



NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
MEMORANDUM

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

THROUGH: David Vadiveloo, Superintendent DsV
DsV

FROM: Tracy Mulvenon, Assistant Superintendent TM
TM

DATE: April 23, 2025

SUBJECT: 2025-2026 School Calendars

Memo No. SB25-184
(Action 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.

Financial & Operational Stewardship

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

Issue Summary:

In response to the Board's request during the March informational session, Administration has worked closely with School Advisory Councils (SACs) to gather additional community feedback on proposed school calendars for School Year 2025–26.

The district re-engaged three SACs, specifically from sites that did not incorporate the recommended 1-week vacation in March 2026 that demonstrated the attendance drop, and requested that the calendar options be re-shared with their communities for further input. These SACs agreed, and the district facilitated the process to collect the additional feedback.

As a result of this work, the Administration now presents the SY26 recommended calendars to the Board, incorporating this extended community engagement feedback.



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

School	Q1	Q2	S1	Q3	Q4	S2	Student Days Total
Alak	39	46	85	44	44	88	173
Barrow High	40	41	81	43	49	92	
Hopson	40	41	81	48	44	92	
Ipalook	40	41	81	48	44	92	
Kali	44	39	83	42	48	90	
Kaveolook	44	39	83	43	47	90	
Kiita	40	41	81	48	44	92	
Meade River	44	41	85	43	45	88	
Nunamiut	44	39	83	42	48	90	
Tikigaq	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 stakeholders throughout this process ensures that the calendar is both practical and supportive of high-quality learning experiences for all students.

Since November 4, Administration has continued discussion on potential changes to the FY26 calendar with the School Advisory Councils (SACs) in response to community feedback, staff feedback and current and historical attendance data.

As a pilot year for a number of changes to the calendar were the following considerations:

- Reviewing attendance data from the FY23-24 school year, which clearly indicates that **December and March have consistently low student attendance**. This pattern is also seen in the current school year data. Research consistently shows that **higher student attendance correlates with stronger academic growth and achievement**. This resulted in a recommended one week Spring break for all sites, staggered to align with the State basketball championship schedule.
- Alignment of District in-services, where possible, with NSB holidays by way of recognizing child care challenges in all villages
- An additional out of contract day for K-5 and 6-12 to respond to teacher requests for content area PD, to meet compliance requirements, and to relieve pressure on Wednesday PLC finish times.
- Addition of 2 specialized in-service days for Counselors and SPED teachers in response to teacher requests
- Introduction of a teacher-led culturally responsive instruction in-service day focusing on exemplar models of teaching district wide
- K3, K4 and K may start one week after the first day of school and will end on the same day as the other grades at the site.

Parameters:

BP 6111, School Calendar: Each school site calendar shall show the beginning and ending school dates, legal and local holidays, orientation and teacher in-service days, number of teaching days, vacation periods and other pertinent dates. Each school site calendar shall include 191 days, designated as follows:

- 182 student/teacher days, including up to 9 Inservice days
- 5 holidays: Labor Day; Inuit Day; Thanksgiving - 2 days; Christmas Day; New Year's Day
- 3 workdays
- Inservice days beyond two days must be approved by the Superintendent.

2025-2026 Holidays (H)

- Labor Day – Monday, September 1, 2025
- Inuit Day – Friday, November 7, 2025
- Thanksgiving – Thursday & Friday, November 27 & 28, 2025
- Christmas – Thursday, December 25, 2025
- New Year's Day – Thursday, January 1, 2026





Uqautiluga Iñupiatun Immersion Program – Culturally Relevant Calendar

- The district continues to explore culturally relevant school calendar options that align with Iñupiaq traditions, seasons, and subsistence activities. We look forward to having future discussions with parents and community and sharing our findings with the public.

Proposed Motion:

“I move that the NSBSD Board of Education approve the calendars as presented in memo no. SB25-184.”

Moved by: _____ Seconded by: _____

Vote: _____

Signature: DSVadiveloo
DSVadiveloo (Apr 22, 2025 17:34 AKDT)

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Signature: Tracy Mulvenon
Tracy Mulvenon (Apr 23, 2025 08:32 AKDT)

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