



**How can RPS address
the annual loss of
learning due to the
“summer slide” and
current global pandemic
affecting our district?**

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Why?

What are the benefits of moving to a balanced calendar? Why change the traditional 180 day, September to June schedule?

→ **Address Annual Loss of Learning**

Many school districts are trying to combat the “summer slide.”

→ **Address Pandemic Loss of Education**

Due to many schools closing their doors in March, the unpreparedness of districts, students lost an entire semester of education.

→ **Alleviate Teacher & Student Stress**

Given the amount of learning and testing

Balanced-Year Schedule

“A balanced calendar, or year-round, school is one in which the students attend school for 180 days but have extra breaks built in such as intersession, enrichment or remedial teaching. The balanced calendar has been successful where it is offered as an option or on a voluntary basis along with the traditional calendar.”

In 2008, 7 School Districts in Va had adopted Balanced Schedules: Lynchburg, Hampton Roads, Hopewell, and Chesterfield implemented a pilot program for year-round schools in elementary and middle schools

Reasons to stay with a block schedule

Mansfield Independent School District Master Schedule Study

Key Findings:

- “Block schedules tend to reduce student attendance and behavioral problems slightly over traditional period schedules,
- Block schedules appear to offer a slightly higher degree of flexibility than traditional schedules.
- Other advantages include greater ease accommodating the needs of remedial and accelerated students from a scheduling perspective,
- increased scheduling flexibility of block schedules, however, must be balanced with well-planned _____curriculum.”

—
**Many alternatives to the
traditional schedule:**

**Year-round, Extended Year,
Transitional.**

**Hopewell School District has chosen a
schedule similar to the traditional
schedule. This is a “balanced
calendar” extended-year schedule.**

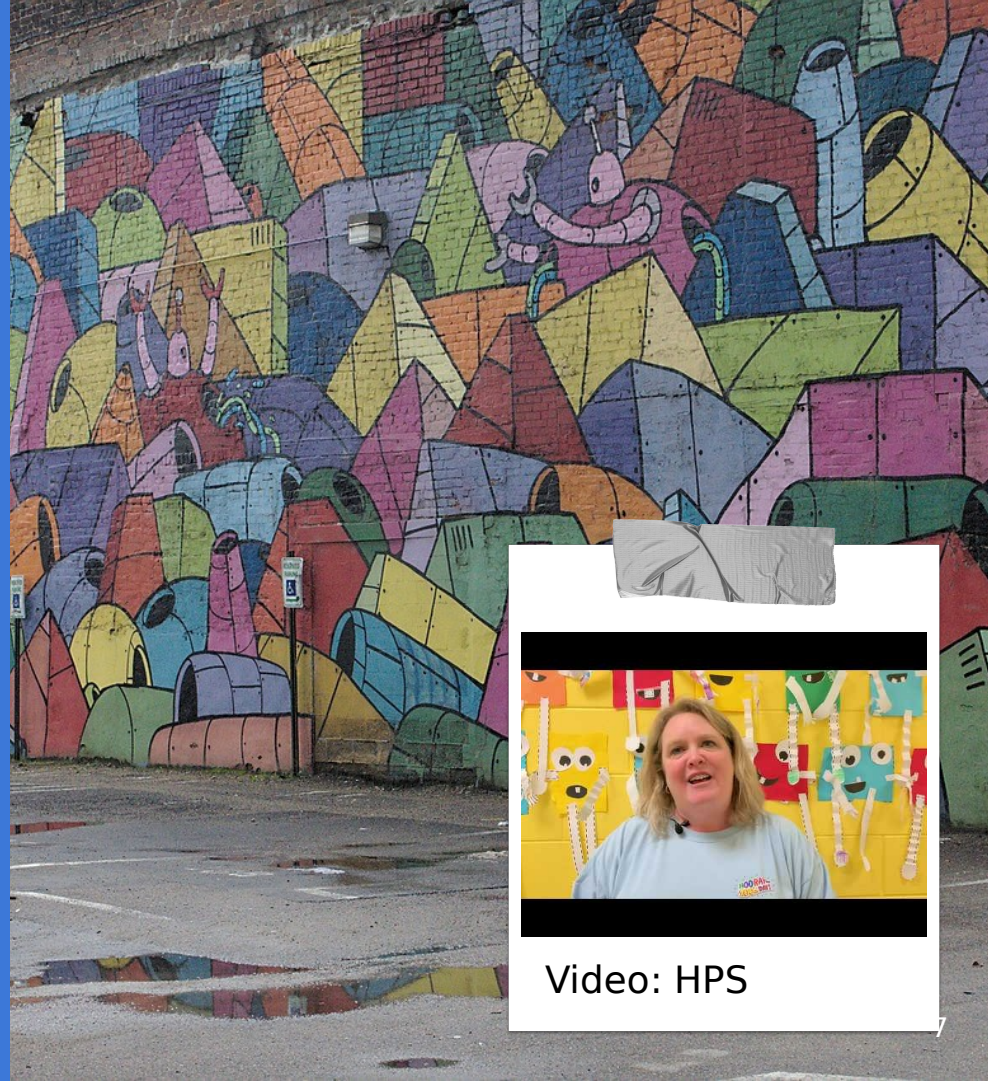
Appears to be the easiest to

Balanced Calendar

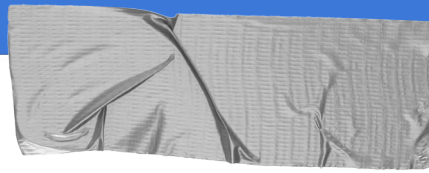
Similar to the YRE 45/15 - “students will be in class for 45 days, followed by a break of 15 days, and the cycle will continue throughout the year. Breaks will be longer during winter and summer. During some of the breaks, an “intersession” will be offered as a kind of optional extracurricular educational activities for students.”

Teacher **INTERSESSIONS**

Similar to
summer school
BUT offers
alternate
education based
upon
- teacher interests



Video: HPS



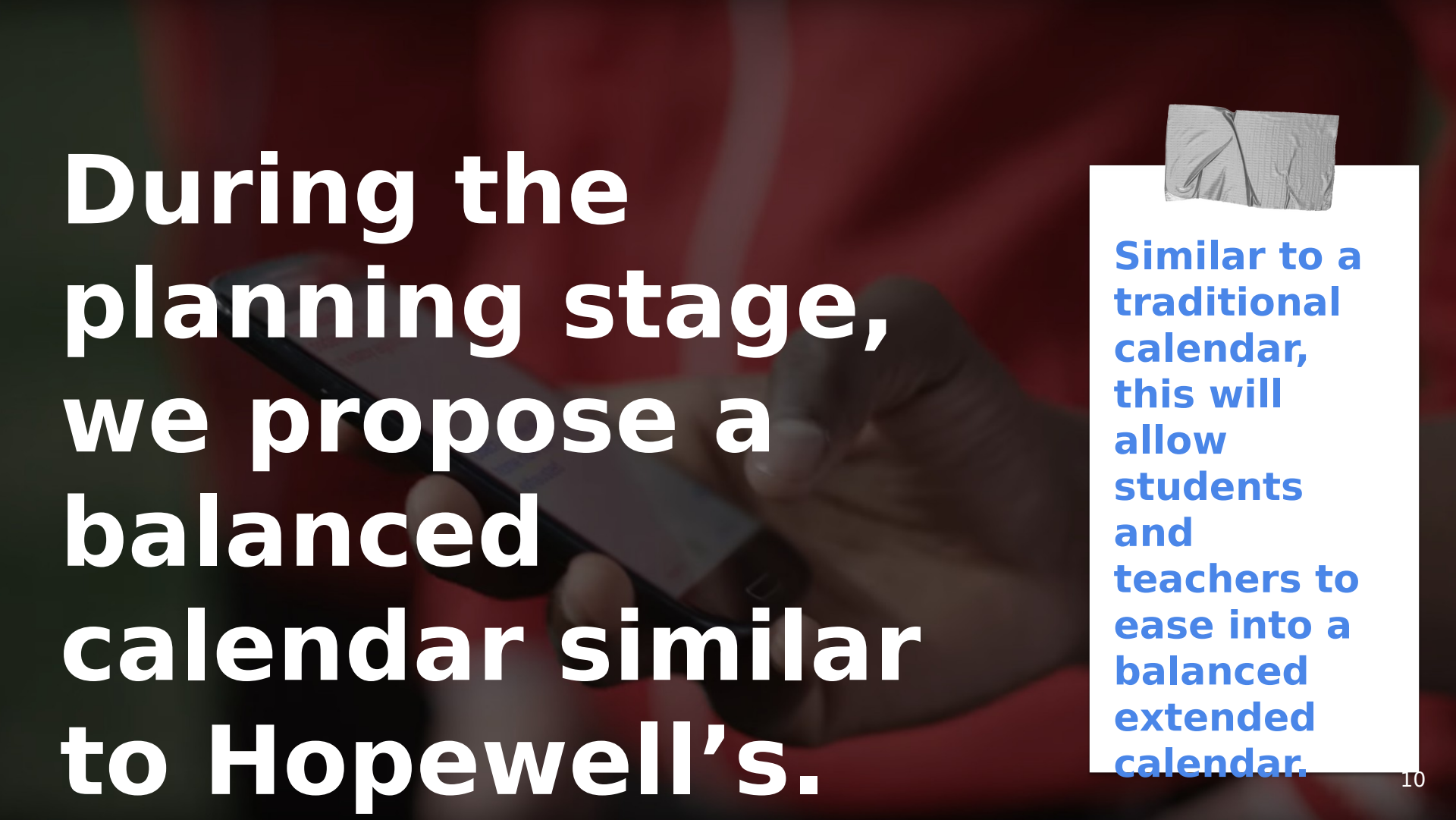
GOALS

- **Provide a calendar that will support education and alleviate the loss of learning due to summer slide and the COVID-19 pandemic.**
- **Create a schedule that will alleviate the stress teachers and students are feeling by creating periods of restoration and regrouping.**

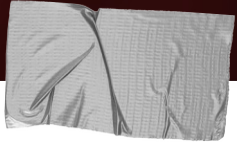
GRANTS

- 2020 Appropriation Act, the General Assembly authorized **planning grants** of up to \$50,000 to assist school divisions in planning for the establishment of extended year or year-round school programs.

- **Annual start-up grants** for an Extended School Year or Year-Round School of up to \$300,000 per school may be awarded for a period of up to two years after the initial implementation year.
- **Additional grants** may be applied for in year 3 up to \$400,000 per school.

A hand holding a smartphone against a dark red background. The phone screen is dark and mostly obscured by the large white text.

**During the
planning stage,
we propose a
balanced
calendar similar
to Hopewell's.**

A piece of white paper with a torn edge, pinned to the top.

**Similar to a
traditional
calendar,
this will
allow
students
and
teachers to
ease into a
balanced
extended
calendar.**

Hopewell Public School

2021-2022 Academic Calendar

The background of the slide is a photograph of a school building's exterior, featuring a prominent metal staircase and structural beams. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. In the upper left corner, there is a small, solid black horizontal line.

Richmond Public Schools

Balanced Calendar