



Board Meeting Date: 02/03/2025

Title: EPS Academic Calendars for 2026-2027 and 2027-2028

Type: Discussion

Presenters: Nate Swenson, Assistant Superintendent; and Sonya Sailer, Executive Director of Human Resources

Description: The Calendar Committee met three times this fall to develop academic calendar proposals for the 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 school years. Utilizing the school board's guiding change document, the committee incorporated input from various stakeholders, including teachers, administrators, support staff, and parents. Thoughtful discussions were held within the committee, academic calendar drafts were developed and shared, and members then gathered additional feedback from their colleagues, which was brought back to the committee for further discussion.

Recommendation: No recommendation is being made at this time. This item has been prepared for school board discussion.

Desired Outcome(s) from the Board: Please review the attached draft academic calendars and come prepared with your initial reactions, questions, and comments.

Attachments:

1. [2026-27 and 2027-28 Academic Calendars - Guiding Change Doc](#)
2. [2026-27 and 2027-28 Proposed Academic Calendars](#)

Summary of Calendar Committee Discussions:

The committee placed fourteen (secondary) and sixteen (early learning and elementary) non-student days in each academic year. Days include: eleven workshop/professional development/conference days, three teacher data days, and two connect and assess days (early learning and elementary only).

Non-student days were placed in accordance with the School Board's Guiding Change Document and the priority system previously developed by the Calendar Committee including:

- Maintaining educational continuity and consistency of learning for students throughout the week. This priority suggests that full weeks of school are most desirable in the calendar design. When full weeks of school are not possible, the non-student days would in most cases be placed at the beginning or end of the week allowing for the learning week to have the greatest consistency and continuity. This would be the primary priority in placement of non-student days during weeks of the calendar year.
- For weeks that are not full weeks of learning, align the non-student days to non-federal holidays or observances when they fall on a Monday or Friday. For example, if a non-federal cultural celebration or observance falls on a Monday in September, and a professional development day needs to be placed in that time period, then align the non-student day with this celebration whenever possible.
- Where possible, attempt to balance the number of non-student days during the weeks of each semester so that students receiving specialized services have the most equitable learning opportunities throughout the week. As an example, look at ways to place non-student days on days other than Mondays and Fridays in a given semester where possible such as on a Tuesday when aligned with a Monday holiday (such as Presidents' Day) or on election days in the interests of student safety.

Additional Noteworthy Calendar Committee Discussions Included:

- Whenever possible, priority was given to spreading the breaks across different months to avoid having them too close together.
- Attention was taken to balance the number of student contact days in Semester I and Semester II, which is most relevant at the secondary level. When 170 student contact days are divided evenly across semesters, each semester would be ideally 85 days long. The committee prioritized moving the end of the semester to the end of the week so that the non-student day would fall on a Friday resulting in a 84 day Semester I in 2026-27 and an 85 day Semester I in 2027-28. This provides for a smoother transition time for secondary staff who are

teaching new courses and a weekend break for students before they begin Semester II.

- School breaks that have been incorporated into the calendar design include: a two day MEA break in October, a two-day week before Thanksgiving (Note: typically no more than 5% of students report an absence this week.), a two-week winter break, and a one week spring break falling between the third week of March and the first week of April (the historic parameter of community preference).

Many Thanks to our Calendar Committee Members:

- Shukri Ahmed, Sayali Amarpurkar, Patrick Bass, Angela Hruby, Jodie Mettee, Betony Osborne, Kate Strand, Anthony Wolfbauer, Jennifer Carter, Melissa Craig, Daphne Edwards, Julie Gabrielson, Kim Isley, Angela Madsen, Christine McCarthy, Cara Rieckenberg, Sonya Sailer, Nate Swenson.