

Board Information Item

Information
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Board
Agenda
Information



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Action



Board
Agenda
Consent



12/15/2025

Subject:

Act on 2026-2027 Student and Staff Instructional Calendar

Contact Person:

Dr. Kalee McMullen, Executive Director of Instructional Leadership

Policy/Code:

EB(LEGAL); DMC(LOCAL)

**Priority and
Performance
Objective:**

Priority1: Student Achievement and Post-Secondary Preparedness
Priority 2: Faculty and Staff Recruitment, Retention and Capacity-Building
Priority 3: Parents, Families and Community Satisfaction and Engagement
Priority 4: Strong Financial Stewardship and Internal System Efficiency

Summary:

Each year, the administration develops an instructional calendar for the next school year based on state and local parameters, input from stakeholders and comparisons with neighboring school districts.

This calendar was developed in compliance with state and local requirements, and incorporates feedback from various stakeholder groups, including the District Excellence Committee (DEC), campus principals, and leaders from departments across the District.

Key Features and Compliance

- **State Compliance:** The calendar meets all state requirements, including the mandated minimum of

75,600 instructional minutes and 187 teacher contract days.

- **Scheduling:** The calendar utilizes the District of Innovation flexible start date, with the school year beginning on a Wednesday and concluding before Memorial Day.

Primary Updates:

- **Extended weekend in October**

A key feature of the proposed calendar directly addresses the needs of elementary staff by including an early release day for elementary students only on October 8th to facilitate dedicated Parent-Teacher Conferences. Secondary students will have a regular school day.

This early release is followed by a non-student day on October 9th designated as an Instructional Planning Day. Coupled with student/staff holidays on October 12th and 13th, this structure provides students with a five-day break and staff with a four-day weekend after their planning session.

The Instructional Planning Days built into the 2025-2026 calendar received overwhelmingly positive feedback from teachers and campus leaders for providing essential, dedicated blocks of time for planning, data analysis, and professional collaboration.

- **No school held on Election Day (November 3, 2026)**
The notable change in the upcoming instructional calendar addresses safety and logistical challenges posed by schools serving as polling places during elections.

The proposed calendar designates Election Day (in early November) as a non-instructional day for students, resulting in a four-day weekend. This extended break is structured by a student and staff holiday on November 2, followed by a staff-only professional development day on November 3.

By closing campuses to students on Election Day, the district can better maintain its required safety and security mandates, which are systemically challenged when campuses must simultaneously comply with public election requirements.

- **Student & Staff Holiday (April 30, 2027)**
The placement of this student/staff holiday was determined in collaboration with campus and academic leaders to strategically break up the long instructional period between Easter weekend (March 28) and the end of the school year. Careful consideration was given to avoid conflicts with critical academic windows, including STAAR and AP testing schedules, as well as campus-specific activities.

Stakeholder Review

The proposed calendar reflects decisive support for the recommended draft following review and input sessions with the District Leadership Team, Campus Leadership, campus team leads, and the District Excellence Committee (DEC) on November 6, 2025.

Attachments:

Proposed 2026-2027 Student and Staff Instructional Calendar

Recommendation:

The recommendation is for the Board of Trustees to approve the 2026-2027 Student and Staff Instructional Calendar.