

**BOARD MEMO**

Date: November 30, 2023

For ACTION

For INFORMATION

**FROM:** Kamika Valmond, Executive Director of Human Resources  
Rene Paschal, Acting Executive Director of School Leadership  
Taneika Taylor Tukan, Executive Director of Community Partnerships

**THROUGH:** Melanie Kay-Wyatt, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

**TO:** The Honorable Michelle Rief, Chair, and  
Members of the Alexandria City School Board

**TOPIC:** 2024 through 2027 Academic Calendars

**ACPS 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:**

Goal 2: Instructional Excellence

Goal 5: Family and Community Engagement

**SY 2023-2024 PRIORITY AREA:**

Academic Achievement

Student Connection and Attendance

Staff Supports

Continue Culture Building

Recruitment and Retention

**FY 2024 BUDGET PRIORITY:**

Target Chronic Absenteeism

**SUMMARY:**

This memo provides the School Board with 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 academic calendar recommendations for approval and the 2026-2027 calendar for review.

The proposed 2024 - 2025 and 2025 - 2026 School Year Calendars prioritize student attendance and staff retention. New features include:

- Shift from one and a half days for parent-teacher conferences in fall and winter to two full days in the fall (one month apart) and one day in the winter
- Two full days for conferences in the fall increases opportunities for family engagement across all levels early in the school year
- Elimination of half-day conferences while maintaining expectation for hosting evening conferences
- Addition of Veterans Day observance as a holiday for students and staff
- Coupling of Teacher Work Day and Professional Development Day at the end of the first semester

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- Increased 5-day instructional weeks for students

The proposed calendars continue to build on prior efforts in the following areas:

- A two-year calendar cycle to support long-range plans for school programs, facilities projects and family activities
- Pre-Labor Day start to the school year
- Recognition of diverse holidays in alignment with the 2025 Strategic Plan “Equity for All”
- Four early release days for high school at the end of year to accommodate testing
- More than the minimum 990 instructional hours providing flexibility in the event of unexpected school closures

**Traditional Calendar – Key Features**

<b>2024-2025 School Year Calendar</b>	<b>2025-2026 School Year Calendar</b>
First Day of School – August 19, 2024 Last Day of School – June 12, 2025 Winter Break – 10 Days Length of Year – 178 Student Days Teacher Contract – 195 Work Days	First Day of School – August 18, 2025 Last Day of School – June 12, 2026 Winter Break – 10 Days Length of Year – 178 Student Days Teacher Contract – 195 Work Days

**Samuel Tucker Elementary School Modified Calendar – Key Features:**

<b>2024-2025 School Year Calendar</b>	<b>2025-2026 School Year Calendar</b>
First Day of School – July 22, 2024 Last Day of School – June 12, 2025 Winter Break – 10 Days Length of Year – 178 Student Days Teacher Contract – 195 Work Days	First Day of School – July 21, 2025 Last Day of School – June 12, 2026 Winter Break – 10 Days Length of Year – 178 Student Days Teacher Contract – 195 Work Days

Detailed information related to the calendars and the development process is included in the attachments to this memo.

**BACKGROUND:**

The calendar committee convened to make recommendations to the superintendent based on regulations provided by the Board in June 2023. The committee has prepared a three-year calendar outlook. The first two years are for Board adoption, and the third year is for Board information and review.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review and approve the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 calendars and review the 2026-2027 academic calendar.

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### IMPACT:

Stakeholders will have access to important information on future calendars.

### ATTACHMENTS:

1. Presentation: 2024-2027 Academic Calendars
2. 2024-2025 Traditional Academic Calendar—DRAFT
3. 2024-2025 Samuel Tucker Modified Academic Calendar—DRAFT
4. 2025-2026 Traditional Academic Calendar—DRAFT
5. 2025-2026 Samuel Tucker Modified Academic Calendar—DRAFT
6. 2026-2027 Traditional & Modified Academic Calendars—DRAFT

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