

ACPS – 2021-2022 Calendar Feedback - Comments

Relationship to ACPS	Additional comments:
Community Member	After Labor Day is best. Messes up my Beach House rentals.
Community Member	As a former ACPS teacher, I believe that students starting school earlier benefits everyone, students, teachers and parents. As well as, ending school earlier in June allows more flexibility for families, in particular high school students, options for summer programs that start early in the summer.
Community Member	As an educator in other states and districts, I see the value of shortening the summer vacation so that the opportunity for learning loss is decreased. I also feel that starting one week prior to Labor Day gives an ample amount of time for teachers and students to fall into a routine so that, upon return from Labor Day vacation, they can hit the ground running.
Community Member	Closes the gap on losing skills and kids are bored by August.
Community Member	Grandparent who does child care for elementary age children. Both parents work.
Community Member	Helps children get back to learning after a long summer - certainly helps working parents!
Community Member	Honestly, I feel the shorter the summer break the better. There are so many kids struggling in TC right now and they're not getting the accommodations needed in order to assist their needs. The longer the break, the harder the struggle!
Community Member	Hopefully this calendar will have exams for high school before Christmas.
Community Member	I am a former student and think this would be a positive change for the current students and faculty
Community Member	I had 4 kids in ACPS system. They hated still being in school when the nearby districts were already out.
Community Member	I had children in ACPS and will soon have grandchildren in ACPS. One year, ACPS started before Labor Day. I lost my deposit on a vacation rental, which meant we could not have a vacation (because of the lost money) and with the adjusted schedule, childcare arrangements were difficult. I ended up having to take Leave without pay to compensate. Starting before Labor Day can be problematical for families' vacation schedules. And, as a former child, I would hate it.
Community Member	I have an incoming student in 2020 and as a parent, prefer the earlier start and alignment with other school systems.
Community Member	I think the current practice encourages families to push their summer vacation time deep into the summer and does not provide for a smooth transition back to learning. The 4-day labor day weekend eases this transition back to the school routine. 2nd choice would be option 2.

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Community Member	I volunteer with ACPS programs and I think the current practice of starting after Labor Day works well. In terms of preventing summer learning loss by starting school earlier, the argument doesn't really work because the school year is also ending earlier in June. If you count the number of weeks between the ending of the school year and the start of the next school year, it is approximately 11 weeks in all three versions of the calendar. Therefore, the amount of time they are out for the summer break doesn't change, so there would be no difference in summer learning loss. In order to impact this data, students would need to be out less days in the summer.
Community Member	I work with a nonprofit which works closely with ACPS students and families. Our program schedule runs parallel with the ACPS calendar. While this change would also impact our programs, I believe option 3 is the best option especially in regards to reducing summer learning loss. The current ACPS calendar is not the best schedule for students.
Community Member	I'm the director of a preschool and After School Program.
Community Member	Important to reduce summer learning loss.
Community Member	It appears this will help families with child care. Time at school is for learning not to provide child care. If lost knowledge is the issue then what is the need for two weeks for a Winter Break? A three day Christmas Break should be plenty. Same with Spring Break. If students attend every day possible between Labor Day and Memorial Day there would be no need to begin school before Labor Day. Summer learning programs might be considered during the summer months for students who forget what they supposedly have learned. If children do not have a break from structured learning they will burn out before they get to high school. They will learn to hate learning. Every minute of every day between Labor Day and Memorial Day need to be used efficiently and to the max. The students then get three entire months to have fun and possibly become bored and ready to return to school to enjoy learning. They will have to work every day of their adult lives. Let them have a bit of freedom while they learn and grow. Let them be children not controlled robots.
Community Member	Keep summer summer . Why go for a few days and then have a long weekend. Also still very hot out even when they do go back after Labor Day.
Community Member	My business provide music lessons to middle and high school aged children. In particular summer camps in August. If you cut summer break or make it inconsistent, we lose revenue, temporary job positions and salaried employees lose money.
Community Member	Please allow students to have a full summer. Also take into consideration the added costs/environmental concerns of air conditioning required for an August start.
Community Member	Reduce summer learning loss!
Community Member	See you in September. School in the dog days of August yuck. Why go back to just have a 3 day weekend anyways.

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Community Member	Starting school earlier gives out of school time programming two weeks more time to support activity before it gets too cold! Additionally many parents, especially at Title 1 schools, do not start thinking about out of school programming until the school year starts. Programmers would be able to get the word out about after school options with a start date just after Labor day. This means that a higher number of students would be able to take advantage of the opportunities being provided - closing the gap and addressing the growing need for out of school activity.
Community Member	The earlier, the better. We have got to do something to prevent Summer Learning loss. I see that all three options have a 2 weeks winter break; make sure that our children have access to food during that 16 day period.
Community Member	Too disruptive of established family patterns. Only benefit of earlier start is more days of instruction before SOLS and AP. Where is evidence to support this makes a significant difference in outcomes? Show us apples to apples comparison with school districts having parallel student demographics. If no clear benefit can be shown, why make the change? Support your rationale with data, please.
Community Member	We should keep to the current practice and stick to back to school the day after Labor Day. August is busy enough with colleges going back to school.
Community Member	When my kids were students in ACPS, little instruction happened in June. Library books were due by June 1, and they started packing up the library. I'm for more instruction earlier.
Community Member	Why do you want to ruin summer? Leave calendar alone! use the current school days to teach the kids and cut out the other feel good BS.
Employee	We are in school to long for students. We start to lose them towards the end of May, Thats when you start seeing grades declining. Not all but some!
Employee	A few months ago you asked us the same question and the stats backed up starting before Labor Day and the one that most likely aligned with FCPS. The real question is does it matter what we vote for if you will only make your decision based on the parents? Looking at your stats that were on slide 7 of your presentation for reasons not doing it, the numbers were not even close to being 50/50, with only the parents feedback being close, and with it being highlighted, I guess they have the most pull.
Employee	After Labor day for family vacations. Sounds crazy to go back just to be off for Labor day weekend
Employee	ALIGN WITH FAIRFAX COUNTY
Employee	Alignment of calendar with Fairfax helps employees who are parents in Fairfax.
Employee	Anything but option 1 is good.
Employee	AP needs more time for preparation! Let's align with neighboring school districts!
Employee	As an AP teacher, I implore you to consider option 3! Schools around the world have 3-4 weeks more time to learn and practice before taking the AP exam, which puts our students at a disadvantage. When we start after Labor Day, and then lose time throughout the year for snow days or other schedule interruptions, we are constantly scrambling to make sure that our students are as prepared as possible.
Employee	As an employee I want to know what happens the summer of the 2021 if options 2 or 3 are approved? We will have less days over the summer for our break. How will this be addressed? It is already bad enough we don't get any snow days not used back.

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Employee	As mentioned, this option gives the most classroom time before testing and mirrors other school divisions (I know Falls Church City is moving to pre-Labor day this coming school year). On another note, it seems like it would be much more beneficial to have the division-wide professional development day prior to the next to last day of school. Staff feedback is always that they want PD that they can use and implement in their classroom right away, so to have them participate in PD they can't apply until the next school year, at a time when they are in the mindset of wanting things to wrap up, does not seem like the best use of time.
Employee	Do not change.
Employee	Does it really matter what we choose in this survey. The last one we answered clearly showed more people chose a different option, yet we went with the one chosen by not only less people overall but chosen by more parents, which led me to believe that we know who actually runs the schools, THE RICH PARENTS!!!! I'm choosing option 3 but quite honestly, dos it really matter what any of us pick. In the future I would suggest you just put a small group together that ONLY involves teachers, admin, and other central office staff, NO PARENTS!!!! Then you all pick an option and we will deal with it. I felt insulted when I picked option 2 last time and we went with option 1, but where the insult came was when the results were listed and it clearly showed less then 300 people picked option 1, but almost 700 picked option 2, but ACPS math experts stated the results were to close to call. When I looked at the results of that survey and saw overwhelming parent support for option 1, and come to find out the reason was because it conflicts with their family vacations, I'm sorry but I just have to say this, "It's not about you!" It's what is best for the overall school district, not the rich parents who can fling their money around because they feel it gives them a sense of entitlement.
Employee	For employees this is a huge change with teachers having to return to work in the middle of August. I also do like the ability to have a 4 day weekend for Labor Day like other districts though since most people have kids with the long weekend for their school district. Lining area school district calendars is a good thing but such an early start for teachers is tough.
Employee	For options 2 and 3 would Kindergarten Prep still occur? If so, when? I think moving it to earlier in August will reduce the number of students that participate.
Employee	For teachers, I think it is best to prioritize alignment with our neighboring districts to reduce the burden of finding childcare on days that do not align between school districts.
Employee	How does this impact Federal holidays?
Employee	I am an ACPS parent and teacher and I know how difficult it is to teach kids in June, especially after their standardized exams. Option 3 is best, with Option 2 behind.
Employee	I do not care for any of these options. I would prefer we start after Labor Day and have slightly longer days so we can have more days off in the summer and more snow days built into the schedule. Winter break should always be 2 weeks long, staff need that time to reset and return refreshed. The schools are too warm to be in school past the first week in June.
Employee	I have commitments to a summer program that does not end until late in August.

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Employee	I have gone to school in states that started before or after Labor Day. I have also taught in both situations. I like starting school after Labor Day much better. I vote for the first calendar.
Employee	I know this survey is in regard to the 2021-22 calendar, but I have a concern about the 2020-21 calendar. I was surprised that inauguration day was not addressed on any of the proposed calendars. Will this date be included?
Employee	I much prefer the late start, so that our family can vacation the last week of August, when crowds are reduced since many other districts have already returned by then
Employee	I taught in Loudoun for 11 years, and was there the first year they implemented the Thursday start (as well as years with both the "traditional" post-Labor Day start, and starting the Monday before Labor Day). I fully expected to dislike the Thursday start. In the past I had found that elementary students did better with a full week to set the routine and expectations of school. Starting on a Tuesday always feels like we are trying to cram a full week into four days. However, I ended up LOVING the Thursday start. It allowed students to have two days to feel successful, there was no pressure to squeeze in the feeling of a full week, and young students were not overwhelmed at the start of their educational careers. I do wish the state did not require a Friday holiday when starting before Labor Day, but ultimately think that is a minor inconvenience compared to the benefits of starting earlier. My experiences are all at the elementary level, however I know my secondary colleagues also prefer beginning earlier.
Employee	I think it is a better idea to align with Fx County since many ACPS employees live and have children in that school system.
Employee	I think you should reconsider having a pd day on the last week of school
Employee	I took into account the first week of school. A full week is a lot when gearing back up.
Employee	I would like to move towards the Samuel Tucker Modified Schedule so that there is less of a gap between school years, providing more retention of knowledge for students.
Employee	I would love to have the entire week off for Thanksgiving! Especially if we start earlier in August.
Employee	I would prefer in both options 2 and 3 for August 13 (Friday) to not be day 1 for any employee but rather August 15th (Monday).
Employee	I'd far rather start after labor day as our summer is short enough compared to all others, but in recognition of the need to adjust, I vote choice 1. The slightly later of the early start calendars seem to offer the best compromise for transition. In all cases I share many of my peers' deep appreciation for your respect for family time around holidays (Thanksgiving, Christmas). Please keep in mind that all of your staff on the teacher+11 schedule get barely 2-3 weeks for summer the year you change this schedule. It's pretty cruel. I'd still like to see some consideration for Veterans Day. All calendar options fail to address the disrespect we do our veterans every year by ignoring Veterans day while other schools honor it as a holiday. Making it a staff work day or PD day like we do to Columbus Day isn't acceptable. In our area, so many families are affected by military service. Give it some consideration, please.
Employee	If FCPS option 3 gets picked then are we following everything including their snows days when they get off? A lot of people were wondering

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Employee	It should be taken into consideration that us AP teachers need more time to prepare for exams, yet other neighboring districts have more time for their students to prepare. It's not fair that other students will have more time to prepare for the exams and not us. This option would be the best option for students.
Employee	It's about time this district implements some type of change.
Employee	Just to be clear, the reduction of summer learning loss really only happens the first year. After that, the length of summer break is about the same.
Employee	Keep as is. The school year should start with some consistency. Why start the school year with two weeks of 4 day. In addition, students will be absent or pulled out of school early for family vacations. Also, many staff members have yearly family engagements in August which will lead to teacher absences. There is already a shortage of finding quality substitutes to work. In addition, why is there emphasis for AP students only? What about the majority student body? AP courses are not a requirement. These students elect to take the courses and should understand the rigor behind the curriculum. What is being consider for closing the achievement gap? There are numerous students with an education gap of 3-5 years.
Employee	LOVE option 3. Worked within this model in my former district and there was never an issue. Gave extra time for prep and more days for students to get seasonal jobs. It's truly a win-win. Thank you for offering it!
Employee	My classroom is overcrowded and gets overheated easily. During September, I cannot turn on the lights and must keep my windows just to avoid my students overheating. August would be even worse for my students. They cannot learn if they are taking classes in an oven.
Employee	N/A
Employee	One summer break (2021) being shorter is worth it to be on schedule with the majority of the northern Virginia school districts.
Employee	Option 1 gives local businesses and working high school students the added benefit of an extra time of high school students helping businesses and earning money full time.
Employee	Option 2 for the first year of before Labor Day start date then transition into option 3 the following year.
Employee	Option 3 makes for an extremely tight schedule for SOL exams and make-ups.
Employee	Option 3 provides the most learning time for students. Students are the reason we are here.
Employee	Our students are missing out on valuable learning days compared not only to their NOVA counterparts, but with students in many districts around the country that start before Labor Day, especially in the AP realm. The AP tests do not change - they are always the first few weeks of May. Also, the majority of teachers with families cannot afford to live in the district and their own children attend Fairfax County schools. It would be helpful to have my own children on the same break schedule as neighboring Fairfax.
Employee	Past practices don't always work. Evidently, the most additional classroom time assists students with assessment preparation. We are in the education business and students are our customers. We must strive to assist our customer base excel in every academic area possible. This way, they are not rushed...they can take an easier pace to strive for the most beneficial study skills.

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Employee	Please clarify your reasoning for 3 half days, a professional development day and a full teacher work day at the end of the year. In Option 2, why do we have 6 professional development days instead of 5 like in previous years? In Option 3, why is 4th quarter shorter by about 10 days? Why haven't the end of quarter dates changed on any of the calendars? Why are we starting 2 weeks before school starts in the year 2021 and not using the 2020-2021 school year to make an easier transition? Why not start a week before Labor Day next year and then start about 2 weeks before in the 2021-2022 school year?
Employee	Please consider adding 2 additional vacation days to Thanksgiving week and perhaps the day after Halloween as a teacher work day on years it falls during the week.
Employee	Please consider the modified calendar that Tucker currently uses for the entire district.
Employee	Please give us as many instructional days before state testing as possible.
Employee	Please have employee opinion/votes count just as much as everyone else's. It's not exciting having to teach to pretty much July when everyone else is out, just because they start a week before.
Employee	Please pay attention to the total votes for options 2 and 3 combined. If these combined are higher than option 1, it is clear that people want to start before Labor Day and take this into consideration.
Employee	Reducing the summer learning loss is extremely important. This also allows some time for a "break" for both teacher and students who will be attending (working) summer school. The later the start date is, the later the last day is and then there is only a short window before summer school sessions would start.
Employee	Several academic achievement datasets are received in the July/August months with analysis immediately following. By advancing the start of the school year, there will be insufficient time to complete the analysis of these datasets and provide school staff with the appropriate data to drive academic and programmatic decisions for their students at the start of the proposed school year for calendar options 2 and 3.
Employee	Some Parents don't take there vacation untill the week before Labor Day. A majority of staff have to work during the summer to make ends meet and they don't get a break . If it's not broken don't fix it.
Employee	Strongly prefer option 3 with a caveat: I very strongly disagree with the idea of having a PD day after students have left for the year in June. As an employee who would have to lead PD sessions, I know that participants would NOT be in the mindset to learn something new when that one day is between them and cleaning their classrooms to finish for the year and start their summer vacations. The time we would spend in preparation and in leading sessions that day would be wasted because the majority of participants would not be present mentally, and there would be very little long-term retention of anything taught that day, especially because they will not be able to implement anything learned for several months. Please reconsider having a PD day after the school year has ended.
Employee	Teachers and other licensed staff should still be paid on a 196 day contract
Employee	Thank you for keeping two full weeks for winter break in all three options.
Employee	The benefit of reducing summer learning loss is a one time deal -- we will only shorten summer for one year. Maybe we should be looking at the year round schedule like Tucker currently has.

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Employee	The early closings are not noted on Option 1.
Employee	The more time we have before SOLs for instruction, the better!
Employee	The other options make summer too short during the transition. If the summer break were increased during the transition by dropping the Professional Development for returning teachers it would retain a couple break days.
Employee	The professional development day at the end of the school year does not seem like a good idea. I feel like the staff will not be ready or willing to learn. I'm not sure the skills taught will be retained over the summer for the following year. This comes from someone who develops and presents on professional development days.
Employee	This is still not optimal. It would be very nice to be able to finish the first semester prior to winter break. Once the General Assembly understands, maybe things will change. I'm not holding my breath.
Employee	This seems like a no brainer to me. We should have aligned with FCPS for 2020-2021 as well! Not sure why we are waiting another to provide students with more instructional time. We need to get in line with surrounding districts so we have an even playing field. Next year FCPS students will have the benefit of 1 1/2 weeks of additional instruction to prep for high stakes testing.
Employee	This will allow AP students to have more time to prepare for their exams later in the year.
Employee	Though the second two options provide additional instruction time, they reduce the time available to conduct summer projects necessary to enable equitable learning environments. It is imperative that there remain space carved out on the calendar to allow for extended work to be completed in a timely fashion
Employee	Two or three, slight lean toward 2 so working a full week vs 2 days.
Employee	Until recently, I was an educator in Boston for a number of years. Every district/school I have ever worked in has started before Labor Day. I find it to be extremely helpful and advantageous. Starting before Labor Day still provides plenty of summer vacation and lends itself to an even longer vacation for the following summer.
Employee	Very strongly favor option 3! Many employees have children in FCPS schools and it is difficult when they have to find childcare options when our calendars do not align. Thank you for considering making this change.
Employee	Veterans Day should be considered for a non-instructional day.
Employee	We should have parity with Fairfax County Public Schools.
Employee	What will change with ESY Extended School Year?
Employee	While I would prefer to start slightly before Labor Day, I would never support that at the expense of: 2 full weeks of winter break, early release days at the end of the year, and 3 early release days for November elementary conferences.
Employee	Why a professional development day in June on all calendars ? Don't see relevance to it. Let staff enjoy their hard earned summer !
Employee	Why is there a professional development day AFTER the last day of school? This seems pointless since the school year is already over.
Employee	Why is there a professional development day at the end of the school year? This makes no sense. I strongly oppose this.

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Employee	Why is Veterans Day not being observed in ACPS? It was a regular school day this year, is listed as a regular school day next year, and all three of these calendar options have it as a regular school day for the 2021-2022 school year. I think it is a dishonor to all of those who have served our country in the armed forces and negatively impacts the public image of ACPS.
Employee	Without fail, every summer, there has been facility issues in our buildings that make it near impossible to be ready by our current start date after Labor Day. Beginning before Labor Day would be an extremely difficult turnaround time until the facilities are brought up to par and all renovations/upgrades are completed.
Employee	Would all levels start on the same day?
Employee	Year Round School, please!!
Parent	I think that option 3 will help students to be better prepared for the Advanced Assignment exams.
Parent	It should not change, we already have everything scheduled to start after work day
Parent	Just as this is good, you don't need to change
Parent	The children are already accustomed and change would be bad
Parent	This option seems good to me because children have many days off and in some cases when it is too much, the children do not feel like returning to school . . . And I think we should start like the other counties. THANKS A LOT!
Parent	- By starting in August you will take away some families' opportunities for vacations or travel plans. Our family always goes on vacation the last week of August as there are smaller crowds and we are able to afford the rates as they are often cheaper.
Parent	I don't think the schedule should be changed. As each option has the same number of student days, it does not make sense to me that some options allow for more AP classroom time than others. I feel it could be worked into the current schedule.
Parent	1. Who cares if we align with other school districts. Those points are irrelevant. 2. School should NOT start before Labor Day. Actually, it should start on the WEDNESDAY after Labor Day so those who have been away have a chance to pull things together before starting school. 3. Starting on a Thursday is stupid. No one is going to do anything in 2 days. 4. Starting earlier does NOT reduce summer learning loss when you then end earlier. You've just moved the dates the learning loss occurs during.
Parent	A change of this nature could have a tremendous impact on families and the entire community. I happened to see this on the ACPS website when I went there to look for something else. Something this important should be pushed out via email and letters home. It should also be in school newsletters. I and many others are not all on social media and don't always have time to read the weekly newsletter, where important information easily gets lost in the fluff.
Parent	A difference of 6 or 8 days will not close performance gaps. Please consider protecting the students summer and families abilities to take trips/travel when there is a national holiday.
Parent	A four day weekend so soon after school starting seems silly.
Parent	ACPS needs to put our kids first and support alignment with FCPS. AP testing doesn't change for late starters and June 1 is the beginning of Cineplex movie fezt in school because the teachers students are exhausted. End early and end on a high note with FCPS

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Parent	ACPS should recognize Veteran's Day. It's a Federal Holiday. We need to support our troops and teach our students the importance of sons and daughters who have served our country.
Parent	ACPS students need the additional time for AP classes. Ridiculous that private businesses have dictated school start time in the past. We would prefer veteran's day off rather than Labor Day 4 day weekend.
Parent	Add MORE days. Students need to be challenged if we want to compete and keep America number one.
Parent	Alexandria is a city planned for different societies, and most parents prefer to travel in the summer to parents abroad starting schools in August reduces this opportunity. In addition, most summer programs end of June and July, and the best time to travel and spend time with the family is August, as well as travel is expensive and it is not possible to travel for two or three weeks. And the benefit is more if schools start after Labor Day.
Parent	Alexandria is a diverse city there is people from all over the world and that make the culture something to think about. Most families use the summer to travel over seas and it is hard to spend all that money for a short vacation since it is hard to leave by June it is always August because of camps and ESY.. most of the education camps starts in June and July so it is actually only August that kids can take off. so starting end of August is just too soon. Kids have a lot to learn and do during summer time and the city provide free to slim cost camps parent can use that for their kids benefit to reduce the gap, but if they chose not too that will be a problem, but I don't believe that other kids should be affected by some. I totally vote and push for after labor day.
Parent	Align with Arlington Public Schools
Parent	All camps stop a week to 2 weeks prior to school, which makes 0 sense with working parents. So starting school early isn't so bad.
Parent	All school systems I know that start early in aug end as early as May. Why prolong it till mid June? Kinda defeats the purpose. Still affects families that travel or kids who are involved in sports camps that have to figure out how to take finals early.
Parent	Although this will come too late for my brood, I have lamented the late ACPS late start since my first year here (97-98 school year). More time BEFORE APs and less time after is my vote! (Plus a full two weeks for winter break - bonus!)
Parent	Any time after the state scheduled SOL times is a waste. Better to Star early. And aligning with Fairfax makes a more regional calendar.
Parent	Any time we can start before Labor Day aligns with all kinds of vacation calendars across the US. I'd also prefer to going to an all-year calendar, for better retention of learning and flexibility in schedules for lots of other things. We used the all-year (modified) calendar at Tucker Elementary for the entire 6 years we attended, and that aligns with the calendars in Europe, too.
Parent	AP needs more time before testing.
Parent	Arlington Schools also sent out a survey regarding the calender options this school year as well. They may make it happen for the calender year for 2020-2021. Why can't ACPS do the same? This is very frustating and it seems like ACPS is behind on this one.

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Parent	As a family with relatives overseas, the post-Labor Day start allows us to share time with family whose school system only observes summer vacation in August. Being abroad in August allows our son an immersive language experience with other kids his age.
Parent	As a parent with students still at the modified calendar school, it doesn't feel fair to vote on this, knowing it will affect our calendar as well, without seeing exactly how. Every other time we've been asked for input, our timing was considered, too. I'm puzzled as to why it wasn't this time.
Parent	As a teacher and a parent in ACPS I feel this option will be the most beneficial for our students.
Parent	As a two-parent working family, it is very hard to find camps or child care for the last two weeks before Labor day. Most of the camps are closed and college students are back at school already. It would be easier to have them back in school already. Fairfax county is so large, and such a driving force in the area that it would be easiest to have our calendar aligned with theirs.
Parent	August is for family vacations. Don't cut our summer short.
Parent	Avoid the bandwagon of other communities and keep current calendar
Parent	Best as provides max classroom time prior to AP exams and I like the holiday break schedules.
Parent	Best option for parents and children.
Parent	Best practice and it aligns with other school systems. It also helps with the summers loss for students and you can plan a longer labor day weekend and kids get out earlier which helps with summer vacation planning.
Parent	Better matches parent's day's off with Labor day. Parent's can take a few extra days to increase the long Labor day weekend without the kids missing additional school. If starting school before Labor Day either the students or the parents or both would need to take extra time off for a family vacation.
Parent	Both parents in this family have a work schedule that is unfortunately connected to Capitol Hill's schedule. August is our most flexible time to be together as a family, travel, visit other family. That's my main motivation for advocating for the status quo, giving us all of August.
Parent	But really, whatever give us 2 full weeks for winter break EVERY YEAR is the calendar I'd vote for. Makes travel plans easier.
Parent	Changing the school start to pre-Labor Day will negatively impact our existing Child Custody Agreement and official Summer break schedule. I vote for maintaining the current schedule, to start after Labor Day.

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Parent	children need the break time during holidays and summer to replenish themselves. the break time allows for children to experience the holidays with less stress and needed time to be with friends and family. allowing children to enjoy their breaktime is important to reduce stress and encourage emotional and social development. what is needed is alternative programs and activities during break time for families and children that do not have available to them the time, working multiple jobs, the lack of financial resources, family support, etc. to sustain the breaks. be it quality childcare, and/or quality activities. that's where attention is needed during breaks to assure all children have happy, healthy and safe holiday breaks. and summer vacations, everyone, teachers, students, parents, benefit from starting after labor day and a good holiday break.
Parent	Definitely continue with a post-Labor Day start!
Parent	Don't change anything.
Parent	Earlier school release makes summer plans easier.
Parent	Early start!!
Parent	Either option 2 or 3. Truth is Camp staff - students and teachers- have to return to their respective jobs and occupations and the last 1-2 weeks of summer is hard on parents to find care for kids and it's Not reasonable to expect everyone will book vacations to cover that time late in the summer. Also camps are starting in early June and Alexandria kids are joining in weeks 2-3 which isn't conducive either sometimes.
Parent	Ending school in early June is ideal. The month of June has been an unfruitful learning time for kids for several years. It's time to stop wasting everyone's time.
Parent	Ending school in middle to late June is terrible. The kids are done mentally by Memorial Day. Making them work for the better part of June is a waste of their time and their teachers.
Parent	Even with this option, I would prefer school to get out even earlier than June 10.
Parent	Every day agrees with me
Parent	Every year I ask you to consider a winter break that is not around the holidays, say sometime in February. My family is longing to take a vacation at a time other than Summer/Spring Break/Christmas, so we can travel at a time when rates aren't sky high without taking the kids out of school. Please consider this for the following year.
Parent	Families need time to spend together, too. The kids already get out so late in the year. Let everyone enjoy the last remnants of summer.
Parent	For parents whose work relates to the federal government (and particularly politics) August is a great time to be off since congress is out of session and work is generally slow. Its much harder to take vacations in June/July because everyone else is working. In addition, a 4 day Labor Day weekend means that many parents will have to figure out care/camps for that long weekend.
Parent	For students involved in sports or band that begins in August, moving the start of the school year to before Labor Day makes it more difficult for families to have vacation time together.
Parent	Four day labor day weekend adds child care problem for me. Under the current calendar, that week is still a camp week and the kids are taken care of. I would have to take yet another day off from work because of this. All my vacation days go for teachers days.

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Parent	Future parent, 1 yo, aligns with my husbands catholic school work schedule
Parent	Generally I support an after Labor Day start. But for those years when Labor Day falls so late, I support starting the week prior. While I support Option 2, I will note that starting on a Thursday might mean parents would have to scramble to find child care Monday-Wednesday. I'd encourage Open Houses and other pre-start activities be scheduled on those days (Monday-Wednesday) to minimize disruption (as opposed to having them the week prior).
Parent	Go to the hours based system and have more days off/longer summer break.
Parent	good job addressing the late summer gap weeks where there are virtually no summer camps for younger kids. too bad this calendar still links to a religious holiday for spring break at a ridiculous time of the year. your ongoing poor choice of timing for spring break in april is antiquated, families that do take spring break and travel are still pulling kids out to do so in march when they want or need sun or ski time. shortening the back end of the year with the early start really stretches out the winter doldrums.
Parent	Greatly prefer starting after Labor Day
Parent	Hard to start before Labor Day without a year of notice. We vacation at the end of August and have already put the deposit down in our house. If you decide to start the Monday before Labor Day the year after, we will adjust.
Parent	Having a post Labor Day start makes it difficult to find child care during the last few weeks of August. For our family, an earlier start would be helpful.
Parent	Honestly, I would prefer slightly longer school days (add 15 min? 30 min?) for a shorter calendar overall.
Parent	How do options 2 and 3 reduce summer learning loss? Is summer shorter in these options?
Parent	How will this affect Tucker with the modified calendar? The 2019-2020 calendar survey was poorly set up with the versions for traditional and modified calendars. At no time should an early start for the traditional calendar affects the modified calendar. The option for the modified calendar to start in July was ridiculous.
Parent	I actually support even earlier since it's so hot in August they can't okay outside! Earlier release in June means more outside play and then inside for August when it's so hot they can't play out much
Parent	I agree that upfront instructional time is needed prior to the SOL and AP tests since those dates are set outside of our school district. I would have voted for option 2 if the last three half days ended a week rather than started a week. If you have it as three half days on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday I imagine there will be many absences.
Parent	I am a parent at Tucker elementary School. Pushing the start of the school year back moves our start time to sometime in July, which would be tough for most parents and kids. In addition, I am not sure the HVAC system would be able to adequately accommodate the students in the school during the month of July as it already has issues in August and September.
Parent	I am a single parent and always have trouble finding summer camps / child care the last 2 weeks of August because all of the college kids go back to school. I definitely favor starting BEFORE LABOR DAY. Not only does it lessen summer regression, but it helps with keeping my child busy. I also like him getting out earlier in June when the weather isn't horrible, so we can take vacation and not pay an arm and a leg!

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Parent	I am against the before Labor Day. Not only do my kids have summer jobs that time with the labor day weekend, and family vacations, but the temps are too hot in August for classes.
Parent	I am disappointed that these options do not also show how the modified school calendar. My child is at Tucker and we enjoy the modified school calendar. The regular school calendar changing will also impact the modified school calendar. Tucker parents should be informed about these changes as well and have the opportunity to thoughtfully engage on the calendar.
Parent	I am in favor of an earlier start as camps are difficult to come by at the end of the summer. However, most camp options in the area do not begin until June 15, therefore I would not want school to end earlier than that date.
Parent	I applaud the initiative of reducing the length of the summer break. In my opinion, a model similar to the Samuel Tucker school will be much more appealing for families.
Parent	I believe the current calendar should remain implemented as it's been working with ACPS families for many years.
Parent	I cannot voice my support for the current option strongly enough. Allowing summer to play out through Labor Day aligns our family's work schedules (busy through June, slow through August). As well, it makes no sense and increases the difficulty of getting children on a proper school schedule to start right before a three-day weekend. On the other hand, starting with a four-day week is a nice ease-in without the break in schedule. The argument about "learning loss" does not hold up given the earlier end date and same number of school days per year. Moreover, modern educational research points to the overwhelming advantage of the different types of learning in which children engage during summer down time. It's not all about curriculum and test scores. Please stay with the current schedule!
Parent	I can't understand why ACPS would even consider making such a drastic change to our calendar for the benefit of a very few AP students. You can't say you are working toward equity when all you care about are the test scores of a small population of students. What about all of the other kids' needs? A more constructive use of your time would be to focus on more efficient learning, less time wasted on any given day due to transition time between classes/buildings or the need to discipline kids with bad behavior, hiring the best teachers, paying them more, and requiring parental involvement in school and at home. Summer is sacred family time. Starting before Labor Day and shortening the traditional summer break only to take a four day weekend and have to start up again is ridiculous. Kids need consistency and fewer small breaks. That's what will raise test scores.
Parent	I do not believe that a two week holiday break is beneficial or necessary. It delays the end of the school year unnecessarily. Additionally, I don't know why the Labor Day weekend must be a four-day weekend. Seems so unnecessary to start everyone back to then have a four-day break. What happened to considering hours rather than days? None of these options account for that calculation.
Parent	I do think 2 full weeks for winter break is too much.

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Parent	I don't think that the calendar should be changed for testing purposes. If our schools supposedly aren't teaching to the test then the calendar shouldn't be set for the test. Also, the earlier start would put teachers back at the beginning of August, including k-prep, and I'm not sure that the air conditioning is in working order at all schools to handle August heat. Further to the heat, will the elementary children be able to go outside for recess in August heat? Outside time is so important for brain breaks and exercise and inside breaks do not provide the same benefit.
Parent	I don't understand how the pre-Labor Day start would help reduce summer "learning loss" as summer break would start earlier under those plans.
Parent	I don't have a strong preference here. I love taking family vacations the week prior to Labor Day when travel is so much cheaper and places are less crowded. But there are definite advantages to shifting the schedule earlier (Option 3 would be my preference if we shift).
Parent	I don't see why the kids need to start before labor day. They will still have plenty of school!
Parent	I feel that they get out so late in June now.
Parent	I feel very strongly about maintaining the current practice. Also, there is no reason to align ourselves with either Loudoun or Fairfax. My understanding is that one reason they have those schedules is that they have a lot of snow days and they need to account for that in their schedule. ACPS has way fewer snow days (thank goodness because snow days are awful for working parents) so we don't need to do so. I would much prefer to maximize our time in the summer. It also seems silly to start school and then almost immediately have a four day weekend. Please don't change our schedule. I also enjoy taking trips with our family in the week leading up to Labor Day because the crowds and prices are much better since most schools are back in session. Please don't take that away.
Parent	I have 3 kids in ACPS. Starting after Labor Day instead of starting school before Labor Day and then take off is too disruptive. Start school and keep going. Not go for 2 days off for 3 then back back to start. It is a waste of time.
Parent	I have no problem with school beginning a few days before Labor Day. However, I implore you to please be very conscientious about the impact this will have on Samuel Tucker Elementary's modified calendar. I believe it is crucially important for our students to have the month of July off from school. With the shortened summer, beginning school in July feels like a BIG loss of an important part of the break. I realize this wouldn't have an impact every year, but with the way the calendar falls, a July start day could become a consideration some years. I appreciate your consideration of this and thank you!
Parent	I like additional days before the AP exams and the earlier release in June.
Parent	I like being on a different schedule than the other two major school systems in Northern Virginia, as it provides a week or so at the end of summer when we can take advantage of doing things when the rest of the area is already in school, so things are quieter and lines shorter. A staggered start time also means the whole area isn't getting snarled up with bus and school traffic starting up again the same week; we can ease into it as the different school districts get used to their schedules (traffic is already bad enough, why make it even worse?)

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Parent	I like that the school year ends earlier. My kids don't like that most schools are done and they not.
Parent	I like the idea of getting out earlier in June. This matches up better for us with relatives who live out of state. I also like that it more closely matches other schools, as many parents are also teachers in the area and having more similar schedules would mean less leave being used to cover childcare gaps.
Parent	I prefer current calendar but if it has to be August start then I prefer August 24 with June 10 end date
Parent	I prefer Option 3 (8 days before Labor Day) because:
Parent	I prefer option 3. I teach in FCPS. We find there is more time to prepare students for AP and SOL exams, and most importantly, not as many school days after those exams. That is generally the time when many classes slow down learning because the material has presumably been covered (of course, there is always more to learn, but the mindset is often that the kids have finished learning for the test). Those days after the exam are not as effective for learning and there is a lot of down time (just to fill the days), instead of using the time more efficiently (but as a teacher I know it is hard to motivate the kids at the that time of year). Another positive thing of starting 8 days before Labor Day is that school would end earlier. My sons often attend academic or music summer programs in different parts of the country. Some of them start earlier in June and that keeps ACPS students from attending.
parent	I prefer that the school year start in September because most families travel during the month of August
Parent	I really disagree with starting before Labor Day, especially the 3rd option"starting 8 days before is way too early.
Parent	I really don't like the kids getting out so late in June, and I really appreciate the more time before AP exam testing.
Parent	I really reviewed all of the options here and still prefer school starting after Labor Day. It makes it easier to plan summer vacations because it's A LOT more affordable to travel in late August than other times throughout the summer. And I like being staggered from other schools in the area. And I find it easier to find camps.

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Parent	<p>I strongly oppose starting before Labor Day. Also, I do not understand how ACPS reached the conclusion that a pre-Labor Day start "reduces summer learning loss." I checked the Fairfax Public Schools Calendar for 2018 - 2019 and 2019-2020. Their last day of school was June 13th, 2019. Their first day of school was August 26th. That is a ten week summer break. In ACPS, our last day of school was June 20, 2019 and the first day was September 3, 2019. That is also a ten week break. So what calculations were used to determine that there was less "summer learning loss" in Fairfax when they were out of school for the same amount of time in the summer? As per usual, it feels like ACPS had already made up its mind on an issue, and is now putting a sham survey out knowing full well that ACPS will change the calendar regardless of what the community says. Also, Loudoun's schedule of starting on a Thursday, to then have a four day week the next week, is nonsensical. It is such a sputtering start to the school year. ACPS is much more comparable to Arlington (ACPS has about 16 thousand students and Arlington has about 28 thousand, while Loudoun has 77 thousand and Fairfax 180 thousand), and they start school after Labor Day. If we are going to align ourselves with anyone, it should be Arlington due to the size similarities. Of course, that would be inconvenient for ACPS as you clearly have already made up your mind to change our schedule, so you compare us to school systems with 5 and 11 times the number of students. Those systems are also geographically much larger, which results in them having more snow days than we do because we can more easily clean up our relatively smaller amount of streets and sidewalks. Yet these logic issues are thrown out the window because ACPS feels some unknown pressure to move the start date. And if ACPS is so concerned about summer learning loss, why not push for more year round schools? That would seem to be the best option for reducing summer loss, if that is what this is truly about. Also, if kids in AP want to start earlier, then why can't there be a special earlier session for them, just as there is for kindergartener orientation? Why must the entire school system change? Please, please do not change this. The MacArthur community still has bad blood over the rushed decision to move the kids to Patrick Henry. Please do not pile onto that bad decision by making another bad decision.</p>
Parent	<p>I teach in Fairfax County. While the pre-labor day start has taken adjustment, wrapping up school earlier in June is awesome. I teach SOL & AP courses that need to conclude prior to testing. We always struggling with keeping students engaged past that point when they know they've completed the curriculum.</p>
Parent	<p>I think it would be good if the students used the school routine.</p>
Parent	<p>I think starting before Labor Day is a bad idea. There is no good reason for it other than "others are doing it." Have AP test scores really improved with one or two more weeks of studying? I doubt it. 4 day Labor Day weekend is very hard on parents and disruptive right after school starts.</p>
Parent	<p>I think starting before Labor Day would just be a wasted week in terms of the kids paying attention</p>
Parent	<p>I think the kids need a full summer off. Many of them work summer time jobs to start saving for college.</p>
Parent	<p>I vote #3 1st, #2 2nd, and the current option (#1) a distance 3rd. I will have 3 daughters in ACPS starting 20 - 21' school year. Much prefer them starting before Labor Day, and getting out earlier in June.</p>
Parent	<p>I wish I could be back in the door after Thanksgiving !!!</p>

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Parent	I wish that the middle and high school offered the modified schedule like Samuel Tucker Elementary. But having less of a summer break really helps student prevent the summer brain drain.
Parent	I would also suggest a winter break in February, as DC Public Schools have.
Parent	I would consider option 3 for the 22-23 school year. Going to option 3 is too drastic for the first year. Start with incremental changes. Going before Labor Day is a huge change for Alexandria don't make it two weeks before.
Parent	I would like to start before Labor Day because of AP preparation. However, I don't agree with a four day weekend for Labor Day.
Parent	I would love to start summer vacation early
Parent	I would MUCH prefer having school start on a Tuesday than on a Thursday, otherwise I have to scramble for childcare or half a week of camp for two children during that half week--it is much easier to scramble for one day (or take time off work) than for three.
Parent	I would prefer not to have 2 full weeks for winter break.
Parent	I would rather have a smaller winter break and have the last day of school earlier in June.
Parent	I'd be open to year round school to deal with overcrowding.
Parent	If ACPS is going to move to a pre-Labor Day start, I hope the division will also consider addressing early release days for conferences. I'd like to see them taken out and replaced by fewer full-days off for the same purpose. Not only are these days a scheduling nightmare, but they are also a waste of instructional time because everything is rushed through. I appreciate the need to feed kiddos, but there has to be another way to address this.
Parent	If we aren't gaining any more student days, then why not start after Labor Day? I can't imagine that a one-week difference in start time has a measurable impact on student learning loss. (I'd like to see the data.) Regardless, it's beneficial to my family to take our annual summer vacation at the very end of the season/summer, when it's off-peak time in most U.S. vacation destinations and prices are lower and crowds are thinner.
Parent	Im a life long Alexandrian. My kids go to the ACPS school where I went to school The best part of summer is when all those twitchy fairfax county kids are back in school and there are no lines for anything at the beach/lake etc.
Parent	I'm not convinced that any of these options reduce summer learning loss. Options 2 and 3 provide the exact same amount of days of school, but just end earlier and start earlier. Yes, you cut about three days on the gap between start and end, but it's not appropriate for your survey to make a claim that this has any meaningful impact on summer learning loss. This would also disrupt family summer vacation time leaving me unconvinced that this is a net positive change for students and families.
Parent	I'm wondering if this survey has any impact at all on the decision to be made.
Parent	Instead of a full two weeks at winter break, why not another vacation or long weekend between January and June? Figuring out backup childcare for two weeks around the holidays for working parents is a lot.
Parent	It always seems strange to me to have to chase my kids to bed before sunset at the end of June when we have our longest days. Starting earlier will get them out of school earlier, allowing them to stay up catching fireflies and the like.

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Parent	It does not make any sense to start school before Labor Day. Alexandria, especially Alexandria City (LCTA) public schools have a lot of international students who travel and spend extended period overseas to see family. Many students travel for a month or two. Starting school before Labor Day would just create more absences as many students and families travel back right on the Labor Day weekend. Leaving tge current schedule to start right after Labor Day is also how many families already have as arrangement.
Parent	It gives parents with limited income a little more time to save for school clothes and supplies.
Parent	It is awful to go so late in June. We miss seeing family in other states, who start school in early August and are out of school in May. Please do not keep a post Labir Day start!
Parent	It is compelling to shrink the summer learning gap by starting prior to Labor Day. Clearly adjustments will need to be made for summer programming (ie KPrep, summer school, and fall sports tryouts/practices).
Parent	It is helpful when considering school calendars to have school start and end with with a full week (starting school on a Monday; last day of school on a Friday) or as close to that as possible. I do not know the statistics, but I would guess that most ACPS students' parents work outside of the home. While camps are available for most of the school breaks, there are very few options available for partial weeks. For example, if school starts on a Thursday, a family would need to figure out care for their child/ren for Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Not every employer offers paid leave. When working families must find a place for their young kids to spend the day, it would be preferable to have the school year calendar created with that in mind.
Parent	It is nice to be able to incorporate Labor Day into a weeklong vacation at the end of the summer for family time.
Parent	It is really nice to be one of the only schools in the area that still starts after Labor Day. The end of August is still very hot in this area and it's a good time to be on vacation (also Congress is usually in recess until after Labor Day so starting after Labor Day aligns more with that schedule for people whose work revolves around Capitol Hill).
Parent	It seems a little late to change the start date of school and people have summer plans already!
Parent	It's bad enough the whole school year is based around teaching to the test. Don't ruin our summer too
Parent	It's insane that kids go to school to almost July . My son who's a good student and a senior this year has checked out by the end of the year
Parent	I've found it most difficult to find summer camps for my kids those last two weeks of August so an earlier start would be helpful.
Parent	Keep as is and concentrate on things that really matter.
Parent	Keep with the Status quo please.
Parent	Kids need a summer. Please preserve the Labor Day Weekend for families and summer. Especially since ACPS elementary schools offer summer school. Strong preference for a post Labor Day start! Thank you.
Parent	Kids will learn more August 27-31 over June 15-20 in general. Maps better to testing and prevents some babysitting in June. Do the 180 and finish early in June is the best plan.

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Parent	kids will miss days if you start before labor day because parents will plan vacations over that weekend anyway. They don't need to get out earlier in June, the weather is better in September and we plan vacations the week before Labor Day. It also should save money on AC costs when you don't have to run it in late August when its really hot. June is not usually as warm as late August and I know the AC costs would be less. My job has events and programs until mid-June so it's harder for me to take vacation at that time. I can easily take vacation from work up to Labor Day. That means you would be shortening the time I have to take vacation and travel with my kids. At work we also have to stagger vacations so having some schools starting at different weeks should not be a problem but a benefit for those of us working. Schools don't all need to be on the same schedule.
Parent	Labor Day is the time the kids start winding down their summer vacation and getting ready for the first day of school and also the last vacation before school starts
Parent	Labor day weekend is an easy weekend to take time off from work to make an 4-5 day vacation with the family.
Parent	Leave it alone don't fix what's not broken
Parent	Let kids enjoy summer until the end. It's still too hot in August to expect kids to concentrate on studying. Leave those weeks to still go to the pool and spend time with their families.
Parent	Let Labor Day be the official start to school so everyone has all of August off. Better to travel at the end of August when other schools have gone back. Too hot for kids to be stuck in school in late August.
Parent	let summer be summer. a four day break right after starting the year is unproductive
Parent	Let's allow our children to enjoy a full summer. This is something we all grew up with and is being taken away by schools all over the area. Please keep things as they are and allow our kids to have fun as children.
Parent	Let's finally do what is best for the students education. They need the additional classroom time for AP preparation. ACPS students have been at a disadvantage.
Parent	Lived in Kansas for 15 yrs; never saw the value of early school start and kids always complained. Post-Labor day start is one of best reasons to live in Alexandria. My 2 high-schoolers love the schedule the way it is.
Parent	Many families have parents that work for the federal government. Starting before Labor Day is a disservice to those families that often have to wait for family time, vacations, etc until DC slows down/Congress breaks in Aug.
Parent	Many regional summer education opportunities begin already in mid-June. Option 3 makes attending possible.
Parent	Matches closer to other nation school start and end dates. Easier for military children.
Parent	More classroom time will benefit the kids prior to the testing. Would this apply to the SOLs as well?
Parent	Most summer programs in the immediate Northern Virginia area align with Fairfax County Schools. In order for Alexandria City students to take part in summer program offerings, ACPS should align with the FCPS schedule. This is especially important for special education students, because most summer program offerings for special needs occurs in Fairfax County.

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Parent	My vote is contingent on the availability of child care either through the City or other summer camp options. Right now, summer camps start to end the third week before Labor Day and there are none the week before Labor Day. Would the lack of child care options just be moved up in the summer? Would there be child care options earlier in June?
Parent	No change, no class before Labor Day please!
Parent	No parent I know in FCPS thinks the earlier start date is a good idea. Don't do it!
Parent	No school before Labor Day!!!
Parent	No one has explained to me how an earlier start in the fall reduces the learning gap. The winter break is the same, and the total number of days is the same. If the end of the school year is moved earlier (which it is in all situations when school starts earlier), then how does it make any difference? I would really like someone to contact me to explain why it would be better to start earlier in the fall and end earlier in the spring, than to leave things as they are. Kminatelli@gmail.com.
Parent	None of these options work. It seems ridiculous to go back to school for 4 days then get a long weekend. I prefer Alexandria adopt an all year round calendar. Kids do so much better having a shorter summer break. The number of weeks kids get off school impacts academic retention and costs a fortune in camps. Kids should go back to school the beginning of August and take 2 - 3 weeks over Christmas to allow families more time to travel to visit relatives.
Parent	Not happy with any of these choices. ACPS should be able to start school after Labor Day and conclude the school year by the June 10th at the latest. I grew up in Minnesota, Iowa, and Wisconsin. All three states have the majority of their schools begin after Labor Day and conclude by the second week in June. They do all this in a place where they may encounter significant winter weather. You need to do a better job negotiating your teacher contracts and cut out all the "teacher work days" .
Parent	Nothing really is changing other than getting out of school a few days earlier.
Parent	Once high school sports start and things like band, students and parents are ready for school to start. Furthermore, the weeks after SOLs are honestly just teachers having to babysit because the teachers are done with their lessons because they had to be before the tests. Enough wasting time! My boys learn best when they are fresh and that is better in August than June. Just do it already! Western counties already do it!
Parent	Option #3 would be my second choice
Parent	option 2 is also acceptable. In general I prefer a midweek last day but the extremely early last day of option 3 put it ahead of the others.
Parent	Option 2 is my second choice. Thanks!
Parent	Option 2 is nearly as good
Parent	Option 2 is terrible.
Parent	Option 2 or 3 would both be fine. It as an ACPS parent who works in FCPS, I strongly prefer a pre-labor day start.

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Parent	Option 3 aligns much better with summer camp offerings in the area, which often end or are greatly reduced after mid-August. Each summer our family uses a significant amount of our yearly leave to cover the last 2-3 weeks of summer. Even as an elementary parent, I appreciate the better balance of time before/after AP exams. Having taught in ACPS for more than a decade, I always felt the long weeks of June were incredibly ineffective even with our youngest students - a lot of filler and what felt like weeks of "wrap up". Option 2 is fine, as well, but it feels arbitrary to bring students back for three half-days and then needing to find childcare for two days. I rather have that full week off to travel or send my child to camp.
Parent	Option 3 as choice 2
Parent	Option 3 is a happy medium. Students will report back at the end of August and get out in early June when everyone is fatigued and ready for a break.
Parent	Option 3 is better for summer camps and families and learning - more academic time in advance of mandated exams. If not 3, please choose 2.
Parent	Options 2 and 3 will have too much disruption at the beginning of the school year
Parent	Our kids started at Mt. Vernon Community School when they still had the year round option. We sorely miss that schedule. Since that changed to a regular calendar we have hoped for a pre-Labor Day start. From a simple planning standpoint, many camps around the country start in mid June which has ruled our kids out. There are no camps offered at the end of August. Also, as my kids are getting older, seeing the opportunity for more time to prepare for testing is key. We strongly support Option 3.
Parent	People plan on having all of August to travel and Labor Day as official end of summer.
Parent	Please align the ACPS spring break with the Fairfax county spring break. Spring camp resources in nearby communities would help ease childcare needs, but only if the needs occur during the one week when these resources exist.
Parent	Please align with Fairfax County schedule.
Parent	Please align with other school districts. I am spending a fortune on care and leave for my special needs child this summer because programs are ending to align with every other school district. We prefer #2 as it would mean open house could be earlier than week than the week before.
Parent	Please also consider a longer school day
Parent	Please consider working families when starting or ending the school year midweek. When you start or end the school year midweek, families may be challenged to find camp or daycare that covers half of the week - they may be forced to pay for a full week of childcare when they only need a half week, or may need to take time off from work to cover half of a week with their children at home.
Parent	Please don't change the start date.
Parent	Please don't change. Starting school a few days earlier will not change summer knowledge loss. Family plans and vacations are set for years based on the current plan.
Parent	Please don't end school with only 3 half days like you've done for next year. It's a disruptive waste of time for students and difficult for parents to find childcare. Better to end on a Thursday or Friday and have at least 2 full days and no more than 2 half days.
Parent	Please don't change.

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Parent	Please explain how option 2 and 3 reduces summer learning loss. Do options 2 and 3 reduce the number of days of summer? If the number of days is the same, how does it reduce summer learning loss? If there are 2 or 3 days less in summer, does that have any significant impact on learning loss?
Parent	PLEASE keep the school year start AFTER Labor Day as it has been for years.
Parent	Please please don't change the calendar
Parent	Please stick with current practice! Thanks
Parent	Please stop starting after Labor Day! This making life hard for working parents. Would love to see you line up with FCPS to find summer care options!
Parent	Please try and align the calendars with arlington and fairfax if possible. Many of us teach in other counties and having the same schedule would make everyone's life easier.
Parent	Please use the days you have more wisely instead of just adding time on the front end
Parent	Please, please please line up with all the other schools districts in the region and start before Labor Day. As a two parent working family, with a child with special needs, it is EXTREMELY difficult to find camps at the end of the summer where other schools are close to or back in session (removing most qualified camp personnel, babysitters, etc. from the job pool). This No need to go as early as FCPS, but the extra week of summer this year is a big hardship for us and there are few quality options besides taking leave. There is no reason to continue to be behind other districts in the area.
Parent	Please, please start before Labor Day. There are so many early summer opportunities that kids miss by being in school for most of June, and it is much harder to find childcare all the way up to Labor Day as most camps do not go that late into August.
Parent	Regarding the claim that option 2 or 3 would "[reduce] summer learning loss" -- the difference in summer vacation length is only 2 or 4 days. Is there research to suggest that shortening vacation by less than a week actually impacts learning loss?
Parent	School should also be starting before Labor Day for 2020-2021.
Parent	Second choice would be option 2, however, having 2 partial weeks could make adjustments for younger students more difficult.
Parent	Seems to really just shift the last day of school up. I'm not seeing any real benefit other than a general shift in the year and having summer both start and end earlier. I thought the calendar based on teaching hours was a more interesting and appealing calendar, if a switch is to be made.
Parent	Since ACPS chose the 1 high school option, it should really align with neighboring districts with start dates. It makes more sense to align with FCPS than Loudon. The state sets the SOL testing window and since most schools in Virginia start before labor day, it is time for ACPS to make the change. Additionally many parents who live in Alexandria work for FCPS and the widening gap between the start and end of school is hard on families. Based on the survey for the 20-21 calendar, teachers, students, parents, and community members prefer a pre labor day start.
Parent	Something else to consider is that the first day of Rosh Hashanah in 2021 is Tuesday 9/7. That means if classes start on the Tuesday after Labor Day, the Jewish families in the district will have to choose between religious observance and missing the first day of school. This is a difficult choice that I am hoping we do not have to make.

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Parent	Starting after Labor Day allows families to incorporate the Labor Day holiday into their family's vacation plans (since they are still in school Memorial Day week) and gives everyone a full summer off. Starting school in September is a more natural start to the fall and the school year.
Parent	Starting after Labor Day is the most appropriate for us, as it will not interfere with our summer vacation.
Parent	Starting after Labor Day means students don't have a false start only to be interrupted with a three-day weekend right after the start of school.
Parent	Starting before Labor Day makes sense for all the reasons presented. I also think it makes sense for the younger kids because they don't want to be outside in the August heat. It's often still pleasant in June and they are less likely to be seeking indoor, air conditioned activities. They are inside in August anyway.
Parent	Starting before Labor Day will be a "false" start causing dysregulation among younger students. Just start and continue without days off until October to help students get in the swing of things.
Parent	Starting on 24 August makes a lot of sense. It's time to move away from starting in September.
Parent	Students have the opportunity to learn/practice for one extra week before State and AP tests. Also, for younger students there is a VERY limited selection of camps/daycare at the end of the summer because other districts/school systems start earlier.
Parent	Students miss out on summer learning opportunities and camps given the very late ACPS start. This change would benefit students with additional class time before AP exams and a greater to participate in area camps and learning opportunities.
Parent	Survey should rank each option, not just select one option.
Parent	Thank you for taking this poll.
Parent	Thank you. It's 180 days in each option, but option A promotes tourism and business for our state. With a ten-week summer break, reducing summer learning loss is not really possible in any of the three options. Only Tucker's modified year-round schedule can really claim that! (Which I do favor - but is not an option!)
Parent	Thanks for the survey but everyone knows parent input is meaningless to ACPS.
Parent	Thanks for this survey. I'm not sure I follow the summer learning loss argument here. The way to reduce summer learning loss is to extend the school year or stretch learning days out so that the summer is not as long a gap in learning. As far as I can tell, these options simply shift the school year days, but still keep the length of the summer more or less the same (plus or minus two days if I'm doing the math correctly). I'd love the school to consider some other measures to combat summer learning loss, if that is a priority. Year round school programs are gaining in popularity for that reason.
Parent	The argument about learning loss decreasing with an earlier start date is silly. Summer is the same length, plus that has never been proven at Tucker or Mount Vernon. I also do not think starting earlier will improve test performance. So many days are wasted during the year with irrelevant assemblies and field trips or non-academic focus before holidays or at end of quarters that we don't use the days wisely we already have.
Parent	The current calendar works fine but we should look at what Tennessee does and start around August 5, with a one week, fall break in October. This would be a nice travel week for families.

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Parent	The Current School year offers us an opportunity to enroll our children in numerous summer camps through early August and have the ability to take vacations late in August at a lower rate and have less crowds since other school districts have already started school. Late August is also a nice slow period that allows us to focus as a family without distractions. We also have our kids complete a summer reading and math program to circumvent summer learning loss.
Parent	The incentive to choosing Option 3 is getting out of school on 6/10/22.
Parent	The indication on option 2 and 3 indicate that summer learning loss is reduced...exactly how do the calendars achieve this? Summer break is slightly reduced but I do not see how a significant reduction in learning loss would occur from this slight reduction, so this isn't really a reason why the calendar may be better. Also, starting school mid week, whether Tuesday or Thursday causes problems for child care for working parents. Will there be childcare for the partial week before school starts? Summer camps will not run...how is having school for 2 days helpful to students as in calendar 2....
Parent	The last day of school becomes too early in the second and third options.
Parent	The last note of reduces learning loss over summer is incorrect. After a new calendar goes into affect, summer break will be the same number of days the following years.
Parent	The results of your last survey clearly showed respondents wanted to keep the start of school after Labor Day. Three choices were offered, with two of them having school start after Labor Day. In your follow up letter after the survey, it stated that results were split evenly between the three options, meaning roughly 66% or 2/3 of your respondents wanted to keep the start of school after Labor Day. While I understand some of the ACPS reasoning behind starting the school year earlier, I do not believe most of the ACPS community is ready for this change, and expect similar results from this second survey. Thank you for your time.
Parent	The start with an immediate 4 day weekend does not promote any additional learning and I believe is nothing more then a show. Students need consistent chunks of time to absorb material.
Parent	The summer learning loss gain only seems to apply for the first year. In later years the summer is the same length, right? Seems like August starts simply cut into the most popular time for family vacations and bonding. Quality Family relationships are highly predictive of academic performance, so earlier starts seem counterproductive.
Parent	The summer learning loss is only one summer, and it just means kids get a shorter summer. Less time for family vacations and fun is all it means.
Parent	The Washington Metro Area shuts down in August because the government -- a major employer in this region -- goes on recess. So August is vacation month for a lot of families.
Parent	The week before Labor Day is a good time to ease students into the school routine.
Parent	There are no camps available the last week of August especially for middle school age students . Every year we struggle to find coverage.
Parent	There is no reason to change what is not broken. There is no shortage of teaching days at the end of the school year as our children (TC Class of 2018, TC Class of 2019, 7th grader at GW) have shown us that the last couple weeks of school are light in terms of instruction.
Parent	There is nothing wrong with the current schedule. Please keep it as it is.

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Parent	There seems to be no problem starting at the usual time and we, at least, rely on starting after Labor Day for our summer plans.
Parent	There's no research on any of this. Let's not let Alexandria be another reform for reform's sake school district. This isn't even a novel reform.
Parent	These kids need to start after labor day. As it is there are more days in the school year than needed and you are trying to take away their youth. Do the right thing please.
Parent	This calendar option works best w/ my husband's and my work schedule. It requires less childcare than if school got out earlier in June and started in August.
Parent	This calendar provides the most instruction time before AP exams.
Parent	This gives more instruction days before the SOL's. Also, Surrounding school districts start early. We play them in sports so we will have the same schedule
Parent	This is better for our work schedules and custody sharing schedule.
Parent	This is better for the kids cause there are no camps after this date
Parent	This model works better! it is unnecessary to start school before the holiday just to have a three day weekend. Teachers could use that additional time to prepare for the upcoming classes.
Parent	This will make finding summer camp so much easier. At the end of August there are so few options. It is a really hard time for working parents
Parent	This will reduce our family's need for summer camp during the week of Aug 24 when not many camp options are available. We also have one parent in our family who teaches in Fairfax County, so having the same academic calendar would be appreciated.
Parent	This would be hugely helpful in many ways; weather, traffic, holiday planning, private school synchronization and overall more value added academic time for the students!
Parent	Time before testing is really important. Starting the summer earlier is also nice. If we can't go full modified calendar, this is a little better at least.
Parent	Time to collaborate with FCPS for the benefit of ACPS students. FCPS students are getting a head start on national tests. ACPS needs to do everything possible to support academic achievement for all ACPS students.
Parent	Tuesday after Labor Day in 2021 is the first day of Rosh Hashanah. That means that if there is a post-Labor day start, Jewish kids will have to choose between missing the first day of school and going to synagogue.
Parent	Two-week winter break is longer than I'd like, though I recognize some have travel needs.
Parent	US Congress recess in August goes through Labor Day. This is typically the only time of year that people who work in Congress can take time off. Fewer weeks in August would limit families vacation options.
Parent	Way too much focus on APs. And a short start week has not proven effective. And I love having vacation when other schools have started! I have 2 kids - perfect AP scores for high schooler. And APs aren't yet relevant for most students. Fewer APs and less pressure would be much more beneficial.
Parent	We already have summer plans for that last week in August! Please don't change the start date and this late notice!
Parent	We have built our schedules around ACPS. Changing now would mean ending family traditions. My vote is for the longest summer possible.

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Parent	We have out of town family obligations every year at the end of the summer. Don't change my kids routine that they've had since they were born.
Parent	We like the later start and later finish. Please don't change.
Parent	We need more advance time before changing the calendar. Many activities are planned months in advance. Too late to change for Fall 2020!!!
Parent	We take a family trip the week before Labor Day because prices are cheaper (probably because not as many people are travelling since most schools have started back already.) It is our only family trip of the summer. If we go back to school that week, then we won't be able to take a trip since that would mean we would have to travel while prices are higher the rest of the summer. If you have to change, can you at least change to the Samuel Tucker schedule? At least that way, we would have an off-season week in October to travel. If you start school earlier, then there will be no off-season time to take a family trip as it will leave us only having school breaks for the exact same time periods as everyone else in the nation for summer, winter and spring breaks.
Parent	While I like the idea of a "full summer" for the kids, the reality is that most parents are working and kids probably won't know the difference if summer doesn't end after Labor Day. Plus, all the local private schools are on a schedule similar to this and this gives everyone fair footing for camps, jobs, etc.
Parent	While I think the current format works well for our students, I wouldn't mind getting the kids into the school year a little sooner- and then dismissed slightly earlier.
Parent	While we appreciate the opportunity to provide additional learning time in advance of AP exams, for many families, starting school prior to Labor Day on either of the proposed schedules is a challenge. Working parents of younger childcare must find childcare for several days across multiple weeks. The vast majority of Alexandria summer childcare options are full-week only programs. Many working parents may not be afforded the flexibility to take a few days off one week and a few different days off the next to care for their children.
Parent	Why change what's not broke?
Parent	Why fix something that isn't broken. Let the kids enjoy their summer, jeez.
Parent	Why is there not an option that has a shorter winter break (depending when Christmas falls)? That would provide more learning days before ap exam and reduce the problem of finding childcare when parents have to go back to work. Two weeks is usually too long. This survey is also biased that out doesn't point out the advantages of option 1 (for example, that it's still really hot before Labor Day).
Parent	Why isn't there an option to Start on Monday August 30th? Also, as a whole I do not support starting school before Labor Day but the years when Labor Day is late and the kids get out in late June I see the need to start earlier. The issue for me will be when Labor Day is in early September because I do not want school starting in mid to late August I would rather school start as close to the beginning of September as possible.
Parent	Why not offer an option to start 1 week earlier on Tues 8/31? Why do we need to start and then take a 4 day weekend?
Parent	With the number of school days the same regardless, it doesn't provide any advantage to my elementary school kid to change. The so-called gap is not changed because August start dates mean they get out earlier in June.

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Parent	Would like to have additional time the week of Thanksgiving (Monday and Tuesday) rather than the early start to Winter vacation.
Parent	Wouldn't summer learning loss only be shortened/helped in the single year when school ends late and starts earlier? Ostensibly the following years would have the same length of summer break, just shifted. Would love to see ACPS start looking at year-round school with several longer breaks through the year.
Parent & Employee	This calendar provides the MOST instructional time for students prior to AP testing. Although we know that testing isn't the focus of education, those test do add additional pressure and stress for students that are extremely focused on their grades, scores, and future opportunities. This option seems to be the most student-driven option. It will of course shorten this year's summer vacation, but it will definitely be more beneficial in the long run.
Parent & Employee	A four day break after a partial week of returning defeats the purpose of re-acclimating at school for everyone. In addition starting earlier pushes back teachers time needed to get classrooms ready before students to arrive. They would need to start a week earlier. Then there is open house and Kindergarten prep to consider, all overlapping. Teachers will be back. Let them prepare and allow students a smooth transition without the interruption or a break over top of the end of a break.
Parent & Employee	According to Options 2 and 3, summer learning loss would be reduced-- I am trying to figure out the justification of this past the 2021-22 school year, as summer vacation would not be reduced past that.
Parent & Employee	Aligning with neighboring counties means parents can take better advantage of local camps and childcare options. Fairfax county is the largest and closest system in our city and many summer care options follow their lead.
Parent & Employee	As a parent to two ACPS students, stay with the after Labor Day schedule. I don't see the point on going to school for a couple of days, then staying home. Once they start a routine, they should continue it. I do not agree that summer breaks should be shorter. No one wants to start school in August.
Parent & Employee	As an employee of a k-8 school
Parent & Employee	Could there be clarification on the need for a professional development day after the academic year has ended?
Parent & Employee	give 2 weeks for instruction BEFORE the AP's and SOL tests.... makes no sense to go after.
Parent & Employee	I don't really care which option. However, I am wondering how it reduces summer learning loss when the kids are still going the same amount of days (180) and would still have the same amount of time off during the summer.
Parent & Employee	I see no benefit in having summer break start so early in June. In our particular situation, we have standing summer plans that would make it difficult to start prior to Labor Day.

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Parent & Employee	I think getting out earlier in June is beneficial and I prefer both of those options. However, I do think that when looking at individual calendars each year, you should consider the impact it has when you push students or teachers to the next week - for example, if you have the last TWD at the end of the school year on a Monday, it means that teacher loses that week as a possible week for family travel since most vacation homes have Saturday - Saturday rentals. Moving on day around in the year could easily fix this problem. The same goes for students, since many summer camps start in June. I have stated it every year since I started working for ACPS, but I believe the MOST beneficial thing that could be done for teachers and students would be to add minutes to the school day instead of adding days to the calendar year. Giving teachers an extra 30 minutes in the workday would yield more results giving more time for interventions and differentiation. This option should be considered!
Parent & Employee	Kids and teachers are fried by June. I think more learning gets done, once they are refreshed by the summer break. Starting before Labor Day interferes with lots of summer activities and opportunities for both students and staff.
Parent & Employee	Let everyone enjoy that final week of Summer vaca!
Parent & Employee	Option 2 is a nice compromise that lets teachers start the year before Labor day, yet still doesn't have teachers coming back to school to set up classrooms and do in-service work at the very beginning of August.
Parent & Employee	Option 2 seems ridiculous- who starts school on Thursday
Parent & Employee	Option 3 is a better fit for my family and I. Closer to what they were used to before we moved here.
Parent & Employee	People complained about new staff missing vacation days but that is a chance you take when you accept a new position. We should not be planning our school calendar around new hires missing vacation days. Earlier start and end is better for staff and students.
Parent & Employee	Please do it this time! So much better for everyone!
Parent & Employee	Starting same day as Fairfax will alleviate issues with daycare for many employees.
Parent & Employee	Strongly oppose professional learning day the last week of school. Teachers need this time to finish end-of-year projects and cleanup classroom. If anything, it should be a teacher workday but teachers would appreciate an extra day off.
Parent & Employee	This allows for a sufficient enough time for summer rest and relaxation with family/friends with little affect on instructional time for students to learner. A fair compromise.
Parent & Employee	This option would be much better for reducing the loss of student learning over the summer and increasing the time before AP exams.
Parent & Employee	This provides the most days before testing. Why do we not already do this?? My AP students would have a much better foundation and my daughters will be able to enjoy early summer opportunities.
Student	ACPS is already some trash just keep starting school after Labor Day so I don't have anything else to complain about acps schools
Student	Although many other school systems have different calendars than ACPS, having all of August off is always very nice and I personally feel like I can be more focused on september because I will not continue to feel like it's summer and be distracted

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Student	<p>First off, it is extremely hot in Virginia during the summer especially August. As a student I know that ACPS does not have a means to properly control our learning environments temperature well enough for us to be in school that early. I am a high school student And I know that this new plan would never work for the students at tc or GW or Hammond or even Jefferson Huston because it would facilitate an environment for mental illness and student teacher burnout to grow and thrive. Yes there is a summer learning gap but the reason that there's a summer learning gap is because for three weeks at the end of the school year we basically do nothing. There's so much stress on students in this day and age and there will definitely be more stress on students in 2021, These new proposed schedules would create teacher and student burn out for middle school and high school age students which is worse than a learning gap. Many on the committee are also forgetting that students do have summer work especially students in high school and I wholeheartedly think that even if students may not like it, summer work is helpful in reducing the effects of the learning gap. People always forget that today kids are just kids we are not adults yet, this means that we need our break and we need time to have fun and time to enjoy our childhoods I know that I only have a couple more years until I go off to college and have to be an adult but I just want to be a kid and have a full summer. This is why I opted to vote for option one.</p>
Student	How about start August 31
Student	I believe it's important for students to get two full months of summer vacation. thank you.
Student	I believe that school should end earlier because the last two weeks of school we do ABSOLUTELY nothing and it is just a waste of everyone's time
Student	I believe that we should do option 1 because no one really wants to be in school before they have to. I think that almost every kid would benefit from option one because we all want to start school as late a possible.
Student	I think that it is great that you are asking the students for their opinion you should do this more.
Student	I want more time to learn before ap exams
Student	I want to start and end at the same time as my mom who works in Fairfax County.
Student	I went to Tucker for elementary school and we started in early August and onetime July 31. I really didn't mind this schedule as we had breaks in the year, however, I'm now in high school taking AP classes so breaks are probably out of the question.
Student	I would like the first option because as a student I enjoy having those late days to summer break and I don't think it would be a problem for us to start school in June 22 since we hare used to it.
Student	I'll be a senior that year and I don't want a shortened summer vacation
Student	It is already too late to start making a decision on this subject as families have already bought tickets and made summer plans based around the post-Labor Day start.
Student	<p>It would be a better situation as the calendar reflects many as the various school schedules such as Gonzaga, Bullis, and Saint Stephens Saint Agnes. Like me, many other students would enjoy this new schedule as it allows us to socialize with people who attend other schools. For example, there are many times when students on summer break that attend Gonzaga who want to hang out with kids at T.C. This would be a problem as students at T.C. are released weeks before students at private schools.</p>

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Student	Let the kids have their summer vacation -a senior
Student	make school end earlier so we can be prepared mentally for the next years. it's not fair how we end school later.
Student	Make spring break longer by a Few days on option 2 and/or 3 that would be more appealing.
Student	Many students travel abroad during Summer Break, hence making it hard for students to comback without missing school if the new system is implemented.
Student	More clarity in the school calender.
Student	N/A
Student	N/A
Student	No one wanna enter school that early
Student	no one wants to start earlier because you get back to school and its really hot
Student	Nope, got nothing extra to say.
Student	Option one is the best
Student	Please release as early as possible
Student	School should start later!!!!!!
Student	Starting earlier seems futile because if there will be a break just a few days into the school year, what's the point of starting school? Shouldn't break just be extended to include the labor day weekend, as it usually is, rather than make it a weird stop in-between the fresh start?
Student	Starting earlier seems futile because if there will be a break just a few days into the school year, what's the point of starting school? Shouldn't break just be extended to include the labor day weekend, as it usually is, rather than make it a weird stop in-between the fresh start?
Student	Students deserve their summer to relax and prepare themselves for a long school year. An August start will be extremely troubling to students who are used to a old schedule and could possibly result in absences due to people's annual practices. In general, the benefits of starting 8 or 6 days earlier do not outweigh the disadvantages.
Student	That'll be my last year in acps and I would like to keep it the same way it's always been.
Student	The AP Class jump start is definitely needed, and I would appreciate the earlier summer, since it aligns with more of the west coast.
Student	The school year works well as it is, and most students prefer to have all august off rather than ending earlier in the summer.
Student	This is hard....you see if i go to morocco i'm staying there past the 24th or 26th so ...
Student	this is kinda cool but really when you think about it is not at all for kids to vote for a CALENDER
Student	This option allows for more preparation time for SOLs and AP tests because the two weeks after testing at the end of the year would be at the beginning of the year instead. Students would learn more content and have more review time for tested content, ultimately causing higher scores on SOLs and AP tests.
Student	U better not make me come to school before labor day
Student	we (i will be a high school student as of the start of the 2021-22 school year) always get out two-three weeks after fairfax and as an athlete, it's really hard to align our game schedule with them when they get out so much before us

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Student	We need our summer time!!!! Please don't take away any time from our summer because that would just be SO TERRIBLE!!!! Please keep the schedule the way it is. Everybody in my class agrees that more summer time is BETTER. Everyone in my class agrees on option one. Please consider this because I seriously want all the summer time I can get. I'm sure you're also going to get tons of comments from the other kids in my grade saying generally the same thing so just know that we all want the same amount of summertime we always get.
Student	Why did you even think about doing that???? NOT TRYING TO BE RUDE IN ANY WAY
Unknown	- August is too hot and kids will be preoccupied with summer still - won't be able to go to camps or complete their summer jobs that go through the end of August.
Unknown	- if high school students can't commit to work through the entire summer they will not be eligible to accept summer employment opportunities at camps and pools.
Unknown	- There are a lot of wasted ""testing days"" where students are told not to report to school (high school) and middle and elementary school students ""movie"" days at the end of the year that could be utilized instead to get extra instructional time in -
Unknown	We need to test and get out.
Unknown	1. There is too much wasted time at the end of the year after AP & SOL's.
Unknown	2. Most of your staff do not live in Alexandria and it's better to have a schedule closer to their children.
Unknown	a) Alignment with Fairfax County schools is helpful for summer camps.
Unknown	Additionally, longer class times times with a single subject with a schedule that rotates across a 7 - 8 day schedule (vs 5) has been shown to be more beneficial to learning and knowledge retention than MORE days on the calendar with shorter class times. The schedule should be overhauled entirely to have a 7 -8 day rotation with longer times in subjects on an assigned day. (No, we'd only have school on weekdays, but each day would correspond with a Day A, B, C, etc. schedule, vs. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and so on)."
Unknown	Also climate change is real, and while it could and most likely will get hotter early in June, it will always be hotter in late August. "
Unknown	Also many teachers do not live within Alexandria City meaning our children attend the neighboring districts. With the end of the school year it will be difficult to find childcare. "
Unknown	And if the number of instructional days stays the same and the start and ends dates are just shifting, it's unclear how this impacts summer learning loss."
Unknown	Another issue I have with some of these plans is that the start and stop of school is in the middle of the week (like on a Tuesday). It makes it REALLY hard for working parents to find camps and other forms of care when there are 2-3 days to fill rather than 5. Is that possible to correct in next year's schedule? I love that the calendar this year, for example, has the last day of school on a Friday. I can therefore start a camp on the following Monday and not have to find yet another form of care or take annual leave from work to fill in the gap.
Unknown	b) Less time between completion of SOLs and the last day of school means less ""babysitting"" of students at the end of the year."

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Unknown	better but still not there. i voted option 2 because of the imbalance created by spring break but would prefer option 3. just don't see the value of the break when school lets out 7 weeks later. better alignment with fairfax is critical for families with kids in summer camps "
Unknown	Changing parent mindset is difficult. "
Unknown	Do not change it!!(PLEASE)
Unknown	Family vacations are less expensive late August and early September then earlier in the summer. The rest of the summer is twice as expensive as late August and early September.
Unknown	Finally, if we start before Labor Day, it is most logical to align with Fairfax County since they are neighboring and many students do activities that overlap with that county's schedule."
Unknown	Going so late in June is hard for the kids and harder on teachers, shifting the start earlier is better for everyone. "
Unknown	Has this community looked at how all the surrounding districts turn in the time to the state; days or hours? Many of the the surrounding districts use hours not days.
Unknown	HOWEVER, this survey states that Options 2 and 3 ""reduce summer learning loss"". This isn't true unless it somehow applies specifically to the issue with high school students having more classroom time before AP exams. But it doesn't seem to apply to that issue. So I don't know why it is part of the same bullet. Furthermore, shifting the schedule so that summer is the same length (it just starts and ends earlier) does not ""reduce summer learning loss"". Making summer shorter would do that, but that would only occur during the year this would go into effect, and that's not the issue at all here. Stating that Options 2 and 3 ""reduce summer learning loss"", especially with no data backing it up (where is the link to your study or data?) are greatly misleading. This is a terrible survey and unfortunately the data you get from this survey will not be accurate.
Unknown	I also ask that you look at conference times for us. We follow the elementary schedule which means our conferences are always AFTER the quarters are finished, and every other middle schooler has their conference before. "
Unknown	I am concerned that having three options, two of which with a pre-Labor Day start, will result in Option 1 having the plurality of votes, when the combined Options 2 & 3 are actually more popular. I ask that the scheduling committee take note of the combined number of votes for Options 2 & 3. I suspect that, like me, many other teachers, parents, and community members would prefer an earlier start, regardless of which of these two options is the final decision."
Unknown	I apologize for the rant but as a staff member it truly stings when you ask us for our voice we share it, the evidence clearly shows staff support it, and instead the option picked is one favored by parents. This makes me feel less valued as a staff member and even less appreciated. So do your pointless survey because as the past has shown the results won't matter because you will go with the option that suits the group with the bigger pull."

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Unknown	<p>I can only imagine all the moving parts it will take to adjust the calendar, and I am sure leadership and administration will be prepared to address each of these pieces. But I would REALLY encourage someone to pay particular attention to how this will impact the before-the-start-of-school communications and scheduling regarding bus routes. It is challenging to parents to find out about bus schedules only days (if that!) before school starts..and often times things are still changing in significant ways through the first few days to weeks of school. Waiting to communicate to families about this in August is just not okay. And if school is now beginning in August, it will be even more problematic. Gone are the days where most families have one parent at home who can pivot and adjust to fluctuations in schedules or such. For the family with two working parents, who have to craft their own very busy and complicated family schedule, not knowing your children's schedule for getting to school until days before the academic year starts is incredibly challenging.</p>
Unknown	<p>I find it hard to believe that a few extra days in August will have any impact on advanced placement scores. Also, how does the third option reduce summer learning loss? Possibly in the first year as we transition from a late June end date to a pre-Labor Day start date, but after that, it appears students would be out of school for the same amount of time over the summer."</p>
Unknown	<p>I just find it frustrating that a simple process of creating a school calendar takes ACPS so long to figure out, when other districts like FCPS complete it in less then a week. Why is that? Because they don't get SO MANY PEOPLE involved. Maybe in the future just contact their officials, ask for a copy of their calendar and apply that to ACPS</p>
Unknown	<p>I really don't understand how the difference of 5 (in Option 2, for instance) school days at the end of the year will reduce summer learning loss. Could that be better explained somewhere? That seems like a bit of a leap to me. I'm not seeing any evidence to support that claim.</p>
Unknown	<p>I see one HUGE logistical problem - Summer School would now have to run over July 4th. It works nicely now starting after the 4th. Please include Summer School dates on the calendar. Families need to know those in advance. Finding out in the Spring is really late. And, you are not fully evaluating the change is families don't understand how it will impact summer school.</p>
Unknown	<p>I strongly disagree with starting 6 or 8 days earlier than Labor Day. Let kids enjoy summer.</p>
Unknown	<p>I think option 2 for the 2021-2 calendar is the best way to transition our district to a pre-labor day return date. Having teachers come back on august 10 (option 3) would create an extremely short summer. "</p>
Unknown	<p>If summer time off is the same how can shifting the summer reduce summer learning loss? Would you need to either shorten the summer or supplement over the summer?"</p>
Unknown	<p>If there's no research showing benefits from a mere 2- or 4-day reduction, you shouldn't make those claims."</p>
Unknown	<p>If you absolutely have to start before Labor Day, just start on Monday, August 30. Starting on a Thursday (#2) makes absolutely no sense. Starting a full two weeks before Labor Day (#3) is really unfair to families."</p>

ACPS – 2021-2022 Calendar Feedback - Comments

Unknown	IF you implement the schedule before Labor Day, please look into providing childcare that works with this schedule. Being a single parent without family in the area is challenging. Childcare options have always been inadequate.
Unknown	Is it possible to eliminate/move the last professional day of the year which is currently after the last day of school? Perhaps the professional development day could be moved to Veteran's Day. That way, at least students could be at home with parents. Also, that would provide prof. learning earlier, allowing a timely opportunity to implement."
Unknown	Is there anyway to add an October staff holiday?"
Unknown	It is also very hot in our building and starting earlier will mean many more days of high temperatures in the classrooms in August which is not conducive to learning. "
Unknown	It is nice to see you all making some changes to the schedule, but instead of gradual, just make the switch. Start the school year before Labor Day, keep the schedule pretty much the same every year minus when the holidays are, which should only take a week to change and release it. Parents want their kids going to school, so their kids will attend when the school year opens. It works out for the modified schedule at Tucker, it will work out for the rest of the schools in the district."
Unknown	June is still too cool for summer family water vacations. Late August and early September are warmer.
Unknown	Late August can be a less expensive time for families to take vacation as most places aren't considered high season then, so it could impact families of lesser wealth.
Unknown	Let families enjoy there vacations by finishing the ""summer"" in traditional style.
Unknown	Likewise, it's a lot harder to find camps at the end of August than it is the beginning of June. Over the years we've been unable to enroll in camps our kids would have enjoyed due to the late end of school date."
Unknown	Lots of families in alexandria travel as well to go see families in other countries during this time.
Unknown	Love the 2 week winter break - essential for recharging and follows college calendars more closely."
Unknown	My question, why not do a modified calendar like Samuel Tucker for ALL? Wouldn't that be best in reducing the load on working parents and reduce summer loss?"
Unknown	Not doing so results in greater learning loss and less classroom time for those taking AP exams."
Unknown	Option 3 is preferred for this reason - school ends on a Friday and while it doesnt start on a Monday, starting on a Tuesday means only one day of ""gap coverage"" for childcare rather than multiple days."
Unknown	Please make this decision based on student needs even if you receive feedback from vocal parents trying to protect late summer vacation plans. Parents with younger children may be more likely to fill out this survey, but they do not have the big picture.
Unknown	Provide the most classroom time before AP exams!"
Unknown	Thank you for all the work you do on figuring this out. And thank you for asking for opinions on the proposed schedules."
Unknown	Thank you for considering an adjustment to how and when bus scheduling is done when you take on the challenge on adjusting the school calendar.
Unknown	Thank you for the opportunity to submit our feedback. "
Unknown	The facilities need to be updated before we go into the summer. "

ACPS – 2021-2022 Calendar Feedback - Comments

Unknown	The post-Labor Day start date aligns with the U.S. congressional schedule. Whether they work in the public or private sector, lots of parents have jobs that are impacted by the congressional schedule - including their own vacation time. The school calendar should continue to align with the congressional schedule."
Unknown	This is another sad example of the city not getting the process right. You need to develop a non-biased survey and this one isn't it. It clearly seems as though you want to start the school year before Labor Day and are putting in false statements to make people support those options. This is TERRIBLE! Let the facts stand on their own and let the people decide. This is greatly disappointing. "
Unknown	We really do wholeheartedly enjoy the quiet few weeks at the end of the summer. Please keep the current academic schedule, thanks and Semper Fi"
Unknown	What is the purpose for the other 2 options?"
Unknown	What is the snow day plan with each of the schedules?
Unknown	What I've come across suggests that even ""modified"" calendars like Tucker's that reduce summer vacation by more than a month only have modest impact on summer learning loss, so it seems highly unlikely that a mere 4 day reduction would have any significant impact.
Unknown	What sense does it make to follow Loudoun County? This district has the most snow days. Fairfax County also close a lot for snow days.
Unknown	Why are we adding a 3rd half day the last week of school? That's a joke. The students don't learn anything those days."
Unknown	Why hold the vote if you were going to give us the answers for not doing it this upcoming year? If any time to make the switch, it would be this upcoming summer with the late start to the school year. No one likes having school until pretty much July, except for parents who don't have to pay for day care/summer camps. With regards to summer camps/rec centers, they would make the adjustments to their programs based off what you do, since they need the kids to be there. So the reasoning for rec centers holds no face, especially since they haven't hired summer staff yet, nor released summer programs. And why is there a PD day scheduled after the school year is over?, what are you hoping to to accomplish? Teachers want to be done with the year at that point, and want to make the final touches on their rooms so they are able to also begin their summer break. I can only imagine how many teachers who have seen the calendar, have thought about not coming in.
Unknown	Why would ACPS want to align with Loudoun?"
Unknown	Yes the first transition year will be a short summer but it will balance out. It should have been done this year vs starting Sept 8."