

Zionsville Community Schools

Board of School Trustees Meeting “Item for Consideration”

Consent Agenda Item • April 14, 2025

SY25-26 E-Day Schedule

Category:

<input type="checkbox"/> Human Resources, Personnel/Staffing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment	
<input type="checkbox"/> Finance, Budgeting, Accounting	<input type="checkbox"/> Student Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Board Policy
<input type="checkbox"/> Facilities, Transportation, Nutrition	<input type="checkbox"/> Community Relations	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

Type of Board of Trustees Consideration Sought:

Action	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Discussion	<input type="checkbox"/>
Report	<input type="checkbox"/>

Facts of this Matter:

ZCS is not an online school district. However, ZCS pioneered the use of e-days for real-time replacement of emergency weather cancellation days and provision of staff professional development (middle level) over a decade ago with thoughtful guidance and permission from the Indiana Department of Education. ZCS was an exemplar district for IDOE in those early days. Our experiences, related challenges and improvements served us well when, for a time in 2020, we had to rely on e-days for longer than we wished.

The pandemic presented many new variables in online educational delivery in the state’s public schools that resulted in prudent re-definition of permissions and waiver opportunities codified by the General Assembly and operationalized through IDOE rule-making. We are very pleased with the balance legislators and agency administrators have struck in this regard.

Past practice (prior to 2020) involved annual notice to the board about e-day plans and uses resulting in late spring or summer additions/clarifications to the adopted calendar for the coming school year. Given the legislation and counsel review of our plan in relationship to IDOE rules for e-day usage, this item is presented for board consideration to continue our annual practice of notice within these state-approved parameters.

ZCS will use the three state-approved asynchronous virtual student learning days for any unplanned school closure (i.e. weather, water main break, etc.). Performance Qualified School District (PQSD) flexibility would be utilized for the following planned asynchronous EDays for 2025-2026:

Grade	Date	Reason
<i>K-4</i>	<i>Thursday, November 6, 2025</i>	<i>Parent/Teacher Conferences*</i>
<i>5-8</i>	<i>Thursday, September 18, 2025</i>	<i>EDay – Teacher Professional Development</i>
	<i>Thursday, November 6, 2025</i>	<i>EDay – Teacher Professional Development</i>
	<i>Thursday, March 5, 2026</i>	<i>EDay – Teacher Professional Development</i>
	<i>Thursday, April 30, 2026</i>	<i>EDay – Teacher Professional Development</i>
<i>12</i>	<i>Tuesday, October 7, 2025</i>	<i>PSAT for 9th-11th graders (state mandated)</i>
<i>9, 10, 12</i>	<i>Thursday, March 5, 2026</i>	<i>SAT for 11th graders (state mandated)</i>

** Elementary Parent/Teacher conferences to start on Wednesday, November 5, 2025 after school is dismissed and then continue on Thursday, November 6, 2025 as an EDay for students.*

Objective POSITIVES related to this item or approach:

- The legislated rules restricting the number of days of asynchronous instruction served us well in reviewing needs and possibilities for planned and unplanned e-day uses.
- Combined with our Performance Qualified School District (PQSD) designation, we can preserve three (3) asynchronous instructional days for real-time emergency/inclement weather cancellation days. This greatly reduces the likelihood of having to tack on instructional days next June.
- This plan facilitates many necessary uses with the least possible disruptive factors.
- Synchronous online days may be used with less restriction, but once again, we are not an online school district. This would be helpful to us only in the case of extended facility emergency, prolonged inclement weather cancellation (as in Snow-maggedden from last decade), or other unforeseen need to not be on one or more of our campuses for the instructional modality that is most advantageous for student growth—in person.

Objective NEGATIVES related to this item or approach:

We recognize the hardship this change in routine may cause some families as they navigate childcare, but the opportunity for parent/teacher conferences and critical professional development would not be an option otherwise.

Opinion/Recommendation:

Recommend appending the changes shown above to the board adopted school calendar for 2025-2026 as we have done in recent years.

Financial Implications, if any:

There is a slight cost reduction involving transportation costs on e-days. This is inadvertent and immaterial to overall operations costs.

Recommendation:

Recommend approval.