



Agenda Item: II B: Consent Item
Date: February 8, 2024

To: Magnolia Educational & Research Foundation dba Magnolia Public Schools ("MPS")

Board of Directors (the "Board")

From: Alfredo Rubalcava, CEO & Superintendent Staff Lead(s): David Yilmaz, Chief Accountability Officer

RE: Approval of 2024-25 School Calendars for All MPS

1. Action Proposed:

I move that the Board approve the 2024-25 School Calendars for all MPS.

2. Purpose:

We need to share our 2024-25 school calendar with our educational partners and start planning for the next school year as early as possible.

3. Background:

Instructional Minute Compliance

Per the California Education Code, charter schools have to offer at least 175 instructional days annually and also meet the required annual instructional minutes, which are 64,800 minutes for grades 9-12, 54,000 minutes for grades 4-8, 50,400 minutes for grades 1-3, and 36,000 minutes for kindergarten. MPS has always complied with the required instructional days and minutes; our instructional minutes are well above the state-required minimums, especially in grades K-8. At MPS instructional minutes on a regular day range from 335 minutes in elementary to 390 minutes in high school. The following table shows the annual instructional minutes for our schools in 2023-24.

School	# of instructional days	# of minutes offered annually	Minimum # of minutes required	# of minutes above the requirement		
	6-12 Sc	chools				
MSA-1	185	65,218	64,800	418		
MSA-2	185	65,240	64,800	440		
MSA-3	185	65,265	64,800	465		
MSA-4	185	65,529	64,800	729		
MSA-5	185	65,260	64,800	460		
MSA-Santa Ana	180	65,200	64,800	400		
Middle Schools						
MSA-6	180	57,150	54,000	3,150		
MSA-Bell	180	61,190	54,000	7,190		





MSA-San Diego	180	60,770	54,000	6,770		
Elementary Schools						
MSA-7	180	56,305	54,000	2,305		
MSA-Santa Ana Elem * highest grade 6	180	56,305	54,000	2,305		

Note: The table shows the "planned" minutes. Schools had an emergency closure on August 21st, 2023, and as a result their minutes were reduced, however, all schools still met the annual minute requirements. While designing bell schedules to meet annual instructional minutes, MPS always plans for excess minutes considering one possible emergency day of closure.

4. Analysis:

180 vs. 185 school days

<u>Prior to 2021-22:</u> Prior to 2021-22 MPS offered about 180/181 days of instruction in alignment with the local districts. Depending on our PD days and other details of the specific year's calendar, such as start and end dates, school breaks and holidays, we chose between 180 and 181. In case of emergency school closures, additional day(s) have helped our high schools meet their annual instructional minutes without having to go through the filing of a "Request for Allowance of Attendance Because of Emergency Conditions" with the CDE.

2021-22: In order to address unfinished learning and overcome trauma due to COVID-19, many charter schools and districts extended the 2021-22 school year with the funds available to address the staffing, programs, and service needs. MPS also collected parent and staff feedback through surveys and presentations on several calendar options for the MPS 2021-22 school calendar. In 2021-22, all MPS schools in Los Angeles offered 185 instructional days, whereas MSA-San Diego and Santa Ana offered 180.

2022-23: The main discussion for 2022-23 was about whether to continue to offer 185 days or revert to the 180/181-day calendar. What played a key factor in our decision was SB 328. A major change taking place in 2022-23 was the school start time for our high schools. SB 328 approved by the Governor requires the school day for middle schools and high schools, including those operated as charter schools, to begin no earlier than 8:00 a.m. and 8:30 a.m., respectively. Our schools have traditionally started at 8:00 and the shift of high school start time to 8:30 a.m. would push the school end time by half an hour, creating many drawbacks for our after-school program, parent pick-up, teacher prep time for the next day, and more. If our high schools reverted from the 185-day calendar to the 180/181-day calendar, the school end time would be pushed even further, adding to the drawbacks.

After discussions with the school staff and leadership and careful consideration, our high schools in Los Angeles chose to continue with the 185-day calendar. This helped tremendously with meeting annual instructional minutes without having long school days that have late end times. MSA-Santa Ana, however, chose to continue with 180 days since they are a TK-12 school. The remaining schools, MSA-6, 7, Bell, and San Diego, which are elementary or middle, also chose the 180-day calendar over the 185-day calendar since they could still start their day at 8:00 a.m. and easily meet their annual minutes in a 180-day calendar.

2023-24: As in 2021-22 and 2022-23 calendars, our high schools in Los Angeles continued to offer 185





instructional days in 2023-24. The remaining schools have a 180-day calendar.

2024-25: It has been three years (2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24) that MSA-1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 have been using the 185-day calendar. School leadership teams proposed that we re-evaluate the 185-day calendar: Should we keep it or go back to the 180-day calendar while maintaining the quality instruction and collaboration time? With this question in mind, MSA-1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 school staff have been presented with the pros and cons of both calendars and surveyed. The survey resulted in most staff choosing the 180-day calendar. 121 staff members responded to the survey: 73 (60%) chose the 180-day calendar; 48 (40%) chose the 185-day calendar. The trade-off with the 180-day choice is a longer school day (12-14 minutes) to accommodate for the annual instructional minutes.

Please see the attached document titled "2024-25 MPS Academic Calendar Survey" to see template presentation that was shared with the school sites.

2024-25 School Calendars

Attached and below is the proposed 2024-25 academic calendar for MPS.

	2024	-25 MPS ACADE	MIC CALENDAR	2	
		MSA-1 thru 8	MSA-Santa Ana	MSA-San Diego	Holidays & Brea
JUL	Independence Day	7/4 (Thu)	7/4 (Thu)	7/4 (Thu)	
AUG	First Day of Instruction	8/13 (Tue)	8/12 (Mon)	8/12 (Mon)	
SEP	Labor Day	9/2 (Mon)	9/2 (Mon)	9/2 (Mon)	
SEP	Staff P.D. Day (Pupil Free Day) [1]	9/20 (Fri)	9/20 (Fri)	9/20, 10/4	
NOV	Veterans Day	11/11 (Mon)	11/11 (Mon)	11/11 (Mon)	
NOV	Thanksgiving Break	11/25-11/29	11/25-11/29	11/25-11/29	
DEC	Last Day of First Semester	12/13 (Fri)	12/13 (Fri)	12/20 (Fri)	
DEC	Winter Break	12/16-1/3	12/16-1/3	12/23-1/3	
JAN	Staff P.D. Day (Pupil Free Day)	1/6 (Mon)	1/6 (Mon)	1/6 (Mon)	
JAN	First Day of Second Semester	1/7 (Tue)	1/7 (Tue)	1/7 (Tue)	
JAN	M. L. King Day	1/20 (Mon)	1/20 (Mon)	1/20 (Mon)	
FEB	Presidents' Day	2/17 (Mon)	2/14-2/17	2/14-2/17	
MAR	Staff P.D. Day (Pupil Free Day) [2]	3/7 (Fri)	3/7 (Fri)	3/7 (Fri)	
MAR	Cesar Chavez Day	3/31 (Mon)	3/31 (Mon)	3/31 (Mon)	
APR	Spring Break	4/14-4/18	4/14-4/18	3/31-4/4	
MAY	Memorial Day	5/26 (Mon)	5/26 (Mon)	5/26 (Mon)	
JUN	Last Day of Instruction	6/6 (Fri)	6/6 (Fri)	5/30 (Fri)	
JUN	Juneteenth	6/19 (Thu)	6/19 (Thu)	6/19 (Thu)	
	# of Instructional Days:	180	180	180	
	# of Staff P.D. (Pupil Free) Days:	3	3	4	





MSA-1 thru 8

MSA-1 through 8 will follow the LAUSD calendar very closely in terms of start and end dates and holidays and breaks, except for starting 1 day after LAUSD, and our three MPS-wide staff development days, one in the fall (September 20), one in the winter (January 6), and one in the spring (March 7). Different from MPS, LAUSD calendar has Admission Day (August 30) as a holiday and two unassigned days (October 3 and April 24). The following table compares our school breaks and no-student days with those of the district.

	LAUSD	MSA-1 thru 5
First Day of Instruction	8/12	8/13
Winter Break	3 weeks (12/16-1/3)	The same as LAUSD
Spring Break	1 week (4/14-4/18)	The same as LAUSD
Last Day of Instruction	6/10	6/6
Other:	No-student days on 8/30, 10/3, 4/24;	No-student days (PD days for staff) on 9/20, 1/6, 3/7
# of Instructional Days	183	180

MSA-Santa Ana

After careful consideration and feedback from their educational partners, MSA-Santa Ana has chosen to follow a similar school calendar to both the SAUSD's calendar and the MPS-LA Schools' calendar. SAUSD's 2024-25 calendar is not available yet. However, we have their calendars from previous years and the differences between the SAUSD and MSA-Santa Ana calendars have been discussed with the school administration, and they believe that the differences will not impact student attendance considering the grade span of the school is K-12 and that the school will communicate any differences closely with the parents. MSA-Santa Ana administration has also stated that having a 2-week winter break like SAUSD would negatively impact their ADA, so they would rather continue to have a 3-week winter break as they have been doing for the last few years. MSA-Santa Ana school leadership team believes that this proposed calendar will be in the best interest of their community.

MSA-San Diego

After their educational partners' feedback, MSA-San Diego school leadership team has decided to follow the SDUSD calendar very closely except for the MPS fall symposium day and the last day of school. The school desired to be in sync with the SDUSD for winter and spring breaks. The following table compares MSA-San Diego school breaks and no-student days with those of the SDUSD.





	SDUSD	MSA-San Diego
First Day of Instruction	8/12	The same as SDUSD
Winter Break	2 weeks (12/23-1/3)	The same as SDUSD
Spring Break	1 week (3/31-4/4)	The same as SDUSD
Last Day of Instruction	5/29	5/30
Other:	No-student day on 10/4, 1/6, 3/7	No-student days (PD days for staff) on 9/20, 10/4, 1/6, 3/7
# of Instructional Days	180	180

5. Impact:

We developed the calendars in collaboration with the school leadership teams who have sought feedback from their educational partners. LAUSD, SDUSD, and SAUSD calendars have been carefully considered while finalizing our calendars, making it more convenient for our families and mitigating the risk of reduced ADA. (Note: SAUSD calendar is not available yet, but we know the patterns from their previous calendars.)

For professional development, MPS will continue to have summer PD for admin, teachers, and new teachers in the summer as well as our staple teacher symposium days during the year. In addition, we are adding January 6, 2024, the Monday after the winter break, as a PD/preparation day.

Next Steps

After board approval of the school calendar, the schools will finalize other important dates on their school calendar (orientation, back to school night, parent conferences, lottery, etc.) MPS Home Office has created a calendar for all such important dates and some of those dates are flexible, to be decided by the sites, while other important dates are set MPS-wide. For example, summer PD, progress report dates and MAP test dates will be MPS-wide; back to school night and lottery dates will be site-specific within the windows determined by the Home Office.

School sites will also finalize their bell-schedules and complete the "2024-25 Instructional Minutes Calculation" form to ensure they are compliant with the annual instructional minute requirements. The forms will be signed by the school leadership and submitted to the Chief Accountability Officer for compliance and audit purposes and to prepare well in advance for the new school year. If the school leadership needs to make any changes to the school's schedule after their submission of the instructional minute calculation form, the approval process will be repeated.

6. Budget Implications:





7. Committee Recommendations:

N/A

8. Exhibits:

- 1. 2024-25 MPS Academic Calendar
- 2. 2024-25 LAUSD Calendar
- 3. 2024-25 SDUSD Calendar
- 4. 2024-25 MPS Academic Calendar Survey

	2024	-25 MPS ACADE	MIC CALENDAR	?	
					Holidays & Breaks
		MSA-1 thru 8	MSA-Santa Ana	MSA-San Diego	Important Dates
JUL	Independence Day	7/4 (Thu)	7/4 (Thu)	7/4 (Thu)	
AUG	First Day of Instruction	8/13 (Tue)	8/12 (Mon)	8/12 (Mon)	
SEP	Labor Day	9/2 (Mon)	9/2 (Mon)	9/2 (Mon)	
SEP	Staff P.D. Day (Pupil Free Day) [1]	9/20 (Fri)	9/20 (Fri)	9/20, 10/4	
NOV	Veterans Day	11/11 (Mon)	11/11 (Mon)	11/11 (Mon)	
NOV	Thanksgiving Break	11/25-11/29	11/25-11/29	11/25-11/29	
DEC	Last Day of First Semester	12/13 (Fri)	12/13 (Fri)	12/20 (Fri)	
DEC	Winter Break	12/16-1/3	12/16-1/3	12/23-1/3	
JAN	Staff P.D. Day (Pupil Free Day)	1/6 (Mon)	1/6 (Mon)	1/6 (Mon)	
JAN	First Day of Second Semester	1/7 (Tue)	1/7 (Tue)	1/7 (Tue)	
JAN	M. L. King Day	1/20 (Mon)	1/20 (Mon)	1/20 (Mon)	
FEB	Presidents' Day	2/17 (Mon)	2/14-2/17	2/14-2/17	
MAR	Staff P.D. Day (Pupil Free Day) [2]	3/7 (Fri)	3/7 (Fri)	3/7 (Fri)	
MAR	Cesar Chavez Day	3/31 (Mon)	3/31 (Mon)	3/31 (Mon)	
APR	Spring Break	4/14-4/18	4/14-4/18	3/31-4/4	
MAY	Memorial Day	5/26 (Mon)	5/26 (Mon)	5/26 (Mon)	
JUN	Last Day of Instruction	6/6 (Fri)	6/6 (Fri)	5/30 (Fri)	
JUN	Juneteenth	6/19 (Thu)	6/19 (Thu)	6/19 (Thu)	
	# of Instructional Days:	180	180	180	
	# of Staff P.D. (Pupil Free) Days:	3	3	4	



Los Angeles Unified School District INSTRUCTIONAL SCHOOL CALENDAR 2024-2025

Board Approved 6/20/2023

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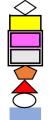
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07/04/24..... Independence Day 01/20/25 Dr. Martin L. King Jr. Birthday 08/12/24..... First Day of Instruction 02/17/25 Presidents' Day 08/30/24 Admission Day 03/31/25 Cesar E. Chavez Birthday 09/02/24 Labor Day 04/14 - 04/18/25 Spring Break 04/24/25 Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day 11/11/24 Veterans Day 11/28 - 11/29/24 Thanksgiving Holiday 05/26/25 Memorial Day 12/16/24 - 12/18/24 . . Optional Winter Recess Academy 06/10/25 Last Day of Instruction 12/16/24 - 01/03/25 . . Winter Break 06/19/25 Juneteenth Holiday 01/06/25 Second Semester Begins





First Day/Last Day of Instruction Legal/Local Holidays Optional Winter Recess Academy School Recess Unassigned Day (no school) Optional Employee Preparation Day Second Semester Begins

Instructional Days

Instructional Days

 Fall Semester.
 81

 Spring Semester.
 102

 Total.
 183

SAN DIEGO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT 2024-25 INSTRUCTIONAL CALENDAR FINAL

ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION 5-10-2022

	М	Т	W	Th	F	М	Т	W	Th	F	М	Т	W	Th	F		M	Т	W	Th	F	М	Т	W	Th	F		TOTALS
JULY	1	2	3	4 H	5	8	9	10	11	12	15	16	17	18	19	2	22	23	24	25	26	29	30	31			Jul	0
AUGUST				1	2	5	6	7	8	9	12 F	13	14	15	16	,	19	20	21	22	23	26	27	28	29	30	Aug	15
SEPTEMBER	2 H	3	4	5	6	9	10	11	12	13	16	17	18	19	20	2	23	24	25	26	27	30					Sep	20
OCTOBER		1	2	3	4 NI	7	8	9	10	11	14	15	16	17	18	2	21	22	23	24	25	28	29	30	31		Oct	22
NOVEMBER					1	4	5	6	7	8	11 H	12	13	14	15		18	19	20	21	22	25 N I	26 NI		28 H	29 H	Nov	15
DECEMBER	2	3	4	5	6	9	10	11	12	13	16	17	18	19	20		23 NI	24 H	25 H	26 NI	27 NI	30 N I	31 H				Dec	15
JANUARY			1 H	2 NI	3 NI	6 NI	7	8	9	10	13	14	15	16	17		20 H	21	22	23	24	27	28	29	30	31	Jan	18
FEBRUARY	3	4	5	6	7	10	11	12	13	14 H	17 H	18	19	20	21	2	24	25	26	27	28						Feb	18
MARCH	3	4	5	6	7 NI	10	11	12	13	14	17	18	19	20	21	2	24	25	26	27	28	31 N I					Mar	19
APRIL		1 NI	2 NI	3 NI	4 NI	7	8	9	10	11	14	15	16	17	18	2	21	22	23	24	25	28	29	30			Apr	18
MAY				1	2	5	6	7	8	9	12	13	14	15	16		19	20	21	22	23	26 H	27	28	29 L	30	May	20
JUNE	2	3	4	5	6	9	10	11	12	13	16	17	18	19	20	2	23	24	25	26	27	30					Jun	0
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H Holiday Blue

F/L First/Last Day of School Orange

N/I Non-Instructional Day (No School) Green

Instruction Day Yellow

2024-25

^{*} End of semester 1



MPS Academic Calendar Survey for MSA-1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 Date: January, 2024

Background

• **Historical**: The following are the number of instructional days over the years:

o **2023-24: MSA-1-5: 185**, MSA-6-8, SD, SA: 180 (All LA 6-12 schools 185)

2022-23: MSA-1-5: 185, MSA-6-8, SD, SA: 180 (All LA 6-12 schools 185)

2021-22: MSA-1-8: 185, MSA-SD, SA: 180 (All LA schools 185)

o 2020-21: MSA-1-8, SD, SA: 180 (All schools 180)

• Why the increase from 180 to 185? The number of school days was increased from 180 to 185 in 2021-22 to address gaps in learning exacerbated by school closures during the pandemic and increase planning and collaboration time. This option allocated five additional instructional days to address unfinished learning and overcome trauma due to COVID-19. It also allowed teachers to have extended planning and collaborative time, such as PLCs and individual protected planning times/days on minimum days (Wednesdays).



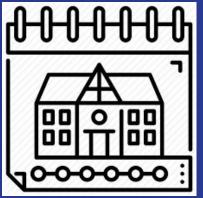
185 or 180?



It has been three years with the 185-day calendar. It's now time to re-evaluate! Should we keep our 185-day calendar or go back to the typical 180-day calendar while maintaining the quality instruction and collaboration time?

Additional Facts

- LAUSD: LAUSD has switched to a 183-day calendar as of 2023-24.
 - o **2024-25: 183**
 - **2023-24: 183**
 - 2022-23 and earlier: 180
- Annual Instructional Minutes: CA Ed Code requires that charter schools provide at least 175 instructional days and meet the following number of instructional minutes annually: Kindergarten: 36,000 Grades 1-3: 50,400 Grades 4-8: 54,000 Grades 9-12: 64,800
- Longer School Day? Switching from a 185-day calendar to a 180-day calendar will
 result in a longer school day due to the fact that the required minimum annual
 instructional minutes would have to fit in 180 days instead of 185. The approximate
 extension would be 12-14 minutes per regular day, keeping the minimum
 Wednesdays the same.



Calendar Options

		185 days	180 days
JUL	Independence Day	7/4 (Thu)	7/4 (Thu)
AUG	First Day of Instruction	8/13 (Tue)	8/13 (Tue)
SEP	Labor Day	9/2 (Mon)	9/2 (Mon)
SEP	Staff P.D. Day (Pupil Free Day)	9/20 (Fri)	9/20 (Fri)
NOV	Veterans Day	11/11 (Mon)	11/11 (Mon)
NOV	Thanksgiving Break	11/25-11/29	11/25-11/29
DEC	Last Day of First Semester	12/13 (Fri)	12/13 (Fri)
DEC	Winter Break	12/16-1/3	12/16-1/3
JAN	Staff P.D. Day (Pupil Free Day)	1/6 (Mon)	1/6 (Mon)
JAN	First Day of Second Semester	1/7 (Tue)	1/7 (Tue)
JAN	M. L. King Day	1/20 (Mon)	1/20 (Mon)
FEB	Presidents' Day	2/17 (Mon)	2/17 (Mon)
MAR	Staff P.D. Day (Pupil Free Day)	3/7 (Fri)	3/7 (Fri)
MAR	Cesar Chavez Day	3/31 (Mon)	3/31 (Mon)
APR	Spring Break	4/14-4/18	4/14-4/18
MAY	Memorial Day	5/26 (Mon)	5/26 (Mon)
JUN	Last Day of Instruction	6/13 (Fri)	6/6 (Fri)
JUN	Juneteenth	6/19 (Thu)	6/19 (Thu)

Option 1: 185 days

Option 2:

Comparison of Options 1 & 2

COMMONALITIES: All dates (First Day, Holidays, Breaks, PD Days) are the SAME for both options except for the Last Day of Instruction. (Both options have the same start date and follow the LAUSD calendar to the maximum extent possible to maximize student ADA.)

LAST DAY OF INSTRUCTION:

- Option 1 185 days: June 13th (Friday)
- Option 2 180 days: June 6th (Friday)
- LAUSD 183 days: June 10th (Tuesday)
- REGULAR / MINIMUM DAYS: Schools can keep their minimum days
 (Wednesdays) as is, but the regular school day would have to be extended by 12-14 minutes in Option 2, as explained on an earlier slide, due to the annual instructional minute requirement for grades 9-12.

Arguments for Options 1 & 2

	OPTION 1 (185)	OPTION 2 (180)
Number of Instructional Days	Argument in Favor of 185: Five additional instructional days help better implement the curriculum and support our students and also allow for a more flexible testing schedule.	Rebuttal to Argument in Favor of 185: Although studies have produced inconclusive results on the universal benefits of extended school years, researchers have reached agreement on three key points: quality of time is more important than quantity of time; low income and low achieving students benefit most from extended school years; and no relationship has been found between scores on international tests of academic achievement and the amount of time students spend in school.

Arguments for Options 1 & 2

	OPTION 1 (185)	OPTION 2 (180)
Last Day of Instruction		Argument in Favor of 180: Closing five days earlier allows for an earlier and/or longer summer school program. It also allows for a much needed one-week longer summer break for teachers, admin, and staff.
Length of School Day	Argument in Favor of 185: It allows the school day to be 12-14 minutes shorter compared to the 180-day calendar. Consequently, the after-school program can start earlier than it would in a 180-day calendar. (Combined with the 8:30 am start time, a longer day may feel even longer on a 180-day calendar.)	Rebuttal to Argument in Favor of 185: Most extended school programs take place in the morning, not after school. The after-school program can be extended to accommodate the ASES program requirements.

Arguments for Options 1 & 2

	OPTION 1 (185)	OPTION 2 (180)
Collaboration Time / Minimum Wednesdays	Argument in Favor of 185: It allows teachers to have extended planning and collaborative time, such as PLCs and individual protected planning times/days on minimum days (Wednesdays). Allows for additional minimum days.	Rebuttal to Argument in Favor of 185: Minimum Wednesdays can be kept the same way if the regular days are extended by 12-14 minutes.
Salary	There is no salary increase for the five additional days.	Argument in Favor of 180: There is no salary increase for the five additional days.

Survey will be sent to select your preference.

Questions, Concerns, Comments