



NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT MEMORANDUM

TO: Esther Evikana, President
Members of the Board

THROUGH: David Vadiveloo, Superintendent *DSVadiveloo*

FROM: Tracy Mulvenon, Assistant Superintendent *TM*

DATE: January 29, 2026

SUBJECT: Update on Site Calendar Process for FY27

Memo No. SB26-078
(Informational Item)

NSBSD Policy Manual:

BP 6111, School Calendar: The site administrator shall work with the Community School Advisory Council (CSAC) to prepare the calendar for each site. The Superintendent or designee shall recommend to the School Board school calendars for each site that will meet the requirements of the law as well as the needs of each community its students and the work year as negotiated with district personnel.

NSBSD Strategic Plan Summary:

Family & Community Collaboration

Goal 1: Prioritize and implement intentional and purposeful partnerships.

Financial & Operational Stewardship

Goal 7: Standardize high-functioning, efficient, student-focused operations

Issue Summary:

In accordance with BP 6111, Principals have presented the district-defined parameters for the 2026–2027 calendar creation to their Community School Advisory Councils (CSACs). The calendar development is progressing as scheduled and remains aligned with instructional, operational, and community needs. After reviewing attendance data before and after Winter Break and consulting with Principals, we recommend using full-week blocks for Winter Break moving forward. Two options are proposed for consideration:

Option 1-Break: Dec. 14 (M) – Jan. 1 (F) Opening- Jan. 4 (M) or

Option 2 Break: Dec. 21 (M) – Jan. 8 (F) Opening: Jan. 11 (M)

Consistent with the Board directed focus on continuing to improve student outcomes, and the clear data connecting student attendance and achievement, there are fewer options for variation in the 2026–2027 calendar. CSACs will provide surveys for recommendations for the 2026-2027 school year and a consolidated presentation will be brought to the School Board in April 2026 for Board approval.

Throughout this SY26 school year, the District commenced dialogue in each community about what a more culturally responsive and community-centered calendar could look like via Townhall meetings. This community feedback would be directed toward future calendar models, and if agreed upon, any substantive changes would not occur potentially until the 2027-2028 or 2028-2029 school year.





Background:

Site Administrators and their Community School Advisory Councils will collaborate to prepare a school year calendar within the parameters of structure provided by the district. The parameters are set in accordance with BP 6111 and to support the overall instructional needs of the NSBSD. The individual site calendars should reflect the unique needs of the community. Input from parents, community, and staff should be considered with the same groups participating in a vote to determine the final calendar recommendation to be presented at the April 2026 School Board Meeting.

Designing a school calendar that incorporates feedback from the community and prioritizes optimal learning time is essential for student success. By considering the unique cultural and individual needs of families, ensuring equitable access to educational opportunities, and minimizing learning loss, schools can create an environment that fosters continuous academic growth. Engaging stakeholders throughout this process ensures that the calendar is both practical and supportive of high-quality learning experiences for all students.

AR 6111(a) School Calendar

The following procedure shall be used in developing the school site calendars. The site administrators shall cooperate in developing one calendar for all school sites.

August 2025-January 2026: Members of the Board of Education and the Superintendent engage communities in Townhall meetings to discuss current attendance issues, actual and required growth in grades and possibilities for a more culturally relevant calendar.

October-November 2025: The site administrator begins working with the Community School Advisory Council (CSAC) to develop a survey for use in assessing the community's desires for the next year's school calendar. The survey will address such issues as vacations, ending dates, standardized testing dates, cultural needs, and other district parameters. **The district will develop this survey.**

November 2025-January 2026: CSAC approves calendar options for survey.

February-March 2026: CSAC and site administrator review survey results and the CSAC makes a recommendation on the school calendar at a public meeting.

March-April 2026: Signed calendar is sent to Superintendent or designee at least two weeks prior to the April School Board meeting.

Parameters:

BP 6111, School Calendar: Each school site calendar shall show the beginning and ending school dates, legal and local holidays, orientation and teacher in-service days, number of teaching days, vacation periods and other pertinent dates. Each school site calendar shall include 191 days, designated as follows:

182 Student/teacher days, including up to 9 Inservice days

6 Holidays: Labor Day; Inuit Day; Thanksgiving - 2 days; Christmas Day; New Year's Day; 3 Workdays

Site Inservice days beyond two days must be approved by the Superintendent.





2026-2027 Holidays (H)

- Labor Day – Monday, September 7, 2026
- Inuit Day – Friday, November 6, 2026
- Thanksgiving – Thursday & Friday, November 26 & 27, 2026
- Christmas – Friday, December 25, 2026
- New Year's Day – Friday, January 1, 2027

District Inservice Dates:

- **New Teacher Inservice- (NI)** – Monday-Wednesday August 3-5, 2026 (held in UTQ).
- **Beginning of the year District Inservice (DI)** – Thursday-Friday August 6-7, 2026 (held in UTQ)
- Other District Inservice (DI)

September 16 (W), 2026,

October 23 (F), 2026,

January 18 (M), 2027

Community School Advisory Council Decisions (CSAC) - All sites will set the following:

- The district opening (O) school date will be on Thursday, August 13, 2026, **three** end of quarter (E), and **one** school close (C) dates. The school close date is also the end of the 4th quarter.
- Schedule **two** Cultural In-service (CI) days. (Please work with Tenna Pili, Director of Iñupiaq Instruction, on scheduling those dates.)
- Schedule **two** site in-service (I) dates.
- Schedule **three** teacher workdays (W).
- **The winter break (V) dates will be:**

~~Thurs. Dec. 17, 2026-Wed. Jan. 6 2027, with opening on Thurs. Jan. 7 2027).~~

Option 1-Break: Dec. 14 (M) – Jan. 1 (F) Opening- Jan. 4 (M) or

Option 2 Break: Dec. 21 (M) – Jan. 8 (F) Opening: Jan. 11 (M)

- One week for Spring Break (V) in March. March (1A and 2A-TBA) for village sites and March (3A-TBA) in UTQ. **These are the only dates available unless approved through the administration.**
- Select the parent-teacher conference (M) dates for fall and spring.
- Identify graduation (G) date of High Schools. Graduation ceremonies shall take place no more than 7 calendar days prior to the last day of school (BP 5127). (Please note, the School Board requests sites to stagger Graduation dates to support School Board participation.)
- K3, K4 and K may start one week after the first day of school and will end on the same day as the other grades at the site. Please note on the calendar if you site will take this option.

Signature: **DS Vadiveloo**

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Signature: 

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