

## BOARD BRIEF

Date: September 6, 2019

Information:

Action:

Board Agenda: Yes

Board Agenda: No

**FROM:** Peter M. Balas, Principal, T.C. Williams High School  
Gerald R. Mann, Jr., Ed.D., Executive Director of Secondary Instruction

**THROUGH:** Dr. Stephen M. Wilkins, Chief Human Resources Officer  
Terri H. 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 the Academic Calendar to Accommodate Revised Testing Schedule at T.C. Williams High School (King Street and Minnie Howard Campuses)

**BACKGROUND:** T.C. Williams High School administers the PSAT, SAT, and PSAT NMSQT to students in grades 9-12 on three different dates in the school year. Each of these testing days will need academic calendar adjustments for the non-testers. The requested changes are:

- **October 16, 2019 - SAT testing for grade 12 and PSAT for grade 9**  
Currently, October 9, 2019 is listed as an early release day for the purpose of testing at T.C. Williams King Street Campus only. The requested change is to substitute October 16, 2019 as an early release day for both campuses of T.C. Williams, and to restore October 9 to a full school day.
- **October 30, 2019 - PSAT Exam for grade 10 and NMSQT for grade 11**  
The date for the PSAT and NMSQT testing was released after the approval of the 2019-2020 Traditional Academic Calendar. We are requesting that the King Street Campus operate on an early release schedule for October 30. There is no impact to the Minnie Howard Campus.
- **April 14, 2020 - SAT Exam for grade 11**  
Spring testing of the SAT Exam allows juniors to obtain a reportable score early in the college application process. April 14, 2020 is not listed as an early release day since the academic calendar was approved prior to the selection of this testing date. We are requesting that the King Street Campus operate on an early release schedule. There is no impact on the Minnie Howard Campus.

In addition to the Traditional Academic Calendar adjustments requested for October 30, 2019, and April 14, 2020, we recommend that non-testers at the King Street Campus not report to school on these days. This will preserve the sanctity of the testing environment and aligns with current practices during major testing administrations, allowing for students to be assessed in a structured testing environment free from interruption. In the

past three academic years, non-testers were invited to participate in a variety of college and career readiness activities at the King Street Campus. In each instance, non-testers at King Street did not attend.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Superintendent recommends the School Board review the requested changes to the 2019-2020 Traditional Academic Calendar for approval at the September 26, 2019 School Board Meeting.

**IMPACT:** Creation of an optimal testing environment for ACPS students in grades 10-12.

**CONTACT PERSON:** Peter Balas, Principal, T.C. Williams High School  
(703)824-6800

**ATTACHMENTS:** Approved 2019-2020 Traditional Academic Calendar  
Proposed 2019-2020 Traditional Academic Calendar