

THIS ITEM REQUESTS APPROVAL OF THE 2015-2016 SCHOOL CALENDAR
October 28, 2014

SUMMARY: This item requests approval of the 2015-2016 school calendar.

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION: None

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: None

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES:

All calendar drafts for 2015-2016 were presented at the Board of Trustees meeting on September 23, 2014 and include the following priorities identified in past district calendars:

- professional development at the beginning of the year and in October and January,
- early release days in October for elementary conferences,
- a 1 week break in November and March (aligned with UNT and TWU),
- a 2 week break in December,
- the placement of exams before winter break, and
- two semesters that are as balanced as possible in light of the above priorities.

As of this date, 2015-2016 testing calendars have not been published by the state of Texas, International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO), or the College Board (AP). Additionally, TWU has not yet published their calendar. UNT has published their calendar and the spring break week for all DISD draft calendars aligns with the UNT spring break.

In September and October 2015, three draft calendars were presented to the district EIC, District Council of PTAs, the Board of Trustees and all district employees. Input was sought from each of these groups regarding the calendar options. An electronic survey process generated 316 responses from district employees. 27 preferred Option A, 187 preferred Option B and 102 preferred Option C. The PTA Council and district EIC expressed the strongest preference for Option B as well.

Based upon all of the information that is known at this time, Draft B (attached) is the recommended school calendar for 2015-2016.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS: None

BENEFIT OF ACTION: Passage will allow staff ample time to plan activities for the 2015-2016 school year.

PROCEDURAL AND REPORTING IMPLICATIONS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED: Comment was received through focus group presentations to the Council of PTAs and the District EIC.

ALTERNATIVES: No alternative actions are proposed.

OTHER COMMENTS: None

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION: The Superintendent recommends the approval of the 2015-2016 school calendar.

STAFF PERSONS RESPONSIBLE: David Hicks, Executive Director of Academic Programs

ATTACHMENT: Draft of 2015-2016 DISD School Calendar

APPROVAL:

Signature of Staff Member Proposing Recommendation: _____

Signature of Superintendent: _____