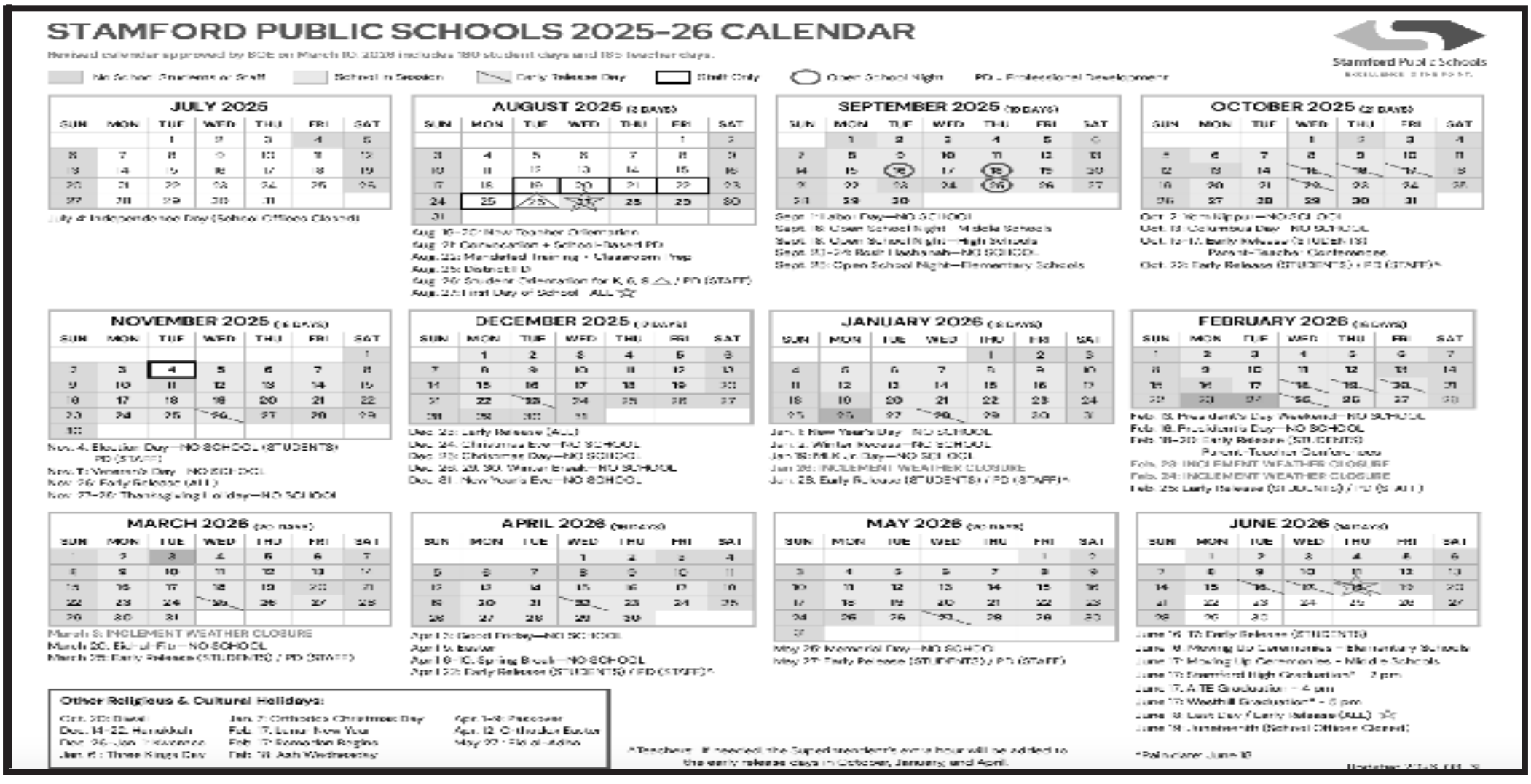

2025-2026 SCHOOL CALENDAR Stamford Public Schools Calendar for the 2025-2026 school year. Courtesy of Stamford Public Schools

Stamford Public Schools Shortens School Year

Lina Coppola
Viewpoint Editor

On March 10th, the Board of Education voted unanimously to shorten the school year from 181 days to 180 days after snow days pushed the calendar into late June. This change intends for students and staff to observe Juneteenth and avoid additional school days in the summer.

The decision was driven by practical concerns. In recent years, weather-related school closures have pushed the last day of school into late June, which interferes with summer plans and exposes students and staff to uncomfortable conditions. Not to mention that school sometimes gets extended due to it being too hot to come in. By reducing the number of required school days, the district aims to prevent the school year from being extended further.

Some teachers believe that this could be avoided altogether by replacing snow days with remote learning days. "In regard to AP coursework, you lose that day, you don't get it at the AP exam," said Tyson Kubick, a history teacher.

While the solution to this year is shortening the year, teachers agree that on the last couple of days, attendance decreases and students are assigned busywork.

"It's good that we'll have [one less day] so I can spend more time with my family and friends"

In addition to the calendar changes, scheduling has raised concerns about instructional time. Under the flexible 4x4 block schedule, many full year courses are condensed into a single semester. This compression can make it difficult for students to grasp the course content. With the school year now being shortened as well, questions remain about whether teachers can complete the curriculum, particularly for students taking courses in the second semester.

It remains unclear how the schedule change affects teachers after the last day of school. When asked whether PTO days would be adjusted, Kubick said he was unsure, leaving questions about what the faculty schedules will look like once students are dismissed.

Students view the shorter year as a positive change. "Half of the kids already aren't there anyways, because they're on vacation, or they just don't want to go," said Riley Hall ('27). Other students echo that during the final days of school, many struggle to focus or retain information.

Other students see the change as a personal benefit. For students, the earlier end provides additional time to relax and focus on activities outside school.

Ultimately, the decision to shorten the school year reflects the challenge of balancing concerns with maintaining instructional time. While most students are excited about the earlier end to the school year, questions remain about the academic impact and how future disruptions will be handled. And as the district moves forward, finding a long-term solution to weather-related closures will continue to be an issue.

WESTHILL students enter the school. Courtesy of Stamford Advocate