

March 27, 2025

Peaster Community,

Tonight, at our March board meeting, we unanimously approved the recommended 2025-26 school calendar. We wanted to take a few minutes to explain this process for those who were unable to attend tonight's meeting.

Over the past five or so years, many schools in Texas have moved away from the traditional five-day school week. In the fall of 2022, we created a committee to explore changes to the Peaster ISD calendar. Based on the recommendation of the committee and feedback from our community, we agreed to a two-year pilot of a modified four-day calendar. The 2023-24 version of that calendar provided most of the four-day weeks during the Spring semester. Over the course of that school year, we received feedback regarding potential improvements. Thus, in January 2024, we utilized the District Education Improvement Committee (DEIC) to form a group of principals, teachers, and parents to recommend modifications to that first attempt at the modified four-day approach. That work led to the adoption of the 2024-25 calendar. This calendar provided more off-days in the fall semester, to include a fall break, while providing more four-day weekends to create the four-day school weeks.

As we looked forward to creating the next iteration of our school calendar for the years to come, we again relied on the DEIC to form a committee of principals, teachers, and parents to gather input from our staff and community and to provide the Board with a recommendation. This group consisted of individuals who prefer a standard five-day school week, the modified four-day school week, and the true four-day school week. Representatives from this group sat down with staff on each campus to get their input. They received feedback from the Board during the January and February board meetings. They also held a Transparent Tuesday townhall meeting and published two surveys to obtain community feedback.

The first survey sought input on the modified four-day calendars versus our previous standard calendar while also gauging support for a true four-day calendar. Seventy percent of respondents favored the modified four-day calendar over the previous calendar, with the current 2024-25 calendar the overall favorite. Less than half preferred a true four-day calendar. Based on that feedback, the committee drafted two options for the 2025-26 calendar and again sought the community's input. By a nearly 2-to-1 margin, the community voted for the option ultimately recommended by the committee and adopted by the Board.

We want to thank the members of the DEIC calendar committee and the community for your feedback during this process. We recognize that there are many options and opinions when it comes to the calendar process, which is why we took the time and steps we did to craft this calendar. We also understand that no matter how hard we try, no calendar will meet everyone's desires or needs. Ultimately, our priority is to do what is best for kids and to continue to find ways to improve student academic achievement.

We believe that important aspects to a quality education and a well-functioning district are predictability and consistency. As we previously entered a two-year pilot period, through the adoption of the 2025-26 calendar, we now endeavor to provide our community a predictable and consistent calendar over at least the next three years. Our goal will be to approve a calendar each year as early as the January board meeting that remains consistent with the version adopted here today, while remaining flexible enough to make slight alterations for the benefit of our students, staff, and community.

We thank each of you for your involvement in this process. Go Greyhounds!

The Peaster ISD Board of Trustees