

WOODRIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT 68

Administration Office

TO: Dr. Patrick Broncato

FROM: Dr. William Schmidt

SUBJECT: **2026-2027 SCHOOL CALENDAR APPROVAL**

Attached for the Board's review is the proposed 2026-2027 School Calendar. This draft is substantially similar to the current 2025-26 calendar. It was reviewed on December 17, 2025 by the Calendar Committee and discussed by the Board at the January meeting. In addition, we seek parent feedback through the Parent-Teacher Advisory Committee and an online posting. No families commented or provided feedback on the proposed calendar online. A Parent-Teacher Advisory Committee member suggested that the District clearly communicate the intent and topics to be discussed at the April Parent Teacher Conferences. Committee members were in favor of the change and just wanted all parents to understand the rationale for the change and the focus of the conversations at the conferences.

As a reminder from the January discussion highlights:

1) First and Last Days of School

Each year we meet as a Calendar Committee, and have a list of items to consider when developing the calendar, including any legal requirements (e.g., number of student attendance days, legal school holidays, etc.). The first item we address as a group is the student's return to school date. Factors we consider are Dupage County Regional Office of Education (ROE) recommendations, District 99's start date, and summer construction around the District. The ROE provides an early and late first pupil attendance day window for districts. The early start date for next school year is Monday, August 17, 2026, and the late start date is Wednesday, August 26, 2025. Our recommended Wednesday, August 19, 2026 student start date is two days later than District 99 and within the ROE's recommended pupil attendance start window.

Typically, we start a few days later than District 99, and next year will be no exception. District 99 has a goal to build its calendar to ensure students complete midterm finals prior to Winter Break and end-of-year finals prior to Memorial Day. Our last day of school will be May 27, 2027 which is three (3) days later than District 99. Our last day of school is prior to Memorial Day weekend.

2) Parent Teacher Conferences

Two years ago, the committee recommended scheduling the second Parent-Teacher Conference in April. This decision was largely driven by the Illinois Assessment for Readiness (IAR) schedule, as hosting conferences after Spring Break provides additional instructional days prior to testing. Initial feedback suggests that parents and teachers appreciated the extended interval

between conferences (November to April), noting that it allowed for richer conversations about student growth and summer goal-setting. We will continue to monitor the impact of this schedule following the spring conferences.

3) Spring, Winter, and Holiday Breaks:

Every two years, the DuPage Regional Office of Education (ROE) issues calendar recommendations to all county superintendents. As mentioned before, District 99 typically adopts these guidelines, particularly for major breaks. To accommodate families with children in both high school (District 99) and elementary school (District 68), we prioritize aligning our Winter and Spring Breaks with District 99.

This year, District 99 adopted the ROE's recommended Winter Break (the weeks of December 21 and 28, 2026) to allow students to complete finals before the break. We recommend aligning our calendar to match this schedule.

Additionally, the committee recommends designating Friday, March 26, 2027 (Good Friday), as the Spring holiday. Historically, the District has observed a holiday on Good Friday, the Monday after Easter, or both. However, because Easter falls at the beginning of Spring Break this year, only one distinct holiday date is necessary.

4) School Improvement Days (SIP):

Proposed School Improvement (SIP) Days mirror the 2025-2026 calendar, with one adjustment in November. We have scheduled a SIP Day for Monday, November 2, 2026, and designated Tuesday, November 3 (General Election Day), as a holiday.

This decision is based on Public Act 102-0015 and Section 24-2(a) of the School Code, which previously established the 2022 General Election Day as a non-waivable legal school holiday. We anticipate similar legislation will be passed for the 2026 election. Therefore, this calendar takes a proactive approach to compliance.

Should Election Day not be declared a legal school holiday, the District will move the SIP day to Tuesday, November 3, and adjust the school year to end one day earlier.

Please let me know if you have any questions concerning the final calendar recommendation.