DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

How DCPS Schedules the Calendar

DCPS strives to create a calendar that reflects the needs and preferences of DCPS families and staff whenever possible, maximizes learning time for students, and allocates time for our teachers to engage in professional learning and collaboration. In addition to meeting those goals, DCPS must also honor requirements related to the DC Municipal Regulations as well as agreements with our labor partners. Below you'll find additional information about requirements for the school calendar as well as DCPS' approach to calendar development.

How does DCPS decide which dates are included in the calendar?

Based on the DC Municipal Regulations (DCMR) as well as agreements with our labor partners, DCPS is required to schedule the following days on the calendar:

- At least 180 school days for students (and no more than 196 days for teachers)
- 12 DC Government Holidays
- 9 Professional Development Days for Teachers (in some cases these are made up of half days)
- Closures for Election Days (both primaries and general elections)
- 2 Days for Teacher Record Keeping at the End of Terms (a ½ day at the end of each term)
- 1 Full and 2 Partial Wellness Days for Teachers (schools are closed for students)

In addition to these days, DCPS has traditionally included:

- 2 Parent-Conference Days
- Winter and Spring Breaks (DCPS has some flexibility on how long these breaks can be)

DCPS has some flexibility on how to include these days in the calendar and works to integrate community feedback when scheduling but is required to ensure that the terms are of approximately equal length.

What is the process for creating the calendar?

- **Step 1:** DCPS creates an initial calendar proposal informed by previous community feedback, district priorities, and calendar requirements.
- **Step 2:** DCPS shares that draft with the public for feedback with a focused effort to engage community members from schools across DCPS.
- **Step 3:** DCPS makes adjustments based on overall feedback messages. While it is not possible to integrate *all* community feedback into the calendar, DCPS seeks to make changes that prioritize equity and quality student learning experiences.
- **Step 4:** DCPS shares the final calendars with the community.

How does DCPS integrate religious holidays into the calendar?

The DCPS community includes followers of many faiths. DCPS has identified the holidays listed below as cultural/religious observances in its instructional calendar to ensure that staff and students are able to take leave from school on these days without a significant hardship. Please note that school is open for students and staff on these days unless they align with other closure days (i.e., a federal holiday).

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Religious/Cultural Observances (Full Days): *Whenever possible, schools should refrain from scheduling special events (homecoming, field trips, family events), important meetings, or DCPS-scheduled athletic events on these days to avoid excluding staff, families, and students. This includes observances that occur on the weekend.*		
First Day of Rosh Hashanah	*Ash Wednesday*	*Eid al-Fitr*
Second Day of Rosh Hashanah	*First Day of Ramadan*	*Eid al-Adha*
Yom Kippur	*Good Friday*	*First Day of Muharram*
Diwali	*Easter*	*Ashura*
Christmas Eve	*First Day of Passover*	
Christmas	*Second Day of Passover*	
Religious/Cultural Observances (Evenings Only): *Religious holidays and observances begin after sunset on these days. Schools may schedule daytime activities as usual, but whenever possible, schools should refrain from special evening events (homecoming, Back to School Night) and important meetings after school on these days. This includes observances that occur on the* weekend.		
Rosh Hashanah Begins	*Ramadan Begins*	*Eid al-Adha Begins*
Yom Kippur Begins	*Eid al-Fitr Begins*	

Note: Based on community feedback, beginning in SY 26-27, the Second Day of Rosh Hashanah was added as a full day observance, and the Last Day of Sukkot was removed.