



State of Vermont

TO: Interested Parties

FROM: Statewide School Calendar Committee*

DATE: October 23, 2007

RE: Draft Statewide Calendar Considerations for Public Forum Purposes

The Statewide School Calendar Committee is writing to inform you about a public process seeking comment and recommendations required by the recent passage of law requiring a statewide school year calendar. Act 31 of the 2007 General Assembly requires the development of a statewide student attendance calendar to be acted upon by the State Board of Education by January 30, 2008. Attached is a copy of that legislation.

The committee is required to engage in a public process to solicit “comments, and recommendations concerning common periods of uninterrupted student attendance days, common vacation schedules and holidays, common in-service days, and common periods for student assessment.” The schedule of public meetings follows:

Statewide Calendar Meetings Location	Date (All meetings held from 6:30 – 8 p.m.)
Montpelier High School (Library) 5 High School Drive, Montpelier	10/24
North Country Union High School (Library) 209 Veterans Ave., Newport	10/25
Ctr. for Technology (Cafeteria) 3 Educational Drive, Essex Junction	11/13
Southwest Vermont Career Development Center (Assembly Room), 321 Park Street, Bennington	11/14
River Valley Technical Center (River Valley Café), 307 South Street, Springfield	11/15

Also attached are three SAMPLE calendars developed by the calendar committee. These calendars are the result of initial discussions by the committee and are intended to represent the elements required by the legislation.

Required elements of a calendar shall include:

- The first three days of school for students will be the Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday prior to Labor Day.
- Five common in-service education days, one of which will be organized by the Department of Education and conducted at regional sites throughout the state.
- 175 common student attendance days. A majority of students in each grade must be in attendance or participating in a school-sponsored academic activity for a minimum of 5.5 hours, including recess and lunch, for a day to constitute one full student attendance day.
- Imposition of a financial penalty on districts failing to provide the 5.5 hours of classes daily to students in all grade levels on each of the 175 common student attendance days
- May include a provision that there be a sole vacation period between January 2nd and April 30th to occur during the week of town meeting.
- Provisions for the state board of education ...to grant a waiver for the ensuing year to a group of school districts that requests, before May 1 of any year to deviate from the statewide calendar due to unique regional circumstances

Effective date: The 2009-2010 school year.

Given the above, the committee chose to draft three sample calendars that represent a few considerations for discussion purposes (attached). In brief, an overview of each option is provided below.

Statewide School Calendar Considerations SY 2009-2010		
Calendar #1	Calendar #2	Calendar #3
School starts 9/1	→	→
175 Common Attendance days	→	→
Five (5) common in-service days: 8/31, 10/21, 3/1, 4/2, 5/28	Five (5) common in-service days: 8/31, 10/21, 1/19, 3/1, 3/29	Five (5) common in-service days: 8/31, 10/21, 1/19, 3/1, 4/26
Observed Holidays: 9/7	→	→ +2/15
Holiday Break: 12/23 – 1/1; Winter Break: 2/22 – 3/1 Spring Break: 4/19 - 23	Holiday Break: 12/23 – 1/1; Winter Break: 2/15 – 2/19 Spring Break: 4/19 - 23	Holiday Break: 12/23 – 1/1; 2 nd Semester Break: 3/22 -26
175 th day: 6/18	175 th day: 6/17	175 th day: 6/11
The following days are available for local schools/supervisory unions to meet local needs (e.g student days, professional development days, VT NEA Convention, Town Meeting Day, holiday observance, etc): 9/4, 10/22-23, 11/25, 1/19, 3/2, 5/31	9/4, 10/22-23, 11/25, 3/2, 5/31	9/4, 10/22-23, 11/25, 3/2, 5/31

Lastly, beginning October 25th, those unable to attend the public forums or for those who may want to offer further comments following the forums are encouraged to send comments to the following email address: SchCal09@state.vt.us . In addition, information will be available on the Department of Education’s Web site: <http://education.vermont.gov/>

Attachments:

Act 31

Sample School Calendars for 2009-2010

Statewide School Calendar Committee

VT Superintendents Association

John Everitt, Superintendent, South Burlington School District
Dan French, Superintendent, Bennington-Rutland Supervisory Union

VT School Boards Association

June Rosenberg, Westfield
Ken Fredette, Wallingford

VT Principals' Association

Bill Lawson, Middlebury UHS Principal
Bob Stevens, Executive Director, VPA

VT-National Education Association

Joel Cook, Executive Director, VT NEA
Jeff Isham, Moretown Elementary School

VT Association of Career & Technical Education Directors

Donna Oyama, Southwest Vermont Career Development Center, Bennington
Kathy Finck, Center for Technology, Essex

Business members

Lisa Ventriss, President, VT Business Roundtable, South Burlington
Diane Mueller, Okemo Ski Resort Owner

High school students

Jonathan Bateman, Champlain Valley UHS
Sandra Markowitz, Montpelier High School

Department of Education

Brian O'Regan, Deputy Commissioner – Committee Chair

Department of Education Staff

Carol King, State Board of Education Administrator
Cindy Lee, Commissioner's Assistant, Commissioner's Office

NO. 31. AN ACT RELATING TO A STATEWIDE SCHOOL YEAR
CALENDAR.

(H.15)

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. FINDINGS; INTENT

(a) The general assembly finds:

(1) School districts need to find ways to collaborate in order to maintain concurrent schedules, improve student learning, and reduce costs through sharing of resources.

(2) Students learn best when provided educational services for uninterrupted periods of instructional time.

(3) Educators can deliver instructional services more efficiently and effectively when schools are following the same vacation, holiday, and statewide assessment schedules.

(4) Common professional development days provide educators the opportunity to participate in regional and statewide programs.

(5) A uniform statewide calendar ensures better attendance at regional programs, such as technical centers.

(6) The dates on which a school year begins and ends have great impact on families and businesses, as does the scheduling of in-service days and vacation.

(7) The purpose of adopting a statewide calendar is to improve high quality learning opportunities for all Vermont students.

(b) Therefore, it is the intent of this act to direct the committee created by this act to develop a statewide calendar to be adopted by the state board of education.

Sec. 2. STATEWIDE SCHOOL CALENDAR; COMMITTEE

(a) There is created a committee (the “calendar committee”) to develop a uniform statewide school calendar for use by all public schools in Vermont that the committee will propose to the state board of education for adoption.

The members of the calendar committee shall be:

(1) The commissioner of education, or the commissioner’s designee, who shall serve as the committee’s chair and who shall ensure that the first committee meeting occurs on or before July 15, 2007.

(2) Two representatives of each of the following entities to be selected by the entities:

(A) The Vermont superintendents association.

(B) The Vermont school boards association.

(C) The Vermont principals’ association.

(D) The Vermont-national education association.

(3) Two regional technical center directors to be selected by the Vermont association of career and technical education directors.

(4) Two members of the business community to be selected by the Vermont business roundtable.

(5) Two high school students, who shall not be the students sitting on the state board of education, one of whom shall be selected by the speaker of the house of representatives and the other shall be selected by the president pro tempore of the senate.

(b) Any calendar developed by the calendar committee and presented to the state board shall be by majority vote of the committee and:

(1) Shall require at least 175 common student attendance days. A majority of students in each grade must be in attendance or participating in a school-sponsored academic activity for a minimum of five and one-half hours, including recess and excluding lunch, for a day to constitute one full student attendance day. If a majority of students in any grade is in attendance or participating for fewer than five and one-half hours, the day shall be counted as one-half of a student attendance day.

(2) Shall require the first three student days of the academic year to occur on the Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday in the week preceding Labor Day.

(3) Shall include at least five common teacher in-service education days. At least one of the five days will be organized by the department and conducted at regional sites throughout the state.

(4) Shall include provisions for the state board of education, after receiving recommendations from the calendar committee, to grant a waiver for the ensuing year to a group of school districts that requests, before May 1 of any year, to deviate from the statewide calendar due to unique regional circumstances that cannot otherwise be accommodated.

(5) May include a provision that there be a sole vacation period between January 2 and April 30, to occur during the week of town meeting.

(c) To develop the statewide calendar, which if accepted by the state board of education shall serve as a model for all future years, the calendar committee shall engage in a public process with students, parents, educators, the business community, and other interested parties in at least five geographic regions of the state. During the public process, the committee shall solicit comments and recommendations concerning common periods of uninterrupted student attendance days, common vacation schedules and holidays, common in-service days, and common periods for statewide assessment. In addition, on or before September 30, 2007, the director or directors of each regional technical center shall designate a time and location at which the principals within each region shall meet with the directors to develop regional recommendations regarding a statewide calendar for presentation to the calendar committee.

(d) On or before January 30, 2008, the calendar committee shall recommend to the legislature a process by which an appropriate financial penalty shall be imposed upon any district that fails to provide at least five and

one-half hours of classes daily to students in all grade levels on each of the 175 common student attendance days required in the statewide calendar. Included within the recommendation shall be an appeal process for districts that believe they have complied with all requirements of the calendar.

(e) On or before January 30, 2008, and before each January 30 thereafter, the calendar committee shall present its proposal for a uniform statewide school calendar to the state board of education. The board may vote to approve or disapprove the proposed calendar, but may not amend it. The board shall announce its decision regarding the calendar no later than March 31 each year.

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect from passage and the statewide calendar shall apply to the 2009-2010 school year and after.

Approved: May 18, 2007

#1: STATEWIDE SCHOOL CALENDAR SAMPLE FOR DISCUSSION ONLY

Two Spring Breaks
4th week in Feb- 3rd week in April
2009-2010

Key:
Bold - Inservice day
<i>Italics</i> - Federal holiday
* - NECAP testing window
<u>Underline</u> - First & last days of school
[] - Non-student day
Shading - Student Attendance Day
<> - Local Option Day

August
2009
Student: 0
Staff: 1

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	[31]					0

31st - Inservice #1

February
2010
Student: 15
Staff: 15

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	[22]	[23]	[24]	[25]	[26]	27
28						105

22nd - 26th - Winter Break

September
2009
Student: 20
Staff: 20

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	<4>	5
6	[7]	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			20

1st - First Day of School
7th - Labor Day

March
2010
Student: 21
Staff: 22

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
	[1]	<2>	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			126

1st - Inservice #3
2nd - Town Meeting Day

October
2009
Student: 19
Staff: 20

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	*5	*6	*7	*8	*9	10
11	*12	*13	*14	*15	*16	17
18	*19	*20	[21]	<22>	<23>	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	39

5th-20th - NECAP Testing Window
21 - Inservice #2

April
2010
Student: 16
Staff: 17

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	[2]	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	142

2nd - Inservice #4
19th - 23rd - Spring Break

November
2009
Student: 17
Staff: 17

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	<11>	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	<25>	[26]	[27]	28
29	30					56

26th-27th - Thanksgiving Recess

May
2010
Student: 19
Staff: 20

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
1	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	[28]	29
30	<31>					161

28th - Inservice #5

December
2009
Student: 16
Staff: 16

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	[23]	[24]	[25]	26
27	[28]	[29]	[30]	[31]		72

23rd - 31st - Holiday Break

June
2010
Student: 14/19
Staff: 14/19

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			175

18th - 175 days

January
2010
Student: 18

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
					[1]	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	<18>	<19>	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						90

1st - Holiday Break

SAMPLE FOR DISCUSSION ONLY

#2: STATEWIDE SCHOOL CALENDAR SAMPLE FOR DISCUSSION ONLY

Two Spring Breaks
3rd week in February-3rd week in April
2009-2010

Key: **Bold** - Inservice Day
Italics - Federal holiday
 * - NECAP testing window
Underline - First & last days of school
 [] - Non-student day
 Shading - Student Attendance Day
 <-> - Local Option Day

August
2009
Student: 0
Staff: 1

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	[31]					

0

31st - Inservice #1

February
2010
Student: 15
Staff: 15

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	[15]	[16]	[17]	[18]	[19]	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

105

15th - 19th - Winter Break

September
2009
Student: 20
Staff: 20

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	<4>	5
6	[7]	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

20

1st - First Day of School
7th - Labor Day

March
2010
Student: 20
Staff: 22

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
	[1]	<2>	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	[29]	30	31			

125

1st - Inservice #4
2nd - Town Meeting Day
29th - Inservice #5

October
2009
Student: 19
Staff: 20

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	*5	*6	*7	*8	*9	10
11	*12	*13	*14	*15	*16	17
18	*19	*20	[21]	<22>	<23>	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

39

5th-22nd - NECAP Testing Window
21st - Inservice #2

April
2010
Student: 17
Staff: 17

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	[19]	[20]	[21]	[22]	[23]	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

142

19th - 23rd - Spring Break

November
2009
Student: 17
Staff: 17

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Su
1	2	3	4	5	6	1
8	9	10	<11>	12	13	8
15	16	17	18	19	20	15
22	23	24	<25>	[26]	[27]	22
29	30					29

56

26th-27th - Thanksgiving Recess

May
2010
Student: 20
Staff: 20

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	<31>					

162

December
2009
Student: 16
Staff: 16

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	[23]	[24]	[25]	26
27	[28]	[29]	[30]	[31]		

72

23rd - 31st - Holiday Break

June
2010
Student: 11/16
Staff: 11/16

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	<u>17</u>	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

175

17th - 175 days

January
2010
Student: 18
Staff: 19

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
					[1]	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	<18>	[19]	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

90

1st - Holiday Break
19th - Inservice #3

#3: STATEWIDE SCHOOL CALENDAR SAMPLE FOR DISCUSSION ONLY

One Spring Break - Mid-March
2009-2010

Key: **Bold** - Inservice Day
Italics - Federal holidays
* - NECAP testing window
Underline - First & last days of school
[] - Non-student day
Shading - Student Attendance Day
<-> - Local Option Day

August
2009
Student: 0
Staff: 1

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	[31]					0

31st - Inservice #1

February
2010
Student: 19
Staff: 19

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	[15]	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						109

15th - Presidents Day

September
2009
Student: 20
Staff: 20

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
		<u>1</u>	2	3	<4>	5
6	[7]	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			20

1st - First Day of School
7th - Labor Day

March
2010
Student: 16
Staff: 17

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
	[1]	<2>	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	[22]	[23]	[24]	[25]	[26]	27
28	29	30	31			125

1st - Inservice #4
2nd - Town Meeting
22nd - 26th - Spring Break

October
2009
Student: 19
Staff: 20

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	*5	*6	*7	*8	*9	10
11	*12	*13	*14	*15	*16	17
18	*19	*20	[21]	<22>	<23>	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

5th-20th - NECAP testing window
21st - Inservice #2

April
2010
Student: 21
Staff: 22

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	[26]	27	28	29	30	146

26th - Inservice #5

November
2009
Student: 17
Staff: 17

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	<11>	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	<25>	[26]	[27]	28
29	30					56

26th-27th - Thanksgiving Recess

May
2010
Student: 20
Staff: 20

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	<31>					166

December
2009
Student: 16
Staff: 16

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	[23]	[24]	[25]	26
27	[28]	[29]	[30]	[31]		72

23rd - 31st - Holiday Break

June
2010
Student: 9/14
Staff: 9/14

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			175

11th - 175 days

January
2010
Student: 18
Staff: 19

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
					[1]	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	<18>	[19]	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						90

1st - Holiday Break
19th - Inservice #3

SAMPLE FOR DISCUSSION ONLY