



LAGUNA BEACH  
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

**2026-27 Student  
Instructional Calendar  
Committee Recommendation  
April 18, 2024**

# INSTRUCTIONAL CALENDAR BACKGROUND

## 2017-2018 Establishment and Early Recommendations of the Calendar Committee

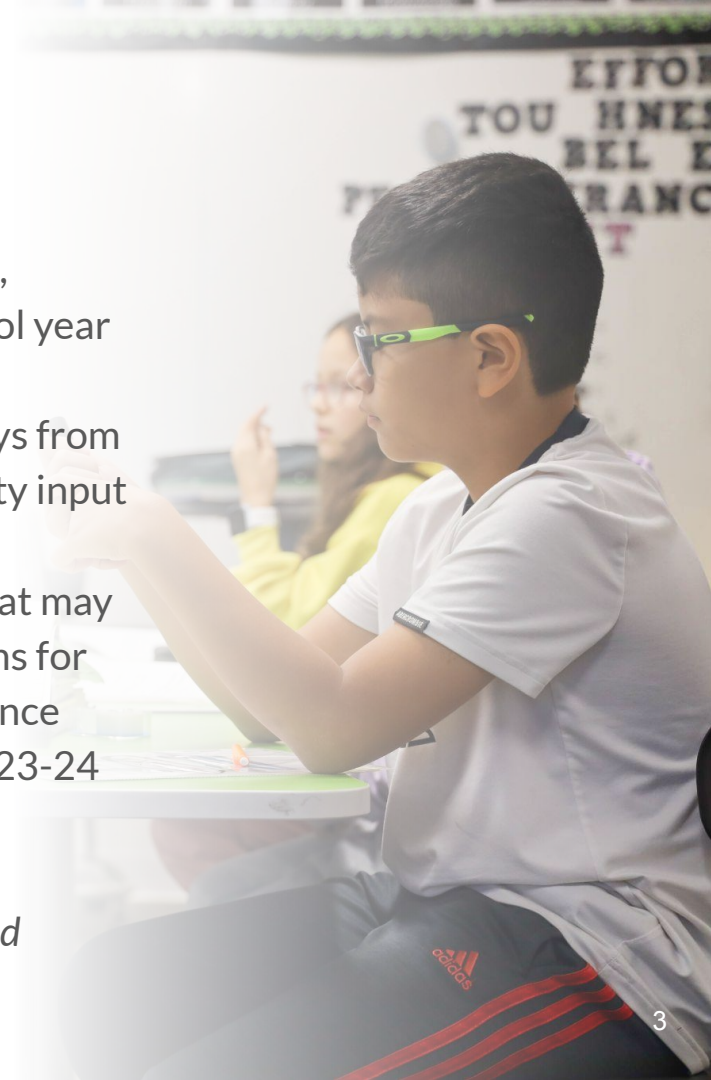
October	In 2017, at the direction of the Board, staff formed a committee to assess and recommend improvements to the instructional calendar for the 2019-20 school year using a comprehensive process to surface needs and areas of opportunity. The objectives were to optimize instructional time and enhance professional development opportunities for staff, while minimizing disruptions to regular instructional time.
April	Staff presented committee recommendations to the Board, which include implementing a week-long Thanksgiving break, aligning non-instructional days across the district, and starting the school year earlier. The Board provided direction to conduct a survey of all parents, staff, and students in grades 8 through 12.
June	The Board approved a calendar that moved the start of the school year to August (before Labor Day) to end the first semester at winter break. To address public input regarding an earlier start to the school year, the Board directed staff to maintain school in session on Monday and Tuesday of Thanksgiving week.
Spring 2022	Labor negotiations lead to an agreement between management and LaBUFA to establish a new calendar committee including LaBUFA, management, and CSEA members. The committee's recommendation, approved by the Board for the 2023-24 school year, introduced a full week off at Thanksgiving to address instructional challenges due to attendance.
Spring 2023	In April 2023, the committee proposed the 2024-25 and 2025-26 student calendars, maintaining a five-day Thanksgiving break and aligned non-student days after winter break. The Board then directed staff to revise the calendar proposals to include a three-day Thanksgiving break and separate non-student days for K-5 and secondary levels.
March 2024	Committee convenes to review and finalize recommendations for the 2026-27 student calendar.

# 2024 COMMITTEE PROCESS

On March 28, 2024, the Calendar Advisory Committee convened, tasked with recommending a 2026-27 student instructional school year calendar. The 2024 committee:

- Reviewed parent surveys, public comments, and staff surveys from LaBUFA and CSEA to incorporate comprehensive community input on school calendar adjustments
- Analyzed changes in overall student attendance patterns that may impact continuity of instruction to identify recommendations for replacing low-attendance days with those of higher attendance
  - Evaluate and assess impact of changes made in the 2023-24 calendar year

*The committee consists of three representatives each from LaBUFA and management, plus one from CSEA.*





# STUDENT ATTENDANCE TRENDS

LBUSD implemented a five-day Thanksgiving/fall break in the 2023-24 school year, beginning the school year on a Thursday, which replaced the historically low-attendance Monday of Thanksgiving week.

	Thanksgiving (Monday)								Thursday First Day
	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 COVID	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
<b>TOW</b>	89%	92%	90.5%	88.32%	87.39%	87.5%	84.89%	82.77%	97.31%
<b>EMS</b>	89%	90%	88.56%	88.7%	87.8%	89.2%	87.07%	82.78%	97.85%
<b>TMS</b>	88%	92%	90.50%	92.90%	92%	97%	90.70%	86.75%	99.23%
<b>LBHS</b>	91%	91.90%	91.60%	94.81%	93.90%	98.20%	89.50%	88.64%	98.76%



# STUDENT ATTENDANCE TRENDS

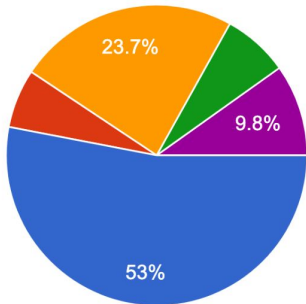
Friday replaced the historically low-attendance Tuesday of Thanksgiving week, resulting in a significant impact on absenteeism rates, with differences in attendance between 15 and 20% at some school sites.

	Thanksgiving (Tuesday)								Friday Second Day
	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 COVID	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
TOW	88%	88%	88.35%	87.29%	82.62%	84.30%	76.49%	79.40%	95.70%
EMS	88%	86%	86.44%	83.91%	80.61%	85.55%	81.18%	72.97%	96.89%
TMS	84%	88%	86.00%	88.30%	88%	95%	87.29%	80.90%	98.27%
LBHS	84%	87.98%	87.74%	87.74%	85.56%	98.00%	85.40%	84.09%	98.42%

# PARENT SURVEY RESULTS

Survey data from 396 responses indicates strong support for a five-day Thanksgiving break, with 53% reporting it would significantly ease planning for childcare, work schedules, and family activities, and an additional 6.3% finding it slightly easier.

*A significant majority, 71% of respondents, are in favor of the district considering an earlier start to the school year to allow for a full week off during the Thanksgiving/fall break.*



- Significantly easier to plan for childcare, work schedules, and family activities
- Slightly easier to plan for childcare, work schedules, and family activities
- No significant difference in planning for childcare, work schedules, and family...
- Slightly more challenging to plan for childcare, work schedules, and family...
- Significantly more challenging to plan for childcare, work schedules, and family...



# PARENT SURVEY RESULTS

## MINIMUM DAYS

In the 2026-27 school calendar parent survey, nearly half of the respondents (49.7%) indicated a preference for scheduling secondary minimum days before Mid-Winter and Spring Breaks. A substantial portion of overall respondents (46.6%) report that the **scheduling of minimum days has no significant impact on planning for childcare, work, and family activities.**

## NON-STUDENT DAYS

Regarding the non-student day for **secondary** students, which currently follows Winter Break, **almost half (48.7%) prefer the day to remain on the Monday immediately following Winter Break.** In **elementary**, survey responses showed a **split preference for scheduling the non-student day**, with 21.3% favoring it within the same week as spring Parent-Teacher Conference Week and 27.1% preferring a different week.

*The placement of non-student days overall appears to have a limited impact on family planning, with 47.5% indicating no significant difference in their ability to plan around these days.*



# 2024 CALENDAR COMMITTEE

Based on all the data reviewed, the committee's recommended student instructional calendar for the 2026-27 school year follows the following framework:

- 80/100 day semester model
- Alignment of non-student days in January
- Thursday start to school year
- Full week off at Thanksgiving/Fall Break



# 2026-27 CALENDAR COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

2026-2027 Student Calendar - 180 Days				
<b>July 2026</b>				
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31
<b>August 2026</b>				
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				
<b>September 2026</b>				
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		
<b>January 2027</b>				
				1
4	5	7	7	8
11	12	14	14	15
18	19	21	21	22
25	26	28	28	29
<b>February 2027</b>				
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
<b>March 2027</b>				
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

18

October 2026				
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

22

April 2027				
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

17

November 2026				
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30				

15

May 2027				
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				



20

December 2026				
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

14

June 2027				
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	25	26
28	30			

8

 K-12 Non-Student Day  
 Spring K-12 Non-Student Day (K-12 PD Day)

100