



Discussion Item

Date: January 7, 2025

Division: Chief of Staff

Subject: 2025-26 Academic Calendar Options

Background Information:

- According to TEC 25.0811, the state parameters for the school calendar include:
 - Must not begin prior to the fourth Monday in August, waived with DOI
 - Must not end prior to May 15th
 - Must include 75,600 minutes of instruction
- Feedback gathered from last year during discussions with various input groups, identified topics for forward discussion, including school start times and the length of the school day. As shared at the September Board meeting and October Work Session, a focus group met in September to discuss and explore these two topics. Additional input was gathered from several additional groups, including principals, District Advisory Council, Brand Ambassadors, and the PTA Delegate Council.
- All school districts have the same requirement of at least 75,600 instructional minutes. The length of day impacts how you can structure the minutes throughout the year.

Instructional Minutes Comparison	
Plano ISD	ES/MS 440 minutes, HS 445 minutes
Frisco ISD	ES/MS 440 minutes, HS 445 minutes
Coppell ISD	445 minutes
Denton ISD	440 minutes
Northwest ISD	445 minutes
Keller ISD	450 minutes
Lewisville ISD proposed calendars	435 minutes and 445 minutes

- As in the past, the calendar committee prioritized the following based on calendar preferences shared from input groups and district guiding principles:
 - Conclude first semester prior to winter break
 - Three weekends over winter break

- End school prior to Memorial Day
- Balance semesters as close as possible
- Limit student ½ days (attendance, child care, and CTE funding)
- Allow collaborative planning and work time for teachers
- Consider adding minutes to the instructional day to allow for more flexibility through the year for additional staff work time and additional 4-day weekends for students.

Administrative Consideration:

- Staff input indicates a need for time for teachers to work and plan. Family input indicates a desire for more 3 or 4-day weekends, specifically in October and February.
- Based on the input received from input groups with a desire to have more flexibility in the calendar, the calendar committee created two calendars with different minutes to allow for staff and families to see how the minutes impact the calendar.
- Calendar Option A has a 435 instructional day and calendar Option B with a 445 instructional day.
- The start and end times will be published with each calendar option. For Option B, five minutes was added to the beginning and five minutes added to the end of the current times.
- Staff and families will be asked to rank the 2 options to provide feedback. This feedback will be used for staff to make a recommendation for the February Board meeting.
- A Staff Development Minutes Waiver will be sought for days designated for professional learning to allow teachers time to collaborate and plan and minutes to go toward instructional minutes.
- The following information is on the subsequent pages:
 - A chart comparison that shows the number of instructional minutes per day, the total instructional minutes for the year, and the breakdown of days per nine weeks.
 - The two calendar options for staff and families to rank to provide feedback.
- The Communications department will post the two calendar options and a brief explanation video with the feedback form on the District website and in the RAPPort and Rapp Up. The feedback form will be open from January 16 until January 24 .