

ACPS Academic Calendars

2020-2021 School Year

School Board Meeting

December 5, 2019



EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS

Purpose

1. Recommend approval of the proposed 2020-2021 academic calendars.
2. Propose additional Calendar Committee work on the question of a pre-Labor Day start in August 2021. A recommendation would be presented to the Board in February 2020.
3. Propose a two-year, calendar-planning cycle for the staff.

Guiding Questions

- How was input gathered for the academic calendars?
- What is the feedback on a pre-Labor Day start?
- What are the key features of the proposed SY 2020-2021 academic calendars?

Community and Staff Input

- Community Survey: Online survey of preferences for Traditional and Modified calendars via ACPS Insider and ACPS Express.
- Calendar Committee: Meetings convened on October 3 and November 7.
- Senior Leadership Team: Cabinet meeting on November 8

2020-2021 Calendar Committee Members (31)

- Stacie Anderson, Parent
- Unique Coleman, Parent
- Babette Cooper, Parent
- Nardos Desda, Parent
- Cecilia Fowlkes, Parent
- Danielle Routhouska, Parent and Teacher
- Amy Sullivan, Parent
- Pam Townsend, Parent
- Mary Gaddis, Paraprofessional
- Kathleen Brewster, Teacher
- Christina Bohringer, Teacher
- Erin Davidson, Teacher
- Jasmine Dawson, Teacher
- Christie Goodman, Teacher
- Tracy Hamilton, Teacher
- Susan Horita, Teacher
- Courtney Horwat, Teacher
- Sandra Intrator, Teacher
- Armille Mitchell, Teacher
- Tracey Ramey, Teacher
- Justin Redpath-Discola, Teacher
- Jennifer Yates, Teacher
- Kelly Davis, Administrator
- Melissa Deak, Administrator
- Dr. Debra Lane, Administrator
- Jim Loomis, Administrator
- Dr. Gerald Mann, Administrator
- Dr. Lisa Piehota, Administrator
- Charles Stone, Administrator
- Maggie Tran, Administrator
- Dr. Stephen Wilkins, Administrator

Results of Public Feedback

Survey of preferences among three draft calendars:

- Version 1 - Most closely matches the SY 2019-2020 calendar
- Version 2 - Starts one week prior to Labor Day
- Version 3 - Starts after Labor Day, but reduces number of student days by calculating in hours

Results of Public Feedback (contd.)

Traditional Calendar Feedback – Comparison of Drafts – 1403 responses

	Version 1	Version 2	Version 3
1. Employee	41	306	165
2. Parent	242	283	178
3. Parent & Employee	7	48	36
4. Student	5	21	45
5. Community Member	4	16	6
Total	299	674	430

Modified Calendar Feedback – Comparison of Drafts – 176 responses

	Version 1	Version 2	Version 3
1. Employee	9	34	24
2. Parent	45	26	27
3. Parent & Employee	1	4	2
4. Student	0	0	2
5. Community Member	0	2	0
Total	55	66	55

Takeaway:
Parents and staff prefer a pre-Labor Day start but need time to transition to a new schedule.

Proposal #1: Calendars for Approval

- The recommended 2020-2021 calendars are similar to the current year.
- The 2020-2021 year could serve as a transition year to a pre-Labor Day start in August 2021.
- Please see attached calendars for reference.

What's Different for the 2020-21 Calendar?

- First day of school: Traditional Calendar is September 8
- First day of school: Modified Calendar (Samuel Tucker) is August 6
- Professional Development (PD) Days: two additional days
- Student Instructional Days: Reduced from 183 to 180 to add PD days
- Teacher Days: Changes from 196 to 195 (no change in pay)
- Inauguration Day: Not a holiday. This day is used for a day off on December 22.
- Last week of school - Three early release days, one professional learning day, and one teacher work day (TWD)
- Conversion to hours: There are 60-hours (or 10 days) above the 990-hours minimum
- Snow days available: 10 days

Proposal #2: Continue the Calendar Work of a pre-Labor Day start in August 2021

Considerations to review:

- Academic advantages of increased learning time before testing
- Alignment with other divisions which start before Labor Day
- Change in school start times proposed for SY 2021-2022
- City-School Program adjustments
- Impacts of a compressed-summer period for schools and offices in the first summer transition (June 2021 – August 2021)

Divisions with a pre-Labor Day start

- **Fairfax:** August 25 (eight days prior), 194 contract days, 180 student days
- **Prince William:** August 25 (eight days prior), 195 contract days, 180 student days
- **Loudoun:** August 27 (six days prior), 194 contract days, 180 student days
- **Arlington** – to be determined
- **Falls Church** – to be determined
- **Alexandria City Public Schools** – to be determined

Proposal #3: Adopt a 2-year Calendar Cycle

No decision is needed at this time. The staff suggests a 2-year calendar-planning cycle. Doing so would ease staff workload and provide a long term calendar plan for students and parents.

Superintendent

Dr. Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr.

School Board

Cindy Anderson, *Chair*
Veronica Nolan, *Vice Chair*

Meagan L. Alderton
Ramee A. Gentry
Jacinta Greene
Margaret Lorber

Michelle Rief
Christopher A. Suarez
Heather Thornton

Discussion

**Thank you to our community and staff.
Your feedback is appreciated.**

Point of Contact:

Dr. Stephen Wilkins

Chief Human Resources Officer