



School District No. 36 (Surrey)

Superintendent's Department

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Dear Secondary Parent / Guardian,

The Surrey Board of Education is considering changes to school calendars district-wide for next year in order to assist in addressing a budget shortfall. *The board is seeking parent input before the board's public meeting on **May 28, 2009** when trustees will finalize the 2009-2010 operating budget.*

The board is proposing a common local school calendar for the entire district that would decrease the number of days of instruction by six days, while adding sufficient minutes to the rest of the school year in order to maintain current hours of instruction. A similar school calendar has already been in place in several school districts in the province including some in the metro Vancouver region. The *proposed* changes for the 2009-2010 **secondary** school calendar are as follows:

Six fewer days of instruction (with required daily or weekly increase of instructional time to make up the six days):

- One day: November 12, 2009 (Thursday after Remembrance Day)
- Five days: March 15 – 19, 2010 (the week following the provincial school calendar spring break week)

Proposed district-wide non-instructional days (or Pro-D days):

- September 28, 2009
- October 23, 2009
- November 13, 2009
- February 5, 2010
- May 7, 2010
- May 31, 2010

Proposed secondary school days in the district would be approximately 7 hours long, including:

- 320 minutes of instructional time (an increase of 11 minutes per day),
- class change times,
- one lunch break of 50 minutes (may vary slightly by school).

School office hours of at least 7.5 hours per day.

The board anticipates significant cost savings from these proposed calendar changes, as the school district currently spends more than \$100,000 each day to replace absent teaching and non-teaching staff. There will be further savings resulting from decreased energy costs (transportation, heat, light) during the six days when schools are not providing regular service.

The board is considering these changes in order to help address a \$9.3-million budget shortfall while minimizing the impact on classrooms and staff as much as possible. More information about the board's 2009-10 budget planning is available at www.sd36.bc.ca.

The Surrey Board of Education values your feedback on these proposed 2009-2010 secondary school calendar changes. You are invited to provide your comments on the district website at www.sd36.bc.ca; by email at budget09feedback@sd36.bc.ca; or by writing to: 09-10 Calendar, c/o Communication Services, 14225 – 56 Ave., Surrey, B.C., V3X 3A3.

Please see the proposed calendar overview on the opposite side of this page.

Respectfully,

Mike McKay
Superintendent of Schools

Proposed Surrey School District 2009 – 2010 secondary school calendar

DESIGNATION	2009 / 2010
Days in session	186
Minimum number of days of instruction	179
Hours of instruction (year)	954
Schools open	Tuesday, September 8
Non-instructional day	Monday, September 28
Thanksgiving Day	Monday, October 12
Non-instructional day	Friday, October 23
Remembrance Day	Wednesday, November 11
Local calendar school closure day	Thursday, November 12
Non-instructional day	Friday, November 13
Schools close for winter vacation	Friday, December 18
Winter vacation period	December 21 – January 1
Schools reopen after winter vacation	Monday, January 4
Non-instructional day	Friday, February 5
Schools close for spring vacation	Friday, March 5
Spring vacation period includes 5 local calendar closure days	March 8-19
Schools reopen after spring vacation	Monday, March 22
Good Friday	April 2
Easter Monday	April 5
Non-instructional day	May 7
Victoria Day	May 24
Non-instructional day	May 31
Administrative day	Wednesday, June 30
Schools close	Wednesday, June 30