

SSISD sets 2014-15 calendar; classes begin Aug. 26

Written by By FAITH HUFFMAN, News-Telegram News Editor
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Students in Sulphur Springs schools will begin the 2014-15 school year on Aug. 26 and finish up on June 3, 2015, according to the calendar approved by trustees Monday night. The calendar will include nine holidays and 13 staff preparation days, including two days designated for new teacher orientation this August, pending Texas Education Agency's approval of early release days and staff development days waivers.

"We've applied for waivers for additional days — three for staff development and four early release days. TEA won't address that until school is out. They won't be approved officially by TEA until June. We recommend you approve the proposed calendar, pending TEA approval. There've been hardly any changes to the calendar — just the dates," Sulphur Springs Independent School District Assistant Superintendent Randy Reed told trustees.

The calendar has new teachers reporting for orientation Aug. 12-13. This is one day more than in the past to allow plenty of time to introduce school policies and programs and ample time to take care of procedures in the business office as well.

All staff will report for duty for the 2014-15 school year on Thursday, Aug. 14. They will participate in staff preparation and development exercises Aug. 15, Aug. 18-22 and Aug. 25.

Students will then report for their first class on Tuesday Aug. 26. The first six weeks will be from Aug. 26 to Oct. 3, the second six weeks from Oct. 6 through Nov. 7, the third six weeks from Nov. 10 through Dec. 19. The second semester begins on Jan. 6, with the fourth six weeks ending Feb. 20. The fifth six weeks will be from Feb. 23 through April 17 and the final six weeks grading period will be from April 20 through June 3.

The nine designated school holidays for students and staff are: Labor Day, Sept. 1; Fall Festival, Oct. 24; Thanksgiving, Nov. 24-28; Christmas break, Dec. 22-Jan. 2; President's Day, Feb. 16; Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Jan. 19; spring break, March 16-20; Good Friday, April 3; and Memorial Day, May 26.

Good Friday, April 3, 2015, is also designated with the notation that it would be utilized as a bad weather day if the district has to make up any instructional days missed due to bad weather

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next year. June 4 is also noted as a staff preparation day, but also is noted as a weather make up day.

Also designated, pending approval from the state, as a staff preparation day in which school employees would work but students would not go to classes is Jan. 6.

The calendar accounts for two days of staff preparation that must be completed. Staff are required to get the required hours in on their time during the school year by spring break. Those days on the calendar are scheduled March 16-17, but are actually a holiday. That along with the four early release days are contingent on the TEA waivers that have yet to be approved.

With TEA approval, Sept. 12, Oct. 3, Nov. 7 and June 3 would be early release days — some designated to allow teachers at Title I campuses to hold required parent-teacher meetings after school.

The SSHS Senior Class of 2014-15 will graduate Friday, June 5, 2015.

A complete list of dates for required tests can be found on the school website, www.ssisd.net.