

# IMPORTANT DISTRICT 211 CALENDAR DATES FOR 2016-2017 ACADEMIC YEAR



In order to maximize the value of each instructional day, District 211 adopted a collegiate-style calendar, which will take effect after a shortened summer with the 2016-2017 school year.

With the new calendar, first semester, including final exams, will end in December before students leave for winter break, and the school year will conclude, including final exams, prior to Memorial Day. The 2016-2017 school year begins with two teacher institute days on August 11 and 12. The first day of student attendance is Monday, August 15. The last day of school is May 26, 2017.

During the summer, IHSA football practice will begin on August 8, and IHSA fall sports practice begins on Wednesday, August 10. Some District-wide events include Parent Open House on September 1, 2016; First Generation College Night on September 14, 2016; College Night on October 19, 2016; and Realtors Against Homelessness (RAH) Event on November 3, 2016. Additionally, the District 211 Foundation Fun(d) Run will take place on Sunday, October 16, 2016.

As in previous years, the Board of Education has approved 12 Student Late Start Days in order to allow time for staff collaboration and sharing of best practices. Student Late Start Days will be in effect on the following dates: August 23, 2016; September 6, 2016; September 20, 2016; October 4, 2016; October 18, 2016; November 1, 2016; November 15, 2016; January 24, 2017; February 7, 2017; February 21, 2017; March 7, 2017; and March 21, 2017. More information on [Student Late Start Days](#) can be found on the District 211 website.

Final exams for fall semester will take place on December 21, 22, and 23, 2016, with the last day of school for first semester being Friday, December 23, 2016. Spring semester finals will take place May 24, 25, and 26, with the last day of school for the 2016-2017 school year being Friday, May 26, 2017, prior to the Memorial Day holiday weekend.

The following holidays will be observed during the 2016-2017 school year, with no school on these days:

- Labor Day – September 5, 2016

- Non-Attendance Day – November 23
- Thanksgiving – November 24
- Thanksgiving Holiday – November 25
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day – January 16, 2017
- Presidents’ Day – February 20, 2017
- Non-Attendance Day – April 14, 2017

On Monday, October 10, 2016, Columbus Day holiday, students will not be in attendance as a Teacher Institute Day is scheduled for staff.

Winter vacation begins at the close of the school day (final exams) on Friday, December 23, 2016, and school resumes following vacation on Tuesday, January 10, 2017, with a Teacher Institute Day scheduled for Monday, January 9, 2017. Spring vacation begins at the close of the school day on Friday, March 24, 2017 and resumes following vacation on Monday, April 3, 2017.

May 30 through June 5 will serve as emergency days in the event District schools are closed for six or more student attendance days.

For more information, please visit the District website to view the [2016-2017 academic calendar](#).

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# DISTRICT 211 TO ADOPT COLLEGIATE- STYLE CALENDAR FOR 2016 – 2017 ACADEMIC YEAR



District 211 has adopted a new school calendar to better utilize instruction time for both students and teachers.

At its Jan. 15 board meeting, the Board of Education approved the school calendar for the 2016-2017 academic year, which will change the traditional calendar District 211 has used for many years to a collegiate-style calendar. With the new calendar, first

semester, including final exams, will end in December before students leave for winter break.

“The proposed calendar will inherently sustain a rigorous focus on learning and academics all the way up to the winter break,” said Dan Cates, superintendent of schools. “In the traditional calendar, students and teachers would have good instructional momentum into December and then take a two-week break, only to have to re-establish their focus upon their return, and then two weeks later take a final exam that is supposed to measure their learning for the entire semester.”

In order to maximize the value of each instructional day, the District investigated the impact of its traditional school calendar. The District then consulted with school districts that have adopted a similar collegiate calendar. Additionally, information was gathered on alignment of school calendars between District 211 and Elementary Districts 15 and 54, the impact of a collegiate calendar on IHSA student athletics, the adjustment to teacher routines and practices under a collegiate calendar, as well as survey data of District 211 parents, students, and staff.

“We sought and received a remarkable number of responses from parents, students and our staff members,” Cates said. “We had a total of 5,225 responses to our survey about the school calendar. Across all three groups, the responses were consistently and equally compelling: 70 to 75 percent of the respondents among parents, students and staff members preferred the proposed collegiate-style calendar.”

Although the District received requests to adopt the new calendar in the upcoming year, waiting until the 2016-2017 school year will give families and the community time to plan around the changes.

The calendar begins on Thursday, August 11, 2016, with a teacher institute day, followed by a second teacher institute day on Friday, August 12, 2016, and the first day of student attendance is on Monday, August 15, 2016. This design provides the opportunity to schedule the entire first semester prior to the start of winter break, with final examinations occurring on the last three days of first semester, December 21-23.

Second semester begins on January 9, 2017, with a teacher institute day and students returning from winter break on January 10, 2017; final examinations being held on May 24-26, 2017; and the semester ending at the end of the day on May 26, 2017, prior to the Memorial Day holiday weekend.

“By changing the school calendar, we will make full use of our instructional days, more closely align our students’ preparation with what they will experience in college and allow students to have a true break between semesters,” Cates said.

Additional information on the 2016-2017 school calendar is available [here](#).