



Revised School Year Calendar 2020-2021

To: Special Regular Meeting

Date: 15 July, 2020

Report No.: 07-20-3923

Strategic Directions

- Provide Equity of Access to Learning Opportunities for All Students
- Create a Culture for Student and Staff Well-Being
- Build Strong Relationships and Partnerships Within School Communities to Support Student Learning and Well-Being

Recommendation

It is recommended that the revised school year calendar for 2020-2021 for elementary, secondary and year round alternative schools be approved.

Context

On 11 March 2020 the Board approved the 2020-2021 School Year Calendar and staff submitted the calendar to the Ministry of Education for approval as per requirements under applicable Regulations in the Education Act. On 28 April 2020, the Ministry of Education advised school boards that 2020-2021 school year calendar submissions were not being considered at that time due to uncertainty around the reopening of schools for September. On 30 June 2020, a memo from the Minister of Education was received (Appendix E) advising of new guidance and deadlines for 2020-21 school year calendar submissions. The memo advised that the Minister of Education is prepared to approve any modified calendars that would start before September 1 provided that the calendars meet the other requirements of the regulation and that schools are able to plan for the range of delivery scenarios outlined in the Approach to Reopening Schools for the 2020-21 School Year document, and implement based on local public health advice.

Further, the memo indicated that in order to maximize instruction time for students, school boards and school authorities have been encouraged to start their school year

by September 1. It was also advised that boards schedule three PA days prior to the start of student instruction. There are consultations currently underway with the sector's stakeholders on PA days and training that may be necessary to prepare for the reopening of school. Further direction will be provided in the future.

To meet these ministry requirements, the School Year Calendar Committee met on 7 July, 2020 and consensus was reached to revise the PA days as outlined below.

	Elementary	Secondary
1.	1 September 2020 (previously 30 June 2021)	1 September 2020 (previously 30 June 2021)
2.	2 September 2020	2 September 2020
3.	3 September 2020	3 September 2020
4.	20 November 2020	20 November 2020
5.	15 January 2021	12 February 2021
6.	12 February 2021	29 June 2021
7.	4 June 2021	*2 February 2021 (<i>Semestered schools only</i>) *28 June 2021 (<i>Full-year schools only</i>)

*PA Day for semestered schools only on 2 February 2021

*PA Day for full-year schools only on 28 June 2021

A revised version of Key Dates - School Year Calendar 2020-2021 is attached to this report (Appendix A). Aside from changes to the PD days, the Ministry of Education announced on 23 June 2020 that Grade 3 and 6 students will not participate in Education Quality an Accountability Office (EQAO) assessments during the 2020-21 school year. Students in Grade 9 and Grade 10 will continue to take the mathematics assessment and Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT), respectively. This change is also noted on the key dates document.

The attached calendars for the elementary and secondary panels represent recommended dates for all schools in the Board (Appendices B, C).

Year Round Alternative Schools

The Board operates four alternative programs in the Year Round Model: Year Round Alternative School; Etobicoke Year Round Alternative Centre; South East Year Round Alternative Centre; and North East Year Round Alternative Centre. The program is based on quadesters and students study throughout the entire calendar year. The timetable for the placement of PA days and holidays has been confirmed by the Principal of Secondary Alternative Schools and Year Round Schools, in consultation

with staff and community (Appendix D). Adjustments to the initial calendar which was approved by the Board have been made by moving a previously scheduled PA day from 30 June 2021 to 26 August 2021.

Consultation with Other Boards

Staff has consulted with the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB), as well as the Durham, Peel and York Region District School Boards, to ensure the most consistency possible with their School Year Calendar plans. It is important that the Board align the calendar as much as possible with the TCDSB because of shared student transportation services. Since the changes to PD Days do not impact transportation, alignment for these changes is not critical.

Implementation and Review

The following are the revised timelines for the submission of the 2020-21 school year calendar to the Ministry of Education:

If a board intends to change a previously submitted calendar, any changes to a modified calendar must be submitted to the ministry for approval no later than July 10, 2020. If approval of your modified calendar is not granted by July 20, 2020, or if the changed calendar is still a regular calendar, the board will be required to submit a regular calendar by July 24, 2020.

Students, parents and staff will receive communications in order to make plans for the 2020-2021 school year following Ministry approval.

Appendices

- Appendix A: Key Dates – School Year Calendar 2020-2021
- Appendix B: Elementary School Year Calendar 2020-2021
- Appendix C: Secondary School Year Calendar 2020-2021
- Appendix D: Year Round School Year Calendar 2020-2021
- Appendix E: Memo from the Ministry of Education regarding 2020-21 School Year Calendars

From

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