



PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
DIVISION OF INSTRUCTION & SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

501 North Dixon Street / Portland, OR 97227

Telephone: (503) 916-3702

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

Date: January 6, 2023 (Revised January 12, 2023)
To: School Board
From: Dr. Cheryl Proctor, Deputy Superintendent
Jonathan Garcia, Chief of Staff
Subject: 2023-24 School District Calendar

Staff is submitting this [recommended 2023-24 School District Calendar](#) for the Board to consider and vote on at the January 24, 2023 Board meeting.

The start date for this proposed calendar is August 29; the end date is June 11. This before Labor Day beginning to the school year is consistent with the past several years. The following grade levels have a staggered start:

- Start date for 7th, 8th, 10th, and 11th graders is August 30 to provide a jump start for 6th, 9th and 12th graders
- Start date for Kindergarten is September 5 to allow for a ramp up to welcome Kindergarten students and families

The District considered an after Labor Day start, however, decided against it. Postponing the start of the school year one week will likely not result in better health and safety outcomes. Starting in September after Labor Day means going later in June, which may create additional problems with the heat, which creates challenges for scheduling high school graduation, and which ends the school year on a Muslim holiday.

The calendar again this year has three professional development days (non-student days) added to the calendar to support professional learning for educators at schools designated for Targeted School Improvement (TSI) and Comprehensive School Improvement (CSI). These dates are: October 13, 2022, January 29, 2023, and April 8, 2023. These days are in addition to the 177 days counted toward Required Instructional Time. Professional learning is critical to the successful implementation of newly adopted curriculum and our Instructional Framework.

Staff has sought feedback from a broad array of stakeholders, including PAT, PFSP, principals, several district departments, representatives from school PTAs, RESJ Partners, Local School Foundations, and others. Their responses have been considered prior to this formal school calendar recommendation to the Board.

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

- Attempt to create a more student-focused, family-friendly school calendar
- Attempt to preserve or maximize uninterrupted whole weeks for instruction; no scheduled classes are proposed during Thanksgiving week to support family childcare planning and permit parent-teacher conferences to take place
- Effort to keep teacher planning days on Mondays or Fridays to avoid student breaks in the middle of the week

- Goal of ensuring semesters and quarters have a balanced number of instructional days; attempt to balance length of quarters: Q1 = 46 days; Q2 = 44 days; Q3 = 42 days; Q4 = 45 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; Oregon spring break is traditionally the last full 5-day work week in March
- Desire to maximize instructional days prior to Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and other end-of-year summative assessments taking place
- Avoid conflicts with major religious and cultural holidays to the extent possible;
 - The District and schools work to the extent possible to avoid scheduling conflicts during school-wide events such as Back to School Nights, Assemblies, and other special events. Here is the [list of major religious and cultural events](#) identified to avoid conflicts. These dates are now identified on the District Calendar
 - As part of our 2023-2024 school year preparations, we will inform, train and create reminders to educators, school leaders and central office staff about the importance of these in the development of major classroom, school or district wide events.
 - District staff will begin conversations with OSAA about avoiding scheduling on major religious holidays this spring.
- Ensure instructional hours for Seniors meet State requirements. The last day for Seniors will either be May 30th or 31st pending scheduling of graduations.
- 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 1-day Ramp Up for 6th, 9th, and 12th graders at comprehensive middle and high schools to support the transition for students to a new building for 6th and 9th graders and to kick off the final year for seniors

This recommended calendar is an important first step for the District, staff, students, and families to start planning for the 2023-24 school year.