

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)
- 10 DC Government Holidays
- 10 Professional Development Days for Teachers (in some cases these are made up of half days)
- 2 Days for Teacher Record Keeping at the End of Terms (a ½ day at the end of each term)

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. (We are currently in this step!)
- **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. To allow for planning, DCPS aims to share the SY 23-26 calendars in the winter of 2022.

How does DCPS integrate religious holidays into the calendar?

The DCPS community includes followers of many faiths. Whenever possible, DCPS seeks to avoid scheduling key dates (e.g., Parent-Teacher conferences, PD Days, etc.) on the following holidays to ensure that staff and students are able to take vacation on those days without a significant hardship.

Ash Wednesday	Rosh Hashanah	First Day of Muharram
Good Friday	Yom Kippur	Ashura
Christmas	Sukkot	First Day of Ramadan
Christmas Eve	Passover	Eid al-Fitr
		Eid al-Adha