

Recognizing the right of each DEA to set their own school year calendars, the South Slave Divisional Education Council believes that a common school year start date and early identification of non-sessional days is of benefit to the planning and coordination of programs and services to South Slave schools.

The school year must strike a balance between accommodating local preferences and meeting legal and educational requirements. School year calendars are 195 days including two and one half (2.5) administration days, five (5) professional development days, two (2) cultural orientation days, two (2) community education (school improvement) planning days, and two (2) staff inservice days. In addition, the calendars need to take into account the required hours of instruction, maximum length of the school day, grade 12 Alberta diploma examination dates, STIP (Strengthening Teacher Instructional Practice) time, five (5) mid-winter mandatory leave days, and the following statutory holidays:

- Labour Day in September
- National Day for Truth and Reconciliation in September
- Thanksgiving Day in October
- Remembrance Day in November
- Christmas and Boxing Days in December
- New Year's Day in January
- Good Friday and Easter Monday in March/April
- Victoria Day in May
- National Indigenous Peoples Day in June

For schools offering NDL (Northern Distance Learning) courses through video-conferencing, serious consideration should be given to aligning with the NDL calendar, so that local students don't miss any video-conference lessons.

## **REGULATIONS**

The DEA approved school year calendars will adhere to the following:

- 1) The school calendar will begin no later than the Monday of the week prior to the Labour Day statutory holiday.
- 2) Christmas holidays will be no less than 2 full weeks.
- 3) On years where the Arctic Winter Games occur, one week of the Spring Break may be aligned with the dates of the games.
- 4) DEAs which choose to close their schools in recognition of a community-declared winter carnival, in addition to the statutory holidays listed above, will take that into account in the development of the school year calendar.

- 5) DEAs may apply through the Council for individual yearly exceptions to the forthcoming school year start date, Christmas holidays, and Spring Break prior to the end of the previous January.
- 6) DEAs will submit their forthcoming and compliant school year calendars to the Superintendent prior to March 15 of the previous year, so that they can be collated and submitted to the Minister of Education by the March 31 deadline.
- 7) Principals will also provide the Superintendent with the dates of their forthcoming two and one half (2.5) administration days, five (5) professional development days, two (2) cultural orientation days, and two (2) community education planning days by March 15 of the previous year.
- 8) Principals are required to report in writing to the Superintendent any intended closing of the school for any reason during the 195 day school year calendar, prior to the school closing.

References:     *Public Service Act*, s. 35  
                  *Education Act*, s. 117(1)[s], Regulations (section 3[1])  
                  *NWTTA Collective Agreement* article A1.02  
                  *Human Resource Manual* section 813  
                  *ECE Direction on Preparation of School Year Calendar* annual letter

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