

## 2016-2017 Calendar Question & Answer

Q. What about contract begin and end days for non-teachers?

A. This calendar is an instructional calendar only. Duty schedules will be released at a later date.

Q. Why are teachers coming back earlier in August?

A. Because the school year is ending earlier in May; teachers are still required to have a 187 day contract.

Q. Why is the calendar ending in May?

A. One of the advantages is to allow for more preparation for summer retesting. Also, our teachers have complained about student apathy that sets in after state testing is completed, this will eliminate many of those days. Finally, through the years many of our staff members have asked us to end the school year by Memorial Day, if possible. With extended minutes each day it is now possible.

Q. What do the minutes on the calendar mean?

A. With House Bill 2610, school districts are required to attend 75,600 minutes each year. This is a change from the previous requirement of 180 days. For more information, click on the link [House Bill 2610 FAQ](#)

Q. Will begin and end times change because of the number of minutes?

A. Begin/End times for campuses have not yet been determined. It is possible there may be changes. Transportation will be a big factor in this because the morning and afternoon elementary and secondary routes must be staggered

to allow drivers time to complete each run (elementary) and being the next (secondary.)

Q. Will teachers have district professional development all the days before school starts?

A. No. It will be a combination of teacher work days, district PD days, and campus days. The back to school schedule will be released later.

Q. Calendar work days from July to June result in 1 extra day. How will that be handled?

A. Employees with a 227-day contract will have a flex day.

Q. Why are November 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> marked with a slash?

A. The district will be open for these 2 days and they will be work days for employees with 227-day contracts. However, these days will be student and teacher holidays (no exchange days.)

Q. Why is spring break a week later than usual?

A. TEA has scheduled state assessment testing for TAKS students the 2nd week of March.

Q. What will happen on the Records/Staff Development days?

A. These days will be ½ day for records and ½ day for campus driven professional development. The goal of these days is to reduce the number of times we ask teachers to use evenings, weekends, or holidays for staff development. While they fall at the end of each secondary grading period, elementary teachers can use them in the same way.

Q. Why is the Winter Break not a full two-weeks?

A. To accommodate the shorter instructional year and the teacher records/campus days at the end of each cycle, concessions had to be made to meet this goal. In past staff surveys the full week off at Thanksgiving was far and away the number one request so that was kept intact. By shortening the winter break by two days and extending the minutes in each school day we are able to end the school year more than one week earlier than this year.