

Date: 7/31/17

For Action: X

For Information:

Board Agenda: Yes

From: Peter M. Balas, Principal, T.C. Williams

Through: Gerald R. Mann, Jr., Executive Director of Secondary Instruction
Lois Berlin, Ed.D., Interim Superintendent

To: The Honorable Ramee Gentry, Chair, and Members of the Alexandria City School Board

Topic: PSAT/SAT Testing Days at T.C. Williams High School

BACKGROUND: Each year, T.C. Williams High School administers PSAT/SAT to students in grades 9-12. Currently, the PSAT/SAT testing is scheduled for October 11, 2017, which is an early release day. Due to enrollment increases, it has become increasingly difficult for T.C. Williams staff to meet the demands of testing on a single day of test administration. Therefore, T.C. Williams is requesting to add two early release days to the calendar.

DISCUSSION: Testing in one day presents challenges such as calculator shortages, space constraints, staffing to provide accommodations, excessive expenses for proctors, shipping/receiving complications, and ensuring the best testing environment for students. To address these challenges, T.C. Williams administration is proposing testing over three days to alleviate these concerns as well as add the following benefits: 11th grade students would receive a reportable score for college at a more appropriate time and both 11th and 12th grade students would have the opportunity to receive a score that could qualify as a replacement score for an SOL.

The new proposed calendar is as follows:

October 11 - Early release both campuses (already on the calendar)

October 25 - Early release King Street ONLY

April 10 - Early Release King St ONLY

RECOMMENDATION: The Superintendent recommends that the School Board approve this request for two additional early release days for T.C. Williams.