



Calendar Listening Session

September 8, 2026

Purpose of Tonight's Session

- Review key calendar requirements
- Listen to community feedback
- Inform future discussions

Calendar Development: What Must Be Consider

- Instructional time
- State requirements
- Student learning needs
- Professional development
- Operational considerations
- Stakeholder input

Basic Calendar Requirements

- Minimum of 180 student days
- Required instructional hours
- State holidays and observances
- Assessment windows

Additional Considerations

- Negotiated agreements
- Inclement weather planning
- Professional learning days

Listening Session Guidelines

- Respect differing viewpoints
- Keep comments calendar-focused
- Feedback gathering, no discussion or decision making

Questions for Consideration

- What works well?
- What challenges should we consider?
- What factors are most important in a school calendar?

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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 of Education Work Session
 - September 14, 2026
- 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