

## 2016-2017 Celina ISD Calendar Survey Results

The Texas Education Code no longer defines 180 days of instruction as an acceptable school year. Due to the passing of House Bill (HB)2610, districts are now required to provide 75, 600 minutes of instruction, which defines one day as 420 minutes. The bill allows school districts to add minutes as necessary when instruction is lost due to school closures caused by disaster, flood, extreme weather conditions or other threatening situations. The Celina ISD Calendar Committee members were given the following parameters to work with in regards to the creation of the new calendar. The parameters given to the committee were as follows:

- Two bad weather days
- The inclusion of Labor Day, Thanksgiving Break, Winter Break, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Spring Break, Spring Holiday, and Memorial Day
- School start date of Monday, August 22nd. (Texas Education Code 25.0811 states that a District may not begin instruction of students for a school year before the fourth Monday in August.)

A short calendar survey was created and uploaded to the district website on Tuesday, February 2nd. The survey ran from February 2nd through February 16th. The survey was composed of four questions, which are listed below:

1. What is your title?

88.7% - Parent/Guardian

7.6% - Teacher

3.2% - Student

0.5% - Community member(No children presently enrolled in the District.)

2. Please check off the days listed below that you prefer to be observed as a holiday by the District.

84.3% - President's Day (3rd Monday in February)

54.6% - Columbus Day (2nd Monday in October)

2.9% - Martin Luther King Jr. Day (3rd Monday in January)

12% - All of the above

3.3% - None of the above

3. What month do you prefer the school year end?

78.1% - I prefer to end the school year during the month of June.

18% - I prefer to end the school year during the month of May.

3.9% - I have no preference on the end date.

4. Please use the space provided to leave any comments, concerns, and/or suggestions regarding the Celina ISD 2016-2017 proposed calendar.

Below, I have included a few of the comments left by those that participated in the survey.

## General Comments

I really like that Celina offers this survey. It is nice that the students normally get a four day weekend each month or some type of break. Even though it is difficult for us working parents, our community is so helpful because you can find someone to watch your child. It is also very helpful that you post the schedules in advance. I would have to say very, very, very well done and a vast improvement from our former districts.

No comments at this time. I think the Calendar Committee has done an excellent job of drafting this proposal.

Thanks for all of your hard work. It is appreciated. Blessings!

Bring back 6-week grading periods and get rid of the 9-week periods.

I would prefer less Teacher work days.

## Early Release Days

I hope you will continue with early release days on Thanksgiving and Christmas breaks.

I am glad to see the early release days taken off with the exception of Homecoming, which is a day where we as a community come together to support our schools.

I'd rather have full days than half days.

## Holidays

I'm just curious why we get off MLK day, but not Veteran's day. What MLK did for this country is great, don't get me wrong, but our veterans are the ones that hold this nation up and have been since this nation's birth.

If other holidays are observed as in one of the above questions, then Good Friday should a holiday and not used as a "Bad Weather Day."

I would like to see the teachers be able to keep one three day weekend in either January or February. (Either using MLK or President's Day)

I don't prefer to have Martin Luther King, Jr. Day off because it's too close to Christmas break. It seems like the kids just get back into the groove of school and they have another break.

## Thanksgiving Break

Can we add another holiday into the Thanksgiving week to allow for travel? Perhaps replace MLK and/or President's Day and add to the week after Thanksgiving.

I definitely prefer to go to class the week of Thanksgiving and give up the holidays to end in May.

Week-long Thanksgiving holiday is a need and was much appreciated this year!

### Winter Break

I hate that the teachers get that extra day at the end of Winter Break. It inconveniences me immensely and in the real world, most people have to deal with deadlines without being coddled the way the teachers are here.

I think the 4th or 5th of January is a better start date for the semester.

I absolutely LOVE having two weeks off at Christmas time.

### Spring Break

Can spring break be aligned with Texas State Colleges and Universities, so those of us with older kids can coordinate our plans?

It would be great if Celina's Spring Break would coordinate with Frisco and Plano ISD.

I recommend changing the timing of Spring Break to coincide with Easter. That way, families have more time to travel for that holiday without missing any school days. Plus, it lessens the financial burden because that week is "off peak" compared to the typical Spring Break in March.

Due to dual credit classes, I feel that Celina's Spring Break should align with Collin College.

Why can't Spring Break be later like the last week of March?

Would prefer to get Good Friday off than any of the holidays listed. Or two days off in a row for a Fall Break, so that families could take a long weekend, especially since Celina High School athletes don't even get a Spring Break off anymore.

### Start and End Date

I prefer to start school after Labor Day and get out at the end of May with as few days as possible off during the school year.

I prefer to get out in May and have a nice summer.

I prefer that the school year end in very early June.