

SJUSD/SJTA Joint Bargaining Subcommittee: Instructional Calendar

The joint subcommittee makes the following recommendation (see attached) for the Instructional Calendar for the 2009-2010, 2010-2011, and 2011-2012 school years, pending Board of Education approval on February 12, 2009. The calendars will be co-terminus with the length of the successor agreement.

This recommendation is based on the following rationale:

- 1) Aligns with the Board of Education Strategic Plan
- 2) Builds in as many 5-day instructional weeks as possible to optimize instruction and attendance: 31- 5-day instructional weeks compared to current 23. This allows for greater ease in planning and pacing elementary reading development units. Allows for the ability to build simple to complex skills or subject matter within a set five-day period with fewer exceptions.
- 3) The fixed timing of breaks in December, February, and April meets the needs and desires of all the stakeholders. This also paces instruction more consistently throughout the school year. Spring Break is a set week in April and not tied to a religious holiday. The set week allows parents and staff the opportunity to plan in advance for vacations, allowing them to be more economical. The President's Week Holiday does not affect CST testing as testing is at a set point of the percentage of student academic days. This also addresses the two highest absence days, with the resulting loss of ADA, on the Friday before and Wednesday after the current President's Day Break.
- 4) These instructional calendars balance the instructional needs of all levels: elementary, middle, and high. It still allows for a total of three (3) Inservice and three (3) Staff Development Days during the school year.
- 5) The earlier start/end dates and ending semester before the Winter Holiday Break allows for three 6-week grading periods each semester for middle and high school, with an extra week second semester to allow for the CST testing window. Students have a more continuous learning period, and it allows families more quality time over the Winter/Holiday break as there is less stress related to studying and completing projects over the break. With this calendar, high school students have better access to local community college summer sessions, and the calendar more closely mirrors college, better preparing our students for university rigor.