

BOARD MEMO

Date: November 11, 2021

For ACTION

For INFORMATION

Board Agenda: Yes

No

FROM: Melanie Kay-Wyatt, Ed.D., Executive Director, Department of Human Resources

THROUGH: Stephen M. Wilkins, Ed.D., Chief of Staff
Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

TO: The Honorable Meagan L. Alderton, Chair, and
Members of the Alexandria City School Board

TOPIC: Extended Thanksgiving Break – Amended 2021-2022 Academic Calendars

ACPS 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:

- Goal 1: Systemic Alignment
- Goal 2: Instructional Excellence
- Goal 3: Student Accessibility and Support
- Goal 4: Strategic Resource Allocation
- Goal 5: Family and Community Engagement

SY 2021-2022 FOCUS AREA:

N/A

FY 2022 BUDGET PRIORITY:

Implementation of 2025 Strategic Plan

SUMMARY:

ACPS has notified families and staff that the Thanksgiving Break will be extended this year by two days. All ACPS schools and offices will be closed Nov. 22-26, 2021 and amended the 2021-2022 calendar to reflect all ACPS schools and offices will be closed Nov. 22-26. This change will not impact the rest of the 2021-22 calendar nor result in days added at the end of the school year. ACPS determines the standard school year based on instructional hours and ACPS exceeds the VDOE requirement.

BACKGROUND:

ACPS understands how important it is to consider the individual well-being of everyone in our schools and the families in our community as we work to ensure that students can thrive in a safe and healthy learning environment. With this in mind, ACPS amended the 2021-2022 calendar to extend the Thanksgiving Break by two days so that everyone can have time to decompress and connect with the important people in our lives, while still being mindful of health and safety protocols the many challenges our students have faced over the past year and a half. This decision was made upon careful consideration of the high levels of stress that

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our students, families and staff have expressed during the first few months of this school year.

RECOMMENDATION: The Superintendent recommends that the School Board approve the revisions to SY 2021-2022 Academic Calendars to extend the Thanksgiving break. .

IMPACT:

Extend time for staff, students and families to connect with a Thanksgiving week break from November 22 – 26, 2021.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Revised SY 2021-2022 Traditional Academic Calendar
2. Revised SY 2021-2022 Modified Academic Calendar

CONTACT:

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