

Albuquerque Public Schools Frequently Asked Questions about Calendars

(The 2007-2008 calendar follows this section)

1) When is the Albuquerque Public Schools Calendar developed?

The calendar is generally developed for a two- year period. However, this year the Albuquerque Public Schools Board of Education decided to approve only the 2007-2008 school year calendar. The Board asked the calendar committee to reconsider the 2008-2009 calendar and get more parent input. A calendar committee usually starts meeting in November and a draft calendar is presented to the APS Board of Education in February or March. For example, the committee for the traditional school calendars started meeting in November 2006.

2) Who makes up the APS Calendar Committee?

The Calendar Committee is composed of parents, teachers, principals, union representatives, other district staff and administrators. The committee is chaired by the APS Labor Relations Director.

3) Are there certain rules or regulations APS must follow in developing a calendar?

The state Public Education Department requires 180 days of student instruction and a minimum number of days per semester. This is the first consideration in developing a calendar.

4) What other issues are considered when developing the APS Calendar?

In addition to state regulations, the calendar committee considers input from students, parents, APS staff and the community. In the past, and again this year, these groups have requested that the first semester end before Winter Break, so that high school students can complete their semester exams before the Winter Break; that Spring Break be scheduled near the middle of the second semester, and after state-mandated testing; that the end of the school year is before Memorial Day, so that students do not have to come back after that holiday; that Fall Break be scheduled either during the Balloon Fiesta in October or to coincide with Columbus Day, a state and federal holiday; and that Winter Break last about two weeks.

5) How is the first day of school determined?

Based on the considerations above, the committee determines when they want Winter Break to begin and count backwards from that date. They take into consideration holidays and Fall Break to determine the first day of school for a given school year.

6) How can a parent or community member have input into the development of the APS Calendar?

Parents can contact their child's principal to let their views be known. Both parents and community members also can contact the APS Labor Relations Office at 889-4850. Once it has been developed, the proposed calendar will now also be posted on the APS web site at www.aps.edu for public input directly to the Board of Education.

7) What about year-round calendars?

Calendars for year-round schools are developed in the same way, however, parents, teachers and administrators from schools on year-round schedules have more input into their schools' calendars. These calendars are developed on the same timeline as the traditional calendar; however, they are usually not approved by the APS Board of Education until after the traditional calendar has been approved. Approval of the year-round schools calendars occurs every year in March or April.

**Albuquerque Public Schools 2007-08
Traditional School Calendar**

Date, Day,	Event
Aug. 8, Wednesday	Staff report to schools
Aug. 9-10, Thursday, Friday.....	School Registration
Aug. 13, Monday	First Day of Classes
Sept. 3, Monday	Labor Day Holiday
Oct. 8, Monday	Fall Break (no classes)
Nov. 21-23, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday	Thanksgiving Holidays
Dec. 21, Friday.....	Last Day of Classes (end of fall semester)
Dec. 24- Jan. 4	Semester Break (no classes)
Jan. 7, 2008, Monday.....	Spring Semester Begins (first day of classes)
Jan. 21, Monday	Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
Feb. 18, Monday	Presidents' Day Holiday
March 21-28.....	Spring Break
May 21, Wednesday.....	Last Day of Classes (end of spring semester)
May 22-23, Thursday, Friday	Snow Make-Up Days (if needed)
May 26, Monday.....	Memorial Day Holiday
May 27-28, Tuesday, Wednesday.....	Snow Make-Up Days (if needed)