



Board of Education Calendar Work Session

September 14, 2026

Purpose of Tonight's Session

- Review Community Listening Session themes
- Review key calendar requirements
- Listen to Board of Education feedback
- Inform future discussions

Community Listening Session Themes

- Start prior to Labor Day
 - Establish a consistent start date
 - Earlier end to the school year
 - More instructional time prior to assessments
- Provide consistency in calendar development from year to year
- Shorter Spring Break to end the year earlier
- Protect teacher planning time
 - Including through use of early dismissals

SCHOOL CALENDAR GUIDELINES

Schools must be open for: 180 days for students and 190 days for teachers*

Minimum hour requirements: 1,080 for Elementary and 1,170 for Secondary**

HOLIDAYS AND CLOSURES

Official Holidays per Negotiated Agreements

When a holiday falls on a Saturday or Sunday, it will be observed on Friday or Monday.

- Labor Day
- Primary and General Election Days
- Thanksgiving Day and the day after
- Christmas Eve and Christmas Day
- New Year's Day
- Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday
- President's Day
- Good Friday
- Memorial Day
- Juneteenth

Additional COMAR Required Holidays

- Christmas Eve through January 1
- Good Friday and Easter Monday

Common Board Considerations

- Start date
- Veteran's Day
- Length of breaks (spring break, thanksgiving, etc.)

COMMON PD CLOSURE PRACTICES

- 10 Professional Development days during the school year
 - 3 or more PD days before the start of school
 - *2 additional PD days for new teachers
 - Statewide PD/MSEA Convention Day
- 8-10 Early Dismissal days**

AP/IB TESTING WINDOWS

- AP Testing Dates: May 3-7 and May 10-14, 2027
- IB Testing Dates: April 23 - May 19, 2027

MSDE GUIDELINES

- School must end by Juneteenth (June 19)
- Calendar includes either:
 - 3 inclement weather days, plus virtual instruction
 - 6 inclement weather days



Next Steps

- Board Calendar Policy Review at Board Business Meeting
 - September 28, 2026
- Superintendent Calendar Recommendation to the Board of Education
- Proposed Calendar out for Public Comment to the Board of Education
- Board of Education Decision on 2027-2028 HCPS Calendar at least 8 months prior to the start of the new school year