

SY 26-29 Community Calendar Proposals

DCPS is excited to begin community engagement on the SY 26-29 calendars. To foster even more collaboration in the calendar development process, we invite you to submit your own calendar proposal! Submitted proposals will be used to inform the draft calendars that are shared publicly for feedback in Fall 2024.

Please follow the directions below to submit a proposal. The deadline to submit proposals is May 31, 2024. If you have any questions regarding this process, please email dcps.sead@k12.dc.gov.

How to Submit Your Calendar Proposal

Note: Through this process, you will only submit a proposed calendar for SY 26-27. Proposals will inform development of the calendars for SY 26-29.

Step 1: Download the template at [this link](#) and save a copy to your computer. If you do not have Excel, you may upload the document to [Google Documents](#) and complete it there. When you are finished, simply download and save the file.

Step 2: Review the requirements shared in columns A-F of the document. You may also review current DCPS calendars at [this link](#).

	A	B	C	D	E	F
	Calendar Requirements and Conventions		Minimum Required Number		Maximum Allowed Number	Number of Days in Draft Calendar
1						
2	School Days for Students	DCMR (DC Municipal Regulations) require a minimum of one hundred eighty (180) regular instructional days of at least six (6) hours (including lunch, recess, and class breaks). Based on the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Washington Teachers' Union, DCPS may not have more than 185 school days for students. Based on summer school dates for SY 25-26, students must start school after Friday, August 14 to allow for preparation of buildings and systems for SY 26-27.	Term 1	43	N/A	0
3			Term 2	43	N/A	0
4			Term 3	43	N/A	0
5			Term 4	43	N/A	0
6			Total	180	185	0
7	Schools Closed for Breaks	Schools must close on Federal and DC holidays, but those are already noted in this chart. Based on the DC Municipal Regulations, DCPS must close for at least 1 week for winter break and 1 week for spring break for students. These days do not necessarily need to be days off for teachers (e.g., DCPS could have a Professional Development during one of these breaks). Weeks may include days already designated as Federal Holidays (i.e., New Year's Day). There is no maximum for the number of days of breaks.	N/A		0	
8						
9						
10	Parent Teacher Conference Days	DCPS holds at least 2 parent teacher conferences a year. Based on the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Washington Teachers' Union, DCPS may not hold more than 3 parent teacher conference days and all conference days must be held on days when school is closed to students.	2	3	0	
11						
12	Records Days	Each school year is divided into 4 terms of 42-46 student days. The first term starts on the first day of school for students and the 4th term ends on the last day of school for students. Based on the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Washington Teachers' Union, the last day of each of the 4 terms must be a half or full day record day where schools are closed for teachers to complete records before the next term begins.	4 half days	No Maximum	0	
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15	Professional Development Days	Based on the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Washington Teachers' Union, there must be at least 10 Professional Development Days. Schools must close for students on these days. At least 2 of these days must happen prior to the first day of school (pre-service) to allow the 1.5 days of planning and room set-up required by the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Washington Teacher's Union. Historically, DCPS has had 5-6 professional development days (pre-service) prior to the first day of school for students to allow for school preparation and necessary training.	10	No Maximum	0	
16						
17						
18	Total Number of Teacher Days	Based on the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the WTU, the total number of work days for teachers (PD Days, Conference Days, Record Days, and Student Days) may not exceed 196.	No Minimum	196	0	
19						
20	Religious Observances ☆☆	The DCPS includes followers of many faiths. Whenever possible, DCPS seeks to refrain from scheduling special events, important meetings, or DCPS-scheduled athletic events on these days to avoid excluding staff, families, and students. Full-Day Observances include: Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Last Day of Sukkot, First and Second days of Passover, Diwali, First Day of Muharram, Ashura, First Day of Ramadan, Eid al-Fitr, Eid al-Adha, Ash Wednesday, Easter Sunday, Good Friday, Christmas, and Christmas Eve. These are indicated with a yellow star in the date column of the calendar template. Evening-Only Observances (starting after school) include the evenings when Ramadan, Yom Kippur, Rosh Hashanah, Eid al-Fitr, and Eid al-Adha begin and are marked with a blue star on the calendar template.				
21						
22						
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24						
25	DCPS Conventions and Community Preferences	Over the years, DCPS has gathered feedback from thousands of community members regarding their calendar preferences. The following conventions closely align to the historical preferences of the DCPS community: 1) Families overwhelmingly prefer 5-day weeks and full school days (as opposed to half-days) whenever possible. Educators find that this provides for greater instructional continuity 2) Both families and staff prefer to have the last day of school in mid-June, ideally prior to the Juneteenth holiday.				
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Step 3: In columns, J-N, starting with the first day of school that you choose, identify what type of day each day will be through the last day of school by placing a "1" or a ".5" in the column for that type of day (examples: PD day, conference day, schools closed). Please also designate the term for that day in column I.

Example 1: If you want pre-service/beginning of year professional development days to take place from Monday, August 24-Friday, August 28 and school to start for students on Monday, August 31, you will select a “1” in the “Professional Development Day” column dropdown for August 24-28 and a “1” in the “School Day for Students” column drop-down for August 31 and days moving forward.

Date	Term	School Day for Students	Schools Closed for Break (for teachers and students)	Parent Teacher Conference Day	Records Day	Professional Development Day
Wednesday, August 19, 2026						
Thursday, August 20, 2026						
Friday, August 21, 2026						
Monday, August 24, 2026						1
Tuesday, August 25, 2026						1
Wednesday, August 26, 2026						1
Thursday, August 27, 2026						1
Friday, August 28, 2026						1
Monday, August 31, 2026	Term 1	1				
Tuesday, September 1, 2026	Term 1	1				
Wednesday, September 2, 2026	Term 1	1				
Thursday, September 3, 2026	Term 1	1				
Friday, September 4, 2026	Term 1	1				
Monday, September 7, 2026	Term 1		Labor Day (Federal Holiday, Schools Closed)			

Example 2: If you would like to propose that winter break takes place from December 23 -December 31, you will put a “1” in the “School Closed for break” column.

Date	Term	School Day for Students	Schools Closed for Break (for teachers and students)	Parent Teacher Conference Day	Records Day	Professional Development Day
Tuesday, December 15, 2026						
Wednesday, December 16, 2026						
Thursday, December 17, 2026						
Friday, December 18, 2026	Term 2	1				
Monday, December 21, 2026	Term 2	1				
Tuesday, December 22, 2026	Term 2	1				
Wednesday, December 23, 2026	Term 2		1			
Thursday, December 24, 2026	Term 2		1			
Friday, December 25, 2026			Christmas Day (Federal Holiday, Schools Closed)			
Monday, December 28, 2026	Term 2		1			
Tuesday, December 29, 2026	Term 2		1			
Wednesday, December 30, 2026	Term 2		1			
Thursday, December 31, 2026	Term 2		1			
Friday, January 1, 2027			New Year's Day (Federal Holiday, Schools Closed)			
Monday, January 4, 2027	Term 2	1				

Step 4: As you complete the calendar, column F will track your progress toward meeting calendar requirements (e.g., number of PD days). If the text is red, you will need to adjust your entries.

For example, the red text here indicates that the minimums required for the total number of days and number of Professional Development days have not been met.

Calendar Requirements and Conventions		Minimum Required Number		Maximum Allowed Number	Number of Days in Draft Calendar
School Days for Students	DCMR (DC Municipal Regulations) require a minimum of one hundred eighty (180) regular instructional days of at least six (6) hours (including lunch, recess, and class breaks). Based on the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Washington Teachers' Union, DCPS may not have more than 185 school days for students.	Term 1	43	N/A	43
		Term 2	43	N/A	44
		Term 3	43	N/A	44
		Term 4	43	N/A	47
		Total	180	185	178
Schools Closed for Breaks	Schools must close on Federal and DC holidays, but those are already noted in this chart. Based on the DC Municipal Regulations, DCPS must close for at least 1 week for winter break and 1 week for spring break for students. These days do not necessarily need to be days off for teachers (e.g., DCPS could have a Professional Development during one of these breaks). Weeks may include days already designated as Federal Holidays (i.e., New Year's Day). There is no maximum for the number of days of breaks.	N/A		12	
Parent Teacher Conference Days	DCPS holds at least 2 parent teacher conferences a year. Based on the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Washington Teachers' Union, DCPS may not hold more than 3 parent teacher conference days and all conference days must be held on days when school is closed to students.	2	3	2	
Records Days	Each school year is divided into 4 terms of 42-46 student days. The first term starts on the first day of school for students and the 4th term ends on the last day of school for students. Based on the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Washington Teachers' Union, the last day of each of the 4 terms must be a half or full day record day where schools are closed for teachers to complete records before the next term begins.	4 half days	No Maximum	2	
Professional Development Days	Based on the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Washington Teachers' Union, there must be at least 10 Professional Development Days. Schools must close for students on these days. At least 2 of these days must happen prior to the first day of school (pre-service) to allow the 1.5 days of planning and room set-up required by the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Washington Teacher's Union. Historically, DCPS has had 5-6 professional development days (pre-service) prior to the first day of school for students to allow for school preparation and necessary training.	10	No Maximum	9.5	
Total Number of Teacher Days	Based on the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the WTU, the total number of work days for teachers (PD Days, Conference Days, Record Days, and Student Days) may not exceed 196.	No Minimum	196	178	

Column O will share any other corrections that might need to be made to ensure that your calendar meets the requirements. Once you have fulfilled requirements, the correction messages and red text will disappear. *Please note that only calendars that meet requirements will be considered.*

Example:

Date	Term	School Day for Students	Schools Closed for Break	Parent Teacher Conference D	Records D	Professional Development D	Corrections Required	
Monday, October 26, 2026	Term 1	1						
Tuesday, October 27, 2026	Term 1	1						
Wednesday, October 28, 2026	Term 1	1				1		
Thursday, October 29, 2026	Term 1	1					Each date may only be made up of 1 full day or 2 half days. Please remove one of your selections.	
Friday, October 30, 2026	Term 1	1						
Monday, November 2, 2026	Term 1	1						
Tuesday, November 3, 2026			Election Day (Schools Closed for Students and Staff)					
Wednesday, November 4, 2026	Term 2	1						
Thursday, November 5, 2026	Term 2	1					Each term must end with a half or full record day prior to starting the next term.	
Friday, November 6, 2026	Term 2	1						

This day is listed as both a PD day and a school day.

This calendar shift from Term 1 to Term 2 without a record day in between.

Step 5: Once your calendar proposal is complete and all requirements have been met, save your file and email it to dcps.sead@k12.dc.gov. In the email, please include:

- The names of DCPS schools that you are associated with (i.e., you work there or you have a child that attends school there)
- Your relationship to DCPS (teacher, family member, etc.)
- Any additional information you would like to share about your proposal