



Date: January 15, 2025

Durham Public Schools Board of Education Work Session PRECIS

Agenda Item: 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 Traditional and Year-Round Instructional School Calendars

Building Our Future Strategic Plan Priority: 1☒ 2☐ 3☐ 4☐ 5☐

Main Points:

- The calendar development committee, consisting of teachers, principals, and central services staff, met throughout 2025 to draft the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 Traditional and Year-Round calendars.
- Families, staff, and community members engaged in the process through a districtwide ThoughtExchange, providing feedback on multiple calendar drafts.
- A full analysis of feedback themes, raw data, and research-to-practice crosswalks has been completed to address the Board’s request for deeper examination of community input.
- Feedback revealed a wide range of requests and often conflicting preferences; final recommendations prioritize instructional quality, stability, and alignment with Institute of Education Sciences (IES)-supported best practices.
- All proposed calendars meet all state and local requirements and maintain protected instructional time, structured teacher planning days, and predictable routines that support students, staff, and families.
- It is recommended that the Board of Education approve the proposed calendars for the next two school years.

Fiscal Implications: N/A

Purpose

Information/Discussion **Action** **Consent**

Reviewed by: **Finance** **Attorney** _____

2026-2027 Traditional Calendar

July 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

August 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24♦	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

September 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30♦			

October 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23★	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2*	3*	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21*	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Durham Public Schools						
511 Cleveland St.						
919-560-2000						
Durham, NC 27701						
August						
17-21 Required Teacher Workday						
24 First Day of School						
September						
7 Holiday						
21 Teacher Workday						
30 Required Teacher Workday						
October						
7 Early Release Day						
23 End of Quarter						
November						
2-3 Required Teacher Workday						
11 Holiday						
23 Teacher Workday						
24-25 Annual Leave Day						
26-27 Holiday						
December						
9 Early Release Day						
21-22 Teacher Workday						
23 Annual Leave Day						
24-25 Holiday						
29-31 Annual Leave Day						
January						
1 Holiday						
18 Holiday						
19 Required Teacher Workday						
15 End of Quarter						
February						
10 Required Teacher Workday						
24 Early Release Day						
March						
22-25 Annual Leave Day						
26 Holiday						
April						
2 End of Quarter						
5 Required Teacher Workday						
28 Required Teacher Workday						
May						
12 Early Release Day						
31 Holiday						
June						
9 Early Release Day/Last Day of School						
10-11 Required Teacher Workday						

January 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15★	16
17	18	19*	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

February 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

March 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

April 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2★
4	5*	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28*	29	30	

May 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

June 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
6	7	8	9♦	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Legend

	Teacher Workday		Required Teacher Workday		Día laboral para maestros
	Licencia anual				
	Salida temprana				

- ★ Fin del trimestre
- ◆ Primer y último día de clases
- Reserva para condiciones climáticas adversas

2026-2027 Year-Round Calendar

July 2026							Durham Public Schools							January 2027													
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	511 Cleveland St. 919-560-2000 Durham, NC 27701							S	M	T	W	T	F	S							
				1	2	3	4	July							3	4	5	6	7	1	2						
5	6	7	8	9	10	11		Required Teacher Workday							10	11	12	13	14	15	16						
12	13	14	15	16	17	18		First Day of School							17	18	19	20	21	22	23						
19	20*	21	22	23	24	25		August							24	25	26	27	28	29	30						
26	27	28	29	30	31			Early Release							31	February 2027											
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	September							S	M	T	W	T	F	S							
				1			1	Required Teacher Workday							1	2	3	4	5	6							
2	3	4	5	6	7	8		September							7	8	9	10	11	12	13						
9	10	11	12	13	14	15		Holiday							14	15	16	17	18	19	20						
16	17	18	19	20	21	22		Teacher Workday							21	22	23	24	25	26	27						
23	24	25	26	27	28	29		Intersession							28	March 2027											
30	31							October							S	M	T	W	T	F	S						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	Required Teacher Workday							1	2	3	4	5	6								
				1	2	3	4	November							7	8	9	10	11	12	13						
6	7	8	9	10	11	12		Required Teacher Workday							14	15*	16	17	18	19	20						
13	14	15	16	17	18	18★	19	December							21	22	23	24	25	26	27						
20	21*	22	23	24	25	26		Early Release Day							28	29	30	31									
27	28	29	30					Teacher Workday							April 2027												
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	Annual Leave Day							S	M	T	W	T	F	S							
				1	2	3	4	Teacher Workday							4	5	6	7	8	9	10						
11	12	13	14	15	16	17		Annual Leave Day							11	12	13	14	15	16	17						
18	19	20	21	22	23	24		Holiday							18	19	20	21	22	23	24						
25	26	27	28	29	30	31		Intersession							25	26	27	28*	29	30							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	Required Teacher Workday							May 2027													
				1	2	3	4	January							S	M	T	W	T	F	S						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	February							2	3	4	5	6	7	8						
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Required Teacher Workday							9	10	11	12	13	14	15						
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	Annual Leave Day							16	17	18	19	20	21	22						
22	23*	24	25	26	27	28	29	Teacher Workday							23	24	25	26	27	28	29						
29	30							Intersession							30	31											
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	Annual Leave							June 2027													
				1	2	3	4	Holiday							S	M	T	W	T	F	S						
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Intersession							6	7	8	9*	10	11	12						
13	14	15	16	17	18	18★	19	April							13	14	15	16	17	18	19						
20	21*	22	23	24	25	26	27	Intersession							20	21	22	23	24	25	26						
27	28	29	30	31				May							27	28	29	30									
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	Required Teacher Workday							Early Release Day													
				1	2	3	4	Teacher Workday							31												
12								Holiday							9	Early Release Day/Last Day of School											
31								Required Teacher Workday							10-11												

Legend

	Teacher Workday		Required Teacher Workday		End of Marking Period
	Annual Leave		Holiday		First & Last Day of School
	Early Release Day		Intersession		Inclement Weather Reserve

2027-2028 Year-Round Calendar

July 2027							Durham Public Schools							January 2028						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	511 Cleveland St. 919-560-2000 Durham, NC 27701							S	M	T	W	T	F	S
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	July							1						
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	12-16 Required Teacher Workday							2	3	4	5	6	7	8
18	19*	20	21	22	23	24	19 First Day of School							9	10	11	12	13	14	15
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	August							16	17	18	19	20	21	22
August 2027							4 Early Release Day							23	24	25	26	27	28	29
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	18 Required Teacher Workday							30	31	February 2028				
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	September							S	M	T	W	T	F	S
15	16	17	18*	19	20	21	6 Holiday							1	2	3	4	5		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20 Teacher Workday							6	7	8	9	10	11	12
29	30	31					21-30 Intersession							13	14	15	16	17	18	19
September 2027							October							20	21	22	23	24	25	26
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	1-7 Intersession							27	28	29				
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	8 Required Teacher Workday							March 2028						
19	20*	21	22	23	24	25	20 Early Release Day							S	M	T	W	T	F	S
26	27	28	29	30			21 November							1	2	3	4			
October 2027							22 Required Teacher Workday							5	6	7	8	9	10★	11
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	23-25 Holiday							12	13*	14	15	16	17	18
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	26-28 Teacher Workday							19	20	21	22	23	24	25
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	29-30 Annual Leave Day							26	27	28	29	30		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31 Holiday							April 2028						
31							31 December							S	M	T	W	T	F	S
November 2027							1-3 Intersession							2	3	4	5	6	7	8
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4 Holiday							9	10	11	12	13	14	15
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	5 Required Teacher Workday							16	17	18	19	20	21	22
21	22*	23	24	25	26	27	6 Early Release Day							23	24	25	26*	27	28	29
28	29	30					31 January							May 2028						
December 2027							1-3 Intersession							S	M	T	W	T	F	S
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	4 Teacher Workday							1	2	3	4	5	6	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	5 Annual Leave Day							7	8	9	10	11	12	13
19	20*	21	22	23	24	25	6 Intersession							14	15	16	17	18	19	20
26	27	28	29	30	31		31 Required Teacher Workday							21	22	23	24	25	26	27
December 2027							31 April							June 2028						
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	14 Holiday							S	M	T	W	T	F	S
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	15 Teacher Workday							1	2	3	4	5	6	
19	20*	21	22	23	24	25	16 Annual Leave Day							7	8	9	10	11	12	13
26	27	28	29	30	31		17 Intersession							14	15	16	17	18	19	20
December 2027							18 May							S	M	T	W	T	F	S
29							19 Early Release Day							1	2	3	4	5	6	
7							20 Holiday							7	8	9	10	11	12	13
8-9							21 June							14	15	16	17	18	19	20
							22 Early Release Day/Last Day of School							21	22	23	24	25	26	27
							23 Required Teacher Workday							25	26	27	28	29	30	

Legend

	Teacher Workday		Required Teacher Workday		End of Marking Period
	Annual Leave		Holiday		First & Last Day of School
	Early Release Day		Intersession		Inclement Weather Reserve

2026-2027 Calendario anual

Julio 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Agosto 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Septiembre 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Octubre 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Noviembre 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Diciembre 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

ESCUELAS PÚBLICAS DE DURHAM						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			511 Cleveland St.			
			919-560-2000			
			Durham, NC 27701			
			Julio			
13-17			Día laboral para maestros obligatorio			
20			Primer y último día de clases			
			Agosto			
5			Salida temprana			
19			Día laboral para maestros obligatorio			
			Septiembre			
7			Feriado			
21			Día laboral para maestros			
22-30			Receso escolar			
			Octubre			
1-8			Receso escolar			
9			Día laboral para maestros obligatorio			
			Noviembre			
3			Día laboral para maestros obligatorio			
11			Feriado			
23			Día laboral para maestros			
24-25			Licencia anual			
26-27			Feriado			
			Diciembre			
9			Salida temprana			
21-22			Día laboral para maestros			
23			Licencia anual			
24-25,28			Feriado			
29-31			Licencia anual			
			Enero			
1			Feriado			
4-7			Receso escolar			
8			Día laboral para maestros obligatorio			
18			Feriado			
10			Día laboral para maestros obligatorio			
24			Salida temprana			
15			Día laboral para maestros			
16-19			Receso escolar			
22-25			Licencia anual			
26			Feriado			
29-31			Receso escolar			
			Febrero			
1			Día laboral para maestros obligatorio			
2			Salida temprana			
10			Día laboral para maestros obligatorio			
15			Marzo			
18			Día laboral para maestros			
24			Receso escolar			
25			Licencia anual			
26			Feriado			
27			Abil			
1			Receso escolar			
2			Día laboral para maestros obligatorio			
28			Día laboral para maestros obligatorio			
			Mayo			
12			Salida temprana			
31			Feriado			
			Junio			
9			Salida temprana/Primer y último día de clases			
10-11			Día laboral para maestros obligatorio			

Legend

 Dia laboral para maestros	 Required Teacher Workday
 Licencia anual	 Feriado
 Salida temprana	 Intersession

- ★ Fin del trimestre
- ◆ Primer y último día de clases
- Reserva para condiciones climáticas adversas

2027-2028 Calendario anual

Julio 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19*	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Agosto 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18*	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				
Septiembre 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17★	18
19	20*	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		
Octubre 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						
Noviembre 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2*	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22*	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				
Diciembre 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20*	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

ESCUELAS PÚBLICAS DE DURHAM						
511 Cleveland St.						
919-560-2000						
Durham, NC 27701						
Julio						
12-16 Día laboral para maestros obligatorio						
19 Primer y último día de clases						
Agosto						
4 Salida temprana						
18 Día laboral para maestros obligatorio						
Septiembre						
6 Feriado						
20 Día laboral para maestros						
21-30 Receso escolar						
Octubre						
1-7 Receso escolar						
8 Día laboral para maestros obligatorio						
20 Salida temprana						
Noviembre						
2 Día laboral para maestros obligatorio						
11 Feriado						
22-23 Día laboral para maestros						
24 Licencia anual						
25-26 Feriado						
Diciembre						
8 Salida temprana						
20-21 Día laboral para maestros						
22-23 Licencia anual						
24,27-28 Feriado						
29-30 Licencia anual						
31 Feriado						
Enero						
3-6 Receso escolar						
7 Día laboral para maestros obligatorio						
17 Feriado						
9 Día laboral para maestros obligatorio						
23 Salida temprana						
Marzo						
13 Día laboral para maestros						
14-17 Receso escolar						
20-24 Licencia anual						
27-30 Receso escolar						
31 Día laboral para maestros obligatorio						
Abril						
14 Feriado						
26 Día laboral para maestros obligatorio						
Mayo						
10 Salida temprana						
29 Feriado						
Junio						
7 Salida temprana/Primer y último día de clases						
8-9 Día laboral para maestros obligatorio						

Enero 2028						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						
Febrero 2028						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29				
Marzo 2028						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13*	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Abril 2028						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1			
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						
Mayo 2028						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			
Junio 2028						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	
4	5	6	7*	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Legend

 Día laboral para maestros	 Required Teacher Workday	 Fin del trimestre
 Licencia anual	 Feriado	 Primer y último día de clases
 Salida temprana	 Intersession	 Reserva para condiciones climáticas adversas

CALENDARS: RESEARCH & DATA ANALYSIS

2026-2028

Igniting Limitless Potential!



Crosswalk of IES Research, Community Feedback, and Alignment to DPS Proposed Calendars

Our proposed calendars are intentionally structured to reflect the strongest national research from the Institute of Education Sciences. By protecting instructional time, strategically placing teacher planning days, maintaining predictable routines, and aligning break structures to reduce learning loss, these calendars directly support the instructional core. At the same time, they are designed with the unique needs of the Durham Public Schools community in mind, honoring the diverse perspectives, family structures, cultural traditions, and operational realities of the students, staff, and families we serve. This ensures our decisions remain grounded in what most improves teaching, learning, and student outcomes while remaining responsive to the lived experiences of our community.

Both the IES research base and the ThoughtExchange feedback indicate that the strongest and most equitable calendars are those that protect instructional time, maintain predictable structures, and support high-quality teaching. While community preferences varied and often conflicted, the proposed DPS calendars align with the most consistent research and feedback themes that directly influence student outcomes.

Summary: How DPS Calendars Reflect IES Research

IES Priority	What Community Feedback Said	How DPS Proposed Calendars Align
1. Protecting Instructional Time and Continuity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Strong desire for consistent instructional weeksConcerns about unnecessary interruptionsRequests for clear quarter structures and fewer fragmented days	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Long instructional stretches between Fall, Winter, Spring Break (Traditional)Balanced 43–47-day quarters (Year-Round)Banked hours preserve instruction during weather eventsMinimal isolated non-instructional days
2. Break Length and Learning Retention	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Mixed views on break length (Thanksgiving, Fall Break, Winter, Spring)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Traditional model maintains predictable 1–2 week breaks without excessive downtime

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many are supportive of one-week breaks, some want shorter or more balanced breaks Preference for avoiding overly long instructional gaps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year-Round model uses multiple intersessions to reduce long gaps and support retention Break placement prevents long periods away from instruction
3. Teacher Planning, Data Use, and Instructional Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requests for adequate teacher planning time Strong support for workdays tied to quarter transitions Concerns about workload and need for structured planning time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workdays anchored to the end of quarters for data analysis and planning Preservice days for instructional preparation Post-break workdays support instructional recalibration Required workdays protected for instructional purposes, not optional time off
4. Attendance, Predictability, and Stability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High value placed on stable, predictable schedules Appreciation for consistent early release days Concerns about fragmented or irregular weeks impacting attendance Desire for alignment across calendar types for families with multiple children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monday start dates provide consistent weekly openings Predictable early release patterns Unified Spring Break across all schools Logical sequencing of holidays and workdays limits fragmented weeks
5. Equity, Family Logistics and Student Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wide range of needs (cultural observances, childcare, work schedules) Requests for predictability to help families plan Recognition that not all individual preferences can be met Need for structures that support diverse learners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consistent quarter lengths and stable annual patterns Predictable break and workday structures support family planning Year-Round cycles offer routine for students needing consistent structures Spring Break aligned across Traditional and Year-Round calendars

1. Instructional Time and Continuity

What IES Research Shows: IES identifies uninterrupted instructional time as a significant factor in student achievement. Teaching and learning improve when calendars avoid scattered interruptions.

Research links:

Link 1: <https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/PracticeGuide/1> Institute of Education Sciences

Relevant for: Shows that how instructional and study time is organized (for example, spaced practice and avoiding fragmentation) affects learning and retention.

Link 2: https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/rel/regions/appalachia/pdf/REL_2014015.pdf Institute of Education Sciences

Relevant for: Summarizes research on increased learning time and finds that expanded, well-structured learning time can improve academic outcomes.

Community Feedback:

- Desire for consistent instructional weeks.
- Requests for fewer isolated days off that disrupt learning.
- Interest in predictable quarter structures.
- Concern about losing instructional momentum.

Alignment to DPS Proposed Calendars:

- Long uninterrupted instructional stretches between Fall, Winter and Spring Break in the Traditional calendar.
- Year-Round calendar structured into balanced instructional quarters of 43 to 47 days.
- Banked hours protect core instruction during weather-related closures.
- Minimal one-day interruptions that fragment teaching time.
- Quarter breaks aligned to allow clean endings and new instructional cycles.

2. Break Length and Learning Retention

What IES Research Shows: IES studies confirm that long breaks can result in learning loss, while shorter and more distributed breaks help maintain retention.

Research links:

Link 1: <https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/PracticeGuide/10> Institute of Education Sciences

Relevant for: Provides recommendations on structuring out-of-school time so it supports, rather than disrupts, academic achievement (including how breaks and extra-time programs are organized).

Link 2: <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/summer-learning-loss-what-is-it-and-what-can-we-do-about-it/> Brookings

Relevant for: Reviews the evidence on summer learning loss, showing that long breaks are associated with declines in achievement,

especially in math.

Community Feedback:

- Mixed preferences for Thanksgiving, Fall Break and other holiday periods.
- Some comments supporting full-week breaks for travel and consistency.
- Other comments asking for balanced breaks across the year.
- Interest in avoiding overly long stretches away from instruction.

Alignment to DPS Proposed Calendars:

- Traditional calendar includes predictable one-week breaks without creating excessive gaps in learning.
- Year-Round calendar incorporates multiple intersessions that shorten the length of time students spend away from school.
- Break placement avoids long periods of instructional interruption.
- Winter Break set at two weeks to protect teacher and student well-being while maintaining learning continuity.

3. Teacher Planning, Data Analysis, and Instructional Quality

What IES Research Shows: High-quality instruction improves when teachers have protected time to analyze assessment data, plan lessons and adjust instruction. Workdays connected to quarter transitions support higher instructional quality.

Research links:

Link 1: <https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/PracticeGuide/12> Institute of Education Sciences

Relevant for: Recommends making data use part of an ongoing cycle of instructional improvement, which requires dedicated time for teachers to review data and adjust instruction.

Link 2: https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/Docs/PracticeGuide/dddm_pg_092909.pdf Institute of Education Sciences

Relevant for: Full PDF of the same practice guide, detailing specific recommendations and examples of how schools schedule and support data-driven planning time.

Community Feedback:

- Requests for adequate teacher planning time.
- Comments noting the importance of workdays aligned to quarter endings.
- Concern about teacher workload without sufficient planning periods.
- Interest in protecting teacher capacity to deliver strong instruction.
- Some suggestions that teacher workdays could serve as optional days off for wellness or flexibility.

Alignment to DPS Proposed Calendars:

- Teacher workdays are intentionally placed to support mandated instructional tasks such as grading, data analysis, preparation and pacing adjustments.
- These days must be protected as required workdays and cannot function as optional or flexible leave days if instructional

quality is to be maintained.

- Calendars are not designed to substitute for wellness or personal leave structures; teacher workdays serve instructional and operational requirements defined by state law and supported by IES research.
- Workdays are placed at the end of each quarter for data analysis and planning.
- Preservice days provide time to prepare instruction before students arrive.
- Workdays positioned after breaks support recalibration of instruction.
- Year-Round intersessions are paired with required workdays for deep analysis and planning.

4. Attendance, Predictability and Stability

What IES Research Shows: Consistent and predictable calendar structures improve student attendance and engagement. Irregular or inconsistent schedules can lead to higher absenteeism.

Research links:

Link 1: <https://ies.ed.gov/use-work/supporting-recovery-with-evidence-based-practices/chronic-absenteeism> Institute of Education

Relevant for: Synthesizes IES research on strategies that improve attendance and reduce chronic absenteeism, including using data and consistent routines.

Link 2: <https://ies.ed.gov/rel-southwest/2025/01/handout-strategies-address-chronic-absenteeism> Institute of Education Sciences

Relevant for: REL Southwest handout summarizing evidence-based strategies to reduce chronic absenteeism, emphasizing proactive, systematic supports.

Community Feedback:

- Strong desire for predictable calendars.
- Appreciation for consistent early release days or clear scheduling patterns.
- Concerns about fragmented weeks affecting attendance.
- Requests for alignment across schools for families with children in multiple buildings.

Alignment to DPS Proposed Calendars:

- Monday start dates reduce fragmentation during opening weeks.
- Early release days placed consistently across the year.
- Unified Spring Break across Traditional and Year-Round calendars.
- Logical sequencing of holidays and workdays to avoid isolated non-instructional days.
- Calendar stability maintained across the multiple-year cycle.

5. Equity, Family Logistics and Student Support

What IES Research Shows: Stable and predictable routines benefit students who rely on structure, including students with disabilities

and English learners. Consistent calendars also support family scheduling and reduce stress.

Research links:

Link 1: <https://www.wested.org/resource/school-climate-improvement-toolkit/> WestEd

Relevant for: REL West toolkit showing how predictable systems, structures and routines at the school level contribute to a positive climate and better outcomes.

Link 2: <https://www.wested.org/resource/middle-school-climate-and-academic-performance/> WestEd

Relevant for: REL West study finding that changes in students' perceptions of school climate are associated with changes in academic performance over time.

Community Feedback:

- Wide range of family needs related to cultural observances, work schedules and childcare.
- Requests for alignment across schools for households with multiple children.
- Feedback indicating the need for stability and predictability for planning purposes.
- Recognition that not all individual preferences can be met.

Alignment to DPS Proposed Calendars:

- Spring Break aligned across all Traditional and Year-Round schools to support families.
- Predictable early release, workday and break structures to reduce family strain.
- Consistent quarter lengths across years to reduce variability and confusion.
- Year-Round cycles offer short, predictable intervals that support routine-dependent learners.

(Visible across calendar pages 1 through 7.)

CALENDARS

2026-2028

Research and Data Analysis

Igniting Limitless Potential!



High-Support Themes (Strong Positive Feedback)

These themes appeared frequently, were consistently rated positively, and showed clear agreement across families, staff, and community members.

1. Thanksgiving Week (Full Week Break)

- 14 comments directly referenced it, almost entirely positive.
- Seen as essential for family travel, rest, and alignment with previous DPS calendars.
- One of the most unified themes in the entire dataset.

2. Consistent & Predictable Calendar Structure

Strong support for:

- Predictable early release days
- Logical quarter breaks
- Monday start dates
- Alignment across school types where possible (especially Spring Break)

This theme pulled together multiple keywords: "Time," "Weekdays," "Calendar," "Routine," "Consistency."

Stakeholders strongly prefer *stability* over major changes.

3. Protected Teacher Planning Time

Many comments supported:

- Workdays aligned with quarter endings
- Time for grading and data analysis
- Dedicated planning time before major instructional shifts

Even though some feedback wanted optional use of workdays, the larger pattern supported planning time that is structured and purposeful, not scattered.

4. Balanced Breaks (Not Too Long, Not Too Many)

Consistent feedback supporting:

- Fall Break

- Winter Break (two weeks)
- Spring Break
- Summer not being extended longer than necessary

People value breaks but generally did not advocate lengthening them.

5. Minimizing Midweek or Fragmented Interruptions

Strong support for:

- Avoiding isolated single days off
- Grouping holidays near weekends when possible
- Preserving five-day instructional weeks

Stakeholders repeatedly framed this around **instructional continuity** and **family logistics**.

High-Support Themes (Strong Negative Feedback)

These are themes that provoked broad frustration or concern across roles.

1. Start/End Date Restrictions (State Law Frustration)

Many comments expressed:

- Desire for earlier start dates
- Frustration with state calendar mandates
- Requests for alignment with colleges, universities, and other states

This is the #1 negative theme across the data.

2. Too Many One-Off Workdays or Random Interruptions

Negative feedback highlighted:

- Scattered workdays
- Midweek closures
- Inconsistent early release timing

Stakeholders were clear that isolated days disrupt routines, childcare, and learning.

3. Complexity Across Calendar Types

Negative feedback patterns included:

- Families with children in both Traditional and Year-Round schools struggling with alignment
- Concern about cross-functional staff (bus drivers, EC, ESL, itinerant teachers) managing multiple calendars

- Desire for greater alignment where possible

Even though Spring Break alignment helps, the issue still appears.

4. Burden on Families Around Childcare and Work

A major cross-cutting theme:

- Breaks and workdays without childcare create strain
- Early releases are difficult for many families
- Calls for greater consideration of working parents' schedules

Notably: these concerns often **conflicted with** instructional priorities, reinforcing the point that not all needs can be met.

5. Cultural and Religious Observance Scheduling

A diverse but strong theme:

- Requests to accommodate a wide range of observances
- Concern that the state holiday list is too narrow
- Appreciation for DPS flexibility in attendance coding

This theme reflects value-driven needs, but the requests often conflict with each other, making broad accommodation impossible.

Themes With Strong Mixed or Conflicting Support

The dataset shows significant conflict around:

1. Early Release Days (Loved and Hated)

- Some want more
- Some want fewer
- Some want different timing
- No clear consensus

2. Calendar Length (Start August vs. After Labor Day)

- Large divergence in parent vs. staff preferences
- Not enough alignment to guide calendar priorities
- State law severely restricts these decisions anyway

Summary of “Other Strong Themes” to Consider

Below is a simple list of high-impact themes (beyond Thanksgiving) that had strong support or strong opposition:

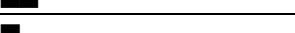
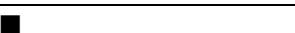
Strong Positive Support

- Predictable, consistent calendar structure
- Balanced, reasonable break lengths
- Protecting meaningful teacher workdays
- Alignment of Spring Break across calendars
- Avoiding fragmentation of instructional weeks
- Structuring calendars around instructional quality, not preference

Strong Negative Support

- Frustration with state-mandated start/end dates
- Burden caused by isolated workdays or midweek closures
- Calendars causing challenges for working families
- Too many competing needs across multiple calendar types
- Inability to accommodate every cultural observance

Survey item	Item type	Value	Percent	Count	Responses
I am a	Single select	Parent/Guardian/Family Member	64	307	479
I am a	Single select	DPS Educator or Staff Member	31	148	479
I am a	Single select	DPS Student	0	1	479
I am a	Single select	Community Member	2	11	479
I am a	Single select	Other	3	12	479
	Other	I'm both parent/DPS educator			
	Other	I am the rabbi for a Durham synagogue with a membership of nearly 500 families			
	Other	Grandparent			
	Other	Parent and DPS Educator			
	Other	Parent and staff member			
	Other	I'm a DPS Parent, a DPS Faculty Member, and a Durham community member.			
	Other	Program Administrator for DPS Calendar-based Programs			
	Other	I am both a parent and staff member			
	Other	Staff and Parent			
	Other	Staff and parent			
	Other	Afterschool Provider			
	Other	Parent and employee			

These were pulled by searching for: "Thanksgiving," "thanksgiving," "Fall Break," "fall break."			
Top Themes Identified in Those Comments			
Thanksgiving Week		14	Strong consensus to keep full week break
Calendar		3	Comments connecting break to overall structure
Break		3	General comments about timing/value of breaks
Staff		2	Staff-focused considerations around November
Days		1	Comments about number of days off
Workdays		1	Comments about placement
What People Said (Summary of Sentiments)			
Most common sentiments: Strong support for keeping the full week at Thanksgiving. Appreciation for consistency year-to-year. Calls to avoid changing or shortening the break. Recognition that Thanksgiving week is important for travel, family obligations, and rest.	Less frequent sentiments: Suggestions to re-evaluate break timing. Questions about whether break length should be adjusted. A few comments connecting breaks to staff wellbeing or workload.		

Exchange question	Thought (original)	Thought (language)	Star score - overall	Rank - overall	Moderation status	Moderation reported by	Keyword themes	Sentiment themes
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	try to put single days of (like teacher workdays) on Mondays/ Fridays longer weekends are more relaxing	en	4.5	1	Approved		Weekends	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Teacher workday after the end of each quarter Gives teachers time and a day to get in all necessary grade information	en	4.5	2	Approved		Time	Positive
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Make teacher workdays and early release on Fridays. Easier for families, less instructional disruptions than having days off right in the middle of the week.	en	4.4	3	Approved		Week Days	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	The proposed calendars have not been shared with DPS staff. They need to be formally shared with staff to allow time for review before any vote. Staff should have a say in the calendar. Not sure why this is being shared on social media but not via staff emails!!	en	4.4	4	Approved		Staff	Negative
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Move teacher workdays No teacher required workdays during spring break	en	4.3	5	Approved		Workdays	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Keeping midweek days off to a minimum Kids' routines are hard to keep if you're two on, one off, two on. Lumping days for long weekends can allow for more family time.	en	4.3	6	Approved		Days	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	more Monday or Friday teacher work days for extended weekends allows for more opportunities for activities with family, college weekends, etc	en	4.3	7	Approved		Weekends	Positive
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	A minimum of a week paid planning before school starts is essential Preparing for students is crucial to learning. Don't make teachers do more unpaid work	en	4.3	8	Approved		Miscellaneous	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Less mid-week disruptions Having workdays/early release days on Wednesdays cause a disruption in both the student and parent learning/work environments	en	4.3	9	Approved		Week Days	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Please do not create teacher workdays or early release in the middle of the week. Please make these Mondays or Fridays. This is hard on both kids and parents and the momentum of learning and a work week.	en	4.3	10	Approved		Week Days	Neutral

Exchange question	Thought (original)	Thought (language)	Star score - overall	Rank - overall	Moderation status	Moderation reported by	Keyword themes	Sentiment themes
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	The Fall Semester should end before Winter Break for all students. Holding fall finals after winter break disrupts learning continuity and undermines assessment accuracy.	en	4.3	11	Approved		Break	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Having the one school day in December on the Monday of winter break is a waste of a day. Do the calendars with the 2 complete weeks off for Dec/Jan. And the Monday day in April is better than the Wed for child care and planning	en	4.3	12	Approved		Days	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Incorporate enough breaks through out the year to help students and staff refocus and regroup Having teacher workdays each month, helps teachers reassess and restructure as needed, please don't fill them with required sessions, all day.	en	4.3	13	Approved		Workdays	Positive
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Create long weekends when random days off happen It creates more flexibility for travel and less disruption within the week.	en	4.3	14	Approved		Week Days	Positive
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Teacher support and happiness They are doing the job of educating the kids	en	4.3	15	Approved		Miscellaneous	Positive
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Consecutive instructional days	en	4.3	16	Approved		Instructional Days	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Ensuring there are enough days for teachers to prepare for the beginning of the school year. To ensure readiness for students to return to a conducive learning environment.	en	4.2	17	Approved		Miscellaneous	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Place teacher workdays immediately after grading periods. Allows teachers to close out grading and prepare the next unit effectively	en	4.2	18	Approved		Workdays	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Avoid middle of the week days off. It interrupts instructional learning so much more than having Mondays or Fridays off for work days.	en	4.2	19	Approved		Week Days	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Do teacher workdays have to be on Tuesdays? It's hard to manage middle of the week care with caregivers from out of town. We can get grandparents or the uncles/aunts/siblings for a F/M	en	4.2	20	Approved		Week Days	Neutral

Exchange question	Thought (original)	Thought (language)	Star score - overall	Rank - overall	Moderation status	Moderation reported by	Keyword themes	Sentiment themes
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Less mid week break ups. Instructional interruptions needs to be less.	en	4.2	21	Approved		Week Days	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	1-2 workdays at the end of every quarter are essential. Adequate planning/grading/prepping time.	en	4.2	22	Approved		Time	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Early release days on Fridays Minimize disruptions to regular schedule as fridays are often flex days anyway & students often miss school on early release -	en	4.2	23	Approved		Early Release Days	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Limiting partial weeks for breaks and start and end of school Summer camp and intercession easier to plan w full weeks	en	4.2	24	Approved		Year Round	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Consistency for students and staff Days off that chop up the week (ie a Tuesday off, make transitions difficult for many students.	en	4.2	25	Approved		Staff	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Early release days do not make sense in the middle of the week These disrupt student routines and ultimately make it more challenging for student attendance for the entire week	en	4.2	26	Approved		Week Days	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	breaks that are consistent and easy for families to plan for breaks that give teachers time to actually plan	en	4.2	27	Approved		Break	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	I work in a year-round school, and I feel it best serves both our families and staff to have full weeks off for intersession breaks, not partial ones. People more easily plan travel, and there isn't the disruption of having a short week.	en	4.2	28	Approved		Staff	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Work-Life Balance for teachers! Obvious reasons. Teachers are leaving in RECORD NUMBERS due to being overworked, not enough time to lesson plan, not enough time to grade, exist!	en	4.2	29	Approved		Time	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Protected planning time for teachers Teachers need to have adequate scheduled protected time to individually plan for their classes in their classroom.	en	4.2	30	Approved		Time	Neutral

Exchange question	Thought (original)	Thought (language)	Star score - overall	Rank - overall	Moderation status	Moderation reported by	Keyword themes	Sentiment themes
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	(DPS) should prioritize balancing instructional time with meaningful breaks to support both student learning and teacher effectiveness. It maximizes high-quality instructional days while protecting time for recovery and professional growth.	en	4.2	31	Approved		Instructional Days	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Full weeks off for holidays (Thanksgiving and December end) Make easier for families to travel	en	4.2	32	Approved		Thanksgiving Week	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Consider a calendar shift that would end second quarter before winter break From a teaching and learning perspective, exams (primarily at high school level) after break are terrible.	en	4.2	33	Approved		Break	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Days that will be used for instructional professional learning should be scheduled away from holidays, elections, etc. to ensure broad participation. If we aim to build capacity and cohesion of our instructional staff, we must create accessible time to invest in that learning.	en	4.1	34	Approved		Instructional Days	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Having enough time for breaks. Seasonal breaks help support educators so that we can effectively teach when we are in the classroom	en	4.1	35	Approved		Time	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Making long weekends whenever possible More time with family	en	4.1	36	Approved		Weekends	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Teacher workdays should not be weighted down with required PD Teacher workdays are vital to teachers so that they have contract time to plan and produce materials instead of using their personal time.	en	4.1	37	Approved		Workdays	Negative
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Optional work days AFTER breaks, especially winter break. We push through until break, are exhausted/mentally drained on WD before, plan during the break, then have time to finalize/prep after break on WD.	en	4.1	38	Approved		Break	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Teacher work days and early release days close to holidays and when students would traditionally spend time with family. Children need to have time to spend with family that makes sense with adult work schedules so the adults in their lives can actually spend time.	en	4.1	39	Approved		Time	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Allow time at the beginning and end of the school year to get classrooms ready (NO PD) We need protected time to get our classrooms ready for students and then again to get our classrooms emptied. without having to use unpaid time.	en	4.1	40	Approved		Time	Neutral

Exchange question	Thought (original)	Thought (language)	Star score - overall	Rank - overall	Moderation status	Moderation reported by	Keyword themes	Sentiment themes
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Teachers need more days in the long stretches of months like October or February These months are very challenging and wreck morale	en	4.1	41	Approved		Miscellaneous	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Please make Yom Kippur a day off or Teacher workday (Sept 21, 2026 and Oct 11, 2027). This is the holiest day of the Jewish calendar when Jewish students fast for 21 hours and no work is allowed.	en	4.1	42	Approved		Days	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	The calendars should decrease the number of days off in the middle of the week allowing for decrease interruptions and disjointed learning. My child thrives with consistency. If there needs to be time off it's best if it's lumped together instead of one day off in the middle of the week.	en	4.1	43	Approved		Week Days	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Fewer middle of the week teacher workdays Disrupts the flow of instruction	en	4.1	44	Approved		Week Days	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Whenever possible, it is more convenient to have holidays/teacher workdays on consecutive days or next to weekends. It is hard when we have midweek single days off, both for childcare and for managing school work and focus.	en	4.1	45	Approved		Days	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Semester long EOC/CTE Courses Students in semester classes have one week of review and then test after 2 weeks of vacation. They need to wrap up their finals before winter break.	en	4.1	46	Approved		Miscellaneous	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Work days spread throughout the year Give teachers adequate prep time without disrupting so many weeks within one quarter or back to back	en	4.1	47	Approved		Days	Positive
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Workdays after end of quarters that are for working allow time for administrative tasks	en	4.1	48	Approved		Time	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Aligning teacher work days to Mondays and Fridays instead of mid-week. This would make it easier for families to have long weekends.	en	4.1	49	Approved		Weekends	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	consider limiting required workdays to about 30% of the total, leaving 70% as teacher-directed maintains compliance and consistency while giving educators the professional autonomy and flexibility	en	4.1	50	Approved		Workdays	Neutral

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What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Designated days for state and district testing Reduce total number of testing days and increase total number of instructional days	en	4.1	51	Approved		Instructional Days	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Try to match days off (teacher workdays etc) as best as possible with common holidays. E.G having school on monday of Christmas week doesnt make sense if parents and sibs have vacation days that DPS doesn't, families may still take that time away and scholar will miss school.	en	4.1	52	Approved		Days	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Time for teachers to prepare for instruction at the start and throughout the year. Teachers need time to develop lessons, review data and curriculum alignment to ensure they are providing quality instruction.	en	4.1	53	Approved		Instructional Days	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Put teacher work day the Monday after spring break, not the Wednesday This makes travel easier for families, and ensures that once students are back, their instructional time won't get interrupted two days later.	en	4.1	54	Approved		Days	Positive
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Please continue intercession for year round the week before Christmas. I work in Healthcare everyone cannot be granted the week of Christmas and New Years off. The week before is nice to give kids a break before holidays	en	4	55	Approved		Year Round	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	More coordinated breaks/ days off. Parents and staff find it difficult to coordinate care for children when we have random days off during the week. Also longer breaks are nice	en	4	56	Approved		Miscellaneous	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Make optional work days coincide with Jewish or Muslim holidays. We keep having them a day or so off. Shows commitment to DEI and allows teachers to feel respected and valued.	en	4	57	Approved		Days	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Teacher workdays and early releases during the week are not good. Can we please stop the random teacher workdays on weekdays. It was so nice to have them on Mondays or Fridays. Not every parent works from home/hybrid	en	4	58	Approved		Workdays	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Early release days are useless and not needed. Not much academics happen in early release days. For grades 6-12, shortened periods/classes means not much can get done. Hard to arrange childcare.	en	4	59	Approved		Early Release Days	Negative
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Intersessions should be three full weeks off You'll have poor attendance if they have school for two days. Also makes it very hard to plan camps. We have to pay for full weeks	en	4	60	Approved		Year Round	Negative

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What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Keep winter breaks two weeks Travel	en	4	61	Approved		Break	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Release the next year's calendar by the start of the current school year. For example by the start of the 2025-26 year also publish the 2026-27 year. Families need to plan in advance for costs, enrollments, and school breaks.	en	4	62	Approved		Year Round	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Year round calendar: 3 weeks is just right for the intersessions. Please keep it that way. Long enough to get a real break, intersessions camps have options and not long enough for the kids to forget everything	en	4	63	Approved		Year Round	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Agree w the Monday/Friday teacher work days, do not agree with more half days	en	4	64	Approved		Days	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Balancing out the number of instructional days in the spring semester and fall semester.	en	4	65	Approved		Instructional Days	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Consider the length of breaks and when a quarter ends Having to return to exams doesn't allow for kids to decompress over a break.	en	4	66	Approved		End	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Having as much teacher workday overlap between year round and traditional calendar as possible. Group days off together to provide longer breaks when possible. Example is full week off for Thanksgiving	en	4	67	Approved		Calendar	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	No early release days- prefer an extra workday in lieu of multiple early release The early release is really hard on families schedules so many don't attend; the shift in routine is hard and students & teachers end up more exhausted	en	4	68	Approved		Early Release Days	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Prioritizing class time efficiency and burn out points in the calendar year. Prioritizing rest and holiday travel. Consider testing dates	en	4	69	Approved		Calendar	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	fewer middle-of-the-week teacher workdays or holidays it's more difficult to find childcare	en	4	70	Approved		Workdays	Neutral

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What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Allowing breaks within the school year Faculty, staff, and students need time to "breath", process what has happened, and plan for the upcoming. It prevents burnout for everyone.	en	4	71	Approved		Staff	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Few early release days in favor of less full teacher workdays. Also, please consider putting teachers workdays on Mondays or Fridays. During the school year we have very few weekends available for a quick weekend trip out of town without missing school.	en	4	72	Approved		Weekends	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	I would really like the day off for Yom Kippur and Rosh Hashanah. It causes stress for students to "take off" the day and have to make up the work on their own.	en	4	73	Approved		Days	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Please consider scheduling a teacher workday on Yom Kippur. For the 26-27 calendar, Monday, Sept. 21. For the 27-28 calendar, Monday, Oct. 11. This would allow Jewish students to observe their holiest day without missing school or falling behind academically.	en	4	74	Approved		Calendar	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Respect of multiple religious holidays	en	4	75	Approved		Holidays	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Week out for Thanksgiving I think it is important for Staff and Students in the traditional setting for a rest and reboot time with friends and family	en	4	76	Approved		Staff	Positive
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	matching neighboring districts calendars for winter, spring and summer break dates many employees live in other districts and need to have aligned calendars for child care issues	en	4	77	Approved		Calendar	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Consistency and routine Establishes expectations and helps kids get into a groove	en	4	78	Approved		Miscellaneous	Positive
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Too many days off in November. To have school on Monday, off Tuesday, and return on Wednesday disrupts the flow of instruction. Having a Monday or Friday off is better when possible.	en	4	79	Approved		Days	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	School day start and end times, as well as the time of year when school begins and ends Start/end times and school year dates impact student health, learning, attendance, family routines, and overall academic success.	en	4	80	Approved		Time	Neutral

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What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Seasonal rhythms and regular breaks Students need "brain breaks"	en	4	81	Approved		Break	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Days off being at the beginning or end of a week Because only attending 1 day and then being off again doesn't feel consistent or like things are getting done.	en	4	82	Approved		Days	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Maximize instructional time while considering teacher burn out. This will increase teacher wellness which in turn leads to higher instruction	en	4	83	Approved		Instructional Days	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	DPS should have teacher workdays in which we can work on stuff in our classrooms instead of always scheduling PD on these days. Teacher do not have a lot of time to work in the classroom during the day. As a teacher, it's sad that we have to work after hours and , weekends	en	4	84	Approved		Days	Negative
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Calendars 1 and 3 make a lot more sense. They have teacher workdays after weekends and/or holidays rather than disrupting midweek. longer weekends allow for more true rest and recovery for children, permits travel, and are less disruptive than scattering midweek days off	en	4	85	Approved		Miscellaneous	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Highest quality curriculum Raise not lower the bar, always!	en	4	86	Approved		Miscellaneous	Positive
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Teacher workload/burnout NC continues to underpay its teachers more and more. We can't lose any more. We have to help them any way we can.	en	4	87	Approved		Miscellaneous	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	End marking periods on Fridays for smoother transitions. It supports better grading, reduces disruption, and helps families plan childcare/camps.	en	3.9	88	Approved		Miscellaneous	Positive
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Planning teacher workdays on a Monday or Friday, intentionally planning these workdays around holidays Because having a workday on a Tuesday makes NO SENSE	en	3.9	89	Approved		Workdays	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Early release days We loved fewer early release days this year. Nice touch that we would like to see continued.	en	3.9	90	Approved		Early Release Days	Neutral

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What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Maybe some mental health days Because some of our students and teacher need a break that's not a holiday or a "teacher workday".	en	3.9	91	Approved		Miscellaneous	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	On the year round calender, intersessions/breaks should be a FULL 3 weeks long. That is the point of the year round calender. Cutting breaks short by a few days complicates my ability to make plans and accommodations.	en	3.9	92	Approved		Year Round	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Recognize other holidays besides the traditional ones. To better reflect the diverse community.	en	3.9	93	Approved		Holidays	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Thinking about two working parent families childcare	en	3.9	94	Approved		Working Parents	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Consideration for holidays of all religions Teacher workdays adjacent to a weekend, Friday or Monday.	en	3.9	95	Approved		Weekends	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Have first semester end before the December holiday break! Start earlier and end earlier. Having a two week break and then coming back to final exams is ridiculous.	en	3.9	96	Approved		End	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	School based PD days, not district days workdays after longer breaks	en	3.9	97	Approved		Longer	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	im so glad we have thanksgiving week off again we are able to travel without my kids missing time	en	3.9	98	Approved		Thanksgiving Week	Positive
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Jewish holidays Equity	en	3.9	99	Approved		Holidays	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	convenience for families Working families should be taken into consideration when planning days off	en	3.9	100	Approved		Days	Neutral

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What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Days off of school should align with normal bank holidays as much as possible to minimize the amount of extra care that parents must find. To minimize the burden on working parents.	en	3.9	101	Approved		Working Parents	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	no random teacher workdays mid week disrupts the flow	en	3.9	102	Approved		Week Days	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Consistency as much as possible across the district Kids in families are in different calendar schools and it helps younger kids with school out camps	en	3.9	103	Approved		Calendar	Positive
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Inclusive of all types of holidays observed Getting finals done before winter holiday break so learners can start anew in the new calendar year	en	3.9	104	Approved		Holidays	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Year round calendars should include full three week breaks. Please do not have students come for one or two days then start a break on a Tues or Wed. We need our breaks so we can travel or reset	en	3.9	105	Approved		Year Round	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Elementary teachers should have more planning days without PD requirements Teachers have a hard time getting planning done when they have a lot of pd	en	3.9	106	Approved		Days	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Attendance on short weeks Requiring the monday before winter break is going to see an extreme lack of attendance and it will be a very ineffective day.	en	3.9	107	Approved		Miscellaneous	Negative
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	No planning days in the middle of the week It is hard for the students and staff	en	3.9	108	Approved		Week Days	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	adequate time for meaningful instruction and time for rest and family (or exploring other interests) kids are still developing and learning occurs in stages and in informal places as well as the formal. time for integration is important.	en	3.9	109	Approved		Time	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Week long thanksgiving Gives everyone time to rest, recharge, and enjoy the holiday.	en	3.9	110	Approved		Thanksgiving Week	Positive

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What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	I really appreciate Thanksgiving/ Fall Break extending the full week I am both a parent and DPS teacher, extended rest like this will be positive going into MOY testing and the final Q2 push	en	3.9	111	Approved		Thanksgiving Week	Positive
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	If you give teacher workdays, do not hold PLCs or PDs them. Let teachers play catch up please. They should ALL be optional. Teachers and support staff spend a significant amount of time at home and after school on class prep and/or a 2nd job. We need the work days.	en	3.9	112	Approved		Miscellaneous	Negative
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Full weeks at Thanksgiving and winter break Weeks of 1 or 2 days are ineffective for teaching and learning.	en	3.9	113	Approved		Thanksgiving Week	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Which religious holidays will likely cause significant students and staff absences? These days should be holidays or teacher work days. Excessive quantities of student and staff absence negatively affect the daily quality of instruction.	en	3.9	114	Approved		Holidays	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Calendar 1 and 3 are the best. We need more true teacher work days and not PD on work days. Make PDs more meaningful and survey teachers for choices We need the trainings we ask for and not the ones yall want to give us. TEACHER BURN OUT IS REAL AND YALL SHOULD PRIORITIZE OUR WELL BEING for success	en	3.9	115	Approved		Days	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Single days off on Mondays or Fridays It's easier for families and educators to have a 3-day break in terms of child care and in terms of classroom consistency	en	3.9	116	Approved		Days	Positive
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Aftercare availability Reliable transportation	en	3.8	117	Approved		Miscellaneous	Positive
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Monday, September 21 off Yom Kippur is most important Jewish holiday.	en	3.8	118	Approved		Holidays	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Acknowledge other religious holidays aside from Christianity I have to choose if I want my child to care more about his religion or his school attendance, which is not a fair choice to have to make	en	3.8	119	Approved		Holidays	Negative
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Intercessions being at least 2 weeks and 4 days. The break is needed by all.	en	3.8	120	Approved		Days	Neutral

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What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Attendance and built in breaks may support better attendance	en	3.8	121	Approved		Miscellaneous	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	mental break everybody needs a break	en	3.8	122	Approved		Break	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Making a calendar that supports parents and students. It is very difficult for parents to find childcare when teacher workdays are in the middle of the week.	en	3.8	123	Approved		Working Parents	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Number of days between breaks/holidays/teacher workdays. Too disruptive if there's days off close together.	en	3.8	124	Approved		Days	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Put teacher workdays on days when we don't already have a vacation day coming up to spread our 'down time' out a little To help prevent burnout	en	3.8	125	Approved		Days	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Schedule teacher work days and other students days-off so that they land on religious holidays. Students miss so many school days and events for major religious holidays that are not taken into consideration in calendar planning.	en	3.8	126	Approved		Holidays	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Spreading out teacher work days so they aren't back to back weeks Keeping the integrity of the 5 day week seems important for routine. Having a day off each week 3 weeks in a row this fall has not been great.	en	3.8	127	Approved		Days	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Full 3 week blocks for year round are easier on Parents planning child care It is harder to find camps that operate on a 2 day period when the track outs start mid week.	en	3.8	128	Approved		Year Round	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Breaks for intercessions would start on a Monday as this allows greater opportunity for full week intersession camps outside of DPS Afterschool Finding ½ week camps is a challenge and even worse is paying for a full week of camp to only have a child attend ½ of it.	en	3.8	129	Approved		Year Round	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Local, State & Federal Calendars to help working parents coordinate time off	en	3.8	130	Approved		Working Parents	Neutral

Exchange question	Thought (original)	Thought (language)	Star score - overall	Rank - overall	Moderation status	Moderation reported by	Keyword themes	Sentiment themes
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Spread teacher workdays Let's try to spread teacher workdays more and utilize the month of May...that can help teachers train/ prepare for EOG testing and end of year goals.	en	3.8	131	Approved		Workdays	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Exams before Christmas Learning continuity	en	3.8	132	Approved		Learning	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	breaks to prevent long durations of school without a "breather" (i.e., need work day in the long stretches 09/01-11/04, 02/01- 04/01, or 04/01-06/10). keep students fresh and ready, and minimize behaviors from a grueling work stretch	en	3.8	133	Approved		Miscellaneous	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	More non required teacher workdays Teachers need rest too and time to work in classrooms	en	3.8	134	Approved		Time	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Smaller class sizes. We need a cap of 20 or less. Classes were way to big this year. This limited learning by the children and the effectiveness of the teachers.	en	3.8	135	Approved		Miscellaneous	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	There are a lot of no school days in November, and none in October. Could the 2 required teacher workdays be at the end of October instead? It's good to distribute out breaks and days off of school somewhat evenly.	en	3.8	136	Approved		Days	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Maximize instructional time and space out workdays , particularly in November. This year, the kids have had 2 full weeks of school in November.	en	3.8	137	Approved		Instructional Days	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Aligning days off w common family events when possible Neither want child to miss school or family moments	en	3.8	138	Approved		Days	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Students should be able to learn new concepts in May rather than stop learning after exam reviews are done before EOG's. There is a month wasted at the end of school when kids don't learn anything.	en	3.8	139	Approved		Learning	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Be mindful of the families and their needs and well as staff. It's important because we must also show staff as well as families that we care about each other and we want what's best for both of us	en	3.8	140	Approved		Staff	Neutral

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What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Having the whole week off for Thanksgiving to make travel easier this year was great.	en	3.8	141	Approved		Thanksgiving Week	Positive
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Fewer teacher work days in September Keep up uninterrupted learning momentum at the beginning of the academic year	en	3.8	142	Approved		Miscellaneous	Positive
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Cluster teacher work days or early release days around weekends or holidays when possible Makes arranging child care or getting approval for time off of work requests easier	en	3.8	143	Approved		Days	Positive
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	DPS should prioritize a simplified calendar that allows instructors to effectively plan for full-week instruction. Minimizing half-days. Shortened days/weeks are less effective for instructors and student learning.	en	3.8	144	Approved		Miscellaneous	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Taking into account the personal, spiritual, and religious needs of students. I very much appreciate that students do not have school on Yom Kippur Students and families should not have to choose between religious observance and school when possible	en	3.8	145	Approved		Holidays	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Religious holidays besides Christian Inclusion	en	3.7	146	Approved		Holidays	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	3 week fall, spring , and winter intersessions for year round Consistency, camp registrations	en	3.7	147	Approved		Year Round	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Data on days staff frequently take off/students are absent Minimize need for subs/maximize instructional time	en	3.7	148	Approved		Instructional Days	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Keep Thanksgiving break one week Travel for families and staff	en	3.7	149	Approved		Thanksgiving Week	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	attendance....look at past calendars when you have highest attendance more students will be in school	en	3.7	150	Approved		Calendar	Neutral

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What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Allowing a teacher focus workday for teachers to focus on grades Would love wellness Wednesday to return in order to combat burnout of staff	en	3.7	151	Approved		Workdays	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Matching other districts school calendars and alignment between year round and traditional in DPS. Which calendar has fewer Monday "last days" or single/double days with the rest on break.	en	3.7	152	Approved		Calendar	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Students need more wellness days built in to the calendar Students' mental health needs to be prioritized	en	3.7	153	Approved		Calendar	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Avoid frequency of teacher workdays in a short period (more two/month) Difficult for working parents to find coverage or miss work that frequently	en	3.7	154	Approved		Working Parents	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Don't make Year Round an after thought when planning. Be efficient don't have out of school during the middle of the week.	en	3.7	155	Approved		Year Round	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Thank you for all of the thought that goes into making the calendars. I know its a lot to balance everything	en	3.7	156	Approved		Calendar	Positive
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Decent break lengths to allow for travel Last week of March for spring break	en	3.7	157	Approved		Break	Positive
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	holiday travel many people take off extra time because it is difficult to find holiday travel	en	3.7	158	Approved		Holidays	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Comparing the options for 2026-2027, our family prefers Calendar 1 over 2 for traditional. This provides the least amount of random disruptions and gives a full week off at Thanksgiving/Christmas and limits # of Wednesdays off.	en	3.7	159	Approved		Calendar	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Should consider holidays for Muslim students and families Because we're getting more and more Muslim students coming to DPS	en	3.7	160	Approved		Holidays	Neutral

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What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	alignment between traditional and year round calendars less choppy breaks for students and staff; teachers need protected workdays where we can get our required work done	en	3.7	161	Approved		Calendar	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	I would like to start earlier in August and finish the school year closer to Memorial Day. It seems like there isn't much instruction happening in June. Also, does it make sense to go to school for one week and then have Labor Day off?	en	3.7	162	Approved		Days	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Spreading out teacher workdays to happen regularly throughout the year is helpful Allows brief breaks for kids to recharge and no big chunks of time to cover for childcare or where learning can backslide	en	3.7	163	Approved		Miscellaneous	Positive
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	A culturally relevant calendar, where all feel respected We are getting better, but I want to make sure that we continue to support the diversity that is Durham.	en	3.7	164	Approved		Calendar	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Spanish immersion classes needs to be afforded to students new to DPS, not just to those who join from Kindergarten. Spanish is the most widely spoken language in the US other than English. All children need the opportunity to learn via immersion, not just some.	en	3.7	165	Approved		Miscellaneous	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Minimize the number of weeks disrupted by early release Children thrive on routine	en	3.7	166	Approved		Early Release Days	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	More breaks in the second semester we don't get many	en	3.7	167	Approved		Break	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Timely breaks For students to have time to digest informations process and release stress.	en	3.7	168	Approved		Time	Positive
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Teacher workday the day after Halloween Halloween was on a Friday this year, in the past we have not been so lucky. It is a lost instructional day due to absences & behaviors	en	3.7	169	Approved		Halloween	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Workdays on Mondays Allows for long weekends and for families who to use for appointments	en	3.7	170	Approved		Weekends	Positive

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What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	More early outs for traditional staff with no PD's Traditional school teachers get no breaks	en	3.7	171	Approved		Staff	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Teacher workdays should be set up to support teachers - not tied to election days or holidays Teachers need time to grade, meet with teachers across the district, and receive PD. Conflicting with holidays/voting days makes this difficult.	en	3.7	172	Approved		Days	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	That the dates don't cause excessive absences of staff and students. In December holidays, Monday is not a day off prior to Christmas which creates a situation where Teachers will take off and create a staffing burden.	en	3.7	173	Approved		Miscellaneous	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Tratar a todos los niños por igual Igualdad de género	es	3.7	174	Approved		Miscellaneous	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Teacher and staff opinions should matter more than parents. They are in this for the long-haul and know more. I say this as a parent.	en	3.7	175	Approved		Working Parents	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	What calendar best aligns with traditional calendar as I now have children on both calendars To ensure their time can coordinate so that we can balance family time and educational priorities	en	3.6	176	Approved		Calendar	Positive
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Start earlier in August and end in May	en	3.6	177	Approved		End	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Possibly 2 teacher workdays in a row to give teachers more break time. Important because we do not have enough time during the work week to get all the daunting tasks done.	en	3.6	178	Approved		Time	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Spacing of teacher workdays Sometimes they fall close together and students seem to miss too many days in a short span of time.	en	3.6	179	Approved		Days	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Start times need to be adjusted for high schools and elementary schools Helps to relieve afterschool programs for elementary schools and allows high school athletes and workers more time for education	en	3.6	180	Approved		Time	Neutral

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What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	less weeks with work days mid week for example nov 4 then nov 11 having days off back to back is less disruption	en	3.6	181	Approved		Week Days	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Thanksgiving break should continue to be for the entire week. Good addition.	en	3.6	182	Approved		Thanksgiving Week	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	please make calendar options viewable for parents to offer comments/feedback. The links in the previous page do not give parents access to the calenda rs. thanks.	en	3.6	183	Approved		Working Parents	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Respect Jewish holidays Minimize days school is closed to minimize interrupting learning and challenges for working parents	en	3.6	184	Approved		Working Parents	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Consider when the school year should end in traditional calendar (May vs June) Other counties in NC end before Memorial Day, allowing kids to be finished for summer by that break vs another interruption.	en	3.6	185	Approved		End	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Early release days should not be always be on the same day of the week when scheduling the calendar Let's try to not have it on Wednesday's only. Switch it around some like have it on a Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday. Allow change and flexibility	en	3.6	186	Approved		Early Release Days	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Please help balance the days in Quarter 1 vs. Quarter 2 Because of all of the holidays and breaks in November and December it feels like there is an imbalance in class/instructional time	en	3.6	187	Approved		Time	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	More year round schedules for dps schools because the summer is too long with the traditional calendar This is important because kids get bored, summer camps are expensive, and we would rather have more breaks throughout the year.	en	3.6	188	Approved		Year Round	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Impact on parents' work schedules when kids aren't in school Stressed parents create stressed kids	en	3.6	189	Approved		Working Parents	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Shift all required workdays and early release days to Monday or Friday. Minimize the midweek disruptions and reduce childcare burden on working parents	en	3.6	190	Approved		Working Parents	Neutral

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What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	If you have to have a day off around Halloween make it the day after if that is a weekday. Kids get to sleep in after trick or treating	en	3.6	191	Approved		Halloween	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Last day of school always on a Friday There are no camps that start midweek, it's hard to arrange childcare on last week of school for elementary school students	en	3.6	192	Approved		Miscellaneous	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Consider teacher workdays on a Friday. Fridays are at the end of the week. Staff is already in work mode. On Mon, staff is in weekend mode. Staff may choose to use a Fri to catch up.	en	3.6	193	Approved		Staff	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Give the day after Halloween off of school	en	3.6	194	Approved		Halloween	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	No early release days It makes childcare for elementary school students a nightmare	en	3.6	195	Approved		Early Release Days	Negative
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Less PD days if teachers are in PLCs every week No time to prep and prepare	en	3.6	196	Approved		Miscellaneous	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	We need to incorporate a fall break and a spring break. Also a full week for Thanksgiving . End the school year in May. Our staff and students need this time. This happens in other districts because they shorten the summer break by a week or two.	en	3.6	197	Approved		Break	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Knowing when the kids need a mental break	en	3.6	198	Approved		Break	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	More breaks throughout year Start earlier in August and have 2-3 day break in October and a 2-3 day break in February. Yearround has many benefits we could add to traditional.	en	3.6	199	Approved		Break	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Group days off together whenever possible Random single days off in the middle of the week are harder for families to manage and disrupt the rhythm of student learning.	en	3.6	200	Approved		Week Days	Neutral

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What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Making teacher work days not in the middle of the weeks if possible. It's very disruptive for working parents. Making schedule adjustments in the middle of the week can be more challenging.	en	3.6	201	Approved		Week Days	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	The September 30th workday should be school based to work on MTSS.	en	3.6	202	Approved		Workdays	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Spacing of one-off teacher workdays...One challenge of this fall was 3 weeks in a row in which there was a day off from school (10/27, 11/4, 11/11) It's hard for kids and parents to get into a rhythm when there are multiple 4-day weeks in a row.	en	3.6	203	Approved		Miscellaneous	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Spreading out breaks in a manageable way. Giving students and teachers planning time and rest	en	3.6	204	Approved		Time	Positive
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Share a parent-facing version that simply shows which days kids are at school and which days they are not. It doesn't matter to a parent if a day off is a holiday, a teacher workday, or something else — just clearly show days off so we can plan accordingly	en	3.6	205	Approved		Days	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	No early release days on Friday 1 protected TWD at the end of each quarter	en	3.5	206	Approved		Early Release Days	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Last day of the school year should end on a Friday not Wednesday. Child care	en	3.5	207	Approved		End	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Less early release days	en	3.5	208	Approved		Early Release Days	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Minimize half days It's difficult for parent schedules.	en	3.5	209	Approved		Working Parents	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Religious holidays, lengths of breaks and not having 1, 2, or 3 day weeks. Early release days are wastes of time and resources.	en	3.5	210	Approved		Holidays	Neutral

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What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Being year-round this will also help with the lack of pay that teachers have the summer Year-round schooling provides students, families, and teacher reduce learning loss that often happens during the long summer breaks.	en	3.5	211	Approved		Miscellaneous	Positive
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Consistent lengths of quarters-- Each one is exactly the same number of instructional weeks This is essential for teachers with curriculum maps and pacing guides to ensure quality instruction for students.	en	3.5	212	Approved		Instructional Days	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Days off for non-Christian holidays (Muslin, Jewish, Hindu, Bahai...) Gives non-Christians a better sense that their holidays are special too	en	3.5	213	Approved		Holidays	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	I would suggest thinking about continuous learning that won't island learning days where things are unlikely to get done. It's hard as a parent to plan for random days off or single stand alone school days.	en	3.5	214	Approved		Learning	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Vary which days of week are teacher workdays Always having on the same day can conflict with consistent alternate obligations repetitively	en	3.5	215	Approved		Days	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	As a parent, I wish my elementary school child had more breaks rather than a day off here and there. Burn out happens, kids get overwhelmed, and regular, multi-day breaks can help that, even if it makes the school year longer.	en	3.5	216	Approved		Miscellaneous	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Ending closer to end of may By June it feels like most kids are checked out	en	3.5	217	Approved		End	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	most consistent year-round calendar shorter burn out periods	en	3.5	218	Approved		Calendar	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Early Release Days should be a true half day. What's the point if we are saying all of our classes back to back for over an hour with no lunch in between. Release us earlier.	en	3.5	219	Approved		Early Release Days	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Maximize contiguous time in the class room. Minimize the disruptions Current calendar has too many weeks with a day off that breaks the continuity of the learning environment. Days off should be clustered	en	3.5	220	Approved		Days	Neutral

Exchange question	Thought (original)	Thought (language)	Star score - overall	Rank - overall	Moderation status	Moderation reported by	Keyword themes	Sentiment themes
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Student communication about safety at Githens needs improvement Safety threats shared with parents via email without follow-up on investigation results shared. No info, reassurance shared with the children. Not ok.	en	3.5	221	Approved		Miscellaneous	Negative
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Thought of an idea like using dps platform where parents can view the lesson plans, learning targets, and specific assignments of kids so we can ff up For partnership of school, families making education more cohesive and student-centered	en	3.5	222	Approved		Miscellaneous	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	A week off for Thanksgiving it gives us a much needed break	en	3.5	223	Approved		Thanksgiving Week	Positive
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	No early release days No learning happens on those days, half of the day is recess and lunch	en	3.5	224	Approved		Days	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Try to spread out teacher workdays and holidays Burden on families and inhibits learning	en	3.5	225	Approved		Workdays	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	this is unclear whether we are talking about the traditional calendar or year round not distinguishing greatly skews the responses	en	3.5	226	Approved		Calendar	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Clearly show what days the children are out	en	3.5	227	Approved		Days	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Broad religious observances Our house is practicing Christian but Christian holidays shouldn't be prioritized over others.	en	3.5	228	Approved		Holidays	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Prioritize teachers and give them true early release day and off days If teachers are not okay mentally and physically we can not be our best selves for the students.	en	3.5	229	Approved		Early Release Days	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Making sure all days off are not in the same day of the week. My kids has only has her Tuesday class once in November.	en	3.4	230	Approved		Days	Neutral

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What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Wake County calendar comparison many teachers live in other counties with their own families	en	3.4	231	Approved		Calendar	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Later start time for elementary school Such early start time make for a very long day. Later start time and later release helps kids and working parents	en	3.4	232	Approved		Time	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Coordinating with Durham tech and others that dos partners with. For dual enrolled students to have an actual break and not staggered breaks (dps is off one week and Durham tech is off another) .	en	3.4	233	Approved		Miscellaneous	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Elementary school schedule It is not healthy for kids this young to get up as early as needed to start school at 7:45. Is this being considered?	en	3.4	234	Approved		Miscellaneous	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Religious Holidays Adequate Teacher Workdays	en	3.4	235	Approved		Holidays	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	availability of childcare options to families holidays	en	3.4	236	Approved		Holidays	Positive
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Consider federal holidays	en	3.4	237	Approved		Holidays	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Same holidays as Chapel Hill Schools. I teach in DPS but live in Chapel Hill and have kids in school there. I would like Spring Breaks to match up.	en	3.4	238	Approved		Miscellaneous	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Lining up spring breaks with other school systems (Orange/Wake) helps with extra curricular planning so that students can be on break at the same time	en	3.4	239	Approved		Break	Positive
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Literacy Night at SWE needs to be catered to older students too. Reading is incredibly imp. for kids' growing minds. Literacy night is caters to new readers. It needs to also encourage adv readers as well.	en	3.4	240	Approved		Miscellaneous	Neutral

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What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Single or double working parent schedules Many DPS families have parents with inflexible work schedules, so having many days out a month can be difficult.	en	3.4	241	Approved		Working Parents	Negative
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Minimize disruption to parents with so many disparate days off. It is challenging for many families to find child care on random one-off days.	en	3.4	242	Approved		Working Parents	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Length of time between days off. There should not be 3 weeks without a break. Comparing to my kids at a charter school.	en	3.4	243	Approved		Time	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Year round calendar would be better if there were 2 weeks in the fall (instead of 3) and also only 2 weeks in the spring. Those 2 weeks go to summer. The summer break is not quite long enough. My child can't enjoy camps and as many summer activities. Plus 3 weeks feels like a long time	en	3.3	244	Approved		Year Round	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Put Spring Break with Easter and Good Friday in April	en	3.3	245	Approved		Break	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	a fall break that is not thanksgiving	en	3.3	246	Approved		Break	Negative
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	alignment with Wake and major surrounding counties. Many DPS teachers may be living outside of the district and have children enrolled in other school districts.	en	3.3	247	Approved		Calendar	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Let school end in May, come back early in August.	en	3.3	248	Approved		End	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	There are too many days off in Nov. It would be nice to have the teacher work days on 01Nov & 02Nov as a long weekend mid-Oct so it can be a break. To spread out the days off more and not have them all lumped in Nov/Dec. make another four day week in spring term.	en	3.3	249	Approved		Days	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Lining up with CHCCS is helpful to our family as many camps we can utilize for days off are in Chapel Hill. Camps can extend learning and don't leave parents scrambling for childcare. Gives more options.	en	3.3	250	Approved		Miscellaneous	Positive

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What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Convenience for parents	en	3.3	251	Approved		Working Parents	Positive
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Align traditional high schools with the community college Students enrolled in both high school and CCP will have a smoother academic experience, maintaining consistent routines and expectations.	en	3.3	252	Approved		Miscellaneous	Positive
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Calendar year at the macro level. Why start before Labor Day when a few days after there is a break?	en	3.3	253	Approved		Days	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Stop taking 10 annual days for spring/ winter break. Newbies only get 10 annual leave days and you take them all. They start accruing in year 3. Y? I NEED my time. Accrual is slow for me due to YOUR allocated days. PLEASE stop taking my days for ur assigned days. Make them all holidays.	en	3.3	254	Approved		Days	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	4 day work weeks, wellness wednesday for prep prepare and, PLCs or PDs A true break to get things done, or for wellness	en	3.3	255	Approved		Days	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	I think it would be helpful to have a fall break in October for the traditional academic calendar There are no days off in October, which I have noticed leads to burn out for both teachers and students	en	3.3	256	Approved		Calendar	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	The school year should not end on a Wednesday. There are no summer camps open for only two days (Thur/Fri), so it is very difficult for working parents.	en	3.3	257	Approved		Working Parents	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Avoid early release days. Instead, PD and teacher work time should be grouped together for a full day off. Daily schedules are completely changed and not much quality instruction occurs because of this. The day feels wasted anyways.	en	3.3	258	Approved			Negative
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Regular cycles of learning and breaks where both students and staff can rest and renew their energy. Year-round calendars seem to do this better. Both students and staff (and parents!) get burned out when there are long periods between breaks.	en	3.3	259	Approved		Staff	Neutral

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What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Align end of quarter with a teacher workday either the Monday of the following week or the Friday of the week, whichever is closest. It gives teachers time to finalize grades and allow Data Manager time to process report cards.	en	3.3	260	Approved		Time	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Consistent breaks for year-round Able to plan school/family time	en	3.3	261	Approved			Positive
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Ending the school year on a Friday Testing and teacher/student morale	en	3.2	262	Approved		End	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Rotate the days of the week that you have teacher work days Allows for parents to have options throughout the year and not always miss the same day of the week if having to take off of work or school themselves	en	3.2	263	Approved		Days	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Add in a fall break It could be a good mid-point for students, teachers, & staff to reflect and reset.	en	3.2	264	Approved		Staff	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Days out Vacation	en	3.2	265	Approved		Days	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	please have the day after halloween off the teachers don't want to deal with them after halloween	en	3.2	266	Approved		Halloween	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Spring break Let's try spring break 1st week in April to switch things up & not have teacher workdays around it. They already have a week off. Less time kids out	en	3.2	267	Approved		Break	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Spring break to overlap with Easter week Fewer overall breaks during spring semester to reduce breaks in instructional time	en	3.2	268	Approved		Break	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Shorter summer break for traditional calendar Reduce severity of summer learning loss	en	3.2	269	Approved		Calendar	Positive

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What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	this is too open ended this is too open ended	en	3.2	270	Approved		End	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Later start time for elementary school When elementary school dismisses first, older siblings are not available for childcare since they are still at school	en	3.2	271	Approved		Time	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Both YR calendar options support student learning and effectiveness. Therefore, privileging family vacation/down time for students and staff/teachers. Finding a rhythm that gives the most reasonable flexibility to families for planning camps/travel/day camps, etc. I somewhat prefer longer summer.	en	3.2	272	Approved		Miscellaneous	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Time to train staff on the DPS Non-Negotiables and Strategic Plan Expectations Time for staff to process and practice new learning	en	3.2	273	Approved		Staff	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Only one day is needed for MLK Holiday versus two. Students need consistency and having two days off in January defeats that purpose coming back from holidays.	en	3.2	274	Approved		Holidays	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Matching my work schedule So we can vacation together	en	3.1	275	Approved		Miscellaneous	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Year Round Calendar for the Whole District Gives students and teachers time to process information and data to restructure and support students before they get too behind.	en	3.1	276	Approved		Calendar	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Fall break. I've lived in South Georgia for years and coming here, it was a shock that the students didn't receive a week for fall break. Less half days. Classes don't have all the students and it's just disruptive to only have a half day.	en	3.1	277	Approved		Days	Negative
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Teacher workdays immediately following daylight savings start/end time The kids are tired and have a hard time at school that week while they adjust.	en	3.1	278	Approved		Time	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Election day should be an optional teacher workday. Why was it changed to mandatory this year. Allow teachers and staff the day to vote. Yes, they have the early voting period but if they did not vote during that time, then that is last day.	en	3.1	279	Approved		Days	Neutral

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What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Allow Specialties schools to continue to begin school year on Thursdays during the first week of August or at the latest the second week of August. So that High Schools can finish Q1 & Q2 plus exams prior to Christmas holidays.	en	3.1	280	Approved		Miscellaneous	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Make sure early release days are not on Mondays or Fridays If they are, families see it as a 3-day weekend and are less prone to send their students to school .	en	3.1	281	Approved		Weekends	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	A full week off for Thanksgiving is not needed. Way too many days off in November. They're already going to get 2 weeks in December.	en	3	282	Approved		Thanksgiving Week	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Time for professional learning (monthly early release days on a Wednesday) Consistent, prolonged meetings can support district instructional initiatives. ERDs on Mondays/Fridays or holidays reduce their effectiveness.	en	3	283	Approved		Instructional Days	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	We would love to go back to having a fall break in October (traditional calendar) instead of a long break at Thanksgiving Harder to plan time off from work to do something with the family during scheduled break times if they all center around holidays	en	3	284	Approved		Break	Positive
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	You all are proposing a lot of unnecessary changes.	en	3	285	Approved		Miscellaneous	Negative
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Considering the wider and diverse community that is part of DPS To ensure students and families are able to engage in active learning and community building events/meetings	en	3	286	Approved		Miscellaneous	Positive
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	I see nothing wrong with the proposed school calender.	en	2.9	287	Approved		Miscellaneous	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	more school instruction time because learning is important	en	2.9	288	Approved		Instructional Days	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	More instructional days Increased opportunities for student learning	en	2.9	289	Approved		Instructional Days	Positive

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What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Shorter breaks More consistent learning	en	2.8	290	Approved		Learning	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Teacher workdays & holidays need to be separated. There are certain workdays that don't need to not be followed after a holiday. Less time out Workday at Thanksgiving should be on Wednesday & no workday given around Spring break. A workday can be made in middle of March before break.	en	2.8	291	Approved		Workdays	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	I like the option 6 & 8 for year round. The end of the month is usually a busy time and it's nice to not have intercession during this time.	en	2.8	292	Approved		Time	Positive
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Thanksgiving week Students can go in Monday and Tuesday. Teacher workday Wednesday. This allow parents to work that week and not make that week long for kids to be out	en	2.7	293	Approved		Thanksgiving Week	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	The calendars look good	en	2.7	294	Approved		Calendar	Positive
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Students don't need the entire week of Thanksgiving off. Wed-Friday is enough. It is a lot for working families to find childcare for Mon-Tuesday of this week.	en	2.6	295	Approved		Thanksgiving Week	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Shorter winter break allows flexibility for winter weather absence dates due to weather	en	2.6	296	Approved		Miscellaneous	Positive
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Longer school days More time for recess and lunch during the day	en	2.6	297	Approved		Longer	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Longer school days More non-academic instructional time (art, music, etc.)	en	2.6	298	Approved		Longer	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Longer school days Less time for teens to get into trouble before their parents come home from work	en	2.5	299	Approved		Longer	Neutral

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What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Longer school days More time for parents to work, less after school program or childcare needs	en	2.5	300	Approved		Longer	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Minimize teacher work days	en	2.4	301	Approved		Days	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Don't need a whole week for thanksgiving break! Please try to be more strategic with teachers work days	en	2.4	302	Approved		Thanksgiving Week	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Not much	en	2.4	303	Approved			Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Have school the few days before Thanksgiving and before Christmas. A week off is too long of a time for students to not be in school. Especially for those parents that work with young children.	en	2.4	304	Approved		Thanksgiving Week	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	this makes my stomach hurt I'll be back	en	2.3	306	Approved		Miscellaneous	Negative
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	None None	en	2.3	307	Approved		Miscellaneous	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	None	en	2.3	308	Approved		Miscellaneous	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Longer school days More academic learning time	en	2.2	310	Approved		Longer	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Longer summer, shorter fall/spring and Christmas break	en	2.1	311	Approved		Longer	Neutral

Exchange question	Thought (original)	Thought (language)	Star score - overall	Rank - overall	Moderation status	Moderation reported by	Keyword themes	Sentiment themes
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Longer school days More time for students to practice prosocial skills	en	2	312	Approved		Longer	Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	I'm not sure.	en	2.3	305	Reported	Participant		Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	xx	en	2.2	309	Reported	Participant		Neutral
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Githens' fundraising efforts focused on families w/ money; no in-person engagement to involve all. Githen's fundraising efforts are focused solely on people donating money. In-person family engagement; fun events like what's done at SWE needed.	en	0	N/A	Reported	Machine		
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Jewish Holidays should be factored in for families and staff Rosh Shana and Yom Kippur. Just two days Families are having to choose between school and faith. This is not something that families should have to choose.	en	0	N/A	Reported	Machine		
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	None None	en	0	N/A	Reported	Machine		
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	None None	en	0	N/A	Reported	Machine		
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Other than sports, Githens' parent and proactive communication is near nill. Very disappointed with parent engagement by Githens. Everything seems sports-focused. Non-sports related, in-person family engagement sorely needed.	en	0	N/A	Reported	Machine		
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Please avoid mandatory days on Yom Kippur and the first day of Rosh Hashanah. See here for those days in 2026 https://www.hebcal.com/holidays/2026 These are the holiest days of the year for Jewish students and teachers	en	0	N/A	Reported	Machine		
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	Religious Holy Days - especially the holiest ones (eg., Yom Kippur for the Jewish community) Avoid missing important classwork or events during days when families are observing their religious Holy day, or feeling singled out.	en	0	N/A	Reported	Machine		

Exchange question	Thought (original)	Thought (language)	Star score - overall	Rank - overall	Moderation status	Moderation reported by	Keyword themes	Sentiment themes
What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?	With Duke being the largest employers in the area, could some effort be made for either fall or spring intercession to overlap with Duke's breaks? YRS This seems perfectly possible and perfectly reasonable and would make vast numbers of people tied to the University happy.	en	0	N/A	Reported	Machine		



2026-2027 and 2027-2028 2-year Instructional Calendar Proposals Traditional and Year Round Schools

Dr. Nicholas King, Deputy Superintendent
Chanel Sidbury, Assistant Superintendent of CISS
Ashley Stephens, Director of School Innovation

Calendar Law

- 185 days or 1025 hrs
 - DPS counts hours for maximum flexibility
- 10 annual leave days
 - Placement decided by LEA
- 11 State Holidays
 - Decided by State, any holiday besides Veterans Day can placed anywhere on the calendar
- Teacher Workday
 - Amount and placement are decided by LEA
 - at least 2 must allow for a teacher to take annual leave
- Teacher days must be no more/less than 215
 - This includes all the days above.
- No earlier than the Monday closest to August 26
- End date no later than the Friday closest to June 11
- Inclement weather days are built in
- Chosen year round model: A plan providing students be scheduled to attend four quarters of between 43 and 47 instructional days each school calendar year, with vacation periods for students of between 14 and 18 days separating each quarter.

Historical DPS added parameters & considerations

Academic Focus

- Begin School on a Monday ✓
- 5 preservice days for teachers. ✓
- At least 2 required workdays at the end of the year to support graduations. ✓
- At least 10 TWDs ✓
- There is a workday at the end of each marking period to allow educators the time needed to prepare. ✓
- Ensure consistency of day placement for early release days when possible. ✓
- Strategic placement of workdays to support data cycles and instructional practices. ✓
- Strategic placement of marking period end dates during the semester transition. ✓
- November Election annually and March Election on even years. ✓
- Recommendations to various DPS departments to support educator and students needs when flexibility is not available. ✓

Other Considerations

- Alignment of one week of Y.R. and T.R. spring break to ensure families representing multiple school communities can have a shared break. ✓
- 2 weeks for the Winter Holiday ✓
- 1 week for Fall Break ✓
- 1 week for Spring Break ✓
- November Election annually and March Election on even years. ✓

Serving Our Diverse Community

We recognize and value the diverse religious and cultural traditions within our DPS community. While we cannot formally close schools for every observance not included in the state required holiday calendar, we are committed to supporting students and staff who need time to honor their traditions.

**In alignment with school
board policy 4400, schools
will provide support to:**

- Ensure absences are coded correctly
- Flexible make-up work
- Resources to ensure students remain supported in their learning.



Calendar representatives from each school met to provide feedback on calendar options.

May 2025

Draft calendar options were modified and shared with various advisory groups.

September 2025

- Drafts will be sent to each school for a vote
- Present recommended calendars to the DPS Board of Education.
- Communicate adopted calendars with families and community.

November 2025

Provided time for makeup sessions to include all school communities

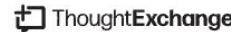
June 2025

Engagement opportunity for families and the community to provide feedback on the draft calendars.

October 2025

Calendars Process

Community Feedback



This Exchange was created by Durham Public Schools

What factors or considerations should DPS prioritize when developing the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 instructional calendars to best support student learning and instructional effectiveness?



Language

English

A small white downward-pointing arrow indicating a dropdown menu.

translated by Google

Get started

A districtwide ThoughtExchange provided an opportunity for families, additional staff, and students to share their perspectives.

Community Feedback

traditional
longer
less instructional minimize
long friday plan workdays
camps families considerations days time
kids end weekends start spring
round parents travel monday staff break
summer week middle full calendar
holidays childcare early year learning
thanksgiving religious work



493
Participants

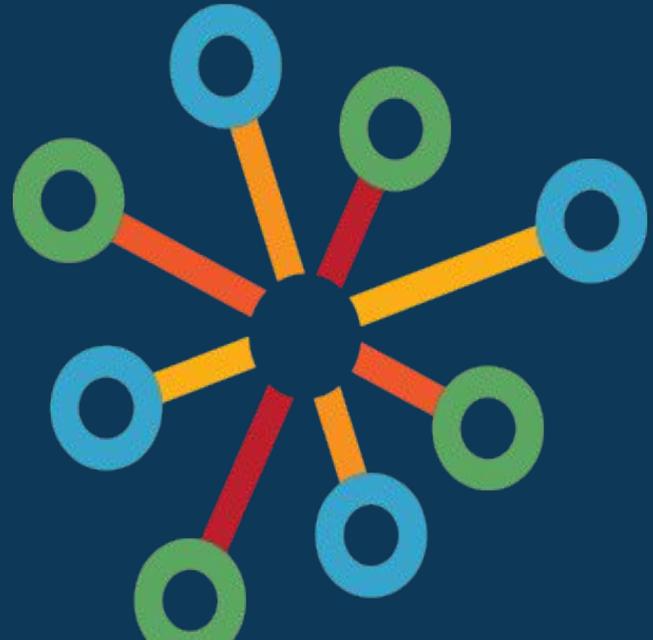


312
Thoughts



6,408
Ratings

Recommendations



Thank you

