



MEMORANDUM

February 14, 2023
Regular Board Meeting

TO Board of Trustees

FROM Shauna Boyce, Superintendent

ORIGINATOR Scott Johnston, Associate Superintendent

GOVERNANCE POLICY Board Policy 1: Division Foundational Statements
Board Policy 2: Role of the Board
Board Policy 12: Role of the Superintendent

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE BP 1: Vision, Foundational Statements
BP 2: Education Planning and Programming
AP 114: School Day and Year

SUBJECT **2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR**

PURPOSE

For information. No recommendation required.

BACKGROUND

The school year calendar shall generally be approved by the Superintendent no later than March 1st of the previous year for that calendar. This report is in support of this responsibility.

REPORT SUMMARY

Parkland School Division continues to support school-based Professional Development opportunities that provide schools with the opportunity to focus on Division Priorities and their Education Plans. Proposed amendments to the calendar accommodate the strong interests represented through stakeholder feedback.

In total, 2,254 respondents provided feedback to the calendar survey, between December 5th, 2022 and January 19th, 2023. This survey represented responses from:

- Parkland School Division Parents or Guardians (1,491 | 66.1%);
- Parkland School Division Staff Members (463 | 20.5%)
- Evergreen Catholic Parents or Guardians (175 | 7.8%)
- Evergreen Catholic Staff Members (85 | 3.8%)
- Private/independent School Parents or Guardians (Living Waters / SML Christian Academy) (19 | 0.8%)
- Students (9 | 0.3%);

- Private/independent School Staff Members (Living Waters / SML Christian Academy) (7 | 0.3%); and
- Members of the Community, students or none of the above (5 | 0.2%).

The survey asked respondents to consider the following:

- A First Term PD Day selection (1 day);
- Two Second Term PD Day selections (2 days);
- A preference for alignment to the work week;
- A preference for alignment to neighboring jurisdictions; and
- A preference for PSD to conceptually explore year-round-schooling.

The calendar includes the current schedule for Diploma Examinations.

The 2023-2024 Calendar is presented in a visual form on page 21 of the report.

Administration would be happy to answer any questions.

SJ:kz

Our Students Possess the confidence, resilience, insight and skills required to thrive in, and positively impact, the world.

BACKGROUND

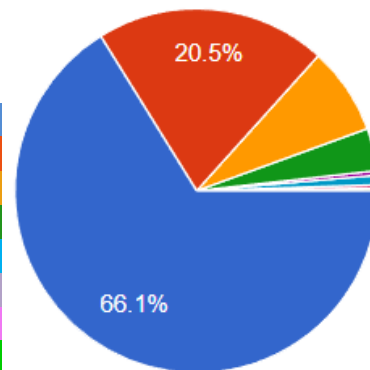
1. PSD Executive generate a calendar survey well in advance of the approval of the next calendar.
2. The survey received feedback from **2,254** respondents. This is up by 497 respondents from the prior year.
3. This calendar briefing note provides a summary of responses received prior to the approval of the school year calendar for 2023-2024.
4. This calendar proposes a year-structure based on:
 - a. 195 Operational Days,
 - b. 182 Instructional Days,
 - c. 12 Non-Instructional Days, and
 - d. A reasonable balance of Semester Days.
5. Participant emails were required for completion of the survey.

Alberta students in grades one through nine must have a minimum of 950 hours of instruction. High School students must receive a minimum of 1,000 hours of instruction.

SURVEY AFFILIATION

Question 1: Please identify your role as it relates to your responses. How are you primarily responding? (2,254 responses)

- As a Parkland School Division Parent or Guardian (1,491 | 66.1%)
- As a Parkland School Division Staff Member (463 | 20.5%)
- As an Evergreen Catholic Parent or Guardian (175 | 7.8%)
- As an Evergreen Catholic Staff Member (85 | 3.8%)
- As a Private School Parent or Guardian (19 | 0.8%)
- As a Student (9 | 0.4%)
- As a Private School Staff Member (7 | 0.3%)
- As a Member of the Community or none of the above (5 | 0.2%)



Parkland School Division Parent/Guardian responses continue to provide the majority of responses for this survey.

Our Calendar Survey indicated that 76.4% of respondents are familiar with calendar rationale, and only 23.6% opted for more information at the start of the survey.

The calendar maintains 182 days of learning between August and June. Staff require one day to close out the year, and so the end-date for students will be fixed at June 27th, with a non-instructional day placed on June 28th.

The survey asked respondents to consider the following:

- First Term PD Day selection (1 day);
- Second Term PD Day selection (2 days);
- Preference for alignment to the work week;
- Preference for alignment to neighboring jurisdictions; and
- Preference for PSD to conceptually explore year-round-schooling.

Given that we have surveyed extensively over the years, and given that we have some fixed items are not open for consideration, the following items are already determined for the 2022-2023 school year:

- Truth and Reconciliation Day (September 30th) as a non-operational day;
- Statutory Holidays as non-operational;
- Diploma Exam dates (provincially determined);
- Teachers' Convention on February 8th and 9th;
- The placement of Spring Break (beginning Monday, March 25th); and
- June 27th as the last day for students.

CONSIDERING THE START DATE FOR STUDENTS

For the past few years, the Labour Day holiday occurred later into September. Several previous survey stakeholder comments indicated a preference for starting our school year after Labour Day, wherever possible. For the 2023-2024 Calendar, Labour Day occurs on September 4th. The early Labour Day presents the possibility for school start on the 5th of September.

With a fixed end-date, the number of days available within the year is determined based on the first day for students. Starting on September 5th (Tuesday) provides for a sufficient amount of days to complete the school year at the end of June. September 5th, historically, is the latest we have initiated school in the past two decades (2006, 2017 and 2023).

It is not unusual to receive comments regarding the desire to start the school year after Labour Day, and that this is often what happens in British Columbia. In BC, [as defined by the School Calendar Regulation](#), students in grades one through seven are entitled to 853 hours (a 97-hour difference) and students in eight through twelve are entitled to 952 hours (a 48-hour difference for 10-12). At roughly 5 hours and 30 minutes per day of in-class instruction – this equates to a difference of 17.6 days, and 8.7 days, respectively. A BC school jurisdiction may have a similar number of instructional days, albeit shorter, or less non-instructional days. It is not a straightforward comparison to look at one province's instructional minutes through a jurisdiction's calendar, in comparison to another province's instructional minutes. In Alberta, school jurisdictions ensure that there is a healthy buffer for students to ensure we are well above the minimum requirements.

Fortunately, Labour Day is earlier in the 23-24 school year. This calendar supports a start date after Labour Day.

Labour Day	Start Date	Labour Day	Start Date
2002: September 2	August 29	2013: September 2	September 3
2003: September 1	September 2	2014: September 1	September 2
2004: September 6	September 2	2015: September 7	September 3
2005: September 5	September 1	2016: September 5	August 31
2006: September 4	September 5	2017: September 4	September 5
2007: September 3	September 4	2018: September 3	September 4
2008: September 1	September 2	2019: September 2	September 3
2009: September 7	September 1	2020: September 7	August 31
2010: September 6	September 1	2021: September 6	August 30
2011: September 5	August 31	2022: September 5	August 30
2012: September 3	September 4	2023: September 4	September 5

QUESTIONS RESPONSES BY DEMOGRAPHIC

In keeping with 182 Days of Learning, we can place ONE PD Day in November through January. The dates and rationale are provided - which date(s) do you prefer?

- A. A. November 10th: Enables Fall planning, and extends the break for families.
- B. November 20th: Enables Fall planning after Fall Break, and extends the break for families.
- C. December 1st: Placed reasonably between the October and March PD Dates.
- D. December 22nd: Enables a wrap-up prior to the break, and extends the Winter Break for families.
- E. Any of the suggested dates work for me.
- F. None of the suggested dates work for me.

Respondents were asked to select preferences, so the sum of the responses is greater than the number of respondents.

Q2: Demographic	Total	A	B	C	D	E	F
All Groups (#)	2,254	552	401	364	1,034	296	13
Parkland SD Parent	1,491	366	217	196	750	211	9
Parkland SD Staff	463	92	131	114	165	55	1
Evergreen CSD Parent	175	56	22	25	84	18	1
Evergreen CSD Staff	85	27	28	19	17	6	1
Private Parent	19	6	1	4	7	4	
Student	9	3	1		5		
Private Staff	7			3	4		
Community or N/A	5	2	1	3	2	2	1

With the exception of Evergreen Staff respondents and Community Member respondents, December 22nd is supported by all other groups as the predominant choice.

The Winter Break

While the start date for the Winter Break was not surveyed, we provided December 22nd as a potential PD Day choice, and respondents significantly support this date. Historically, the placement of the Winter Break has been contentious, given that people approach this time of year differently. For instance:

- Chinese New Year is celebrated on Sunday, January 22 in 2023;
- Christmas is celebrated on the 25th of December;
- Diwali in 2023 will be on November 12th;
- Hanukkah in 2023 begins on Thursday, December 7th and ends on the evening of December 15th;
- Kwanzaa in 2023 begins on December 26th and lasts for seven days;
- Las Posadas is celebrated from the 16th of December through to the 24th;
- Orthodox Christians in Canada celebrate Christmas Day on or near January 7th in the Gregorian calendar; and
- The Winter Solstice is celebrated on December 21st.

Families have different traditions and different situations with respect to holidays based on their place of employment. Our historical survey comments present the complexity of winter travel when the start date of the break is too close to the 25th.

HISTORICAL LAST DAY FOR STUDENTS PRIOR TO THE WINTER BREAK

Year	Last School Day	Year	Last School Day
2002:	December 19 (PD Day on December 20)	2013:	December 20
2003:	December 18 (PD Day on December 19)	2014:	December 19
2004:	December 16 (PD Day on December 17)	2015:	December 18
2005:	December 23	2016:	December 23
2006:	December 22	2017:	December 22
2007:	December 20 (PD Day on December 21)	2018:	December 21
2008:	December 19	2019:	December 20
2009:	December 18	2020:	December 18
2010:	December 17	2021:	December 23 (Thursday) 1 day added
2011:	December 23	2022:	December 23
2012:	December 21	2023:	December 21

SECOND TERM PD DAY OPTIONS

In keeping with 182 Days of Learning, we can place TWO PD Days in February through April. The dates and rationale are provided - which date(s) do you prefer?

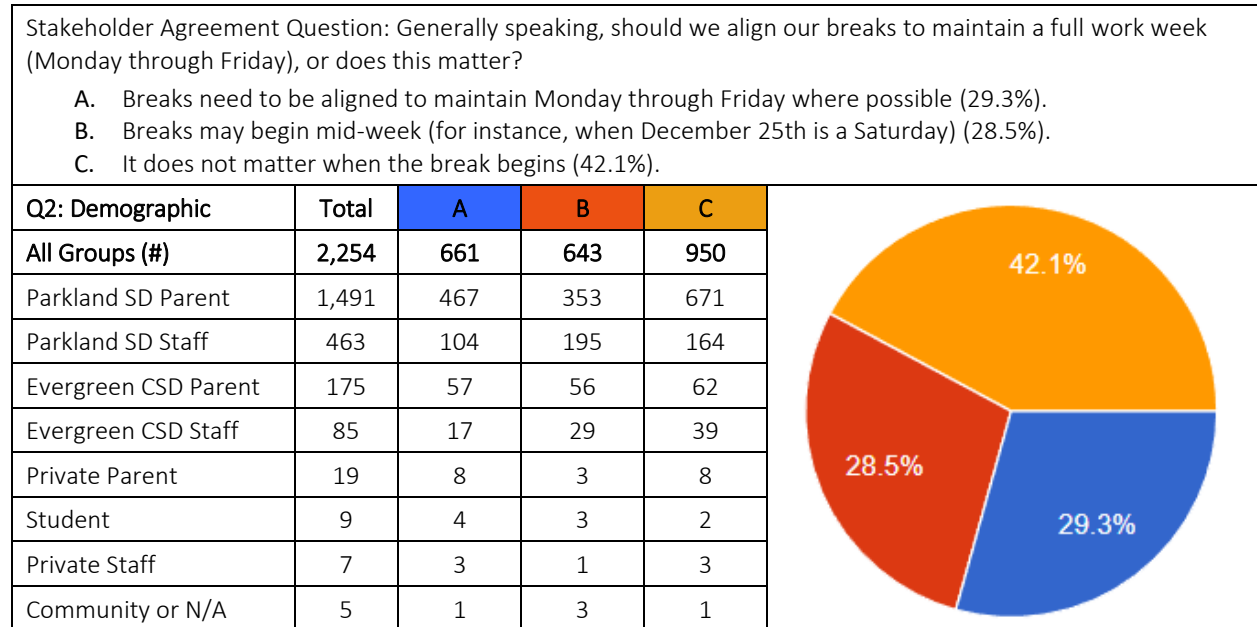
- A. February 2nd: Onset of second semester. Note that High Schools have a transition day on Wednesday, January 31.
- B. February 12th: Enables review of Convention learning; creates a five-day weekend for families.
- C. February 16th: Early in second semester; creates a four-day Family Day weekend for families.
- D. March 11th: Aligns to Edmonton Public PD Day.
- E. March 22nd: Enables wrap-up prior to the Spring Break; extends the Spring Break for families.
- F. April 2nd: Enables start-up planning after Spring Break; extends the Spring Break for families.
- G. April 26th: Aligns to Edmonton Public PD Day.

Respondents were asked to select preferences, so the sum of the responses is greater than the number of respondents.

Q2: Demographic	Total	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
All Groups (#)	2,254	98	552	965	285	765	568	364
Parkland SD Parent	1,491	64	397	644	168	498	339	217
Parkland SD Staff	463	21	94	173	80	162	160	95
Evergreen CSD Parent	175	5	35	87	21	58	42	25
Evergreen CSD Staff	85	4	21	39	12	29	21	18
Private Parent	19	1	2	11	2	8	3	2
Student	9	1	1	2	1	6	1	2
Private Staff	7	1		6		3	1	1
Community or N/A	5	1	2	3	1	1	1	4

February 16th is strongly supported by all groups except students. March 22nd is strongly supported by all groups.

CALENDAR ALIGNMENT TO THE WORK WEEK



The majority of respondents indicated that it does not matter when the break begins. The other perspectives are evenly split.

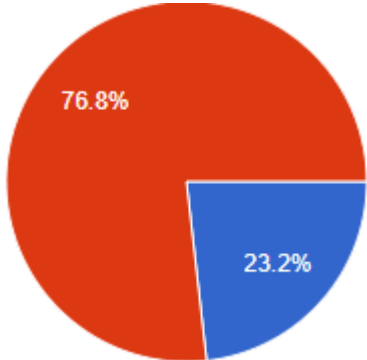
CALENDAR ALIGNMENT TO NEIGHBOURING JURISDICTIONS

Stakeholder Agreement Question: Generally speaking, do you feel we should ALIGN our calendar to neighboring jurisdictions, or should we VARY our calendar from neighboring jurisdictions? (Note: Evergreen and PSD typically use the same calendar and so this question relates to Edmonton Public, Black Gold, Northern Gateway and Grande Yellowhead alignment when possible).

	Total	VARY FROM NEIGHBOURING			-	ALIGN TO NEIGHBOURING		
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
All Groups (#)	2,254	570	175	189	679	188	149	304
		934			679	641		
		41.4%			30.1%	28.4%		
Parkland SD Parent	1,491	414	112	131	449	117	83	185
Group %		657 (44.1%)			(30.1%)	385 (25.8%)		
Parkland SD Staff	463	83	45	29	137	52	49	68
Group %		157 (33.9%)			(29.6%)	169 (36.5%)		
Evergreen CSD Parent	175	46	14	15	60	7	4	29
Group %		75 (42.9%)			(34.3%)	40 (22.9%)		
Evergreen CSD Staff	85	16	2	13	22	7	9	16
Group %		31 (36.5%)			(25.9%)	32 (37.6%)		
Private Parent	19	5		1	5	4	2	2
Student	9	3	1		3		1	1
Private Staff	7	2	1		2	1		1
Community or N/A	5	1			1		1	2

The majority of respondents prefer our breaks to be varied from other jurisdictions. This is not the case, however, from a staff perspective; staff respondents are evenly split on this matter.

Year-Round-Schooling (YRS) involves reorganizing the traditional ten-month school year. The traditional summer holiday time is reduced, and holiday days are more interspersed throughout the year.			
A. Yes - we should explore the possibility of year-round-schooling. B. No - we would not be interested in year-round-schooling.			
Q2: Demographic	Total	A	B
All Groups (#)	2,254	522	1,732
Parkland SD Parent	1,491	328	1,163
Parkland SD Staff	463	131	332
Evergreen CSD Parent	175	33	142
Evergreen CSD Staff	85	17	68
Private Parent	19	7	12
Student	9	1	8
Private Staff	7	3	4
Community or N/A	5	2	3



Given that this survey was not anonymous, it may be worth further engaging those respondents who are in favour. Within our regional area, there are 368 interested parents, and 151 interested staff. Notably, the small portion of students who responded were not in favour.

ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS SHARED BY PSD PARENTS

- I don't understand why we have a fall break when other neighbouring school divisions don't. The kids just start back and I have to blow another week of vacation....? It seems pointless
- "Gives a 5 day weekend for families" is only a bonus to those families who do not work regular jobs and would also have those days off when kids are off. The rest of us just have to find more childcare.
- A move to year-round schooling will most certainly result in moving my child out of the school division and bringing her to the division where I work.
- "A VERY hard NO on year round schooling!!!!"
- Adding extra days on to extended breaks makes it very hard to find child care for working parents. Why do other school divisions have less of a break during "fall break"
- Align calendar with other school divisions, this helps to be inclusive with family's who have children in multiple school districts, split families, or families with parents working in on if the adjacent school division.
- Alignment with surrounding jurisdictions (Black Gold) is key in our family. I feel that alignment for families and friends outside of the school district should take priority over reasoning for misalignment such as "the pool will be less busy" or "let's get Christmas over with early on so we can relax", etc. A slightly less busy pool or ski hill for some families costs others some of the only available family time during the school year. These are not similarly weighted priorities. Please prioritize aligning schedules wherever possible. Thank you.
- Always, always! Start school AFTER Sept long weekend. (Looks good this year).
- Anything that can be done to wrap up earlier in June is always appreciated!
- As one of my kids goes to EPS I would prefer a better coordination between those two school calendars
- Avoid attending school in mid-week for 3 days (for example, Tuesday to Thursday) as Monday is a PD Day and a Friday is a stat. Extend the PD day so it's a 4 day week instead.

- "Between non-instructional Days, snow days and late start times PSD makes it very challenging for parents. Can we review start and end times"?
- Big no to year-round schooling.
- Breaks should be better aligned with University of Alberta reading breaks/closures so UofA students who are also parents can be at home with their children.
- Calendar should be juggled to avoid starting school before Labor Day weekend
- Can we move a pd day to November 1 the day after Halloween?
- Christmas break is too close to Christmas. Ending the school year so late in December does not allow for family focused activities in the lead up to Christmas.
- Christmas break should be earlier, 1 week before Christmas and 1 week after. Making the kids go to school right to Christmas makes it difficult for travel plans and Christmas celebrations/preparations in general.
- Christmas break should fall the week before and week after Christmas, not the first week of Jan
- Christmas break should start the week prior to Christmas, as there is already things scheduled (family visits etc) It's too long into January
- Christmas is a major holiday for families and I feel winter break should begin earlier than a few days before Christmas to allow for family Christmas activities and gathers that normally take place before Christmas Day. Starting back at school a day after new years like it used to be, makes far more sense to me. This has really bothered me the past couple years. It used to be that winter/Christmas break had begun a week prior to Christmas and I hope that the schools will look into bringing that back again. I'd rather scrap fall break and have shorter weeks for the kids, and begin Christmas break early than to do a week off in fall and start the Christmas break the day before Christmas Eve.
- "Christmas/new year break would be better with the extra week being before/at Xmas, not after new years. Gives families time to shop and bake together, and enjoy the holiday spirit more than the full week after new year's.
- Align pd days to make longer "long" weekends when possible, not a separate long weekend.
- Align fall break with surrounding divisions, spring breaks are the same so fall break should be as well. This makes activities easier when needing to break for that time period. "
- "Consider half days"
- Copperhaven School start time should be earlier to facilitate parents work day schedules. Or Yearly rolling late starts should be implemented so that all schools and parents share in the inconvenience. Or bussing within 2.4 km should not be charged at a premium for schools with late starts. This is extremely inconvenient for and punitive to working parents.
- Could we align PD days with Holy days in our various faiths
- Could winter break start Wed., Dec 20 and end Jan 3?
- Do not make the Winter break so dang close to Christmas. Make the Christmas break start December 18th or 19th. Need more days for instructional then take time away from spring and fall breaks. Since when do these breaks have to be full weeks? I remember a time when they were only 2 or 3 days max. TOO MANY BREAKS. Leave more days for winter break.
- Do not start classes in August
- Do we need such a long fall break? Would rather take it off end of school year
- Doing a good job with the calendar the way it is. Although I am not totally opposed to YRS, I feel at this time it isn't on the table for our family. Our kids love having a full summer break.
- Don't start before the 3rd of September. People planned to finish out the summer and starting on Aug 29-30 shortens the summer break. Plus no point going to school for a couple days then to have a long weekend.
- Don't start in august!
- Don't start school before the Sept long weekend
- Don't start school in August

- Don't start school in August should always be after the long weekend. Take away the fall break if needed. Seems to be pointless to be in school for a few weeks like 2 then on for 2 then off for another 2.
- Eliminate Fall Break, no need for a week off in November a month before winter break. Use those days to extend the winter and spring breaks.
- Enjoyed the quarter system better
- Fall break (November) totally pointless and is a hindrance for households with 2 full time working parents. It is also too close to the Christmas break in December. Get rid of the "fall" break! Kids need to be in school more, not less, reduce PD days please!
- Fall break shorter. Maybe nov 1st start
- For working parents, especially with younger kids, having too many PD days is very hard. Some of us can't take so many days off to stay home with our kids. That should be taken in consideration when creating a calendar. Teachers should also be able to be flexible and have some of those PD days on weekends.
- Get rid of fall break and lengthen summer break
- Get rid of the Fall Break. It's ridiculous and unnecessary for elementary students. It's an expensive cost to parents who already have to juggle holidays/annual leave around Xmas, Summer & Spring break. St Albert schools put the vote to their families and got a 72% response to CANCEL fall break. Kids are just hitting their stride and routines are finally in place and there's a 5-7 day break? It's ridiculous- get rid of it.
- "Given that we have now more information than ever on children's health, wellness and development; and studies have shown that kids tend to use less than 10% of what they have learned in school during the course of their adult life, I feel that the current school day hours are too long. I feel it would benefit the kids to be in school less hours per day, for example 9-2:30 or even 10:00am to 2:00pm.
- I understand that this does not work for some parents because of their jobs, but kids don't attend school so that their parents can work, kids attend school for their own benefits. If there are any thoughts of shortening the current school day hours so our kids can get the appropriate amount of sleep they need for their brains to develop and more fresh air for their bodies and minds, I am in favour of this.
- Thank you for your consideration. "
- Going right til Dec.24 is hard. Can it possible to do a day or two before.
- Have the "PD DAYS" earlier in the summer so kids don't have to go back to school until AFTER the Labour Day weekend in September
- Having been a student in a "year round" school in Calgary, when entering high school all teachers recognized which kids came from that school as we were severely lacking in our education. Absolutely no year round in my opinion.
- How about less PD days and more in class days...meaning teachers actually work, don't just go to school and talk about thier planned vacations on PD days.. starting before the Sept long weekend is bullshit!! Whoever decided that needs slap, Liberal minded horse shit...! Get back to giving kids a foundation to build off of! Prep for college/university...oooh wait who can afford that?! This school board and its Superintendent are a joke.
- I absolutely without a doubt hate hate hate hate the idea of year round schooling. My kids attend weeklong camps and enjoy the warm weather. We will not be attending if this happens.
- I always hated February pd days/family day and where the teacher convention lines up. It feels all over the place as to if my kids go to school and when if possible it would be great to make that more inclined with a longer break ... I know it's hard. I would also love to have the year round option in school for my kids!
- I am glad that changes have been made so that school divisions/schools cannot implement mandates for masks/vaccines. It is important that families are able to make the best health choices for their children/themselves based on an individual basis, without being pressured by school authorities (who are not infectious disease experts or health experts). One size fits all health care is NOT appropriate or realistic.
- I appreciate school starting after Labour Day in September.

- I appreciate that the children go back to school after Labour Day weekend. Summer is an important time for our family to travel together. The summer seemed far too short in 2022 having to return to school prior to the long weekend. Perhaps, in the future, we could reduce the fall break to accommodate this...OR end school a day or two sooner? A long fall break when the weather is cold is only great for those families that can afford to head south for a family vacation. For those who cannot, the 10 days in cold November 2022 were extremely long.
- I appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback. Generally, my feeling is that if there are decisions that make life easier for teachers as a group, I would support those decisions.
- I believe that the decisions being made and adding parental input have been valuable in the past year. Thank you for allowing parents to be involved and opinions heard.
- I do not agree with 3 weeks in December. I understand the rationale but the 1 week off in November is useless for our family. All I can think is it's just for the higher grades that benefit from this after having a week or exams. Why not do just a 1 day extra off such as the Monday after Remembrance Day
- I don't agree with the fall break. 4 day weekend would be plenty. I'd rather the summer be extended and start a week earlier or go one week later
- I don't think I understand question 5? If there's 1 day off needed, it should be Monday or Friday, not Wednesday, for example.
- I feel that the way the calendar is set currently works best for my family - I really appreciate the start in Sept this year
- "I find it easier to find 2 months of childcare over the summer than to find extra days throughout the school year. I do not support full change to YRS.
- I do support having some schools provide an option to have this. Children outside of the boundary would need to be allowed to attend to make this possible. It could be set up as a charter type program.
- The High school could offer an additional semester and potentially get students through faster."
- I find the fall break slightly ridiculous being a week long. The kids are barely in school for 2 months, and have a 2 week break for Christmas a month later. I would MUCH rather start school after the long weekend and/or end before the very bitter end of June
- I fully support year-round schooling
- I have a child in parkland and in evergreen so keeping them aligned is best.
- I have one child in evergreen and one in psd, so they need to be aligned.
- I have two children in different school divisions (Blackgold) and it makes it difficult planning vacations. Having them align with neighboring jurisdictions would be appreciated for my family planning.
- "I know you mentioned that we have a minimum amount of hours that we need to be in school. Would be interested to know if we are at the minimum or maximum. It seems to me, that we are in school more than some other jurisdictions across Alberta.
- Also would love to see Fall break be shifted to more time off attached to summer. I find this break too close to the start of school and christmas break and then weather is not great typically. This holiday only matters to people who can travel out of country and take warm vacations. "
- I like having a different calendar from other jurisdictions so we can do activities when it will be less busy as other kids are in school.
- I like that days off are focused around holidays where family can spend more time together and parents will also most likely be able to take time off their work.
- I like the idea of aligning our breaks, but not necessarily our PD days to Edmonton schools as there are many camps and activities during Edmonton schools breaks that do not align with PSD70 breaks. Example ski camps are only offered during Edmonton school breaks and are not available during PSD70 breaks. I wish these venues would offer for both as then we are not competing for space in these programs with Edmonton students.

- I need my summer off. It is filled with camps and camping and having school in the summer would depress all of us. I strongly support keeping summer 2 months long with less breaks throughout the year. In fact, I would even take less breaks throughout the year and have a longer summer!
- I personally prefer if PD Days connect to long weekends where possible.
- I prefer the school calendar to line up with St Albert Public Schools
- I really like that this year when the kids are off, we are off for an extended weekend/fall break ect. I prefer a longer holiday than randomly dispersed PD days. I think PSD does a good job of this.
- I think it's very unfortunate Christmas break doesn't start until Christmas. We will continue to pull our kids 1 week early. Our family traditions largely involve time BEFORE Christmas. Too much time, money and effort is involved in Christmas to not enjoy beforehand.
- I think that school should start after Labour Day weekend. My kids and I moved from a different jurisdiction and that's how it always was. We have been in parkland school division for 4 years now and it does not make sense to me for the kids to go to school for three days and then have a long weekend.
- I think we should get rid of the November break. It was a disaster, it messed up our schedule, daycare for kids is difficult and it should just be added to the end of the school year for a longer summer
- I understand these days need to be taken off but it does seem like a lot of days off. I enjoy taking the time off work to have a long weekend with them but my career does effectively get affected by the amount of days off- and so does their learning!
- I want to thank PSD for asking for parental input, it is appreciated.
- I wish Christmas break would start a week earlier so there would be enough time for families who would like to travel to be with extended family. This year the kids first day off is Christmas Eve and it's not aligned with other districts so planning Christmas holiday with family is very tricky. There's often not enough time to get to my parents house for Christmas and we miss it every year because our division is in school right up until Christmas Eve. Please consider changing this for the 2023 school year.
- I would hope to see kids off school for a few days prior to Christmas break.
- I would like it if the calendar could be decided earlier/sooner
- I would like less PD days through the year, getting rid of Fall break and having kids start after the Sept long weekend. It is pointless to start before the long weekend.
- I would like the first day of school to be after Labour Day
- I would like to see the November PD day as November 1st, as kids can be up late due to Halloween. Leduc always does this, it's good for the kids as well as the teachers
- I would like to see the start date of school be pushed back into September like other school divisions.
- I would like to see what year-round schooling calendar would look like?
- I would love to explore year-round schooling system. I have found that children, especially children with learning difficulties, struggle with the two month break in the summer and I think a shortened summer break would be much better for our children.
- I would prefer a longer summer break, and shorter fall and spring breaks. It makes child care more difficult to have constant multi day breaks instead of organizing care for a longer period.
- I would rather kids were off less during the school year so that we are actually able to take advantage of the summer months. Our kids don't need a week off in November, it feels like they start school in sept and have SO many days off between then and January. i would rather they finished at the beginning of June. The younger kids don't seem to do any school work most of June anyways.
- I would really like less breaks and summer break to start earlier in June. Or at least give us to after Labour Day weekend before we have to come back. Starting in August is ridiculous!!
- "I would really like to see school starting in September after the long weekend and have less Days off during the year. It's very disruptive for my kids and family with all the days off and transitioning between different

schedules during the school year. Starting school in August when we are still having hot sunny days and keeping the kids inside and sitting does not make any sense to me.

- The only benefit I could see is if the breaks help reduce sickness but otherwise they create quite a disruption for my kids. "
- I've always wondered why November 1st is never chosen for a PD. I feel like the day after Halloween is wasted and/or difficult for students, parents and teachers alike.
- I'd like to adapt 4 day school weeks like other provinces
- I'd like to more aware of the PD offerings for staff. Specific to the school at the very least.
- Ideally, we want to maximize our students time in school yet still have time to get away so a varied calendar and tagging on PD dates to other dates work for us. Hard to please all.
- "If it is possible putting a PD day after Halloween. This year Halloween landed on a Monday. I know many teachers and kids would have appreciated staying home and letting the candy high wear off. The teacher don't need to deal with candy crazy kids and kids can really enjoy Halloween. I don't know how realistic this option is, but it would be cool to try."
- If possible, I'd prefer to not have school start until September. By starting in August, we had to have school supplies ready and get back into routines which shortened the amount of summer in the break considerably.
- In general I believe kids just have too much time off now a days. The amount of pd days making long weekends or pd day right after the kids to have fall or spring break.
- In our family it is EXTREMELY IMPORTANT that the breaks align as much as possible with EPSB. I know a lot of families struggled 2 years ago when EPSB and PSD had different winter & spring breaks. It limits family time for those that are not part of the PSD.
- Increase length of summer break. Minimize sept-June days off of instructional learning to achieve this.
- increased non-instructional days prior to Christmas is preferable
- Is it possible to have the school year start AFTER the long weekend in September (Labour Day)?
- It would be great if our breaks lined up with BC
- It would be nice if school didn't start until after Labour Day and wrapped up by the beginning of June.
- It would be nice to have the calendar out by the beginning of November to be able to book Black Friday deals.
- It's important to our family to space out the break so that we don't have huge gaps between time off. Most especially in the winter.
- Keep up the good work. Fresh air, adversity and resilience are important for everyone.
- Kids need to be kid outside playing in the summer. Also the schools do not have air conditioning so this makes kids too hot and they get sick, lethargic and have trouble learning when it's too hot and also they really want to be outside not in a classroom.
- Kids should start after Labour weekend in September and take have PD days prior to make it work. Kids should enjoy summer and not have to go back in August at all
- Later start date, less days in November taken off.
- Looks good
- Love being able to give a vote. This is awesome.
- Make up days for any bus cancellation, kids miss out on a lot of schooling when busses get cancelled and they are already so behind!
- Manitoba teachers do not go back to work till after Labour Day. They therefore do not take a week in mid November when the weather stinks. We should look at that as our summers are short & we could easily make 182 days just like Manitoba does. Just eliminate this silly fall break. Kids don't need a week off 10 weeks after having 8 weeks off...
- More days off before Christmas
- More time off before Christmas break, even to end on a Wednesday. Going to the end of the week right before Christmas is too long. I would give up a day on fall break to extend the Christmas break by a day.

- "My most important comment relates to Remembrance Day and how I feel it is ESSENTIAL that we attend school on Nov 10th wherever possible. Remembrance Day is such a valuable part of our heritage as Canadians and I feel it is often an afterthought once the Halloween hype has finished. Therefore I think it is important enough that we do not take November 10th as a PD day and thus shorten the learning/teaching days even more. I understand that when Remembrance Day falls on a Sunday this is not possible, but otherwise, we should do what we can to make sure our children attend school on the 10th so we can celebrate as a community
- My second comment is that I am a huge proponent of year-round-schooling and would love if we could at least explore this as an option within our board and including one of the French Immersion programs."
- My only thoughts that I would like to express is that I recognize that PD days are strategically placed to extend long weekends that are already in place and I can appreciate the reason why that is. But, from a different perspective from a full-time working parent, having to extend an already short week puts a lot of pressure on working parents as it means that much more time off at once from work obligations. For example, teachers' convention, we already have 2 days of the work week we either need to take time off for or find alternate care for. By extending that another day to accommodate a PD day we are now asking for 3 days off instead of the 2 and it's not always easy to ask for such days or flexibility from employers.
- My step-daughter is in the Peace Wapiti school division in Northern Alberta. We only get her during long weekends and school breaks. The last few years it's been heart breaking that her spring break doesn't align with our other children's' spring break. I'm sure we're not the only blended family that has this problem. Please align with not just neighboring school divisions but all across Alberta. When you're only permitted to parent your child during school breaks having them align is crucial. Thank you.
- No I'm pretty flexible but prefer when pods etc. are added onto already long weekends or days off so more days in a row rather than one day here and there.
- No to school year round
- NO YEAR-ROUND SCHOOL!!!
- No, I think you guys care too much what parents think. You are doing amazing jobs and know what works best for the school and teachers. Parents need to recognize that it is their responsibility to find care. My husband and I both work full time and we manage our child's days off just fine and we don't even have family in AB
- Not calendar specific, but I would love if the elementary and middle school bell schedules were slightly staggered (specifically Millgrove and Greystone). I would prefer to drive my children to school but with the start/end bells at the same time, this is very difficult
- November 1st should be a PD day so kids can enjoy Halloween and stay up late and not be so tired at school the next day.
- On questions 6 there is no scale for the answer. Is 1 your strongly agree and 7 you don't. Also I think starting the school year in August to have a week off in November make it very hard for a working family to keep working. It would be better just to start the year after Labour Day and keep the kids in school in November.

6. Generally speaking, do you feel we should **ALIGN** our calendar to neighboring jurisdictions, or should we **VARY** our calendar from neighboring jurisdictions? *

(Note: Evergreen and PSD typically use the same calendar and so this question relates to Edmonton Public, Black Gold, Northern Gateway and Grande Yellowhead alignment when possible).

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Important to vary our calendar from other jurisdictions. Important to align our calendar to neighbouring jurisdictions.

- On years when Dec 25 falls on a weekend, it would be preferred if the Christmas break started sooner than later. Having a week off in January is difficult for those parents who have to return to work after the New Year's stat.
- Once a month early dismissal for the kids
- Our summers are precious in this climate so it seems like any start date in Aug is never a good idea.
- "Overall, I feel the Division does a good job determining the school Calendar. Although not relevant to the 2023/24 year, one item to note is that based on feedback from my children, they very much appreciate the Fall Break. Having a Fall Break is so important to them that they are more than willing to begin the school term in late August (as experienced in the 2022/23 calendar) as needed in favor of maintaining the Fall Break.
- In addition, although I can appreciate the rationale from some staff who would appreciate alignment with other neighboring jurisdictions, I do not feel alignment should be a priority. In many cases I find myself and my family appreciating the fact that with variation from EPSB, there are more opportunities to enjoy local recreation without the associated congestion that might come with alignment with the EPSB break schedule. "
- Please align the calendars with Edmonton it makes it hard when you have other kids that go to Edmonton when they don't get the same break
- Please align with yellowhead
- Please cancel the fall break. It is very disruptive for our family. We would much prefer adding a longer break before Dec 25 to allow for families that want to travel to see their family for Xmas.
- Please consider shortening the fall break like other school divisions. A full week break that early in the school year is disruptive to a newly developed routine and inconvenient
- Please consider testing your survey respondents to make sure there is a proportional representation of families where all parents are employed vs families where not all parents are employed.
- Please have school start after the September long weekend, and give them more time before Christmas to have time off.
- Please let kids be kids, they will have a whole lifetime to work all summer and it is mentally straining to be schooling. Kids need a good break please do not consider year round schooling especially in Alberta where it winter 10 months of the year.
- Please let the kids have the week before Christmas off. Not having any lead up to Christmas is no fun.
- Please no year round schooling! Summer is all we have in Canada! Lol
- Please shorten Fall Break and start school later. There are limited recreation opportunities and the timing is bad (ski hills aren't open yet, and its too early for a warm vacation). The days off would be better placed at beginning of school, at holiday break in December/January, around spring break or at end of year.
- Please stop starting the school year in August
- Really need that summer break. Absolutely no year round schooling
- Releasing as early as possible is ideal to allow for family vacation planning.
- Remove fall break and intersperse days throughout the year for long weekends, stop having the kids get off for Christmas the day before - give them a few days off before Christmas
- Remove fall break.
- School should start after September long weekend
- School should start after September long.
- School start in Sept not August
- School starts after September labour day
- School year should not start prior to the Sept long weekend
- Spring Break is very short for this calendar year, would like to see it extended to 12-14 days minimum for families who travel.
- Start Christmas break a week or so before Christmas and go until a week or so after Christmas
- Starting school after Sept long weekend.

- Starting school in August is not desired...
- Summer is too short
- Teachers should be paid more on days like November 1st because kids are hyperactive after Halloween. Alternatively, have November 1st a non educational day so everyone can enjoy Halloween - including teachers and staff.
- Thank you for asking for input.
- Thank you for asking our opinion
- thank you for asking parents, much appreciated
- Thank you for moving the start date back into September!
- Thank you for requesting feedback.
- Thank you for taking the time to consult with parents. I appreciate the clarity provided as to what is fixed, and where there is room for discussion.
- Thank you!
- "The beginning & ending of Christmas break should be mid week to allow for an even amount of time off before Christmas & after new years.
- Fall break should not exist.
- There should be a pd day on November 1st (after Halloween) every year unless its a weekend.
- School should never start before Labour day. "
- The fall break after Remembrance Day is so long. We would much prefer a shorter fall break, and having school start a few days later at the beginning of the school year.
- The fall break in November typically has cold weather and the kids are stuck inside. We didn't have fall break growing up but we got out for summer break mid June. Could we do away with fall break and extend the kids summer break?
- The kids need to finish school 1 week BEFORE Christmas break. Too much time, effort and money go in to Christmas to not be enjoyed.
- "The school year should always start after September long weekend and get your 182 days in
- Spruce grove composite high school needs serious renovations and repairs for leaking roof or another facility built. Also the people that run school division as well as City of Spruce Grove need to realize this is not a small country city anymore and we need a transit system that would help benefit the school system as well as general public kids could take public transportation instead of paying for buses "
- The Schools should have less time off during the year, and be done earlier in June, by June the students are restless and no longer focus, we should adopt Edmonton Catholic system and have less pd days and have e early Thursday's or Fridays instead.
- The week long fall break is ridiculous. Unless you are a wealthy family that can jet set off to a warmer climate parents are NOT going to take a week of holidays in NOVEMBER in ALBERTA, so our children just end up sitting at home alone or shipped off to a child care provider. These days would be better placed in August to allow families more time to enjoy what little good weather we have in Alberta. If Remembrance day falls mid week the break should be the 2-3 days to join it to a weekend and that's it.
- There are now so many breaks in the calendar year that are non instructional, schools have been forced to set short lunch times. With a renewed focus on mental and physical health, in which healthy eating is a critical component, this feels rather ridiculous and out of touch with other initiatives happening in school (and other) jurisdictions.
- Two back to back long weekends in February is a lot of time off. I know a lot of this isn't in anyone's control, I just needed to say it. Thank you 😊
- Very happy to see the school year starting AFTER Labour Day weekend in September!
- Way too much time off for these kids. Its over 4 weeks off in total. Brutal they are out of school more than they are in school

- Way too much time off throughout the school year its over 4 weeks just cut school down by a month
- We need to keep in mind that many parents need child care when there is no school on non Stat days. In many rural communities that is not readily available.
- We really have to stop going to the last minute before Christmas. It makes travel very difficult.
- We would much rather 2 weeks at spring break instead of an extended Fall break
- "We would rather have the week before Christmas off, not the week after new years!!!!!! Very important "
- When there is stretches of 4-5 full weeks, consider placing a PD in that range to break it up some.
- Why does Christmas break start so late?! It makes it impossible for kids to actually enjoy the Christmas season and for families to prepare for Christmas prior to the end of school. I have asked this question many times and have never once received a response
- Would be great if school started after September long weekend
- Would it be possible to consider getting rid of the fall break? Instead of having 1 week in November, could some days off be put at the beginning of the school year (especially when school starts before the long weekend so that we can ensure school starts after the Sept long weekend); and, then some of the days from fall break can be put towards the Christmas break (especially important when Christmas is on a weekday, then we can ensure at least 2 days off before Christmas day)
- Would love it if we aligned with Back Gold School Division.
- Would prefer a September start date over the end of august start date.
- Would prefer more days off prior to Christmas break than after new years.
- Would prefer to have the first day of school AFTER the long weekend. It's stupid to have students attend for 1-2 days the first week and then have a long weekend.
- year-round schooling is an intriguing idea as it would similarly model a working adults schedule. A caveat to this is it could potentially lead to parent dissatisfaction due to businesses restricting holidays if all of psd goes to this type of schooling. Further research is warranted, and a general idea of how this would work could change minds.
- Year-round schooling needs to be presented in more detail with case studies, reports and feedback. How does this impact families in different economic situations? Etc
- You will never please everyone, keep up the good work.
- School going up until the day before Christmas Eve was not ideal this year. It does not give much time for families who are travelling or for large families like mine who celebrate with multiple get togethers. It felt very rushed this year. My family generally celebrates together on December 23, we could not do this as we were still in school whereas our nieces and nephews in Elk Island Catholic School were done mid-week. This is the main change we would like to see, along with starting school after September long weekend.
- Starting Christmas break early is not ideal. Alignment with neighboring jurisdictions is very, very important to small businesses and those that hire students. I do not support year-round schooling.
- No, but I think you should try and get the calendar done 2 years in advance so things can be posted in a more timely matter.

ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS SHARED BY PSD STAFF

- A PD day should always be Nov. 1.
- Align weeks as much as possible, but if 12/25 is Saturday, have the term stop on 12/23
- As a staff member, it is very important to me to be aligned with EPSB Winter and Spring Breaks. My children attend school in Edmonton where I commute from, and last year it was really frustrating to miss 2 weeks of break and quality family time with them.
- As a teaching staff member, I appreciate when PD Days are placed after a break as opposed to before. Having the day on the returning end allows me to more fully enjoy my break/weekend with the transition day on the returning end. Thank you.

- Fall break is too long. Student's finally get into routines and they are off for a week. Come back and are off again five weeks later, with the last week of December with very little focus.
- For teachers who attempt to supplement their income using the two months they are not on contract this would be a disaster. Unless teacher's contracts are extended to twelve months from ten and they are paid for the extra two months regardless of teaching days, this seems to me to mean to create a staffing scenario where teachers are essentially being forced to take unpaid holidays. Although this is already the case with the limitations that apply to teachers and employment insurance, at least the two months teachers have to take off as unpaid leave is sufficient for those that need extra income for support to find other opportunities. My understanding of teacher contracts may be misinformed, but if it isn't, I would not be inclined to distribute an existing ten-month contract over twelve months.
- Great idea for students to start the new year after the long weekend!!!
- I am open to the possibility of considering YRS but with the extreme heat that we have been experiencing in June and September lately, our classrooms, as they are, are not conducive to working in that heat. Stale air and extreme heat impact learning so much. I know of classrooms where the temperature in the room can be a good 5-10 degrees hotter than the outside temperature. YRS would have to take this into account.
- I appreciate teachers and staff having the opportunity to contribute their thoughts about the calendar each year.
- I like that they take into account the opinion of the parents because that way we can also organize our activities during the school year. But I think you know what is best for both students and teachers and support staff.
- I like the idea of CFL doing year-round schooling as a pilot project. It makes a lot of sense for High School as we only have 2 weeks without CFL staff working currently (factoring in summer school). Extending into K-9 for an opt in "summer bootcamp" is an interesting idea Sheryl and I have been talking about exploring.....
- I would like PD Days to have the same hours as the school of which we work.
- I would like to see the hours on PD Days be selective of the school we work at, or everyone start earlier. Having to stay an hour later on a Friday PD Day is not favourable.
- I would love to be a part of year-round schooling as a teacher...one of my career goals so I would welcome an opportunity to teach as a part of this!
- I would NOT be interested in year-round schooling. Thank you.
- I would prefer if we had a couple days off before Christmas break like ending on Wednesday vs the Friday.
- In attempts to provide the optimal professional development calendar, I suggest that it is important to disperse non-instructional days equally over the course of six to eight weeks throughout the school calendar. In having several months without PD days does not allow for teams of teachers to reconvene, align their focuses in working towards the common goals and not straying away from them.
- It would be nice to have the week before Christmas off and go back earlier in January.
- It would be really nice to have a PD day the day after Halloween and after PTI.
- It's great to have students start after the September long weekend.
- Keep full week fall break and early start up -- best decision for calendar ever.
- Looks great, I believe it is important to try and space PD days out fairly even, so that we are not in a place of not having one for a long time... especially between Sept- Jan, as these are busy months for all, and the need for a PD day is often there in relation to staff mtg.
- More professional development days prior to the end of January.
- My preference overall is that PD Days are not frontloaded but are interspersed throughout the year so that the work we do towards our ed plan feels more consistent.
- No....the plans as proposed look good!
- Nov 1 should be a PD DAY
- November 1 would be a great day for professional Development day.
- November 1st should be a PD Day for Fall Planning.

- Please stop having students go to the 23rd of December. That week is not a valuable week of instruction because it is just too close to holidays. Then we get back late enough January making it difficult to get enough instruction time in before interviews and report cards. Place that on top of the week of instruction that is lost due to fall break...it too much. We need to teach kids to read.
- Please stop making us teach until a day or two before Christmas break. I have been unable to travel to be with family on Christmas and I am unable to get my family ready for Christmas. It's too much. Ending mid week and starting up mid week would be preferable.
- Please, please, please, with all due respect...PLEASE!! Make November 1 a PD Day. It is SUCH a throw away day...kids are EXHAUSTED and absolutely crazy on the hype and the sugar of Halloween, it is not a good day for learning. If you were to add "Should November 1 be a PD Day" I would bet good money that it would be an absolutely overwhelming yes!! Please think about it!!
- Potentially consider Nov. 1 as a PD day when Halloween falls on a school night.
- Significant shortening of summer break would have a devastating impact to construction and summer cleaning schedules. This would also increase the overall cost of projects as well as the operations of the custodial budget as we would not have a large enough window for staff to use up vacation time.
- "Some of my former colleagues worked in year-round schools and noted that if they participated in teaching summer school or marking PATs that they felt as though they did not have enough of a break and all of them elected not to participate in those activities when they worked for those schools. In addition, while they enjoyed the longer mid-year breaks, they felt that the learning loss was more significant for their learners because of the multiple catch-up periods after holidays.
- Spreading out the Feb/Mar PD days is appreciated as that is a long stretch for students and staff, bunching them into all of February can be frustrating as it seems as though concepts don't gain a lot of traction during that time.
- Aligning with local jurisdictions is neither here nor there; however, from a provincial perspective, it would be better to NOT be aligned with CBE & area as it increases the costs of holidays/travel for families. If we want families to use the holidays rather than school days to travel, making it more cost effective with lesser demand on hotels (i.e. Banff area) might be helpful. "
- Starting and finishing winter break in the middle of the week gives teachers a few days to prepare for Christmas and makes coming back from the break easier with a shorter week to get use to getting up early and getting back into routine.
- Thank you for accepting our feedback. I'm happy that students start after Labour Day and that there are a few days before Christmas in this calendar.
- Thank you for all your work on this. I truly appreciate the continued Fall Break in the calendar.
- Thank you for the detailed explanation & considering stakeholders' feedback prior to finalizing the calendar. Much appreciated!
- Thank you for the opportunity for input. A lot of the proposed dates would work well. I especially like the idea of having time after Convention so that staff have time to delve into what they learned and how to put these ideas into practice while everything is still fresh in their minds.
- Thank you for the opportunity to share our feedback.
- Thank you for the thoughtful survey!
- Thanks for asking! It's great to have a voice.
- This is hard work. Thank you for allowing us to give our feedback.
- This is laid out exceptionally well. Kudos to whomever put it together.
- We should explore starting in August and have students complete a semester by Christmas.
- Winter break is very late and too close to Christmas. Many students have mentally checked out before the third week of December. It's tough on the younger students as many are kept up late in the run up to Christmas. It's also a very challenging and exhausting month for all staff.

- Would it be possible to have PD Day on Nov 1 (day after Halloween) as kids are usually inattentive after a night of trick or treating?
- Would prefer one to two days holiday prior to December 24th, to ensure travel time for holiday plans.
- School going up until the day before Christmas Eve was not ideal this year. I found it stressful as both a staff and parent with school aged children in PSD. It does not give much time for families who are travelling or for large families like mine who celebrate with multiple get togethers. It felt very rushed this year. My family generally celebrates together on December 23, we could not do this as we were still in school whereas our nieces and nephews in Elk Island Catholic School were done mid week. This is the main change I would like to see. (respondent entered this comment as a staff and parent member).
- Thank you for your hard work!

ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS SHARED BY EVERGREEN PARENTS

- Don't mess with the two month summer break July and August! No changes!
- Fall break is unnecessary; especially so close to Christmas. The kids could be out of school a week earlier in June.
- Going to the bitter end before Christmas the past couple years has been so maddening. We are unable to travel, we missed our last Christmas with a family member due to this reason. Please start ending midweek when Christmas lands on a Thursday, Friday, Saturday or Sunday.
- Having Christmas break start before Christmas would be really nice
- I appreciate our opinions being considered. It would be great to align with Sturgeon School Division and St. Albert as well.
- I feel like students aren't getting quality education anymore. Lots of days off. This is nonsense. It would be nice that teachers stop pushing their agendas and political views on students. This is a school that supports Godly morals, act like it. Build work ethic for these kids. Too many days off isn't building good work ethic.
- I strongly feel that we should align with other jurisdictions and should not be considering year round schooling
- I think it is really important that we align the school calendar with as many jurisdictions as possible. In reality, all of the province should follow the same major breaks such as Christmas, Spring and Summer. For people who have to travel to other parts of the province to spend time with loved ones, when all of these school divisions are on different schedules, children are not spending time with their relatives. This is critical and we have already missed way too much time with our loved ones through the pandemic.
- "I think we need to understand what potential trade offs there are to having a YRS program. What sort of Non Instructional days or schedule changes would be pushed on people. I like the idea of YRS for the fact that they will not have to worry so much about retention of information throughout the summer, but Burnout is also a concern.
- Not all for it, but not against it either as long as it is applied in a balanced approach, and everyone has an opportunity to review all information pertaining to any change"
- I would like to see Christmas break actually start before Christmas this year so the kids can enjoy all the festivities.
- I'm in general very happy with the way it's planned out. Any additional time we can spend as a family before or after a weekend is always a bonus! Thank you :)
- It would be nicer if the winter break was the week before Christmas and the week after rather than going to school right up to Christmas weekend.
- PD Day on November 1st makes the most sense
- Please consider providing some long weekend with the PD days rather than attaching them to other large breaks. The kids are tired from full day commitments everyday. They really could benefit from a few intermittent days off as long weekends. Thx you
- Start school AFTER labour day weekend. Starting in August is ridiculous.

- Starting school after the September long weekend is better. And absolutely no to year round schooling. We only have a couple months of nice weather to be outside. That only works in jurisdictions where they have the same climate all year round.
- The addition of Fall break is not needed. Too much time off during the fall/winter months. It would be better to let the kids off a few days leading up to the Christmas break. I.e school finishes on the 20/21 rather than the 23rd
- The calendar should be finalized at the beginning of Jan. Other schools already know their times. It needs to be done faster. Thanks
- The only holiday that I really want to align with other districts is the Christmas break. It was very stressful not to have it coincide with family in Edmonton
- To reiterate and emphasize, our family has zero interest in nor do we support year round schooling
- Unless you have A/C in schools, year round seems unfeasible.
- We find fall break and Christmas break to be long enough, so we prefer not to attach PD days to those breaks. It's nice to have other dates for PD days to have a short reprieve from the schedule to help with burnout. We've had the Friday off before family day for a few years now, which works well for us as we spend family day weekend in panorama with a large group of extended family (which is what that holiday is all about). We would appreciate keeping that Friday as a PD day to help with the 6 hour journey.

ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS SHARED BY EVERGREEN STAFF

- I enjoy having the extra time after Christmas to help slow down from the holidays and rest before jumping back into school and don't mind working right up to Christmas Eve
- I prefer an earlier start date for kids than Sept 5 so the kids get multiple short weeks to start the year. This helps with transitions back to school, especially for k-4 kids.
- I think there is a huge advantage of having different calendars than other areas- malls, attractions, roads, etc. aren't as crowded if we have different days off. We also have to consider teachers and staff in the calendar planning, and not only the families of the student's we teach.
- If possible, the day after Halloween should be a PD day. Students are always too tired or too wound up to be in school the first of November.
- Push the winter break as close to Christmas as possible so we have more break time after Christmas before returning to school.
- Spreading PD days out across the school year makes professional development more actionable and sustainable.
- The last day before Winter Break should always be Dec 23rd no matter where it falls during the week. School can recommence 2 weeks from then.
- You've done a very thorough job of choosing and explaining the possibilities. My thanks.

ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS SHARED BY PRIVATE SCHOOL PARENTS

- "It would be nice for the students to begin after the Labor day weekend in September. It is odd that they go for a few days, then have several days off, then go back again. Starting after would allow families to finish summer vacation, plan and prepare for school with more flexibility and time. I would also say the students do not need a fall break - it definitely disrupts the routine established at home and at school. How do families who work even find/have childcare for their kids who are not old enough to stay home alone? I would gladly start later, after the Labor Day weekend, and lose the fall break. Thank you."

ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS SHARED BY PRIVATE SCHOOL STAFF

- "Thanks for getting input.
- Thank you for asking the independent school in the area to participate in this survey,

ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS SHARED BY STUDENTS

- I have lots of family in other school divisions, and we currently have barely any holiday time together. I would really appreciate if we could align as much as possible, especially with the Christmas break. My family and friends and I have found that having Christmas break start on the 24th makes for a very stressful December since we have no time to prepare for Christmas. It would be great to be able to spend some time with my family prior to Christmas.

ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS SHARED BY COMMUNITY MEMBERS

- What about national day for truth and reconciliation day that falls on September 30th and what day would it be observed on as it falls on a Saturday? How about a two week spring break? Why isn't truth and reconciliation day not on the 2023-2024 calendar as many other school divisions do have?

COMMENTS REGARDING THE FALL BREAK

There are quite a few comments regarding the Fall Break. In the Stakeholder Survey for the 2022-2023 Calendar, we asked respondents to consider the placement and length of the Fall Break.

Of 1,034 responses for the 22-23 survey, only 13.5% opted for a shortened Fall Break.

PARKLAND SCHOOL DIVISION

2023-2024 CALENDAR



Total Days: 220

Operational: 195

Instructional: 182

PD Days: 13

Legend

Students' First Day



5

Students' Last Day



27

Non-Instructional



Non-Operational



Statutory Holiday



Diploma Examination



HS Transition



PD/New Teacher



AUGUST					
M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	
7	8	9	10	11	
14	15	16	17	18	
21	22	23	24	25	
28	29	30	31		

SEPTEMBER					
M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	
4	5	6	7	8	
11	12	13	14	15	
18	19	20	21	22	
25	26	27	28	29	

OCTOBER					
M	T	W	T	F	S
	2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13	
16	17	18	19	20	
23	24	25	26	27	
30	31				

NOVEMBER					
M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	
6	7	8	9	10	
13	14	15	16	17	
20	21	22	23	24	
27	28	29	30		

DECEMBER					
M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	
4	5	6	7	8	
11	12	13	14	15	
18	19	20	21	22	
25	26	27	28	29	

JANUARY					
M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	
8	9	10	11	12	
15	16	17	18	19	
22	23	24	25	26	
29	30	31			

FEBRUARY					
M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	
5	6	7	8	9	
12	13	14	15	16	
19	20	21	22	23	
26	27	28	29		

MARCH					
M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	
4	5	6	7	8	
11	12	13	14	15	
18	19	20	21	22	
25	26	27	28	29	

APRIL					
M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	
8	9	10	11	12	
15	16	17	18	19	
22	23	24	25	26	
29	30				

MAY					
M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	
6	7	8	9	10	
13	14	15	16	17	
20	21	22	23	24	
27	28	29	30	31	

JUNE					
M	T	W	T	F	S
3	4	5	6	7	
10	11	12	13	14	
17	18	19	20	21	
24	25	26	27	28	

MONTHLY SUMMARY

MONTH	TOTAL DAYS	STAT	NON-OPERATION	NON-INSTRUCT	OPERATIONAL	INSTRUCTIONAL	RUN TOTAL
8	4			4	4	0	0
9	21	1		1	20	19	19
10	22	1		1	21	20	39
11	22		5		17	17	56
12	21	2	3	1	16	15	71
1	23	1	4		18	18	89
2	21	1		3	20	17	106
3	21	1	4	1	16	15	121
4	22	1			21	21	142
5	23	1		1	22	21	163
6	20			1	20	19	182
TOTALS	220	9	16	13	195	182	

INSTRUCTIONAL DAYS OF THE WEEK

MONTH	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	TOTAL	SPLIT
8							
9	3	4	4	4	4	19	
10	4	5	4	4	3	20	
11	3	3	4	4	3	17	
12	3	3	3	3	3	15	
1	4	4	4 (3 FOR HS)	3	3	18 (17 HS)	89
2	3	4	4	4	2	17	
3	3	3	3	3	3	15	
4	4	5	4	4	4	21	
5	3	4	5	5	4	21	
6	4	4	4	4	3	19	93
TOTALS	34	39	39	38	32	182	

SPECIAL DATES

2023		2024	
August 28	New Teacher Orientation	January 31	HS Transition Day
August 29 – Sept 1	PD (No Students Attend)	February 8-9	Teachers' Convention
September 4	Labour Day (Stat)	February 16	PD (No Students Attend)
September 5	First Day for Students	February 19	Family Day (Stat)
October 6	PD (No Students Attend)	March 22	PD (No Students Attend)
October 9	Thanksgiving (Stat)	March 25 – April 1	Spring Break / Easter
November 13-17	Fall Break	May 17	PD (No Students Attend)
December 22	PD (No Students Attend)	May 20	Victoria Day (Stat)
December 22 – Jan 5	Winter Break	June 27	Last Day for Students
		June 28	PD (No Students Attend)