

Concord Public Schools and the Concord-Carlisle Regional School District are committed to educating all students to become independent lifelong learners, creative thinkers, caring citizens, and responsible contributors to our increasingly diverse global society. The core values and beliefs include academic excellence, an empathic and respectful community, professional collaboration, educational equity, and continuous improvement.

The School Committees and Superintendent are dedicated to achieving these goals while maintaining a transparent public process related to policy decisions. This article is one in a series that is intended to update and inform the residents of Concord and Carlisle about the districts' on-going activities, initiatives and policies.

2014-2015 School Calendar Planning

The School Committees are reviewing options for the 2014-2015 school calendars. The state requires that School Committees approve a calendar that includes at least 185 school days for elementary, middle and secondary schools in the district.

Under their current contracts, the District's collective bargaining units have the right to decide if they want to begin prior to September 1 each year. The individuals in those units recently voted and the Concord Teachers' Association (CTA) representing K-8 teachers approved a pre-September 1 start date while the Concord-Carlisle Teachers' Association (CCTA) representing CCHS teachers voted against starting prior to September. As a result of the vote at CCHS, a traditional school calendar would place the last day of school on June 22 and snow days would be made up from June 23-29.

Committee members and the superintendent have been contacted by many parents in the community who are concerned about the school calendar extending so late in June as it conflicts with out-of-school educational programs, summer camps, and family vacation travel plans. The Concord-Carlisle School Committee is considering a number of limited options to address these concerns including the elimination of the February and April recesses and replacing them with a one-week recess in March.

The Concord School Committee is considering whether it should adopt a 2014-2015 calendar for Concord's K-8 schools that is different from CCHS with a pre-September 1 start date.

Interested individuals are encouraged to contact the School Committees with questions, concerns, and comments.

Concord Finance Committee School Budget Public Hearing

The Concord Finance Committee will be holding a public hearing on the school budget on Wednesday, February 26 at 7 pm in the Town House, 22 Monument Square. Interested individuals are encouraged to attend. The District's FY15 budget request book will be available at the hearing.

Superintendent on Twitter and Your Voice Matters: K-12 Insight

Superintendent Rigby has created a Twitter account (@concord_super) and individuals can contact her through the Your Voice Matters link on the district's web site. Both measures were implemented to create more dialogue with the community.

The School Committees Contact Information

The School Committees and Superintendent are committed to on-going public dialogue and to ensuring that residents of Carlisle and Concord are informed. School Committee meetings are open to the public and the public is encouraged to attend. The meetings are broadcast on CCTV and are available on demand at www.concordtv.org. The district web site (www.concordpublicschools.net) contains updated information on meetings and interested individuals can contact the Concord School Committee via email at cps@colonial.net and the Concord-Carlisle Regional School Committee at cchs@colonial.net.