



## Standing Committee Meeting

Monday, February 10, 2025

Trustee Board Room

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board

20 Education Court, P.O. Box 2558

Hamilton, ON L8N 3L1

### **AGENDA: Immediately following Board Meeting**

1. Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement
2. Meeting Roll Call
3. Approval of the Agenda
4. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

Reports from Staff:

5. [School Year Calendars 2025-2026](#)

6. Adjournment



## Standing Committee

Monday, February 10, 2025

### 2025-2026 Draft School Year Calendars

Submitted by: Sheryl Robinson Petrazzini, Director of Education

Prepared by: Simon Goodacre, Superintendent of Equity and Student Achievement

#### Recommendation:

That the Draft 2025-2026 School Year Calendars be approved for submission to the Ministry of Education.

#### Background:

The 2025-26 School Year Calendars ([Appendix A and B](#)) are prepared in consultation with the School Year Calendar Advisory Committee, the public, the co-terminus school board, and neighbouring school boards, and are endorsed by Executive Council. The calendars meet all Ministry requirements. Specifically, the calendars comply with Ontario Regulation 304, School Year Calendars, and Professional Activity (PA) Days.

O. Reg. 304, School Year Calendar, Professional Activity (PA) Days sets the requirements for preparation and submission of school year calendars to the Ministry. This includes a minimum of 194 school days between September 1 and June 30. In addition, Boards may designate up to seven (7) PA days and up to ten (10) examination days which leaves 187 instructional days.

O. Reg 304 (4) also establishes holidays for the school year. The following chart outlines the holidays for the 2025-2026 school year aligned with this regulation.

Holidays as determined by Reg. 304	2025-26 School Year
Labour Day	September 1, 2025
Thanksgiving Day	October 13, 2025
Winter Break	December 22, 2025 – January 2, 2026
Family day	February 16, 2026
Mid-Winter Break	March 16 to March 20, 2026
Good Friday	April 3, 2026
Easter Monday	April 6, 2026
Victoria Day	May 18, 2026

The School Year Calendar Advisory Committee met on October 1<sup>st</sup>, November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024, and January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025, to review and provide feedback for consideration in the development of the 2025-2026 School Year Calendar. The School Year Calendar Advisory Committee consists of members representing: Elementary and Secondary Principals (HWPC); Elementary and Secondary Teachers (HWETL, OSSTF, HWOTL), English as a Second Language Instructors (ESL); Parents (Parent Involvement Committee, Home & School Association); Educational Assistants, Child and Youth Practitioners (COPE), Early Childhood Educators (HWDECEL), School Office and Technical Workers (OCTU), Maintenance and Caretaking staff (CUPE) and Professional Student Services Personnel (PSSP).

As directed by the Board of Trustees, public consultation took place from December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024, and January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025, to receive community feedback regarding the draft calendars. The consultation involved both an online survey as well as the EngageHWDSB online platform. To support visibility and participation, the survey was promoted through the Student Senate, School Councils, and the Parent Involvement Committee; individual schools were also asked to promote the consultation in school newsletters. A School Messenger notification was sent to all families regarding the consultation.

The Draft 2025-2026 Elementary School Year Calendar has been updated to reflect current updates regarding the Provincial election.

### Consultation Report

During the consultation period, 1700 individuals visited the EngageHWDSB consultation site. In total, 956 responses were received from parents/guardians/ caregivers (94%), HWDSB employees (5%), students (1%) and the community (<1%). The results were compiled by the HWDSB Research & Analytics Department and are available for review ([Appendix C](#)).

Overall, there was support for the proposed draft calendar. Most respondents indicated they prefer a Professional Activity Day (PA Day) on the first day of school.

### **Financial Implications**

There is an additional cost to the HWDSB when Professional Activity Days differ between co-terminus school boards. Consultation between co-terminus boards occurs to align as many Professional Activity Days as possible.

For the 2025/2026 school year, Professional Activity days are aligned except: Wednesday January 28<sup>th</sup> (Secondary only), Wednesday June 24<sup>th</sup> (Secondary only), Friday June 26<sup>th</sup> (both Elementary and Secondary). The cost of these unaligned days is approximately \$50,000 for the 2025/2026 school year.

Key Dates:

## Elementary

First day of instruction for students	Tuesday September 2, 2025
Last day of instruction for students	Thursday June 25, 2026

## Secondary

Semester 1	
First day of instruction for students	Tuesday September 2, 2025
Last day of instruction for students	Tuesday January 13, 2026
Examination Dates	Wednesday, January 21 – Tuesday, January 27, 2026
Semester 2	
First day of instruction for students	Friday, January 30, 2026
Last day of instruction for students	Thursday, June 25, 2026
Examination Dates	Wednesday June 17 – Tuesday June 23, 2026

Professional Activity (PA) Days:

School boards must dedicate three (3) PA days to provincial education priorities and may provide up to four (4) additional PA days per school year.

Dates for Professional Activity (PA) days have been determined to prioritize timely professional learning opportunities that adhere to provincial requirements, including the completion of any required programs and legislated training.

For the 2025-26 school year, the Ministry of Education has not yet provided information regarding the topics for the required Ministry priority Professional Activity Days. We anticipate receiving further information this spring.

PA days will also focus on learning related to school improvement. Educators will engage in professional learning at the beginning, middle and end of the school year to review student data, complete reporting, identify student needs and skill gaps, as well as plan for purposeful instruction to address these needs. Continued learning about human rights, anti-racism, anti-oppression and Indigenous Education will be integrated across all professional learning.

Summary of Professional Activity Days in Elementary and Secondary (2025-2026)

<b>ELEMENTARY</b>	<b>FOCUS</b>	<b>SECONDARY</b>	<b>FOCUS</b>
Friday, September 19	<b>Ministry Priority Day</b>	Friday September 19	<b>Ministry Priority Day</b>
Monday, October 20	<b>Ministry Priority Day</b>	Monday, October 20	<b>Ministry Priority Day</b>
Friday, November 21	Student Progress Reporting (Interview Day)	Friday, November 21	School Improvement Planning
Friday, January 23	Assessment, Evaluation & Reporting	Wednesday, January 28*	Semester Turnaround and Student Success Planning
Friday, March 6	<b>Ministry Priority Day</b>	Friday, March 6	<b>Ministry Priority Day</b>
Friday, June 5 (updated date)	Assessment, Evaluation & Reporting	Wednesday, June 24*	Semester Turnaround and Student Success Planning
Friday, June 26*	School Improvement Planning	Friday, June 26*	School Improvement Planning

**Bold** topics are Ministry required.

All PA dates currently align with the draft HWCDSB school year calendar except for those indicated with an asterisk \*

# Ministry of Education School Year Calendar 2025 – 2026 (Elem)

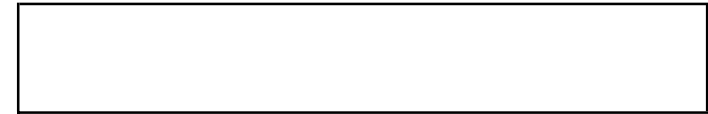
**Legend** ↓ **H-** Statutory Holiday    **E** Scheduled Examination Day    **P** Professional Activity Day    **B-** Board Designated Holiday    Half Day



Month	Number of Instructional Days	Number of Professional Activity Days	Number of Scheduled Examination Days	1 <sup>st</sup> Week					2 <sup>nd</sup> Week					3 <sup>rd</sup> Week					4 <sup>th</sup> Week					5 <sup>th</sup> Week									
				M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F					
August 2025								1	4	5	6	7	8	11	12	13	14	15	18	19	20	21	22	25	26	27	28	29					
September 2025	20	1		1	2	3	4	5	8	9	10	11	12	15	16	17	18	19	22	23	24	25	26	29	30								
October 2025	21	1				1	2	3	6	7	8	9	10	13	14	15	16	17	20	21	22	23	24	27	28	29	30	31					
November 2025	19	1		3	4	5	6	7	10	11	12	13	14	17	18	19	20	21	24	25	26	27	28										
December 2025	15			1	2	3	4	5	8	9	10	11	12	15	16	17	18	19	22	23	24	25	26	29	30	31							
January 2026	19	1					1	2	5	6	7	8	9	12	13	14	15	16	19	20	21	22	23	26	27	28	29	30					
February 2026	19			2	3	4	5	6	9	10	11	12	13	16	17	18	19	20	23	24	25	26	27										
March 2026	16	1		2	3	4	5	6	9	10	11	12	13	16	17	18	19	20	23	24	25	26	27	30	31								
April 2026	20					1	2	3	6	7	8	9	10	13	14	15	16	17	20	21	22	23	24	27	28	29	30						
May 2026	20							1	4	5	6	7	8	11	12	13	14	15	18	19	20	21	22	25	26	27	28	29					
June 2026	18	2		1	2	3	4	5	8	9	10	11	12	15	16	17	18	19	22	23	24	25	26	29	30								
July 2026						1	2	3	6	7	8	9	10	13	14	15	16	17	20	21	22	23	24	27	28	29	30	31					
<b>TOTAL</b>	187	7		<b>Note:</b> The 2025-2026 calendar provides for 196 possible school days between September 1, 2025 and June 30, 2026. The school year shall include a minimum of 194 school days of which three days must be designated as professional activity days with respect to specific provincial education priorities as outlined in the Policy/Program Memoranda 151 and up to four extra days may be designated by the board as professional activity days. The remaining school days shall be instructional days. The boards may designate up to ten instructional days as examination days																													

# School Year Calendar 2025 – 2026 (Sec)

**Legend** ↓ **H-** Statutory Holiday    **E-** Scheduled Examination Day    **P-** Professional Activity Day    **B-** Board Designated Holiday    Half Day



Month	Number of Instructional Days	Number of Professional Activity Days	Number of Scheduled Examination Days	1 <sup>st</sup> Week					2 <sup>nd</sup> Week					3 <sup>rd</sup> Week					4 <sup>th</sup> Week					5 <sup>th</sup> Week									
				M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F					
August 2025								1	4	5	6	7	8	11	12	13	14	15	18	19	20	21	22	25	26	27	28	29					
September 2025	20	1		1	2	3	4	5	8	9	10	11	12	15	16	17	18	19	22	23	24	25	26	29	30								
October 2025	21	1				1	2	3	6	7	8	9	10	13	14	15	16	17	20	21	22	23	24	27	28	29	30	31					
November 2025	19	1		3	4	5	6	7	10	11	12	13	14	17	18	19	20	21	24	25	26	27	28										
December 2025	15			1	2	3	4	5	8	9	10	11	12	15	16	17	18	19	22	23	24	25	26	29	30	31							
January 2026	14	1	5				1	2	5	6	7	8	9	12	13	14	15	16	19	20	21	22	23	26	27	28	29	30					
February 2026	19			2	3	4	5	6	9	10	11	12	13	16	17	18	19	20	23	24	25	26	27										
March 2026	16	1		2	3	4	5	6	9	10	11	12	13	16	17	18	19	20	23	24	25	26	27	30	31								
April 2026	20					1	2	3	6	7	8	9	10	13	14	15	16	17	20	21	22	23	24	27	28	29	30						
May 2026	20							1	4	5	6	7	8	11	12	13	14	15	18	19	20	21	22	25	26	27	28	29					
June 2026	13	2	5	1	2	3	4	5	8	9	10	11	12	15	16	17	18	19	22	23	24	25	26	29	30								
July 2026						1	2	3	6	7	8	9	10	13	14	15	16	17	20	21	22	23	24	27	28	29	30	31					
<b>TOTAL</b>	177	7	10	<p><b>Note:</b> The 2025-2026 calendar provides for 196 possible school days between September 1, 2025 and June 30, 2026. The school year shall include a minimum of 194 school days of which three days must be designated as professional activity days with respect to specific provincial education priorities as outlined in the Policy/Program Memoranda 151 and up to four extra days may be designated by the board as professional activity days. The remaining school days shall be instructional days. The boards may designate up to ten instructional days as examination days</p>																													

## Purpose of Consultation

Every year, school boards across Ontario must submit school year calendars to the Ministry of Education for approval. According to Regulation 304, school board calendars for elementary and secondary schools must include 194 school days (including up to seven Professional Activity Days) between September 1 and June 30, with up to 10 days designated as examination days for secondary schools.

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB) asked members of the public to comment on the Draft 2025-2026 School Year Elementary and Secondary Calendars through the completion of an online survey and the EngageHWDSB platform. The consultation ran from December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024, until January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025, and garnered a total of 962 responses. The survey asked respondents:

- a) whether or not they agree with the proposed dates in the elementary and secondary calendars, and
- b) to comment on each of the key dates.

The EngageHWDSB calendar project was visited by approximately 1,700 people. On the site, visitors were able to access draft versions of the elementary and secondary calendars, and to provide additional feedback on the proposed dates. The calendars were downloaded 601 times (elementary: 437; secondary: 164).

## Respondent Characteristics

The largest number of responses came from parents/guardians (n = 902, 94%), while 5% (n = 44) identified themselves as HWDSB staff members, 1% (n = 9) came from HWDSB students, and less than 1% (n = 3) came from community groups/members.

919 respondents (97% of those who answered) indicated they had children attending an HWDSB school, whereas 27 responses (3%) were from respondents who indicated they did not have children in an HWDSB school. 16 respondents did not provide an answer to this question.

When asked which calendar they would like to provide feedback on, 76% (n = 731) indicated elementary. 24% (n = 225) indicated secondary.

Of note, the demographic makeup of respondents has shifted dramatically over the past four years. Whereas in the consultations for the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 calendars the number of respondents who identified themselves as HWDSB staff was over 30% (31% and 44% respectively), that number dropped to 9% for the 2024-2025 consultation, and dropped further this year – to 5%.

The number of respondents for this year's consultation also dropped significantly from last year's highwater mark of over 2300 but returned to a level similar to prior years.



## Summary of Findings

*In keeping with principles of equality, equity, and non-discrimination, we have examined the consultation responses through an equity lens. From this perspective, our findings elevate voices that might otherwise be overwhelmed by a statistical majority.*

### Elementary

Members of the public were invited to indicate whether they agreed or disagreed with key dates in the draft Elementary School Year Calendar. The following is a summary of the feedback:

*Table 1. Results for Elementary Calendar Dates*

	<b>Total # of responses</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>
Start date for students: <b>September 2, 2025</b>	708	79% (n = 562)	21% (n = 146)
End Date for students: <b>June 25, 2026</b>	705	90% (n = 632)	10% (n = 73)
PA Day 1: <b>September 19, 2025</b> – Ministry Priority Day	692	74% (n = 515)	26% (n = 177)
PA Day 2: <b>October 20, 2025</b> – Ministry Priority Day (Placement recommended by the Ministry due to a possible election.)	697	74% (n = 519)	26% (n = 178)
PA Day 3: <b>November 21, 2025</b> – Family, Caregiver, Guardian Interviews	696	97% (n = 676)	3% (n = 20)
PA Day 4: <b>January 23, 2026</b> – Assessment, Evaluation, and Reporting	691	94% (n = 647)	6% (n = 44)
PA Day 5: <b>March 6, 2026</b> – Ministry Priority Day	693	75% (n = 518)	25% (n = 175)
PA Day 6: <b>June 4, 2026</b> – Assessment, Evaluation, and Reporting (Placement recommended by the Ministry due to a possible election).	696	74% (n = 515)	26% (n = 181)
PA Day 7: <b>June 26, 2026</b> – School Improvement Planning	696	89% (n = 619)	11% (n = 77)

## Elementary Calendar Comments

Members of the public were further invited to offer comments regarding each of the key dates in the Elementary Calendar.

The proposed **Start Date (September 2)** for students generated considerable feedback. Although most respondents agreed with the proposed date, of the minority (21%) in disagreement, most wanted to see the start date pushed later, with many suggesting that it would ease the transition back to school.

There are similarities between the comments relating to the proposed elementary start date and **PA Day 1 (September 19)**. While a majority of respondents agreed with these two dates, many in disagreement suggested September 3<sup>rd</sup> should be the start date, wishing to move PA Day 1 to September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Respondents cited that moving PA Day 1 before the first day of school would allow staff to prepare. Numerous other respondents disagreeing with the proposed scheduling of PA Day 1 argued that it is too early in the school year, and that it would be disruptive rather than beneficial. Some suggested moving the day adjacent to Thanksgiving or to use it later for school reorganization.

There is an interesting point of comparison between reactions to the proposed elementary start date from this year and last. Last year, while also a minority of the total respondents, those who indicated that they disagreed with the proposed start date (the day after a PA Day) were mainly concerned with childcare and difficulties for working parents. Similarly, numerous respondents this year voiced their approval for the September 2025 start date, citing that it is easier on families not to begin the year with a PA Day.

The Ministry of Education recommended the placement of **PA Day 2 (October 20)** and **PA Day 6 (June 6)** due to the possibility of elections being held on those dates. Roughly three quarters of respondents (74%) agreed with the proposed scheduling, but both dates received common criticism. The most frequently occurring comments regarding both dates maintain that PA Days should be consistently scheduled on Fridays, with many respondents highlighting scheduling and childcare difficulties faced by families.

The second most frequently occurring opinion regarding **PA Day 2** holds that its proposed placement is too close to Thanksgiving, creating two short weeks for students and childcare concerns for families. Numerous other respondents commented that they would like PA Day 2 to be attached to the Thanksgiving weekend to extend the break, while others suggested an October/November PA day should fall the day after Halloween. Additional comments regarding **PA Day 6** argued that its placement is too close to the end of the year or that there are too many PA days in June.

Of note, some respondents cast doubt on the probability elections would be called for on the dates put forward by the Ministry and questioned whether the PA days would be rescheduled.

**PA Days 3 (November 21)** and **4 (January 23)** had high approval ratings (97% and 94% respectively) and garnered the least number of respondent comments. Some respondents commenting on student progress reports expressed a desire that

they be completed earlier in the year and that there be options for families to attend teacher interviews – in the evening or online. The most frequent comments relating to **PA Day 4** argue that its proposed placement follows too closely after the Winter Break.

Comments on the proposed date for **PA Day 5 (March 6)** were mixed. Numerous respondents commented that they would like to see the PA day attached to March Break, with others suggesting it be adjacent to Family Day; however, many more respondents argued that a PA day should not be scheduled close to March Break.

Like PA Day 1 and the elementary Start Date, comments relating to **PA Day 7 (June 26)** and the proposed elementary **End Date (June 25)** were related. Reaction to both proposed dates was largely supportive (89% or higher); however, a main point of feedback was that the school year should end on June 26<sup>th</sup> so students can attend until the end of the week. Multiple parents commented that moving the PA day to the following week would make childcare arrangements and planning easier.

## Secondary

Members of the public were invited to indicate whether they agreed or disagreed with key dates in the draft Secondary School Year Calendar. The following is a summary of the feedback:

Table 2. Results for Secondary Calendar Dates

	Total # of responses	Agree	Disagree
Semester 1 Start Date for students: <b>September 2, 2025</b>	215	79% (n = 170)	21% (n = 45)
Semester 1 End Date for students: <b>January 29, 2026</b>	216	88% (n = 190)	12% (n = 26)
Semester 1 Exam Days: <b>January 21, 22, 23, 26, 27, 2026</b>	214	93% (n = 198)	7% (n = 16)
PA Day 1: <b>September 19, 2025 – Ministry Priority Day</b>	212	80% (n = 169)	20% (n = 43)
PA Day 2: <b>October 20, 2025 – Ministry Priority Day (Placement recommended by the Ministry due to a possible election.)</b>	215	80% (n = 173)	20% (n = 42)
PA Day 3: <b>November 21, 2025 – School Improvement Planning</b>	212	95% (n = 202)	5% (n = 10)
PA Day 4: <b>January 28, 2026 – Semester Turnaround and Student Success Planning</b>	214	86% (n = 184)	14% (n = 30)

Semester 2 Start Date for Students: <b>January 30, 2026</b>	191	70% (n = 133)	30% (n = 58)
Semester 2 End Date for Students: <b>June 25, 2026</b>	191	90% (n = 171)	10% (n = 20)
Semester 2 Exam Days: <b>June 17, 18, 19, 22, 23, 2026</b>	190	95% (n = 180)	5% (n = 10)
PA Day 5: <b>March 6, 2026</b> – Ministry Priority Day	186	78% (n = 146)	22% (n = 40)
PA Day 6: <b>June 24, 2026</b> – Semester Turnaround and Student Success Planning	188	87% (n = 163)	13% (n = 25)
PA Day 7: <b>June 26, 2026</b> – School Improvement Planning	190	92% (n = 175)	8% (n = 15)

## Secondary Calendar Comments

In keeping with the trend from prior years, response numbers for the Secondary Calendar were considerably lower than those for the Elementary Calendar; however, there were some commonalities.

Although a minority of total respondents, of those commenting on the **Semester 1 Start Date (September 2)**, nearly half wanted the school year to begin on September 3<sup>rd</sup> for students, with many suggesting that **PA Day 1 (September 19)** be scheduled before the first day of classes to ease the transition. Others, not specifically referring to a PA day before the first day, maintained that the start date is too early. Of respondents commenting directly on the proposed scheduling of the September 19<sup>th</sup> PA day, nearly half remarked that the timing is too early in the year – that students will have just returned to classes.

Similar to comments on the Elementary Calendar, some respondents commenting on **PA Day 2 (October 20)** argued that the proposed date is too close to Thanksgiving, with a small number suggesting an October/November PA day should be scheduled for the day after Halloween. Like comments on the Elementary Calendar, some respondents cast doubt on the probability an election would be called for on the date put forward by the Ministry and questioned whether the PA day would be rescheduled. A small number suggested that schools not be used as polling sites.

The remaining Semester 1 dates (**Semester 1 End Date, Semester 1 Exam Days, PA Day 3, PA Day 4**) received high approval levels – near or above 90%. The majority of those commenting on the end date held that Semester 1 should end on January 30<sup>th</sup> to complete the week, with some suggesting the proposed end date will be a waste of an instructional day. A small number of respondents suggested that the Semester 1 exams all be scheduled in one week, or positioned two before the weekend, and two after.

The proposed placement of **PA Day 4 (January 28)** was approved by 86% of respondents; however, of those who provided feedback, a majority commented that it should be scheduled on the Friday of the week so that students could have a Monday start for Semester 2. These comments correlate with respondent criticism of the proposed **Semester 2 Start Date for Students (January 30)**. Ninety-five percent of respondents who commented on the Semester 2 start date questioned the logic of the Friday date and/or suggested that the semester start on the Monday.

There was not a considerable amount of feedback on Semester 2 dates apart from the Start Date and **PA Day 5 (March 6)**, which garnered a mixed response. Some respondents suggested placing PA day 5 adjacent to March Break, while a smaller number argued that the proposed scheduling is too close to the break.

A relatively small number of respondents commented on **PA Days 6 (June 24)** and **7 (June 26)**, and the **Semester 2 End Date for Students (June 25)**; however, the comments were related. Respondents expressed confusion about the purpose and timing of PA Day 6 and why/whether students would attend school on the 25<sup>th</sup> if an instructional day were to fall between two PA days.

## Additional Comments

Finally, the public was invited to enter general comments about the draft Elementary and Secondary calendars. There are several points of overlap between the most frequently addressed topics in the open-ended comments and the responses to the individual dates above. This feedback again was mixed. Respondents addressed the school start date for students and advocated for the consistent scheduling of PA days (on Fridays); some suggested creating a more balanced calendar and spreading PA days out more evenly; others would like to see PA days adjacent to other holidays/breaks.

Respondents also used this opportunity to bring up concerns not covered previously in the questions we posed. Multiple individuals used the open-ended responses to indicate their support for the proposed calendars. Some respondents wanted to see the elementary and secondary calendars aligned so PA days fall on the same days across the Board, or be aligned with other school boards. Respondents also suggested that PA days be coordinated with community resources and childcare provider training days to help ensure childcare coverage for families. Numerous respondents commented that the calendar should consider and align with prominent non-Christian holidays and days of significance to be inclusive of students and staff.

Linking calendar planning with daily schedules, a number of respondents commented on daily start times for secondary schools arguing that students would benefit from later bell times. With respect to school processes, some respondents suggested that school re-organization falls too late in the school year and that student success planning should also occur earlier. A number of other respondents argued that the school year should not be shortened with PA days and/or that the number of scheduled PA days is excessive.

## Conclusion

As in past years, the dates proposed in the draft calendars were supported by a majority of respondents but produced mixed feedback from those commenting on the specific dates. As examples, the student start date draws criticism depending on its placement – some parents object to a mid-week start because of childcare concerns, while others favour an early PA day to ease the transition back to school. We also see mixed responses regarding the secondary start date for Semester 2 and placing PA days in months with other breaks/holidays. Families citing childcare concerns prefer placing PA days away from other school breaks, while others would welcome extended breaks by attaching PA days to long weekends and March Break etc. The Ministry of Education’s suggested placement of two PA days to accommodate possible elections was unique this year, with many respondents commenting that PA days should be scheduled on Fridays. Of note, at the time of writing, it appears likely that an Ontario election will be called on January 29<sup>th</sup>, which would change considerations regarding the dates suggested by the Ministry.