

Proposed Methodology for Setting the Fall/Spring Semester Academic Calendar

Fall Rules

Fall starts on the Monday in August that falls from Aug 23 to Aug 29, inclusive
- this will be the 4th (6 out of 7) or 5th (1 out of 7) Monday in August

Observe Labor Day Holiday (Monday)

Fall Recess occurs in week 8 (Monday & Tuesday [begins 49 days after classes start])

Thanksgiving Break (Thanksgiving Recess) is Wednesday thru Friday

Fall semester classes end on the Friday 15 weeks (102 days) after classes start

Study Period (4 "Reading Days") is Saturday to Tuesday

Final Exam Period is Wednesday to Tuesday, inclusive
-Winter recess is always 27 days total

Spring Rules

Spring classes start on the 4th Monday after final exams end the previous Fall
- this will be the 2nd (4 out of 7) or 3rd (2 out of 7) Monday in January

Observe MLK Holiday (Monday)
- in some years this will be the first Monday of classes, but the semester will still officially begin on that Monday

Spring Recess (mini 2-day) is on Thursday and Friday of week 5 [begins 31 days after classes start])

Spring Break:

On years when classes start the 2nd Monday of August, except when classes start on January 14 - begins Saturday after 9 weeks of instruction (Saturday to following Sunday, begins 61 days after classes start)

On years when classes start on January 14 or the 3rd Monday of August – begins Saturday after 8 weeks of instruction (Saturday to following Sunday, begins 54 days after classes start)

Spring semester classes end on the Friday 15 weeks (102 days) after classes start

Study Period (4 "Reading Days") is Saturday to Tuesday

Final Exam Period is Wednesday to Tuesday

Commencement will be on the Saturday 17 weeks (117 days) after classes start

Key Changes:

The above proposed methodology differs from the currently adopted methodology in 5 ways:

1. The start date has been moved later. Previously it was the Monday that fell between Aug. 20 and Aug. 26, inclusive.
2. The number of final exam days has been reduced by 1, from 8 to 7, in each semester.
3. The winter recess has been extended by 1 day to account for the 1 day reduction in final exam days in the Fall.
4. The statement of the rule for Spring Break is now more complicated (used to be just after 9 weeks of instruction in all years) but the new complication is needed to match HISD Spring Break.
5. Graduation ceremonies in the Spring have been moved up by 1 week. This will mean that grades for all students will be due at the same time, after the ceremonies, and final degrees will be certified once grades are in. Currently, graded for graduating seniors are due 2 days after finals end – this will no longer be the case.