

PSB School Calendar 2025-2026

Voting: what's our next logical step?

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Member, School Committee

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Overview of Options



Option 1: No Changes
For 2025-2026, make no changes to the District calendar.

WHY? No quantitative data to support closing school

Option 2: Change Eid Al-Fitr to Category I

Change Eid Al-Fitr, currently a Category II holiday to a (school-closed) Category I holiday

WHY? Requests from families

Option 3: Remove religious holidays

Accommodate staff and student's days of religious observance during the school year

Why? Maximize effective learning

What factors should drive our decision?

Starting points:

- At least 180 days of quality teaching and learning
- Keep the schools open Mon-Fri unless prevented by weather or unplanned events (e.g., power outage) or Federal/State mandated closures

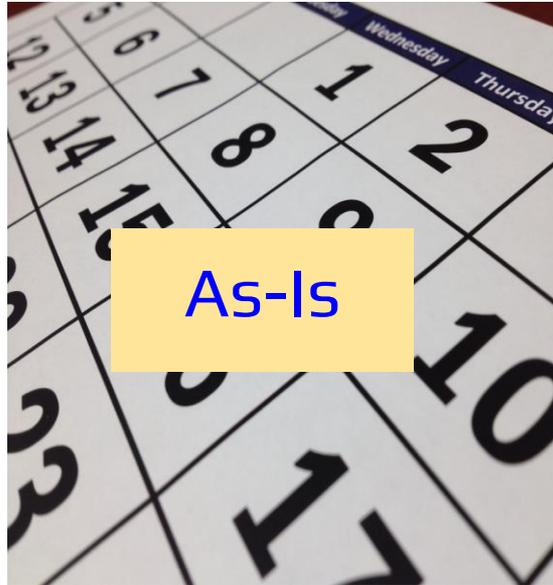
Considerations:

- Educational breaks for activities including: Professional Development, Curriculum Preparation Time, and Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Days when not enough staff is present to operate school or provide quality teaching or not enough students are in attendance

As-Is Option

Pro

1. Maintain School Year without having to adjust the 180-day calendar
2. Provide time for proper quantitative analysis of adding another school closure day



Con

1. Require families who observe Eid Al-Fitr to decide to keep their children home from school to celebrate the holiday and receive existing accommodations from the District

Use a variety of school opportunities to educate and inform the community about Eid Al-Fitr and related observances

Change Eid Al-Fitr to Category I Option

Pro

1. Allow students who observe Eid Al-Fitr to not miss a day of open school
2. Provide additional visibility to the holiday



Con

1. Close the school for a day when the vast majority of staff and students are not celebrating the holiday
2. Require parents to find day care and extended day options since parents are not off on Eid Al-Fitr
3. Require finding another day of teaching and learning to meet the 180 day guideline

Remove religious holidays option

Pro

1. Maximize days of effective learning
2. Treat observance of cultural and religious holidays equally
3. Use “Heritage Months” as one opportunity for teaching about specific cultural observances



Con

1. Families with current Category I holidays must choose between observance and school
2. Low attendance days may impact school operation for some holiday observances
3. Decision made with no quantitative info

Recommendation

OPTION 1: Leave the calendar as-is for 2025-2026

Why is this vote the logical choice?

- No quantitative data has been analyzed that supports closing school for Eid Al-Fitr due to low attendance
 - NOTE: Addition of Eid Al-Fitr as a Category I holiday was an approved request from the School Committee to the Superintendent - it was not a commitment (we are not taking anything away)
- Deciding to remove all religious holiday closures from the calendar (Option 3) is also not supported by quantitative data - staying with what we already have is not a capitulation or a repudiation of any religious holiday in any way but rather a recognition that we have serious work to do as a Committee to figure out our upcoming Calendar