CALENDAR DEVELOPMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Many variables must be considered when developing a school calendar. The calendar must comply with state law, State Board of Education policy, Cobb County Board of Education policy, and accreditation requirements. In addition, the physical make-up of the Gregorian calendar must also be considered. The variables that should be considered include, but are not limited to:

- **Provide a minimum of 180 school days or its equivalent** (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-168, State Board of Education rule 160-5-1-.02, CCSD Board policy AEA)

- **End First Semester prior to Winter Holidays**
  - Allows students to complete first semester finals, term papers, etc., prior to Winter Holidays
  - Allows high school students who complete their coursework early or who choose dual enrollment to enroll in college programs spring semester

- **Ending Second Semester prior to Memorial Day**
  - Allows maximum instructional time prior to testing (CRCT, AP, IB, etc.)
  - Allows access to graduation venue
  - Enable teachers and graduates to attend early summer sessions at local universities

- **First and Second Semesters should have an equal number of days to the extent possible**
  - Provides time for minimum clock-hour requirements for block schedules

- **Holidays must include as a minimum** (see CCSD Board policy AEA):
  - Labor Day
  - Wednesday through Friday of Thanksgiving week
  - Winter holidays to include Christmas and New Year
  - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
  - Spring holidays
  - Memorial Day

- **Schedule Spring Break during the first week following the first Sunday in April**
  - Provides consistency with metro systems

- **Provide ten (10) workdays for staff members** (based on currently contracted days)

- **Provide Election Day as a holiday for students** during gubernatorial and presidential election years.

- **End the school year on Wednesday** in order to provide enough time to schedule graduation ceremonies

- **When scheduling breaks/furlough days, consideration should be made for**:
  - State required data reporting (FTE)
  - State testing window (CRCT)