



BTPS Calendar Frequently Asked Questions

What is the purpose and intent of the school calendar?

It is to fulfill the mission of the Board and to adhere to the expectations of the *Education Act*.

Why a calendar guidelines review?

The current calendar guidelines were developed in 2014-2015 after gathering feedback from stakeholders. Since then, the guidelines have been revisited annually and the Board approves a calendar built from the guidelines on an annual basis.

How did BTPS gather input from our stakeholders?

This year, we asked for feedback from parents, guardians, and staff through a survey to review our calendar guidelines and help inform us as we set our 2023-2024 school calendar and to determine any changes to the BTPS Administrative Procedure 302.1AP. We had over 700 survey respondents.

How was the input from BTPS stakeholders used to guide the calendar development?

The survey feedback was reviewed by a committee of principals, trustees and senior leadership staff. The feedback guided the development of the 2023-2024 school year calendar. The committee also reviewed the survey feedback to determine any revisions to BTPS Administrative Procedure 302.1AP.

What are the calendar guidelines?

The calendar guidelines are currently listed under the BTPS Administrative Procedure 302.1AP. Administrative Procedures guide our decision making processes as a division. They inform such items as start date, non-instructional days, professional learning, breaks, etc.

What are the calendar guidelines used for?

The calendar guidelines are used to promote stability and increase the potential for all stakeholders to accurately predict future school calendars. As well they are used to ensure we adhere to the *Education Act*, all regulations, and collective agreements.

What is non-negotiable in the school calendar?

- There must be 475 hours of instruction for Kindergarten, 950 hours for grades 1-9, and 1000 hours for high school.
- Instructional time in a student day cannot exceed 345 minutes and there can be no less than 177 student days in a school year.

- We must adhere to statutory holidays.
- The last day of final exams in June dictates our last day of school which must follow the day of the exam.
- The *Education Act* sets the maximum number of teacher days at 200.
- We must provide 2 days for teachers' convention.
- Standardized provincial exam schedules must be adhered to.

What are the realities of the school calendar living in rural Alberta?

- 60% of our students are transported by school bus.
- Some bus routes are complex in that they feed more than one location which impacts ride times.
- Many parents live and work in different communities.
- BTPS has cooperative bussing agreements with four other school districts.
- Many of our schools are K-12 and/or share staff and bussing, which makes it challenging to develop separate calendars in elementary schools and high schools.

Highlights for 2023-2024 School Year Calendar

- Students first day back to school is September 5, 2023.
- The last day before Christmas break is Friday, December 22, 2023.
- The last day of provincial exams for first semester is January 30, 2024.
- The first day of semester 2 is February 5, 2024.
- The last day of provincial exams for second semester is June 26, 2024.
- The last day for students is June 26, 2024.
- There are 178 student days.

Where are the current calendar guidelines?

The calendar guidelines are an administrative procedure that can be found on our website under Board and then Administrative Procedures.

[302.1AP Calendar Guidelines](#)

Rationale:

To promote stability and increase the potential for all stakeholders to accurately predict the school calendar, the following guidelines have been developed to assist in the creation of the school calendar. It is recognized that there may be extenuating circumstances that may lead to an adjustment of the school calendar that is in conflict with the following guidelines, however wherever possible they will be adhered to.

Thank you

We want to thank everyone for their feedback which informed the development of the school year calendar. We appreciate having over 700 people respond to the survey which informed our decisions.