



**NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
MEMORANDUM**

TO: John Hopson Jr., President
Members of the School Board

THROUGH: David Vadiveloo, Superintendent

FROM: Tracy Mulvenon, Assistant Superintendent *TM*

DATE: March 25, 2025

SUBJECT: 2025-2026 School Calendar

Memo No. SB25-146
(Informational Item)

NSBSD Policy Manual:

BP 6111, School Calendar: The site administrator shall work with the School Advisory Council to prepare the calendar for each site. The Superintendent or designee shall recommend to the School Board school calendars for each site that will meet the requirements of the law as well as the needs of each community, its students and the work year as negotiated with district personnel.

NSBSD Strategic Plan Summary:

Family & Community Collaboration

Goal 1: Prioritize and implement intentional and purposeful partnerships.

Culturally Responsive Instruction

Goal 1: High Expectations of students and staff

Financial & Operational Stewardship

Goal 7: Standardize high-functioning, efficient, student-focused operations

Issue Summary:

Since school year 2022-2023, the district administration has engaged in ongoing public discussions with the Board and School Advisory Councils about changes to the school calendar, particularly in response to attendance trends. Research consistently supports that higher attendance correlates with stronger academic growth and achievement and this addresses a central focus of the Board's mission.

A review of attendance data from FY22-23, FY23-24, and current FY24-25 school years has reaffirmed that December and March are consistently low-attendance months in most of our schools. The attendance drop in December appears to correlate with families taking Christmas vacations and the attendance drop in March is clearly connected to the basketball championships.

As the District prepares to start an 8 month community conversation about cultural calendars and a possible shift to a four quarter calendar, concerns remain about addressing obvious periods of low attendance now. In response, the administration proposed a 1 week vacation in the FY26 school calendar to minimize learning loss for students who are absent during the 'March madness' basketball weeks.



In the calendars proposed by SAC's it is clear that some sites have responded to attendance patterns and adopted the recommended 1 week vacation in March 2026, while other sites have opted not to adopt the recommended 1 week vacation.

# of Vacation days in March 2026	Sites
5 days	Trappper, Alak, Tikigaaq, & Kaveolook schools
2 days	Nunamiut, BHS, Kiita, Ipalook, Hopson
1 day	Kali
0 days	Atqasuk

When analyzing the attendance data from the past three years for this period of time (see attached), it is clear that not all sites have attendance drops in March, however, there are consistent and troubling attendance drops at most of our schools.

After reviewing the proposed calendars, the administration is seeking board guidance on balancing the proposed calendars at some sites with the Board's Mission and policy of ensuring students are given every opportunity to be in attendance for at least 80% of the school year, with the stated aim of the Board being 90% attendance of all students.

School	1st Day for Teachers	1st Day for Students	Winter Break	Spring Break	Graduation Date	Last Day for Students	Last Day for Teachers
Alak	8/7	8/14	12/22 - 1/2	3/16 - 3/20	5/8	5/14	5/15
Kali			12/17 - 1/2	3/13	5/12	5/14	5/15
Kaveolook			12/17 - 1/6	3/11 - 3/17	5/15	5/21	5/22
Meade River			12/22 - 1/2	-	5/1	5/8	5/11
Nunamiut			12/18 - 1/5	3/12 - 3/13	5/14	5/15	5/16
Tikigaaq			12/22 - 1/5	3/16 - 3/20	5/15	5/22	5/23
Trapper			12/22 - 1/5	3/16 - 3/20	5/21	5/21	5/21
Utqiagvik			12/18 - 1/5	3/19 - 3/20	BHS: 5/9 KLC: 5/8 HMS: 5/12	5/15	5/16

School	Q1	Q2	S1	Q3	Q4	S2	Student Days Total
Alak	39	46	85	44	44	88	173
Barrow High	40	44	84	46	43	89	
Hopson	40	44	84	46	43	89	
Ipalook	40	44	84	46	43	89	
Kali	44	39	83	42	48	90	
Kaveolook	44	39	83	42	48	90	
Kiita	40	44	84	46	43	89	
Meade River	44	41	85	43	45	88	
Nunamiut	44	39	83	42	48	90	
Tikigaaq	43	41	84	40	49	89	
Trapper	43	41	84	37	52	89	



**Background:**

Designing a school calendar that incorporates feedback from the community and prioritizes optimal learning time is essential for student success. By considering the unique needs of families, ensuring equitable access to educational opportunities, and minimizing learning loss, schools can create an environment that fosters continuous academic growth. Engaging a representative number of stakeholders throughout this process ensures that the calendar supports necessary learning growth for all students and represents community wishes.

AR 6111(a) School Calendar

The following procedure shall be used in developing the school site calendars. The site administrators shall cooperate in developing one calendar for all school sites:

- October - The site administrator begins working with the School Advisory Council (SAC) to develop a survey for use in assessing the community's desires for the next year's school calendar. The survey will address such issues as vacations, ending dates, standardized testing dates, cultural needs, holding school on borough holidays, and other options the SAC deems appropriate. The survey will consist of a cover letter, a survey response form and sample calendar options.
- November - SAC approves calendar options for survey.
- December - Calendar options distributed to the public.
- January/February - SAC and site administrator review survey results and the SAC makes the final decision on the school calendar at a public meeting.
- February - Signed calendar is sent to Superintendent or designee at least two weeks prior to the March School Board meeting.

