

BOARD MEMO

Date: September 26, 2019

For ACTION

For INFORMATION

Board Agenda: Yes

No

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

THROUGH: Stephen M. Wilkins, Ed.D., Chief Human Resources Officer
Terri H. Mozingo, Ed.D., Chief Academic Officer
Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

TOPIC: Proposed Changes to the Academic Calendar to Accommodate Revised Testing Schedule at T.C. Williams High School (King Street and Minnie Howard Campuses)

ACPS 2020 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:

Goal 1: Academic Excellence and Educational Equity

Goal 6: Effective and Efficient Operations

SY 2019-2020 FOCUS AREA:

Focus Area 1: Educational Equity

FY 2020 BUDGET PRIORITY:

Optimal and Equitable Learning Environments

SUMMARY:

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.

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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.

BACKGROUND:

Each year the Traditional and Modified Academic Calendars for the next school year are developed with input and recommendations from the Calendar Committee composed of staff, parents and stakeholders. Opportunities are provided for staff, parents and community to respond to draft calendar options before presenting final options to the School Board at a meeting in early December. The Traditional and Academic Calendars are adopted at the last meeting in December.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board approve the requested changes to the 2019-2020 Traditional Academic Calendar in order to align with high school testing dates.

IMPACT:

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

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Approved 2019-2020 Traditional Academic Calendar
2. Proposed 2019-2020 Traditional Academic Calendar

CONTACT:

Mr. Peter M. Balas, Principal, T.C. Williams High School
Dr. Gerald Mann, Jr., Executive Director of Secondary Education
Dr. Stephen M. Wilkins, Chief Human Resources Officer