

Key Considerations to the
Development of the AHISD School Calendar

- Parameters for the School Calendar.** State law requires districts to create a calendar that includes a minimum of 75,600 minutes of instruction for students. State funding requires this minimum. Minutes for a school day are taken from start time to end time, then multiplied by the number of days that students attend. The draft 2026-27 calendar has 170 days for elementary and 172 for secondary, which is the same as 2025-26.
- Start of School.** For 2026-27, AHISD will begin school on a Wednesday, like 2025-26. It is August 19th for 2026-27
- Last Day of School.** For the past several years, AHISD has been creating a calendar that has the last day of school before the Memorial Day weekend. Community feedback has been clear regarding this preference, so we will continue to practice ending before the Memorial Day Holiday.
- Inclement Weather Days ("bad weather days").** To account for missing days of instruction because of bad weather, districts must plan in excess minutes of instruction of the minimum requirement of 75,600. AHISD builds in the equivalent of at least two schools worth of minutes in surplus to accommodate for bad weather closures. We also identify two additional bad weather days on two Teacher Work days in case we ever need to take more than two bad weather days.
- State funding and Student Attendance.** State funding is based on Average Daily Attendance of students, so in building the calendar, we are mindful to avoid situations in which families would want to pull their children out of school early because that would hurt our funding. If school is in session, having your child at school helps your school's funding. When your child is not there, it hurts your school's funding.
- Teacher Days of Employment.** State law sets the standard contractual obligation for teachers to be 187 days of service for teachers (known as a "chapter 21 contract"). This means that, as we ensure the minimum required minutes of instruction for students, we must account for 187 days for teachers to work.
- Early Release Professional Development Days.** State law allows you to count Staff Development time toward Instructional Minutes if it happens on a day when students attend school for at least 120 minutes. This is one way that we can carve out important time for staff to meet to hone their craft without having to add more school days onto the school year or to eliminate school days. AHISD has two of these days scheduled: one in the fall and one in the spring. These early release days are placed on Wednesdays instead of Fridays to avoid people keeping their children home the whole day, which would hurt the funding for your child's school (because funding is based on student attendance).
- Elementary Parent Conferences.** Students at Howard, Cambridge, and Woodridge Elementary schools have one student holiday in the fall and one in the spring labeled as Parent Conference Day. Not many districts dedicate time like this for parents to meet with their children's teachers to talk about their progress at key times during the

school year (Eanes ISD does this, too). For the convenience of parents and because there is not enough room to conduct all the parent conferences on one day, teachers also schedule parent conferences other times that week. Still, lots of the actual parent conferences do occur on the teacher workday/student holiday. Not only do the actual conferences take up time (15 minutes per child for every child taught, and more if a teacher team teaches with another teacher), but the writing of thorough notes for the parents and for our records require the time allotted both on the Teacher Workday a week or so prior and on the actual day of the parent conference student holiday.

- Teacher Workday/Student Holiday.** AHISD schedules five Teacher Workday/Student Holidays strategically throughout the school year as response to teacher needs and as a teacher retention and recruitment tool. The October teacher workday and the February teacher workdays are placed one week prior to elementary parent conferences to provide elementary teachers the time to prepare. While we recognize that any day off of school can be a challenge for working families, we have responded to community input to schedule teacher workdays on a Friday or a Monday, often placing them against another holiday to give families the opportunity for extended 4 day weekends. Teacher Workdays are also placed the day after winter break and the day after spring break so that teachers can use the day to prepare for students to return.
- Fall Break and Mid-Winter Break.** For years, AHISD students have had a school holiday on the second Monday in October. To create a "fall break" for families and to provide a valuable Teacher Workday for employees, we have made the preceding Friday a student holiday, too, so that families can have a 4 day weekend. Similarly, we have created a "mid-winter break" that includes the third Monday in February, an AHISD student holiday for years, with a preceding Friday student holiday/Teacher Workday.
- Spring Break.** AHISD has several employees who live in the attendance zones of surrounding school districts, like Northside, NorthEast, and San Antonio ISDs, and several of them have children who attend those districts. Likewise, UIL competitions for both fine arts and athletics often deal with schools in the surrounding districts. This is one major reason why AHISD tries to coordinate its spring break with neighboring school districts. Another consideration for Spring Break is which Sunday that daylight savings time begins ("spring one hour forward"). Having that begin the Sunday that we start Spring Break is helpful for both students and employees because of its impact on sleep.
- Homecoming Week.** The calendar is set well before next year's football schedule and identification of homecoming week occur. Establishing which week will be homecoming week is done independent of the development of the school calendar.
- Fall Events to Plan Around.** In the 2026-27 school year, Howard Hay Day is planned for Thursday, October 1st, the Woodridge Carnival is planned for Friday, October 30th, and the Alamo Heights School Foundation Greater Heights Night is Wednesday, November 4th. These are events that a large portion of our community are involved in, so we are mindful to avoid them when scheduling early release/staff development days or Teacher Workday/Student Holiday dates.

Workdays/Student Holidays and Early Release/Staff Development Days

- Recruitment and retention tool.
- Spread throughout the year
 - before or after 9 week grading period
 - After winter and spring break
- Student Early Release for Staff Development
- Teacher Workdays: not toward 75,600 minutes
- Early Release days: Wednesdays instead of Fridays because of state funding and attendance

2026-2027 School Year Calendar

Teacher Contract Days: 187

JULY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

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OCTOBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	*19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

October 9 - Student Holiday/Teacher Workday

October 12 - School Holiday

October 14 - 1st Nine Weeks Ends/October 15 - 2nd Nine Weeks Begins

October 19 - Elementary Student Holiday/Parent Conference

JANUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	<5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	Δ13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

January 1 - Winter Break

January 4 - Student Holiday/ Teacher Work Day

January 5 - 3rd Nine Weeks Begins

January 13 - Early Release (District)/Staff Development

January 18 - School Holiday

APRIL						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

April 23 - School Holiday (Bella of Flowers)

AUGUST						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	<19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

August 10-11 - Teacher Trade Day

August 12-18 - Teacher Work Day/Staff Development

August 19 - 1st Day of School/1st Semester Begins/1st Nine weeks Begins

NOVEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	Δ11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

November 11 - Early Release/Staff Development

November 23-24 - Student Holiday/Teacher Trade Day

November 25-27 - School Holiday (Thanksgiving Break)

FEBRUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	*26	27
28						

February 12 - Student Holiday/ Teacher Work Day

February 15 - Student Holiday/Staff Dev.

February 26-Elementary Student Holiday/Parent Conference

MAY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	Δ27>	28	29
30	31					

May 27 - Early Release (Secondary)

SEPTEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

September 7 - School Holiday

DECEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	Δ18>	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

December 18 - Early Release (Secondary)

December 18 - 2nd Nine Weeks Ends/End of 1st Semester

December 21 - 31 - Winter Break

MARCH						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	Δ31			

TBD 3rd Nine Weeks Ends/4th Nine Weeks Begin

March 8 - 12 - Spring Break

March 15 - Teacher Work Day

March 26 - School Holiday

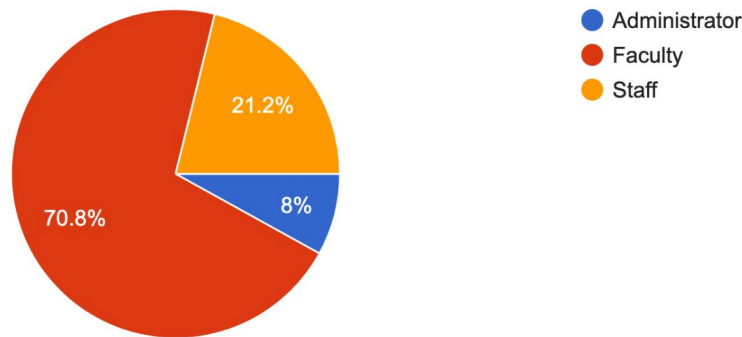
March 31 - Early Release (District/Staff Development)

June						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Survey Responses

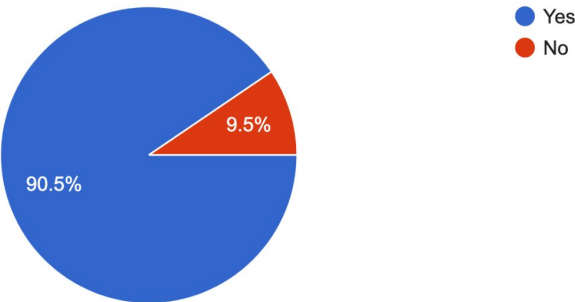
My relationship to AHISD is:

137 responses



I agree with the proposed DRAFT 2026-2027 Calendar.

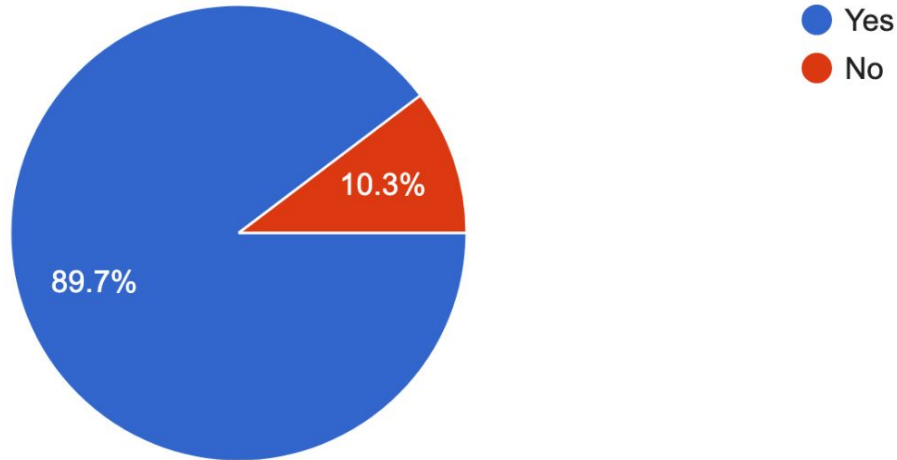
137 responses



Parent responses

I agree with the proposed DRAFT 2026-2027 Calendar.

97 responses



Open ended feedback themes

Staff

- Appreciate the Teacher workdays, especially after winter and spring break
- Most appreciate starting on a Wednesday, while a few don't
- Most appreciate ending before memorial day

Parents

- Most appreciate starting on a Wednesday, while a few don't
- Most like starting a week later in August

Consideration

I request that the Board of Trustees approve the draft 2025-26 calendar in the board book, as presented.