

Type of Respondent	Comments
Employee (NT)	2 weeks off at winter break is a must the way the holiday falls. Attendance is very low when we only come back for one or two days. One year I had zero students in my first period class and about 50% attendance in the rest. Following neighboring school district calendars is also helpful for teachers who have children in other districts (which is a large number). Even many day care centers in Alexandria follow the Fairfax calendar.
Employee (NT)	ACPS can NOT consider the Wednesday before Thanksgiving as a work day, even for early release. That would mean forcing teacher and staff to pay a tremendous premium for travel a day later than we currently travel. More importantly, the sheer number of teachers who will take that Wednesday off will lead to chaos, as schools scramble to find substitutes to cover. This will lead to unnecessary additional overhead costs for the district, as it tries to pay for all of the additional subs. Finally, so few students will come to school that day - especially as a half day - that it will prove to be a total loss of instructional time.
Teacher-Elementary	ACPS should adopt a holiday observance list...and then work from there. Extra days off near a holiday are nice, but not the driving force.
Parent-Both	Another consideration would be to make one of the Teacher Work Days always Nov.1 so that kids can enjoy Halloween.
Parent-Elementary	April 22 should not be a make up day. It is the only break between March 28 and May 30. Teachers and families both need this break.
Teacher-MS/HS	As a teacher, it is important to have the full 2 weeks off for not only rest, but time to plan the next units as well. Thank you.
Parent-Both	Current conference schedules for middle school and high school are a disaster. 10 minutes is not enough - no one is ever running on schedule...
Teacher-Elementary	Do not keep us in school that week of Christmas. Students and teachers will be out. Teachers- even if it means no pay! People travel and take off other jobs. I like both options 1 and 2 equally.
Teacher-Elementary	Early release the day before Thanksgiving vacation is a waste of instructional time - time is shortened, students are not focused on learning due to the holiday.
Employee (NT)	Early release the day before Thanksgiving is a wasted day. Students and teachers are not focused and time is not used appropriately.
Teacher-MS/HS	Every time that teachers have gotten a significant cost of living adjustment to the pay scale, additional days and hours are added to the year. When we are not given a raise, the instructional time should also be reduced.
Teacher-Elementary	Families need a full day off the day before thanksgiving in order to travel. Also, there is no good reason for the school year to go until the end of June.
Teacher-MS/HS	follow fairfax schedule
Teacher-Elementary	For the elementary conference schedule, I prefer to have the first round of conferences mid October. This will allow for early interventions. The question was poorly worded.
Other	For the sake of working parents, PLEASE maximize the number of full days and the length of the calendar year. Please MINIMIZE the early dismissal days.
Teacher-Elementary	For those of us who have family that live outside of VA, having the Wednesday before Thanksgiving and 2 full weeks for winter break really helps with travel.
Teacher-Elementary	Full two weeks at Winter is very important to me to allow travel. Also important to take culture considerations of Latino students and families who are used to a much longer break at this time.

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Teacher-MS/HS	Have a half day before thanksgiving would be an excellent idea to make sure the school year ends on that Friday. Having teachers come in for one extra day to checkout costs teachers time and money that is unnecessary. While I admit that little learning will occur on that half day it is a better solution than opening school for two days before the winter holiday. That would be a waste of two days and a waste of money having to heat and power the school.
Teacher-Elementary	Having a half day on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving would not be ideal instruction time. Many students would be absent and it would create more travel conflict for ACPS teachers and staff. It seems pointless to have a half day on that Wednesday - more hassle than it is worth.
Teacher-Elementary	Having no break from the beginning of the year until Thanksgiving is tiring. Even a PD day still requires us to come to school. Teachers should have a break at the beginning of the year, at least 3 days off for Thanksgiving break, and 2 weeks of winter break. I've noticed over the years our teacher work days have turned into professional development days. This creates late nights to prep for teaching and maintaining the classroom environment. I feel that some of the PD days could be changed into Teacher Word Days or Teacher holidays.
Parent-Elementary	How can you tell what my answer is for scheduling conferences? This is a badly structured survey! For the record, I want conferences earlier in October. As for the ranking of what's important: how about more teaching days, shorter summer break, and end school on a Thursday or Friday - camps don't start mid-week for those of us who work!
Teacher-MS/HS	How many snow days are embedded into the instructional calendar?
Employee (NT)	I am so grateful to that a full two weeks for winter break is being considered-thank you! It is not clear to me why we cannot have Columbus Day off without lengthening the end of the school year. Neighboring school systems seem to accomplish this without having to add instructional days.
Teacher-Elementary	I believe we need to keep the Wednesday before Thanksgiving as a Holiday for staff members to be able to travel home safely for the Holiday! I also believe the school year needs to end ASAP in June- due to the fact that grades are due weeks before the last day of school...
Teacher-Elementary	I feel if we extended the school day we could make up hours for instructional time, and be able to get out earlier in June.
Teacher-Elementary	I feel very strongly about having 2 full weeks for winter break. I think it gives teachers and students who are from different parts of the country or world to travel home for the holidays.
Parent-Elementary	I have two children at Tucker Elementary and love the calendar. My preferred option is to keep the two week winter vacation in December and instead take Wednesday before Thanksgiving as a half day (Option 2). We have family in Europe and are trying to maximize time abroad over the holidays, so this would be the best for us.
Teacher-MS/HS	I like option 1 the best as long as the final teacher work day is flex time. If teachers pull longer hours the week before, or come in on Saturday, June 25th, they should be exempt from reporting to work on the 27th. For example, this summer and last summer I will and did attend a professional development at JMU that started that Monday, so I needed the flexibility to be done in my classroom before the final teacher work day.
Teacher-Elementary	I think ACPS should strongly consider beginning the school year before Labor Day. We are not of an agrarian culture.
Teacher-Elementary	I think conferences should be held on one full day. Having three half days ruins our routine for the young kids and results in certain kids not getting certain topics (when in a block schedule). I would prefer one full day of conferences.

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Teacher-Elementary	I think that either Columbus Day and/or Veterans' Day could be instructional days so that we can get out earlier in June. Another option is letting teachers also have one of those days and it NOT be for professional development. Also, consider elementary conferences being one full day rather than three half days; one day in the fall and one day in the spring.
Parent-Elementary	I think that having more time off during the year for small breaks interspersed throughout is much more important than getting out of school a few days earlier in June.
Parent - MS/HS Student	I think that not making Veterans Day at least a TWD is a mistake because it is a holiday for pretty much everyone in our region, that I suspect there will be a large part of the student body absent that day. While Columbus Day is a federal holiday, it isn't observed by as many private businesses. In the past ACPS was able to work things out so that some of the TWD/professional days were adjacent to weekends near student holidays/breaks, allowing for a longer break for students (making it easier to schedule family trips) - for instance moving the professional day from March 11 to the 18th, or from Feb 5 to the 12th in these calendars. I don't think a half-day in Wednesday before Thanksgiving will change much, because the same families who might ignore that the kids were supposed to be in school because of travels would probably also be taking the kids out early Tuesday anyway. I certainly don't think its necessary to have the whole week off when Christmas falls on a Friday - few parents can afford to figure out child care for those extra days at the beginning of that week when most parents will have to work. Thanks for the opportunity to chime in so early in the process!
Teacher-Elementary	I think that there should be at least one Early Release Day per month so that teachers can receive structured content professional development.
Teacher-Elementary	I think that VA is a very transplanted state and many many of the staff hired travel for the holidays. Having two weeks off at Christmas time is helpful. I think that the Thanksgiving break is so short anyways, that people choose not to travel, so the half day instead of a full day won't really matter to people in the end. I do wish that the March break was the next week. I realize that Friday is Good Friday, but we miss so many other religious holidays and do not get off for them. Keep school open that week and allow us time off the week after. Then people do not have to travel on Easter Sunday to come back here and we can enjoy the day with our family. Having little to no breaks from the end of March to June is tough on teachers, so pushing the break back a week would help with this as well.
Employee (NT)	I think that we should enjoy a two week winter break since Christmas falls on a Sunday in 2016 and we won't get two week than. I wish you would move Spring Break back a week. I understand it has to do with sports but I don't see why they can't plan around that if Fairfax and Arlington's break is different.
Other	I was so excited when I saw that the calendar this year had two weeks built in for the winter holiday break. That makes it easier to travel, enjoy, relax, and recuperate. I am hopeful that this will remain intact for 2015-16. Thanks for giving us the chance to post our input.
Teacher-MS/HS	I would like to see another round on parent-teacher conferences about midway through the school year. I do like having the day before Thanksgiving off for travel, feel that 11-12 days off for Winter Break is acceptable, and enjoy ending school earlier in June (especially when all SOL and End Of Year tests are done by early to mid June).
Other	I would like to start the school year for teachers the fourth week in August instead of the three week.
Teacher-Elementary	-I would like us to consider moving conferences to be during the week of Thanksgiving. -There are several half-weeks in the year. These days are not maximized instructional time. For example, incomplete week, due to conferences, followed by an incomplete

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Employee (NT)	Ideal to have the teachers/ faculty off the same week as the kids. It would be a bummer to have to come in on Monday and not be able to start your vacation that weekend. Also, intermittent breaks are rewarding and something to look forward to.
Teacher-MS/HS	If you want to end the school year earlier, the days to remove are the professional days in October and March. Parents who work and teachers with children who do not have childcare must take a day off. Although the idea of these days is good in theory, it is not time that is well utilized. Having additional instructional days before the SOL and AP exams would be more productive than having additional days in June. AP teachers must finish the curriculum by the end of April and SOL teachers (depending on grade level) need to finish sometime in May. June is basically for enrichment activities unrelated to the SOL exams.
Teacher-MS/HS	In a district that is at warning for 2 years in a row for Math and Language Arts in middle school, why aren't we offering summer learning opportunities at the Middle School level? Why isn't there mandatory remediation classes during the academic school day offered for all students below grade level in Math and Language Arts? Why is the district placing more demands on teachers than on students that are failing Math and Language Arts, year after year after year? Why are students being passed to the next grade level if they fail most/all of their classes and SOL exams?
Employee (NT)	In all of the draft options, We should have Veteran's Day Off. We have a lot of military families and employees and it's important to get that day off. Two weeks for the holiday break would be nice also.
Teacher-MS/HS	In the past when Thanksgiving break did not include the Wednesday or winter break is not 2 weeks, parents pull their students out of school anyway. There is no penalty to the student for the missed days. Additionally, because of the ACPS homework policy, there is no homework due on the days before or after break that required students to be at school to turn in the assignments. The low attendance contributed to an atmosphere where learning did not take place and the days were used for parties and other non-academic activities. With full instructional days before break, teachers plan and implement full lessons and students expect these lessons because of the regular schedule.
Teacher-Elementary	Instead of having 3 early dismissal days for conferences, maybe we could have 1 full day and one early dismissal day. It can be a very long day for teachers teaching and then having conferences until 7pm. Also, it would maximize instructional time if we didn't dismiss early for 3 days in a row.
Teacher-Elementary	Instead of having 3 half days for conferences, is it possible to have 1 full day and one half day? A Thursday half-day and Friday full day would allow for families with morning availability to meet and would still provide plenty of time for teachers to meet with families. Not sure if 3 half days also counts as 3 instructional days, though.
Parent-Elementary	Intersession at Samuel Tucker Elem. School could be one week long (instead of two) both in the fall and in the spring, so that kids could have a longer summer and holidays could be still celebrated as usual.
Teacher-Elementary	It is a long stretch for teachers to go from September to thanksgiving w/out a break
Teacher-Elementary	It is much too long to go without a break from August until Thanksgiving!!! Teachers end up burned out at the beginning of the year and take sick or "mental health" days anyway. Give us back Columbus Day, please. Also, letting us out as early as possible at the end of the year helps us to prepare for our new school year and refresh our minds and bodies. 2 weeks off at Xmas is not necessary. 3 full half days for conferences is too much. 2 half days would be sufficient.
Employee (NT)	It is so important that the Winter break is a full two week period, so that ACPS students and staff can spend time with their families.

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Parent-Both	It makes no sense to take away the holidays only to end 3 days earlier in the summer. If the school administrators or teachers want to get out of school earlier, then start the school year earlier and/or eliminate teacher work days and do a better job of maximizing the students' time at school.
Teacher-MS/HS	It would be nice to try to align with other school districts especially for winter break. Child care can be an issue if we are working Dec 21-22 and have kids who are off.
Student-MS/HS	It's all good.
Teacher-Elementary	Keeping elementary conferences in November is best. Gives us time to know the students and see how they are adjusting with the academics. Also, keeping a full 2 weeks for winter break is great.
Parent - MS/HS Student	Last year for more than the last week in middle school, the students watched movies. Let them out earlier to begin their summer if instruction is over!
Teacher-Elementary	Let us keep our winter break.
Parent-Elementary	Like conference in end Oct instead of Nov
Teacher-Elementary	Make the school year 180 days and count hours. There is NO reason to go more than 180!
Employee (NT)	Many districts do not have a second set of conferences. Why can't we do that? Teachers can meet with parents during the year as concerns arise. Why can we not start in August? Can you re-educate people why. More days of instruction before SOL tests.
Teacher-MS/HS	More breaks for teachers and students during the school year.
Teacher-Elementary	Move the November TWD to November 11th to recognize Veterans Day for at least students. It is too important a holiday to ignore. Question 4 answer choices don't match question.
Parent - MS/HS Student	My first preference would be start school BEFORE Labor Day. Start school AUGUST 31 or September 1. Because of how late Labor Day is, ASK FOR A WAIVER. If that is off the table, I'd rather shorten the winter break and give up Veterans Day and MLK Day due to the proximity to the Thanksgiving and winter breaks but keep Columbus Day and President's Day as school holidays. Anything to end school as early in June as possible.
Parent-Elementary	My ultimate choice would be for a full year calendar so that my daughter can retain more instead of losing it over the summer break. Spring Break and Winter Break can remain the same, maybe just a short two week break for Summer as well.
Employee (NT)	need more PD days
Employee (NT)	Need Veterans' Day off. Shorten Winter Break. Extend school day by 15 minutes to build instructional time.
Parent-Elementary	No need to try to close the school earlier in June.
Employee (NT)	Option 1 allows for "Quality breaks" enabling us to travel and spend needed time with family and friends outside of school time. It allows us to "refresh" for better performance for our students and staff by providing everyone with much needed rest.
Teacher-Elementary	Option 1 and 3 are fine with the three days at Thanksgiving. Could the two days before Thanksgiving break be early releases for conferences? This would allow teachers and families to leave early on Tuesday if conferences are completed.
Student-Elem	Option 1 is my least preferred option

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Employee (NT)	Option 2 is appropriate only if staff is also allowed to leave at the early release time. If not, then there is no point. Staff should be able to have the time for travel, holiday prep, etc. Although maximizing instruction is very important, the two days in December prior to winter break are not productive. Everyone has moved in to being on break in their minds. Additionally, if you want students and teachers to be fully refreshed, a longer break is better. Plus it reduces stress since teachers have time to prep/travel for the holidays.
Employee (NT)	Option 3 would be my second choice.
Employee (NT)	Option one is the best, however, if Columbus day could be off and take away another holiday/day off that would be great!
Teacher-MS/HS	Options 2 and 4 are idiotic. If you have the day before Thanksgiving as an early release, think of your teachers who have children in other districts that will be off. You just guaranteed those teachers will call in sick. Additionally, student attendance is BRUTAL on delays and half days so you just cost the district money on special buses for a day with no practical instructional value. Finally, if you have the day before Thanksgiving and the two days before Christmas break as student days, what guarantees will there be that central office admin will work those days, school board members' children will attend school? In year's past when there have been scheduling oddities, children of school board members haven't come to school while the rest of the district did.
Teacher-Elementary	Options 2-4 allow students and teachers to get out school earlier, however they leave only 2 instructional days the last week of school, 2 instructional days the first week of winter break, and cause students to attend for a half day the day before Thanksgiving. When these short weeks happen, a large percentage of students do not attend school because their families choose to take them out of school to maximize the time for travel. As a result, this instructional time is less than ideal, and counts for little. Same with Thanksgiving--many students will not attend as they will be traveling with their families for the holiday. Many teachers will also be out of town. Instructional time needs to be effective--when students are not there, that time "counts" but is not optimal or maximized.
Teacher-MS/HS	Options 3 or 4
Employee (NT)	Parent-Teacher conferences work best if they are on two days instead of three.
Student-MS/HS	People generally travel the day before Thanksgiving. It wouldn't be right to make folks travel on Thanksgiving day. Two weeks for winter break would allow everyone - teachers and students alike to come back truly refreshed. We underestimate how necessary breaks are to the overall climate of a school.
Teacher-Elementary	Please do not make the Wednesday before Thanksgiving an early-release day. This is one of the most heavily traveled days of the year, and travel plans via car and plane will be a nightmare on Wednesday afternoon and/or evening. Please respect that teachers also have family in various parts of the world and would like to take advantage of a full day off before Thanksgiving. Thank you for your consideration.
Teacher-Elementary	Please do not move or change the structure of our parent teacher conferences at the elementary level. October is already a packed month--by November we have a better picture of where each student is academically. Also, in order to work around the diverse work schedules of our parents--and give parents adequate time during their conferences, we really need all three scheduled days.
Teacher-MS/HS	Please end the year as early in June as possible.
Parent-Elementary	Please honor Veterans and support working Parents by making Veterans Day a holiday instead of the Monday of that week.
Teacher-Elementary	Please keep the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. This is a great gift of an extra day so that employees can travel to see their families without having to go through the added stress of taking a leave day before a holiday. It would be a wasted instructional day if it were to be a half day and would add a lot of stress to a much needed break at this time of the year.

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Teacher-Elementary	Teachers need 3 days of conferencing time to allow ELL parents and teachers to communicate via translator. These conferences do last a long time so 3 days are needed. No one wants to work until July so please consider ending school as soon as possible.
Teacher-MS/HS	Teachers need a day off before Thanksgiving.
Parent-Elementary	Thank You
Teacher-MS/HS	Thank you for asking for our input.
Other	Thank you for requesting feedback! It really means a lot for you to base the calendar our our feedback.
Other	Thank you for requesting our feedback!
Parent-Both	Thank you for soliciting our input and giving us choices. I don't recall it ever being done before now.
Employee (NT)	Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into this process.
Parent - MS/HS Student	Thank you!
Parent-Elementary	Thanks for asking our opinion!!
Teacher-MS/HS	The breaks throughout the school years help with instruction time.
Parent-Both	The calendar committee must be assuming that we'll use those three snow days. We are only required to have 180 days of instructional time. I would prefer to see us schedule the 180 days and just add days in June if need be due to snow days. Thanks for all your hard work. Option #1 is best. Thank you.
Teacher-MS/HS	The fact that we are in more school days than any surrounding county and have the lowest test scores, shows that days in school does not correlate with better test scores. We should have more snow days built in every year. We should have more teacher work days.
Teacher-Elementary	The flex teacher work days need to be revisited. Many administrators do not allow teachers to use these days in the manner they were intended therefore taking away the "flex" part of the work days. Also, clarification on why some of the make-up days say, "No Make-up" would be nice.
Parent-Both	The full 2 weeks off for winter break is the most important to our family and is the top priority of choices listed.
Parent-Elementary	The question about conferences is an either / or question, yet the responses available are yes or no, so to clarify, I would prefer to have conferences earlier in October. There is a vast discrepancy in the amount and type of information that comes home depending on the teacher, in spite of parent calls / emails to the teacher, and waiting until the end of the first quarter is too long to get meaningful answers to questions. With this in mind, then, I also would rather not wait until February for the next round of conferences.
Parent-Both	The question on elementary conferences asks two questions but you can only have one answer. I would prefer to have the elementary conferences earlier in October, but not strongly. For the elementary level, grades aren't as important - so it's not as critical to have conferences after the quarter. For middle and high school - it is critical. On the whole calendar, our family goes out of town for the winter break, and therefore, I prefer a longer, contiguous break. I do think November has WAY to many days off. Get rid of Veteran's Day, which doesn't need to be a school holiday. As far as when we end in June, getting out on a Wednesday versus Friday doesn't matter to me. The kids can't go to camp that week and there's nothing for them to do. Stick with school for the whole week. Half weeks are difficult for parents.
Parent-Both	The second question is very confusing because I can't tell if "yes" means October conferences or "no" means October conferences. I prefer October conferences for Elementary students.

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Teacher-Elementary	The structure for Parent/Teacher Conferences is fine. Wednesday before Thanksgiving being a half day is AWFUL and making us wait until that day to have off from work to "recharge our energy level" is TERRIBLE. PD day in October is a waste of time and resources...give teachers a work day to complete all the clerical duties that are given to us so that we can get paperwork done.
Employee (NT)	The Wednesday before thanksgiving is when most people travel having that day off works well besides a lot of employees call in sick. Some principals will not let you off before a holiday unless you call in sick.
Parent-Elementary	The 'year round' academic schedule at Tucker Elementary reduces the summer 'loss' by students. The availability of the intersession courses enhances their learning.
Teacher-Elementary	There is no need for 2 weeks for the holiday break. For people traveling for Thanksgiving it would be difficult to have a half day and get out of the district with traffic.
Teacher-Elementary	This is not a yes/no question: "Do you prefer the current scheduling of elementary conferences at the end of the first quarter (when grades are available) or would you prefer to have conferences earlier in October (mid-first quarter)?"
Teacher-MS/HS	This year's calendar is great! Keep the same for next year.
Teacher-MS/HS	To try to battle burnout, I'm in great favor of more holidays and/or teacher directed workdays sprinkled throughout during the year. I don't mind ending later in June. I love having many instructional days, just with more time off to recover from and/or catch up with the workload.
Parent-Elementary	Trying to find childcare for both children is hard I have to work and taking days off is hard for me with the type of job I have. Keeping students in school has long as possible works for me. children that are in school longer retain information learned and again it cuts down on finding childcare for a full day which can be expensive.
Teacher-MS/HS	We don't need 2 weeks at Christmas- in fact we can work the weds before
Teacher-Elementary	We should end school earlier. We have the longest school yet yet have fewer snow days built into our schedule when a large portion of the staff commutes. Snow days should be called earlier like other districts.
Employee (NT)	We should not have school on Veteran's Day. It should be a day where we honor our veterans and show respect to their sacrifices and the sacrifices that their families make for our country.
Teacher-Elementary	Why do we have to have 183 days? The state only requires 180. If we cut our days to 182, then we could do option 2, but keep the full day before Thanksgiving as a break. That day before Thanksgiving is crucial for holiday travel, even more important than the days before Christmas. But getting out in the last week of June does not maximize instructional time. It's a waste.
Teacher-MS/HS	Why do we need extra PD/Teacher work days that are not at the end of a quarter? These are unnecessary and only lengthen the school year into June.
Teacher-Elementary	Why do we not honor Jewish Holidays?
Teacher-Elementary	Why does Alexandria Public Schools have more instructional and professional/teacher work days than the vast majority of school districts in the state of Virginia? Virginia Department of Education Guidelines state that there should be a minimum of 180 instructional days, ACPS far exceeds that minimum.
Teacher-MS/HS	Why is December 23 a holiday? Why not make the 23 a regular day and keep the Thanksgiving Wednesday off.
Other	Would like to change parent conferences to mid first quarter.
Parent-Elementary	Your questions are poorly worded. Match the federal calendar with no surprise days off.

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Teacher-Elementary	<p>1. I like having conferences at the end of the quarter because teachers in our school are already meeting at any given time throughout the quarter if we are seeing things that we are concerned about. We never wait until the end of the quarter but it is still nice to have those designated days at the end. It would be my preference to have one whole day of conferences instead of wasting two days with half days. This would help maximize instruction time with less disruption. 2. I put maximizing instruction time last, not because I think it is unimportant, but because I think two or three extra days right before a holiday or at the end of the year make no significant difference in student learning. Teachers are done, parents are done and students are done at this point. 3. I did not choose an option because I do not agree with any of the options. I am not an expert of VA law when it comes to the number of days we are in school, but I do know that we go more days than any other school district around by about 2 or 3 days. I understand that you all have a job to do but you need to consider teacher morale. What message does it send to hard working teachers to say you can either have the day before Thanksgiving, a full two weeks of vacation at Christmas or you have to come back in the Monday after students are gone. This is completely ridiculous and adds to low teacher morale. Let's also be realistic, once SOL's are complete, what do you think students, teachers and parents are doing? What do you think they are doing the day before Thanksgiving and Winter Break? Half the time they are already gone on vacation or parents aren't sending students to school so they have extra vacation time with their kids. Every year at these times I am teaching 1/2- 3/4ths of my class which isn't enough to do anything of real significance. I understand that you all have a job to do but it is very frustrating how out of touch you all are with the reality of what is actually going on in the classroom at these times. 4. Please consider teacher morale and the reality of what goes on in schools right before the holidays and at the end of the school year when you make the schedule. Please also consider that teachers are perfectly aware that we go more days than surrounding school districts. Many teachers feel the way I do but are afraid to voice their opinion. They don't trust that these surveys are anonymous. They also don't trust that our feedback will be listened to. The last 6 years have been very frustrating and have contributed to extremely low teacher morale and a lack of trust in central office having everyone's best interest at heart. Please listen to our feedback or recognize why you get a lack of negative feedback, we are your best resource for what is going on in the classrooms.</p>
Parent-Both	<p>2 weeks in winter is vital for students, teachers and families to recharge, rest and enjoy time together. The brain & body need time to relax and engage in other activities, so that students and teachers are refreshed and energized to begin school again in January.</p>
Student-MS/HS	<p>All federal holidays should be observed, especially Veteran's Day out of respect for those who work for ACPS and have served our country. Given the number of transient employees, the Wednesday before Thanksgiving should remain a full holiday. ACPS continues to have the highest number of teacher contractual days compared to any other district in the area.</p>
Other	<p>As a career ACPS teacher, a long-time substitute teacher and a veteran, I am disappointed to see that all of the academic calendar options do not recognize the service and sacrifice of veterans by making November 11th a school holiday. There is significant tradition and fact that makes November 11th the day upon which Veterans Day should be observed. I hope that it is not too late to consider making November 11, 2015, a school holiday. Respectfully, Bill Jacobson ACPS Teacher 1977-2006 ACPS Substitute teacher 2006-2014 US Army 1967-1973 including a tour in Vietnam.</p>
Parent-Both	<p>As a working parent, I prefer the last day of school to be on a Friday. It's hard to find child care for a Thursday or Friday. Most (if not all) camps start on Monday.</p>
Parent-Both	<p>Ending school June 24th is a waste of time since the students are mentally done well before then.</p>
Parent-Elementary	<p>I believe Option 1 is the best option because it prevents having students absent on days in which they should be receiving instructional learning, i.e. winter break and thanksgiving holidays. Most families plan their vacations based on the school schedule and Option 1 will be the best option for our family, and has allowed us the opportunity to plan better this school year as well. Plus, the last day of school would be at the end of the week, which is more convenient overall.</p>
Teacher-Elementary	<p>I believe that we need to extend the school day by one hour, to allow us more time to teach all of the content areas better.</p>

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Parent-Both	I do not want the conference days to change. I do not feel that they would be helpful if we do them too early. I think the high school and middle schools need to look at how they structure conferences, but I think the elementary schools do a great job of it.
Parent-Both	I recommend keeping the Wednesday before Thanksgiving as a full day off from school. My children attend ACPS schools and my us and teaches at TC Williams. A half-day will only encourage students and families to disregard that day. It has been frustrating when my kids' classes are under attended and my husband's classes also are sparsely attended on that day. Please keep that day and shorten the winter break. It is difficult for families to provide child care for two full weeks.
Parent-Elementary	I think the conferences can be condensed so that there aren't three half days of school for conferences.
Parent-Both	I would be in favor of making changes that make sense, but none of the proposed Options 2-4 seem to yield much instructional or budgetary benefit. 1. The half Wednesday prior to Thanksgiving - this just seems to be an attempt to add hours to the calendar where quality instruction would not be made. We all know this is the busiest travel day of the year; a good chunk of students would simply be called in as absent. 2. Incrementally taking out those last few days of school does not seem to have a defined benefit. It would only push up the last few days of videos, class games, non-instruction. Ending school a few days earlier that week would seemingly also be a greater hardship for those with dual working parents. Day camps start at the beginning of the week -- not on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. 3. If we are looking at true scheduling changes, let's really take a look at the full calendar throughout the year and try not to make changes to give the appearance of an effort to make changes. I realize this is not the intention, but it seems that a lot of effort has been put forth yielding little outcome. 4. Allowing middle school students two half days off for conferences is fine -- but PLEASE allow two days for conferences. I was one of those 6th grade working parents who took a look at the calendar prior to the school year, put in to take the entire FRIDAY off, only to find out that Thursday-only conferences are held due to teacher contracts. If you are going to do that, please let new families know ahead of time. Elementary teachers provide it. Why can't middle school teachers provide more than one day?
Teacher-Elementary	In regards to the conferences I would like to see a change in the time frame of when they are conducted. Currently teachers spend several hours after instructing students meeting with families late into the evening. This is exhausting and means the teachers are not as awake and alert as we would like when sharing student progress. We also find ourselves scheduling conferences outside of the allocated time frame to meet the needs of families. In addition it is not clear how we are compensated for these additional hours as they take time away from personal obligations and needs. I would like to see at least one full day for conferences in which school is closed for students. This would allow even more time frames for parents who are available to meet during the day and free up more evening times slots for parents who can not attend earlier which will help teachers and families get home earlier in the evening and get a good nights sleep so we are prepared to instruct the following day. Thank you
Teacher-Elementary	More teacher workdays in August. Too much time for professional days. There should not be a meeting of any kind on a teacher workday. Not even grade level meeting because we have common planning time each day for grade level teams to meet.
Parent-Both	My daughter just started middle school. The communication is not as much as in elementary school. I would like a second quarter conference just in case. I like that school ends on a Friday for working parents. If there was a way to cut out Veterans, Columbus and shorten the winter break so we end Friday June 17th, I would prefer that.
Parent-Elementary	Please petition for a waiver to start school the week before Labor Day. There are no camps available that week, no sitters bc everyone has gone back to college. Working parents are completely out of luck for childcare. IN addition, an earlier start would allow for school to end earlier in June.
Parent-Elementary	Please retain the Wednesday before Thanksgiving as a full holiday, and retain the full two weeks of winter break. This is especially important for families with shared custody who have to split up holiday time. Columbus Day should not be a day off of school.

Type of Respondent	Comments
Parent-Elementary	Strongly prefer full day off Wednesday before thanksgiving. Have no issue with school ending later in June to accommodate this.
Parent-Elementary	Teachers need a holiday before Thanksgiving. Give them Columbus Day off as a holiday NOT a work day. Build in snow days, but do not take the work days in winter months. Bring the modified calendar to the school district to prevent brain drain and wasting the first quarter of school reviewing!!!!!!!!!!
Parent-Elementary	Thanks for allowing input. I think the teacher work days over the holiday ie Columbus Day works really well for families of working parents. I don't think we need a full two week winter break.
Teacher-Elementary	There are many employees that are DC natives, just like the rest of the area. Taking away the day before thanksgiving and days before Christmas tells us, "we don't care about you, your family, or your morale". I should be able to see my family!
Parent-Elementary	We should have a longer school year to shorten the summer break. More recess time outside. More languages.
Student-MS/HS	When the first day of summer comes the students should be out of school and enjoy their summer vacation.