



**PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
DIVISION OF INSTRUCTION & SCHOOL COMMUNITIES**

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Date: December 20, 2023, **Update February 8, 2024**
To: School Board
From: Dr. Jon Franco, Chief of Schools
Subject: 2024-25 School District Calendar

Staff is submitting this recommended 2024-25 School District Calendar for the Board to consider and vote on at the February 6, 2024 Board meeting.

Given the new Collective Bargaining Agreement with PAT there are several adjustments that will affect our school calendar. Most notably:

- 193 day work year
- 176 instructional days
- Grading and planning days at the end of Quarters 1 through 3
- One grading day at the end of Quarter 4
- Eight early release days for K5, K8, K12 and middle schools for staff learning
- 10, 60 minute staff learning times for K5, K8, K12 and middle schools throughout the year
- 30, 90 minute staff learning/meetings for high schools throughout the year

For next school year there are two potential professional development days, non-school days, added to the calendar to support the professional learning of our educators working in schools that have been identified for targeted or comprehensive school improvement (TSI/CSI). These two potential professional development days, August 20, 2024 and March 3, 2025, are additional days added to the calendar and do not reduce the existing instructional days. These additional professional development days are contingent on budget decisions and are place holders for the time being. Should funds be allocated during the budget process, professional educators from schools identified for improvement (CSI and TSI schools) would be required to attend.

Staff did receive some initial feedback from PAT, some building administrators and district departments. Given the timing of the ratification of the collective bargaining agreement with PAT, staff will continue to reach out to principals, PAT, PFSP, RESJ Partners and others through the first two weeks of January for additional feedback.

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

- 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 academic-teacher conferences to take place
- Maintain the start of the school year on a date prior to Labor Day
- Goal of ensuring semesters and quarters have a balanced number of instructional days; attempt to balance length of quarters: Q1 = 46 days; Q2 = 42 (this does not include the conference days) days; Q3 = 40 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; and to plan to engage stakeholders on recognizing religious holidays for the 2024-25 calendar
 - District practice has been to communicate to building administrators in multiple ways to avoid scheduling special school events on dates of major religious and cultural holidays
- Ensure instructional hours for seniors meet state requirements
- 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. This practice day counts as one day of instruction.
- 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 both internal planning in the District and for staff and parents to have a date on the calendar by which to plan.

Update since January 9, 2024 Meeting

The draft calendar was shared with all of our union partners. In addition, it was shared with our RESJ partners and with building administrators, who were well aware of the potential changes due to our numerous updates during bargaining. The calendar is posted on the PPS website and principals were asked to share the proposed calendar in their family newsletters. Families were able to send feedback through Let’s Talk. In general, people wanted to know when the calendar would be finalized and published to support planning for next year.

We are continuing to work through the specific details of the school bell schedules which will be finalized later this spring. We have drafts for each grade band and school configuration that at least maintain the instructional hours that were planned for 2023-24 school year.

Grade Level	Hours		Grade Level	Hours
Kindergarten	913		Grades 9-11	1026
Grades 1-5	929		Seniors	985
Grades 6-8	965			