

Garland ISD 2017-2018 Calendar FAQs

Why do we start later than other districts?

State law requires that districts start no earlier than the fourth Monday in August. The fourth Monday in August for 2017 is August 28, which is one week later than our start in 2016. Some districts have gone through the process to become a District of Innovation, which can exempt them from that state law. Our district completed that process after the 2017-18 calendar was approved. We also have many construction projects in the works at our campuses, including the opening of the new Gilbreath-Reed Career and Technical Center (GRCTC), all of which were planned with an August 28th school start date in mind when work began in 2015.

Why are school hours changing?

The state law requiring a minimum number of days of instruction has changed, and we are now required to provide 75,600 minutes of instruction for the school year. Ten minutes have been added to both the middle school and high school schedules at the end of the day to ensure we meet the 75,600 state-required minimum.

Why is elementary starting and ending the day later next year?

Elementary schools already have a longer day than district middle and high schools, so the elementary day length is not changing; however, the start and end time will be ten minutes later next year in order to accommodate transportation schedules. Buses need a minimum of 40 minutes between each level (elementary, middle and high school) to ensure they can stay on schedule. When the middle and high school end time was extended by 10 minutes, an adjustment had to be made at the elementary level.

Why have the number of days for students changed?

This year GISD students attend 177 days of school with a three-day state waiver for professional development. In 2017-2018, students will attend 175 days, based on the request from the GISD Calendar Committee (which is made up of district teachers, paraprofessionals, administrators and parents) to include days throughout the year for teachers to plan, train, review data and collaborate. Teachers will have October 13, January 2, and February 19 for those purposes in the 2017-2018 calendar.

Why is the first semester shorter than the second semester?

Because we are starting a week later than we did in 2016 due to the state law that we start no earlier than the fourth Monday in August, our first semester is shorter than our second semester. Also, based on calendar committee input, the preference was that first semester be completed before winter break.

Why is there only one bad weather make-up day this year?

We meet the required minutes for one added day of instruction; therefore, only one bad weather make-up day is needed. The calendar committee determined that it would be helpful to pair the scheduled bad weather make-up day with the Memorial Day weekend for staff to have a longer weekend versus having a day off in April when there is testing.