

# 2020-2021 School Year Calendar Engagement

## Black Gold School Division

### About the School Year Calendar

Black Gold School Division must develop a school year calendar that meets the requirements of Alberta Education, while serving the needs of its school community.

### Guiding Reference Documents

In order to help standardize and specify essential dates, the creation of the Black Gold School Division School Year Calendar is influenced by:

- Alberta Education's Guide to Education;
- The Division's [Administrative Procedure 130 - School Year](#);
- Consideration is also given to school calendars from other neighbouring school jurisdictions.

**TEMPLATE Black Gold School Division 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR**

Month	Monthly Calendar							Teacher Days	Student Days	Dates & Details
	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT			
<b>AUGUST 2020</b>								0	0	August _____ Teacher Workdays (No Students)
<b>SEPTEMBER 2020</b>								0	0	September _____ School Commencement - FULL Day September 7 _____ Labour Day (Schools Closed) September _____ PD Day - School Based (No Students) September _____ (Morning) Welcome Back & LSA Ceremony To Follow PD Day - School Based
<b>OCTOBER 2020</b>								0	0	October _____ Early Dismissal October 12 _____ Thanksgiving Day (Schools Closed) October _____ PD Day - School Based & Support Staff (No Students)
<b>NOVEMBER 2020</b>								0	0	November _____ Early Dismissal November 11 _____ Remembrance Day (Schools Closed) November _____ Admin Break (Schools Closed) November _____ PD Day - ATA (No Students) November _____ Early Dismissal
<b>DECEMBER 2020</b>								0	0	December _____ PD Day - Combined (No Students) December _____ 31 - Christmas Vacation (Schools Closed)
<b>JANUARY 2021</b>								0	0	January 1 _____ Christmas Vacation (Schools Closed) January _____ School Reopens January _____ Early Dismissal January _____ Diploma Exam January _____ Provincial Achievement Tests (PAT) Administrative Window January _____ PD Day - ATA (No Students) January _____ Commencement 2 (2021)
<b>FEBRUARY 2021</b>								0	0	February _____ Commencement 2 (2021) February _____ Early Dismissal February 4 & 7 - ATA Teachers' Convention (No Students) February 15 - Family Day (Schools Closed)
<b>MARCH 2021</b>								0	0	March _____ Early Dismissal March _____ PD Day - Combined (No Students) March _____ Spring Break (Schools Closed)
<b>APRIL 2021</b>								0	0	April _____ Spring Break (Schools Closed) April 2 _____ Good Friday (Schools Closed) April _____ Early Dismissal April _____ PD Day - Combined (No Students) April _____ Diploma Exam
<b>MAY 2021</b>								0	0	May _____ Early Dismissal May _____ Provincial Achievement Tests (PAT) Administrative Window May _____ PD Day - School Based (No Students) May 24 - Victoria Day (Schools Closed)
<b>JUNE 2021</b>								0	0	June _____ Early Dismissal June _____ Provincial Achievement Tests (PAT) Administrative Window June _____ National Indigenous Peoples Day (Regular Classes Scheduled) June _____ Last School Day with Diploma Exam & PAT Admin Window June _____ Teacher Workdays (No Students)
<b>Semester 1: August _____ June 30, 2021</b>							<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(Semester 2: Commencement February _____ 2021)</b>	
<b>TOTAL - Operational Days-Teachers / Instructional Days-Students</b>							<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(Aug-Dec20: -T &amp; -S; Jan-June20: -T &amp; -S)</b>	

Calendar Template - October 16, 2019

### Stakeholder Input is Important

Keeping the Alberta Education requirements in mind, Black Gold School Division is seeking valuable input from the Division's schools and their school councils to help guide the creation 2020-2021 School Year Calendar.

### School Year Calendar Creation & Engagement Steps

- The Division's schools and their school councils are requested to submit one consolidated response each by **November 8, 2019**.
- The Board of Trustees and Senior Administration will review the survey results, as well as other guiding information at their Fall Planning Session on **November 14 and 15, 2019**.
- The DRAFT 2020-2021 School Year Calendar will be developed and distributed to the Division's schools and their school councils for further consideration by **December 18, 2019**.
- At their **January 8, 2020** Board meeting, the Board will have a final review of the feedback and adopt a calendar for the 2020-2021 school year.

# 2020-2021 School Year Calendar Input Survey - Reference Information

## Teacher Workdays

Currently, teacher workdays are specified in reference to [Administrative Procedure 130 - School Year](#) and guided by the following criteria:

- “Teachers and other designated staff will commence duty a minimum of two (2) days prior to the arrival of students;
- The last operational day in a school year will be the last Friday in June, dependent upon the Provincial examination schedule;
- The last two (2) operational days will be workdays for teachers and other designated staff, with no students in attendance, dependent upon the Provincial examination schedule.”

**Survey Question:** Please indicate your preference for teacher workdays:

- Two workdays at the beginning and two workdays at the end
- Three workdays at the beginning and one workday at the end
- One workday at the beginning and three workdays at the end

**Survey Question:** Please provide rationale for your response to the question above.

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## Collaborative/Professional Development Days

In the 2019-2020 school year, there were eight (8) collaborative/professional development days including the Welcome Back & Long Service Award Ceremony but excluding the ATA Teachers’ Convention.

**Survey Question:** Do you feel teachers/staff currently have enough collaborative/professional development time throughout the school year?

- Too Little
- Just Right
- Too Much

**Survey Question:** Please provide rationale for your response to the question above.

**Survey Question:** When scheduling collaborative/professional development days, what should Black Gold School Division prioritize?

- Keep collaborative/professional development days as close to statutory holidays as possible
- Avoid statutory holidays

**Survey Question:** Please provide rationale for your response to the question above.

**Survey Question:** What format would you prefer for collaborative/professional development days?

- Full day collaborative/professional development days
- Half day collaborative/professional development days, to allow for students to attend half days at school

**Survey Question:** Please provide rationale for your response to the question above.

**Survey Question (School Councils Only):** Would your school families access community-led programming for students on collaborative/professional development days, when the school is closed to students?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

**Survey Question (School Councils Only):** If you answered yes/maybe, what would accessing community-led programming for students on collaborative/professional development days (when the school is closed to students) be dependent upon?

- The cost of programming
- The length of program
- The type of program
- Location

**Survey Question (School Councils Only):** Please add any additional comments or feedback you have regarding this concept.

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## Early Dismissal & Collaborative/Professional Development Days

Some school divisions have instituted staff workdays as an alternative to 'early dismissal' days to facilitate school staff meetings. School administrators plan each staff workday to include staff meetings, professional development, collaborative lesson planning and other objectives.

**Survey Question:** Please indicate your preference for having school staff meetings scheduled on the same day as collaborative/professional development days and replacing the monthly early dismissal days. There would be no students on these days.

- Keep early dismissal and collaborative/professional development days separate
- Combine staff meetings days with collaborative/professional development days (one PD/meeting day per month except February and June) by eliminating early dismissal

**Survey Question:** Please provide rationale for your response to the question above.

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## Fall Midterm Break

**Survey Question:** Please indicate your preference for when a Fall Midterm Break should occur.

- Eliminate the Fall Midterm Break and only have November 11th observance
- Have a two day midterm break after November 11th
- Have one day midterm break around (before or after) November 11th
- Have one day midterm break and one day of collaborative/professional development (PD) around (before and after) November 11th
- Have one day midterm break and one day of collaborative/professional development (PD) after November 11th

**Survey Question:** Please provide rationale for your response to the question above.

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## Christmas Break

As per [Administrative Procedure 130 - School Year](#), “a Christmas Break of at least two (2) weeks duration will be provided”.

**Survey Question:** Please indicate your preference for when Christmas Break should occur.

- Last day of classes on Friday, December 18 and classes resume Monday, January 4
- Last day of classes on Tuesday, December 22 and classes resume Wednesday, January 6

**Survey Question:** Please provide rationale for your response to the question above.

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## Spring Break

Currently, Spring break is specified in reference to [Administrative Procedure 130 - School Year](#) and guided by the following criteria:

- “a Spring break of one (1) week duration will be provided, commencing on the last Monday of March and continuing through the week”.
- “Easter Monday may be an operational/instructional day unless it falls within Spring Break.”

**Survey Question:** Please indicate your preference for when Spring Break should occur.

- Have Spring Break commence on the last Monday of March (March 29) and continue through the week
- Have Spring Break commence on Monday, March 1 and continue through the week
- Have Spring Break commence on Monday, March 8 and continue through the week
- Have Spring Break commence on Monday, March 15 and continue through the week
- Have Spring break commence on Monday, March 22 and continue through the week

**Survey Question:** Please provide rationale for your response to the question above.