

STISD 2016-2017 School Calendar Development Considerations



To Keep in Mind

- School calendar development is a collaborative process. Students, parents, faculty, and community input are important to the process.
- Each STISD campus makes a calendar recommendation to the district Educational Improvement Council (EIC); the due date this year is before February 19, 2016. The EIC committee will make a calendar recommendation to the Superintendent, at their March 7, 2016 EIC meeting. The Superintendent will make a calendar recommendation to the STISD Board of Directors for their consideration at the March 22, 2016 board meeting.
- By state law (Texas Education Code Section 25.084), the first day of student instruction may not occur before the fourth Monday in August; for August 2016 this is the 22th.
- There was a change in state law and now 75,600 minutes of instruction, including lunch and intermissions, are required each school year. There is no longer a requirement for a particular number of school days, as long as the minutes per year requirement is met. There are a minimum of 4 staff development days and 3 staff workdays still required by the state.
- The second semester should have more instructional time than the first semester. (Reason: there is considerable instructional time in the second semester where state STAAR Assessment, Advanced Placement, and International Baccalaureate assessments are taking place).
- The semesters should have an similar amount of instructional time for A and B day classes. (reason: A/B block schedule and the desire to balance the amount of instructional time for classes.)
- STISD's prior experience is that having instructional days on national holiday dates results in a lower student attendance in school usually 5 to 10%. Families take these opportunities to travel. However, there is very little way to avoid having school on all of these days without eliminating days in Christmas Break, Spring Break, or continuing instruction farther into June 2016.
 - Labor Day – September 5, 2016
 - Columbus Day – October 10, 2016
 - Veteran's Day – November 11, 2016
 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – January 16, 2017
 - President's Day – February 20, 2017
 - Memorial Day – May 29, 2017
- Texas Universities Spring Break is March 13-17, 2017. Rio Grande Valley Livestock Show Dates for 2017 is March 10-19, 2017.
- Easter Sunday is April 16, 2017.
- Breaking up long stretches of instructional days with holidays lessens the stress level of students and faculty during the school year.
- Staff Development days may be consolidated at the beginning of the school year or spread throughout the school year. The district Educational Improvement Council (EIC) has complete authority over district staff development activities.