SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR REGULATIONS

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.

The Alexandria City School Board and the Superintendent have mutually established the following guidance for the development of recommended calendar options. Recommendations are presented to the Superintendent for consideration and then to the Board for approval.

ACPS Calendar Committee

The Superintendent appoints the Calendar Committee.

The committee should have a broad, diverse, and balanced representation from a wide variety of stakeholders. The role of the committee members is to represent the perspective of their stakeholder group in its entirety. For this reason, committee members are expected to canvass their stakeholders and bring the findings back to the full committee to help inform the committee's recommendations to the Board.

 Committee members are appointed to a two-year term at which point their service on the committee ends. To ensure a variety of voices can be heard, committee members may only apply for reappointment after a four-year break in service to the committee. Where possible, terms should be staggered to improve continuity.

The committee should consist of the following voting members:

Stakeholder organization members

- 2 representatives from the Parent Teacher Advisory Council (PTAC)
- 1 representative from the Educational Association of Alexandria (EAA)
- 1 representative from the Teacher Advisory Council (TAC)
- 3 representatives from the FACE center

At-large members

- 1-2 parents
- 1-2 elementary teachers
- 1 teacher from Tucker Elementary School
 - 1-2 secondary teachers
 - 1-2 school-based support staff members
 - 1-2 students
 - 1-2 Central office staff member

In addition to the committee members, the following departments assign staff members to advise the work of the committee. These non-voting members are not subject to term limits:

- Human Resources
 - Teaching, Learning, and Leadership

 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. Individual members are expected to support the consensus agreement, even if they do not agree. If a committee member feels that an option presented to the Board does not represent the committee consensus, they should inform the Executive Director of Human Resources.

ACPS Calendar Timelines

The calendar committee begins its work in the fall with appointments occurring in September. The committee will typically meet three times.

- An orientation/kickoff meeting in early October
- A drafting meeting in late October
- A recommendations finalization meeting in November

The committee is not expected to conduct general surveys of stakeholders. Instead, between each meeting, committee members are expected to canvass their stakeholders. Key questions and decision points for this canvassing will be discussed as part of the meeting agenda.

The committee presents its recommendations to the Board in December. The committee should present a three-year calendar outlook. The first two years are for Board adoption, the third year is for Board information but will not be adopted.

ACPS Calendar Guidance

The Calendar Committee should use the following guidance when developing its draft calendars. If the Calendar Committee finds it is not possible to include all elements of the guidance in the calendar it should include in its recommendations which elements were not included an the rationale for the recommendation.

• Work to align the ACPS calendar with the calendars of surrounding school divisions

• Include 178 student days and 195 teacher days

• The first day of school should be two weeks prior to Labor Day

 • The last day of school should be before Juneteenth and should not fall on a Monday or Tuesday

• Each marking period should have approximately the same number of instructional days

• Include one teacher work day at the end of marking periods 1 through 3

• 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)

93	
94	 The following days should be holidays for students and staff
95	 Friday before Labor Day
96	 Labor Day
97	 Veterans Day
98	 Day before Thanksgiving
99	 Thanksgiving
100	 Day after Thanksgiving
101	o Christmas Eve
102	 Christmas Day
103	New Year's Eve
104	 New Year's Day
105	 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
106	 Inauguration Day
107	 Presidents Day
108	 Memorial Day
109	o Diwali
110	 Rosh Hashanah
111	 Yom Kippur
112	o Eid al-Adha
113	o Eid al-Fitr
114	 Juneteenth
115	 Independence Day
116	
117	• Winter Break should be two weeks. The break should incorporate Christmas Eve,
118	Christmas Day, New Year's Eve, and New Year's day. The Winter Break should start on
119	a Monday and end on a Friday unless federally observed holidays preclude this from
120	occurring.
121	
122	• Spring Break should be one week and should align with surrounding school divisions.
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124	• If an ACPS holiday is a federal holiday and it falls on a weekend, the holiday will be
125	observed on the observed federal holiday. If the holiday is not a federal holiday, it will not
126	be an ACPS observed holiday.
127	
128	• The following days should be non-school days for students and professional
129	learning/teacher work days for staff
130	 Indigenous Peoples Day
131	o Election Day
132	Presidential Primary Election Day
133	
134	 Conference days
135	 Three days or the equivalent split between fall and winter.
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If, after including all required days, the last day of school is a Monday or Tuesday, add 137 additional professional learning days as long as this does not result in school ending after 138 Juneteenth. 139 140 The committee should publish, as part of its recommendations, the following days as 141 Cultural Observance Days. These days should not have tests, quizzes, summative 142 assessments, field trips, school pictures, assemblies, guest speakers, sporting events, school 143 sponsored special events and activities (prom, back-to-school nights, town halls, etc), 144 auditions tryouts, safety drills which occur 1-2 times a year, recruiting and hiring events, 145 professional development activities or other conferences at a time that would interfere with 146 the observance (some observances begin in the evening). Any new material introduced 147 must be made available digitally. Any missed assignments due to student absences can be 148 made up without penalty. 149 150 Full Day Cultural Observance Days 151 All Saints Day/Dia de los Muertos 152 0 Bodi Day 153 Three Kings Day/Epiphany 154 o First Full Day of Ramadan 155 Last Day of Passover 156 Lunar New year 157 Orthodox Christmas 158 Orthodox Epiphany 159 Orthodox Good Friday 160 0 Theravada 161 162 163 **Evening Only Cultural Observance Days** Chanukah begins 164 Eid al-Fitr begins 165 o Eid al-Adha begins 166 First Evening of Passover 167 Second Evening of Passover 168 Ramadan begins 169 Rosh Hashanah begins 170 Yom Kippur begins 171 172 173 Adopted: June 15, 2023 174 175 176 Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended §§ 22.1-26, 22.1-79.1, 22.1-98, 22.1-200.2 177 178 Acts 2019, cc. 569, 570 and 637. 179

8 VAC 20-131-150.

8 VAC 20-131-200.

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183		8 VAC 20-490	0-30.
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185	Cross Refs.:	BCF	Advisory Committees to the School Board
186		DL	Payroll Procedures
187		GAA	Staff Time Schedules
188		IC/ID	School Year/School Day
189		IKF	The Virginia Assessment Program and Graduation Requirements



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95	 Friday before Labor Day 				
96	o_Labor Day				
97	o Veterans Day	Commented [1]: Accidentally omitted, Veteran's d			
98	 Day before Thanksgiving 	was listed as a holiday when presented as a Board			
99	 Thanksgiving 	Work Session.			
100	 Day after Thanksgiving 				
101	 Christmas Eve 				
102	o Christmas Day				
103	New Year's Eve				
104	New Year's Day				
105	o Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day				
106	 Inauguration Day 				
107	 President²s Day 				
108	Memorial Day				
109	o Diwali				
110	o Rosh Hashanah				
111	O Yom Kippur				
112	○ Eid al-Adha				
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126	be an ACPS observed holiday.				
127					

Commented [2]: Adjusted to provide the calendar committee additional flexibility.

• The following days should be non-school days for students and professional

Three days or the equivalent split between fall and winter Fall, one full day and one

learning/teacher work days for staff

o Indigenous Peoples Day

o Presidential Primary Election Day

o Winter, one full day and one ½ day

o Election Day

• Conference days

• The following days should be holidays for students and staff

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185 186 187		8 VAC 20-13 8 VAC 20-49	
188	Cross Refs.:	BCF	Advisory Committees to the School Board
189		DL	Payroll Procedures
190		GAA	Staff Time Schedules
191		IC/ID	School Year/School Day
192		IKF	The Virginia Assessment Program and Graduation Requirements

