

2027-28 School Calendar Recommendation Report

September 24, 2026

Dr. Chris Bellmont, Assistant Superintendent

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Policy 602: Board Parameters



Policy Driven Parameters

- Mandates a minimum of 170 student contact days per school year.
- The minimum number of hours must include at least two extra instructional days (beyond MN Statute) for emergency closings.
- Allows up to 5 e-learning days for weather or unexpected facilities closures.
- The calendar must align with the contractual work days for all certified and instructional staff.



Breaks & Holidays

- Guarantees a winter break of at least 7 days excluding weekends.
- Mandatory non-classroom days: Labor Day, MEA Convention (2 days), Thanksgiving & Friday.
- Designated student release on MLK Jr. Day, Memorial Day, and Juneteenth.
- Pre-Labor Day school starts permitted under facility construction exceptions (>\$400k) and/or the Legislature..



Design & Input

- Superintendent or designee must submit recommendation no later than November.
- Rigorous collaborative process with advisory groups.
- Other considerations: bus scheduling, shared programs, facility use, and age tiers.
- Final calendar model requires official adoption and approval by the Board of Education.

Calendar Planning Process

Phase 1: Analysis

Review historical calendar data, state statutory hours, contract parameters, and stakeholder feedback.

Phase 2: Modeling

Calendar Design Team evaluated 7 versions representing competing perspectives.

Phase 3: Consultation

Collaborative planning sessions with employee units, community advisories, students, caregivers and administration.

Phase 4: Board Action

Formal presentation and recommendation to the Board of Education before November policy deadline.

Calendar Design Team

- **District Administration (4 members)** - Assistant Superintendent (Chair), Directors of Teaching & Learning and Student Support.
- **Building Principals (5 members)** - Early childhood, elementary, middle, and high school administrators reviewing building routines, logistics, and academic cycles.
- **Instructional & Support Staff (11 members)** - Licensed teachers, Social Work, and Cultural Liaison and support staff advising on pacing, conference structures and flow of the school year.
- **Community (6 members)** - Students & parents sharing family needs such as childcare, and cultural observances.



2027–2028 Calendar Options

Model	School Term	Sem 1 / Sem 2 Days	5-Day Wks	P–T Conferences	Key Differences & Impact
Version A	Aug 30 – June 1	82 / 88 Days	27	8th wk S1 & 7th wk S2	Starts before Labor Day with two 4-day weeks; Friday before Labor Day off; Conferences connected to MEA.
Version B Recommended	Aug 30 – June 1	83 / 87 Days	27	7th wk S1 & 8th S2	Start before Labor Day with a 5-day school week for students, Conferences connected to MEA.
Version C	Aug 30 – June 1	83 / 87 Days	26	10th wk S1 & 7th wk S2	Conferences not connected to MEA; reduces 5-day student weeks.
Version D	Sep 7 – June 8	83 / 87 Days	26	7th wk S1 & 7th wk S2	Post-Labor Day start; Conferences connected to MEA.
Version E	Sep 7 – June 8	83 / 87 Days	25	9th wk S1 & 7th wk S2	Post-Labor Day start; Conferences not connected to MEA; lowest number of 5-day weeks (25).

Feedback on early start, Fall 2026

- **Family survey via ParentSquare opened September 9:**

- 559 survey responses (8,184 parents PreK-12)
 - 54% (300) prefer pre-Labor Day start
 - 33% (187) prefer post-Labor Day start
 - 13% (72) had no preference
 - Responses included an appreciation for 4-day student week to start the year

Attendance Data - week 1:

- 2025: 92.78%
- 2026: 91.26%

- **Burnsville Education Association (teacher union) survey opened Sept. 11:**

- 287 survey responses
 - Calendar B (pre-Labor Day start) had the largest total of 1st, 2nd, & 3rd preference votes
 - Calendar A (also pre-Labor Day start, but with Labor Day as a 4-day weekend) had the most 1st preference votes, but 25 less total votes than calendar B
 - 56% were either mildly or strongly in favor of continuing to connect fall parent-teacher conferences to MEA break, and only 10% strongly opposed

Recommended Model B: Core Metrics

170

STUDENT CONTACT DAYS

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Fall: 8th week Q1 (aligned with MEA)
Quarter 1 ends 2 weeks after conferences

Spring: 7th week of Q3
Quarter 3 ends 2 weeks after conferences

Semester 1

83 Days

Quarter 1: 43 instructional days
Quarter 2: 40 instructional days

Semester 2

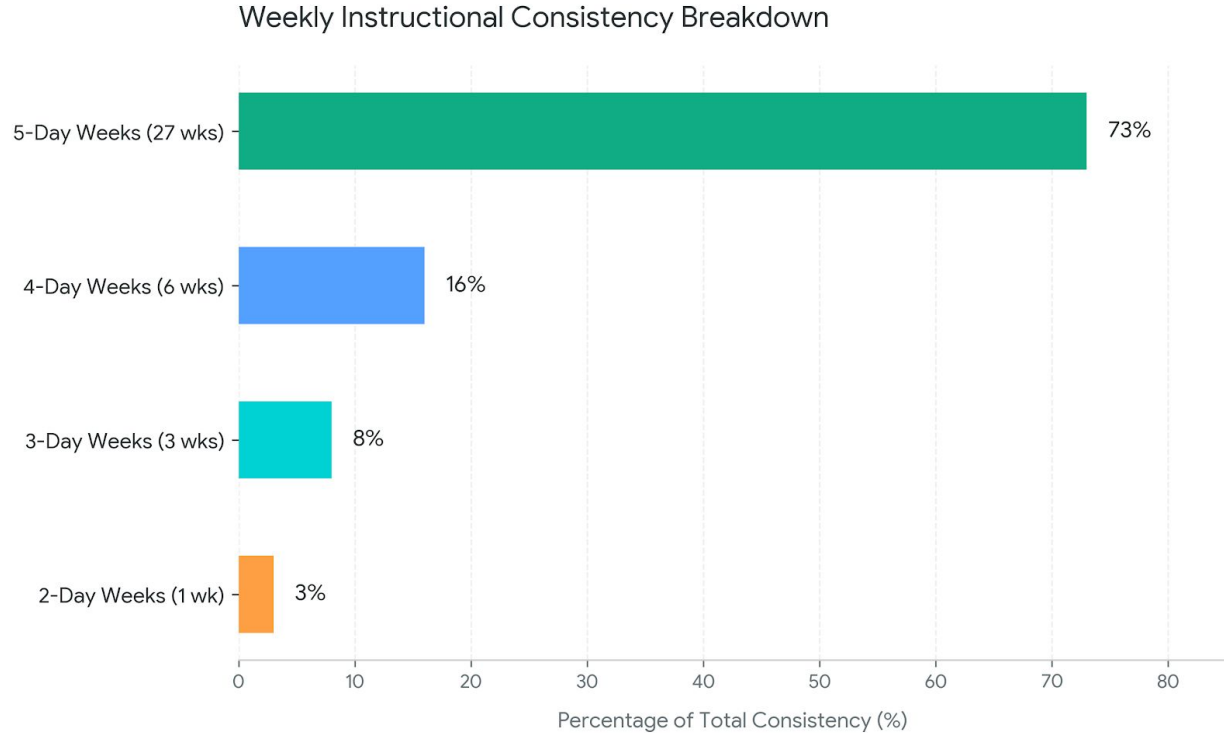
87 Days

Quarter 3: 40 instructional days
Quarter 4: 47 instructional days

Overall Calendar Term

Monday , Aug 30 - Thursday, June 1

Weekly Instructional Consistency



Model B provides 27 full five-day instructional weeks—the maximum achievable across all options—preserving sustained learning routines and student engagement.

Key Features of Calendar Model B

- **Early June Completion**
Commencing Monday, August 30 enables the district to conclude the school year on Thursday, June 1, avoiding June heat issues and allowing summer programs to begin earlier.
- **Strategic Parent-Teacher Conference Windows**
Fall conferences occur during Week 8 (aligned with MEA weekend) and Spring conferences during Week 7 of Quarter 3, consolidating disruptions, facilitating increased family attendance, and providing timely intervention. Also, the addition of Grade 2 starting on Sept 1 allows for increased teacher connections and student assessments to start the school year.
- **Civic Observances & Dedicated Staff Development** *(Not included in Policy)*
Honors Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Jan 17: No school for staff & students), Presidents Day (Feb 21: District Professional Development - No school for Students), Election Day (Nov 2; District Professional Development)

Appreciation

Thank you to all who helped contribute to this important collaboration.

