BUCKEYE UNION HAPPENINGS

JUNE 2025

SAVE THE DATE

HAPPY SUMMER!
August 6 First Day of School

August 20 Board Meeting
August 29 Staff Development Day
September 3 Board Meeting
September 17 Board Meeting

We are Buckeye!

TO DO

Is your information up-to-date in **Alma**?

At the end of July, our student information system, Alma will be sending an email from *notifications@getalma.com* to remind parents to update their information.

Buckeye Union School District

ENROLLMENT

- ☑ FOUR YEARS OLD BY SEPT. 1
  TK (TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN)
- ☑ FIVE YEARS OLD BY SEPT. 1
  KINDERGARTEN

BACK TO SCHOOL

5049 Robert J. Mathews Parkway, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762
Phone: 916-985-2183 www.buckeyeusd.org

BUCKEYE UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

DISTRICT MISSION

Working together with families, the community, and highly qualified staff, the Buckeye Union School District ensures that each student masters the knowledge and skills needed to maximize their academic and personal success in a global society.

Opportunities for Every Student

Buckeye USD is home to Award-Winning Schools with amazing teachers, facilities, curriculum, libraries, PE programs...and so much MORE.

More Programs.
More Opportunities.
More Success!

- ✓ Band and VAPA LEARN MORE
- ✓ GATE LEARN MORE
- ✓ STEM LEARN MORE
- ✓ Athletic Programs
- ✓ Meet the Masters
- ✓ Gardens
- ✓ Student Clubs
- ✓ CJSF

We hope Buckeye families enjoy this end-of-the-year wrap-up!

LEARN MORE

VAPA IN BUSD

We are committed to fostering a lifelong appreciation of the arts and ensuring that every student has the opportunity to explore their creative potential, providing students with continued opportunities to grow as artists, performers, and creative thinkers. Students across the Buckeye Union School District have numerous opportunities to explore and engage in the arts. Our **Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA)** activities are integrated into the curriculum, aligning with California State Standards across academic areas. Through music, theatrical performance, and visual arts, students develop creativity, critical thinking, and a deeper understanding of themselves and the world around them. Our VAPA programs provide students with rich opportunities to explore and develop their artistic abilities in a supportive and dynamic environment.

Examples of VAPA in BUSD include music, theater, art, dance, and visual arts:



- Band concerts
- Talent and Variety shows
- Classroom-based performances
- School-wide productions
- Square Dancing



- Meet the Masters
- VAPA-themed assemblies and workshops
- District-wide Heritage Festival
- District-wide Art Show (Buckeye Education Foundation)



- District-wide Poetry Showcase (Buckeye Education Foundation)
- County-wide Oral Interpretation Festival (Grades 4-8)

VAPA IN BUSD







William Brooks
Talent Show



Silva Valley's Ms. Repstad's 1/2 blend - Character Matters is a play that uses fairy tale characters to teach valuable lessons about social and personal actions, emphasizing the importance of character and making good choices. The play explores themes like empathy, managing anger, taking responsibility and the importance of doing what's right instead of what's easy.

VAPA IN BUSD



Valley View
1st Grade Play
It's a Jungle Out There!





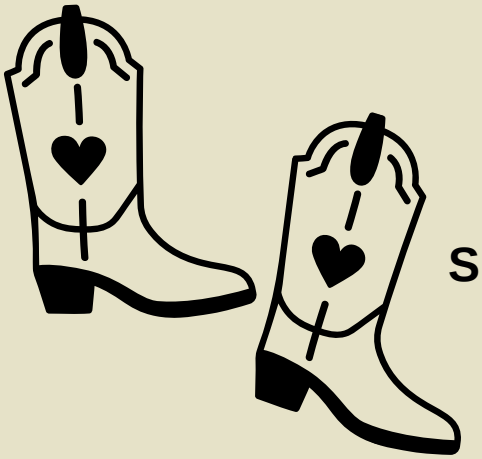
On Saturday, April 26th, our **Buckeye Union Mandarin Immersion (BUMI)** students participated in a special field trip to a Mandarin language competition, highlighting the importance of learning beyond the traditional classroom setting. At BUMI, we believe that true engagement comes from providing students diverse experiences beyond reading and writing. It was a joyful day, filled with music, culture, and community, and we are grateful for the enthusiasm and support from the 90+ students who were in attendance and their families.

Our students won second place in the solo group, first and third place in the duet/trio group, and third place in the school choir group.

WATCH VIDEO

WATCH VIDEO

WATCH VIDEO



VAPA IN BUSD

Oak Meadow, William Brooks, Silva Valley, and Buckeye Elementary
hosted Hoedowns this year





Buckeye Elementary


Oak Meadow Elementary

HERITAGE FESTIVAL



The Buckeye Union School District hosted its 12th Annual **Heritage Festival** on March 26 at **Valley View** Charter Montessori in El Dorado Hills, bringing together cultures from all over the world.







READ MORE

VILLAGE life
IN EL DORADO HILLS

LIBRARIES

Our school library programs serve to instill a love of reading, foster independent library use, and enhance the quality of instruction to improve student achievement. Our elementary students visit once a week with their class to hear a story and check out materials to read independently. Our middle school libraries are open to students for their independent use before and after school as well as during the school day. In addition, our middle school students visit the library with their teachers throughout the school year to conduct research and check out literature to be used in classwork.

Our District uses Follett Destiny Library Manager, a complete library management system that can be accessed from anywhere, 24/7, helping to strengthen the crucial bond between the library, the classroom, and the home. In order to access your school's library collection, simply visit **gofollett.com** and enter your school name.

LEARN MORE

NATIONAL READING MONTH

March is the **Annual BoB (Battle of the Books)**
a county-wide competition,
this year hosted by **Rolling Hills Middle School**



El Dorado County School Districts Celebrate National Reading Month

Guest readers, Read-A-Thons, and literacy challenges are inspiring young minds during National Reading Month. Read more **HERE** about how our districts and schools are getting creative with students!

Silva Valley had fun events, run by their school library associate!

NATIONAL READING MONTH IN BUSD





National Read Aloud day at **Blue Oak**! Superintendent Dr. Roth and firefighter Hughes (left) reading to students, Masked Reader Assembly (inflatables below), and a local author's visit!







William Brooks
Camp Read-a-Lot









Buckeye El
Camp Read-a-Lot
Guest readers read to the classes. Shown above, Superintendent Dr. Roth is reading to a class.

ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT - SPELLING BEE

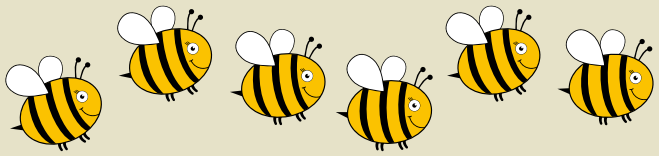




Both **Oak Meadow and Mandarin Immersion** students placed in their divisions







ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT - A TOUCH OF UNDERSTANDING


Oak Meadow



ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT - GARDENS OF LEARNING

Across the Buckeye Union School District, school gardens blossom into vibrant outdoor classrooms where students dig into hands-on learning. From Transitional Kindergarten through 8th grade, students are experiencing the magic of growing plants, understanding ecosystems, and connecting science, health, and environmental stewardship, all key elements of STEM and STEAM education.

Many of our schools have embraced the school garden as more than just a patch of soil, and it has become a space where academic standards meet real-world experiences. Whether it's learning about plant life cycles, experimenting with soil and water conditions, measuring plant growth, or exploring nutrition and sustainability, these outdoor lessons offer meaningful applications of science, technology, engineering, art, and math.

At Oak Meadow Elementary, K-2nd grade students visit their garden regularly to tie lessons directly into their science units. Students tend to the plants, observe changes, and even bring home the vegetables they've helped grow. Similarly, Silva Valley, Valley View Charter Montessori, and William Brooks Elementary engage all elementary grades in monthly or bi-monthly garden lessons, led by dedicated parent volunteers.

At the William Brooks garden, they recently added an orchard and pop-up farm-to-fork events. The amazing garden coordinators have transformed the space into a true extension of the classroom, and a source of pride and inspiration for the entire school! Check out the Spring 2025 article from the "*in her garden*" magazine!

Led by teacher Vicki Ferretti, Rolling Hills Middle School recently installed new garden beds as part of its Farm-to-Fork program. Life Skills students in grades 7–8 participate in garden activities that reinforce lessons in real-life applications of biology and nutrition.

Garden programs not only support science instruction, but also promote curiosity, collaboration, and a love for learning. With support from parents, teachers, and PTO/PTO/PTCs, Buckeye's gardens are cultivating more than crops, they're nurturing well-rounded, engaged learners who grow alongside their gardens. Growing minds and cultivating knowledge, one sprout at a time!



William Brooks

The Brooks Bears Garden was on the 2025 El Dorado Hills Garden Tour

ATHLETICS: RUNNING, JUMPING, KICKING, AND WINNING!

Spring is in the air, and so is the sound of sneakers squeaking, whistles blowing, and coaches passionately shouting instructions! Here at BUSD, we take athletics seriously, or at least as seriously as we take finding matching socks before a big game.

With a lineup of sports including Cross Country, Volleyball, Soccer, Basketball, Flag Football, and Track & Field, there's something for every student-athlete (and their proud, sideline-cheering families). Whether they're sprinting down the track, spiking a volleyball, or perfecting their victory dance, our athletes give it their all. Many even go on to championship games! But let's be real, EVERY athlete at BUSD is a winner in our book!

Our sports offerings are based on student age, the season, interest levels, and the availability of coaches who dedicate their time to shaping the next generation of champions. We also offer Unified Sports opportunities throughout the year. So, whether your student dreams of crossing the finish line first, sinking a game-winning shot, or just enjoying the game with friends, BUSD athletics has something for **everyone**!

Elementary

Fall
Cross Country and Unified Sports Soccer

Winter
Basketball

Spring
Unified Sports Basketball

Middle School

Fall
Cross Country, Girls Volleyball, Girls Soccer, Boys Basketball, and Flag Football

Winter
Boys Soccer, Girls Basketball

Spring
Boys Volleyball, Track and Field, Unified Sports Basketball, and Unified Sports Track

BASKETBALL



William Brooks girls basketball team and their incredible coaches worked extremely hard this season. For the second year in a row, the basketball team won the championship game!

Gooooo Bears!



Blue Oak girls basketball team came in 2nd to the Brooks team. They played well!

Gooooo Bulldogs!

Valley View 5th grade boys basketball champions! Thank you, coaches, parents, fans, Mr. Saura, and our champion Rattlers, who not only are #1 but model RISE on the court.



Valley View 7th grade boys basketball champions in the El Dorado County Sports League. This was the first time Valley View has won a middle school championship for boys basketball.



Gooooo Rattlers!

CROSS COUNTRY



Rolling Hills 6th & 8th girls won the division at the Cross Country Finals at the Fairgrounds in Placerville.

Gooooo Bengals!





William Brooks 3rd grade student, Milena, came in 1st place in the Cross Country Finals at the Fairgrounds in Placerville.

Gooooo Bears!



Valley View 3rd grade girls celebrating being cross country division champions at the El Dorado County Championships at the Fairgrounds in Placerville.



Valley View 6th/7th grade boys celebrating being cross country division champions at the El Dorado County Finals at the Fairgrounds in Placerville.

Gooooo Rattlers!

ATHLETIC OPPORTUNITES FOR EVERYONE!



Students from across the district came together to compete in this year's Unified Sports Basketball event, promoting teamwork, inclusion, and fun on the court. The energy was high, and the spirit of unity was on full display as athletes of all abilities played side by side.

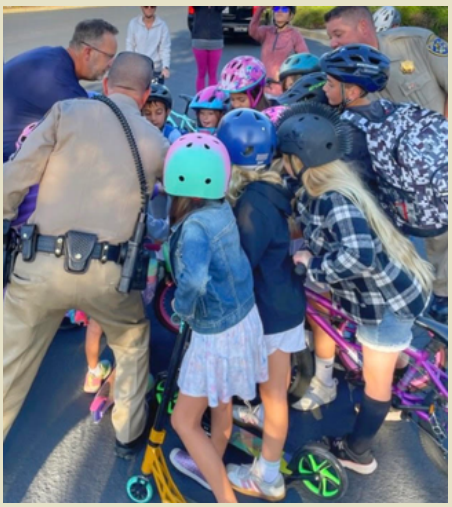




BASKETBALL







Valley View
Participating in Bike to School Day



CELEBRATIONS AND FUN IN BUSD!



Buckeye Elementary Glow Dance

Middle School Promotion Ceremonies

Next Stop HIGH SCHOOL

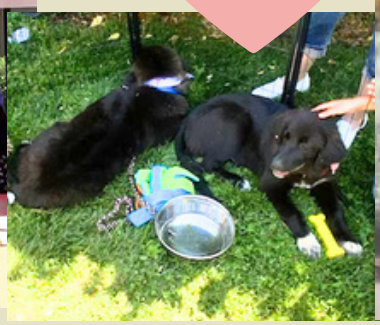

Valley View


Rolling Hills


Camerado Springs

Students in school over the summer hosting an event with lemonade and other sales raising money for [Foothill Dog Rescue]







STUDENT AND STAFF RECOGNITION



May 14, 2025

The Rotary Club of El Dorado Hills honors **Silva Valley student, Weston Losch,** as Student of the Year.

May 15, 2025

The Rotary Club of Cameron Park honors **Camerado Springs student, Sadi Angelo,** as an Outstanding Student.





May 14, 2025

The Rotary Club of El Dorado Hills honors **Heather Locher,** as Buckeye Union's Educator of the Year.

BUSD EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR

McKenzie Courtney, Psychologist, Oak Meadow, March 19, 2025



Amy Pirkl, Oak Meadow Principal, stated that McKenzie embodies excellence, dedication, and heart. McKenzie consistently goes above and beyond and is always willing to lend a hand which reflects her deep commitment. Her kindness and supportiveness are unmatched!

Superintendent Roth presented McKenzie with a certificate and stated that she is the go-to for staff when there is a difficult issue that needs assistance. McKenzie is even tempered and calm. McKenzie is an excellent and skilled problem solver and presented to a group on our recent inservice day.

Amanda Lowrance, Library Associate, Oak Meadow, March 19, 2025



Amy Pirkl, Oak Meadow Principal, stated that Amanda brings energy and positivity to the whole school community. Amanda has created a welcoming environment where everyone feels valued and cared for. Kids and staff love her for her hard work, kindness, and dedication, making a lasting impact on the school community.

Superintendent Roth presented Amanda with a certificate and stated she is always uniquely engaged at the site and has a big impact on students. Amanda has also created a really nice library space for all to enjoy.

Heather Locher, Teacher, Silva Valley, April 2, 2025



Brandon Beadle, Silva Valley Principal, stated that Heather is retiring after 30 years and they are lucky and blessed to have her at Silva Valley. Heather is dedicated, positive, and supportive to other teachers. She gives a love of learning to her students and teaches from her heart, building strong relationships with her students. She has a passion for teaching our youth and teaches students perseverance, communication, and friendship. Staff said that she is a treasure and brings her A-game every day. Heather cares about the whole child and the connections made with the family goes beyond the school year.

Superintendent Roth presented Heather with a certificate and stated that she is a truly special educator in our District. If we had a hall of fame, Heather would be in it. Data shows that students who come out of her class perform at a high level. You can tell Heather enjoys being a teacher and we are sorry to see her leave but wish her well in retirement.

Gwendolyn Rogers, Administrative Assistant, Silva Valley, April 2, 2025



Brandon Beadle, Silva Valley Principal, stated that Gwendolyn has been at Silva Valley for 4 years and is not only the office administrative assistant with endless tasks, but she is the meeter and greeter who creates a wonderful office space for students and visitors. Gwendolyn is positive, reliable, dependable, and values suggestions and input. Her presence is the foundation of the office team. Staff said she is a rock star and always immediately helps, going above and beyond, generous, inclusive, and friendly.

Superintendent Roth presented Gwendolyn with a certificate and stated that she deals with a flurry of activities in the office and hopes she realizes the importance of her role with students, she is the “office mom” and is greatly appreciated.

BUSD EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR

Mariel McDonald, Teacher, William Brooks, May 21, 2025



Noel Stedeford, William Brooks Principal, congratulated Mariel and stated that she is a first-year special education teacher at William Brooks who "hit the ground running" and has been a collaborative, positive, and compassionate presence on campus. She shared that Mariel is deeply appreciated by both staff and students, and noted it was a high compliment to be selected by her peers for recognition.

Superintendent Roth presented Mariel with a certificate and stated that her dedication and warmth have already made a strong impact at William Brooks. He praised her for the empathy she brings to her role and acknowledged how much she is valued by her colleagues and students.

Jim MacKinnon, Head Custodian, William Brooks, May 21, 2025



Noel Stedeford, William Brooks Principal, congratulated Jim and stated that he is an essential part of the Brooks community who consistently goes above and beyond. She highlighted his contributions to the school's garden and composting program, his support for students and staff, and his positive, can-do attitude that uplifts the entire school.

Superintendent Roth presented Jim with a certificate and stated that Jim is one of the most dedicated and dependable individuals in the district. He recognized Jim's many years of service, his leadership in student-centered projects like vermicomposting, and his unwavering commitment to the success and spirit of the Buckeye community.

Association of California School Administrators "ACSA"

Local Charter Distinguished Service Awards



Kim Andreasen
Food Services Director



Nicole Schraeder
Student Services Director



Style Magazine's Teacher of the Year

Tiffany Morgante, Camerado Springs

READ MORE

A HUGE, Buckeye Union THANK YOU to the many Volunteers who help make the magic happen in BUSD!

Valley View Volunteer Appreciation Event







Students held a performance for their volunteer event





New PTO-funded mural at **Silva Valley**

NEWS FROM THE CENTRAL KITCHEN

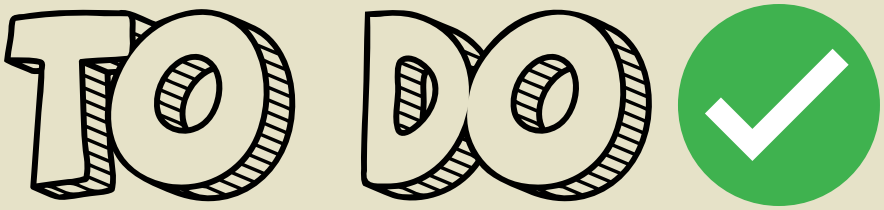
To access menus and other Nutrition Services information, click **HERE**

What's Cooking?

We have been busy menu planning for the 2025-26 school year and are excited by the new recipes we are introducing. These include new flavors of breakfast smoothies – starting with Banana Blueberry, a Hot Ham and Cheese Croissant Sandwich, and Teriyaki Dunkers over Rice. Middle Schools will have a new Asian Noodle Salad and a Charcuterie Bistro Box.

As always, we are committed to providing as many freshly prepared meals using minimally processed ingredients as possible and look forward to serving your students healthy and delicious meals next school year.

Meals, foods and beverages sold or served at schools meet state and federal requirements based on the USDA Dietary Guidelines. All meals, foods and beverages are prepared and served by qualified child nutrition professionals. We provide students with access to a variety of affordable and appealing foods that meet the health and nutrition needs of students.



As a result of new legislation and funding from the State, Buckeye Union School District will continue to provide free meals to all students for the 2025-26 school year. However, in order to ensure Buckeye USD receives all available funding this year, ALL families, regardless of family income, are asked to complete **BOTH** of the following forms by **September 22, 2025**:

School Education Benefit Form

Even if your student(s) may not choose to take advantage of our meal services, completing this form will assist our schools in continuing to qualify for grants that support every school in Buckeye Union.
For the 2025-26 school year, the School Education Benefit Form also qualifies families for PEBT cards.

Federal Meal Application

Meal applications help qualify families and the school district for additional services such as grants, program funding, athletic waivers, textbook assistance, and PEBT cards, among others.

Letter from the Superintendent



CLICK HERE
to learn more
about us,
news and events, &
ways to get involved!

BUCKEYE EDUCATION FOUNDATION



2025 Buckeye Education Foundation
Virtual Poetry Showcase winners
came to read their poems to the Board of Trustees.

Read the poems **HERE**

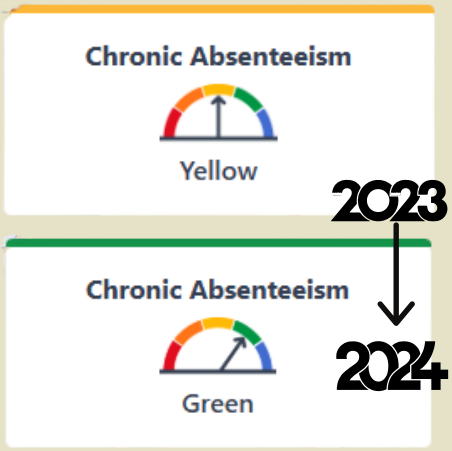
Proudly serving the award-winning TK - 8th grade schools of the Buckeye Union School District.



ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

BUSD Family Engagement and Attendance Liaison:
Regina Helmer
rhelmer@buckeyeusd.org
530.676.0164 Ext. 2037

Our district is dedicated to reducing chronic absenteeism (defined as missing 10% or more of school days) by partnering with families, students, and staff to promote **consistent attendance and student success**. These collective efforts are showing positive results, with recent trends indicating a reduction in chronic absenteeism on the California School Dashboard.



To view more results, visit the: California School DASHBOARD



APPLY @

We are Buckeye!

EDJOIN.ORG



BUCKEYE UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

Approved 9/18/2024

"Expect the Best Today for a Better Tomorrow"

2025-2026 Student Calendar

AUG

M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

4-5 Teachers Only (Non Student Day)
6 *FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
29 Staff Development Day—All Staff (Non-Student Day)

SEPT

M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			

1 Labor Day Holiday
22-26 Minimum Days—Parent Conferences ALL SCHOOLS

OCT

M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

13 Staff Development Day—Teachers Only (Non-Student Day)
31 End of 1st Trimester

NOV

M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

10 Non-Teacher Work Day (Non-Student Day)
11 Veterans Day
24-28 Thanksgiving Break (Non-Student Days)

DEC

M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

12/22-1/2 Winter Break (Non–Student Days)

JAN

M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

1-2 Winter Break Cont. (Non–Student Days)
19 M. Luther King Jr. Day
23 Minimum Day—*Only* RH and CSMS

FEB

M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27

1 3 E nd of 2 nd Tri mester
13 Non-Teacher Work Day (Non-Student Day)
16-20 Mid-Winter Break
16 Presidents' Day and Washington's Birthday
20 Lincoln's Birthday (Observed)

MAR

M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

5-6 Minimum Days—*Only* Elementary Parent Conferences
16 Staff Development Day—All Staff (Non-Student Day)
30-31 Spring Break (Non-Student Days)

APR

M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	

1-6 Spring Break (Non-Student Days)

MAY

M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

25 Memorial Day Holiday

JUNE

M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			

1 CSMS Minimum Day (Noon Dismissal)
1 RHMS Late Start (10:00 a.m. Student Start)
2 **LAST DAY OF SCHOOL—MINIMUM DAY—ALL SCHOOLS
19 Juneteenth (ESY Staff Will Observe on Alternate Day 7/2/26)

- First Day/Last Day of Classes
- Staff Development Day (Non-Student Day)
- Minimum Days
- Holidays or Breaks
- Early Release Days
- Per Site: Emergency School Closure Days, If Needed