarded.

ABOUT THE GRANT

This grant program is funded by an investment of OSPI’s federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds. Funds are available to public school districts, educational service districts, state-tribal education compact schools, and charter schools through a competitive grant process. There will be three grant opportunities:

1. New Grant (these are entities who have never applied for a balanced/modified calendar grant).
 - a. This grant will be Form Package **#405**.
 - b. Entities will be able to apply for up to \$20,000.
2. Continuation Grant (these are entities who have already received a study grant (FP 173) in either the 2021–22 school year and/or the 2022–23 school year).
 - a. This grant will be Form Package **#406**.
 - b. Entities will be able to apply for up to \$75,000.
3. Implementation Grant (these are entities who will be **implementing a balanced or modified school year calendar during the 2023–24 school year**).
 - a. This grant will be Form Package **#407**.
 - b. The grantee must upload a copy of their balanced or modified calendar in the form package.
 - c. Entities will be able to apply for up to \$100,000.

Specific grant amounts will depend on a variety of factors including the final allocation for the project, funding needs, size of LEA, efficacy of previous fund usage (past grantees, as well as quality of application. A scoring rubric used to assess grant applications.

The proposed timeline is as follows:

Launch Date: July 25, 2023

Closing Date: August 24, 2023

Grant Review: August 28–September 1, 2023

Notification: Week of September 4–8, 2023

The iGrants team will alert entities when the grant opens.

A condition for grant recipients is the core planning team is expected to participate in 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 statewide summits, there will be a limited number of seats for additional participants.

Important Dates:

There will be an informational webinar for interested grantees on August 8, 2023, from 3–4 pm. Registration is required. Please click [here](#) to register.

On October 10–11, 2023, there will be a balanced calendar summit at the Yakima Convention Center. On 10/10, the summit is set for 7:30 am–4 pm. On 10/11, the timeframe is 7:30 am–11:30 am. All grant recipients are expected to attend this summit. Registrations details will be available September 2023.

INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

For further information, including a questions and answers document, please access the balanced calendar information on the [OSPI website](#) and/or the [Association of Educational Service Districts' website](#).

For questions regarding this bulletin, please contact Jon R. Mishra, E.D., Assistant Superintendent, Elementary, Early Learning, and Federal Programs, at 360-701-9321 or 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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Elementary, Early Learning, and Federal Programs

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