

The Board of Education shall establish an official school calendar which shall show the number of school days in each month, legal and local holidays, professional development days, early dismissal days, vacation periods, and other pertinent dates. The calendar shall meet or exceed all existing statutory requirements.

The school calendar should adhere to sound principles of calendar design, such as those listed below, so as to maximize the use of instructional time. Therefore, each adopted school calendar should illustrate that the Board of Education has considered the following principles for calendar design:

1. maintain contiguous five-day school weeks to the extent possible throughout the school year;
2. minimize the number of interruptions of school weeks in the fall of each school year prior to Thanksgiving;
3. maintain a balance in the number of weeks between school vacations, including the December vacation, the February vacation, and the April vacation;
4. schedule school vacation (start dates and end dates) in concert with other shoreline towns and the LEARN recommended regional calendar to the extent possible without violating other principles of calendar design;
5. observe all legally-required state & federal holidays, as well as Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and the day after Thanksgiving as school holidays; ~~Labor Day, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Columbus Day, Thanksgiving Day (Thursday and Friday), Christmas, New Year's Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, President's Day, Good Friday Memorial Day and Independence Day as legal holidays for students.~~

34 ~~5.6. Veterans Day – observe Veterans Day by holding school-based Veterans Day~~
35 ~~observance activities;~~

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37 ~~6.7. schedule the high school graduation ceremony no earlier than the 180th 183rd day~~
38 ~~of school, recognizing that an adjustment in the date may be required at the first~~
39 ~~regular Board meeting in April because of school cancellations;~~
40 schedule the beginning and end of the school year to permit the first day of school
41 to be as late as possible in August or in early September while allowing a
42 reasonable number of make-up days for school cancellations in the month of June;
43 and

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45 ~~7.8. schedule professional development days for staff per the following: (a) prior to the~~
46 ~~beginning of school; (b) on days when students *are not* scheduled to attend~~
47 ~~school; (c) on days immediately *preceding* or *following* a scheduled holiday for~~
48 ~~students and / or staff; and (d) on such other dates as are consistent with sound~~
49 ~~principles of professional development and calendar design.~~

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51 The Superintendent shall be charged with presenting a draft of the school calendar, based
52 on the principles such as those above, to the Board of Education for review and approval
53 no later than the first regular Board meeting in ~~April~~ January. The proposal shall cover
54 the school year following the upcoming year's calendar.

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56 ~~Whenever necessary, the Board shall convene a calendar advisory committee to review~~
57 ~~such concerns and issues. The calendar advisory committee shall include representatives~~
58 ~~from the following groups: parents, teachers, students, administrators, support staff, and~~
59 ~~interested community members. The Superintendent shall also consult officials in~~
60 ~~neighboring school districts in conjunction with the work of the advisory committee.~~

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62 Within the framework of this policy, the Board of Education shall have the prerogative to
63 amend the school calendar when the Board considers it to be in the best interest of the
64 school district to do so.

66 Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
67 1-4 Days designated as legal holidays
68 10-15 Towns to maintain schools
69 10-16 Length of school day
70 10-29a Certain days to be proclaimed by governor. Distribution and number of
71 proclamations
72 10-261 Definitions
73 PA 95-182 An Act Concerning Reduction of Education Mandates
74

75 Date of Adoption: February 25, 1997
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