

2026-27 District Calendar Recommendation

Calendar Committee Summary & Proposal 12/18/25

"The only way to make sense out of change is to plunge into it, move with it, and join the dance."

ALAN WILSON WATTS



Why This Year Is Different?

- The 2026–27 school year presents a unique challenge, with Labor Day falling unusually late on **September 7, 2026**, impacting the overall structure of the school year.
- In response, the Minnesota Legislature is temporarily allowing districts to start school **before Labor Day** without requiring the usual statutory waivers, creating additional planning flexibility.
- The Calendar Committee, representing multiple buildings, departments, and staff groups, spent several months reviewing data, comparing options, and modeling scenarios.

Calendar Committee Process



Diverse Representation

A committee representing various buildings, departments, and staff came together to ensure all voices were heard.



Modeling Options

We set out to develop two distinct sets of calendars: **Pre-Labor Day** start and **Post-Labor Day** start to compare directly.



Community Focus

Discussions centered on balancing instructional hours, contract requirements, family routines and community expectations.



Before Labor Day Start

Benefit:

Ends school in early June

Concerns:

- Disrupts long-standing Minnesota traditions
- Conflicts with:
 - Late-summer vacations
 - Cabin weekends
 - State Fair
- Likely higher early-year absences
- Earliest allowed start: September 1 (4-day first week)



After Labor Day Start

Benefits:

- Aligns with long-standing family and community expectations
- Preserves traditional Minnesota school start routines

Concerns:

- With Labor Day on September 7, pushes the school year deep into June
- Shortens summer break significantly
- Strong feedback against ending school in mid-June



Finding the Middle Ground

Committee built a calendar that:

- Starts Tuesday, September 8
- Ends **Friday**, **June 4** (students & graduation)
- Meets all student/staff day requirements
- Balances trimesters and instructional time
- Minimizes disruption to families and staff



Conference Improvements

What We Heard:

- Evening-only conferences do not work for all families
- Teachers reported long, exhausting days with limited prep time

What Changed:

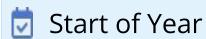
- Added a daytime conference option on October 14
- October 9 adjusted to support quality preparation:
 - Morning: Professional Learning
 - Afternoon: Grading and planning

Benefits:

- Improves access and flexibility for families
- Provides teachers meaningful preparation time
- Creates a more balanced and sustainable conference experience



Key Calendar Adjustments (Fall & Prof. Learning)



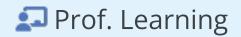
- Week of Aug 31:
 Workshop Week
- Sept 3: Full workday
- Sept 4:

 Non-workday
 (conference comp day)



- Friday, Oct 2: Homecoming
- Oct 14:

 Added daytime
 conferences



- Nov 6: PL day removed to regain student day
- Jan 18 (MLK Day): Mid-year PL day
- Feb 12: PL day
- Mar 5: Half-day PL / half-day grading



Key Calendar Adjustments (Spring & Activities)

Spring Break & Holidays

Spring Break Mar 22–26 (aligns with Good Friday)

End of Year Schedule

Grading / Planning May 7

Last Student Day June 4

Graduation June 4

Full Workday **June 7**

Flex PD Comp Day June 8



Fall Conflicts:

Late start increases preseason practices before school begins. This may create scheduling challenges for families in late August.

Spring Conflicts:

Spring Break (Mar 22-26) occurs *after* spring sports start. This creates potential travel and participation conflicts for varsity athletes.

* These impacts were weighed carefully as part of the committee's overall decision-making process.

Committee Recommendation

After Labor Day Start with Students Done on June 4

This calendar:

- Honors Minnesota's traditional school start expectations
- Avoids an unusually late end to the school year
- Protects instructional time and maintains a balanced academic year
- Addresses professional learning and conference needs
- Minimizes disruptions to athletics, activities, and family routines
- Fits within all district and staff contract parameters

This recommendation reflects a thoughtful compromise and the collective work of a committee committed to supporting teaching, learning, and the well-being of our school community.



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June 2027									
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Total Student Instructional Days:

Trimester 1 - Sept 8 to Dec 3 Trimester 2 - Dec 7 to Mar 4 Trimester 3 - Mar 8 to Jun 4

57 54

169

- New Teacher Workshop All Staff Professional Learning
 - Licensed Staff Professional Learning
- Daytime Conferences / Comp Day
- Grading and Planning
- Holiday, Buildings Closed First/Last Day of School
- No School

Total Teacher Days:

183 Grading & Planning Days 4.5 Professional Learning Days 7.5 **Daytime Conference Days** Conference Comp Days

Questions? & Comments!

