



EL PASO INDEPENDENT
SCHOOL DISTRICT

A large, faint, sepia-toned photograph of a historic school building serves as the background for the lower half of the page. The building is a multi-story structure with a prominent clock tower on the right side. It features many arched windows and a classic architectural style.

El Paso ISD
Proposed Academic Calendar Revisions
2026-2027
March 24, 2026



TABLE OF CONTENTS

EL PASO ISD MISSION, VISION, AND CORE BELIEFS	3
EL PASO ISD STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT	4
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	5
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	5
ACADEMIC CALENDAR OVERVIEW	5
Purpose & Goals	5
Timeline	6
2026-2027 Calendar Proposed Revisions	6
ACADEMIC CALENDAR VOTING RESULTS.....	6
2026-2027 Data.....	6
RESOURCES	7
2026-2027 Proposed Calendar B	7





EL PASO ISD MISSION, VISION, AND CORE BELIEFS

MISSION

In partnership with our families and community, we will uphold the highest standards to provide inclusive and fair learning experiences that support the whole child.

VISION

INSPIRE and EMPOWER learners to THRIVE.

CORE BELIEFS



Whole Child

We champion a well-rounded educational experience to ensure all students are healthy, safe, valued, engaged, and academically challenged.



Opportunity

We honor and cultivate the unique needs and interests of all learners through relationships and personalization.



Excellence

We embrace a culture of creativity, exploration, and innovation to sustain our growth and improvement.



Equity

We commit to removing barriers to ensure our schools and programs are inclusive and equitable.



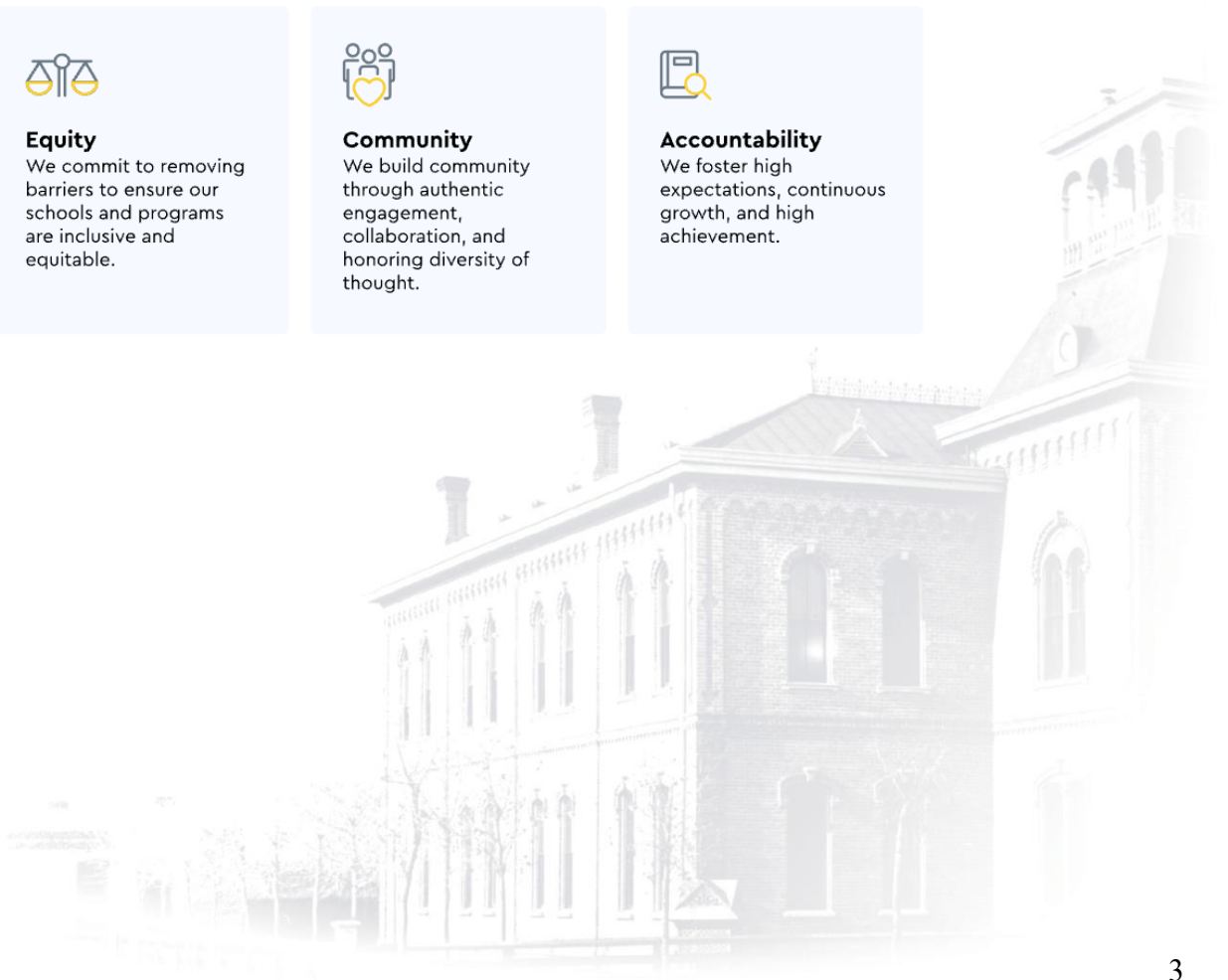
Community

We build community through authentic engagement, collaboration, and honoring diversity of thought.



Accountability

We foster high expectations, continuous growth, and high achievement.





EL PASO ISD STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT

El Paso ISD's Strategic Blueprint is anchored on our mission, vision, and core beliefs. In partnership with our families and community, we seek to uphold the highest standards to provide inclusive and fair learning experiences that support the whole child. We will accomplish this theory of action through whole child development, delivery of instructional excellence, fostering a transparent culture of accountability, and intentional equity design to thereby make El Paso ISD a destination district.

I Whole Child Development

El Paso ISD schools foster learning environments for the whole child to thrive.

II Academic Excellence

El Paso ISD empowers all learners to excel in current and future pursuits.

III Destination District

El Paso ISD solidifies its position as El Paso's destination district.

IV Culture of Accountability

El Paso ISD cultivates a culture of transparency, care, and service.

V Equity by Design

El Paso ISD champions a targeted approach to universal access and system equity.



Strategic Levers

Broad, thematic bodies of work that support the district in achieving its mission, vision, and anchor back to the district's core values.



Essential Actions

Focus areas that will yield the most impactful gains for the school system.



Key Targets

Measurable and realistic targets that define concrete outcomes and determine how progress will be measured.



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The administration appreciates the commitment of the Board of Trustees to provide an educational system that will enable all students to reach their full potential. This has been demonstrated by focusing instructional leadership on the use of accountability data on the identification of overarching trends and patterns at the campus and district levels allowing for analysis and implementation of systems that support continuous improvement and academic growth among all student groups. We thank the members of the Board of Trustees for their leadership and support.

The Office of Organizational Transformation and Innovation (OTI) led the collaborative efforts in developing the proposed academic calendar options for 2026-2027. The information outlined in this report includes the process, results, and supporting data.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

It is mandated by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) that school districts must have a school calendar that meets the “operational minutes” standards. El Paso ISD will provide a minimum of 75,600 operational minutes of instruction on a yearly basis to meet the standards. Furthermore, EPISD Policy EB (Legal and Local) specifies that after consultation with DEIC, the Superintendent shall recommend to the Board a school calendar that complies with all applicable legal requirements.

The District Calendar Committee received broad-based input in developing the proposed academic calendar options for the 2026-2027 revisions. The District Educational Improvement Council (DEIC) reviewed the proposed calendar information and provided feedback on the options. The proposed calendar options were posted online for stakeholder vote and feedback on the District’s website beginning from February 16, 2026, through March 2, 2027. Approval or denial of an academic calendar is subject to Board discretion.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR OVERVIEW

Purpose & Goals

The Calendar Committee reviewed and proposed minor revisions to the 2026-2027 academic. The updates to the 2026-2027 academic calendar promote maximizing instructional time for students while improving district efficiency.

Parameters

The calendar options were designed in response to Additional Day School Year (ADSY) funding requirements changing from 180 days to 175 days. The proposed parameters included using the additional days to address the following:

- Historical attendance data indicates that half day/early release days have higher absentee rates thus, when possible, remove.
- Ensure a 5-day week for both fall and spring intersessions.



- Add a teacher professional learning day after intersession and winter breaks.

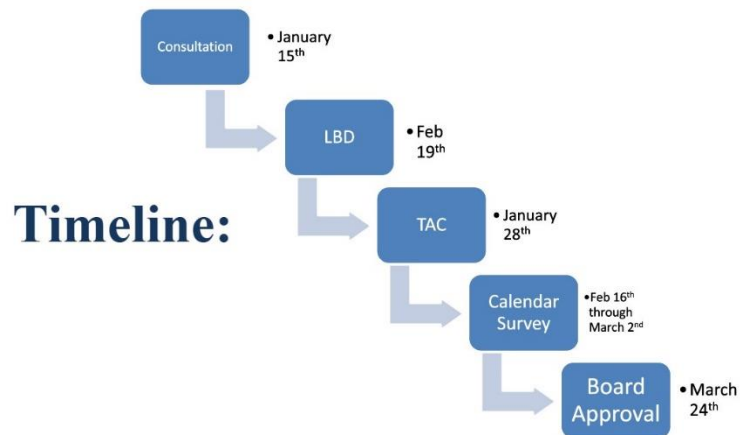
Timeline

The Calendar Committee met over the course of December and January to develop the academic calendars.

The committee worked collaboratively to consider all the parameters and feedback. The committee helped draft the proposed 2026-2027 revisions.

The timeline incorporated presenting to other teams to garner more input for consideration.

With a larger-scale opportunity for stakeholder feedback opening in February through March 2nd for a survey poll. Based on the results of the poll, preferred calendar and the feedback gathered will be provided to the Board for final approval.



2026-2027 Calendar Proposed Revisions

The proposed 2026-2027 calendar incorporates **175 student instructional days rather than 180**. The proposed 175 student instructional days continue to meet the Additional Days School (ADSY) minimum calendar requirement for funding purposes.

The second proposed revision adjusts students half days and teacher professional learning days to maximize instructional time for students while ensuring meaningful professional learning for teachers. A review of attendance data revealed that student absenteeism was highest on half-day or early-release days. As a result, several half and early-release days were removed, and additional professional development (PD) days were strategically placed.

Lastly, the proposed adjustments include **two full weeks of Fall Intersession/Fall Break**, with October 5 designated as the first day of Fall Intersession Week. Intersession days are designed to provide targeted instruction and academic acceleration for students who need additional support.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR VOTING RESULTS

2026-2027 Data

The following information was retrieved from the IT dashboard results page. There was a total of 5,761 responses provided. Nearly 70% of respondents selected Proposed Calendar B as the preferred option, with a total of 4,002 votes. Key calendar elements of the preferred 'Proposed' calendar include minimizing student half day/early release days, two full weeks of Fall Intersession/Fall Break, and 175 student instructional days rather than 180. Please see the calendar below.



2026-2027 VOTING RESULTS	
Calendar	# of Votes
Current	1759
Proposed	4002

Open-Ended Responses: Emerging Patterns Across Both Data Sets

There was a total of 211 comments regarding the Academic calendar for 2026-2027. These comments represent a small subset of participants.

When combining responses from 2026-2027, the strongest cross-cutting themes are:

1. **Align With Other Districts**
2. **Reduce Half Days/Early Release**
2. **Restore Presidents' Day**
4. **Finish Before Memorial Day**
5. **Ongoing Division About October Intersession**

Based on theme #1 above, administration adjusted the Fall Intersession/Break from September 28th – October 9th to align with Socorro ISD and Ysleta ISD. The Spring Intersession/Break will remain the same due to its alignment with EPCC and UTEP.

RESOURCES

[2026-2027 Proposed Calendar B](#)





EL PASO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



Proposed

EL PASO ISD 2026-27 ACADEMIC YEAR CALENDAR

EL PASO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

BELL SCHEDULE					
SCHOOL	ELEMENTARY	MIDDLE/PK-8	HIGH SCHOOL	TMECHS MWF	TMECHS TR
1ST BELL	8:00 AM	7:35 AM	8:35 AM	8:25 AM	8:05 AM
START TIME	8:15 AM	7:50 AM	8:45 AM	8:40 AM	8:20 AM
END TIME	3:25 PM	3:00 PM	4:10 PM	4:00 PM	3:45 PM
EARLY RELEASE	12:00 PM	11:35 AM	12:35 PM	12:25 PM	12:05 PM
11:35 AM					
Elementary, Middle, PK-8		ACE Schools		High Schools	
Instructional Days = 175		Instructional Days = 175		Instructional Days = 175	
Total Minutes = 77,445		Total Minutes = 85,200		Total Minutes = 79,195	
Inclement Weather Days = 3		Inclement Weather Days = 20		Inclement Weather Days = 7	

KEY	
Professional Learning	Early Release
Teacher Work Day	Intercession (Extended Year Calendar) (23 Days) (only the students who are required to attend)
New Teacher Professional Learning	State Testing Window STAAR & EOC
Teacher 1/2 Day Credit (Exchange)	Semester Begins
Parent/Teacher Conferences	Semester Ends
Holiday/District Closed	Beginning of Grading Period
ADSY - Additional Days School Year	End of Grading Period
Teacher 1/2 Day Exchange Credit for extra hours worked during PT Conferences Jan. 4 and March 29. Approved by the Board of Trustees	

JULY 2026	AUGUST 2026	SEPTEMBER 2026	OCTOBER 2026	NOVEMBER 2026	DECEMBER 2026
S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S
1 2 3 4	1	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1 2 3 4 5
5 6 7 8 9 10 11	2 3 4 5 6 7 8	6 7 8 9 10 11 12	4 5 6 7 8 9 10	8 9 10 11 12 13 14	6 7 8 9 10 11 12
12 13 14 15 16 17 18	9 10 11 12 13 14 15	13 14 15 16 17 18 19	11 12 13 14 15 16 17	15 16 17 18 19 20 21	13 14 15 16 17 18 19
19 20 21 22 23 24 25	16 17 18 19 20 21 22	20 21 22 23 24 25 26	18 19 20 21 22 23 24	22 23 24 25 26 27 28	20 21 22 23 24 25 26
26 27 28 29 30 31	23 24 25 26 27 28 29	27 28 29 30	25 26 27 28 29 30 31	29 30	27 28 29 30 31

JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
3 Independence Day Holiday 20-22 New Teacher Academy 24, 29 Teacher Work Day 23, 27 Teacher Professional Development 28, 30, (PD) Week 31	3 First day of classes	7 No School, Labor Day Holiday 9 Early Release/PT Conferences (High School Students ONLY) 15 Early Release/PT Conferences (Elementary School Students ONLY) 17 Early Release/PT Conferences (Middle/PK-8 School Students ONLY) 25 End of 1st Grading Period 28 - Oct. 2 Fall Accelerated Instruction Intercession - ADSY	5-9 Fall Break/District Closed 12 Teacher PD, No School 13 Start of 2nd Grading Period	11 No School, Veteran's Day Holiday 23-27 No School, Thanksgiving Break 30 Start of EOC Testing Window	1-11 EOC Testing Window 18 End of 2nd 9 grading period Full Day 21-Jan 1 No School, Holiday Break for Teachers & Staff

JANUARY 2027	FEBRUARY 2027	MARCH 2027	APRIL 2027	MAY 2027	JUNE 2027
S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S
1 2	1 2 3 4 5 6	1 2 3 4 5 6	1 2 3	1	1 2 3 4 5
3 4 5 6 7 8 9	7 8 9 10 11 12 13	7 8 9 10 11 12 13	4 5 6 7 8 9 10	2 3 4 5 6 7 8	6 7 8 9 10 11 12
10 11 12 13 14 15 16	14 15 16 17 18 19 20	14 15 16 17 18 19 20	11 12 13 14 15 16 17	9 10 11 12 13 14 15	13 14 15 16 17 18 19
17 18 19 20 21 22 23	21 22 23 24 25 26 27	21 22 23 24 25 26 27	18 19 20 21 22 23 24	16 17 18 19 20 21 22	20 21 22 23 24 25 26
24 25 26 27 28 29 30	28	28 29 30 31	25 26 27 28 29 30	23 24 25 26 27 28 29	27 28 29 30

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
4 Teacher Work Day, No School Exchange Credit for July Fiesta & Fall PT Conferences 5 Teacher PD, No School 6 Start of 3rd Grading Period Start of 2nd Semester 18 No School Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Holiday	1 Early Release/PT Conferences (Elementary School Students ONLY) 3 Early Release/PT Conferences (High School Students ONLY) 9 Early Release/PT Conferences (Middle/PK-8 School Students ONLY)	5 End of 3rd 9 grading period 8 - 12 Spring Accelerated Instruction/Intercession - ADSY 15 - 19 Spring Break/District Closed 22 Start of 4th Grading Period 26 No School, Spring Holiday 29 Teacher PD, No School, Exchange for Spring PT Conference	5-30 STAAR / EOC Testing Window	31 No School Memorial Day Holiday	3 End of 4th Grading Period Last Day of Classes, Full Day 4 Teacher Work Day 7-July 2 Summer Intercession - ADSY

For State and Local Testing, see District Testing Calendar State Assessment Testing Dates subject to change by TEA. www.tes.state.tx.us