



MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the School Board of Directors

DATE: Friday, March 3, 2017

SUBJECT: **2017-18 School Calendar**

As was true for the 2016-17 school calendar, the calendar for the 2017-18 school year was built based on feedback gathered from teachers, staff, administrators, families and students. The attached draft is provided for your consideration.

Changes introduced last year remain intact, including:

- New Teacher Orientation will again be held for full week to provide first-year teachers more time to learn about Alliance and prepare for their first day on the job. Additional training for new teachers will also be provided throughout the school year.
- School-wide professional development and planning will begin on August 1. The first day of instruction will be August 7, allowing for both a sufficient summer break and planning time for schools and staff.
- Fall break will continue to include the full week of Thanksgiving. We will also retain our three-week winter break to give time for rest and rejuvenation between semesters.
- Six teacher-planning days remain on the calendar, allowing teachers dedicated time throughout the year to review student achievement data, adjust instructional plans already in place and conduct future planning.
- The total number of instructional days will remain the same.

Following are a few changes you will see in the 2017-18 calendar:

- Cesar Chavez Day will be recognized as a school holiday and will be observed on Monday, April 1 since the official holiday falls on the preceding Sunday.
- After consulting with teachers who are piloting our new interim assessments, we have added three "data days" to the calendar. These pupil-free days are designed to provide teachers access to timely and actionable interim student assessment data in literacy, math and science. The first data day will be Alliance-wide and facilitated by Home Office and site-level staff. The other two data days will be held at school sites and led by principals, assistant principals, directors of instruction and department heads, with support from the Home Office. Each data day will be followed by a planning day, giving teachers time to work collaboratively with grade-level and academic content colleagues to adjust and plan future instruction.