



Proposed Calendar 2023-2024 School Year

**Presented to the School Committee
February 15, 2023**

Considerations

- Where various dates fall during 2023 & 2024, including state holidays
- State requirement of 180 days in session and room for at least 5 snow days prior to end of June
- No climate control in several schools
- Recommendations of calendar committees convened in 2005 and 2016

State Legal Holidays & the School Calendar

From the [Massachusetts Secretary of State Website](#):

Federal offices are only closed on holidays which the federal government recognizes.... The term “federal holiday” is not applicable to individual states and the private sector since each state has jurisdiction over its holidays.

Public schools may not operate on state legal holidays, regardless of whether that holiday’s origins are religious or secular.

State Legal Holidays & the School Calendar

From the [Massachusetts Secretary of State Website](#):

Massachusetts Legal Holidays

Holiday	2023	2024
New Year's Day – January First	Jan. 1, Sun. (3)	Jan. 1, Mon.
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – Third Monday in January	Jan. 16, Mon.	Jan. 15, Mon.
Washington's Birthday – Third Monday in February	Feb. 20, Mon.	Feb. 19, Mon.
Patriots' Day – Third Monday in April	Apr. 17, Mon.	Apr. 15, Mon.
Memorial Day – Last Monday in May** (1A)	May 29, Mon.** (1A)	May 27, Mon.** (1A)
Juneteenth Independence Day – June 19th	June 19, Mon.	June 19, Wed.
Independence Day – July 4th**	July 4, Tue. **	July 4, Thurs.**

Holiday	2023	2024
Labor Day – First Monday in September**	Sept. 4, Mon.**	Sept. 2, Mon.**
Columbus Day – Second Monday in October* (Restrictions until 12 noon) (2)	Oct. 9, Mon.* (2)	Oct. 14, Mon.* (2)
Veterans Day – November 11th* (Restrictions until 1pm) (2)	Nov. 11, Sat.* (2)	Nov. 11, Mon.** (2)
Thanksgiving Day – Customarily the fourth Thursday in November* (1)	Nov. 23, Thurs.* (1)	Nov. 28, Thurs.* (1)
Christmas Day – December 25th* (1)	Dec. 25, Mon.* (1)	Dec. 25, Wed.* (1)

Religious Holidays & the School Calendar

From the 2016 Calendar Committee's report:

...the recommendation is to continue the current practice of having school in session on religious holidays. Based on comments, particularly from Shrewsbury High School students, it is recommended that the school district should take steps to increase the awareness of students, parents and staff about the various religious holidays celebrated by members of our school community, as well as the School Committee's policy for students who miss school for a religious observance.

Religious Holidays & the School Calendar

THE 193RD GENERAL COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Bills & Laws Budget Legislators Hearings & Events Committees & Commissions State House

[General Laws](#) » [Part I](#) » [Title XXI](#) » [Chapter 151C](#) »

SEARCH THE LEGISLATURE...

SECTION 2B

GENERAL LAWS

Chapter Section [GO >](#)

▾ [Part I](#)

- [Title I](#)
- [Title II](#)
- [Title III](#)
- [Title IV](#)
- [Title V](#)
- [Title VI](#)
- [Title VII](#)
- [Title VIII](#)
- [Title IX](#)

Section 2B: Absence of student due to religious beliefs

[Print Page](#) [< Prev](#) [Next >](#)

Section 2B. Any student in an educational or vocational training institution, other than a religious or denominational educational or vocational training institution, who is unable, because of his religious beliefs, to attend classes or to participate in any examination, study, or work requirement on a particular day shall be excused from any such examination or study or work requirement, and shall be provided with an opportunity to make up such examination, study, or work requirement which he may have missed because of such absence on any particular day; provided, however, that such makeup examination or work shall not create an unreasonable burden upon such school. No fees of any kind shall be charged by the institution for making available to the said student such opportunity. No adverse or prejudicial effects shall result to any student because of his availing himself of the provisions of this section.

A copy of this section shall be published by each institution of higher education in the catalog of such institution containing the list of available courses.

Religious Holidays & the School Calendar

**Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 151C, Section 2B
Reflected in Shrewsbury School Committee Policy #291**

Any student...who is unable, because of his religious beliefs, to attend classes or to participate in any examination, study, or work requirement on a particular day **shall be excused from any such examination or study or work requirement, and shall be provided with an opportunity to make up such examination, study, or work requirement which he may have missed because of such absence on any particular day**; provided, however, that such makeup examination or work shall not create an unreasonable burden upon such school.... **No adverse or prejudicial effects shall result to any student because of his availing himself of the provisions of this section.**

Religious Holidays & the School Calendar

Current Practice:

- Religious absence policy communicated to staff in yearly training, including expectation that major school/classroom events, assessments, projects, due dates not conflict with major religious holidays
- Implementation of “no homework” nights for all students on major religious holidays

What we can do better:

- Communicating with students and families that we encourage students to miss school to celebrate major religious holidays with their family and faith community, and that there will not be any penalty or repercussions for doing so

Religious Holidays & the School Calendar

Recommendation:

Because there are so many students of different faiths, it is recommended to continue the practice of holding school on religious holidays, while encouraging students to celebrate the holiday with their families, and ensuring that there are no penalties or repercussions for doing so.

Whether or not school is held on any particular religious holiday is **not** a value judgment being made by the school district regarding students', families', or staff members' religious faith, or favoring one faith over another.

Future considerations could include whether so many students and staff members might be absent on a particular religious holiday that it would make operating the schools difficult.

November School Calendar

Recommendation:

As there is no election in November this year, and because the observation of Veterans Day will fall on November 10, **it is recommended that Parent Conference Day for Grades PreK-8 be held on Thursday, November 9.** This is a professional development day for SHS and special subjects department staff.

Shrewsbury Public Schools 2023-2024 School Year Calendar

AUG/SEP					22 Days
M	T	W	T	F	
21	22	23	24	25	
28	29	30	31	1	
4	5	6	7	8	
11	12	13	14	15	
18	19	20	21	22	
25	26	27	28	29	

OCTOBER					20 Days
M	T	W	T	F	
2	3	4	5	6	
9	10	11	12	13	
16	17	18	19	20	
23	24	25	26	27	
30	31				

NOVEMBER					17 Days
M	T	W	T	F	
		1	2	3	
6	7	8	9	10	
13	14	15	16	17	
20	21	22	23	24	
27	28	29	30		

DECEMBER					16 Days
M	T	W	T	F	
				1	
4	5	6	7	8	
11	12	13	14	15	
18	19	20	21	22	
25	26	27	28	29	

JANUARY					21 Days
M	T	W	T	F	
1	2	3	4	5	
8	9	10	11	12	
15	16	17	18	19	
22	23	24	25	26	
29	30	31			

August/September	
8/23-25	New Educators' Orientation
8/28	Opening Program for All Staff/No School
8/29	Gr.1-12 First Day of School
8/30	Kindergarten/Preschool First Day
9/1	Professional Development for Educators/No School
9/4	Labor Day/No School

October	
10/6	Professional Development for Educators & Paraprofessionals/No School
10/9	Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples' Day/No School

November	
11/9	Parent Conferences PreK-8/Professional Development Gr. 9-12/No School
11/10	Veterans Day Recognized/No School
11/22-11/24	Thanksgiving Vacation

December	
12/5	Professional Development/Early Release
12/25-12/29	December Vacation

January	
1/1	New Year's Day/No School
1/9	Professional Development/Early Release
1/15	M.L. King Jr. Day/No School

February	
2/6	Professional Development/Early Release
2/19	Presidents Day/No School
2/20-2/23	Winter Vacation

March	
3/5	Professional Development/Early Release

April	
4/2	Professional Development/Early Release
4/15	Patriots Day/No School
4/16-4/19	Spring Vacation

May	
5/2 & 5/3	No School for Preschool (New Student Screenings)
5/27	Memorial Day/No School
5/30	Graduation Day

June	
6/12	Last day of school if no snow days
6/19	Half day for K-12, no PM preschool
6/19	Juneteenth Independence Day/No School (if there are 5 snow days)

FEBRUARY					16 Days
M	T	W	T	F	
			1	2	
5	6	7	8	9	
12	13	14	15	16	
19	20	21	22	23	
26	27	28	29		

MARCH					21 Days
M	T	W	T	F	
				1	
4	5	6	7	8	
11	12	13	14	15	
18	19	20	21	22	
25	26	27	28	29	

APRIL					17 Days
M	T	W	T	F	
1	2	3	4	5	
8	9	10	11	12	
15	16	17	18	19	
22	23	24	25	26	
29	30				

MAY					22 Days
M	T	W	T	F	
		1	2	3	
6	7	8	9	10	
13	14	15	16	17	
20	21	22	23	24	
27	28	29	30	31	

JUNE					8 Days
M	T	W	T	F	
3	4	5	6	7	
10	11	12	13	14	
17	18	19	20	21	
24	25	26	27	28	

0 snow days = 6/12 last day
 1 snow day = 6/13 last day
 2 snow days = 6/14 last day
 3 snow days = 6/17 last day
 4 snow days = 6/18 last day
 5 snow days = 6/20 last day