

2015-16 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

March 4, 2015

The School Year Calendar mandates that school sessions begin for all students on Wednesday, September 9, 2015 and includes a Midwinter Recess (Monday, February 15 through Friday, February 19, 2016). It reflects that on Tuesday, November 3, 2015, and Thursday, June 9, 2016, students in all five boroughs will not be in attendance, but schools in all five boroughs will be scheduled for a Chancellor's Conference Day for staff development related to the implementation of high learning standards and assessments. The calendar must be adhered to without exception, unless notifications of subsequent changes are received pursuant to collective bargaining agreements or for other reasons, provided these other reasons are not inconsistent with collective bargaining or legal obligations.

2015

August	31	Monday	The following staff report: Assistant Principals and school-based intermediate supervisors not designated to work an increased work year.
September	7	Monday	Labor Day (schools closed)
September	8	Tuesday	Teachers report. Students will not be in attendance.
September	9	Wednesday	School Session Begins For All Students. Early dismissal for non-District 75 kindergarten students only. Partial school time for pre-kindergarten public school students.
September	10	Thursday	First full day for non-District 75 kindergarten students. Partial school time for pre-kindergarten public school students.
September	14 15	Monday & Tuesday	Rosh Hashanah (schools closed)
September	23	Wednesday	Yom Kippur (schools closed)
September	24	Thursday	Eid al-Adha (schools closed)
October	12	Monday	Columbus Day Observed (schools closed)
October	22	Thursday	Pre-kindergarten Non-Attendance Day
November	3	Tuesday	Election Day. Chancellor's Conference Day for staff development. Students will not be in attendance.
November	11	Wednesday	Veterans Day observed (schools closed)
November	26 27	Thursday & Friday	Thanksgiving Recess (schools closed)
December	3	Thursday	Pre-kindergarten Non-Attendance Day
December January	24 1	Thursday – Friday	Winter Recess (including Christmas and New Year's Day) (schools closed)

2016

January	18	Monday	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (schools closed)
January	28	Thursday	Pre-kindergarten Non-Attendance Day
February	1	Monday	Chancellor's Conference Day for staff development in all non-D75 <u>high schools</u> . Non-D75 high school students will not be in attendance. All other students will be in attendance. (See section 8 below for details on high school student attendance on February 1.)
February	2	Tuesday	Spring Term begins for high school students.

February	15 19	Monday – Friday	Midwinter Recess (including Washington’s Birthday and Lincoln’s Birthday, observed) (schools closed)
March	25	Friday	Good Friday (schools closed)
April	21	Thursday	Pre-kindergarten Non-Attendance Day
April	25 29	Monday – Friday	Spring Recess (including Passover) (schools closed)
May	30	Monday	Memorial Day Observed (schools closed)
June	8	Wednesday	June Clerical Half-Day for elementary and middle school students.
June	9	Thursday	Chancellor’s Conference Day for staff development. In all five boroughs students will not be in attendance.
June	14	Tuesday	June Clerical Half-Day for elementary and middle school students.
June	23	Thursday	Regents Rating Day. In non-District 75 high schools, students will not be in attendance. All other students will be in attendance.
June	28	Tuesday	Last Day For All Students. Early dismissal of all students under the guidelines outlined in Section 13 below. Last day for all Classroom Teachers, Bilingual Teachers in School and Community Relations, Attendance Teachers, Nurses, Therapists, Laboratory Specialists and Technicians, and Paraprofessionals.
June	29 30	Wednesday & Thursday	All other staff report except Classroom Teachers, Bilingual Teachers in School and Community Relations, Attendance Teachers, Nurses, Therapists, Laboratory Specialists and Technicians, and Paraprofessionals.

The school year calendar incorporates the following understandings:

1. That this calendar does not preclude subsequent changes that may be made pursuant to collective bargaining agreements or for other reasons, but in no case can this calendar or subsequent changes result in a loss of state aid;
2. That all [requests for shortened sessions](#) resulting in early dismissals of students and any other changes in this calendar must be submitted for review and approval. Subsequent to receiving approval, 4 weeks prior notification to parents must be provided;
3. That the Chancellor shall use the power vested in him or her by law when, in violation of this citywide school year calendar, a school is closed or shortened sessions (defined in section 10 below) are scheduled without prior authorization.

The following should also be noted:

4. The School Year Calendar for 2015-16 meets the State Education Department requirement of a minimum of 180 state aidable days in all schools in the City School District.
5. On September 8, 2015 the following staff report: Classroom Teachers, Bilingual Teachers in School and Community Relations, Guidance Counselors, Attendance Teachers, Nurses, Therapists, Laboratory Specialists and Technicians, and Educational Paraprofessionals. School Secretaries, Psychologists and Social Workers report for a regular work day. Employees in titles not listed should consult the applicable collective bargaining agreement. For all UFT-represented employees who, pursuant to the June 22, 2009 agreement, report to school on the Tuesday following Labor Day, that Tuesday shall be utilized first and foremost for preparation of the classroom and for the arrival of students. If time permits, the remainder of the day may be utilized for professional development.
6. All schools will be open citywide on Election Day, Tuesday, November 3, 2015 and on Anniversary Day, Thursday, June 9, 2016 for a Chancellor’s Conference Day for staff development related to the implementation of high learning standards and assessments. On both days, students in all five boroughs will not be in attendance. (Under Section 2586 of the Education Law, Anniversary Day is the first Thursday in June, or the second Thursday in June when the first Thursday falls within the same week as Memorial Day.)

7. Staff development activities must meet needs that are mandated, or of high priority, including collaborative professional learning opportunities for staff related to rigorous instruction, a supportive environment, and effective leadership; implementation of the system-wide instructional approach to literacy and mathematics under the new Common Core Standards Initiative; school violence prevention and intervention; the implementation of the Continuum for Students with Disabilities; performance standards; science education; assessments, etc., as they relate to general, special and bilingual education. There must be an appropriate focus on the implementation of high learning standards and assessments.
8. For all high schools, Monday, February 1, 2016 will be scheduled for professional development. No high school students will be in attendance, with the exception of high school level students in District 75 (these students will be in attendance on this day). The high school spring term begins on Tuesday, February 2 with a full day of instruction.
9. All schools will be open on Friday, February 12, 2016 (Abraham Lincoln's birthday) and students will be in attendance.
10. A shortened session is any day when school is in session for pre-kindergarten for less than 2.5 hours of instruction, for kindergarten through grade 6 students for less than 5 hours of instruction, exclusive of lunch, or any day when school is in session for grade 7 and above students for less than 5.5 hours of instruction, exclusive of lunch.
11. Calculations of aidable days incorporate Chancellor Conference/Regents Examination Days. Under Commissioner's Regulations, Chancellor Conference Days may include general staff orientation, curriculum development, in-service education, or Parent-Teacher Conferences. They may not include routine administrative matters such as grading examinations or pupil assignments, recordkeeping, or lesson planning.
12. In part, the school calendar takes into account the following citywide centrally-scheduled shortened sessions: two Parent-Teacher Conference shortened sessions (one in the Fall Term and one in the Spring Term), and two clerical days of shortened session in June for elementary and middle schools. Separate notifications will be forthcoming regarding all of these citywide centrally-scheduled shortened sessions. An early dismissal of students is to be scheduled on the last day of school, subject to the guidelines outlined in section 13 below.
13. As concerns the early dismissal of students on the last day of school (Tuesday, June 28, 2016), the day should be recorded as a regular day of instruction for purposes of the Period Attendance Report, and schools must adhere to the following guidelines: students are required to attend school, pupil attendance must be taken, recorded and reported as part of the average daily attendance, and students are to receive instruction and/or guidance and assistance as needed. Schools should provide at least 4 weeks prior notice to parents and to the Office of Pupil Transportation regarding the specific time they have set for the early dismissal at their site.
14. To avoid the risk of a reduction in State Aid, and to limit impacts on bus scheduling for students, schools will not be closed, or shortened sessions (defined in section 10 above) will not be scheduled, without prior authorization. Prior to requesting a shortened session, on a timely basis, the following should be considered: in weeks when a single scheduled shortened session for kindergarten through grade 6 is requested, the school must still be in session for 25 hours of instruction, exclusive of lunch. When a shortened session is scheduled during a 4 day week (for instance, when the week includes a holiday), the school must still be in session for 20 hours of instruction over that week, exclusive of lunch. Further clarification and information on exceptions are available upon request.
15. In a week when, exclusive of lunch, 25 hours of instruction are scheduled for kindergarten through grade 6 students, or 20 hours in a 4 day week, and an approved shortened session is scheduled, schools may designate that shortened session as a regular day of instruction for purposes of the Period Attendance Report. For students in grades 7 and above, in weeks when a single scheduled shortened session is requested, the school must still be in session for 27.5 hours of instruction, exclusive of lunch. When a shortened session is scheduled during a 4 day week (for instance, when the week includes a holiday), the school must still be in session for 22 hours of instruction over that week, exclusive of lunch.
16. As a result of Chancellor Conference Days, shortened sessions for various purposes, and Regents Days, the total number of instructional days (days when students report to school) may be different from the number of state aidable days.
17. **For Non-District 75 Kindergarten**, there are 182 aidable days (180 instructional days).
18. **For District 75 Kindergarten through Grade 6 Level and All Grades 1 through 6**, there are 183 aidable days (180 instructional days).
19. **For Grades 7 and 8 Citywide and Grade 9 in Middle Schools (including District 75)**, there are 182 aidable days (180 instructional days).
20. **For High School Level Grades 9 through 12**, there are 183 aidable days in all boroughs, 166 of which are instructional (in District 75, there are 182 aidable days, 180 of which are instructional days).

21. Concerning the partial school time for pre-kindergarten students (staggered entrance), it is recommended that an Orientation Session takes place on Wednesday, September 9 and Thursday, September 10, 2015 for the parents of all pre-kindergarten students. This session is to help families with the transition process. Parents or caregivers should be notified so that they can make appropriate plans regarding the schedule, pick up and drop off. For assistance with staggered entrance, orientation or phase-in planning, please contact the Office of Early Childhood Education at 212.374.0351 or earlychildhood@schools.nyc.gov. Information is also available at the Early Childhood Website at <http://schools.nyc.gov/Academics/EarlyChildhood/default.htm>.
22. Non-attendance days for pre-kindergarten students are designed for staff to participate in professional development activities that meet the Chancellor's mandate (see section 7 above). Students should not be in attendance. The Office of Early Childhood Education offers professional development sessions for teachers during non-attendance days. The sessions are based on current research, performance standards, and best practices to improve student learning.
23. For more information regarding State Assessments, including Regents Days, please visit the New York State Education Department's website: <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/>.
24. Consultation on the school year calendar has taken place with superintendents, parent representatives, religious organizations, the Nonpublic Schools Committee, and appropriate collective bargaining representatives.