



# Policy Revisions

School Board Meeting  
May 4, 2023





# Essential Question

What operational standards will best support the Calendar Committee moving forward in proposing options for ACPS academic calendars?



# Start with Why

- Improves predictability / helps with planning
- Supports families living near division boundaries
- Supports staff who don't live in Alexandria
- Creates efficiencies
- Resources can be focused on other priorities



# Work of the Calendar Committee

- Developed the 2023-24 calendar
- Reached Consensus on Membership Governance
- Recommending Consideration of a Board Calendar Policy



# Work of the Calendar Alignment Team

- Formed a team of staff from nearby school divisions
  - Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax, Falls Church, Loudoun
- Confirmed a desire of regional calendar alignment
- Documented standard practices for 60 items
- Identified points of commonality
- Agreement to propose policies to School Boards
- Built a tool to simplify calendar “what if” scenarios



WELCOMING

# Proposed Board Belief Statement

Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) develops a school year calendar which strives to **honor our diverse community**. We acknowledge that many of our staff and families are impacted by the calendars of surrounding jurisdictions and **work to align our calendar with surrounding calendars** while meeting the unique needs of ACPS. To support this work, a committee with diverse representation develops draft calendar options which comply with state requirements and ACPS guidance.



# Proposed Calendar Committee

- The committee should have a broad, diverse, and balanced representation from a wide variety of stakeholders
- The role of a committee member is to represent the perspective of their stakeholder group in its entirety
- Committee members are expected to canvas their stakeholders and bring the findings back to the full committee



# Proposed Calendar Committee

- The work of the committee is a matter of consensus building. A consensus is the overall will of the committee
- Individual members might not personally agree with the consensus at the end of the committee's work
- Committee members agree to not publicly disagree with the committee consensus





WELCOMING

# Proposed Calendar Committee

## Stakeholder Organizations

- 2 PTAC
- 1 EAA
- 1 TAC
- 3 FACE Center

2-year term limits (staggered)  
May reapply after a 4-year break

## At-Large

- 1-2 Parents
- 1-2 Elementary Teachers
  - 1 Tucker
- 1-2 Secondary Teachers
- 1-2 Support Staff Members
- 1-2 Students
- 1-2 Central Office Staff Members



# Proposed Calendar Committee Process

- At Large membership advertised by September 1
- Membership secured by September 30
- Human Resources creates a draft calendar based on the regulation
- Committee members canvas stakeholders and gather feedback (**no survey**)
- Committee makes revisions based on feedback (while still following the regulation)
- Committee proposes three years of calendars (2 for adoption, one for information)
- Board approval in December



# Proposed Calendar Committee Direction

- First day of school is two weeks before Labor Day
- If, after including all required days the last day of school is a Monday or Tuesday, add additional professional learning days as long as this does not result in school ending after Juneteenth
- Work to align the ACPS calendar with surrounding divisions
- When scheduling flexible items such as conference days, work towards 5-day student weeks and avoiding isolated school days (one school day bracketed by non-school days)



# Proposed Calendar Committee Direction

- Each marking period should have approximately the same number of instructional days
- Include one teacher work day at the end of marking periods 1, 2, and 3
- Conference days
  - Fall, one full day and one ½ day
  - Winter, one full day and one ½ day
  - To accommodate families, the Elementary, Middle, and High School conference days should fall on different days



# Proposed Calendar Committee Direction

- Winter Break should be two weeks. The break should incorporate Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve, and New Year's day.
- Winter Break should start on a Monday and end on a Friday unless federally observed holidays preclude this from occurring.
- Spring Break should be one week and should align with surrounding school divisions.



# Proposed Holidays

- Friday before Labor Day
- Labor Day
- Veteran's Day
- Day before Thanksgiving
- Thanksgiving
- Day after Thanksgiving
- Christmas Eve
- Christmas Day
- New Year's Eve
- New Year's Day
- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Inauguration Day
- President's Day
- Memorial Day
- Diwali
- Rosh Hashanah
- Yom Kippur
- Eid al-Adha
- Eid al-Fitr
- Juneteenth
- Independence Day

If an ACPS holiday is a Federal holiday and it falls on a weekend, the holiday will be observed on the observed federal holiday. If the holiday is not a federal holiday, it will not be an ACPS observed holiday.



# Proposed Professional Learning / Work Days

- Indigenous Peoples Day
- Election Day



# Proposed Cultural Observance Days

- All Saints Day/Dia de los Muertos
- Bodi Day
- Three Kings Day / Epiphany
- Orthodox Epiphany
- First Full Day of Ramadan
- Last Day of Passover
- Lunar New year
- Orthodox Christmas
- Orthodox Epiphany
- Orthodox Good Friday
- Theravada

These days should not have tests, quizzes, summative assessments, field trips, school pictures, assemblies, guest speakers, ACPS scheduled sporting events, school sponsored special events and activities (prom, back-to-school nights, town halls, etc.), auditions, tryouts, safety drills which occur 1-2 times a year, ACPS recruiting and hiring events, professional development activities or other ACPS conferences. Any new material introduced must be made available digitally. Any missed assignments due to student absences can be made up without penalty.





# Next Steps

- **Board deliberation on recommendations**
- **Draft proposed regulation**
- **Board consideration of proposed regulation**
- **Adopt regulation**





# Questions?

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