



REPORT TO

SPECIAL BOARD

SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR 2016-2017

"Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser: teach a just man, and he will increase in learning."

Created, Draft	First Tabling	Review
February 9, 2016	February 24, 2016	Click here to enter a date.
D. Koenig, Superintendent of Curriculum and Accountability N. D'Avella, Superintendent of Student Success		
RECOMMENDATION REPORT		

Vision:

At Toronto Catholic we transform the world through witness, faith, innovation and action.

Mission:

The Toronto Catholic District School Board is an inclusive learning community rooted in the love of Christ. We educate students to grow in grace and knowledge and to lead lives of faith, hope and charity.



G. Poole

Associate Director of Academic Affairs

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Associate Director of Planning and Facilities

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Director of Education

A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The school year calendar is prepared and submitted annually to the Ministry of Education, in accordance with the Education Act and Ont. Regulation 304, School Year Calendar, Professional Activity Days. Regulation 304 permits school boards to modify the school year holidays as determined by the Ministry. The deadline for submission of a modified school year calendar for 2016-2017, to the Minister of Education, is March 1, 2016.

B. PURPOSE

1. To provide information on what governs the development of the school year calendar.
2. To inform the Board of the school community survey results in regards to changing the Christmas Holidays for the 2016-2017 school year. This change will require the submission of a modified school year calendar to the Ministry by March 1, 2016.
3. To present the 2016-2017 school year calendar as determined in consultation with the Academic/Business Advisory Committee (AcBac) members.

C. BACKGROUND

1. Annually the Board establishes the school year calendar in accordance with the Education Act and Ont. Regulation 304.
2. In the Ministry school year calendar for 2016-2017 lists the dates of the Board designated holidays as December 19, 2015 to December 30, 2015. After discussions amongst senior staff it was decided to request that school principals consult with their Catholic School Parent Council and provide input in regards to their preference for these designated holidays. Three options were provided:

Option 1: December 19 to December 30, 2016 (return to school January 2, 2017)

Option 2: December 26 to January 6, 2017 (return to school January 9, 2017)

Option 3: December 21, 2016 to January 3, 2017 (return to school January 4, 2017)

3. The results of the survey were as follow:
Option 1 – 1.5% (3 schools)
Option 2 – 91.1% (185 schools)
Option 3 – 2.5% (5 schools)
Only 10 schools did not respond to the survey.
4. Following the results of the consultation with stakeholders and our coterminous board, the Toronto Catholic District School Board is proposing a modified school year calendar for 2016-2017 (Appendix A).
5. The request for a modified school year calendar for 2016-2017 is to be submitted to the Ministry of Education by March 1, 2016.
6. The TCDSB must approve a school year calendar that includes a minimum of 194 school days, of which no more than seven (7) will be professional activity (PA) days and at least 187 will be instructional days. There is an additional PA day that has been approved by the Ministry and reflected in a change to Ont. Regulation 304 (Appendix B). Three of the seven PA Days must be devoted to provincial education priorities as set out by the Ministry of Education.
7. In the 2016-2017 school year, there are a possible 194 instructional days from September 6, 2016 to June 30, 2017. Traditionally, the first day of school for students in the TCDSB has been the Tuesday following Labour Day. The requirement of 194 instructional days would be achieved if the first school day was Tuesday, September 6, 2016 and the last school day was Friday, June 30, 2017.
8. For the purposes of the 2016-2017 school year calendar, please note the following:
 - Two PA days at the elementary level are to be used for parent-teacher conferences.
 - Two PA days at the elementary level are to be used for assessment and completion of report cards.
 - Three PA days at the elementary level are to be used for Provincial Education Priorities of which one day will be devoted to Faith Development.

- Three PA days at the secondary level devoted to Provincial Education Priorities and supporting Article 19 of the Collective Agreement.
 - One PA day at the secondary level devoted to Faith Development.
 - The remaining three PA days at the secondary level will be devoted to system priorities, annual learning plans and local goals articulated in the School Learning Improvement Plan.
 - The remaining school days shall be instructional days.
9. Each school year calendar must be accompanied by a general outline of the activities to be conducted on PA days, as per Ministry Policy/Program Memorandum 151, *“Professional Activity Days Devoted to Provincial Education Priorities”* (PPM151). With the additional PA day as per the change to Ont. Regulation 304, the Ministry will be providing more information about the topics of Professional Activity Days devoted to provincial education priorities.
 10. The selection of the PA days for 2016-2017 school year has been in consultation with our AcBac Committee members.
 11. We have aligned our PA days with the TDSB to minimize any additional transportation costs.

D. IMPLEMENTATION, STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN

Communication Plan:

To bring awareness to the TCDSB community and its stakeholders, the school year calendar for the 2016-2017 school year will be communicated in the following ways:

Methods to be used:

1. Information letter for distribution to parents, students and staff
2. Insert for school newsletters
3. TCDSB website
4. TCDSB website/portal
5. Email to principals, copy to CSPC chairs and CPIC reps, Education Council and Trustees

6. News release will be issued to announce Board's school year calendar for 2016-2017
7. Twitter
8. E-News subscribers
9. Director's Bulletin announcement
10. Trustee newsletters

Audiences:

Primary Audiences: TCDSB students and parents; CSPC Chairs/CPIC Representatives; TCDSB Staff

Secondary Audiences: Parishes, Other GTA Boards, Archdiocese of Toronto, Catholic Supporters and Media.

E. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the following:

- i) That the attached (Appendix A) school year calendar for the 2016-2017 school year be adopted;
- ii) that the communication plan outlined in this report be implemented; and
- iii) that Principals share the 2016-2017 school year calendar and the plans for professional activity days with their CSPC's and their school communities.