



# Discussion Item

**Date:** December 9, 2024

**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 earlier this 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.
- Five more instructional minutes per day provides two days of flexibility for a break or staff work time. 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

**Administrative Consideration:**

- Based on the focus group feedback, the calendar committee created two different calendars to allow staff and families to see how the additional minutes impact the calendar.
- The calendar committee proposed 2 options for consideration with each calendar created with different instructional minutes per day. Calendar A was built with a 435 instructional-minute day. Calendar B was built with a 445 instructional-minute day.
- During round 2 of feedback, 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.
- The number of workdays and professional learning days for each calendar is dependent on the total number of instructional minutes. The more minutes each day provides more flexibility to allow for more staff work time or a fall break.
- Based on this additional feedback provided by the Council of PTA delegates, district administration is proposing that we adjust the timeline for the calendar approval to allow for the calendar committee to reconvene and consider adjustments.
- This adjustment would move the staff and family survey to be conducted in January instead of December. The recommendation for the 2025-26 academic calendar would be provided at the February Board meeting.