

DPS CALENDAR CHANGES AFFECTING ALL DPS STUDENTS!

Why is DPS changing the 2008-2009 calendar?

The calendar is being amended to reflect the agreement reached on September 9, 2008 between the Denver Classroom Teacher Association (DCTA) and Denver Public Schools. Through the negotiations process, five (5) late start days for students were placed on the calendar. Late start means school will begin three (3) hours later than normal. During these late starts teachers will be involved with district-focused professional development.

In addition to the late start days, one (1) day of student contact time was added and one (1) additional non-student contact day was added.

The following are changes to the 2008-2009 district calendar that apply to every DPS school:

Late Start Days

Friday, December 12, 2008
 Wednesday, January 14, 2009
 Thursday, February 12, 2009
 Tuesday, April 21, 2009
 Friday, May 15, 2009

Additional Non-Student Contact Day (No school for students)
 January 6, 2009

**Additional Student Contact Day /
 Last Day of School for Elementary, K-8 & Middle Schools**
 May 29, 2009 (No classes for high school students)

Calendar changes were voted on by the DPS Board of Education on Thursday, September 18.

What you need to know about late start days:

- School will start three hours later than normal.
- Students may only arrive to their school 10 minutes prior to the adjusted bell time.
- Morning Kaleidoscope Corner is cancelled and tuition will be credited for late start days.
 Afternoon Kaleidoscope Corner will operate as scheduled.
- Morning early childhood education (preschool) and morning kindergarten classes are cancelled on all late start days. Afternoon classes will occur as scheduled.
- Students who ride a yellow bus will be picked up at their usual bus stop. However, the time of pickup will be approximately three hours later than regularly scheduled. Your school will communicate a more accurate pickup time in mid November.
- Breakfast will not be served. Lunch will be served.
- If your child attends a DPS charter school, contact that school to find out if they are impacted by the calendar changes.

Your school and the district will continue to communicate with you on the calendar changes as information becomes available.

Calendar Changes Frequently Asked Questions

Why did DPS wait until the school year started to notify me about these calendar changes?

Denver Public Schools and DCTA engaged in negotiations of the master settlement agreement starting in May 2008; however an agreement, which includes changes to the calendar already in progress, was not reached until September 9, 2008. The Board of Education will vote on these changes to the calendar on September 18, 2008.

Do other school districts have late start times?

Yes. Jefferson County Public Schools have set aside one day a month for student late start days. The length of Jefferson County's late start averages two hours. Also, Littleton Public Schools have ten late start days scheduled throughout the school year.

What is the staff at my school doing on a late start day?

Delaying class start times for three hours on selected dates over the academic year provides critical professional development time for teachers without taking them out of the classroom. Teachers will engage in professional development, review and discuss student work, share best practices, and assess effectiveness of implementation ultimately improving the instruction your child is receiving.

My school already scheduled regular late start and/or early release days for the school year. Will those still occur?

The district late start days listed above take precedence over late start or early release days scheduled by individual schools. Some schools may need to modify their schedules in order to accommodate the district late start days and meet certain state and federal statutory requirements. Schools will be contacting families to notify them of any changes to the school calendar.

What time can my child arrive at school on a late start day?

Supervision for students will be provided 10 minutes before school begins on late start days. For example if a school has a late start time of 11:15, supervision will be provided at 11:05 and students will be able to arrive at that time.

Childcare, Preschool & Kindergarten

I work, and these calendar changes are inconvenient for me.

We acknowledge that for parents the late start can be a challenge, but your student(s) will really benefit from the professional development their teacher is engaging in on the late start days. Other surrounding school districts do not provide childcare for students on late start days.

Will morning Kaleidoscope Corner operate on late start days?

Morning Kaleidoscope Corner will be cancelled on late start days. Afternoon Kaleidoscope Corner will operate as scheduled on late start days.

Will Kaleidoscope Corner provide childcare on January 6th?

Yes. Kaleidoscope Corner will offer its regular dismissal childcare on January 6.

Will I be reimbursed for the days that Kaleidoscope is not operating?

Yes. Your bill will be credited for these times.

What is the schedule for preschool and kindergarten on late start days?

Morning early childhood education (preschool) and morning kindergarten classes are cancelled on all late start days. Afternoon classes will occur as scheduled.

After School Programs & Athletics

Will afternoon Kaleidoscope Corner operate on late start days?

Yes.

Will after school programs be affected by the late starts?

No. After school programs will not be affected by the late starts and will operate as normal on late start days.

Will after school athletics be affected by the late starts?

No. After school athletics will not be affected by the late starts and will operate as normal on late start days.

Transportation

When can I expect my child to be picked up from the bus stop on late start days?

Students who ride a yellow bus will be picked up at their usual bus stop. However, the time of pickup will be approximately three hours later than regularly scheduled. Your school will communicate a more accurate pickup time in early November.

Should my high school student take RTD to school on late start days?

Yes. Check the RTD schedule for later buses according to your school's schedule.

Will transportation be provided for my child who attends a full-day kindergarten program?

Yes, transportation will be provided for full-day kindergarten students on the modified three hour late start schedule.

Special Education Students

What impact does a late start day have on my child who attends a half-day morning ELC or DLC class?

ELC and DLC classes that are offered for half-day in the mornings will not be offered on late start days. Half-day morning ELC or DLC students will not attend school on those days.

Will students who attend out of district school for special education be affected?

No.

Student Attendance

Is it important for my child to attend school on a late start day?

Attending school regularly, including on late start days, is important to your child's future. It's a fact that students who attend school regularly learn more and are more successful than students who do not. Students who miss school miss carefully planned sequences of instruction. They miss active learning experiences and class participation. They miss the opportunity to ask questions. Students who attend school are more likely to succeed.