



QUALICUM SCHOOL DISTRICT

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December 3, 2025

Dear Parents and Caregivers:

What do teachers do on non-instructional days?

As you may be aware, the types of non-instructional days, as well as the minimum number of them, are set by the province through agreements between the Ministry of Education and the BC Teachers' Federation. Professional Development (Pro-D) days were added to the *School Act* many years ago through teacher bargaining, and the school year was made longer to include them. In the Qualicum School District, we have five days set aside each year for teacher and staff learning. In past years, more days were added to help schools move to the New BC Curriculum. The dates for these days are chosen through a local calendar consultation process.

Pro-D days are often placed earlier in the school year so staff can build shared learning and momentum. This helps guide their work for the rest of the year. So far this year, teachers have taken part in many professional learning activities, including:

September 29 – Ministry-Designated Pro-D Day:

The Ministry set the theme for this day. Educational assistants, child and youth care workers, Indigenous advocates, teachers, and principals took part in a district-wide session led by the Indigenous Education team on the Local Nation's Timeline Project. In the afternoon, school teams continued learning together, explored the resources, and agreed on next steps.

October 24 – Provincial Pro-D Day:

Staff chose from a wide range of learning sessions, including student mental health, Indigenous education, outdoor learning, numeracy, literacy, technology-supported learning, and student resiliency. Nearly 200 teachers attended conferences, either online or in person, through their professional learning associations.

November 24 and February 13 – School-Based Pro-D Days:

Two more days this year will provide learning designed by each school to support staff needs and student success.

May 14 – District Pro-D Day:

Planned by the MATA Pro-D Committee, this day brings all educators together in one location. It usually includes a keynote speaker and workshops on topics such as teaching strategies, assessment, inclusive education, literacy, numeracy, wellness, and current topics like AI and technology.

In addition, **November 10** and **May 15** are conference adjustment days. These days recognize the extra time teachers spend meeting with parents and caregivers during afternoons and evenings and specifically time spent during parent/teacher conferences.

Finally, **June 26** is an administrative day for teachers to wrap up the school year, which is a long-standing practice in BC. Secondary schools also have a **Semester Turnaround Day on January 26**, allowing teachers to complete reporting and prepare for new classes the next day. This is in addition to the required instructional minutes.

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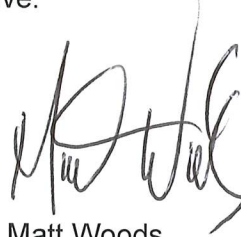
We believe it is important for parents and caregivers to know how school teams, district staff, and our unions work together to support learning on these non-instructional days. These opportunities help teachers grow their practice, try new strategies, and improve student learning and well-being.

On behalf of the School District and all of our teachers, thank you for your continued support in making these professional learning days meaningful and effective.

Sincerely,



Dr. Peter Jory
Superintendent of Schools/CEO
Qualicum School District



Mr. Matt Woods
President
Mount Arrowsmith Teachers' Association