

**DISTRICT 128 CALENDAR COMMITTEE
2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR**

SCHOOL BOARD POLICY: 6:20 School Year Calendar and Day

6:20 School Year Calendar and Day School Calendar

The Board of Education, upon the Superintendent's recommendation and subject to State regulations, annually establishes the dates for opening and closing classes, teacher institutes and in-services, the length and dates of vacations, and the days designated as legal school holidays. The school calendar shall have a minimum of 185 days to ensure 176 days of actual student attendance.

Commemorative Holidays

The teachers and students shall devote a portion of the school day on each commemorative holiday designated in the School Code to study and honor the commemorated person or occasion. The Board may, from time to time, designate a regular school day as a commemorative holiday.

School Day

The Board establishes the length of the school day with the recommendation of the Superintendent and subject to State law requirements. The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that observances required by State law are followed during each day of school attendance.

Philosophy for Building a School Calendar

- Calendars are built with the intent of maximizing instructional time
 - 5-day weeks when possible
 - Minimize disruptions to the continuity of instruction

Parameters

- 185 Teacher Workdays by BOE Policy (includes 5 emergency days)
- 176 Instructional Days
 - 174 Student Contact Days
 - 2 Parent Teacher Conference Days
- 5 Emergency Days
- 4 Institute Days
- Legal School Holidays
 - Labor Day – Sept 1 (cannot be waived)
 - Columbus/Indigenous People Day – October 13 (can be waived and an attendance day)
 - Veteran's Day (historically in session)
 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – January 19 (cannot be waived)
 - Presidents' Day (In Lieu of Lincoln's Birthday) – Feb 16 (cannot be waived)
 - Primary Gubernatorial Election - March 17 (can be an Institute Day or Non Attendance Day)
 - Memorial Day – May 25 (cannot be waived)

Past Practices

- Start date some time in third week of August
- Additional Non-Attendance Days
 - Monday & Tuesday of Thanksgiving are dedicated to conferences – Nov 24-25
 - Wednesday & Friday are non-attendance days Thanksgiving Week - Nov 26, 28
 - Thanksgiving – Nov 27
 - Good Friday due to lack of attendance – April 3
 - Monday after Easter – April 6 (Can be an attendance day.)
 - Eid - March 20 and May 27 (has typically fallen in June)
- Align breaks with Shepard High School
 - **Winter Break Potential Scenario:**
 - Shepard
 - Dec 22 - Jan 2
 - **Spring Break:**
 - Shepard
 - March 30 - April 6 (Incorporates Good Friday and Monday after Easter)
- Institute Days: We can plan up to 4
 - Two at the start of the year
 - Typically one in October (Friday before Columbus Day) - marked in yellow on draft
 - Second suggested considerations: March 17 Primary Election Day
 - PLC Early Release Days – In a typical year with a normal schedule, we have 11 early release days that have been scheduled on Wednesdays. Those will be added to the draft when shared.

Considerations for the Committee

- **Alignment with 218**
 - There is a strong sentiment to align with the District 218 Shepard High School Calendar as much as possible with respect to breaks and non-attendance days
- **Early Release**
 - Discuss the possibility of an early release on 12/19 - 5 hour clock day PLC release schedule.
- **E-Learning**
 - We have 5 approved E-Learning Days that can be used in lieu of emergency days and will count as attendance days in the event of an unexpected school closure (weather, facility issue, staffing issue, etc...). These do not need to be made up at the end of the year.
- **Emergency Days**
 - We have 5 Emergency Days required by the state to be designated for school related emergency closures (weather, unsafe student conditions or other conditions beyond our control). If we were to close without executing an E-Learning day, the day off is made up using one of the Emergency Days.