

Fall 2014

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Enclosed in this message is a link to a video and a short survey for your feedback about the EIPS Calendar for the 2015-16 school year. Your input is very important to us as the decision the Board will make in December will be guided in part by survey responses. Ideally using a Chrome browser, please watch the video, and then answer the short survey. All survey responses must be completed by November 15. Thank you for your time and contribution.



This presentation works best if you copy the link below, open the Chrome Browser, and insert the link at the top of that page.

[http://app.emaze.com/626675/calendar-ppt-2015pptx?utm\\_source=systememail&utm\\_campaign=sharepresentation&utm\\_medium=view-link#1](http://app.emaze.com/626675/calendar-ppt-2015pptx?utm_source=systememail&utm_campaign=sharepresentation&utm_medium=view-link#1)

Survey link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/EIPS2015-16>

### Calendar Consultation Background Notes

Each year, the Board votes on the following year's school calendar at their December meeting. Three years ago, the board voted to maintain a calendar with the same number of operational and instructional days for the following three years. Instructional days are school days when students attend. Operational days are staff working days but students are not in school.

The Board has asked for a consultation process for the EIPS school calendar for the 2015-16 school year. A consultation committee was established last spring, consisting of 27 people representing students, parents, certificated staff (teachers), classified staff, principals, assistant principals, directors, and trustees. Additionally representatives from Elk Island Catholic Schools and New Horizons served on the committee since both of these school divisions also follow the EIPS calendar.

The committee met five times last spring, discussing authority and guidelines for developing division calendars and exploring the relationship between teacher professional learning and student achievement. The committee used the results from a 2011 calendar survey and consultation process to guide this year's work. In 2011, more than 2900 individuals responded to the calendar consultation meetings and survey questions. The results of that survey strongly supported a Fall Break of five days. Additionally, the survey supported a winter and spring break coinciding with Edmonton Public's. 77% of parents surveyed supported full day professional learning days for staff. 3% supported ½ days for professional learning, 10 % supported two monthly early dismissal days. In the 2011 calendar survey, 71% of EIPS staff also supported full day professional learning. Therefore the options presented include either the status quo, or full days for professional learning on Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays.

From the committee’s research, the average Alberta school division days of instruction is 182 and average professional learning and operational days is 14, making the average Alberta school division total calendar days 196. All EIPS calendar models present 181 instructional days. The status quo model presents a total of 192 total days (the current number of days in this year’s calendar). The Monday, Wednesday and Friday calendar versions present full days for staff meetings and professional learning and these calendars all add three days, making the total proposed calendars at 195.

In the 2015 school year, Labour Day falls on September 7. Because of this, school cannot start school after Labour Day next year if the Fall break was to be maintained as well as a two week Winter Holiday because diploma and provincial exams are scheduled by Alberta Education during the last few weeks of January and our high school semester ends with exam administration.

Minutes of instruction between the status quo calendars vary slightly between calendars due to the change in an early dismissal day to a full day of instruction each month.

Comparison of average minutes of instruction Between calendar models	Status Quo Calendar Option (early dismissal calendars)		Monday, Wednesday, or Friday Calendar Options (full day instruction – no early dismissals)	
	Elementary and Junior High	Senior High	Elementary and Junior High	Senior High
320 minutes per day for regular day 260 minutes of instruction for monthly early dismissal days	335 minutes per day first semester 336 minutes per day second semester	317 minutes per day all year	338 minutes first semester 328 minutes second semester	

Sincerely,

Karla Satchwell  
Associate Superintendent, HR  
Elk Island Public Schools