

**2008-2009 PREKINDERGARTEN CALENDAR
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

August 7, 2008

The calendar must be adhered to without exception, unless notifications of subsequent changes are received pursuant to collective bargaining agreements or for other reasons, provided these other reasons are not inconsistent with collective bargaining or legal obligations.

2008

September	1, Monday	Labor Day
September	2, Tuesday	SCHOOL SESSIONS BEGIN FOR ALL STUDENTS. Partial School Time for Public School Prekindergarten Sites.
September	3, Wednesday	Partial School Time for Public School Prekindergarten Sites.
September	4, Thursday	First Full day for all Prekindergarten students
September	30, Tuesday and 1, Wednesday	Rosh Hashanah
October	9, Thursday	Yom Kippur
October	13, Monday	Columbus Day Observed
November	4, Tuesday	Election Day Chancellor's Conference Day for staff development related to the Regents High Learning Standards and Assessments. Students will not be in attendance.
November	11, Tuesday	Veterans Day
November	19, Wednesday	Parent Teacher Conference Evening
November	20, Thursday	Parent Teacher Conference Afternoon
November	27, Thursday and 28, Friday	Thanksgiving Recess
December	12, Friday	Non-Attendance Day
December	24, Wednesday through and including	Winter Recess (including Christmas and New Year's Day),
January	2, Friday	Students return to school on Monday, January 5.

2009

January	19, Monday	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
January	26, Monday	Non-Attendance Day 13 th Annual NYC Interagency Early Childhood Institute
February February	16, Monday through 20, Friday	Midwinter Recess (including Washington's Birthday)
March	6, Friday	Non-Attendance Day
March	18, Wednesday	Parent Teacher Conference Evening

March	19,	Thursday	Parent Teacher Conference Afternoon
April April	9, 17,	Thursday through Friday	Spring Recess (including Good Friday, Easter and Passover); students return to school on Monday, April 20.
May	25,	Monday	Memorial Day Observed
June	4,	Thursday	Chancellor's Conference Day for staff development related to the Regents High Learning Standards and Assessments IN ALL FIVE BOROUGHES. School staff report to work if required by their collective bargaining agreement. Students IN ALL FIVE BOROUGHES will NOT be in attendance.
June	26,	Friday	LAST DAY FOR ALL STUDENTS An early dismissal of students is to be scheduled on Friday, June 26 under the guidelines outlined in Section 11 below.

The Prekindergarten Calendar incorporates the following understandings:

1. That two Chancellor's Conference Days are to be used for staff development related to the Regents High Learning Standards and Assessments (November 4 and June 4);
2. That this calendar does not preclude subsequent changes that may be made pursuant to collective bargaining agreements or for other reasons, but in no case can this calendar or subsequent changes result in a loss of state aid;
3. That all shortened sessions resulting in early dismissals of students and any other changes in this calendar must be approved by the Deputy Chancellor for Finance and Administration, and must provide appropriate 4 weeks prior notification to parents;
4. That the Chancellor shall use the powers vested in him by law when, in violation of this citywide prekindergarten calendar, a school is closed or shortened sessions (defined in section 8 below) are scheduled without prior authorization of the Deputy Chancellor for Finance and Administration.

The following should also be noted:

5. The prekindergarten calendar for 2008-2009 meets the State Education Department requirement of a minimum of 180 state aidable days in all schools in the City School District.
6. All schools will be open citywide on Election Day, Tuesday, November 4, 2008, for a Chancellor's Conference Day for staff development related to the Regents High Learning Standards and Assessments, and open IN ALL BOROUGHES on Thursday, June 4, 2009, also for a Chancellor's Conference Day for staff development related to the Chancellor's High Learning Standards and Assessments. On both November 4, 2008 and on June 4, 2009, students IN ALL FIVE BOROUGHES will not be in attendance.
7. All schools will be open on Thursday, February 12, 2009, and students will be in attendance.
8. As a result of professional / Chancellor Conference Days, shortened sessions for various purposes, the total number of instructional days (days when students report to school) may be different from the number of state aidable days. A shortened session is any day when school is in session for prekindergarten for less than 2 ½ hours of instruction, exclusive of lunch.
9. Calculations of aidable days incorporate Chancellor Conference Days Under Commissioner's Regulations. Chancellor Conference Days may include general staff orientation, curriculum development, in-service education, or Parent-Teacher Conferences. They may not include routine administrative matters such as grading examinations or pupil assignments, recordkeeping, or lesson planning.
10. In part, the prekindergarten calendar takes into account the following citywide centrally-scheduled shortened sessions: to be designated by the Deputy Chancellor for Finance and Administration, two Parent-Teacher Conference shortened sessions (one in the Fall Term and one in the Spring Term), and other citywide shortened sessions approved by the Deputy Chancellor for Finance and Administration. Separate notifications will be forthcoming regarding all of these citywide centrally-scheduled shortened sessions. An early dismissal of students is to be scheduled on the last day of school, subject to the guidelines outlined in section 11 below.

11. As concerns the early dismissal of students on the last day of school (Friday, June 26, 2009), the day should be recorded as a regular day of instruction for purposes of the Period Attendance Report, and schools must adhere to the following guidelines: students are required to attend school, pupil attendance must be taken, recorded and reported as part of the average daily attendance, and students are to receive instruction and/or guidance and assistance as needed. Schools should provide at least 4 weeks prior notice to parents and to the Office of Pupil Transportation regarding the specific time they have set for the early dismissal at their site.
12. To avoid the risk of a reduction in State Aid, and to limit impacts on bus scheduling for students, schools will not be closed or shortened sessions (defined in section 8 above) will not be scheduled without prior authorization of the Deputy Chancellor for Finance and Administration. Prior to requesting, on a timely basis, shortened session approval of the Deputy Chancellor for Administration and Finance, the following should be considered: in weeks when a single scheduled shortened session for prekindergarten is requested, the school must still be in session for 12 1/2 hours of instruction, exclusive of lunch. When a shortened session is scheduled during a 4 day week (for instance, when the week includes a holiday), the school must still be in session for 10 hours of instruction over that week, exclusive of lunch. Further clarification and information on exceptions are available upon request from the Deputy Chancellor for Finance and Administration.
13. Staff development activities must meet needs that are mandated or of high priority, including implementation of the new comprehensive, system-wide instructional approach to literacy and mathematics under the Children First initiative, school violence prevention and intervention, the implementation of the Continuum for Students with Disabilities, performance standards, science education, assessments, etc., as they relate to general, special and bilingual education. There must be an appropriate focus on the Regents High Learning Standards and Assessments as indicated in sections 1 and 6 above.
14. **SCHEDULING OF HALF DAY PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS AT PUBLIC SCHOOL SITES**
The approach will be similar to prior years as regards the afternoon parent-teacher conference dates. On the fall term, elementary school afternoon date, the A.M. prekindergarten program pupils should attend the morning session, with the P.M. prekindergarten program pupils not scheduled to attend school on that day. On the spring term, elementary school afternoon date, the P.M. prekindergarten program pupils should attend the morning session, with the A.M. prekindergarten program pupils not scheduled to attend school on that day. The fall term and spring term sessions should be equal in length. (Contracted Universal Prekindergarten Programs at Community Based Organization sites, whether full time or part time, should adhere to the calendars they submitted to the boroughs in accordance with the terms of their contract.)