



LAUSD
UNIFIED

Update on Instructional Calendars 2023 – 2026

Committee of the Whole
February 14, 2023

Engagement Overview and Methodology



Solicited Input from stakeholders to help inform the development of the 2023–2026 instructional calendars

Labor Partners

- Meetings held on December 12, 2022, and January 12, 2023

Families

- Online Survey
 - January 9 – 19, 2023
 - Open to all District families; 52,414 participants
- Family Focus Groups
 - 6 sessions conducted via zoom on January 27, February 1, & February 2, 2023
 - Parents/guardians recommended by Region Leadership
 - 207 parents/guardians representing 250 students participated

Board of Education

- January 24, 2023, and February 14, 2023, Committee of the Whole meetings
- Included opportunities for public comment

Research and Analysis



- National and Neighboring School Districts' Instructional Calendars
- Overlay and assessment of testing schedule with proposed calendars
- Impact of vacation length on academic achievement
- Assessment of Admissions Day
- Average attendance rate for the day after Halloween (November 1)

Key Findings



- At least 78% of families engaged through both modes prefer a one-week Thanksgiving break
- More than 70% of families engaged through both modes prefer a three-week Winter break
- Labor Partners overwhelmingly prefer a one-week Thanksgiving and a three-week Winter break
- While results of all engagement effort support a three-week Winter break, it creates challenges for our neediest families that must be considered in decision-making

Key Findings

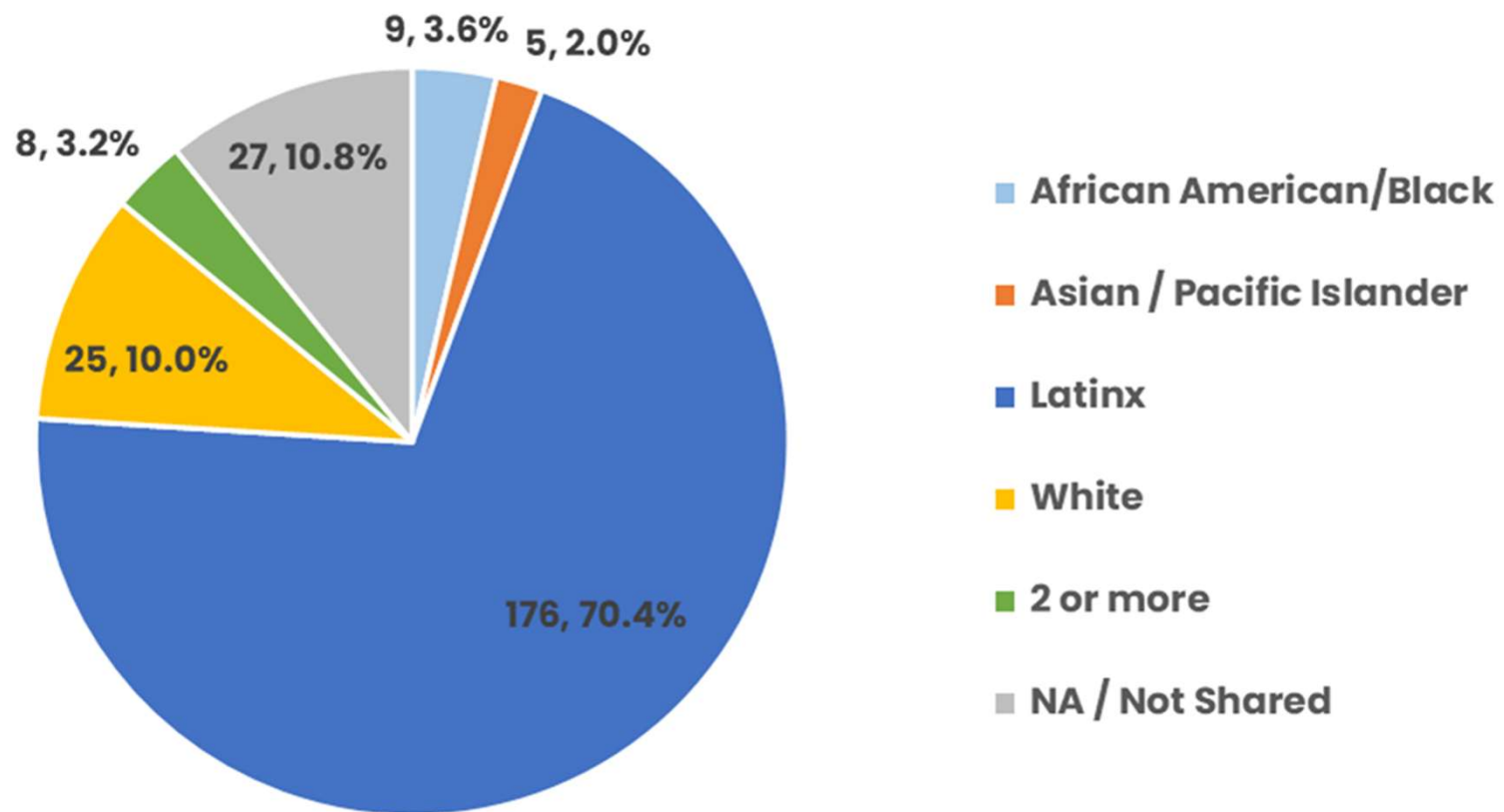
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- A super majority of the national and neighboring school districts surveyed provide a one-week Thanksgiving break and a two-week Winter break
- A two-week winter break would provide more time for instruction before high stakes testing begins
- Attendance the day after Halloween does not significantly decline
- Neighboring school districts have made December 22 an unassigned day for the 2023–2024 school year

Focus Group Participation

Ethnicity





Focus Groups

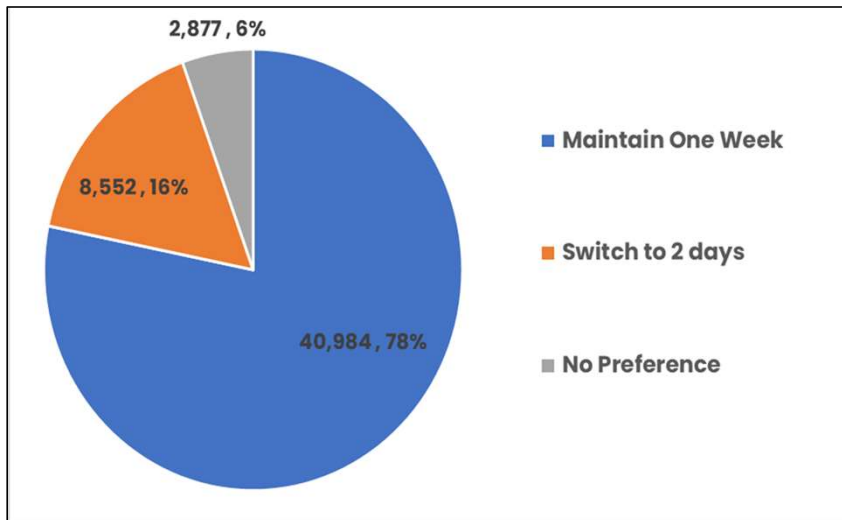
Participants	Percentage	Count (students may fall into multiple categories)
Enrollment at BSAP Cohort School	5%	13
English Only Language Classification	41%	102
Students in Foster Care/Unhoused	1%	4
GATE Classification	18%	45
English Learners	7.6%	19
Free or Reduced Meal Plan Participants	66%	147
Reclassified Fluent English Proficient (RFEP)	16%	39
Students Receiving Special Education Services	12%	30
Enrollment at Title I Schools	68.4%	171

Thanksgiving Break

Overview of Results

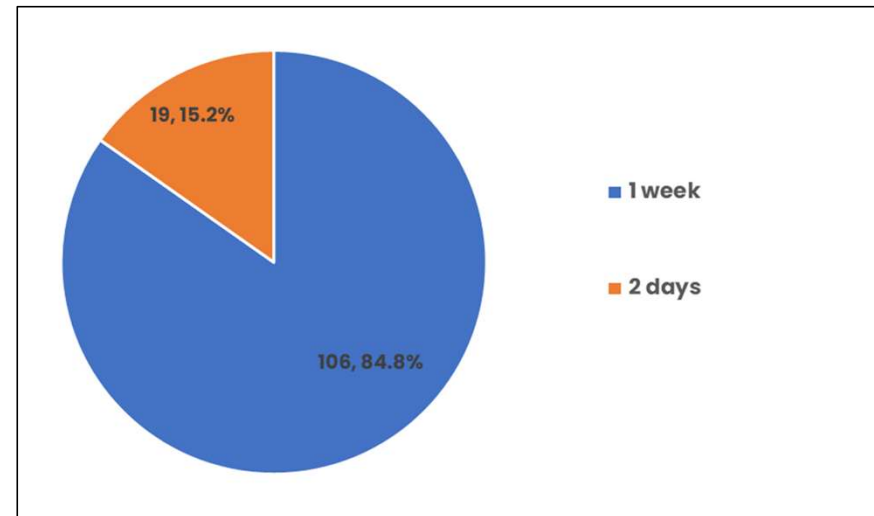


Survey



Thanksgiving	Count	Percentage
1 Week Break	40,985	78.19%
No Preference	2,877	5.49%
Only Thursday & Friday	8,552	16.32%
Grand Total	52,414	100.00%

Focus Groups



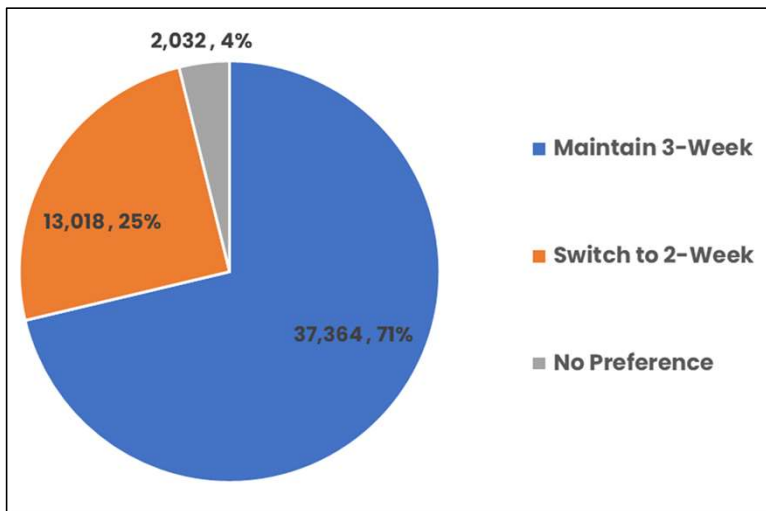
Thanksgiving	Count	Percentage
1 Week Break	106	84.8%
Only Thursday & Friday	19	15.2%
Grand Total	125	100.00%

Winter Break

Overview of Results

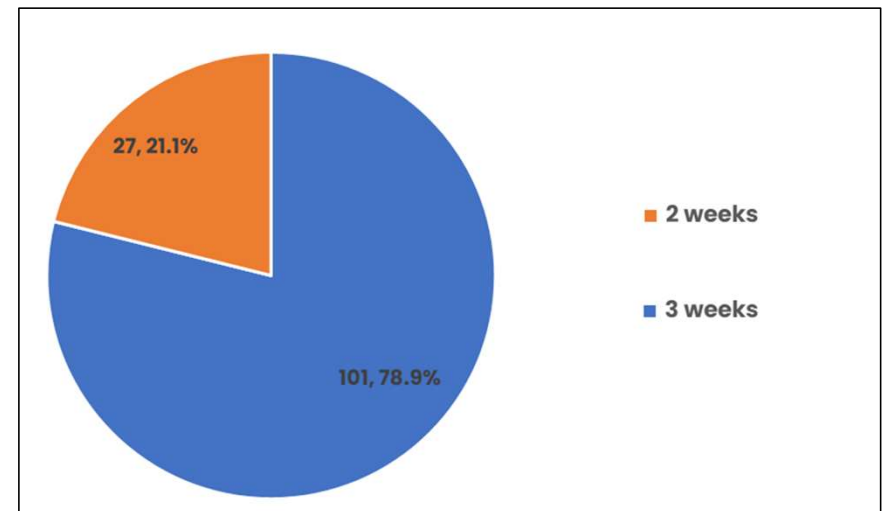


Survey



Winter Break	Count	Percentage
2-week Break	13,018	24.84%
3-week Break	37,364	71.29%
No Preference	2,032	3.88%
Grand Total	52,414	100.00%

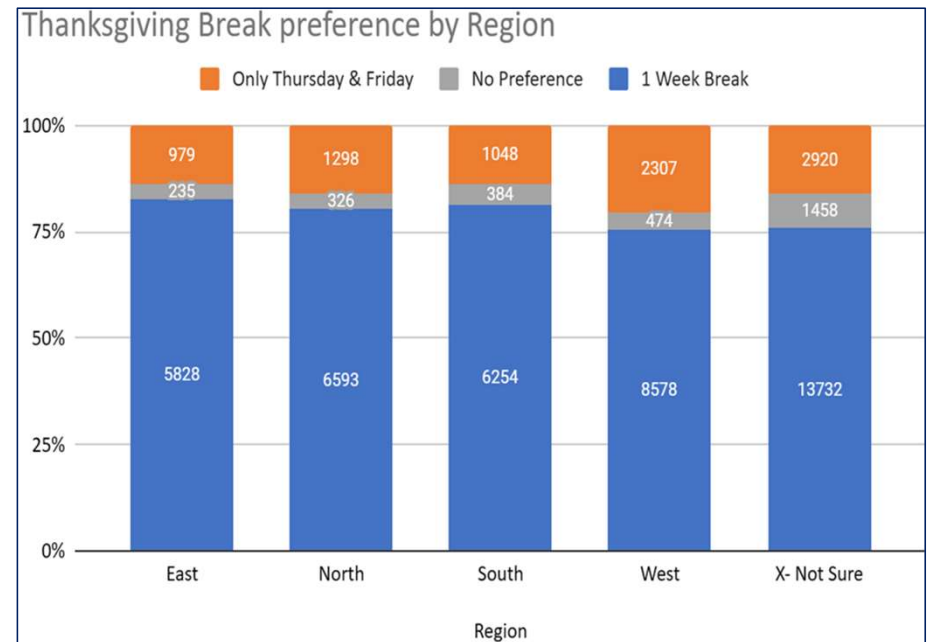
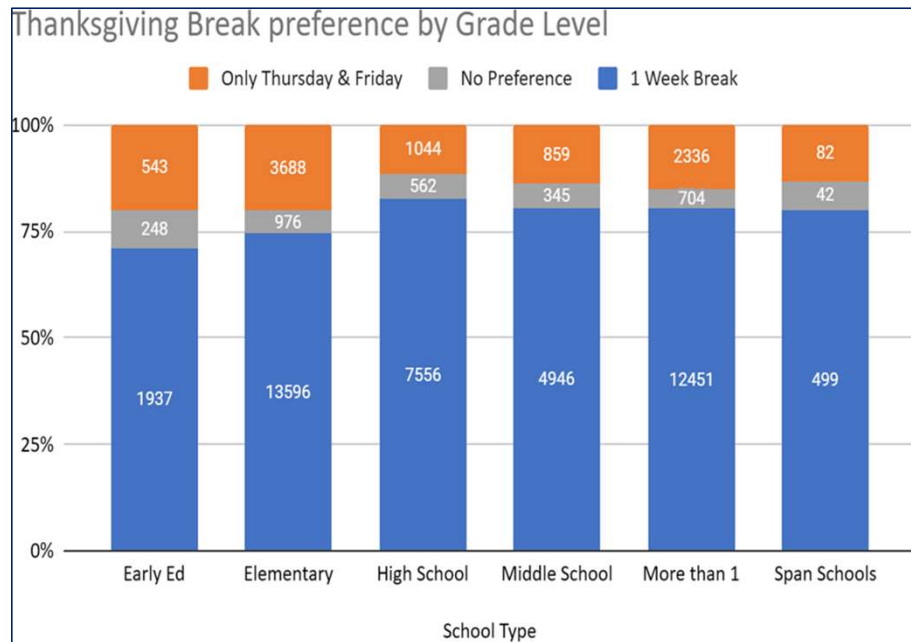
Focus Groups



Winter Break	Count	Percentage
2-week Break	27	21.1%
3-week Break	101	78.9%
Grand Total	128	100.00%

Survey Summary

Thanksgiving Break

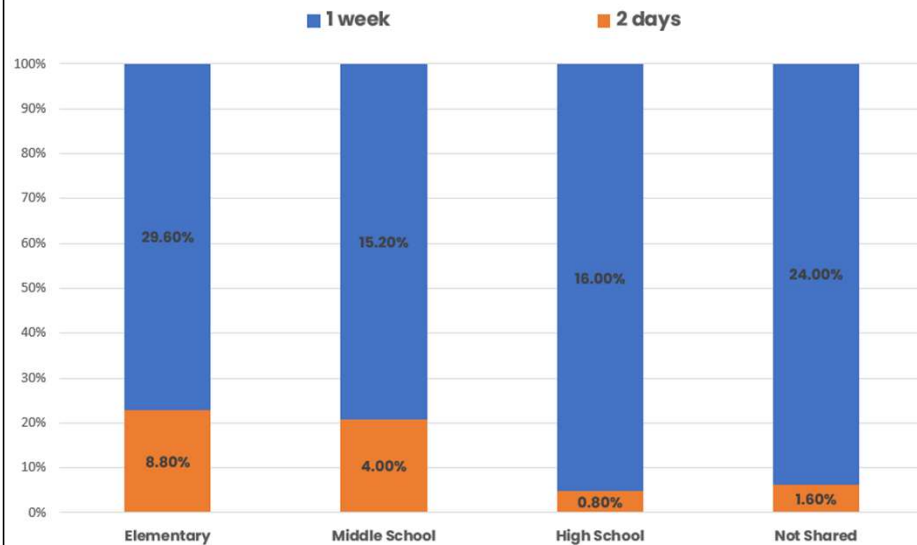


Focus Groups Summary

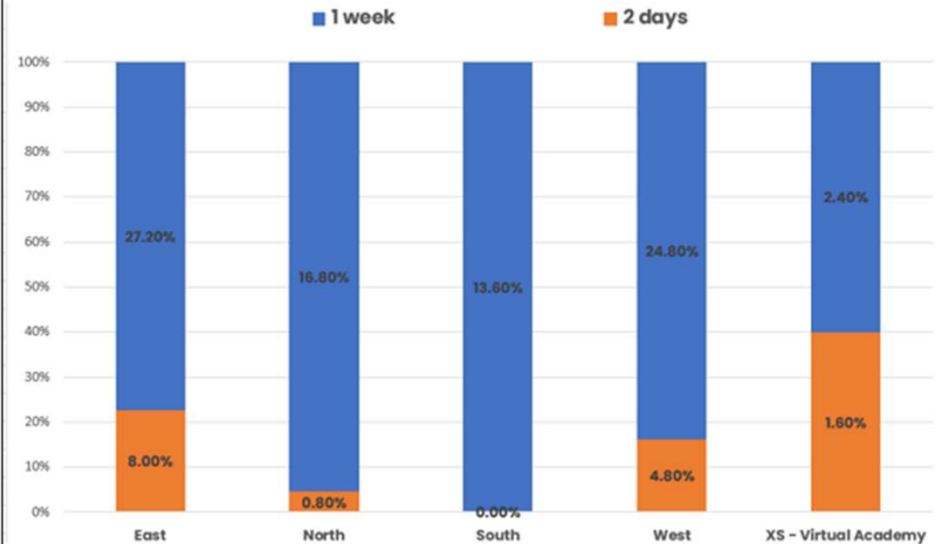
Thanksgiving Break



Thanksgiving Break preference by School Type

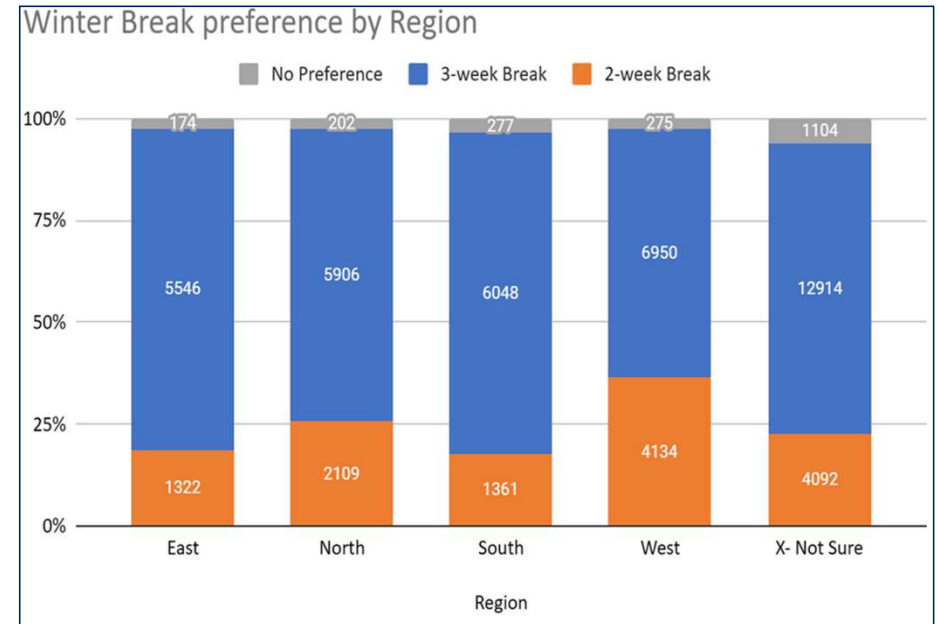
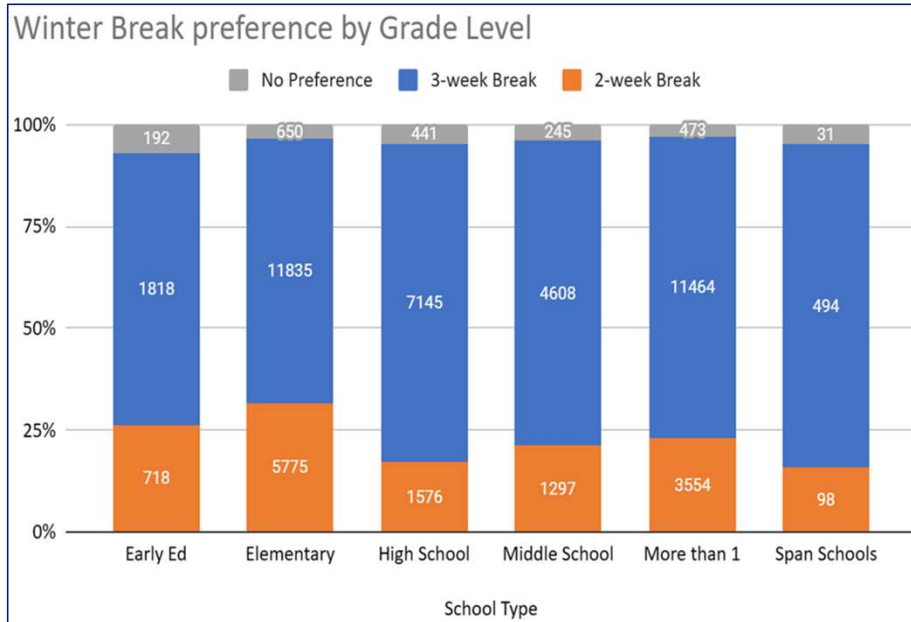


Thanksgiving Break preference by Region



Survey Summary

Winter Break

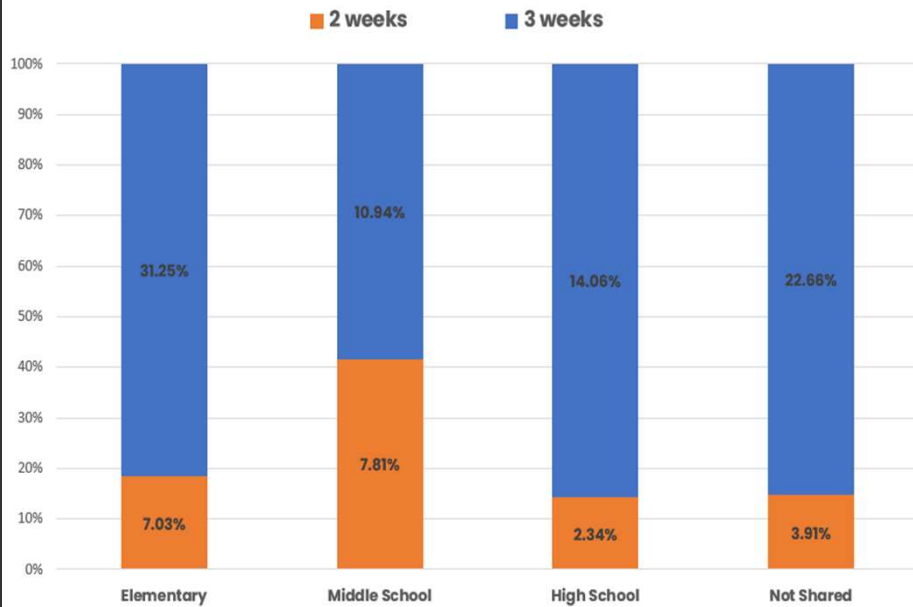


Focus Group Summary

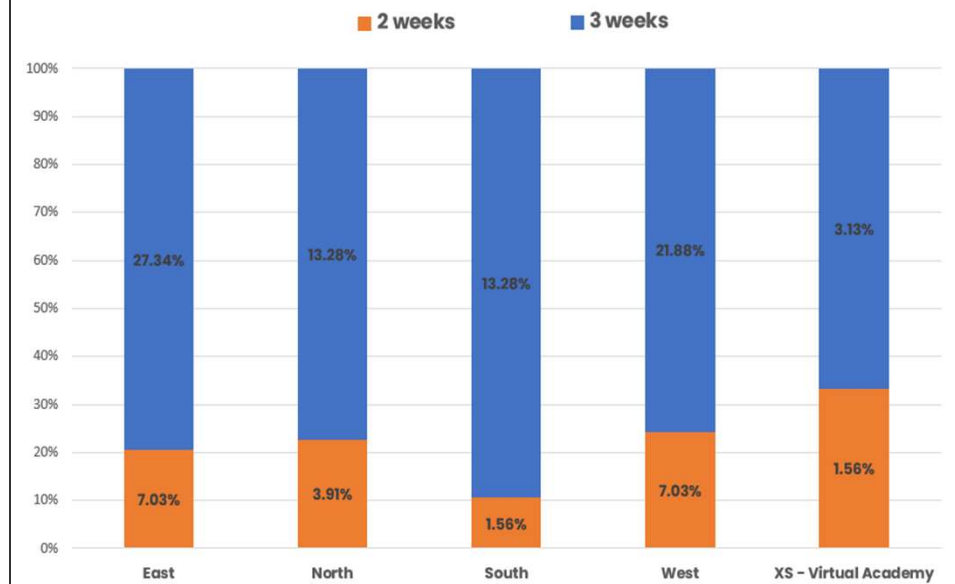
Winter Break



Winter Break preference by School Type



Winter Break preference by Region



Focus Groups



Demographics	Participation %	Thanksgiving		Winter Break	
		2 Days	1 Week	2 Weeks	3 Weeks
African American / Black	4.3%	0%	100%	33.3%	66.7%
Asian / Pacific Islander	2.2%	0%	100%	33.3%	66.7%
Latinx	61.8%	22.4%	77.6%	18%	82%
White	15.1%	9.5%	90.5%	33.3%	66.7%
Special Education	8.6%	16.7%	83.3%	33.3%	66.7%
Title I Schools	66.9%	17.4%	82.6%	21.8%	78.2%
Free or Reduced Meal Plan Participants	54%	19.1%	80.9%	20.3	79.7%
English Learners	6.3%	0%	100%	0%	100%

Reflects only responses provided

Focus Group Key Themes



2 Days Thanksgiving Break:

- Childcare concerns
- Potential for earlier summer release
- Incomparable vacation time between Fall and Spring

1 Week Thanksgiving Break:

- More valuable time with extended family
- Opportunity to learn and engage in family traditions
- Mental and physical health
- Ability to tour college campuses

Focus Group Key Themes



2-Week Winter Break

- Financial concerns
- Food insecurity
- Limited recreational activities
- Opportunity for expanded summer learning
- Learning loss, especially for students with special needs

3-Week Winter Break:

- Familiarity – status quo
- More self-care time for children and adults
- Preventing seasonal illness
- Opportunity to travel
- Extended family time
- Ample time for college application process

School District Comparison

National



School District	Thanksgiving Break		Winter Break	
	2 days	5 days	2 weeks	3 weeks
Capistrano School District		X	X	
Corona-Norco Unified School District (Track)	EL only	SEC only	EL only (+ 2 days prior)	SEC only
Elk Grove Unified School District (Track)		X	X (2 of 6 tracks)	
Fresno Unified School District		X		X
Long Beach Unified School District		X	X	
San Diego Unified School District		X	X	
San Francisco Public Schools		X	X	
San Juan School District		X	X	
<i>Chicago Public Schools</i>		X	X	
<i>New York City Public Schools</i>	X		X	
<i>Miami-Dade County Public Schools</i>		X	X	

School District Comparison

Neighboring



School District	Thanksgiving Break	Winter Break
Beverly Hills Unified School District	3 Days	2-Week
Glendale Unified School District	1-Week	2-Week
Culver City Unified School District	1-Week	2-Week
Burbank Unified School District	2 Days	2-Week
Compton Unified School District	1-Week	2-Week
Inglewood Unified School District	1-Week	2-Week
San Bernardino Unified School District	1-Week	3-Week
Long Beach Unified School District	1-Week	2-Week

Testing Window



2022-23 TESTING CALENDAR

TESTS	Testing Window(s)	Elementary Schools	Middle School	High School
Initial ELPAC	8/15/22 – 6/15/23	ETK/TK/K-6	6-8	9-12
Initial Alternate ELPAC	8/15/22 – 5/31/23	ETK/TK/K-6	6-8	9-12
CAA for Science ¹	September 2022 – 6/15/23	5	8	11 or 12
NAEP LLT	10/1/22 – 12/16/22	-	Age 13	-
PISA	10/3/22 – 11/25/22	-	-	Age 15
NAEP Field Test	1/23/23 – 2/3/23 & 3/20/23 – 4/14/23	4	8	12
TIMSS	Spring 2023	4	8	-
Physical Fitness Test (PFT)	2/1/23 – 3/17/2023	5	7	9
Summative ELPAC	2/1/23 – 5/31/23	ETK/TK/K-6	6-8	9-12
Summative Alternate ELPAC	2/1/23 – 5/31/23	ETK/TK/K-6	6-8	9-12
SBA for ELA and Math	3/7/23 – 6/15/23	3-6	6-8	11
CAA for ELA and Math	3/7/23 – 6/15/23	3-6	6-8	11
CAST ¹	3/7/23 – 6/15/23	5	8	11 or 12
CSA	3/7/23 – 6/15/23	3-6	6-8	9-12

Impacts on Academic Achievement Research

School Calendar and Breaks

- Research has generally focused on traditional vs. year-round calendars and summer learning loss (SLL) and its impact on academic achievement
- No research study found specifically on the length of winter break and its impact on academic achievement
- On average, students' achievement scores declined over summer vacation by one month's worth of school-year learning
 - Declines were sharper for math than for reading
 - The extent of loss was larger at higher grade levels (Quinn & Polikoff, 2017 citing Cooper, 1996)
 - The gap between children of high and low socioeconomic status (SES) has been reported to grow fastest during summer (Downey et al. 2004; Entwisle and Alexander 1992)
 - The gap between African American and White children has been reported to grow fastest during school (Condon 2009; Downey et al. 2004; Entwisle and Alexander 1994)

Instructional Calendar Overview



**180
Instructional
Days**

**First Day of
School is a
Monday**

**One Week
Thanksgiving
Break**

2 Pupil Free Days
**One before the
first day of
school and the
other after the
last day of
school**

December 22, 2023
**New Unassigned
Day for
2023–2024**
(only)

**Unassigned Days
aligned with
certain religious
observances are
not included when
the holiday falls on
a weekend**

**18 Instructional
Weeks in the First
Semester**

**Provides greater
balance between
number of
instructional days
each semester**

**Assists 4X4
schools with PE
requirements**

Admission Day



- Admission Day has been in bargaining unit contracts as a paid holiday for at least three decades
- For UTLA, the language dates back to 1988–1991
- The holiday is in accordance with the basis of the assignment
- Board Rule 1101 (Holidays) was last amended on 9-25-1989
- Removing Admission Day
 - requires Labor Unions notification
 - could result in the reduction in the number of employee paid holidays or the identification of an alternative paid holiday

Attendance Comparison

October 25 vs. November 1



School Year	October 25	November 1
2022-2023	87.11%	83.56%
2021-2022	83.24%	83.34%
2020-2021	n/a	n/a
2019-2020	89.83%	86.71%
2018-2019	92.60%	90.21%
2017-2018	92.52%	90.54%
2016-2017	92.28%	89.82%
2015-2016	n/a	n/a
AVERAGE	89.59%	87.36%

- "n/a" indicates that the day was on a weekend.
- Percentages represent students present for all periods/all day

Calendar at a Glance



Based on Board recommendations, the following changes were implemented:

- School years begin on a Monday
- The Friday before the Winter break (SY 2023-2024) is an unassigned day

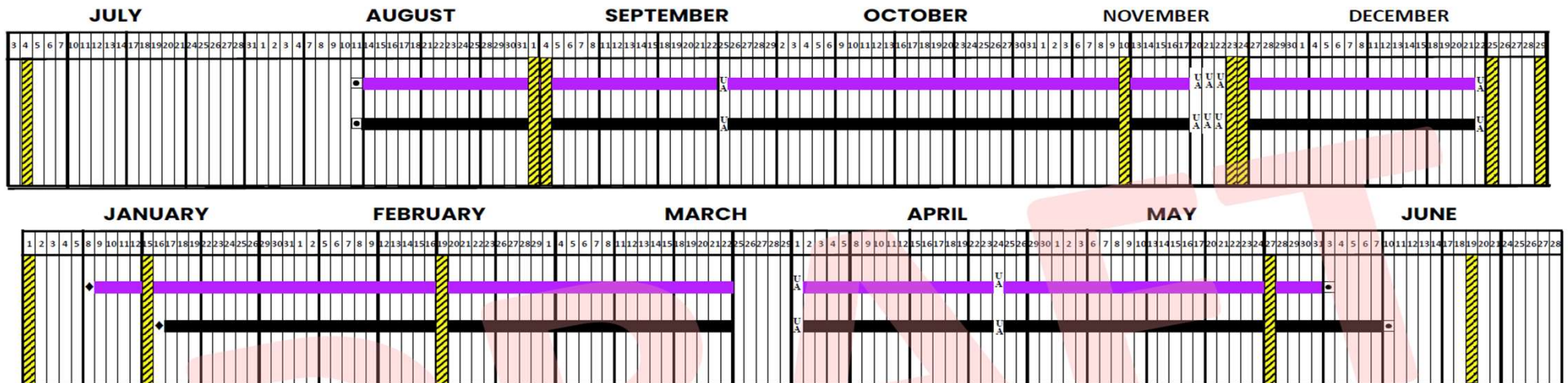
	First Day of Instruction	Thanksgiving Break	Winter Break	First Day of Second Semester	Last day of Instruction
2023 - 24	Monday, August 14, 2023	1 week	2 weeks	Monday, January 8, 2024	Friday, May 31, 2024
			3 weeks	Tuesday, January 16, 2024	Friday, June 7, 2024
2024 - 25	Monday, August 12, 2024	1 week	2 weeks	Monday, January 6, 2025	Thursday, May 29, 2025
			3 weeks	Monday, January 13, 2025	Thursday, June 5, 2025
2025- 26	Monday, August 11, 2025	1 week	2 weeks	Monday, January 5, 2026	Friday, May 29, 2026
			3 weeks	Monday, January 12, 2026	Friday, June 5, 2026

2023-24 Instructional Calendar Options



LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

INSTRUCTIONAL SCHOOL CALENDAR 2023-2024



Holidays/Unassigned Days:

07/04/2023 Independence Day
 08/11/2023 Pupil Free Day
 08/14/2023 First Day of Instruction
 09/01/2023 Admission Day
 09/04/2023 Labor Day
 09/25/2023 Unassigned Day
 11/10/2023 Veterans Day Observed
 11/23 & 24/2023 Thanksgiving
 12/22/2023 Unassigned Day
 01/15/2024 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday
 02/19/2024 Presidents' Day
 03/25 - 29/2024 Spring Break
 04/01/2024 Cesar E. Chavez Birthday Observed
 04/24/2024 Armenian Genocide Day
 05/27/2024 Memorial Day
 06/19/2024 Juneteenth Holiday

2 Weeks Winter 1 Week Thanksgiving

01/08/2024 - 2nd Semester Begins
 05/31/2024 - Last Day of Instruction
 06/03/2024 - Pupil Free Day
 1st Semester - 85 Days
 2nd Semester - 95 Days
 180 Instructional Days
 1st Semester - 18 Weeks (18 for 4X4)
 2nd Semester - 20 Weeks
 12/25/2023 - 01/05/2024 - Winter Break

3 Weeks Winter 1 Week Thanksgiving

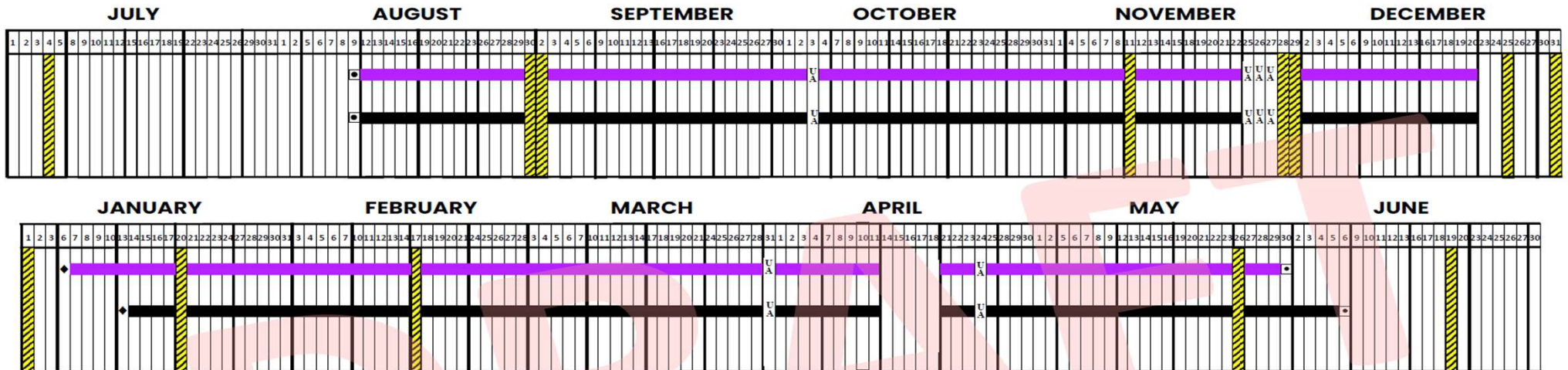
01/16/2024 - 2nd Semester Begins
 06/07/2024 - Last Day of Instruction
 06/10/2024 - Pupil Free Day
 1st Semester - 85 Days
 2nd Semester - 95 Days
 180 Instructional Days
 1st Semester - 18 Weeks (18 for 4X4)
 2nd Semester - 20 Weeks
 12/25/2023 - 01/12/2024 - Winter Break

2024-25 Instructional Calendar Options



LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

INSTRUCTIONAL SCHOOL CALENDAR 2024-2025



Holidays/Unassigned Days:

07/04/2024 Independence Day
 08/09/2024 Pupil Free Day
 08/12/2024 First Day of Instruction
 08/30/2024 Admission Day
 09/02/2024 Labor Day
 10/03/2024 Unassigned Day
 11/11/2024 Veterans Day
 11/28 & 29/2024 Thanksgiving
 01/20/2025 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday
 02/17/2025 Presidents' Day
 03/31/2025 Cesar E. Chavez Birthday
 04/14 - 18/2025 Spring Break
 04/24/2025 Armenian Genocide Day
 05/26/2025 Memorial Day
 06/19/2025 Juneteenth Holiday

2 Weeks Winter 1 Week Thanksgiving

01/06/2025 - 2nd Semester Begins
 05/29/2025 - Last Day of Instructional
 05/30/2025 - Pupil Free Day
 1st Semester - 86 Days
 2nd Semester - 94 Days
 180 Instructional Days
 1st Semester - 18 Weeks (18 for 4X4)
 2nd Semester - 20 Weeks
 12/23/2024 - 01/03/2025 - Winter Break

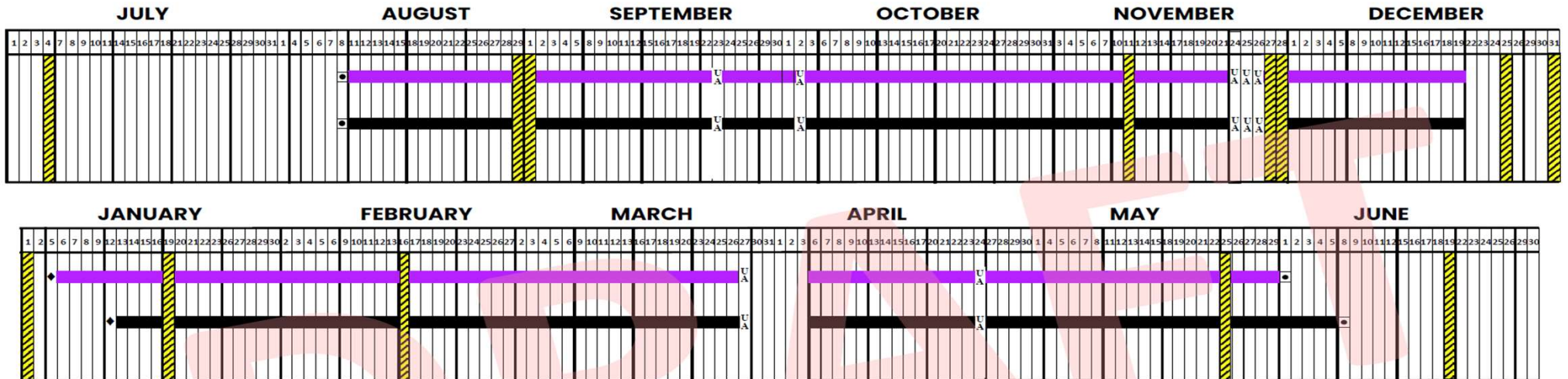
3 Weeks Winter 1 Week Thanksgiving

01/13/2025 - 2nd Semester Begins
 06/05/2025 - Last Day of Instruction
 06/06/2025 - Pupil Free Day
 1st Semester - 86 Days
 2nd Semester - 94 Days
 180 Instructional Days
 1st Semester - 18 Weeks (18 for 4X4)
 2nd Semester - 20 Weeks
 12/23/2024 - 01/10/2025 - Winter Break

2025-26 Instructional Calendar Options



LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT INSTRUCTIONAL SCHOOL CALENDAR 2025-2026



Holidays/Unassigned Days:

07/04/2025 Independence Day
 08/08/2025 Pupil Free Day
 08/11/2025 First Day of Instruction
 08/29/2025 Admission Day
 09/01/2025 Labor Day
 09/23/2025 Unassigned Day
 10/02/2025 Unassigned Day
 11/11/2025 Veterans Day
 11/27 & 28/ 2025 Thanksgiving
 01/19/2026 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday
 02/16/2026 Presidents' Day
 03/27/2026 Cesar E. Chavez Birthday Observed
 03/30-04/03/ 2026 Spring Break
 04/24/2026 Armenian Genocide Day
 05/25/2026 Memorial Day
 06/19/2026 Juneteenth Holiday

2 Weeks Winter 1 Week Thanksgiving

01/05/2026 – 2nd Semester Begins
 05/29/2026 – Last Day of Instruction
 06/01/2026 – Pupil Free Day
 1st Semester – 85 Days
 2nd Semester – 95 Days
 180 Instructional Days
 1st Semester – 18 Weeks (18 for 4X4)
 2nd Semester – 20 Weeks
 12/22/2025 – 01/02/2026 – Winter Break

3 Weeks Winter 1 Week Thanksgiving

01/12/2026 – 2nd Semester Begins
 06/05/2026 – Last Day of Instruction
 06/08/2026 – Pupil Free Day
 1st Semester – 85 Days
 2nd Semester – 95 Days
 180 Instructional Days
 1st Semester – 18 Weeks (18 for 4X4)
 2nd Semester – 20 Weeks
 12/22/2025 – 01/09/2026 – Winter Break

Summary



Calendar Options

- Now only considering a one-week option for Thanksgiving break
 - Results of engagement overwhelmingly indicate a desire for a one-week Thanksgiving break
 - There is no research that indicates such a break has a negative impact on learning and/or testing
- Assessment of duration of Winter break continues
 - Results of engagement also overwhelmingly indicate a desire for a three-week Winter break
 - Other data points suggest a change to historic practices should be seriously considered
 - A super majority of the national and neighboring school districts surveyed provide a one-week Thanksgiving break and a two-week Winter break
 - A two-week winter break would provide more time for instruction before high stakes testing begins