

Date: April 3, 2020  
For ACTION  X   
For INFORMATION       
Board Agenda: Yes  X   
No    

**FROM:** Gerald R. Mann, Jr., Ed.D., Executive Director, Secondary Instruction  
Marya Runkle, Director of Technology Services, Education and Business Systems  
Darrell Sampson, Director, K-12 School Counseling  
Jennifer Abbruzzese, Director of Policy and Board Initiatives

**THROUGH:** Terri Mozingo, Ed.D., Chief Academic Officer  
Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

**TO:** The Honorable Cindy Anderson, Chair, and  
Members of the Alexandria City School Board

**TOPIC:** Proposed Changes to SY 2019-2020 Academic Calendars

**ACPS 2020 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:**

Goal 1: Academic Excellence and Educational Equity

**SY 2019-2020 FOCUS AREA:**

Focus Area 1: Educational Equity

**FY 2020 BUDGET PRIORITY:**

Specialized Instruction  
English Learner Services  
Gap Group Achievements  
Academics

**SUMMARY:**

In order to address the “cessation of all in-person instruction at K-12 schools, public and private, for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year” as ordered by Virginia Governor Northam’s [Executive Order 53](#) (March 23, 2020) and in alignment with [recent Virginia Department of Education \(VDOE\) guidance](#), adjustments to the ACPS academic calendars are proposed for the third and fourth quarters of the 2019-2020 school year.

These adjustments are intended to ensure maximum flexibility and support for continuity of student learning as ACPS transitions to its distance learning plan.

### **Proposed Changes: Elementary (Grades PreK-5)**

- Although Friday, April 3 would remain as the end of the third quarter for the traditional academic calendar (Friday, March 20 for the modified academic calendar), a student's progress report would be based on work due on or before March 13, the last day of school before the closure.
- Monday, April 13 would become a Professional Day for school staff. Previously, April 13 was a Teacher Work Day (moved to April 27, see below). It would be transitioned to a Professional Day for staff to finalize plans for the next phase of continuity of learning.
- Tuesday, April 14 would be the first day of the fourth quarter for elementary students. Instruction of new content would begin.
- Monday, April 27 would become a Teacher Work Day to finalize and enter third quarter grades.

### **Proposed Changes: Secondary (Grades 6-12)**

- Monday, April 13 would become a Professional Day for school staff. Previously, April 13 was a Teacher Work Day (moved to April 27, see below). It would be transitioned to a Professional Day for staff to finalize plans for the next phase of continuity of learning.
- Friday, April 24 would be the last day of the third quarter. The third quarter would be extended for grades 6-12 to allow students to turn in any missing work due on or before March 13. Work due after March 13 would not be factored into third quarter grades as school buildings were closed. Teachers would be able to support students with third quarter material as needed to assist with completing assignments.
- Monday, April 27 would become a Teacher Work Day to finalize and enter third quarter grades.
- Tuesday, April 28 would be the first day of the fourth quarter for secondary students. Instruction of new content would begin.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

On Friday, March 13, 2020, ACPS closed all schools due to the Coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic in order to promote physical distancing and the safety and wellness of school staff, students, and their families. On the same day, Governor Northam ordered Virginia schools to close for two weeks. On March 23, 2020 the Governor ordered all Virginia schools to remain closed for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board approve the proposed changes to the third and fourth quarters of the SY 2019-2020 academic calendars.

**IMPACT:**

As advised in the Virginia Superintendent of Public Instruction's [Superintendent's Memo #077-20](#), school divisions should consider adjusting academic calendars to maintain the instructional delivery necessary to award standard credits for SY 2019-2020. These proposed changes are intended to address the impact of extended closures as well as critical instructional and logistical barriers faced by ACPS during the COVID-19 pandemic. As Superintendent Lane's Memo provides, "School divisions are not being asked to replicate the existing school day or year, but [to] provide opportunities for students to make academic progress and continue to learn and grow."

**ATTACHMENTS:**

DRAFT 2019-2020 Academic Calendars Reflecting Proposed Adjustments

**CONTACT:**

Dr. Gerald R. Mann, Jr.  
[gerald.mann@acps.k12.va.us](mailto:gerald.mann@acps.k12.va.us)