



# Oak Park Elementary School District 97

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To: Members, Board of Education  
Dr. Carol Kelley, Superintendent

From: Laurie Campbell, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

Re: Proposed Calendar for 2017-18 School Year

Date: July 26, 2016

The District 97 Calendar Committee, which is comprised of representatives from the Board of Education and the district's administration, faculty and staff, has completed its work on a proposed calendar for the 2017-18 school year. This proposed calendar complies with the number of student attendance days that are required by the Illinois School Code and the number of staff attendance days that are spelled out in the district's current collective bargaining agreements. It also reflects that the needs of the community and goals for instruction were taken into account when deciding on dates for the first and last days of schools, professional development sessions and breaks.

Below are several important aspects of the proposed calendar the committee would like to highlight for the board and general public.

- Students will start the 2017-18 school year on a Wednesday instead of a Monday. The committee discussed this change at length, and is recommending it for the following reasons.
  - It will help younger children, especially those beginning kindergarten, with their transition into the start of the school year.
  - It will more closely align our start date with the one for District 200 (start one day apart versus the several days apart that was standard in years past).
  - It will allow us to shift one of the three Institute Days that have traditionally been held at the start of the year to the end of the year. This will enable the district to perform a more coordinated and collaborative review of year-end assessment results, and also aid with planning for the following year.
- The major breaks (Thanksgiving, winter and spring) and federal holidays (Labor Day, Memorial Day, etc.) will continue to be in sync with District 200. Other scheduled days off will align with District 200's calendar whenever possible. With that said, total synchronization between the two calendars is not feasible. This is due in large part to the shift in the end of our respective grading terms that resulted from the high school moving the administration of its first semester final exams to before winter break.
- Religious equity issues, more specifically the concerns regarding Good Friday and Yom Kippur, have been resolved.
- The new state guidelines that call for schools that serve as polling places to be closed on Election Day were not a factor in the creation of this calendar since there are no local, state or federal elections scheduled to take place during the 2017-18 school year.

The district's proposed calendar for the 2017-18 school year is being presented to the board tonight for review and discussion. A second reading and approval of the calendar are scheduled for the board meeting on August 16, 2016.