

**Cypress-Fairbanks ISD
2012-2013 Instructional Calendar Parameters**

Factors	Considerations
Top Priority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The instructional calendar is based on what is instructionally best for students. The instructional calendar contains elements that best support instruction and academic achievement, and then take into account parent and staff considerations and preferences.
State Law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Start Date: State law does not allow a school district to begin before the fourth Monday in August. No waiver provisions exist. (August 27, 2012, for the 2012-13 school year) Number of School Days: State law requires 180 days; however, districts may obtain waivers for up to five fewer instructional days for the purpose of professional development. (CFISD has 177 school days.) Number of Teacher Days: State law requires 187 days for teachers, 175 instructional days (minimum) and 12 staff development days (maximum). (CFISD has 177 instructional days and 10 staff development days.) Inclement Weather Days: State law requires the inclusion of two inclement weather days in the calendar. (CFISD administration recommended 2 such days designated on the calendar.)
Semesters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Balancing of Semesters: The number of days in each semester should be as close in number to each other as possible. This consideration is important for single semester courses. However, the second semester may be longer as all major tests, STAAR/EOC, Advanced Placement, etc., are administered in the spring. First Semester Exams: The timing of exams (before or after winter break) impacts one semester courses, dual credit courses, graduation and college start for December graduates, and grade reporting and transcripts submission for college applications. University Summer School: The start of University summer school sessions is a factor for graduating seniors and teachers who wish to take summer courses. College course work typically begins the first Monday in June.
Professional Development Days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Timing of Professional Development and Work Days: Professional development days were strategically placed in order to maximize positive impact on instruction, align with the state testing calendar, and scheduled throughout the school year. Time Equivalent (TE) Days: Teachers may earn time equivalency for certain professional development days by attending training during the summer months or on Saturdays during the school year. Campus TE days are monitored by campus leaders; district TE days are monitored by district curriculum coordinators.
Testing Schedules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Testing Days: The calendar design takes into account state STAAR/EOC test days and any others (Advanced Placement test days). Student holidays are not scheduled during testing weeks.
Holidays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holidays: The calendar design takes into account national holidays. See *Note below.
Parent Teacher Conferences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elementary Parent Teacher Conferences: The calendar design takes into account the placement of a parent teacher conference day.
Surrounding District Calendars	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examination of Surrounding District Calendars: Other surrounding school districts' calendars were reviewed for information, examples, and new or different options.
Student Attendance Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examination of Student Attendance Data: Student data was examined to establish patterns that may impact the calendar. Attendance near holidays is closely monitored.
Summer Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summer Programs: Consideration was given to the timing of summer programs.

***NOTE:** The school start date and the committee decision to end the fall semester before the winter break prompts a change from a week-long Thanksgiving break to three days only.