



Adjusting Your School Calendar for COVID-19 Response



The 2020-2021 school year is likely to be disrupted


- **2020-2021 is likely to include short-term disruptions** to instruction and high-student absenteeism, with some students consistently physical absent
- Building a calendar that plans for and anticipates these scenarios will help **minimize disruption** – short term disruptions in instruction are likely and need to be planned into the calendar
- Calendars must also consider how to **adjust for learning loss** as a result of current instructional interruptions
- Calendar revisions require **substantial change management** including school board adoption that requires immediate action

COVID-19 school closures could have a devastating impact on student achievement

[“The COVID-19 slide: What summer learning loss can tell us about the potential impact of school closures on student academic achievement.”](#) April 2020. Dr. Megan Kuhfeld and Dr. Beth Tarasawa.*



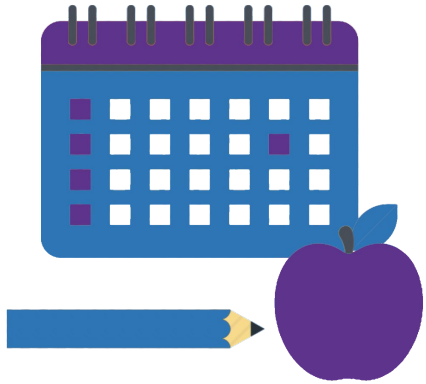
Students could return nearly a full year behind what normally occurs. We must change practices to address this.



Declines are particularly stark in mathematics

**“The COVID-19 slide: What summer learning loss can tell us about the potential impact of school closures on student academic achievement.” April 2020. Dr. Megan Kuhfeld and Dr. Beth Tarasawa.*

An intersessional calendar provides flexibility & addresses learning loss



An **Intersessional Calendar** includes longer breaks dispersed throughout the year that provide flexibility

What the change could look like:

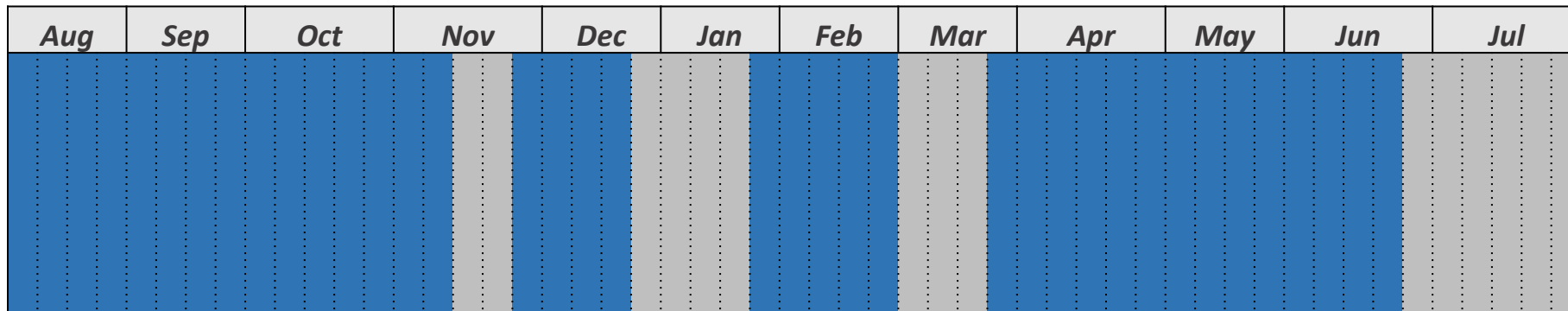
- Earlier start date, long Winter Break and longer other breaks, and a later end date
- Built in remote learning time and staggered in-person attendance
- Recommended six weeks of intersessional breaks in addition to regular calendar that can be used for:
 - Remediation, acceleration, or enrichment
 - Breaks required due to resurgence of COVID-19
 - Bad weather make up days

A photograph of several students sitting around a wooden table in a classroom. They are all focused on their tablets, which display various educational software. One student in the foreground is wearing glasses and a dark jacket with an Adidas logo. The table is cluttered with educational materials, including trays of colorful counting blocks and a large grid mat. The overall atmosphere is one of collaborative learning and technology use.



Intersessional Design Considerations

Sample intersessional calendar

A traditional academic calendar with additional intersession weeks attached to Thanksgiving, Winter, and Spring Breaks allows for COVID interruption and remediation opportunities.



Key

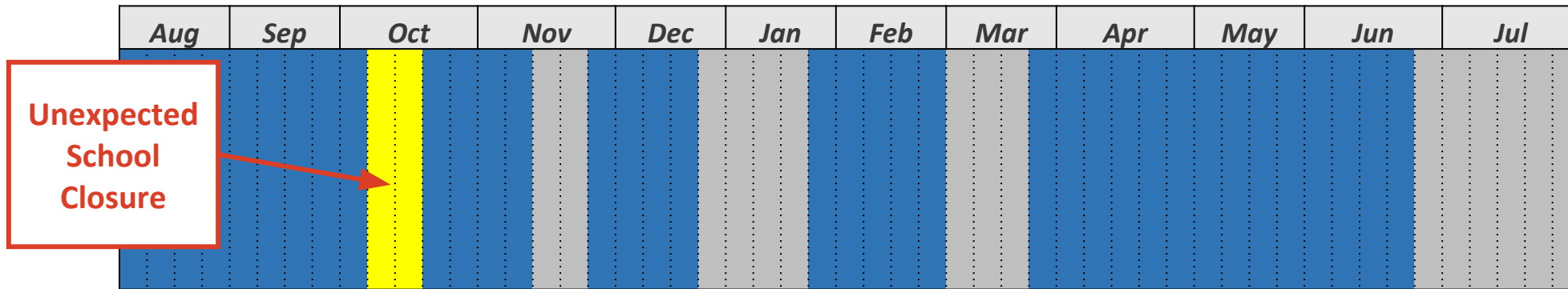
-  All Students Attend
-  Scheduled Breaks

Benefits



- Provides larger breaks in winter in case of COVID-19 resurgence
- Ability to use breaks as remediation days if not needed for COVID-19
- Flexible use of intersessions gives greater capacity for mid-year adjustments

Sample intersessional calendar

A traditional academic calendar with additional intersession weeks attached to Thanksgiving, Winter, and Spring Breaks allows for COVID interruption and remediation opportunities.



Key

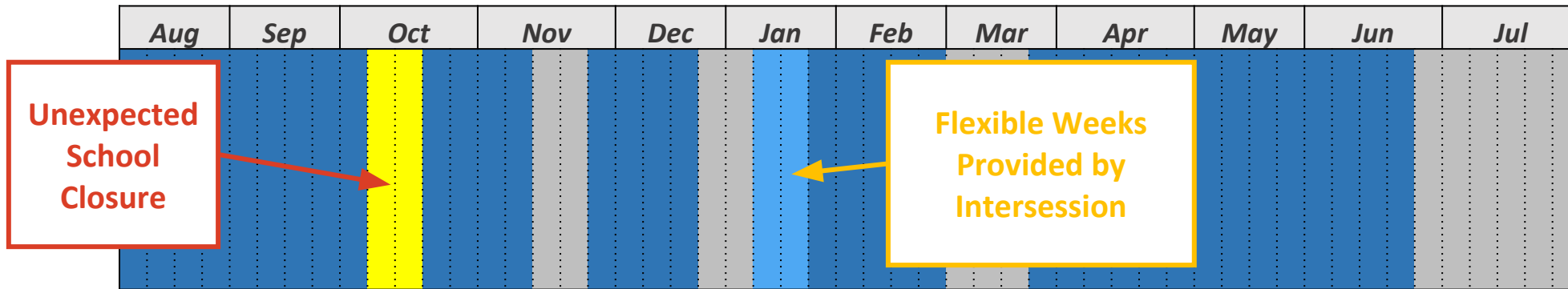
-  All Students Attend
-  Scheduled Breaks

Benefits

- Provides larger breaks in winter in case of COVID-19 resurgence
- Ability to use breaks as remediation days if not needed for COVID-19
- Flexible use of intersessions gives greater capacity for mid-year adjustments

Sample intersessional calendar

A traditional academic calendar with additional intersession weeks attached to Thanksgiving, Winter, and Spring Breaks allows for COVID interruption and remediation opportunities.



Key

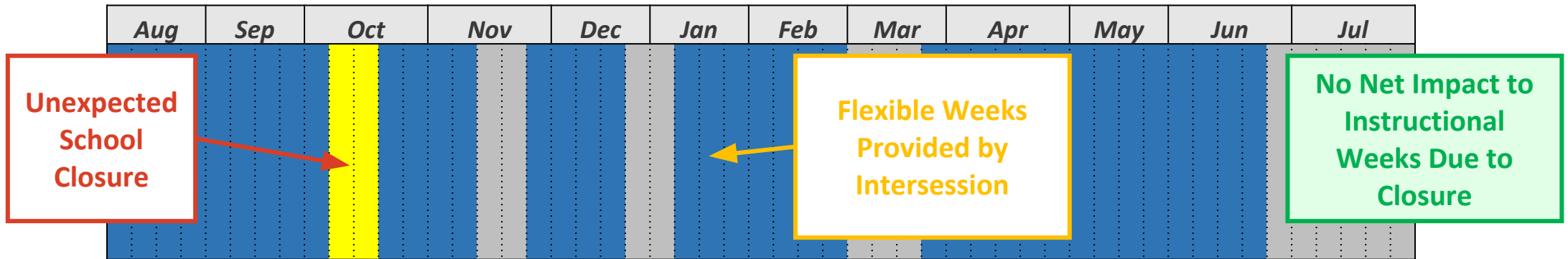
- Blue square: All Students Attend
- Grey square: Scheduled Breaks

Benefits

- Provides larger breaks in winter in case of COVID-19 resurgence
- Ability to use breaks as remediation days if not needed for COVID-19
- Flexible use of intersessions gives greater capacity for mid-year adjustments

Sample intersessional calendar

A traditional academic calendar with additional intersession weeks attached to Thanksgiving, Winter, and Spring Breaks allows for COVID interruption and remediation opportunities.



Key

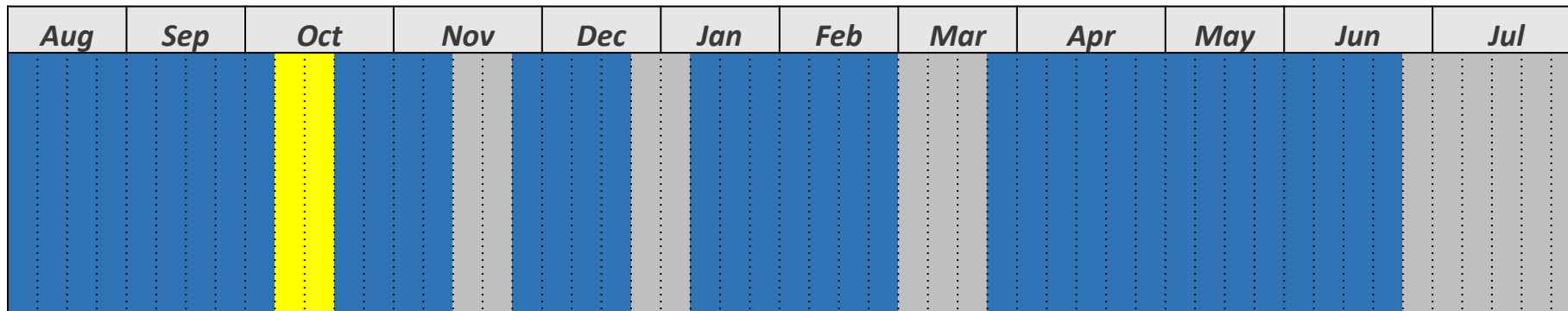
- All Students Attend
- Scheduled Breaks

Benefits



- Provides larger breaks in winter in case of COVID-19 resurgence
- Ability to use breaks as remediation days if not needed for COVID-19
- Flexible use of intersessions gives greater capacity for mid-year adjustments

Sample intersessional calendar

A traditional academic calendar with additional intersession weeks attached to Thanksgiving, Winter, and Spring Breaks allows for COVID interruption and remediation opportunities.



Key

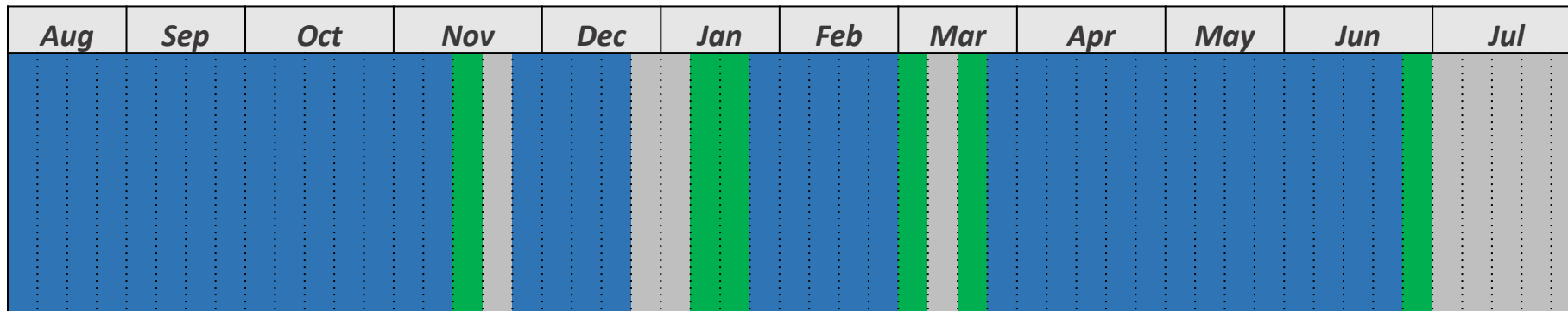
-  All Students Attend
-  Scheduled Breaks

Benefits




- Provides larger breaks in winter in case of COVID-19 resurgence
- Ability to use breaks as remediation days if not needed for COVID-19
- Flexible use of intersessions gives greater capacity for mid-year adjustments

ADSY Funding to Supplement Intersessional Calendar

A traditional academic calendar with additional intersession weeks attached to Thanksgiving, Winter, and Spring Breaks allows for Covid interruption and remediation opportunities.



Key

-  All Students Attend
-  Scheduled Breaks
-  ADSY Days

Benefits

- Provides larger breaks in winter in case of COVID-19 resurgence
- Ability to use breaks as remediation days if not needed for COVID-19
- Flexible use of intersessions gives greater capacity for mid-year adjustments

An intersessional calendar provides flexibility

Additional days could be used for remediation during breaks around a school calendar that has been redesigned on a year-round model as opposed to adding days in the summer.



- Students not mastering content could return for the intersession week for remediation




- Teachers have a dedicated time to focus solely on ensuring struggling students move towards mastery



- The school's intersessional calendar would spread out school days so they reach into the summer, minimizing summer slide risk for all students



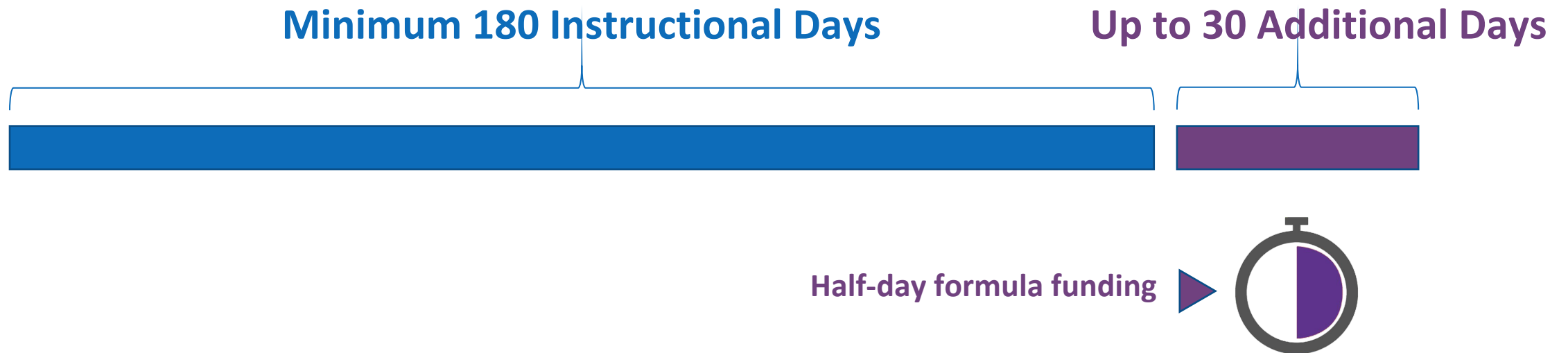
- An intersessional calendar provides extra days or weeks for makeup time in the event of COVID-related closures, similar to bad weather days

A photograph of a school hallway with a wide set of stairs. Several students with backpacks are walking up and down the stairs. The hallway has large windows on the right side, and the overall scene is brightly lit. The text "HB 3 Additional Days School Year (ADSY)" is overlaid on the left side of the image in a bold, blue, sans-serif font.

HB 3 Additional Days School Year (ADSY)

HB 3: Additional Days for Elementary

HB 3 adds **half-day formula funding** for school systems that want to add instructional days (beyond a minimum 180 days, **up to 210 days**) to any of their elementary schools (grades **PK-5**).



Clarifying Minutes vs Days Requirement

The HB 3 statute requires participating districts to meet both the 75,600 minutes requirement and have 180 days of instruction.

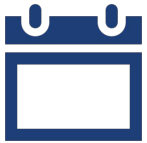
	Existing Academic Calendar	180 Days + Up to 30 Additional Days
School System Requirements	75,600 minutes	75,600 minutes + 180 days <i>(not including waivers)</i>

**Campuses not implementing additional days are not impacted by this requirement.*

Other ADSY calendar considerations



- **Testing Windows:** For the next few years, state testing windows remain the same for all tested subjects and courses



- **Last Day of School:** The last instructional day for participating campuses must be on or after May 15, 2021 (TEC Sec. 25.0812).



- **ADSY Program Days After September 1st, 2020:** Due to statute start date, ADSY funding does not apply to summer of 2020.

More information can be found in this [School Start Date Guide](#)

Calendar redesign options with additional days



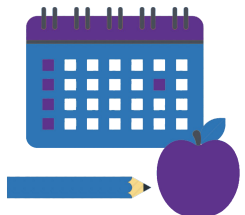
Option 1: Optional Summer Learning

- **Purpose:** Summer Enrichment
- **Think:** 180-day traditional calendar, and up to 30 days for something additional



Option 2: Intersessional Calendar

- **Purpose:** Targeted Remediation
- **Think:** 180 days spaced out over the full year, with intermittent breaks for targeted remediation with a subset of students



Option 3: Full Year Redesign

- **Purpose:** Rethinking the School Day
- **Think:** A revamped 7x6-weeks calendar, daily schedule changes to increase teacher planning time and student play

Additional benefits to additional days

- The additional 30 days gives schools the opportunity to capture a series of important benefits that can improve student achievement.

Teacher Planning

- Improve workday with job-embedded planning and more breaks

Student Brain
Breaks

- Increased time for brain breaks, play and enrichment

Academic
Improvements

- Additional time to cover standards and improved productivity each day



Next Steps

There are several routes to change your start date

The most time sensitive aspect of the academic calendar is changing the start date.

The routes to do so include:



District of Innovation Exemption

- Use existing first day exemption to adjust start date
- Amend DOI Plan to add start date flexibility
- Become a District of Innovation plan through the process in TEC Chapter 12A



Year-Round System Designation

- Use existing designation to adjust start date and obtain local board approval
- Become a Year-Round System by obtaining board approval for designation



Charter School Calendar Adjustment

- Adjust calendar locally with board approval and send updated calendar to TEA

More information can be found in this [School Start Date Guide](#)

Planning considerations for calendar redesign

Following the start date change, there are many pressing change components.

Parent and Teacher Support

- Understands needs of parents, teachers, students, etc.
- Develop proposed solutions to address local needs
- Obtain buy-in to move forward with change

School Operations Support

- Develop plans to support required changes related to transportation, food, maintenance, staffing, etc.
- Adjust school finance plans to support new model

Curriculum and Instruction

- Make master scheduling adjustments
- Adjust scope and sequences / instructional resources
- Develop enhanced planning and support strategies

Student Recruitment & Attendance

- Identify incentives to maximize student attendance
- Create flexible structures to account for lower than expected attendance rates

Local Board Approval

- Obtain local Board approval for new academic calendar, adjustments to instructional days, impact to teacher salary schedules, etc.

Communications & Change Management

- Create / execute multi-medium communications plan
- Provide clear, consistent communications
- Obtain data to enable continuous improvement

Next Steps for Interested Districts

Begin to Ensure Implementation Success

- 1 Talk to parents, teachers, students to understand needs and wants
- 2 Verify district has statutory authority to make calendar changes
- 3 Obtain board approval for any calendar changes

Support and Technical Assistance from TEA

- 4 Opportunities for aligned programming and grants
- 5 Operational support for implementing new intersessional calendars
- 6 Legal and process guidance to navigate necessary requirements



Thank you