

DARTMOUTH SCHOOL COMMITTEE POLICIES

File: IC/ICA

SCHOOL YEAR/SCHOOL CALENDAR

The school calendar for the ensuing year will be prepared by the Superintendent and submitted to the School Committee for approval annually. The number of days or instructional hours scheduled for the school year will be determined in accordance with the following standards set by the Massachusetts Board of Education:

1. Elementary school will operate for a minimum of 180 days. Schools shall ensure that every elementary school student is scheduled to receive a minimum of 900 hours per school year of structured learning time, as defined in 603 CMR 27.02. Time which a student spends at school breakfast and lunch, passing between classes, in homeroom, at recess, in non-directed study periods, receiving school services, and participating in optional school programs shall not count toward meeting the minimum structured learning time requirement for that student.
2. Secondary schools will operate for a minimum of 180 days. Schools shall ensure that every secondary school student is scheduled to receive a minimum of 990 hours per school year of structured learning time, as defined in 603 CMR 27.02. Time which a student spends at school breakfast and lunch, passing between classes, in homeroom, at recess, in non-directed study periods, receiving school services, and participating in optional school programs shall not count toward meeting the minimum structured learning time requirement for that student.

The following guidelines shall be used by the Superintendent with input from interested parties in the development of the calendar:

In regard to **School Opening** in the fall, the year will begin the week prior to Labor Day with the following schedule:

Tuesday - Professional Development Day for Elementary and Middle School Staff
Wednesday - All Staff
Thursday and Friday - Students

In regard to the **Thanksgiving Holiday**, (fourth Thursday in November), students will be dismissed at mid-day on the day before (Wednesday) the holiday and return to school on the following Monday.

In regard to the **Holiday Recess**, the vacation will be determined annually.

- For the information of staff, students, and parents, the calendar will set forth the days schools will be in session, holidays and vacation periods; in-service days, and parent conferences.

Adopted 3/26/13

- In the event of an emergency and/or other unanticipated circumstance, the Superintendent, with the endorsement of the School Committee, reserves the right to modify the calendar as may be required. In all circumstances, public notification of such changes will be made in a timely manner.

SOURCE: MASC

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. 4:7; 69:1G; 71:1; 71:4; 71:4A; 71:73; 136:12
Board of Education Regulations for School Year and School Day,
effective 9/1/75
Board of Education, Student Learning Time Regulations
603 CMR 27.00, Adopted 12/20/94