



To: Dr. Terrell Yarbrough, Superintendent
Harlem School District #122 Board Members

From: Dr. Michelle Erb, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

Date: March 21, 2022

Subject: 2022-2023 District Calendar

Per Article V of the Collective Bargaining Agreement, “At least two (2) weeks before the Administration submits the proposed calendar to the Board for its approval, the proposed calendar shall be given to the Union for its comments and suggestions. Any written comments or suggestions on the proposed calendar will be presented to the Board prior to its action on the proposed calendar. In the event of any proposed changes in the calendar, the Union will be notified of the proposed changes”.

After presenting the proposed calendar (see attached A) to District staff for their feedback, we received the feedback as follows:

I don't like the idea of starting the year on a Friday (the 12th). I would rather move the first PD day to another part of the year. I think the Feb 17th Inst day should be moved. A 5 day weekend every time we do conferences and institute day is rough trying to get the students back into school mode. So more frequent, shorter breaks for them would be better. What are the days being considered for Thanksgiving, Winter, and Spring Break? Will you be working with other local districts to coordinate those for the same weeks for the MANY staff who have children in other districts? It's stressful trying to find childcare for a whole week and worrying about having to take a week of sick days just to stay home with kid.



I would like to start the PD day on Monday the 15th in order to be able to enjoy one last weekend. It is also easier for students to start on a 3 day week. Starting a week or 2 later would also line up with other districts that start later. We start way too early.

We do not need to start on a Friday. Let's start on a Monday to start fresh, and have a short week to start with kids. They need to gradually build up the energy. A full week is way too much.



I would like to see Spring Break moved to March. The SAT will probably be the week immediately following Easter. Having an entire week off before that for Spring Break isn't ideal for preparing our students.

Parent conferences in September is too soon. We don't know our students well enough yet and don't have enough assessments to provide useful feedback to parents. Move to October or early November.

Can we move the two teacher work days at the start of the year to Monday and Tuesday and have students start on Wednesday? Having a three-day week for students works well to accommodate the three add-drop days at the high school.

When we have two full weeks off for winter break, we have 16 consecutive days off, including weekends. I think teachers and parents are accustomed to that and rely on having that time to plan holiday events, trips, etc. With this proposal, our break is cut down to 14 days, including weekends. I'd prefer the two consecutive full weeks. Those two days might not seem like a lot, but it makes a significant difference.

Can Parker Center start/end 5-10 minutes before the other schools to give time for parents to pick up who have children at two different schools?

I think it looks great, except for the first institute day. I would prefer we start on the following Monday.

I would like spring break to be the last week of March.

I would prefer spring break to be in March. My children's spring break is March 27-March 31st.

Looks pretty good to me.

Okay

* the start date for 22-23 is perfect!

*Spring Break during the week of 3/20 would be nice for those with kids in private schools!

Looks good

I believe the fall conference day is too early. For EC students, they will have only been in attendance for around school 20 days and K and up students around 25 school days. This is not enough time to gather the type of information on students that parents will want to hear by this point. I believe a date in mid October would be better.

I'm confused as to the student start times and if they are reverting back to previous times or if that was an oversight. Also, I believe fall conferences should be in October to show for more time for assessment.

I would prefer to frontload our institute days if possible so that we can give teachers the training they will need throughout the year based on building data. The we could use SIP days throughout the year to make adjustments. There never seems to be enough time to get rolling at the beginning of the year because all time that is allocated is used to do routine things like set up rooms and go through mandatory trainings.

Consider moving Winter break to starting Dec. 24th and give us two full weeks (M-F) instead of two half weeks. This would balance the term 2 and term 3 number of days as well.

I feel that we should start school on the 19th ,not the 12th. We are starting earlier and earlier in August and losing part of the summer. I also would like to have that weekend free and have SIP and Institute start on the 15th. That way teachers traveling will have that weekend to get home.

Cut the Christmas and Easter Break days. Then the school year ends sooner. Start one week earlier in August and get done earlier in May. This doesn't push weather days until Memorial Day weekend. Full year school should be considered to continue plugging educational gaps and filling needed gaps. Therefore decreasing reteaching of annual classroom policies and procedures. This seamless method better allows student achievement to occur with a growth mindset. The fixed interval breaks will allow staff and families to organize vacations and decrease absences for all involved. The educational summer slide will disappear. Shorter targets to achieve will increase productivity over the long haul.

The calendar looks great

I'd prefer SIP days to not be on Friday or end earlier. On regular days we do not work that late.

Change the spring break to the week of March 20th as that is the week all other local districts are using and makes it easier for parents.

I believe that the Aug.16 start date of school is way too early. I'm not sure why Harlem SD122 can't follow the lead of RPS205's calendar starting school the day after Labor Day? There are many teachers and support staff who's children attend school in RPS and vice versa. So, it would be better for all of these families to be on the same calendar schedule. Thank you.

The calendar looks good except Spring Break is very late.

Agree

1) Why is there such a large discrepancy between # of instruction days first and second semester. This creates a significant challenge for semester courses when you have eight extra days one semester, but not the other. When so many teachers have SLO assessments at the end of the semester, this creates an additional challenge.

2) A lot of parents will opt to have kids miss multiple days the week of Christmas, which will be problematic for teachers who give finals that week. Would prefer to be off that entire week and then come back on Tuesday after New Year's.

3) Will emergency days be remote next year?

No professional development day. Teachers know what they need - allow us to get the professional development that really matters to us throughout the year. No more rehashed information peddled as professional development.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to provide feedback. My only request is that the district consider aligning (at a minimum) spring break with RPS 205. Many of us have children in that district and sharing the same breaks would be wonderful.

I would love to see our district move to a start date like back in the day...starting the week before Labor Day and ending in June. We could definitely save on air conditioning. I realize that the days don't work for the high school to get their testing done before winter break. Summer is still going strong in August. I would love for this to be considered. Thank you for asking us.

It looks similar to previous years. I'm fine with it.

I'd like to see the October 31 SIP day moved back a week to Nov 7 so it can be before the election day holiday. This will keep that week from being so choppy. I also do not like starting on a Friday. I think the PD day should be Monday Aug 15 with an institute to follow and students starting Aug 17. A lot of elementary schools have a back to school night/supply drop off before school starts. Supply drop off would either have to be on a Friday night or a Monday after institute (which is a shorter workday). This schedule is not ideal for elementary teachers. I'd rather have one additional day taken from winter break (with break starting Dec 23) to not have to start on Friday Aug 12.

I think that our conferences are too early in the year. I think they should be pushed back until the end of October or early November.

It would nice if conferences were a little later. We are only just getting to know the children and we have conferences. It would be nice if they were in October or early November when we could give parents more information.

Move PD Day from the 12th to the 15th.

Instead of Nov. 11th off for Vets day could it be moved to Nov. 7th. Otherwise the way it is proposed that week we have a day off for election teach 2 days and then No school. Its easier for the students and staff to stay in the flow of teaching and learning.

Also instead of Dec. 22 and 23th off have Jan. 5th and 6th off instead.

I am wondering why our spring break is so late next year and combined with Easter? Many of the other local school districts have their spring break from March 27-31. For those of us that have children in other districts, this make it very difficult. Not only to plan for vacations, but to find daycare for them during their spring break week. This would not be so bad if certified staff was allowed to take off 5 consecutive days. We have not had such a late spring break for a long time...this is very frustrating. Spring break is needed by the end of March. I guarantee others will not be thrilled about this decision. Please reconsider making a change that benefits all teachers. Thank you.

Beginning of the school year is too early. Preference would be to begin closer to or after Labor Day.

Thank you so much for allowing us to evaluate this before the approval process takes place.

I feel as though the first round of parent-teacher conferences, as proposed, is scheduled too early. As proposed, we will have only been in school for 5 weeks (26 days) when conferences take place. Having conferences scheduled for later (October, at the earliest) allows for teachers to get to know their students well as learners prior to meeting with parents. If we have time to truly learn about our students, we will be better able to provide parents with information about their child's academic progress for the first part of the year.

Please reconsider the late Spring Break dates. Harlem's spring break has not lined up with all other area school spring breaks for the past two years. This is a true disappointment for teachers and staff who have children in other local school districts. We are not able to enjoy time off as a family or do any activities together. Many families also need to line up yet another week of childcare for their children. For next year and moving forward, please consult with area districts and find a common spring break week.

In addition, I would recommend at least 1-2 emergency days be built into the school year (President's Day for ex) instead of all at the end of the school year.

Spring Break is very late. I would prefer a Spring Break in March.

Please consider coordinating winter and spring break with surrounding districts so teachers with children in other districts can actually take vacations with their families.

The teachers in building would like for our spring break to align with other districts. This would help with subbing issues as well. Thank you for considering this.

Looks Good! Thank you.

I prefer to not work until 3:30 on Halloween when I have children to get ready for trick or treating.

Where is the choice...we used to always have two choices. Is this just to humor us because it is already decided? We need less sip and institute.

I believe winter break is way to long.

I would prefer if the first day back for staff was not a Friday again.

No concerns

The first PD day should be on Monday, August 15th, Institute on Tues, 16th and First student attendance day on Wed, Aug. 17th. I also feel there are too many SIP days. Why do we have so many and how can we reduce them? What is the schedule for Christmas break and Spring break?

I think the Fall Conferences are too early. Kids are still getting used to a new grade and teachers are still getting to know students and where they are academically/socially in September. It doesn't make sense to me to have a SIP Day on a Monday and then a week later have off Tuesday for Election day. Move them to the same week. Having the first PD Day on Aug. 12 means that most schools will then have meet the teacher/supply drop off on a Friday night. Not ideal for families or staff. Maybe take a day off of winter break to have school start a day later in August?

I dislike how there are 22 days in March and there will only be 1 day off for students and 0 days off for teachers/staff. I think Spring Break should be moved back to March to give a nice break for everyone. Also, seems like they are trying to take days off away for Easter by moving it to 1st week in April (normally have two days Friday and Monday plus SB but now only have days off for SB). I didn't have time to sit and count or compare but would be against it if that is what is happening.

August: Please push the PD Day to the following week. The Boone County Fair is that week and Friday is an important 4H day at the fair. Please allow teachers one final weekend with their families for summer activities.

November: Could Veterans Day be observed on November 7th instead? It is very hard for elementary aged students to return to school for one day then have a day off, come back for two days and have a long weekend.

December: Winter break is very choppy. How can this be reworked to have two solid weeks instead of three wonky weeks?

March: I understand putting Spring Break by Easter, but we have observed Spring Break the last week of March for years. Please consider keeping this consistent.

Looks good

Our spring break is another week later on this calendar. While I understand trying to tie it to Easter it makes it even harder to enjoy the spring break with your family. Most districts in this area do their spring break the second to last week in March or the last week in March. If we had this spring break it would be different than not only my kids spring break but also my husbands. This also makes March a very long month!

I am confused as to the winter break beginning and ending in the middle of a week. Those weeks will have much lower attendance, and makes it difficult to plan family vacations around spouses PTO time and childcare.

Could I have some reason or justification as to why we start right around Aug 12 every year? It seems very early compared to other districts in this area, and we get out only a few days before every other district? I also noticed spring break is right before SAT testing, not sure if that will cause any conflicts of student interest.

I would prefer to return to work on a Monday, not a Friday. Winter break starts very late. I can see a lot of families pulling their kids early to leave for family trips. Spring Break is very late. that is a lot of time in school without a break. Students really struggle with that many weeks without a break.

I think having the week before Christmas off would be better. Also starting the same time as Rockford schools is the best plan, it makes it hard to get records for students, that are transferring in.

Please move Spring Break to the last week in March.

The SAT is on April 12. It does not make sense to have students take one of the most important tests of their high school career after a long period off.

The last week in March is also when most schools have Spring Break. Teachers in the Harlem School District would appreciate having the same week off as their children.

Returning from winter break on a Thursday seems odd. Having Election day and Veteran's Day in the same week makes it a very broken week.

I would like to start on August 15th with a PD day, the 16th as an Institute Day and students attend on the 17th as the first day.

I also thought that spring break was the last week of March.

The days of finishing off 1st semester directly before Christmas needs to be a thing of the past. The first week back from Christmas break would be a great time to tie up loose ends before we begin 2nd semester, not to mention increased absences as students travel with their families.

PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE consider a SIP day before we transition from 1st semester to 2nd semester. There is a lot of work with google classroom roll over, new students, assigning extended semester to students for 1st semester, etc. We need a maintenance day before 2nd semester begins.

I feel that there are too many SIP and Institute days, it seems like we hardly have enough content to fill these days as it is, so can't we reduce how many we have in a school year? I DO NOT want to start on the 12th, can't we start on Monday or even Tuesday and have kids start on Wednesday? What will our Thanksgiving, Christmas and Spring breaks look like on the calendar?

Move SIP day in January to the 27th and SIP day in April to 28th. It is hard to have SIP day and then have students the next day.

1. Separating Spring Break and Easter 2. Fewer SIP days 3. Include in the calendar days that can be used to make up inclement weather days. Maybe Semester 2 SIP days could be switched to a regular school day if we have had a day off because of weather

5 day weekends, such as the conferences/institute/Presidents' Day combo in February, can be very difficult for both families and students. For our students, so many days off in a row is an upset to their routine; adjusting back to the school schedule can be challenging. Additionally, finding childcare for multiple days off in a row can be trying for many families.

Starting on a Friday is very unfortunate. It ruins the last weekend to spend with family. I would Really like to move start date to Monday.

The biggest issue that I see with the proposed calendar is spring break. Spring break has almost always been the last week of March. My kids have all graduated so it really doesn't affect me either way, however we always knew way in advance that we could plan something over that time. By changing it, you mess with alot of plans that could already be in place. Just a thought.

1. Why are we coming back at an awkward time from winter break? If we have to come back for those days in January can they be planning days so we can plan for the semester and not over our break outside of contract hours.
2. Spring break should be the last week in March.
3. Why are we starting so early?

Move spring break to March.

I assume key dates can't be changed, but if they can, staff starting on 8/15 with students first day being 8/17.

Can remote learning days be added back into our calendar to prevent emergency days being added at the end of the school year?

Start date is too early. August 12?

We should start Aug 15 with the first day and first day of student attendance be a Wednesday. We make winter break 12/21-1-3 instead. We should switch spring break to be in March, because IAR window starts in April as well if possible.

School should start 8/15 with students attending 8/17. Winter break should be form 12/21-1/3. We should collaborate with other districts to set the same Spring Break. It becomes a burden on families with students in other districts. I also believe that we have too many SIP days. I would love to see less SIP days and a later start.

Hello,

I thank you for the opportunity to express my ideas and concerns about next years school proposed calendar. As a community member as well as a teacher I feel that it is important to look at the start times. I have heard that several companies in the area feel that we do the older students a disservice by having such a late start time. The comments that have been shared is that students are not prepared to get up to be to work by 8:00A.M. In addition, the high school students would benefit from not missing the last two classes of the day for sporting events. Thus, causing your athletes stress/anxiety about additional homework while they are representing our school and community. Plus, this would allow athletic and older students to be home earlier for dinner with their families and have time to do homework. Next, the high school students would be home earlier then their younger siblings. This would relieve a financial burden on our lower income families. They can have their older siblings watch the younger siblings for a couple of hours until their parents come home. Studies have been shared that teens between the ages of 14-18 need more sleep. That is true. However, the later they get up the later they stay up is also true. Many students have stated that they stay up till 2 or 3 in the morning because they don't have to be at school until 8:30.

Next, I would like to present why we should not start until after Labor Day. It is my understanding that the reason for the early start time was due to teachers or the school board feeling that there was not enough time between the start of school, and when finals would be given. I have been informed that finals are optional. Therefore, I feel that we should start after Labor Day. If we are not able to start after labor day then we need to consider a common start date with the local school districts. We have a large number of teachers with young families that live in different school districts. This would alleviate undue stress on our staff if we were offered start of student attendance with in the same time of other school districts. I do believe that this was also a request from our community stake holders that the locals schools coordinate start days, holidays, and end days. Another reason for starting next year 2022-2023 after labor day is due to heighten stressed and anxiety for all. This has been a very rough year with the pandemic, loss of life among families, switching gears of being in person to remote to in person. I feel that we as humans need the mental down time to truly regroup and prepare. For some of us it takes two weeks for us to mentally decompress from the last day of school . Then we can start to work on rebuilding and professional development for the next school year. I think families need that time to mourn or take time to fully appreciate their loved ones memories. This has been a very rough, mentally draining, two years. If we are learning how to be better at social emotional learning then that needs to start at the top with staff. WE can better support our students if we are given the opportunity and time to heal first.

When I lived in New York, the schools took the week of presidents day off. The reason was due to the highest number of absents due to the flu. Since there are zero days off in March, the district may want to consider that as an option. Have parent teacher conferences on Feb. 17 and no sip day in that month. If the number of sip days down to one per quarter. that would allow for the number of days out for presidents week. You could also consider having rolling conferences days. This would allow parents who have students in different buildings to attend more conferences. You could consider those days 1/2 day attendance. Send the students home after lunch. Schools who did not have conferences that day would have a SIP day if the state mandates that we have to have so many SIP days.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my ideas and concerns.

Please match our Spring Break and Winter Break with that of neighboring communities. Many teachers, who have younger children, live in neighboring communities. Matching vacation dates helps to decrease time teachers need to take off for child care. With a teacher and sub shortage, matching school calendars between neighboring communities like Rockton/Roscoe and Prairie Hill is just ONE thing we can do to help our district.

I would like if we can move spring break to the last week of March. It would also be nice if we can even out the days in the terms.

I feel that since we are a one to one district then snow days should not be necessary. At a minimum build a day or two in the working calander for snow days. Not at the end of the end of the year. The number of SIP days is not the same as other district days. Iam not sure why we work more days then other districts near by.

Eliminate SIP days

Utilize holidays and/or remote learning for make up days

1. The start time seems to get earlier and earlier...with children or grandchildren in neighboring districts, it is very difficult. Is there a way to push back the starting time to align more with 205 or other districts?
2. The spring date is very late and will potentially interfere with SAT dates.
3. Why the need for so many teacher institute/school improvement days? If we could take these out, we could push back the start date.

I would like to see Christmas Break end and be back by the 2nd of January for delivery and nutrition services meal planning purposes, and add a few more Fridays off in other months to have some long weekends to give staff time to refresh and take a break. When our team members go too long without a long weekend we get a lot of call off's and conflicts in the schools.

Maybe see if winter break could return on 2.2.23? Could be issues with getting food truck deliveries for the district. Food service would need to come into work and get extra pay? Will need to add more work days in the food service contract?

I like the schedule. I think having 1st semester 82 days vs 88 days 2nd semester works better than it has in the past. I understand why winter break is set up the way it is to keep those semesters more even. I appreciate that.

1) Spring Break - why are we moving it back? Why is that necessary? It has always been the last week in March. People with kids in other districts will have a different break for sure. Also, doesn't this interfere with the IAR window?

2) All of the other area schools start so much later than we do. Why are we still starting so early? I have to pay for child care for an entire month for my son due to the difference in our calendars. Is there any reason we can't start later?

Spring break is too late. The other districts will not be that late, so everyone will be stuck dealing with adjusted calendars/schedules/daycare options. Spring break is always the last week in March. That is so close to the last day of school and they will not need a break so close to the end of school.

The bumped up school start date is also seemingly unnecessary unless you teach in the high school. Starting teachers on a Friday is unnecessary. We may as well start it all on a Monday and just start the whole week off together.

Start after Labor Day, End before Memorial Day.

Having teachers return to school for the new year on a Friday doesn't seem logical. Teachers should begin with the professional development day on Monday, August 15.

I personally think Spring Break is too late. I think the week before would be a much better choice.

We have way too many days off during a 5 day school week. Kids need to be in school in school so they can have cohesive learning units/lessons. We need to reduce the number of SIP and Institute Days.

SIP Days: I still feel, as a whole, we have way too many SIP and Institute Days. I know legally we have to have so many, but it would be nice to have those as student attendance days, as it is hard enough for teachers to get through their pacing guides as it is. As someone who presents at SIP days, turning them when we only have a week to plan (January), is really difficult. It would be nice to see that moved back a little later.

Start Date: It would be nice to start a little later (even on that Monday, 8/15).

Spring Break: March would be EXTREMELY long if we did not have Spring Break. I would like to see it put at the last week of March or the third week of March.

1. I would prefer to have March 27-March 31 as Spring Break. We all need a break by the end of March and pushing it out 1 more week is not good for anyone. Also only taking Good Friday off. I don't think having Easter Monday off is necessary and that day can be made up with election day.

2. I do like the choice for Winter break. Having only 2 days when coming back is great!

3. I would prefer to have PD day Aug 15th with Institute Day on Aug 16th and students coming back on Aug 17th.

4. I also noticed that school hours are going back to 8:50 - 2:35. Personally, I'm good with it, not sure how parents are going to feel about another school day change.

I would rather go after Memorial Day than start August 12 why can't we start on the 15th and either go after Memorial Day or take one day off the end of Christmas Break. It feels way too early and so many schools are starting later it allows teachers to spend more time with their families.

I also feel the SIP days are very strange in the spring, because the closeness of spring break and those spring SIP days. Perhaps moving the March SIP day to March 17 making quarter 3 done on the 16 this also gives secondary teachers sometime to grade and prepare for the end of the quarter if there is a little work time during that SIP day. Also maybe moving the April SIP day to the 28th instead just gives us a little more time between Spring Break and SIP, plus I think a SIP day is better at the end of the week rather than the start.

I know we like to have spring break match Easter but if we are okay going after Memorial Day I would like to see spring break moved back to the end of March and have the Good Friday and Easter Monday off it just gives staff a much need a break in the spring.

Looks great!

I like it.

It would be helpful to start a little later in August even though we would have to go a little later in the year because surrounding districts have been leaning that way. It would just help with scheduling since my kids haven't been starting until late August or even early September this past year. That's my only suggestion!

I would rather work 12/22 and 12/23 before winter break than come back on a Thursday after winter break. A lot of students likely will not attend those two days, whether because of traveling or something else. It's better to come back and get started with a full week. With a foreseeable absence problem, we will either have to plan for catching students up or for putting learning on hold anticipating an absence problem. This means having to create a lesson plan schedule that allows for catch up time or using up time which could be useful for a learning opportunity.

Spring break being at the end of March is better than the beginning of April for staff members with kids in school. Being able to have the same break as their children means a lot to them. This would avoid any staff having to request days off in order to share some of that break with their children. I don't know how many people do it throughout the district, but I've heard about quite a bit at HHS who discuss having to use personal days for that reason.

I have also heard a lot of staff with children talk about the benefit of starting the school year a little later in August. Going back so early cuts into time they have to spend with their families. In the same aspect, returning early in August also takes time away from students to spend with their families during summer.

I do not understand the pressing urgency to start earlier and earlier every year, we used to be the last week in August and now we are 3 weeks earlier? Many other districts have gone the other way and start after Labor Day as we should, it is difficult to get students to focus on school when it is summer outside, and it costs more money to cool the schools, this makes no sense. Also 2 days before Christmas is not enough especially if one needs to travel to get to family, this needs to be fixed, we do not need 3 days after New Years, that should be switched. Why did we not get two calendars to choose from this year? That precedent had been set and now it seems like there is no choice, this is not helpful in retaining good teachers and staff.

Regarding start days in August- Please do not start teachers back to work on a Friday. Teachers should work Monday and Tuesday, and students should begin school on a Wednesday.

Please put Spring Break in March, separate from Easter Break. It is needed for student and staff mental health.

Please do not start teachers on a Friday. That takes away that whole week because we have to come before that to prepare. Please start us in a Monday and students on Wednesday. Also put spring break back to end of March instead of April.

It would be better if the first day for teachers was not until August 15. Also it would be better if spring break was in March.

Please move spring break back to March 20-24 to match other local school districts. It is very hard for teachers with children in other districts to have completely different breaks. Move the start date for teachers back to Monday and not start them on a Friday. Teachers can start Monday and students can start on Wednesday. Giving us a nice three day week to ease back in.

Wish we did remote snow days, so we didn't have to have make -up days.

Having teachers start on a Friday is ridiculous. Moving spring break after eons of having it the same week is a bad move. People preplan vacations and now March becomes a very long month. If we need a day or 2 to take away I would think about coming back on Jan 4th and not taking the Monday off after Easter.

With the teacher shortage, it would be nice to have the spring breaks match up with other districts that surround us.

I always have a different spring break than my children do in RPS. Not only do I have to find child care for that week, but either they have to miss a week of school, or we cannot travel together during that week. In addition, attaching spring break to Easter is NOT ok. Waiting until April for spring break means a very long stretch with little reprieve, and deprives us of additional time off we might have had during the Easter holiday like we do this year.

August: It would be preferable to not start staff work days on a Friday. Is there anyway around that?

November: Can we observe Veteran's Day on Monday (11/7)? Having a random day off in the week for Election Day would be difficult for younger students who need consistency in the schedule.

March/April: Spring Break has been at the end of March for many years- it would be nice to keep that consistent and then allow for keeping Easter and Spring Break separate.

I would like to have a weekend to weekend Winter break (16 days), opposed to starting it mid-week and coming back mid-week.

I feel a weekend to weekend winter break would be in the best interest of student attendance instead of the midweek to midweek break that is currently proposed.

I feel very strongly about moving the start date to August 15. I would rather finish after memorial day than start on a Friday.

Spring Break is generally the last week in March. This calendar shows spring break over the Easter holiday. I would much prefer spring break to be at the end of March to coincide with my children's spring break who are in Belvidere district.

I would also prefer a later start date in August and the last day as the first days in June.

Please consider changing winter break from Dec 22 - Jan. 4 TO Dec. 21- Jan. 3. For staff members that host families for the holidays, 2 days is not enough prep time to prepare for the holidays. Changing the calendar would give us 1 extra prep day, and we would come back after break to a 3 day week, instead of a 2 day week.

I would prefer Winter Break to be December 19-January 2nd. This would allow for teachers to prepare for holidays with their families. Only 2 days before as it currently is makes this difficult.

I would really like to start school on Aug. 15, not Aug 12. This would give families of staff another weekend for travel home. Our summers seem to be cut shorter and shorter. Also, I would like to see Spring Break during the last week of Mar (as we usually do) I am okay going after Memorial Day.

Thank you for the consideration.

I already submitted feedback, but I just wanted to comment on the Inside 122 we received yesterday. It said that if the calendar is changed, we'd have to end after Memorial Day. I don't know why that would be a bad thing. I'd rather get out in June when it's nice out than May when it's still rainy and crumby outside.

Isn't another option to get rid of some of the SIP days? Four SIP and four institute seems excessive.

I see in the H122 that you were saying we would want to be done before Memorial Day but we normally always have at least one snow day which pushes us back anyway. Please consider this and realize that starting on a Friday is mentally exhausting for those teachers that don't get the first two weeks of school to set up their classrooms like other positions do. Having that week before is crucial for us. Thank you.

I would like to see spring break be at the end of March as it's been for a long time now.

I am fine going past Memorial Day! I would rather start after August 15th. I would also like to see summer school right before school starts instead of at the end of the year. I would also rather see fewer SIP days so we can see the kids more- especially since teachers are now planning those days. The broken up weeks are VERY hard on the kids!!!

Starting school after August 15th, perfectly fine with going past Memorial Day. Summer school before school rather than right after school so the students have it fresh in their minds. Thank you for taking our thoughts into consideration!

Is there any way the teachers can start the school year on Monday, August 15th instead of Friday the 12th?

Prefer to move start date to August 15 instead of August 12, and completely OK with going past Memorial Day. Would prefer to eliminate some of the SIP/Institute days; maybe February and April. OK with separating Spring Break and Easter weekend.

I am in favor of the proposed calendar as it is.

After reading the Inside 122, I understand that we will work more days after Memorial Day if we change the calendar so we start on the 15th and have a different spring break. I would prefer this change. Students have a hard time starting with a long week at the beginning of the year and I would also prefer them to start with a 3 day week instead of a 4 day week. We should be able to vote on the calendars like we have done in the past.

I would rather start on Monday, August 15 and come back after Memorial Day instead of shortening Christmas Break. The spring break dates; I'm okay either way.

I feel it would be better to start the school year later in August or Labor Day.

Start on Monday, August 15th instead of Friday, August 12th (I am aware of the impact to either Winter Break or end of the year and am still suggesting this change; it is unlikely we will finish the year before Memorial Day any way due to cold weather and/or snow days)

Attempt to coordinate Spring Break with other local school districts; this benefits the child care needs (and attendance) of employees in all districts

Why do we have Monday SIP days? I am not sure that I love the idea of having only one Monday of student attendance in April.

I think it is a good idea.

My children go to the Rockton School District and they always have spring break the last full week of March and always have the first day of school the third Wednesday of August. I think it would be nice if Harlem did something like this so parents always know when it will be and can plan accordingly. It is not important for me to be out before Memorial Day. Also, conferences are too early. We will only know the students for 5 weeks at that point. Conferences should be at the earliest in October.

Love
It!!

I would like to start on Monday Aug 15th and not on a Friday even if we have to go later in the year. Spring break at the end of March not with Easter.

Would like to see spring break the week of March 20th. The same as RPS, for us staff who have family at RPS.

First, the starting date is too early. I'd like to see the start date revised until late in August. If needed, take away some SIP or Inst. days to help with finals for secondary, but for those of us in elementary, August is hot, sometimes too hot for kids to go outside for breaks. Next, I would like to see spring break kept consistent, meaning the last week in March, along with keeping the additional weekend off for Easter. For those of us that like to plan ahead, we've come to know that's the date and may already have plans for spring break 2023, therefore causing a scheduling issue if the date is now changed.

I would prefer to start on August 12, so if manageable, break up spring break and still end before Memorial Day.
Thank you for asking

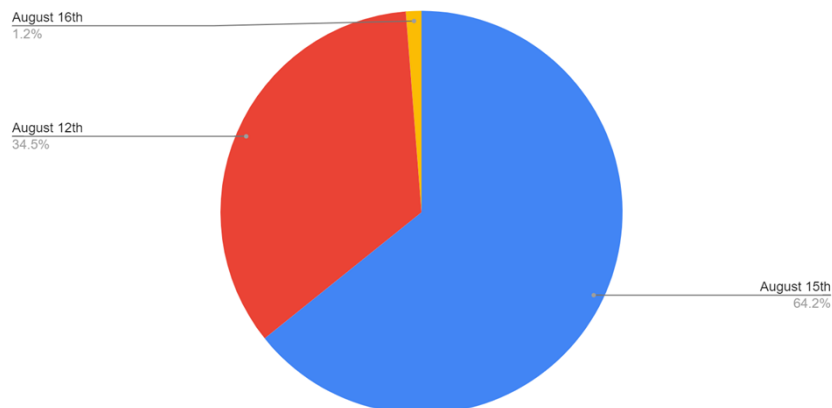
After reviewing the feedback from the proposed calendar (A), we asked for additional input from the staff regarding a few key dates. The additional follow up survey included the following questions:

1. Please select your preferred date for the Professional Development Day at the start of the year. If you select August 15th, the first student attendance day will be August 17th and the last Institute Day will be after Memorial Day.
 - a. August 12th
 - b. August 15th
2. Please select your preferred dates for spring break. If you select March 20th through March 24th or March 27th through March 31st, the last Institute Day will be after Memorial Day. There will be no staff or student attendance on April 7th and April 10th.
 - a. March 20th - March 24th
 - b. March 27th - March 31st
 - c. April 3rd - April 10th
3. Please select your preferred dates for winter break. These selections may impact the balance of days between semesters for the secondary level.
 - a. December 19th - December 30th
 - b. December 21st - January 3rd
 - c. December 22nd - January 4th
 - d. December 26th - January 6th

Below you will find the responses to these three questions.

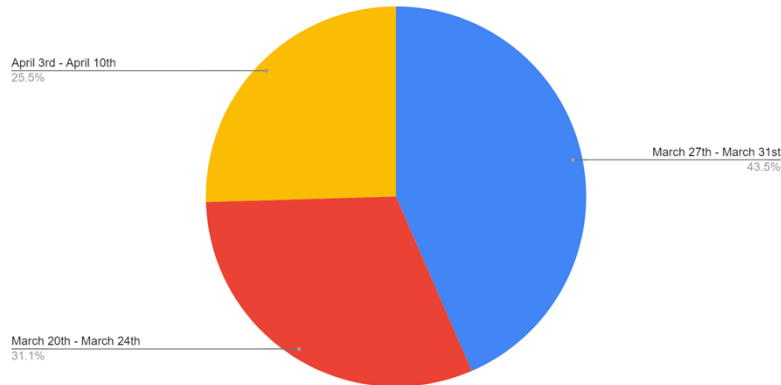
Question 1

Count of Please select your preferred date for the Professional Development Day at the start of the year. If you select August 15th, the first student attendance day will be August 17th and the last Institute Day will be after Memorial Day.



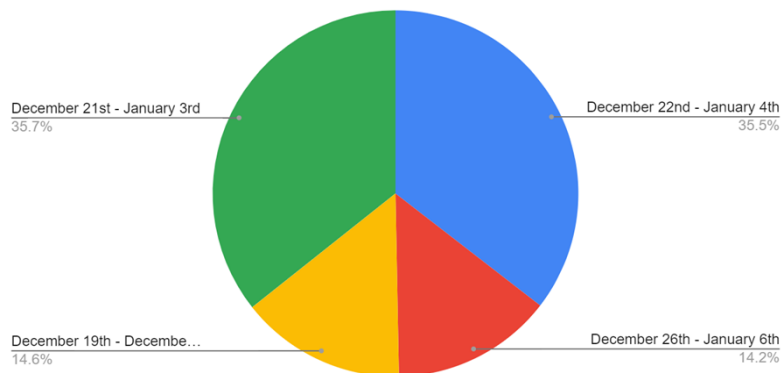
Question 2

Count of Please select your preferred dates for spring break. If you select March 20th through March 24th or March 27th through March 31st, the last Institute Day will be after Memorial Day. There will be no staff or student attendance on April 7th and April 10th.



Question 3

Count of Please select your preferred dates for winter break. These selections may impact the balance of days between semesters for the secondary level.



RECOMMENDATIONS: All suggestions were read and considered. Based on the feedback, I am asking for Board approval on the revised calendar presented (see attached B). The changes are as follows:

- First day of student attendance will be August 17th
- Parent-Teacher Conferences will be September 29th
- Teacher Institute will be September 30th
- Winter Break will be December 21st through January 3rd
- Spring Break will be March 27th through March 31st
- Last day of student attendance will be May 30th

I appreciate working with the Union leadership throughout this process and obtaining the feedback from our staff.