


**Office of the Superintendent**

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TO: Chairperson and Members  
Boston School Committee

FROM: Tommy Chang  
Superintendent 

DATE: March 23, 2016

SUBJECT: Updating School Year 2017 and 2018 Calendars

BPS is exploring options around a revised school calendar to address concerns regarding attendance and continuity of learning for our students.

Our preliminary attendance data indicates there is a drop in attendance rates the week following winter break, resulting in significant amount of absences at the start of the winter term. Post winter recess; BPS student attendance has dropped to at least 88% on average. For our ELL population, the rate has fallen to 87% in SY 15/16. Boston Public Schools (BPS) continuously examines ways to provide improved educational outcomes for students. We would like to retain as many of our students as possible, as well as avoid multiple breaks in the schedule. Schools will benefit around consistency in attendance, as multiple breaks does impact student rhythm during a crucial testing window.

We understand that potential changes will need to be negotiated, in particular with the Boston Teachers Union. Potential changes for school year 2017-2018 and beyond could, but not exclusively, include:

1. Moving school year calendar up
2. Consolidating or extending long breaks and/or holidays

We look forward to engaging parents, students, and community partners to provide feedback about these various ideas. A plan for feedback is forthcoming.

