

RTSD Considerations for a Before or After Labor Day Start February 2023



Ending the school year late in June provides little instructional benefit to students, as cumulative standardized examinations (Advanced Placement, PSSAs, Keystone Exams) are administered in the end of April and throughout the month of May. All eligible content must be covered prior to the administration of these exams. Planning an instructional calendar that has multiple school days that fall well after the required curriculum has been covered and assessed is not instructionally sound. In addition, when the school year runs late, families who send their children to camps end up missing the first week of summer programming. When considering when to start school and the impact on the end of the school year, RTSD's historical data is as follows:

School Year	Labor Day	School Start Date	School End Date
2016-2017	Mon., Sept. 5, 2016	Tues., Sept. 6, 2016	Wed., June 14, 2017
2017-2018	Mon., Sept. 4, 2017	Tues., Sept. 5, 2017	Thurs., June 21, 2018 [^]
2018-2019	Mon., Sept. 3, 2018	Tues., Sept. 4, 2018	Fri., June 14, 2019
2019-2020	Mon., Sept. 2, 2019	Tues., Sept. 3, 2019	Fri., June 5, 2020 [°]
2020-2021	Mon., Sept. 7, 2020	Tues., Sept. 8, 2020	Tues., June 22, 2021 [^]
2021-2022	Mon., Sept. 6, 2021	Wed., Sept. 8, 2021	Thurs., June 16, 2022
2022-2023	Mon., Sept. 5, 2022	Tues., Sept. 6, 2022	Thurs., June 15, 2023 (anticipated)

[^]The 2017-2018 and 2020-2021 school years had multiple snow days that delayed the end of school.

[°]The 2019-2020 school year was ended a week early due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

To acknowledge the diversity of our community, RTSD recently added new holidays to our calendar (Eid al Fitr, Eid al Adha, Diwali, Lunar New Year, Juneteenth) in addition to those we historically have observed (Fourth of July, Labor Day, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's Day, MLK Day, Presidents Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day). When any of these holidays fall within a typical workweek (Monday through Friday), there will be no school for students. RTSD also has three of our schools that currently serve as polling places for primary and general elections and has a tradition of a week-long Spring Break. These constraints need to be accounted for when determining when the last day of the school year will be.

To honor the desires of some in the community who wish to maintain a post-Labor Day start, but also recognizing the pedagogical issues with a late June school end date, RTSD administration recommends ending the school year for students on or before June 14 each year (essentially the second week of June). To that end, the district should utilize remote instructional days when necessary, and consider a before Labor Day start on years when Labor Day falls later in September, but keeping a traditional post-Labor Day start on years Labor Day falls earlier in September, dependent upon how many federal and religious holidays fall within a typical workweek that year.

Upcoming Labor Day and Prospective Start Dates

School Year	Labor Day	Prospective School Start Date
2023-2024	Monday, September 4, 2023	After Labor Day Start
2024-2025	Monday, September 2, 2024	After Labor Day Start
2025-2026	Monday, September 1, 2025	After Labor Day Start
2026-2027	Monday, September 7, 2026	Potential Before Labor Day Start*
2027-2028	Monday, September 6, 2027	Potential Before Labor Day Start*
2028-2029	Monday, September 4, 2028	After Labor Day Start
2029-2030	Monday, September 3, 2029	After Labor Day Start

*Dependent upon religious/federal holidays, polling locations, and the length of Spring Break