

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

February 24, 2004

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: A. McBeath, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: School Year Calendar 2004-2005 and 2005-2006

ORIGINATOR: B. Holt, Executive Director Instructional and Curricular Support

RESOURCE

STAFF: Mike Falk, Maryann Hammermeister, Bob Holt

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the 2004-2005 school year calendar be approved.
2. That the 2005-2006 school year calendar be approved.

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The recommended 10-month school year calendars for 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 are shown in Appendix I and II, respectively.

The Recommended 2004-2005 School Calendar

In order to meet the minimum hours of instruction mandated by Alberta Learning, the first instructional day in the recommended 2004-2005 school year calendar is Wednesday, September 1st and the last instructional day is Tuesday, June 28th. Eight other jurisdictions were contacted and all had placed the first instructional day prior to Labour Day, from as early as August 30 to as late as September 2nd. Edmonton Catholic Schools will start instruction on September 1st.

Other highlights of the 2004-2005 school year include:

- Remembrance Day is on Thursday, November 11.
- The Winter Recess begins as early as possible, with the last instructional day prior to the break occurring on Friday, December 17. Students return to school on January 3, 2005.
- Good Friday and Easter Monday overlap with Spring Recess.

The Recommended 2005-2006 School Calendar

In order to meet the minimum hours of instruction mandated by Alberta Learning, the first instructional day in the recommended 2005-2006 school year calendar is Thursday, September 1st and the last instructional day is Thursday, June 29th. Even with the early start to the school year, an operational day at the end of the year has to be eliminated in order to meet the hours of instruction requirements.

Other highlights of the 2005-2006 school year include:

- Remembrance Day is on Friday, November 11.
- The Winter Recess begins as late as possible, with the last instructional day prior to the break occurring on Friday, December 23. Students return to school on January 9, 2006.
- Good Friday and Easter Monday do not overlap with Spring Recess.

Requirements of School Calendars

In constructing these calendars, the following requirements of Alberta Learning have been met:

- Elementary and junior high school students must receive 950 hours of instruction per school year.
- Senior high school students must have access to 1000 hours of instruction per school year.
- Senior high school five credit courses require 125 hours of instruction and three credit courses require 62.5 hours of instruction. The number of instructional days available in each semester must be sufficient to meet this requirement for every course offered either as a quarter, semester or full-year course.
- The hours of instruction must be met on an annual basis. Averaging over a five year period is not accepted by Alberta Learning.

The following criteria are also addressed:

- A full school week requires a minimum of 1520 minutes of instruction at the elementary and junior high school levels, or an average of 304 minutes per day. To meet the 950 hours of instruction for the year, 188 instructional days are required.
- Schools are able to declare up to three professional development days and one day-in-lieu. This requires that 192 possible instructional days are made available in the calendar.
- To facilitate school opening and closing activities, a total of four non-instructional operational days are required, two at the beginning of the school year and two at the end of the year.
- Two days at the end of February or early March are reserved for the Greater Edmonton Teacher's Convention.

Use of the 10-Month Calendar within the District

The 10-month calendars are used by all district 10-month schools, with the exception of Talmud Torah, where the calendar is modified to account for Jewish holidays. Three schools, Parkdale, Eastwood and Donnan, follow a modified 11-month calendar. All institutions with the exception of Kennedale follow the 10-month calendar, although summer programs are offered in some institutions. Kennedale follows a 12-month instructional calendar.

- APPENDIX I - School Year Calendar 2004-2005
APPENDIX II - School Year Calendar 2005-2006

RECOMMENDED**SCHOOL CALENDAR 2004 - 2005**

2004-2005	Total Days	Instructional Days
August	2	
September	21	21
October	20	20
November	21	21
December	13	13
January	21	21
February	19	19
March	18	16
April	20	20
May	21	21
June	<u>22</u>	<u>20</u>
TOTAL	<u>198</u>	<u>192</u> *

Labour Day	September 6
Thanksgiving	October 11
Remembrance Day	November 11
Winter Recess	December 20 - December 31 inclusive
Family Day	February 21
Teachers' Convention	March 3 - 4
Spring Recess	March 25 - April 1 inclusive
Good Friday	March 25
Easter Monday	March 28
Victoria Day	May 23
First day of operation	August 30
First day of instruction	September 1
Last day of instruction	June 28
Last day of operation	June 30

* Instructional days may be reduced by up to three school professional development days and one day-in-lieu.

RECOMMENDED**SCHOOL CALENDAR 2005 - 2006**

2005-2006	Total Days	Instructional Days
August	2	0
September	21	21
October	20	20
November	21	21
December	17	17
January	17	17
February	19	19
March	18	16
April	18	18
May	22	22
June	<u>22</u>	<u>21</u>
TOTAL	<u>197</u>	<u>192*</u>

Labour Day	September 5
Thanksgiving	October 10
Remembrance Day	November 11
Winter Recess	December 26 - January 6 inclusive
Family Day	February 20
Teachers' Convention	March 2 - 3
Spring Recess	March 27 - 31 inclusive
Good Friday	April 14
Easter Monday	April 17
Victoria Day	May 22
First day of operation	August 30
First day of instruction	September 1
Last day of instruction	June 29
Last day of operation	June 30

* Instructional days may be reduced by the up to three school professional development days and one day-in-lieu.