



**PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
OFFICE OF SCHOOL PERFORMANCE**

501 North Dixon Street / Portland, OR 97227

Telephone: (503) 916-3440

Website: <https://www.pps.net/>

**Date:** April 13, 2021  
**To:** School Board  
**From:** Kregg Cuellar, Deputy Superintendent  
**Subject:** 2021-22 School District Calendar

---

Staff has solicited and gathered feedback from a cross-section of stakeholders prior to submitting a formal school calendar recommendation per Board Policy 3.20.010-P Annual Calendar. This calendar is recommended as long as health conditions and metrics allow; and per Board Policy *after Board approval, any modification of the calendar will be made consistent with applicable provisions of the collective bargaining agreement and shall require final Board action.*

The recommended calendar for next year includes many of the features and considerations that were factored into the school calendar the past few years.

- Attempt to create a more student-focused, family-friendly school calendar, per input received; this recommended calendar continues to eliminate school late starts and early dismissals and better ensures five full instructional days in a typical week
- Attempt to preserve or maximize uninterrupted whole weeks for instruction; no scheduled classes are proposed during Thanksgiving week to support family childcare planning, permit parent-teacher conferences to take place, and minimizing the short weeks in the month of November that contributed to past public perception of “No School November”
- Effort to keep teacher planning days on Mondays or Fridays to avoid student breaks in the middle of the week
- Maintain the start of the school year on a date prior to Labor Day; the Proposed 2021-22 Calendar starts on Wednesday September 1 and ends on Friday, June 10. As a reference point compared to other local school districts: Lake Oswego has published a start date of August 30; Beaverton has a start date of September 8
- Goal of ensuring semesters and quarters have a balanced number of instructional days; attempt to balance length of quarters: Q1 = 45 days; Q2 = 45 days; Q3 = 43 days; Q4 = 44 days
- Ensure calendar follows all bargaining units’ contracts, including agreed upon provisions per the ratified PAT contract
- Coordination of spring break with local university calendars, to align with schedules of older siblings and university student interns who work in our classrooms
- Desire to maximize instructional days prior to Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and other end-of-year summative assessments taking place

- Avoidance of having school end for students on a Monday or Tuesday in June
- Ensure enough instructional hours for Seniors. The last day for 12th graders is tentatively June 1.

Some of the new considerations built into this calendar are:

- An additional professional development day for teachers at CSI, Title, Kellogg and Kellogg feeders to support teacher learning and preparation for students' return (two days for Kellogg)
- A 4-day "Kindergarten Ramp Up" where all Kindergarten students will have 1-day in school over the course of the four days with smaller numbers of students to orient them to school. Historically, Kindergarten has started 3 days after grades 1-12. The three days were mostly used for 1:1 assessments with students. Adding an additional day will provide all students with a smaller group 1-day orientation, relationship building, and 1:1 family connections
- A 2-day "1st Grade Ramp Up" where all 1st grade students will have 1-day in school in smaller groups over the first two days of school. With some 1st grade students never having been in buildings and others only experiencing part of the building during hybrid, the idea is to Ramp Up their experience

Staff sought out feedback from a broad array of stakeholders, including PAT, PFSP, PAPSA, several district departments, representatives from numerous school PTAs. These responses have been considered prior to this formal school calendar recommendation to the Board.

This recommended calendar is an important first step for both internal planning in the District and for staff and parents to have a date on the calendar by which to plan. As stated above, as long as health conditions and metrics allow, this is the recommended calendar. Should changes need to be made, staff will bring back any modifications of the calendar for Board approval.