

Date	December 9, 2025
To	Board of Trustees
From	Ron Thompson, Superintendent of Schools
Subject	2026–2027 School Year Calendar
Originator	Cliff Richard, Chief Infrastructure and Technology Officer
Resource Staff	Vicki de Haan, Ernest Kwan, Clair Sprake
References	Education Act Section 60 Board Policy GCA.BP Approval of the School Year Calendar Administrative Regulation GCA.AR The School Year Calendar

ISSUE

Section 60 of the *Education Act* states that: “A board shall determine and make publicly available for each school year the days, dates and number of days of school operation.”

Additionally, Board Policy GCA.BP Approval of the School Year Calendar requires that the Board of Trustees approve the calendar for the following school year no later than December 15.

RECOMMENDATION

That the proposed 2026–27 School Year Calendar be approved.

BACKGROUND

The school year calendar is designed around a number of requirements and considerations including provincial and federal employment legislation, Alberta Education and Childcare requirements, our Division’s board policies and administrative regulations, and collective agreements with staff groups. These requirements need to be incorporated when designing a school year calendar that best supports the educational programming of the Division.

Provincial and federal legislation and staff group collective agreements designate a variety of holidays that must be included in the calendar. These required holidays include New Year’s Day, Alberta Family Day, Good Friday, Easter Monday, Victoria Day, Canada Day, August Civic Holiday, Labour Day, the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, Thanksgiving Day, Remembrance Day, Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

Furthermore, provincial legislation identifies teachers’ convention and assigns the responsibility for these days to the Alberta Teachers’ Association. Alberta Education and Childcare articulates the number of hours of instruction that students receive in a year and sets the diploma exam and provincial achievement testing schedules. The Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate testing schedules are set by their respective organizations.

Division Administrative Regulation GCA.AR The School Year Calendar requires a two-week winter recess inclusive of December 24 and January 2, and the spring recess is to be five consecutive days beginning on the last Monday of March.

The Division has been approached by members of the community advocating for the inclusion of a number of specific holy days or days of significance as non-instructional days in the Division's calendar. The Division is committed to exploring the incorporation of these days where feasible, with the goal of creating a more inclusive school year calendar.

Feedback from the 2022 Division Feedback Survey indicated strong support for a calendar that would allow students and families to participate in religious and cultural days that are meaningful to them. A majority of respondents did not support a calendar with days off in the middle of the week. This suggests that caution should be employed when setting midweek non-instructional days. The concept of clustering versus distributing breaks was also confirmed in the 2022 Division Feedback Survey with over 75 per cent of respondents who had a preference indicating support for school breaks that happen less often but with more days grouped together.

Board Policy GCA.BP Approval of the School Year Calendar prioritizes alignment of non-instructional days with specified holy days or days of significance from a number of faiths and cultures as the Division's primary consideration in the scheduling of the school year calendar's breaks for students, before the consideration of additional preferences for the placement of breaks.

In January 2024, the Alberta Teachers' Association and the Board of Trustees ratified a new collective agreement that includes provisions that impact the school year calendar, including committing to a four weekday fall break.

RELATED FACTS

Key points related to the draft 2026–27 School Year Calendars include:

- The calendar is built around 178 instructional days.
- The start date for students is Tuesday, September 1, 2026; this aligns with the preference for school to start in the first week of September, as indicated in the 2022 Division Feedback Survey and the collective agreement.
- The end date for students is Monday, June 28, 2027, aligning with the draft Alberta Education and Childcare Diploma Exam schedule.
- Instructional days are balanced with 89 days in both semesters.
- A breakdown of instructional days is as follows:
 - 32 Mondays, 39 Tuesdays, 37 Wednesdays, 36 Thursdays, 34 Fridays
- A fall break that consists of:
 - Four weekdays that consist of: Remembrance Day, two Board-declared non-instructional days and one day-in-lieu for parent-teacher interviews.
- One Board-declared non-instructional day for Eid al-Fitr on Wednesday, March 10, 2027, followed by two Professional Development days.
- A May break of three days consists of: one day-in-lieu for parent-teacher interviews, one Board declared non-instructional day and one statutory holiday.
- Professional Development days are as follows:
 - Eight Professional Development days—two of these fall on days of significance including Yom Kippur and Summer Solstice and National Indigenous Peoples Day.

- Spring break is scheduled for one week commencing on the last Monday of March with the inclusion of Good Friday on the Friday prior to spring break on March 26, 2027.
- As of November 26, 2025, Alberta Education and Childcare has not yet finalized diploma examinations for the 2026–27 school year. Tentative dates supplied by the Province have been used in the development of this report; Administration will table an amendment for the Board’s consideration in the event these dates change.

A summary of the calendar is provided in the table below.

Draft Calendar	
Student Start Date	Tuesday, September 1, 2026
Student End Date	Monday, June 28, 2027
Number of Instructional Days	178
Days Per Semester	89
Breakdown of Instructional Days	32 Mondays 39 Tuesdays 37 Wednesdays 36 Thursdays 34 Fridays
Fall Break	Wednesday - Statutory Holiday Thursday - Board Approved Non-Instructional Day Friday - Board Approved Non-Instructional Day Monday - Teachers’ Day in Lieu
May Break	Thursday - Teachers’ Day in Lieu Friday - Board Approved Non-Instructional Day Monday - Statutory Holiday
Professional Development (PD) Days	8
Board Approved Non-Instructional Days	4
Operational Days	2
Teachers’ Days in Lieu	2

A summary of the days of significance that could and could not be included as non-instructional days in the 2026–2027 school year calendar is provided in the table below (next page).

Day of Significance	Calendar Date	Included	Rationale
Yom Kippur	September 21, 2026	Yes	Professional Development Day
Diwali and Bandi Chhor Divas	November 8, 2026	N/A	Falls on a weekend
Winter Solstice	December 21, 2026	N/A	Winter Break
Lunar New Year	February 6, 2027	N/A	Falls on a weekend
Eid al-Fitr	March 10, 2027	Yes	Board Approved Non-Instructional Day
Eid al-Adha	May 17, 2027	No	The May break occurs the same week on May 20 and 21 and is attached to Victoria Day, May 24
Summer Solstice and National Indigenous Peoples Day	June 21, 2027	Yes	Professional Development Day

OPTIONS

Based on the information provided in this report, the following options are considered most appropriate:

1. That the proposed 2026–27 School Year Calendar be approved.
2. That the proposed 2026–27 School Year Calendar be approved, with modifications.

CONSIDERATIONS and ANALYSIS

The attached draft calendar was developed in alignment with the various requirements outlined in the background section of this report.

The proposed calendar maintains the 178 instructional days present in prior school year calendars. The semesters are balanced at 89 days per semester with one Professional Development day in the middle of the school year on Friday, January 29, 2027. The fall break has three weekdays in one week and the Monday following the weekend.

NEXT STEPS

Following the approval of the School Year Calendar, it will be published on the Division website.

ATTACHMENTS and APPENDICES

ATTACHMENT I [Draft 2026–27 School Year Calendar](#)

VdH:al

2026–27 School Year Calendar

DRAFT
October 22, 2025



AUGUST • 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

SEPTEMBER • 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

OCTOBER • 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

NOVEMBER • 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

DECEMBER • 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

JANUARY • 2027

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

FEBRUARY • 2027

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

MARCH • 2027

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

APRIL • 2027

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

MAY • 2027

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

JUNE • 2027

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

LEGEND

	Public Holiday
	PD Day (no students)
	First/Last Day of Classes
	Operational Day (no students)
	Teachers' Convention (no students)
	Teachers' Day in Lieu (no teachers or students)
	Board Approved Non-instructional Day (no teachers or students)
	Winter/Spring Break

Important dates

First Operational Day (no students)	August 28
First Day of Classes	September 1
Winter Break	December 21–31
Teachers' Convention (no students)	February 25–26
Spring Break	March 30–April 2
Last Day of Classes	June 28
Last Operational Day (no students)	June 29

Approved holidays

Labour Day	September 7
The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation	September 30
Thanksgiving	October 12
Remembrance Day	November 11
Christmas Day	December 25
Boxing Day	December 26
New Year's Day	January 1
Family Day	February 15
Good Friday	March 26
Easter Monday	March 29
Victoria Day	May 24

Dates of significance

Yom Kippur	September 21
Diwali and Bandi Chhor Divas	November 8
Winter Solstice	December 21
Lunar New Year	February 6
Eid al-Fitr	March 10
Eid al-Adha	May 17
Summer Solstice and National Indigenous Peoples Day	June 21

Pink highlight indicates diploma exam days for reference only and will not be on final published calendar.