

March 12, 2009

TO: School District Administrators

FROM: Division of Administration and Finance

SUBJECT: Recommended Student Calendars for 2009-10 and 2010-11

The Administration Advisory Committee composed of 9 district superintendents in Kern County has adopted recommended student calendars for 2009-10 and 2010-11. The calendars are similar to the one widely used in 2008-09. Instruction is scheduled to begin two weeks prior to Labor Day and will conclude the first term prior to the winter break/Christmas vacation. The second term will consist of eighteen student attendance days more than the first, many of which will be used in test administration. There is a greater difference in number of student days between semesters in these calendars than previous ones due to the later start in August.

In compliance with California Department of Education requirements, both calendars display 182 possible student attendance days. If no scheduled attendance days are cancelled during the year, 180 days of instruction would be completed on June 2 in 2010 and June 1 in 2011. **The State Superintendent requires the scheduling of extra student attendance days if he is asked to approve waivers for excessive cancellations.**

The calendars observe legal holidays in conformity with Education Code section 37220. The observance of Lincoln's birthday is scheduled for the Monday of the week in which February 12 occurs. Spring break/Easter vacation is scheduled for the week prior to Easter Sunday. Each district will, of course, make final determinations as to how local holidays will be implemented in its district, ensuring that any contractual obligations to confer with employee groups over work calendars are satisfied. There is increasing diversity in vacation observances. 34 districts now extend Spring break through at least the Monday following Easter Sunday. 20 districts have extended the Thanksgiving recess. These extended vacations are viewed by some administrators and school boards as having a dual advantage – reducing the number of high absentee days and driving the school year into at least one day in June.

For attendance recording purposes, the winter break/Christmas vacation (regardless of its duration) may be excluded from the calendar. This allows many districts to incorporate the student attendance year in 10 instead of 11 months (E.C. 37201). All other student attendance days and non-attendance days must be shown.

There are obvious advantages for families when high school districts and feeder elementary districts coordinate calendars, although differences in length of vacations do exist as previously noted. **Following adoption of calendars by your school board, please file a copy of that calendar with District Advisory Services, attention Karen Brown, as soon as possible. There is great public demand for this information.**

At the direction of the Administrative Advisory committee, draft calendars through 2014-15 are being provided. This is done so that you will be able to calculate final teacher workdays in each calendar cycle. STRS has confirmed that regardless of the number of teacher salary payments, retirement contributions shall mirror the number of months in which pay was earned. Therefore, if the teacher work year begins in August and is completed in May, retirement payments to STRS will be contained in 10 payments. If teacher work days extend into June, STRS payments may be 11 in number, although STRS will accept 10 payments. For these, as well as ADA reasons, districts are re-evaluating the number of non-student attendance days observed within the calendar.

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