



Acton-Boxborough Regional School District

Calendar Subcommittee Report November 30, 2018

At ABRSD, our mission is to develop engaged, well-balanced learners through collaborative, caring relationships

Wellness • Equity • Engagement



Acton-Boxborough Regional School District

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Acton-Boxborough Regional School District

1. Overview

The 2017-2018 school year included an abnormally high number of snow days (7), mostly due to an unusual March storm that resulted in four non-school days because of fallen trees and impassable roads. The 2017-2018 school year started on September 5, 2017 and ended on June 27, 2018. This is the latest ending of school in memory. In the Spring of 2018, the school committee had a discussion about options to avoid such a late ending in the future, and they requested that a subcommittee be formed in the Fall to research options for the school calendar.

Committee Members:

Tessa McKinley	School Committee
Eileen Zhang	School Committee
Maya Minkin	School Committee
Brandy Schmirer	Jr. High Teacher
Lindsey Rosenman	High School Teacher
Marga Ingham	Blanchard Elementary School Teacher
Lynne Newman	Gates Elementary School Principal
Michael Csorba	High School Dean of Students
Marie Altieri	Deputy Superintendent

The committee created and distributed a survey about the calendar. 1,507 parents and 487 staff responded to the survey. The survey results are included in this report, along with calendar data from neighboring districts, snow day and absence data from Acton-Boxborough, and recommendations from the calendar subcommittee. We have provided two sample calendars for 2019-2020, along with a sample calendar for 2020-2021.

The School Committee is scheduled to review and discuss this information at the December 6th, 2018 School Committee with a vote on the 2019-2020 calendar at the December 13th, 2018 School Committee meeting.

Acton-Boxborough Regional School District
DRAFT #1A SCHOOL CALENDAR, 2019-2020 (start after Labor Day)

Bold BOXED Dates = No School Days / ELEMENTARY EARLY DISMISSAL IS EVERY THURSDAY AFTERNOON

Sept.	M	T	W	T	F
26	27	28	29	30	
2	3	4	5	6	
9	10	11	12	13	
16	17	18	19	20	
23	24	25	26	27	
30					

Teachers' meetings – Aug 28 & 29
 Labor Day – Sept 2
 Schools Open – Sept 3
 Rosh Hashanah – Sept 30
 School Days - 19

Oct.	M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11	
14	15	16	17	18	
21	22	23	24	25	
28	29	30	31		

Yom Kippur = Oct 9
 Columbus Day – Oct 14
 **7-12 Early Release for Prof L. –
 School Days – 21

Nov.	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	

Prof. Day – Nov 5
 Veterans Day – Nov 11
 Early Release Day – Nov 27
 Thanksgiving Recess – Nov 28 & 29
 School Days - 17

Dec.	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	

Jr High Early Release Confs –
 Winter Recess - Dec. 23 – Jan 1
 School Days - 15

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

Schools Open - Jan 2
 JH Early Release –
 Martin Luther King Day - Jan 20
 School Days - 21

Feb.	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	

**7-12 Early Release for Prof L. – Feb
 Presidents' Day - Feb 17
 Winter Recess - Feb 17-21
 School Days – 15

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				

HS Late Start **only for students NOT taking MCAS** – Mar
 School Days - 22

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		

Good Friday – Apr 10
 Patriots Day – Apr 20
 Spring Recess - Apr 20-24
 **7-12 Early Release for Prof L. –
 School Days - 16

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	

HS Late Start **only for students NOT taking MCAS**- May
 Memorial Day - May 25
 School Days - 20

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				

Graduation – June 5
 Last day/Early Rel– June 18 (180 days)
 Last day if 5 snow days– June 25 (185 days)
 *School could be extended to June 30 if >5 days
 School Days – 14
Total Days = 180

Some major religious and cultural holidays are found on page 2 and underlined here.
 Good Friday is April 19 during the school break.

** Professional Learning for JH/HS Staff Early Dismissal

No School and Delayed Opening Announcements air on TV Channels 4, 5 and 7 and radio stations WBZ and WEIM. See postings at <http://abschools.org>
 Acton Town Meeting begins April 1, 2019. Boxborough Meeting begins May 13, 2019.

Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee Meetings are usually held twice a month. See <http://www.abschools.org/school-committee> for more information.

Draft for School Committee meeting 12/6/18

Acton-Boxborough Regional School District
DRAFT #1B SCHOOL CALENDAR, 2019-2020 (start before Labor Day)

Bold BOXED Dates = No School Days / ELEMENTARY EARLY DISMISSAL IS EVERY THURSDAY AFTERNOON

Sept.	M	T	W	T	F
	26	27	28	29	30
	2	3	4	5	6
	9	10	11	12	13
	16	17	18	19	20
	23	24	25	26	27
	30				

Teachers' meetings – Aug 26 & 27
 School Open – Aug 28
 No School – Fri, Aug 30
 Labor Day – Sept 2
 Rosh Hashanah – Sept 30
 School Days - 21

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

Schools Open - Jan 2
 JH Early Release –
 Martin Luther King Day - Jan 20
 School Days - 21

Oct.	M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3	4
	7	8	9	10	11
	14	15	16	17	18
	21	22	23	24	25
	28	29	30	31	

Yom Kippur = Oct 9
 Columbus Day – Oct 14
 **7-12 Early Release for Prof L. –
 School Days – 21

Feb.	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

**7-12 Early Release for Prof L. – Feb
 Presidents' Day - Feb 17
 Winter Recess - Feb 17-21
 School Days – 15

Nov.	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

Prof. Day – Nov 5
 Veterans Day – Nov 11
 Early Release Day – Nov 27
 Thanksgiving Recess – Nov 28 & 29
 School Days - 17

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			

HS Late Start **only for students NOT taking MCAS** – Mar
 School Days - 22

Dec.	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

Jr High Early Release Confs –
 Winter Recess - Dec. 23 – Jan 1
 School Days - 15

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	

Good Friday – Apr 10
 Patriots Day – Apr 20
 Spring Recess - Apr 20-24
 **7-12 Early Release for Prof L. –
 School Days - 16

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

HS Late Start **only for students NOT taking MCAS**- May
 Memorial Day - May 25
 School Days - 20

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			

Graduation – June 5
 Last day/Early Rel– June 16 (180 days)
 Last day if 5 snow days– June 23 (185 days)
 *School could be extended to June 30 if >5 days
 School Days – 12
Total Days = 180

Some major religious and cultural holidays are found on page 2 and underlined here.
 Good Friday is April 19 during the school break.

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Acton-Boxborough Regional School District
DRAFT #1 SCHOOL CALENDAR, 2020-2021 (start before Labor Day)

Bold BOXED Dates = No School Days / ELEMENTARY EARLY DISMISSAL IS EVERY THURSDAY AFTERNOON

Sept.	M	T	W	T	F
	31	1	2	3	4
	7	8	9	10	11
	12	13	14	15	16
	14	15	16	17	18
	21	22	23	24	25
	28	29	30		

Teachers' meetings – Aug 26 & 27
 Schools Open – Aug 31
 No School – Fri, Sept 4
 Labor Day – Sept 7
 Yom Kippur – Sept 28
 School Days - 25

Oct.	M	T	W	T	F
			1	2	3
	5	6	7	8	9
	12	13	14	15	16
	19	20	21	22	23
	26	27	28	29	30

Columbus Day – Oct 12
 **7-12 Early Release for Prof L. –
 School Days – 22

Nov.	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				

Prof. Day – Nov 3
 Veterans Day – Nov 11
 Early Release Day – Nov 25
 Thanksgiving Recess – Nov 26 & 27
 School Days - 17

Dec.	M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3	4
	7	8	9	10	11
	14	15	16	17	18
	21	22	23	24	25
	28	29	30	31	

Jr High Early Release Confs –
 Winter Recess - Dec. 24 – Jan 3
 School Days - 17

Jan.	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

Schools Open - Jan 4
 JH Early Release –
 Martin Luther King Day - Jan 18
 School Days - 19

Feb.	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

**7-12 Early Release for Prof L. – Feb
 Presidents' Day - Feb 15
 Winter Recess - Feb 15-19
 School Days – 15

Mar.	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		

HS Late Start **only for students NOT taking MCAS** – Mar
 School Days - 23

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

Good Friday – Apr 2
 Patriots Day – Apr 19
 Spring Recess - Apr 19 - 23
 **7-12 Early Release for Prof L. –
 School Days - 15

May	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
	31				

HS Late Start **only for students NOT taking MCAS**- May
 Memorial Day - May 31
 School Days - 20

June	M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3	4
	7	8	9	10	11
	14	15	16	17	18
	21	22	23	24	25
	28	29	30		

Graduation – June 4
 Last day/Early Rel– June 9 (180 days)
 Last day if 5 snow days– June 16 (185 days)
 *School could be extended to June 30 if >5 days
 School Days – 7
Total Days = 180

Some major religious and cultural holidays are found on page 2 and underlined here.
 Rosh Hashanah is Saturday, September 19.

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Acton-Boxborough Regional School District
SCHOOL CALENDAR, 2018-2019

Bold BOXED Dates = No School Days / ELEMENTARY EARLY DISMISSAL IS EVERY THURSDAY AFTERNOON

Month	M	T	W	T	F	Notes
Sept.						Teachers' meetings – Aug 29 & 30
	27	28	29	30	31	Labor Day – Sept 3
	<u>3</u>	4	5	6	7	Schools Open – Sept 4
	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	13	14	Rosh Hashana – Sept 10
	17	18	<u>19</u>	20	21	Yom Kippur = Sept 19
	24	25	26	27	28	School Days - 17
Oct.						
	1	2	3	4	5	
	<u>8</u>	9	10	11	12	Columbus Day – Oct 8
	15	16	17	18	19	**7-12 Early Release for Prof L. – Oct 4
	22	23	24	25	26	
	29	30	31			School Days – 22
Nov.						
				1	2	Prof. Day – Nov 6 (no school/students)
	5	<u>6</u>	7	8	9	Veterans Day – Nov 12 due to Sun holiday
	<u>12</u>	13	14	15	16	Early Release Day – Nov 21
	19	20	21	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u>	Thanksgiving Recess – Nov 22 & 23
	26	27	28	29	30	School Days - 18
Dec.						
	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	Jr High Early Release Confs – Dec 13&18
	<u>10</u>	11	12	13	14	Winter Recess - Dec. 24 – Jan 1
	17	18	19	20	21	School Days - 15
	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>	

Month	M	T	W	T	F	Notes
Jan.						Schools Open - Jan 2
	<u>31</u>	<u>1</u>	2	3	4	JH Early Release – Jan 4
	7	8	9	10	11	Martin Luther King Day - Jan 21
	14	15	16	17	18	
	<u>21</u>	22	23	24	25	School Days - 21
	28	29	30	31		
Feb.						
					1	**7-12 Early Release for Prof L. – Feb 7
	4	<u>5</u>	6	7	8	Presidents' Day - Feb 18
	11	12	13	14	15	Winter Recess - Feb 18-22
	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>	School Days – 15
	25	26	27	28		
Mar.						
					1	
	4	5	6	7	8	HS Late Start only for students NOT taking MCAS – Mar 26 & 27
	11	12	13	14	15	
	18	19	20	21	22	
	25	26	27	28	29	School Days - 21
Apr.						
	1	2	3	4	5	**7-12 Early Release for Prof L. – Apr 4
	8	9	10	11	12	Patriots Day – Apr 15
	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u>	Spring Recess - Apr 15 - 19
	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>	
	29	30				School Days - 17
May						
			1	2	3	HS Late Start only for students NOT taking MCAS - May 21 & 22
	<u>6</u>	7	8	9	10	Memorial Day - May 27
	13	14	15	16	17	School Days - 22
	20	21	22	23	24	
	<u>27</u>	28	29	30	31	
June						
						Graduation – June 7
	3	4	<u>5</u>	6	7	Last day/Early Rel– June 18 (180 days)
	10	11	12	13	14	Last day if 5 snow days– June 25 (185 days)
	17	18	19	20	21	*School could be extended to June 28 if >5 days
	24	25	26*	27*	28*	School Days – 12
						Total Days = 180

Some major religious and cultural holidays are found on page 2 and underlined here.
 Good Friday is April 19 during the school break.

** Professional Learning for JH/HS Staff Early Dismissal

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 Acton Town Meeting begins April 1, 2019. Boxborough Meeting begins May 13, 2019.

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Voted by School Committee on 12/14/17 reformatted 6/7/18

Acton-Boxborough Regional School District
SCHOOL CALENDAR, 2018-2019

Major Religious and Cultural Holidays
(some are school days, some are not)

August 22	Eid al-Adha
September 10-11	Rosh Hashanah
September 19	Yom Kippur
November 7	Diwali begins
December 3-10	Chanuka begins
December 25	Christmas
December 26-Jan 1	Kwanzaa
February 5	Lunar New Year
April 19	Good Friday
April 20-27	Passover
April 21	Easter
May 5 – June 4	Ramadan
June 5	Eid al-Fitr

The observance of both Jewish and Muslim holidays begins at sundown of the preceding day. Please see policy IMD (School Ceremonies and Religious Holiday Observances) and policy ACD (Acknowledging Religious Holidays) on the school website for more information at: <http://www.abschools.org/school-committee/policies>

2018 - 2019 School Start Times

Carol Huebner Early Childhood Programs:

Monday – Thursday	
Morning Session	8:30 – 11:15 am
Afternoon Session	12:15 – 3:00 pm
All-Day Session	8:30 am – 3:00 pm

All Elementary Schools:

8:50 am – 3:20 pm	
Thursdays	12:50 pm dismissal

Secondary Schools:

AB Regional High School	8:07 am – 2:47 pm
R.J. Grey Junior High School	8:00 am – 2:36 pm

Direct School Phone Numbers:

Blanchard:	978-263-4569
Conant:	978-266-2550
Douglas:	978-266-2560
Gates:	978-266-2570
McCarthy-Towne:	978-264-3377
Merriam:	978-264-3371
All Other Schools:	978-264-4700

Calendar and School Schedule Survey						
Question		All Parents	All Staff	All Teachers	Teachers who need subs	
Would you prefer school to start before or after Labor Day?						
Before Labor Day		25%	40%	40%	41%	
After Labor Day		37%	17%	14%	15%	
After Labor Day when LD is 9/1-3, before when LD is 9/4-7		40%	44%	46%	45%	
If school starts before Labor Day, should the Friday before Labor Day be a no school	Yes	47%	73%	77%	77%	
	No	53%	27%	23%	23%	
Should the schools continue to close school on Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and Good Friday?	Yes	35%	40%	41%	42%	
	No	65%	60%	59%	58%	
If we have school on the following Holidays, would you request the day off/kepe your kids out of school?						
		Parents	All Staff	All Teachers	Teachers who need subs	# of teachers who need subs
Rosh Hashanah/ Yom Kippur		9.6%	7%	7.5%	7%	20
Good Friday		9.8%	20%	22%	22%	61
1/2 Day Good Friday		7.7%	11%	11%	12%	34
Lunar New Year		10.5%	2.3%	2.6%	3%	9
Diwali		5%	0.4%	0%	0%	0
Orthodox Good Friday		2%	2%	1%	0.30%	1
Ranking Vacation Schedules (Ranked #1)						
Current Schedule		41%	53%	58%	59%	
One week in March		29%	22%	15%	16%	
Change Feb to 3 day		15%	11%	10%	10%	

Change April to 3 day		4%	2%	2%	2%	
Change Feb to 4 day		8%	11%	12%	12%	
Change April to 4 day		3%	4%	4%	4%	
Other		5%	5%	6%	5%	
Favorite Vacation Schedule						
Current Schedule		36%	49%	54%	54%	
One week in March		27%	19%	13%	14%	
Change Feb to 3 day		15%	11%	10%	9%	
Change April to 3 day		4%	2%	2%	1%	
Change Feb to 4 day		10%	12%	14%	14%	
Change April to 4 day		4%	4%	4%	4%	
Other		4%	3%	3%	3%	
Rank in order of importance (Ranked #1)						
Getting out earlier in June		45%	51%	46%	48%	
Keeping 3 vacation weeks		23%	35%	39%	38%	
Keeping existing religious holidays		7%	4%	3%	4%	
Adding another religious holiday		4%	0%	0%	0%	
Starting school earlier in August		6%	6%	7%	6%	
Having school on religious holidays		11%	4%	4%	4%	
Continuity of instruction in the fall		13%	9%	10%	7%	
Other		4%	4%	5%	6%	
Do you have children that attend school in another district?						
			28%	31% (105)	31%	60

Acton-Boxborough Snow Days / Last Day of School / Highest Staff and Student Absence Day Historical Data

School Year	First Day of School	# of Snow Days	Last Day of School	Highest Staff Absence Day
2010/2011	8/31	5	6/21	
2011/2012	8/30	2	6/15	
2012/2013	8/28	5	6/24	
2013/2014	8/27	2	6/18	
2014/2015	9/3	3	6/25	
2015/2016	9/2	2	6/23	5/20 Friday 138
2016/2017	8/31	3	6/22	6/9 Friday 142
2017/2018	9/5	7	6/27	6/1 Friday 138
2018/2019	9/4			

Highest Staff Absences 2017-2018 (All Fridays)

Average Daily	83
6/1	138
6/8	136
6/15	136
5/4	129
6/22	128
5/11	127
5/18	126
4/27	120
5/25	117
12/15	114

Total Staff Approximately 1,000

Highest Student Absences 2017/2018

Average Daily	207	
6/27	997	Wednesday - Last day of school
6/26	787	Tuesday
6/25	526	Monday
4/13	522	Day before April Break
4/30	496	Monday
11/22	489	day before Thanksgiving break
2/16	483	day before Feb break
2/7	474	early release due to snowstorm
12/22	442	day before Holiday break
2/5	415	day after SuperBowl

Total Students Approximately 5,700

school district	AB	CC	sudbury k-8	Westford	Littleton	Maynard	Lexington	Weston	Bolton (k-8)	Stow (k-5)	Stow (6-8)	Nashoba Regional
# school days	180	180	180	182	180	180	180	180	180	180	180	180
18-19 start date	9/4	8/29	8/29	8/28	9/5	8/29	8/28	9/4	8/29	8/29	8/29	8/29
18-19 last day	6/18	3(k-8)6/14(9-12)	6/14	6/14	6/18	6/13	6/17	6/19	6/17	6/17		6/17
#full days off	26	35	28	27	25	27	27	26	29	29	29	29
# jr/hs 1/2 days	4	5	18	7	14	11	7	9	10	10	10	13 late starts: 10 early release
elementary 1/2 days	2	2	18	7	14	14	14	10	10	10	10	
early release?	yes- Thursday k-6	yes- Tues k-8	no	no	no	no	Thurs (k-5 only)	no	no			
#prof days	all district; 3 jr/hs	only HS	1	5 for early release	?	1 full, 3 1/2	4	3 full, 7 half				
conference days?	2 fall jr high only	elementary, 1 jh, 1 hs	5 (early release)	2 full, 3 delay	6 (early release)	?	day),1 MS (full)	2 elementary	1 full; 3 half			
elementary length	6 hr 30 min	6 hr 30 min	6 hr 30 min	6 hr 5 min	6 hr 25 min	6 hr 20 min	6 hr 30 min	6hr 20 min	6hr 30min	6hr30 min		
jr high length	6 hr 40 min	6 hr 15 min	6 hr 40 min	6hr 20 min	6 hr 25 min	6 hr 20 min	6 hr 50 min	6hr 30 min	6hr 30 min		6hr 30 min	
hs length	6 hr 40 min	6 hr 41 min	6 hr 49 min	6 hr 20 min	6 hr 31 min	6 hr 20 min	6 hr 40 min	6 hr 30 min				6hr 30 min
elementary start	8:50	9:00	8:55	8:25/9:05	8:05/8:50	8:30	8:45	8:00	8:35	8:35		
jr high start	8:00	8:15	7:45	7:35	7:20	8:05	8:00	8:45			7:45:00 AM	
HS start	8:07	8:00	7:50	7:35	7:25	7:45	7:45	8:45				7:40
full day K?	by lottery	3 full/2 half	yes	by lottery	no	yes	yes	yes	yes by lottery	yes by lottery		
jewish holidays	yes	no	yes	no	1/2	no	yes	no	no	no	no	no

Westborough Public Schools

2018-2019 School Calendar

August 2018							August/September		September 2018							
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa			Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	
			1	2	3	4	8/23-8/24	New Teacher Orientation								1
							8/27	All Teachers Report								
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	8/29	First Day for Students	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9/3	Schools/Offices Closed: Labor Day	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	9/10	Schools Closed: Rosh Hashanah	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
26	27	28	29	30	31		9/19	Schools Closed: Yom Kippur	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
									30							

October 2018							October/November		November 2018							
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa			Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	
					5	6	10/5	Early Release						1	2	3
							10/8	Schools/Offices Closed: Columbus Day								
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	10/26	Early Release	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11/2	Early Release (K-6 Only)	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	11/7	School Closed for Students: Diwali & PD for St	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
28	29	30	31				11/12	Schools/Offices Closed: Veterans' Day	25	26	27	28	29	30		
							11/21	Early Release/Half Day for Staff								
							11/22-11/23	Schools/Offices Closed: Thanksgiving								

December 2018							December/January		January 2019							
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa			Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	
						1	12/7	Early Release				1	2	3	4	5
							12/24-12/25	Schools/Offices Closed: Christmas	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	12/26-1/1	Schools Closed: Winter Break	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	12/31	Half Day for Full Year Staff: New Yr's Eve	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	1/1	Schools/Offices Closed: New Year's Day	27	28	29	30	31			
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	1/11	Early Release (K-6 Only)								
30	31						1/21	Schools/Offices Closed: MLK Bday								

February 2019							February/March		March 2019						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa			Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2	2/1	Early Release						1	2
							2/18	Schools/Offices Closed: Presidents' Day	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	2/19-2/22	Schools Closed: February Break	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	3/11	Early Release	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
17	18	19	20	21	22	23			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
24	25	26	27	28					31						

April 2019							April/May		May 2019							
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa			Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	
							4/15	Schools/Offices Closed: Patriots' Day								
							4/16-4/18	Schools Closed: April Break					1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4/19	Schools/Offices Closed: Good Friday	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	5/10	Early Release	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	5/27	Schools/Offices Closed: Memorial Day	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
28	29	30							26	27	28	29	30	31		

June 2019							June/July		July 2019							
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa			Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	
						1	6/1	WHS Graduation								
							6/20	Last Day of School for Students (180*) & PreK-12 Staff. Half Day for Students only.			1	2	3	4	5	6
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7/4	Offices Closed: Independence Day	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15			14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22			21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29			28	29	30	31				
30																

School Closed
 Early Release Day

Professional Development Day:
 No School for Students

Approved by School Committee: 2/28/18
 Revised 3/5/18
 Revised 10/10/18

L-S CALENDAR 2018-2019

September 2018 (19)							September							February							February (15)						
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	S															Su	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			29	30			Aug. 27 Teacher Workshop Day							5 College Admissions Seminar												1	2
		4	5	6	7		Aug. 28 9th Grade Orientation & 9th Grade Portraits							18 Presidents' Day								4	5	6	7	8	9
		11	12	13	14		Aug. 29 First Day For All Students							18-22 February Recess								11	12	13	14	15	16
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	Aug 29-30 10-11 Grade Portraits													17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	Aug. 31 No School													24	25	26	27	28			
30							3 Labor Day																				
							4 9th Grade Parents' Night																				
							10 Rosh Hashanah																				
							12 Back to School Night																				
							19 Yom Kippur																				
October (22)							October							March							March (21)						
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	S															Su	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3w	4	5		3 Warnings							5 Warnings												1	2
	8	9	10	11	12		4 Underclass Portrait Retakes							26-27 ELA MCAS								4	5w	6	7	8	9
	15	16	17	18	19	20	8 Columbus Day													10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18 Financial Aid Night													17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
28	29	30	31																24	25	26	27	28	29	30		
																			31								
November (18)							November							April							April (17)						
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	S															Su	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2/		2 1st Quarter Ends							4 3rd Quarter Ends								1	2	3	4/	5	6
	5	6	7	8	9		12 Veterans Day							15 Patriots' Day							7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	12	13	14	15	16		21 Early Dismissal - 11:00							15-19 April Recess							14	15	16	17	18	19	20
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22-23 Thanksgiving Recess							19 Good Friday							21	22	23	24	25	26	27
25	26	27	28	29	30		26 Teacher Workshop Day													28	29	30					
December (15)							December							May							May (22)						
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	S															Su	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				6w	7		6 Warnings							8 Warnings										1	2	3	4
	3	4	5	6w	7		25 Christmas Day							27 Memorial Day							5	6	7	8w	9	10	11
	10	11	12	13	14		24-Jan.1 December Recess							21-22 Math MCAS							12	13	14	15	16	17	18
16	17	18	19	20	21	22													19	20	21	22	23	24	25		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29													26	27	28	29	30	31			
30	31																										
January 2019 (20)							January							June							June (16)						
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	S															Su	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			2	3	4		2 Classes Resume							2 Graduation													
	7	8	9	10	11		21 Martin Luther King Day							4-5 STE MCAS								3	4	5	6	7	
	14	15	16	17/	18		17 2nd Quarter Ends							6 9-11 Grade Awards Assembly							9	10	11	12	13	14	15
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18-24 Mid-Year Exams							18 4th Quarter Ends							16	17	18/	19	20	21	22
28	29	30	31				25 Teacher Workshop Day							19-24 Final Exams							23	24	25	26	27	28	29
													25 Teacher Workshop Day							30							
													With 0 school closure days, the last day of final exams is June 17th. (Add 1 day for each school cancellation day.)														

White Week: Exams No School Alternative Schedule
 Blue Week: MCAS Warnings w Quarter Ends /

2018-2019 WESTFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS CALENDAR

AUGUST 2018							FEBRUARY 2019						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4						1	2
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18 19 20 21 22					23
26	27 28		29	30	31		24	25	26	27	28		
SEPTEMBER 2018							MARCH 2019						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1						1	2
2	3 4		5	6	7	8	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
30							31						
OCTOBER 2018							APRIL 2019						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1							1
			1	2	3	4		1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 9		10	11	12	13	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	14	15 16 17 18 19					20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31				28	29	30				
NOVEMBER 2018							MAY 2019						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3					1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
11	12 13		14	15	16	17	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
18	19	20	21	22 23		24	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
25	26	27	28	29	30		26	27 28		29	30	31	
DECEMBER 2018							JUNE 2019						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1							1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	16	17 18 19 20 21					22
23	24 25		26	27	28	29	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31						30						
JANUARY 2019							JULY 2019						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1							1
		1 2		3	4	5		1	2	3	4	5	6
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	14	15	16	17	18	19	20

STARTING DATES

August 27	Teachers 1
August 28	Pre-1 st - 5
August 28	Grades 6 & 7
August 28-30	PreK & K
August 29	Grades 7, 8 & 9
September 4	PreK & K with Kin

NO SCHOOL - HOLIDAYS/VACATION DEVELOPMENT

August 31 - Sept. 3	Labor Day
October 8	Columbus
October 9	Professor
November 12	Veteran's
November 22 - 23	Thanksgiv
December 24 - 31	Holiday B
January 1	New Year
January 21	Martin L.
January 22	Professor
February 18 - 22	Winter Br
April 15 - 19	Spring Br
May 27	Memorial

EARLY RELEASE ALL SCHOOLS

November 21	Thanksgiv
December 6	Professor
February 6	Professor
March 14	Professor
April 3	Professor
May 7	Professor
June 14	Tentative

Kindergarten AM/PM Sessions – In time, the Early Release days in No attend; PM students will have no s April – June, PM students will atte AM students will have no school.

MAJOR RELIGIOUS & CULTURAL

August 22	Eid al-A
September 10 - 11	Rosh Ha
September 18 - 19	Yom Ki
November 7	Diwali b
December 3 - 10	15 Chanuka

LEXINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2018 – 2019

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Approved 6.20.17 Revised 8.28.18

NOTE: All Thursdays are half-day dismissal at the Elementary Schools

B = Back to school night

C = Middle School (MS) and/or LHS Conferences; See specific month for ½ day or no school

E = Elem. Conferences, Students – ½ day

H = Holiday, Schools and Offices closed

***** = Recognized Holiday, Schools and Offices Open

P = Professional Learning

AUGUST

M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
T27	28	29	30	31

- 27 – Teachers Only
- 28 – Grades K-5; 8:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
- 28 – Grade 6; 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- 28 – Grades 7 and 8 – New students only; no transportation 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
- 28 – Grade 9; 7:45 a.m. – 2:25 p.m.
- 28 – Grades 10-12 – New students only; no transportation 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
- 29 – All Kindergarten students – ½ day dismissal.
- 29 – All Students Grades 1 – 12 – full day
- 30 – All Students Grades K – 5 – ½ day dismissal
- 30 – All Students Grades 6 – 12 – full day
- 31 – Schools Closed, Offices Open
(Total number of student days – 3)

SEPTEMBER

M	T	W	T	F
H3	4	5	6	7
H10	11	12	P13	14
17	18	H19	20	21
24	25	26	B27	28

- 3 – Holiday (Labor Day)
- 10 – Holiday (Rosh Hashanah)
- 13 – Prof. Learning; Students – ½ day
- 19 – Holiday (Yom Kippur)
- 27 – Back-to-School Night – Elementary Schools
(Total number of student days – 17)

OCTOBER

M	T	W	T	F
1	2	B3	B4	5
H8	9	10	B11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	E24	E25	26
29	30	E31		

- 3 – Back-to-School Night – Middle Schools Grade 6
- 4 – Back-to-School Night – Middle Schools Grades 7 & 8
- 8 – Holiday (Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples' Day)
- 11 – Back-to-School Night – High School
- 24, 25, 31 – Elem. Conf.; Students – ½ day
(Total number of student days – 22)

NOVEMBER

M	T	W	T	F
			E1	2
5	P6	7*	8	9
H12	13	14	15	C16
19	20	21	H22	H23
C26	27	28	29	30

- 1 – Elem. Conf.; Students – ½ day
- 6 – All Day Professional Learning, Lexington Learns Together, Students – NO school
- 7 – Diwali
- 12 – Holiday Observance (Veterans Day)
- 16 – MS Conf.; Students – NO school MS students ONLY
- 21 – Students & Staff – ½ day
- 22, 23 – Holiday (Thanksgiving)
- 26 – LHS Conf.; Students – NO school LHS students ONLY
(Total number of student days – 18)

DECEMBER

M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	C7
10	11	12	13	C14
17	18	19	20	21
24	H25	26	27	28
31				

- 7 – MS Conf.; – ½ day MS students ONLY
- 14 – MS Conf.; – ½ day MS students ONLY
- 24 – Schools Closed, Offices Closed
- 25 – Holiday (Christmas)
- 26 to 31 – Schools Closed, Offices Open
(Total number of student days – 15)

JANUARY

M	T	W	T	F
	H1	2	3	4
7	8	9	P10	11
14	15	16	17	18
H21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

- 1 – Holiday (New Year's Day)
- 10 – Prof. Learning; Students – ½ day
- 21 – Holiday (Martin Luther King, Jr.)
(Total number of student days – 21)

FEBRUARY

M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5*	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
H18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	

- 5 – Lunar New Year
- 6 – LHS Curriculum Night (snow date – Feb. 7th)
- 18 – Holiday (Presidents' Day)
- 19 to 22 – Schools Closed, Offices Open
- 21 – International Mother Language Day
(Total number of student days – 15)

MARCH

M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	P7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	E27	E28	29

- 7 – Prof. Learning; Students – ½ day
- 14 – Kindergarten Orientation
- 27, 28 – Elem. Conf.; Students – ½ day
(Total number of student days – 21)

APRIL

M	T	W	T	F
1	2	E3	E4	5
8	9	10	11	12
H15	16	17	18	H19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			

- 3, 4 – Elem. Conf.; Students – ½ day
- 15 – Holiday (Patriots' Day)
- 16 to 18 – School Closed, Offices Open
- 19 – Holiday (Good Friday)
- 20 – Passover begins
(Total number of student days – 17)

MAY

M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6*	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	P16	17
20	21	22	23	24
H27	28	29	30	31

- 1 – Clarke and Diamond Students ½ day for 5th grade orientation
- 6 – Ramadhan begins
- 16 – Prof. Learning; Students – ½ day
- 27 – Holiday (Memorial Day)
(Total number of student days – 22)

JUNE

M	T	W	T	F
3	4*	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
F17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

- 2 – LHS Graduation
- 4 – Eid Ul Fitr (tentative)
- 17 – Final day for students and teachers if no weather related cancellations; Students – ½ day
- 18 to 28 – Planned Make-up Days (if needed)
(Total number of student days – 11)

<u>Secondary Term Closes</u>	<u>Elementary Term Closes</u>
November 9	January 25
January 25	
April 5	

<u>Full-Day Schedule</u>	<u>Half-Day Dismissal</u>
Grades K-5; 8:45 a.m. – 3:15 p.m.	Elementary 12:15 p.m.
Grades 6-8; 8:00 a.m. – 2:50 p.m.	Middle School 11:45 a.m.
Grades 9-12; 7:45 a.m. – 2:25 p.m.	High School 11:15 a.m.

CONCORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS and CONCORD-CARLISLE HIGH SCHOOL
2018 - 2019 SCHOOL CALENDAR

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

SEPTEMBER
Aug 27 & 28* Prof. Dev. K-12
31 no school
29 Classes Begin
3 Labor Day
28* 9th grade orientation

FEBRUARY
18 Presidents' Day
6 CCHS Early Release
18-22 February Recess
25 Classes Resume

FEBRUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

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

OCTOBER
8 Columbus Day
17 CCHS Early Release

MARCH
Prof Day - 9-12

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

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

NOVEMBER
6 Prof Day K-5 Conferences
8 Prof Day 9-12 Conferences
12 Veterans Day
21 half day
22 - 23 Thanksgiving Recess

APRIL
2 Prof Day K-5 Conferences
3 CCHS Early Release
15 Patriots Day
15-19 April Recess
22 Classes Resume

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

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

DECEMBER
6 Prof Day 6-8 Conferences
12 CCHS Early Release
24-31 Winter Recess

MAY
27 Memorial Day

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

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





JANUARY
1 New Years Holiday
2 Classes Resume
14 Prof Day Gr. 6 - 12
21 Martin Luther King, Jr.

JUNE
1 CCHS Graduation
13 180th Student Day K-8 (1/2 day)
14 180th Student Day 9-12
14 Prof Day Grades K-8
20 with five emergency days K-8
21 with five emergency days 9-12

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

Approved by SC: January 23, 2018

Version: 1/25/2018

-  Holiday/Recess
-  Half Day
-  Professional Dev. Days
-  First & Last Day of School
- Early release K-8 every Tuesday

Agreement between the Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee

And the Acton-Boxborough Education Association (ABEA)

Contract 2017-2020

Article 9 sections related to school calendar

**ARTICLE 9
TEACHING HOURS AND TEACHING LOAD**

9.2 **Calendar:**

The work year of teachers shall be one hundred and eighty-three (183) days or three (3) days longer than the minimum school year required by the State Board of Education, whichever is greater. The school year for teachers shall begin not earlier than August 25th. In the event that school begins prior to Labor Day, schools will be closed on the Friday preceding Labor Day. School will not be in session for one week in February, which contains President's Day, nor one week in April, which contains Patriot's Day, except for emergencies due to building schedules.

File: IC/ICA

SCHOOL YEAR/SCHOOL CALENDAR

The school calendar for the ensuing year will be prepared by the Superintendent and submitted to the School Committee for approval annually. The number of days or instructional hours scheduled for the school year will be determined in accordance with the following standards set by the Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee.

The schools shall ensure that every student is scheduled to receive sufficient learning time to receive an appropriate public school education.

For the information of staff, students, and parents, the calendar will set forth the days schools will be in session; holidays and vacation periods; in-service days; and parent conferences.

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. 4:7; 15:1G; 71:1; 71:4; 71:4A; 71:73; 136:12
Board of Education Regulations for School Year and School Day,
effective 9/1/75
Board of Education, Student Learning Time Regulations
603 CMR 27.00, Adopted 12/20/94

Approved: 3/20/14

Acton-Boxborough Regional School District

File: ACD

ACKNOWLEDGING RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

The Acton-Boxborough Regional School District observes the establishment clause of the first amendment to the Constitution which guarantees both the separation of church and state and also the right of an individual to free speech. The School Committee understands that there can be a tension between these two parts of the first amendment. The schools must also respect the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In addition, we recognize that in any group there are diverse cultural, ethnic, religious and social traditions which should be understood through educational practice. We shall recognize and honor our differences, not ignore them. Students and staff will be encouraged to appreciate and accept ethnic and religious diversity. We shall be respectful of the beliefs and practices of others.

Students in the Acton-Boxborough Regional School District will not be penalized for late homework, assignments, quizzes, tests or other educational expectations due to missed school days for religious observances as long as the teacher is notified appropriately and the school work is made up in the timeframe detailed in the procedures acknowledging religious holidays.

REF: School Ceremonies and Religious Holiday Observances, File: IMD and IMD-R

Approved: 11/21/13

ACKNOWLEDGING RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

Instructional Practices

1. A good education acknowledges the importance of studying about religion. This study would include such learning activities as an analysis of the role of religion in culture and an appreciation of its importance in order to reach a balanced understanding of civilization and society.
2. The treatment of religion in the schools will meet the Supreme Court's constitutional boundaries set forth in the three-part test of Lemon v. Kurtzman: (1) the activity must have a secular purpose, (2) the principal or primary effect of the activity must be one that neither advances nor inhibits religion, (3) the activity avoids excessive governmental entanglement with religion.
3. Teachers will be sensitive and knowledgeable about the diversity of religious beliefs of the students in their classes. Instructional practices will balance religious beliefs so that all students will feel included; no student will be asked to participate in class activities associated with religion if unwilling, or if a parent expresses unwillingness. Parents/Guardians and/or students should notify the teacher of such a request.
4. Community resources and personnel should be used whenever possible by the schools when activities related to religious holidays are planned and implemented.
5. The School District calendar(s) will include the DESE list of religious holidays
6. Students will be accommodated if they request of the teacher that they be excused from participating in activities involving religion and/or if they are unable to participate in regular activities due to religious observances. Written parent permission should accompany such student requests.
7. The School District will use the standard grievance procedure to resolve differences resulting from the implementation of these guidelines (e.g., appeal to teacher, to Principal, Superintendent, to the School Committee).

Homework and Tests

8. Students' observance of a religious holiday may have an impact on their preparing work for the next school day. **Students will not be expected to complete daily homework assigned the evening before, or the day of the religious holiday.** Assignments and tests should be made up in a time span that is reasonable to both students and teachers. Typically for every day of a religious holiday there should be an opportunity for at least one makeup day. In addition, teachers will not give assessments or introduce major new concepts and/or applications on the religious holiday itself. Long-term assignments will not be due the day before or the day after the religious holiday.

Curriculum Content

9. As part of a study about the role religion plays in history, culture and the arts, teachers may use religious symbols, art, and music as well as literature drawn from a religious tradition.

Sports and Extra-Curricular Activities

10. School sports, tryouts and extra-curricular activities should be scheduled so that students will be accommodated if unable to participate due to their observance of a religious holiday.

Activities, Displays and Exhibits

11. Holiday displays and exhibits in classrooms and schools will be designed to help students appreciate the variety and value of religious traditions in the world. These displays shall not be solely focused on one or two specific holidays. Activities must have an instructional purpose. The principle effect of the activity must be one that neither advances nor inhibits religion.

Programs and Observances Related to a Religious Holiday

12. Programs (assemblies, plays or other activities) conducted during any religious holiday should be evaluated as to their purpose and effect. Their presentation, content, theme or timing must be secular/educational.

The Use of Religious Music

13. Music programs should be planned in accordance with the music curriculum objectives. (See also 2, 3, and 6 above.) Music instruction and performance will be designed to help students appreciate the variety and value of cultural and religious traditions in the world.

REF: School Ceremonies and Religious Holiday Observances, File: IMD and IMD-R

LEGAL REF.: All Collective Bargaining Agreements

Revised: 11/21/13 and 10/1/15

File: IMD

SCHOOL CEREMONIES AND RELIGIOUS HOLIDAY OBSERVANCES

The Acton-Boxborough Regional School District observes the establishment clause of the first amendment to the Constitution which guarantees both the separation of church and state and also the right of an individual to free speech. The School Committee understands that there can be a tension between these two parts of the first amendment. The schools must also respect the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In addition, we recognize that in any group there are diverse cultural, ethnic, religious and social traditions which should be understood through educational practice. We shall recognize and honor our differences, not ignore them. Students and staff will be encouraged to appreciate and accept ethnic and religious diversity. We shall be respectful of the beliefs and practices of others.

LEGAL REF: 603 CMR 26:05

REF: Acknowledging Religious Holidays, File: ACD and ACD-R

Approved: 5/22/14

Acton-Boxborough Regional School District

SCHOOL CEREMONIES AND RELIGIOUS HOLIDAY OBSERVANCES

Instructional Practices

1. A good education acknowledges the importance of studying about religion. This study would include such learning activities as an analysis of the role of religion in culture and an appreciation of its importance in order to reach a balanced understanding of civilization and society.
2. The treatment of religion in the schools will meet the Supreme Court's constitutional boundaries set forth in the three-part test of Lemon v. Kurtzman: (1) the activity must have a secular purpose, (2) the principal or primary effect of the activity must be one that neither advances nor inhibits religion, (3) the activity avoids excessive governmental entanglement with religion.
3. Teachers will be sensitive and knowledgeable about the diversity of religious beliefs of the students in their classes. Instructional practices will balance religious beliefs so that all students will feel included; no student will be required to participate in class activities associated with religion if unwilling, or if a parent expresses unwillingness.
4. Community resources and personnel should be used whenever possible by the schools when activities related to religious holidays are planned and implemented.
5. The school system calendar will indicate religious holidays affecting a significant proportion of our population. The school system will indicate holidays that will have an impact upon student participation in school activities.
6. Students will be accommodated if they request of the teacher that they be excused from participating in activities involving religion and/or if they are unable to participate in regular activities due to religious observances. Written parent permission should accompany such student requests.
7. The school will use the standard grievance procedure to resolve differences resulting from the implementation of these guidelines (e.g., appeal to teacher, to principal, superintendent, to the school committee).

REF: Acknowledging Religious Holidays, File: ACD and ACD-R

Approved: 5/22/14



Acton-Boxborough Regional School District

8. Recommendations

The top priority of parents and staff responding to the survey is to end school earlier in June. However, there were very few items in the survey that provided a favorable response to changing the calendar in a way that ends earlier in June. The committee discussed many options at length, and have the following suggestions.

Vacations

After reviewing 6 options for school vacation options, the calendar subcommittee believes that the School Committee should keep the December, February, and April vacations as they are on the calendar until such time as a change is made regionally or state-wide. One main reason for this is that 31% of AB teachers (105) have children who attend school in other districts. There are also AB students who have parent(s) who teach in other districts. If we change or eliminate part of a vacation week, those families will have some family members with February and April vacation week off, while other family members have different days or weeks for vacation. In addition, the current ABEA contract states that there will be a vacation week the week of President’s Day in February and Patriot’s Day in April. It is unlikely that the ABEA would agree to a change if 31% of their teachers have children with February and April vacation. As a result, the calendar subcommittee does not believe that the current February and April vacation should be changed.

Start of School

The district has historically started school before Labor Day when Labor Day is on September 4-7, and after Labor Day when Labor Day is on September 1-3. The teachers’ contract says that the Friday before Labor Day will be a day off for teachers. The survey shows that 77% of teachers and 47% of parents would like to keep it as a day off. The survey results about the start of school are as follows:

	Parents	Staff	Teachers
Before Labor Day	25%	40%	41%
After Labor Day	37%	17%	14%
After Labor Day when Labor Day is 9/1-3; before when LD is 9/4-7	40%	44%	45%



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Labor Day next year is on September 2, 2019. The following year Labor Day is on September 7, 2020. If the district starts school after Labor Day, it will be the third and last year before it flips back to before Labor Day. After reviewing several options for ways to end earlier in June, the calendar subcommittee believes that the School Committee should consider starting school the week before Labor Day next year. Teachers' professional days would be held on Monday August 26 & Tuesday August 27 and students would start Wednesday August 28, 2019. Students in grades 8, 10, 11, & 12 will start on Thursday August 29, 2019 and Friday August 30, 2019 is a no-school day according to the ABEA contract. This option is outlined on page 5 of the report in option #1B. The estimated last day of school would range from June 16 to June 23, with up to five snow days. The calendar subcommittee wonders if the ABEA would consider allowing school to be scheduled on the Friday before Labor Day for just this one year (2019) so that there could be 2-3 days of instruction the week before Labor Day. It would also allow school to end a day earlier.

By looking at the following year (2020-2021) calendar, it works well to have teacher professional days on August 26 & 27, 2020, and students can start on Monday August 31. This calendar is displayed on page 6 of the report. The projected end of school in 2020-2021 ranges from June 9 to June 16 with up to five snow days.

Some information that led to the calendar committee's recommendation to start before Labor Day include:

- The chart of 13 neighboring districts on page 12 shows that 10 of those districts started school before Labor Day this year.
- The chart of Acton-Boxborough historical data shows that the years in which AB started after Labor Day resulted in a last day of school between June 23 and June 27.
- Student learning is more effective at the beginning of the school year than mid-to-late June.
- The top priority in the survey was to end earlier in June. Camps start the last week of June. Camps are often not available after the middle of August.
- Four of the ten highest staff absence days last year were in June.

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Religious Holidays

Historically, the district has had no school on all State and Federal Holidays, along with Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and Good Friday. The School Committee has discussed whether or not to increase or decrease the number of school days off for religious holidays many times throughout the years. Surveys have been distributed and the options have been discussed in 2012, 2016, and now in 2018. One of the questions asked in the survey is if the district should continue to have Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and Good Friday as no school days. 35% of parents and 40% of staff said that we should continue to have those days as no school days. The survey also included the following question:

If we have school on the following Holidays, would you request the day off/keep your kids out of school?

The results are as follows:

	Parents	Staff	Teachers	Teachers who need subs	# Teachers who need subs
Rosh Hashanah & Yom Kippur	9.6%	7%	7.5%	7.5%	20
Good Friday	9.8%	20%	22%	22%	61
½ Day Good Friday	7.7%	11%	11%	12%	34
Lunar New Year	10.5%	2.3%	2.6%	3%	9
Diwali	5%	0.4%	0%	0%	0
Orthodox Good Friday	2%	2%	1%	0.3%	1

16 parents (1%) listed Eid- al- Fitr and Eid- al- Adha as days that they would keep their children out of school. Some of the comments in the survey ask to keep the current religious holidays as no-school days, some say that days off should be added to represent more cultures, and others suggest that the three current religious holidays should be school days.



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Some comments talked about childcare concerns when parents work on days that students do not have school. The calendar subcommittee does not have a clear recommendation about religious holidays. One option might be to have a half day on Lunar New Year and Diwali and schedule professional learning in the afternoon. Another option would be to have the November professional day on Diwali in years that do not have a federal election in November. In 2019-2020 Lunar New Year and Diwali are on weekends, but the subcommittee would like to have a longer term decision about religious holidays. Attached is a schedule of the dates of religious holidays over the next five years. The calendar subcommittee tried to quantify a decision making around religious holidays.

Below is a list of criteria that could be considered and a possible evaluation of this criteria.

Criteria:

1. Number of students who would be absent: 5 points > 9% 4 points 6% - 8%; 3 points 4%-5%; 3 points 3%; 2 points 2%; 1 point 1%
2. Is the Holiday observed during the school day? - 5 points = Yes; 4 points = afternoon; 3 points = Evening; 2 points = evening or weekend
3. Staff impact - 5 points > 50 subs; 4 points 40 subs; 3 points >30 subs; 2 points >20 subs; 1 point < 20 subs

Given this criteria, the subcommittee determined the following evaluation:

	Student Absences	Time of observance	Staff Impact	Total
Rosh Hashanah &/ Yom Kippur	5	5	2	12
Good Friday	5	4	5	14
½ Day Good Friday	4	3	4	11
Lunar New Year	5	2	1	8
Diwali	3	3	1	7
Orthodox Good Friday	2	4	1	7
Eid- al- Fitr Eid- al- Adha	1	5	1	7





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The attached sheet shows the dates of these religious holidays over the next five years. The calendar subcommittee does not have a final recommendation about religious holidays. This will need to be a decision of the School Committee. The school district policies and procedures which state that no homework or assessments would be given on religious holidays should be implemented consistently across all classrooms.

If there is school on any student's observed holidays, students should feel comfortable not attending school that day. Anecdotally, it appears that since the implementation of the new homework policy, there has been more consistency in not assigning homework on religious holidays, vacations, and long weekends. Whatever decision the School Committee makes about religious holidays, it is important to not have homework or assessments the day of or the day after religious holidays that are celebrated by a percentage of our students.

Snow Days and Blizzard Bags

The Department of Education has created a process by which school districts can create a process for teachers to develop student extended learning assignments to be completed in lieu of an extra day of school in June when there are a large number of snow days. The Acton-Boxborough School Leadership Team (SLT), which is made up of Principals and Central Office Administrators, reviewed the procedures and documentation for Blizzard Bags and the procedures developed by some other school districts. After reviewing these documents, the SLT does not believe that Blizzard Bags would be a good option for ABRSD. The SLT believes that students completing out of school assignments would not be as valuable as a full day of classroom instruction. Additionally, SLT believes that the 6.5 hours of assignments given through the Blizzard Bag to be completed over the weeks after the snow day would be similar to 6.5 hours of additional homework, while the district is working to reduce homework for students. There were several comments that the district should be selective about when to cancel school due to weather.

Conclusions

To summarize, the calendar subcommittee recommends the following:

1. School should start the week before Labor Day going forward. Discussions should take place with the ABEA about either scheduling staff days the week before that or having school on the Friday before Labor Day.
2. The current vacation schedule should stay in place unless nearby school districts or the state changes the schedule.

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3. The School Committee should review all of the data related to religious holidays and make a decision that will be in place for the next several years.
4. Each year the School Committee should make decisions that will enable students to end school before June 22 if at all possible.



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Calendar Dates 2019-2023

	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Labor Day	Monday Sept. 2	Monday Sept 7	Monday Sept 6	Monday Sept 5
Rosh Hashanah	Monday Sept 30	Saturday Sept 19	Tuesday Sept 7	Monday Sept 26
Columbus Day	Monday Oct 14	Monday Oct 12	Monday Oct 11	Monday Oct 10
Yom Kippur	Wed Oct 9	Monday Sept 28	Thurs Sept 16	Wed Oct 5
Professional Day	Tues Nov 5	Tuesday Nov 3	Tuesday Nov 2	Tuesday Nov 8
Election Day	None	Tuesday Nov 3	None	Tuesday Nov 8
Diwali	Sunday Oct 27	Saturday Nov 14	Thursday Nov 4	Monday Oct 24
Veteran's Day	Mon Nov 11	Wed Nov 11	Thurs Nov 11	Friday Nov 11
Thanksgiving	Thurs Nov 28	Thurs Nov 26	Thurs Nov 25	Thurs Nov 24
Christmas	Wed Dec 25	Friday Dec 25	Sat Dec 25	Sunday Dec 25
Dec Vacation	Monday Dec 23 - Wednes Jan 1	Thur Dec 24 - Friday Jan 1	Friday Dec 24 - Friday Dec 31	Monday Dec 26 - Friday Dec 31
# School Days	9	7	6	5
MLK Birthday	Mon Jan 20	Mon January 18	Mon January 17	Mon January 16
Lunar New Year	Sat Jan 25	Friday Feb 12	Tuesday Feb 1	Sunday Jan 22
Feb Vacation	February 17-21	February 15-19	February 21-25	February 20-24
Good Friday	Friday April 10	Friday April 2	Friday April 15	Friday April 7
April Vacation	April 20-24	April 19-23	April 18-22	April 17-21
Eid-al-fitr	Sunday May 24	Thursday May 13	Tuesday May 3	Sat April 22