

Process and Rationale of the Academic School Calendar 2020-2021

The calendar committee set the following goals (for 2019-2020):

- Maximize student contact time prior to K-12 required assessments (AP, SAT, Dual Enrollment, End-of-Course, CTE, ISAT, IRI, WIDA [February]) which typically occur the last week of March through mid-May;
- Allow teachers enough time to thoroughly teach to all of the standards prior to assessing these standards;
- Provide all students enough time to work toward proficiency of the standards, prior to assessing these standards.

Improvement Priorities per District Accreditation Review:

- Align all District curriculum vertically and horizontally across each grade level and content area.
- Review and revise the current student assessment system, ensuring it includes both formative and summative measures, and is consistent across grade levels and content areas.
- Implement instructional strategies which promote student engagement and active learning across the District.

The Superintendent's Council shared the following feedback/possible suggestions for calendar consideration when creating the 2018-2019 calendar:

- PD day(s) prior to school starting.
- Distribute the days throughout the year.
- Early release for PD, with a preference for embedded PD rather than after full school day.
- 1 PD day per quarter.
- PIE-type of days (2 days in October).

Pieces that must be considered/incorporated into the calendar, based on input from stakeholders or facility needs:

- Student contact days—177
- Certified contracted days—190
- Graduation will not occur on a Sunday
 - LCSC Activity Center is not available until the Saturday after Memorial Day weekend, due to NAIA tournament
- Winter break must be two, full weeks
- Spring break must be one, full week
- Keep the October break
 - Two days for students, one day for certified staff
- Attempt to balance semesters
 - Goal is 89/88 days per semester, with 90/87 as second option
- Attempt to keep finals during the span of one week (especially at the end of the year)
 - Avoid Monday as the last day of school for students
- District PD—3.5 days
 - 3 days embedded into the calendar
 - .5 day embedded into the calendar as a placeholder, with buildings able to determine actual dates/time

Each school has one representative on the calendar committee. In addition, there is an elementary school principal, a secondary principal, a board member, LEA representative, and district administrator on the committee. Current members are:

- Jeana Thomas and Laura Turner—Whitman
- Julie Barron—Webster
- Rebecca Browne—McSorley
- Andrea Bartosz—McGhee
- Maria Valdivia—Centennial
- RJ Harper—Orchards
- Nancy Buttenhoff—Camelot
- Hilary Gruehl Laughrey—Jenifer
- Michael Uhling—Sacajawea
- Derek Ax—TAC
- Mindy Pals—LHS
- Deanna Didier—LEA
- Sheri Allen—Board
- Karla Carper—elementary principal
- JoAnne Greear—secondary principal
- Lisa Fenter—CO admin

Based on the goals of the committee (which are reviewed and adjusted, if needed, each time the committee meets), at least one **draft** calendar is presented to the calendar committee from the central office administrator. The committee meets to review, discuss, and make any suggestions to the presented calendar(s).

- If the calendar(s) includes major changes from the current year (earlier start date, embedded PD, early release/late start—dates that will affect student attendance), the calendar(s) are typically shared with stakeholders for input.
- If the calendar does not have major changes from the current year, the calendar committee makes a calendar recommendation to the Board for approval.

2018-2019 student start dates from various districts around the state

- Blackfoot—August 27
- Blaine—August 28
- Boise—August 20
- Caldwell—August 20
- Cassia—August 22
- Coeur d'Alene—September 4
- Cottonwood—August 29
- Genesee—September 4
- Highland—August 27
- Horseshoe Bend—August 22
- Idaho Falls—August 29
- Jefferson—August 29
- Jerome—August 21
- Kellogg—September 4
- Kendrick—August 21

- Kootenai—September 4
- Kuna—August 23
- Lake Pend Oreille—September 4
- Lakeland—September 4
- Lewiston—August 22
- Madison—August 22
- McCall-Donnelly—August 27
- Middleton—August 21
- Minidoka—August 23
- Moscow—August 29
- Mountain Home—August 14
- Mountain View—August 21
- Nampa—August 22
- Nez Perce—August 28
- Orofino—August 27
- Pocatello—August 28
- Post Falls—September 4
- Potlatch—August 28
- Twin Falls—August 20
- West Ada—August 21

With regard to student start dates, of the above 35 school districts:

- One (1) school district starts a week earlier than Lewiston
- 15 school districts start the same week as Lewiston
- 19 school districts start later than Lewiston

Lewiston's start date for students prior to the 2017-2018 school year was typically the last Wednesday of August.

Beginning with the 2017-2018 school year, students started one week earlier, based on input from staff and parents.

- Total of 755 respondents
 - 55% in favor of August 23 (Wednesday) start date for students
 - 45% in favor of August 30 (Wednesday) start date for students

For the 2018-2019 school year, students started Wednesday, August 22.

- Two calendars presented to parents/staff for input
 - One calendar had students starting on August 22, and the other had students starting on August 23.
 - Total of 1,059 respondents
 - 63% in favor of the calendar with students starting August 22.