



Standing Committee Meeting

Monday, November 24, 2025

Trustee Board Room

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board

20 Education Court, P.O. Box 2558

Hamilton, ON L8N 3L1

AGENDA: Immediately following Board Meeting

1. Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement
2. Meeting Roll Call
3. Approval of the Agenda
4. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

Reports from Staff:

5. [School Year Calendar 2026-27 \(for consultation\)](#)

6. Adjournment

BE YOU. BE EXCELLENT.



STANDING COMMITTEE

November 24, 2025

2026 – 2027 Draft School Year Calendars

Submitted By: Sheryl Robinson Petrazzini, Director of Education

Prepared By: Adnan Shahbaz, Superintendent of Equity and Student Achievement

Recommendation:

That the Draft 2026-2027 School Year Calendars be approved for public consultation.

Background:

The 2026-2027 School Year Calendars (Elementary and Secondary) have been prepared in consultation with the School Year Calendar Advisory Committee and endorsed by Executive Council.

The calendars comply with Ontario Regulation 304, School Year Calendars and Professional Activity Days. As of the date of this report, the Ministry of Education has not yet released detailed guidance regarding the requirements of Professional Activity Days for 2026-2027. When the HWDSB receives this information, it will be incorporated into the report where the School Year Calendar is brought back for final ratification before submission to the Ministry.

Once approved by Trustees, public consultation will be undertaken from December 17, 2025, to January 15, 2026, to receive community feedback regarding the Draft Calendars.

Status:

Ontario Regulation 304, School Year Calendars, and Professional Activity Days sets out the requirements for the preparation and submission of school year calendars to the Ministry of Education. This includes a minimum of 194 school days between September 1 and June 30. For the 2026-2027 calendar, two PA days will occur before the start of classes to meet this requirement. Due to Labour Day falling on September 7, 2026, only 192 instructional days are

available between September 8 and June 30. Therefore, two PA days must be scheduled before September 8, 2026.

Development of the Draft 2026-2027 School Year Calendars has been undertaken in consultation with the School Year Calendar Advisory Committee, which consists of members representing: Elementary and Secondary Principals (HWPC); Elementary and Secondary Teachers (HWETL, OSSTF, HWOTL); Parents (Hamilton-Wentworth Council of Home & School Associations; HWDSB Parent Involvement Committee); Educational Assistants and Child and Youth Care Practitioners (COPE), Early Childhood Educators (HWDECEL), Professional Student Services (PSSP), and School Office Assistants (OCTU).

The School Year Calendar Advisory Committee reviewed and provided feedback on the draft elementary and secondary calendars. The committee will meet again in January to review the results of the public consultation process and provide further input. The consultation process will also include discussions with the co-terminus board to align PA days wherever possible to reduce transportation costs and disruption.

For the 2026-2027 Secondary Draft Calendar, an instructional day has once again been positioned after the exam period and the end of semester Professional Activity Day. The inclusion of this day is in response to student and parent feedback regarding the benefit of a designated time to review the final assessment and evaluation of courses at the end of each semester with school-based staff.

Executive Council supports the Draft School Year Calendars ([Appendix A](#)) that include:

Elementary

Start and End Dates for Students	Tuesday, September 8, 2026 Wednesday, June 30, 2027
Professional Activity Days	Wednesday, September 2, 2026 Thursday, September 3, 2026 Monday, October 26, 2026 Friday, November 27, 2026 Friday, January 22, 2027 Friday, June 4, 2027 Wednesday, June 30, 2027

Secondary

	Semester 1	Semester 2
Start and End Dates for Students	Tuesday, September 8, 2026 Tuesday, February 2, 2027	Wednesday, February 3, 2027 Wednesday, June 30, 2027
Examination Days (5)	January 25 -29, 2027	June 21–25, 2027
Professional Activity Days	Wednesday, September 2, 2026 Thursday, September 3, 2026 Monday, October 26, 2026 Tuesday, February 2, 2027	Friday, April 16, 2027 Monday, June 28, 2027 Wednesday, June 30, 2027

Professional Activity Days

The Ministry of Education requires school boards to arrange up to seven Professional Activity (PA) Days in the school year. The HWDSB is awaiting Ministry guidance on requirements related to the content of PA Days.

For the 2026-2027 school year, two PA days will occur before September 8, 2026, due to limited instructional days. Further, the Ministry of Education has communicated to school boards the pre-determined election date for the municipal elections. The date for this election is October 26, 2026. The Ministry of Education has asked school boards to schedule a Professional Activity Day on this date. If this election date changes, school boards have a process to reschedule the Professional Activity Day if desired.

The specific topics for the PA Days will be brought forward in a later report seeking final ratification before submission to the Ministry. In our current planning, the PA Day scheduled for Friday, November 27, 2026, in the Elementary draft calendar will be for family, caregivers, and guardian interviews.

The tentative PA Day schedule is as follows:

Elementary	Secondary
Wednesday, September 2, 2026 – Ministry and/or Board Priority Day	Wednesday, September 2, 2026 – Ministry and/or Board Priority Day
Thursday, September 3, 2026 – Ministry and/or Board Priority Day	Thursday, September 3, 2026 – Ministry and/or Board Priority Day
Monday, October 26, 2026 – Ministry and/or Board Priority Day	Monday, October 26, 2026 – Ministry and/or Board Priority Day

Friday, November 27, 2026 – Elementary caregiver communication	Monday, February 1, 2027 – End of Exams – Ministry and/or Board Priority Day
Monday, January 22, 2027 – Elementary Reporting and Assessment	Friday, April 16, 2027 - Ministry and/or Board Priority Day
Friday, June 4, 2027 – Elementary Reporting and Assessment	Monday, June 28, 2027 – End of Exams - Ministry and/or Board Priority Day
Wednesday, June 30th, 2027 – Ministry and/or Board Priority Day	Wednesday, June 30, 2027- Ministry and/or Board Priority Day

Public Consultation & Next Steps

The draft 2026-2027 School Year Calendars will be posted on the HWDSB Engage platform from Wednesday, December 17, 2025, to Wednesday, January 14, 2026, for public feedback. The results of the consultation will be analyzed by HWDSB Research & Analytics Department and reviewed by Executive Council, the School Year Calendar Advisory Committee, and the Board of Trustees prior to final ratification for submission to the Ministry of Education by March 1, 2026. The Ministry of Education provides final approval of the school year calendars.

Financial Implications:

There is an additional cost to the HWDSB when Professional Activity Days differ between co-terminus school boards. Staff from both school boards have worked together to align as many Professional Activity Days as possible to minimize increases in transportation costs.

For the 2026/2027 school year, Professional Activity days are aligned except for:

- Monday, February 1st (Secondary only);
- Monday, June 28th (Secondary only); and
- Wednesday, June 30th (both Elementary and Secondary).

The cost of these unaligned days is approximately \$55,000 for the 2026/2027 school year.

Strategic Directions:

Upholding Human Rights, Safety & Well-Being

We will support all students and staff to feel safe and secure in our classrooms and school communities.

Providing Equitable Quality Education

We will offer equitable quality educational opportunities to improve student engagement, learning and achievement for future-readiness.

Collaborating with Students, Families & Communities

We will build reciprocal relationships and partnerships to enhance access and engagement for students, families, and communities.

Building a Sustainable Education System

We will adapt to a rapidly changing world through responsible fiscal management, investing equitably in accessible and sustainable facilities, and supporting a robust workforce.

Reinforcing Indigenous Educational Wellness & Reconciliation

We will honour our commitment to Truth and Reconciliation by nurturing respectful and reciprocal relationships among Indigenous Peoples and Treaty Partners, and by cultivating intergenerational healing and wellness in a restorative education system.

School Year Calendar 2026 – 2027

Elementary

Legend ▶ **H** - Statutory Holiday **E** Scheduled Examination Day **P** Professional Activity Day **B** Board Designated Holiday Half Day



Month	Number of Instructional Days	Number of Professional Activity Days	Number of Scheduled Examination Days	1 st Week					2 nd Week					3 rd Week					4 th Week					5 th Week				
				M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F
August 2026	0	0		3 H	4	5	6	7	10	11	12	13	14	17	18	19	20	21	24	25	26	27	28	31				
September 2026	17	2			1	2 P	3 P	4	7 H	8 F	9	10	11	14	15	16	17	18	21	22	23	24	25	28	29	30		
October 2026	20	1					1	2	5	6	7	8	9	12 H	13	14	15	16	19	20	21	22	23	26 P	27	28	29	30
November 2026	20	1		2	3	4	5	6	9	10	11	12	13	16	17	18	19	20	23	24	25	26	27 P	30				
December 2026	14				1	2	3	4	7	8	9	10	11	14	15	16	17	18	21 B	22 B	23 B	24 B	25 B	28 B	29 B	30 B	31 B	
January 2027	19	1						1 B	4	5	6	7	8	11	12	13	14	15	18	19	20	21	22 P	25	26	27	28	29
February 2027	19			1	2	3	4	5	8	9	10	11	12	15 H	16	17	18	19	22	23	24	25	26					
March 2027	16			1	2	3	4	5	8	9	10	11	12	15 B	16 B	17 B	18 B	19 B	22	23	24	25	26 H	29 H	30	31		
April 2027	22						1	2	5	6	7	8	9	12	13	14	15	16	19	20	21	22	23	26	27	28	29	30
May 2027	20			3	4	5	6	7	10	11	12	13	14	17	18	19	20	21	24 H	25	26	27	28	31				
June 2027	20	2			1	2	3	4 P	7	8	9	10	11	14	15	16	17	18	21	22	23	24	25	28	29 L	30 P		
July 2027							1 H	2	5	6	7	8	9	12	13	14	15	16	19	20	21	22	23	26	27	28	29	30
TOTAL	187	7		<p>Note: The 2026-2027 calendar provides for 196 possible school days between September 1, 2026 and June 30, 2027. The school year shall include a minimum of 194 school days of which three days must be designated as professional activity days with respect to specific provincial education priorities as outlined in the Policy/Program Memoranda 151 and up to four extra days may be designated by the board as professional activity days. The remaining school days shall be instructional days. The boards may designate up to ten instructional days as examination days</p>																								

School Year Calendar 2026 - 2027

Secondary

Legend ▶ **H** - Statutory Holiday **E** Scheduled Examination Day **P** Professional Activity Day **B** Board Designated Holiday Half Day



Month	Number of Instructional Days	Number of Professional Activity Days	Number of Scheduled Examination Days	1 st Week					2 nd Week					3 rd Week					4 th Week					5 th Week				
				M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F
August 2026	0	0	0	3 H	4	5	6	7	10	11	12	13	14	17	18	19	20	21	24	25	26	27	28	31				
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October 2026	20	1	0				1	2	5	6	7	8	9	12 H	13	14	15	16	19	20	21	22	23	26 P	27	28	29	30
November 2026	21	0	0	2	3	4	5	6	9	10	11	12	13	16	17	18	19	20	23	24	25	26	27	30				
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January 2027	15	0	5					1 B	4	5	6	7	8	11	12	13	14	15	18	19	20	21	22	25	26	27	28	29
February 2027	18	1	0	1 P	2	3	4	5	8	9	10	11	12	15 H	16	17	18	19	22	23	24	25	26					
March 2027	16			1	2	3	4	5	8	9	10	11	12	15	16	17	18	19	22	23	24	25	26	29	30	31		
April 2027	21	1					1	2	5	6	7	8	9	12	13	14	15	16	19	20	21	22	23	26	27	28	29	30
May 2027	20			3	4	5	6	7	10	11	12	13	14	17	18	19	20	21	24 H	25	26	27	28	31				
June 2027	15	2	5		1	2	3	4	7	8	9	10	11	14	15	16	17	18	21	22	23	24	25	28	29	30		
July 2027							1 H	2	5	6	7	8	9	12	13	14	15	16	19	20	21	22	23	26	27	28	29	30
TOTAL	177	7	10	Note: The 2026-2027 calendar provides for 196 possible school days between September 1, 2026 and June 30, 2027. The school year shall include a minimum of 194 school days of which three days must be designated as professional activity days with respect to specific provincial education priorities as outlined in the Policy/Program Memoranda 151 and up to four extra days may be designated by the board as professional activity days. The remaining school days shall be instructional days. The boards may designate up to ten instructional days as examination days																								