

**Franklin Public Schools
Franklin, Massachusetts 02038**

Action Required

Subject: 23-24 School Calendar

Date: February 14, 2023

Dept: SC

Reason: Required Vote

Enclosure: yes

Recommendation:

2023-24 School Calendar – DRAFT

I recommend approval of the 2023-24 School Calendar as discussed.

Action Requested of the School Committee:

Majority vote of the School Committee is required.

<u>Vote Tabulator</u>	
C. Bernstein: Y / N	D. McNeill: Y / N
D. Callaghan: Y / N	M. Whitmore: Y / N
Al Charles: Y / N	D Spencer: Y / N
E Stokes: Y / N	Action: _____

DRAFT Franklin Public Schools Calendar for 2023-2024

August

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
1st day for staff	PD day	1st day students		
28	29	30	31	

September

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
				No School 1
Labor Day 4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
Yom Kippur 25	26	27	28	29

October

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
2	3	4	5	6
Indigenous People Day 9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

November

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
				Q1 Ends
		1	2	3
6	PD Day 7	8	9	Veteran's Day 10
13	14	All Conf 15	All Conf 16	17
20	21	22	Thanksgiving 23	24
27	28	29	30	

December

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
Christmas Day 25	26	27	28	29

January

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
New Year's Day 1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
ML King Jr. Day 15	16	17	18	Q2 Ends 19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

February

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
President's Day 19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	

March

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
				1
4	ES/MS Conf 5	ES/MS Conf 6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	Good Friday 29

April

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
1	2	3	4	Q3 ENDS 5
8	9	10	11	12
Patriot's Day 15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			

May

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
Memorial Day 27	28	29	30	31

June

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	Juneteenth 19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

July

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
1	2	3	Independence Day 4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

KEY:

Early Release times:
ASMS & RMS: 10:45 AM
HMMS: 10:50 AM
FHS: 10:55 AM
All Elem: 11:45 AM

NO SCHOOL

Parent Conferences

Professional Dev. Day - ALL

Early Release Day

2023 – 2024 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

The Franklin Public School District is enriched by the cultural and religious diversity of its students, faculty, staff, and community. This document is prepared to promote cultural proficiency and inform our community of days in which students and staff may be participating in observances with their families. This document helps to outline what “observing” means in terms of a student’s ability to be present in school, complete work, participate in after school activities, as well as dietary and other considerations. It does not include all religious holidays observed by every faith and only includes those holidays that fall within the School Year. State and Federal law require schools to make reasonable accommodations to the religious needs of students and employees. Parents should inform teachers when observances may conflict with school activities or if a holiday is not listed.

District policy IMBB “Accommodation for Religious Observances” and policy IMDC-E "Religious Observances" describes the handling of absences and event scheduling on days which require consideration.

Please contact the Franklin Public School District with information about any religious day not listed below, for inclusion in future lists.

Holiday Observances in Massachusetts (Statewide Legal Holidays in **Bold**)

Holiday/Observance	Description	2023-2024
Labor Day	Honors the American Labor Movement	Monday, September 4
Rosh Hashanah*	Jewish New Year Observed with festive meals and temple attendance	September 15 - September 17 (Friday - Sunday)
Samvatsari	Samvatsari is the last day of Paryushana Shwetambar sect of Jainism. It falls on Shukla Panchami each year in the Jain calendar month of Bhadrapada	Tuesday September 19
Yom Kippur*	Day of Atonement Observed with 24 hour fast, refrain from work, temple attendance	September 24 - September 25 (Sunday - Monday)
Sukkot	Feast of tabernacles to celebrate the harvest and the protection of the Jewish people in the wilderness Observed with festive meals taken in the sukkah, prayers	September 30 - October 6 (Friday - Friday)
Indigenous Peoples Day	Christopher Columbus’s arrival in the Americas A day to honor native indigenous Americans and to celebrate their culture and histories	Monday, October 9
Navaratri	Navaratri is an annual Hindu festival observed in the honour of the goddess Durga. Observed with fasting, evening prayers, vegetarian meals, visiting friends and family	October 15 – October 23 (Sunday-Monday)
Dussehra	Final day of Navarati, a 10-day celebration of autumn and the goddess Durga Observed with fasting, evening prayers, vegetarian meals, visiting friends and family	Monday, October 23
Diwali	Hindu festival of lights which celebrates victory of light over darkness Observed with gift exchanges, festive meals, and fireworks	Sunday, November 12
Veterans Day	Federal holiday observed annually on November 11, for honoring military veterans - all persons who have served in the United States Armed Forces	Saturday, November 11

Thanksgiving	Federal holiday to commemorate “first” thanksgiving when the Plymouth colonists and Wampanoag Indians shared an autumn harvest In 1863 Abraham Lincoln declared a day of National Thanksgiving in November	Thursday, November 23
Hanukkah*	Jewish festival of lights which commemorates the rededication of the temple by the Maccabees Observed with celebratory meals, lighting of the menorah candles, and gift exchanges	December 7 - December 15 (Thursday - Friday)
Winter Solstice	Shortest day of the year in the northern hemisphere - considered a turning point in many cultures Observed with festivals, fires, spending time with family	Thursday, December 21
Christmas Day	Christian celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ Observed with religious ceremonies, worship, gift exchanges, family celebrations	Monday, December 25
Kwanzaa	African American and Pan-African holiday celebrating African heritage, family, community and culture Observed with festive meals, and gift exchanges	December 26- January 1 (Tuesday - Monday)
New Year’s Day	Celebration of the New Year in the Julian and Gregorian calendars	Monday, January 1
Orthodox Christmas	Celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ (date is associated with the Julian calendar). Observed with religious ceremonies, worship, gift exchanges, and celebratory meals.	Sunday, January 7
Martin Luther King Day	Federal holiday to commemorate the life and legacy of civil rights activist Martin Luther King	Monday, January 15
Chinese New Year/Lunar New Year	Pan Asian Celebration- Celebrates the beginning of a new year in the Chinese calendar Observed with family reunions, festive meals, and gift-giving	Saturday, February 10
Isra & Miraj *	Within Islam, Isra and Mi'raj, celebrated on the 27th day of the 7th month of the Muslim calendar, refers to a miraculous nighttime journey undertaken by the Prophet Muhammad, in two legs. First from Mecca to Jerusalem, and then from Jerusalem to the heavens	Saturday February 17
Ash Wednesday	Marks the beginning of the 40-day season of Lent Religious ceremony includes ashes on the forehead of observers to mark regret for past sins	Wednesday, February 14
Presidents Day	Federal Holiday to celebrate George Washington and Abraham Lincoln	Monday, February 19
Ramadan Begins*	Ninth month of the Islamic lunar year and the time in which Muslims observe 30 days of fast from sunrise to sunset Ritual evening meal to break the fast	Sunday, March 10
Holi*	Celebration of Spring and Color Observed through a festival of colors (showering of colors) and lighting of fires	March 24 - March 25 (Sunday - Monday)
Nowruz	Celebration of the Zoroastrian and Persian New Year	March 20- March 21 (Wednesday - Thursday)
Palm Sunday	Christian celebration of the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem and beginning of Holy Week Observed by worship celebrations and includes palm branches	Sunday, March 24
Good Friday	Remembrance of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ Observed solemnly with fasting, religious ceremonies, refrain from work	Friday, March 29

Easter	Celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ Observed with religious ceremonies, festive meals	Sunday, March 31
Laylat al-Qadr	The night that the first verses of the Qu'ran were revealed to the Prophet Mohammad. It is considered to be the holiest night of the year for Muslims and marks the night that the first verses of the Qur'an were revealed to the Prophet Mohammed.	Saturday April 6
Eid al-Fitr* Ramadan Ends	Conclusion of Ramadan Celebrated prayers and feasting to break the fast	April 9 - April 10 Tuesday - Wednesday
Patriots Day	State-wide holiday to commemorate the first battles of the American Revolutionary War	Monday, April 15
Passover*	Celebration of the delivery of Jewish people from slavery in Egypt Observed with festive ritual family meals; only consume unleavened grains	April 22 – April 30 (Monday - Tuesday)
Orthodox Good Friday	Remembrance of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ Observed solemnly with fasting, religious ceremonies, refrain from work	Friday, May 3
Orthodox Easter	Celebration of resurrection of Jesus Christ Observed solemnly with fasting, religious ceremonies, refrain from work	Sunday, May 5
Buddha Day	One of the most important Buddhist days which celebrates the birthday of the Buddha Observed by religious ceremonies at the Temple and meditation	Wednesday, May 15
Vesak	Vesak, also known as Buddha Jayanti, Buddha Purnima and Buddha Day. The festival commemorates the birth, enlightenment, and death of Gautama Buddha in Theravada, Tibetan Buddhism and Navayana	Thursday May 23
Memorial Day	Federal holiday to honor the military personnel who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces.	Monday, May 27
Shavuot*	Jewish celebration of Moses' descent from Mt Sinai with the ten commandments. Plants and flowers are used in decorations	June 11 - June 13 (Tuesday - Thursday)
Eid Ul Adha	Holiday which celebrates Ibrahim's devotion to Allah through his willingness to sacrifice his son Ismail.	June 16 - June 17 (Sunday - Monday)
Juneteenth	Federal holiday to celebrate the emancipation of African American slaves.	Wednesday, June 19

* all observances begin at sundown

Please note, observant Jews celebrate the second, seventh, eighth days of Passover; the second, eighth, and ninth days of Sukkot; and two days of Shavuot (Mass Lawyers Diary Manual)

IMBB - Accommodation for Religious Observances

Any student in an educational or vocational training institution, who is unable, because of his religious beliefs, to attend classes or to participate in any examination, study or work requirement on a particular day shall be excused from any examination or study or work requirement, and shall be provided with any opportunity to make up such examination, study or work requirement which he may have missed because of such absence on any particular day; provided, however, that such makeup examination or work shall not create an unreasonable burden upon such school. No fees of any kind shall be charged by the institution for making available to the said student such opportunity. No adverse or prejudicial effects shall result to any student because of his availing himself of the provisions of this section.

Schools may meet their obligation to accommodate students by excusing individual absences for religious observance, or by adjusting the school calendar to provide the 180-day minimum school year while taking into account possible days of low attendance due to religious holidays.

LEGAL REF.: M.G.L. 151C:2B

Reviewed; no revisions: 6/8/16

IMDC-E - Religious Observances

1. Students may be granted excused absences when the school schedule conflicts with religious holidays. A student may be required to submit written notification. A student should not suffer adverse or prejudicial consequences from an excused absence; should be allowed a reasonable opportunity to make up work missed due to the absence; will not be subject to penalty scholastically nor to attendance records due to absences incurred due to religious observances. A sincere attempt will be made not to schedule assemblies, tests, and other special school events on religious holidays.
2. It is constitutional to teach about religion in the public schools. Teaching about religion must be clearly distinguished from teaching religion, which amounts to religious indoctrination and practice, which is clearly prohibited in public schools.
3. Religion may be presented as part of a secular educational program, with the goal of teaching students about the role of religion in the historical, cultural, economic, and social development of the United States and other nations and instilling understanding, tolerance, and respect for a pluralistic society. Religion must be discussed in a neutral, objective, balanced, and factual manner. The curricula approached may not be devotional or doctrinal nor have the effect of promoting religion.
4. Any discussion of religion should be very sensitive to the beliefs of the different students in the class. Staff should make every effort so that no student will feel that his or her own beliefs or practices are being questioned, infringed upon, or compromised. A student should never be ostracized.
5. If religion is addressed, great care must be taken to discuss and address minority as well as majority religion.
6. Students may be excused from classes to which they object on religious grounds. Alternative independent study projects should be developed in cases when this occurs.
7. Holidays: Teaching about holidays with both a religious and secular basis may be constitutional if it furthers a genuine secular program of education, is presented objectively, and does not have the effect of advancing or inhibiting religion.
8. Music, art, literature, and drama with religious themes may be included in teaching about holidays, provided they are presented in a religiously neutral, prudent, and objective manner, and relate to sound secular educational goals.
9. Religious music or drama may be included in school events which are part of a secular program of education. The content of school assemblies, concerts, and programs must be primarily secular, objective, and educational, and not focus on any one religion or religious observance. Such events must not promote or denigrate any particular religion, serve as a religious celebration, or become a forum for religious devotion. Student participation should be voluntary.
10. The school staff must be sensitive to "inclusion" not "exclusion" of students holding diverse religious viewpoints.
11. Students may express their religious beliefs in the form of reports, homework, and artwork and such expressions are constitutionally protected. Teachers may not reject or correct such submissions simply because they include a religious symbol or address religious themes.

Reviewed; no revisions: 6/8/16

Hopkinton – Closed for Diwali, Lunar New Year, Eid al Fitr

Shrewsbury – no changes

Acton Boxborough – Closed for Eid al Fitr

Chelmsford – no changes

Wellesley – no changes

Northborough / Southborough – no changes

Brookline – Closed Lunar New Year

Andover – no changes

Framingham – no changes

Sharon – no changes

Westborough – Diwali is a PD Day, not an observed holiday

*In original request email it was stated Andover, Framingham, Hopkinton, Sharon and Westboro observe Diwali – which is why these are on the list.

Also included other school districts who have begun/completed a calendar review to include/change holidays