

Relationship	Comment
Employee	<p>1. Columbus Day should not even be a discussion. 2. Veterans Day should have already been considered a holiday. 3. Somehow, some way please shorten the school year. There is absolutely no reason for us to be in school until almost the end of June. What is the benefit? Our last SOL tends to end the early part of June. Afterwards, the following week is typically makeup. The last 2 weeks of school are baby-sitting services where teachers are required to provide activities or field trips. That should not be our responsibility. End the school year earlier. 4. Are we not typically off on Presidents Day? Why are we changing that holiday? Yet, Columbus Day would actually be considered as one? Makes no sense at all. 5. We are typically the last district to get out of school for the summer. How are neighboring districts able to meet the (school day amount) requirements, have off for essentially every holiday, and still get out before us? Is there a study that shows that staying in school until almost the end of June is beneficial to both teachers and students?</p>
Employee	<p>Friday should be a half day for the students, so the teachers could catch up on work and not have a meeting or training on that day. We should have Easter Monday off due to we will need subs to cover teachers who have taken off for that day</p>
Employee	<p>TC needs 4 early release days for final exams.</p>
Employee	<p>4 day mini-break in November is great.</p>
Employee	<p>A non-instructional day in October (Columbus Day or another) is important for teachers because it allows for professional learning, reflection, and planning for the second half of the quarter. The first quarter is intense and having continuous instructional days through Thanksgiving is a problem. Fairfax and Arlington do not have school on Columbus Day. Arlington also had school on 11/6 this year. The families that would like to go on college visits in November will make these arrangements and not send their children to school regardless of whether it is a school day or not, as they do for the years when winter break is less than two weeks long, or when their spring break plans don't align with the scheduled spring break, or when summer vacation plans begin before the school year is over. Columbus day should be 1/2 professional development and 1/2 TWD to allow teachers planning and collaboration time to apply what they have learned. If requested, please do not add another early dismissal day for high school testing in October. The three consecutive early dismissal days (1 for PSAT testing and 2 for conferences) is disruptive.</p>
Employee	<p>A very large portion of staff is not from the area. Having the full day before Thanksgiving is a huge help in allowing us to get home to our extended families in a more reasonable amount of time and at a more reasonable price. This is the single most important day off to me. If the student holiday is on Monday April 22, teachers have all of spring break to work on comments for progress reports rather than scrambling to write them while finishing the units and assessing.</p>
Employee	<p>Aligning the district calendar to have off on Federal Holidays would be significantly beneficial to employees that have children; most day-cares are closed on federal holidays, but we are required to come to work, which causes a serious work vs. child care issue.</p>
Employee	<p>All federal holidays should be observed as holidays both for students and staff. I would be willing to do an early release the day before Thanksgiving to give ACPS some flexibility with scheduling days.</p>

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Employee	Although I teach in ACPS, I have school age children and live in Washington DC. I often have to use leave on the days that are holidays for the federal government, as DC Public Schools are closed. Also, the Monday after Easter is a day that all DC Public Schools traditionally have out due to various events that occur in the district. I understand that I may be only one, however, just my 2 cents.
Employee	Although it would be hard to promote going longer in June, the honoring of Federal holidays should be ground zero every year.
Employee	As a mother and a current employee I found that our calendar is too long in working days for students and teachers. Is not that we have a complain for doing our job but by the time we get to Thanksgiving break we are so stress out because we don't have a single day between the start of the school year to that point to rest and back a lil refresh, this is as an employee. As a mother I found the calendar extremely annoying because if for some reason I would like to schedule a mini vacation with my family during this holidays I can't because of my position as a teacher. And if I wouldn't be a teacher my kids get penalize because I decide to take the vacation and they would be out of the school. We need to start focusing in the quality of what we present to our parents and students instead of the amount. Sometimes more is not better, even our students get tire and overwhelmed and need it for a break. Thanks for the oportunity to express my thoughts.
Employee	As an employee, I find the division PD days draining and would like to see them at some other time than our first day back in January, if we have to have them at all. I understand this may be more convenient for parents and families. The presenters always do a great job, but the days are just exhausting and not usually helpful.
Employee	Because spring break is tied to Easter, having Easter Monday off is important to me for religious reasons. The weekend has a large number of services for which I sing, so I'm tired. Many people want a long summer break, but aren't aware of how tired students (and teachers) are when we don't get a break. Regular days off maximize learning, and reduce days off due to illness.
Employee	Bring back easter monday as a holiday.
Employee	Christmas Break need to be two full weeks as in Fairfax County Public Shoools.
Employee	Columbus Day is not as important to celebrate (considering the true history of the man and the acts) than Veteran's Day. Why on earth don't we honor our veterans like other schools and government do? We need the day off prior to Thanksgiving to facilitate travel. It's not necessarily possible to get across the country for Thanksgiving with family Thursday noon leaving Wednesday night. It's the biggest travel day of the year. Please have more respect and care for staff than to take that day away. Pretty please.
Employee	Columbus Day should not be a holiday for anyone. Can we make Spring Break consistent every year (Say, 3rd week of March) and stop having it tied to Easter. When Easter and Spring Break are late, AP students suffer as AP exams start a week or two after break, barely enough time to get re-focused. When Spring Break is in March, AP students have more than a month to get their heads back in the game.
Employee	Divide the Spring break into two separate breaks. One around the time schedule in April (Thursday, Friday, Monday off) and then have a break mid March (Thursday Friday Monday off). This allows for a break in the long stretch between January and Spring Break and still gives families 5 days for vacation time around the traditional spring break.
Employee	Do not get rid of President's Day. We did it many years ago and it was a huge mistake! We got so much bad press. Let's learn from our mistakes.

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Employee	Do not take away day before thanksgiving please many of us travel home to see our families
Employee	Easter is Sunday April 21, this would better accommodate those who travel out of the area for Easter.
Employee	Election Day should be a holiday for all students and staff, to avoid parking issues at schools that are polling sites, and also to allow staff and eligible students to go vote.
Employee	Ending the school year early would be nice, after sol tests there is less learning going on and this aligns with other local districts end of at dates.
Employee	For the current 2017-18 calendar, the school-based professional development day in October was changed to a district-wide professional day. For the 2018-19 calendar, I believe this date needs to be given back to schools as a professional development day - so that we can continue the professional learning initiatives that we started in August. Then it's more equitable - during the year both the district and the schools would have a day for professional development.
Employee	Given the challenging traffic and travel conditions in this area around the holidays, I think it is very helpful for staff and families to have a day off on Wednesday before Thanksgiving. For Columbus day, finding child care to support the teacher work day can be challenging, as several day cares are also closed for PD.
Employee	Great job, calendar committee. Thanks for taking our opinions into account!
Employee	Has there been any consideration that many employees are parents of students in other jurisdictions that observe federal holidays for students and staff. These days can cause a hardship for families and for the school system due to excessive staff call outs. Eliminating federal holidays and increasing the school year does not seem to be a major influence on student achievement. Neighboring jurisdictions have calendars that reflect the understanding of teacher work life balance but still focus on student achievement. One does not have to compromise one in order to get the other.
Employee	Having a teacher work day before break will not be productive - teachers will be ready to leave and therefore not use their day off effectively, but would instead use their day "after break" and set out to work more productively. Other thoughts: at the end of the day, does it really matter if we have one day off for Columbus Day? I'm not sure I understand why we need to have exactly 183 days of school anyway; however if that's the case I'd rather stay an extra day in June (although June seems to be an unproductive month anyway for most teachers, so are these extra days in June beneficial anyway?).
Employee	Having the student holiday before Spring Break is better as having it after will take another day away from prep for AP exams.
Employee	Holidays are important during the year. They give students and teachers an opportunity to recharge.
Employee	I am at a loss as to how Veteran's Day (a federal holiday) is not an option on any of the versions for next year. It is such a disservice that we continually do to Veterans to not recognize a federal holiday. Additionally, I am unable to comprehend how Columbus Day is being offered as a possible holiday in version 2 given the horrific acts committed by Columbus and his crew. If there is an option for which federal holidays we will follow (as apparently following all federal holidays as with other school divisions isn't an option) why on earth would Columbus day be honored above Veteran's day? It's incredibly disrespectful. Secondly, I cannot fathom the rationale for a PD day on the first day back from Winter Break. I can only imagine how poor attendance will be. Is there a reason we don't do 180 student days, as required in VA and then actually follow all federal holidays? (Columbus day and Veteran's day)?

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Employee	I am in favor most with version 3. I think anytime you can have school end earlier in June will benefit everyone because once SOL's are finished, most people have mentally 'Checked out". The only change I would make to version 3 though, and I say this simply because it seems like that version is trying to model FCPS, would be to grant Columbus Day as a holiday, schools closed, and either keep Wed of Thanksgiving a half day or make it full day completely. Other than that I think version 3 would be a nice change for once and many people would appreciate the earlier end of the school year.
Employee	I don't prefer any of the three versions afforded, but V. 2 is the most logical IF you add the Nov. PD day. As a 12 month employee, I would hope that we think strategically about the days up front in August- Is it truly necessary to have 6 days to prepare for students at schools IF we prioritize getting in classrooms, preparing instruction and addressing priorities and a main initiative? Other school divisions do not have these days. Suggestion: REDUCTION of a TWD in lieu of returning January 2. January 2nd has staff having to make difficult travel decisions for family. If necessary, January 2 should also NOT BE a professional learning day owned by CO, it should be shared with schools so staff will be held accountable for being present. As for October, there are too many interruptions in the learning and it's too early in the year to have such interruptions. Move the PD day to November as suggested above, which aligned with preparation for qu. 2.
Employee	I feel it is ridiculous we do not honor/celebrate Veteran's Day considering the area we live in and the many military families that live in our district.
Employee	I feel like it is a shame that we can even consider celebrating the memory of someone like Christopher Columbus, but not celebrate the Veterans and what they've done for us. Veterans day should be a holiday, and it shouldn't be a question. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to put our voice into this decision.
Employee	I have a few comments: "For teachers, Monday, November 4 and Tuesday, November 5 would be scheduled as a teacher work day and professional development day on consecutive days." I think the dates are just off here and should be the 5th/6th. This would mean there are not very many academic days in November, and should be considered in its importance. What about making the TWD Nov 6th and Feb 1st half days for students allowing grades to be done after their dismissal. These two days could be considered "days" and allow flexibility in other situations (e.g., snow days). And has anyone truly monitored parking lots on TWDs? I don't really think we need PD in October after having a week of it in August. Also, I am not sure why we need PD the first day back in Jan, as we will all be exhausted from having survived the holidays! Another thought might be to combine PD and TWD events. All day PD is usually really difficult to sit through -honestly. I am very willing to offer ideas if you would like to ask me! Clearly, the team has put in a lot of consideration for these 3 schedules! Nancy Runton at PH
Employee	I have taught in ACPS for 13 years and my family is not from the area, and neither is my husband's family. Having the day Wednesday before Thanksgiving off gives me more flexibility in scheduling travel. Ending the school year early is important, but spending the holidays with family takes precedence for me. Has there been any talk of having the number of student days reduced to 180, instead of 183 in order to ensure the school year ends earlier?
Employee	I prefer a calendar closely aligned to FCPS for childcare reasons.
Employee	I sincerely appreciate the opportunity to provide input.
Employee	I strongly believe ACPS should designate Veteran's Day (or its observance) as a student and teacher holiday rather than Columbus Day.

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Employee	I strongly believe that the way the current November ES parent conference days are set up with 3 consecutive 1/2 days is disruptive for students, teachers, and families. I strongly recommend and suggest that the schedule be reconsidered in the future to having 3 full days Mon-Wed, with one 1/2 day on Thursday and one full day off on Friday (with conferences being Thursday afternoon and all day Friday). Please consider this request, as it is a major complaint that I have heard from fellow teachers as well as from families. It is difficult especially for our special needs students who thrive with a schedule.
Employee	I strongly feel that ending the school year earlier would be most beneficial. I feel this way because once testing is done, it seems like most people, especially students, have "checked out" The only change I would ask is if at all possible could we have Veteran's Day off. I think this is an important day, especially in this area to remember those that served in the military. Other than that I truly think version 3 would be the best for Alexandria schools.
Employee	I think Easter Sunday should be kept in mind, and the holiday should be after Easter Sunday, rather than a random Friday before. Thanks.
Employee	I think holidays during the year are most important because they can alleviate burnout for teachers and students. The summer holiday is so long already that losing a few days has less of an impact.
Employee	I think many people depend on the day before Thanksgiving to travel and get ready. I think there will be a huge number of absences if we do not have this day off - in comparison to all other days that might be changed.
Employee	I will need to always take off Presidents day if it is not a holiday.
Employee	I would fully support starting the school year a week before Labor Day. It would give the High School students an additional week of instruction before AP exams. I also feel it is important to have a full day off before Thanksgiving.
Employee	I would prefer Spring Break to fall the week after Easter Sunday so people would not have to travel on Easter Sunday.
Employee	I would prefer to have more time off during winter break. I would prefer to be in school later in June so that we may have a full two weeks off for winter break and get the day off on Jan. 2nd, 3rd, and 4th.
Employee	I would prefer to have to have a longer winter break which is not an option that has been suggested.
Employee	I would really like the calendar committee to be sympathetic of parents who have their children either in daycare, or other school districts, who may not have family and friends around who are able to watch their children on holidays where their facilities are closed, but we are required to come in for professional development. Both my husband and I work for ACPS and each year one of us has to take off for Columbus Day, as well as Veteran's Day, to stay home with our son (who is 2 and cannot come in with us, nor should he have to). I really feel that we cannot be the only other employees in ACPS who run into this problem. Please consider an option that does not force employees to use their personal/sick leave just because employees are expected to come in on recognized, federal holidays. Thank you.
Employee	I would submit that ACPS make Monday, Nov. 12 a holiday for all staff and students in observance of Veterans Day. This can take the place of the Columbus Day holiday.
Employee	Important to realize the date of Easter for the Spring Break - Easter being April 21, having April 22 off would be much easier for those traveling.
Employee	Is there an option for ACPS to apply for a waiver to start before Labor Day? Or make the school day longer hence, get out of school for summer break earlier? Why not follow FCPS's schedule entirely?

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Employee	It has not been discussed however, I would favor the change of staff as well as students returning on January 3rd after Winter Break. There should NOT be a teacher work day or PD on January 2nd. Our school year is already longer than most school districts. Additionally, ACPS staff misses a lot of holidays/times to enjoy family throughout the year. The Winter Break is the one time of year where students and staff get to enjoy family. In the past it was also a full 2 weeks. Please allow staff to spend the full Break time with loved ones.
Employee	It is always nice to have a day after Intersession.
Employee	It is important to me as a teacher to have a forced break early in the school year, to regroup myself on Indigenous People Day. Instead of going from the start of our contract till Thanksgiving for a break.
Employee	It is very important NOT to have the teacher work day before spring break. Grades are due on the teacher work day and when it falls before a holiday many teachers plan to be out of the building on that grading day making it very difficult to track them down when grades are incomplete or incorrect. I would also like to suggest that January 2nd not be a professional development day. The timing of this day makes it very difficult to get teachers to attend sessions and to be in a learning frame of mind.
Employee	It makes it very difficult to travel to visit family if you do not give teachers and staff the day off on Wednesday before Thanksgiving. For blended families, etc., we need more time to visit our many families during these important holidays. The winter break is already shorter; please don't take away that Wednesday.
Employee	It seems like ACPS would more closely resemble a Federal calendar, some of our families have days off throughout the year yet their children have school (according to certain versions of the calendar).
Employee	It seems that having minimum days is NOT cost effective; buses and lunches. Holidays should remain holidays. Teacher workdays at the end of the quarter are critical. Professional development is important, but I find it to be wasteful sometimes. School by school varies, some departments are dismissed early while others are not. I would like to see these PD remain at school sites with August Division wide and a Spring Division wide only.
Employee	It will help to be more in line with the surrounding districts due to child care and family trip planning.
Employee	It would greatly appreciated if the committee would take into consideration employees who have young children and their daycares are closed on all federal holidays. We are forced to take days off because our daycares are closed and we must stay home with our children.
Employee	It would just make sense for Monday to be off. Most Parents have that Holiday Monday off.
Employee	Make the Teacher Work Day before/after Spring Break a "work from home" day.
Employee	Many staff members and students travel for Easter, which falls on the last Sunday of Spring Break. Because of this, the teacher work day should be on the Monday following Spring Break.
Employee	Observing a full day off the Wednesday before Thanksgiving is important. Finding substitutes on that day is very difficult. Additionally many families travel out of town or have family members coming to spend the holiday with them. Not having that day off makes for a difficult time all around.

Employee	Out of respect, Veteran's Day should be a holiday for all. Why is Columbus day prioritized over that, and neither given to staff? Shortening Thanksgiving Break isn't acceptable. Let's please avoid that. It's a family holiday for most, and the ability to spend that time with family is predicated on being able to get there on the busiest travel weekend of the year. Even a half day would cost staff over a day of travel (many leave after work on Tuesday, and would instead have to leave Wednesday night to get to family by Thursday). Please let's avoid being that cruel to your dedicated and caring staff. Family should be important.
Employee	Please advocate for us to have a two week winter break, and for additional snow days built in to the calendar. It would be great if the school board can re-examine how instructional hours are calculated so that this might be a possibility. Other counties have done this with their calendar. It is really nice to have the Wednesday before Thanksgiving as a holiday, please don't take that away! I appreciate the ability to work from home on Election Day the last two years. I hope this option continues to be offered.
Employee	Please keep the Wednesday before Thanksgiving a full day off for teachers traveling to spend the holiday with family.
Employee	Please show in whatever calendar you choose, that you value the time and energy of your employees. It is extremely difficult to maintain energy and focus when all student holidays are days of work for employees. It makes childcare a burden for those of us with families. It makes time with family difficult for those of us with out of state families. Not having to worry about who will watch my child when I have school and they don't, or about when I'll be able to see my 93 year old grandmother without having to drive through the night to NY will make me a much more effective teacher. Thank you for your consideration.
Employee	Please, do NOT shorten Thanksgiving Break with the half day option. This is a time of family, and the busiest travel period of the year. It is already incredibly difficult for those of us with out-of-town family to get there to see them. Being able to travel Wednesday is the only reason many of us can make it to family. The "early release" option is fundamentally a full work day the day before Thanksgiving (2 hours means little when you lose a whole day's travel time) and doesn't help at all for those who have Thanksgiving dinner across the country the next day. Taking that day away is just cruel; for some staff like me, it would certainly mean missing Thanksgiving with my family. While students who need to leave early on trips are just pulled from school by parents, staff members don't get that same luxury. If we take that day off, it is scrutinized and we may be reprimanded. Please consider the impact on staff when considering Thanksgiving break. Thank you!
Employee	Presidents' Day and Veterans' Day are apostrophes after the "s". Also, my preference would be to have two full days for Elementary conferences rather than three half days. If two full days cannot be accommodated, then two half days are sufficient. I would suggest eliminating completely the February conferences and teachers can schedule those conferences only as needed, such as possible retention conferences. The day after New Year's should NOT be a PD day, but should be a holiday for teachers as well as students.
Employee	Regarding Q3 and spring break, any staff members will call out on TWD that are before or after vacation - this applies to the Monday and Tuesday before summer break on Calendar 3 as well. Teachers are begging for more TWD, not PD days. The district-wide PD is generally dreaded and seen as busy work by teachers in all departments, especially when PD in what we have actually asked for is never offered. I also think that if votes are split, the compromise for everyone is Version 1.
Employee	Still would like a full two weeks off for winter break.
Employee	Student behavior on a Friday before a long break is always below average (at best). Removing a Friday *should* give the school a chance to avoid/prevent excessive behavioral referrals.

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Employee	Student Holiday Friday, March 29.
Employee	Students and teachers need regular breaks to maximize learning. When we lose breaks, students are tired, and cannot do as much. Teachers are tired, less creative, and take more days off.
Employee	Students need year round schooling in order to close academic gaps that are keeping the school from becoming accredited.
Employee	Students should be on school both days. It is not about teachers having time off— it should be about students’s time spent learning.
Employee	TC needs 4 early release days for final exams Start before Labor Day?
Employee	TC needs 4 early release days for final exams.
Employee	TC needs 4 early release days for final exams.
Employee	Teacher work days and professional development days should not be used as snow makeup days. We have them for a reason, and when we have to use them for snow makeup both students and hard-working teachers are negatively affected.
Employee	Thank you for allowing us to give feedback. Due to traveling around Thanksgiving, having that Wednesday off is important.
Employee	Thank you for asking our opinion
Employee	Thank you for asking us.
Employee	Thank you for conducting this survey. Not matter the decision two very important days Veterans Day as a Holiday Ending School no later than the 15th of June--period.
Employee	Thank you for considering all the options:)
Employee	Thank you for considering making federal holidays actual days off. My children have those days off in a neighboring school system and it makes it very challenging to find childcare since everything is closed due to the federal holiday. Thank you.
Employee	Thank you for the opportunity to chime in.
Employee	Thank you for this opportunity to allow feedback. It is much appreciated.
Employee	Thank you so much for your hard work on this!! :)
Employee	Thank you!
Employee	Thanks for including teachers on the decision making
Employee	The above dates don't match the dates in the paragraph above them. I prefer the teacher work day be before intersession/spring break
Employee	The day after would allow teachers planning time for the next unit. Either seems fine.
Employee	The Friday April 12th day (or April 22nd) should not also be a snow make up day. The Wed. before Thanksgiving being a holiday is crucial for the majority of staff.
Employee	The high school needs 4 early release days to complete their 7 final exams with one session for make-ups.

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Employee	the more alignment with Fairfax County the better
Employee	The school year is too long either way. We need to end earlier and observe federal holidays.
Employee	There is no need for a second set of Parent Teacher Conferences in February.
Employee	V2 best option; however still need to make Wednesday before Thanksgiving a 1/2 day Also - somewhat related to calendar - do not hold all Back-to-School nights on the same day Editorial notes: V1 is missing EOQ for 3rd Since this is a public calendar, need legend somewhere or acronyms specified (ex SMU) For non-half day's such as Aug 30, make diagonal line
Employee	Version 3
Employee	We DEFINITELY need to stop having Columbus Day as a holiday for students. This makes no sense! Veteran's Day is the ONLY holiday the students/teachers should have in October/November. After all, this is the United States and we should recognize our veterans along with the rest of the country.
Employee	We should remember that not all ACPS employees reside in Alexandria. The committee and the school board should take into account that other school districts surrounding Alexandria get out mid-June. We should follow them by getting out mid-June as well. Child care becomes expensive when we have to pay for more days when they are out 5 or more days before us.
Employee	We should start to consider starting the year back before Labor Day, especially now that Fairfax is doing this.
Employee	What about starting school the week before Labor Day? We would be able to get out of school earlier in June as well. With being a teacher who lives in FCPS Boundaries and has a child attending with a different schedule, sometimes having a schedule that would be similar would make things easier.
Employee	When can we begin school BEFORE labor day to give us more time to prepare for AP exams and SOLs?
Employee	While I'm not a Veteran, I do feel strongly that those who served before working for ACPS should get their day to spend with loved ones!
Employee	Why are you asking about Veterans Day when none of the options presented give us Veterans Day off? There needs to be some sort of PD day during the school year for site based PD.
Employee	With so many military families in our area and the fact that many other surrounding school districts honor this day, Veterans Day really should be considered as a holiday for students and staff.
Parent	As George Washington's hometown, and the host of the largest George Washington's birthday celebration in the country, having school on George Washington's birthday would preclude many youth and civic organizations from participating in the parade and festival days, thereby diminishing this celebration. I highly suggest we keep George Washington'S birthday as a school holiday, or possibly a teacher workday.
Parent	A 4-day weekend in early November is not a good idea. the purpose serves the needs of only a small number of high school juniors and seniors who could go anyway and just have an absence. Most employers use Columbus Day as a Federal Holiday and I think that most parents of young children like us would like our children at home with us on that holiday instead of 2 random days in November that will cause us all to scramble for childcare.
Parent	Adding an entire week of summer break as proposed in version 3 creates more financial burden for parents who need to find child care.

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Parent	Also, have you considered moving spring break so it does not coordinate with the Easter holiday? Travel is usually more expensive and crowded over our spring break due to Easter. Ideally the student holiday would be the Friday before or Monday after Easter and spring break would be 2 weeks before - maybe the 1st week of April regardless of when Easter falls. I would like you to consider this in the future. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Parent	Although not presented here, I remain of the view that ACPS, like surrounding jurisdictions should obtain permission from the state to start school prior to labor day, giving our students ample learning time before all of the spring tests. My experience is no meaningful teaching or learning takes place after the SOLs, so we might as well end school as early as we can.
Parent	Although, version 3 changes a lot, I rather my daughter be off a week early from school for a slight longer summer break.
Parent	Earlier release in June is excellent!!!
Parent	For the love, end the school year the second week of June and acknowledge that in spite of best intentions, post standardized testing limited learning transpires....and families begin to vacate no matter what the calendar says. Do whatever is necessary to achieve this goal.
Parent	For those of us who are Christians, traveling on Easter, April 21st is not ideal. Please make the holiday on Monday April 22 so that we can enjoy the full day of Easter and travel on the 22nd. Thanks for your consideration.
Parent	For TWD before/after Intersession/Spring Break, it gave only options for Friday April 12 or Friday April 22. Preference is Friday Mar 29.
Parent	Four day weekend in November will be a huge inconvenience for working parents. Not everyone has a lot of annual leave nor can afford to pay for extra curricular activities on those two extra days.
Parent	Given the religious holiday on April 21 and the practice of many schools of having spring break after the Easter holiday, having off on Monday April 22 v. April 12 would be nice.
Parent	I am a huge proponent of the school year ending early and would support any effort ACPS' behalf to make this happen.
Parent	I am a working parent. I would prefer consecutive school days, with very little holiday/teacher work days. It is difficult to get care for the kids on one off days. It also allows me to save my vacation days for when I can actually have time off in the summer with the kids.
Parent	I am in favor of whatever makes sense in the best interest of the learning and gives teachers an opportunity to develop their best curriculum. Columbus Day is an outdated holiday so, unless the teachers need that day for professional development OR it changes to Indigenous People's Day, there is no reason for it to be a holiday. I'm always in favor of summer starting early! They're children only once. :-)
Parent	I highly favor Version 3 for making the last day on June 14. ACPS' school years have ended way too late. The kids are done come June. Also, if you add the changes from the above the questions, I feel you will have the best schedule ever. Thank you to all those who work on the calendar and giving us viable options.
Parent	I love the idea of a four day weekend in the fall...but putting it in Nov seems close to Thanksgiving break. Let's add a day after Columbus Day and make October awesome! In general, I am in favor of more breaks during the school year with an earlier/later starting/end date.
Parent	I love the idea of the Monday after spring break. Many families travel during that time, and it often cuts short the Holiday for those who celebrate Easter. I do not agree in making Columbus Day a holiday based on a more recent movement to not celebrate Columbus. Again, many families travel for Thanksgiving and having the day before off provides more options. Thanks for giving parents a say!

Parent	<p>I think a lot more needs to be re-evaluated besides the items listed above on the survey including: 1. half-days for parent-teacher conferences - specifically at the MS and HS levels we have WAY too many students in our schools to have one half-day afternoon for conferences - these need to be revamped - give one full day for conferences and then everyone the following day off or something. For those of us with kids in ES, MS, and HS, we are constantly taking off time to make these conferences. At least MS and HS should be at the same time - and provide enough time so that parents can actually schedule them. Our current process is outdated and does not allow for an effective conference. I also do not understand why ES needs 3 half days for these and why they happen so late in November. November such a chaotic month with all of the days off - so 3 half days the week before Thanksgiving for ES is not ideal. 2. Agreed that the Monday before Election Day may be a better day off than the Oct. date or in addition to. However, I would also rely on input from teachers. For them, they may need that day off. 3. The last week of school has really become such a waste of time. Kids watch movies, many time students are told they don't have to come to school (middle school 8th graders, etc.). We should always end by June 15th-ish. It allows families to start summer vacation prior to the week of the 4th of July and then if you have a child that plays a high school fall sport - you at least have about 6 weeks to visit family, get out of town, etc. before you have to be back for tryouts. Thank you.</p>
Parent	<p>I think it is important that the last week of school not be so choppy, as exists in versions 1 and 2. I think this would be very difficult for parents of elementary school kids who would need childcare. Otherwise, I think parents might pull their kids from school that week and send them to summer camp one week early (assuming they could afford it). Either way, the end of school year in versions 1 and 2 does not seem reasonable.</p>
Parent	<p>I think it's important to have a minimum of one day off each month. I vote for Version 2 for this reason. I don't care if we get out later in June....those days off each month help us all to survive the year.</p>
Parent	<p>I think you should consider a late start the day after Halloween. It will make school that day better for students and teachers alike. Also, working in a 2-week Christmas break is fantastic (kids would get the few days after New Years Day off. It makes for a great opportunity for family time. Even if it means getting out later in the school year. Thank you for asking the community for input!</p>
Parent	<p>I would like to see consideration for the future of adding minutes to the school day. This could have a big impact on when the kids get out of school without sacrificing academic time.</p>
Parent	<p>I would love to see Easter Monday as a holiday. Easter is the most important religious holiday for Christians and if one is traveling to family, it's impossible to give Easter Sunday its due and be back Monday morning for school.</p>
Parent	<p>I would really like for ACPS to start a week prior to labor day like most district in VA have done. The option of a year round school would be ideal too. Thank you.</p>
Parent	<p>In a town directly across the river from our national capital, populated by huge numbers of employees of our federal government, and tied intimately to the ebb and flow of federal work habits - WHY ON GOD'S GREEN EARTH DO ACPS HOLIDAYS NOT TRACK FEDERAL HOLIDAYS TO THE LETTER? YOUR POLICY MAKES NO SENSE! My stated "preference" for Version 1 is only because you left me no option to leave it blank - I find Version 1 least objectionable, but I do not actually prefer it because you still screw over the Veterans Day observation. If you could do one thing, and one thing only, it would be to align your days off with established holidays. I mean, come on, people! It's bizarre!</p>
Parent	<p>Inconvenient for last day of school to be midweek. Most parents need to commit to full week of camp financially and time-wise.</p>

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Parent	Instead of having 2 holidays in a month you should have at least 1 a month.
Parent	Is it possible for the school year to begin before Labor Day? I am very much in favor of that. There are very few quality childcare options the end of August.
Parent	It would be extremely disruptive for working parents to have a four-day weekend in early November followed by the five-day Thanksgiving holiday later in the month. ACPS needs to also better coordinate care options for the many days off that students have. For example, why can't Campagna open up at the school sites on teacher work days?
Parent	It would be helpful to have a calendar only for students/parents so we know exactly what days are off or half days for students, regardless of the reason. Trying to decipher 10 different colors and associated codes is ridiculously burdensome.
Parent	Keep the same schedule as we currently have
Parent	Monday the 22nd works best for those who want to travel to see relatives for Easter.
Parent	My experience has been that the last week of school—that being late in to June—is a nonproductive week for students. Watching movies, helping teachers pack up etc. I strongly prefer days shift so school ends slightly earlier.
Parent	My son is involved with a travel sports team that often participates in tournaments Columbus Day weekend and President's Day weekend with games scheduled on those Mondays. I really like the idea of having the Monday following spring break off from school to allow students who go out of town and would like to attend Easter services to be able to travel home on Monday rather than Sunday after the service.
Parent	No preference. Earlier decisions on the calendar and consistency over time is helpful for planning child-care, camps, vacations and time off from work.
Parent	On the last question, the two options do not match with the dates listed. I would prefer the student holiday be the day before intersession.
Parent	Please continue to keep school starting AFTER labor day. It means so much to families to have a full summer off. Thanks!
Parent	Please keep working parents in mind and align the students' days off with federal holidays wherever possible. It is difficult and expensive to arrange for childcare on other days. Also - for the same reasons, please do your best to keep early release days to a minimum. Thank you.
Parent	Regarding the Columbus Day / November exchange, I really don't have an opinion, but there wasn't an opportunity for a neutral response.
Parent	Seems excessive to potentially have a four day weekend plus Thanksgiving holiday in November followed by a long winter break the next month.
Parent	Spring Break date - no preference 3 days weekends in Fall are excellent opportunities for our students to visit Universities - this is very welcome! Ending our school year early allows for our students to attend the most summer opportunities and prevents big gap between End-of-AP to End-of-year. THANKS for the opportunity to have input on our school calendar!!!! Susan Brock, parent
Parent	The children should not be off on Columbus Day, it should not even be observed as a Holiday. A four day weekend in November around election day makes a lot more sense.
Parent	The Monday after spring break helps with traveling for those of us who celebrate Easter.
Parent	The most important factor is to finish school earlier in June.

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Parent	This year at GW, teachers were only able to accommodate 33/130 students per team for first quarter conferences. Why is this issue not being address, so these early dismissal days are useful for a MAJORITY of the students being dismissed? Perhaps look at how FFX and Arlington and every other division in VA manages to have conferences for all parents on the assigned days.
Parent	We should not be celebrating Columbus Day as a holiday for students. Would like to see the district recognize indigenous peoples day instead but still have children attend school or have a teacher work day as needed. Four day weekend is excellent if 2 consecutive days of teacher work days is effective for teachers.
Parent	We've been at Tucker for 2 years now and both time the teacher has been "sick" the Friday before Intersession starts. An early release the day before Thanksgiving is asking for low attendance and high teacher call outs, don't do this just to plug a day on the calendar - it's a lose lose on this one.
Parent	While high schoolers can take care of themselves on days off, an extra four day holiday in November puts undue burden on elementary school student's parents. There is already a five day holiday in November. Combined with winter break, a four day November holiday plus Thanksgiving break would create to many non school days in a two month period.
Parent & Employee	Ending school earlier is most important to me. The students and my own children are done by the 3rd week of June--why are we still in school?
Parent & Employee	Getting out of school earlier is most important.
Parent & Employee	I know many colleagues that live in Fairfax and need to take off because their kids are off.
Parent & Employee	If possible there should be greater balance in each quarter. First quarter is already short due to all the necessary start of school procedures. Despite that, its only given 44 days. Would it be possible to extend first quarter a few days since second quarter has about 6 more days scheduled?
Parent & Employee	Is it possible to have a two-week winter break? That occurred one year and was most welcome.
Parent & Employee	Is there anyway to make the school day longer - if even by 5 minutes - to possibly have 1-2 extra days built in for holidays/teacher work days, etc?
Parent & Employee	It's too hard for students to not give them breaks just to let them end the year early.
Parent & Employee	Please do not schedule professional development days on days that are otherwise holidays (Columbus Day, January 2.) This undermines the importance of professional development and create conflicts over childcare. Additionally, please refrain from finalizing January 2 as a PD day for next year until we have experienced Jan 2 as a PD day this year, and assessing the number of teachers who use leave that day. It is a waste of time and resources to have a PD if teacher attendance is low.
Parent & Employee	Teachers need a break in the fall - first quarter is too hectic, so a holiday would be welcome. Also like the idea of the November 4 and 5 as teacher work days and a long weekend for students for school visits. Prefer the day after Easter off so that if we observe the holiday and travel for it we do not have to travel ON the holiday. Also, the fewer all day test days the better - and NOT the same week as other days off/shortened days as many students just decide to not come to school at all those weeks. Finally, PLEASE, when scheduling testing days - pay attention to red/blue day balance. This first quarter at TC we had 2 less blue days than red days, which made planning a nightmare - had to go very fast with everything in my blue day classes and slow things down in my red day classes. This is not fair to students or teachers. So please make sure red/blue days are more evenly balanced every quarter.

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Parent & Employee	Thanks for providing an opportunity to give feedback on the options.
Parent & Employee	The end of the quarter is a great time for teachers to reflect upon their effectiveness and student performance. By providing a professional development day at the end of the quarter it will promote teacher reflection and potentially allow teacher to meet with their PLC's. I think finishing the school year earlier makes better use of our instructional time after the standardized testing season ends. At TC student performance on their SOL is used as a final exam grade. Keeping students engaged, despite exciting project-based labs and activities, is difficult during the last week of school. Creating more instructional time prior to the state exams is better than extra school days at the end. On another note, based on my feedback, I would prioritize the February holiday over the Columbus day holiday since there is no holidays between February and March, since Spring break is very late that year.
Parent & Employee	There is no Modified Calendar to comment on or look at. This is very exclusionary to Tucker parents. I have no idea what my 3 choices are or what these traditional calendar suggestions look like for my family.
Parent & Employee	Try to have a day off each month. Labor day to Thanksgiving without a day off is very long.
Parent & Employee	We should consider having Veteran's Day as a holiday- I would be interested in knowing the absences- among staff on the observed Veteran's Day on November 10th. Many staff members took the day off b/c of child care. Schools need days that are school based Professional Development and not Division Lead. It is a challenge to provided needed PD with staff effectively during limited PLC times and staff are reluctant to stay after school pass 4pm.
Student	i would like more holidays because i need a break from school sometimes