Academic Calendars
2019-2020 School Year

ACPS

Alexandria City Public Schools

Every Student Succeeds

Guiding Questions

- How was input gathered for the 2019-2020 academic calendar?

- What were the results of the feedback from the stakeholders?

- What are the key features of the 2019-2020 academic calendar?

Establishing the Committee

- Past committee members were invited to participate
- New members were invited via ACPS Insider, ACPS Express and ACPS social media
- Teacher Advisory Council members were invited to participate
- Alexandria PTA Council (PTAC) was invited to participate

Committee Members

- Christina Bohringer, Teacher at Samuel Tucker
- Jennifer Yates, Teacher at Samuel Tucker
- Kristin Butler, Teacher at Patrick Henry
- Erin Davidson, Teacher at James K. Polk
- Jasmine Dawson, Teacher at Mount Vernon
- Susan Horita, Teacher at Lyles-Crouch
- Mary Gaddis, Paraprofessional at John Adams
- Mary Ellen McCormick, Teacher at TC Williams, King Street Campus
- Dennis Burstein, Teacher at TC Williams, Minnie Howard Campus
- Fara Cepak, Teacher at CFC
- Sandra Intrator, Teacher at John Adams

- Brittney Hopkins, Teacher at Ferdinand Day and Samuel Tucker
- Pam Townsend, ACPS parent
- Elizabeth Jones, ACPS parent
- Babette Cooper, ACPS parent
- Sally Schneider, ACPS parent and employee
- Tamiko Hudson, ACPS parent and employee
- Izora Everson, Director of Online Learning
- Debra Lane, Director of Talent Development
- Jim Loomis, Director of Employment
- Joseph Makolandra, Chief HR Officer

Community & Staff Input

- Two meetings of the Calendar Committee on October 3 and November 14

- 2019-2020 Academic Calendar Online Feedback Forms were created for both Traditional and Modified calendars and posted on ACPS website

- Feedback was requested through ACPS Insider and ACPS Express.

- 460 responses were received (368 for the traditional calendar and 92 for the modified calendar)

Community & Staff Input

There were two sections to the public feedback form. The first section included draft versions of the 2019-2020 academic calendar with the following differences:

Version 1 closely follows the structure of the current year calendar and features eight week days off for Winter Break and a last day of school on Thursday, June 18.

Version 2 is similar to Version 1 in most respects, with two differences:

1. Winter Break - instead of eight week days off, there is a full two week break.

2. The last day of school is Monday, June 22.

The second section sought feedback on the following year – 2020-2021 – and asked the following:

We are asking for feedback on a possible change in 2020-2021 to an academic calendar based on 990 hours instead of 183 days. The result would be a reduction in the number of student days and an increase in the number of professional development/teacher work days.

Survey Results

460 total responses were received with the following breakdown:

- Employee = 208

- Parent = 213

- Parent & Employee = 28

- Student = 6

- Community Member = 5

- Additional comments related to Version 1 versus Version 2 = 127

- Additional Comments related to hours versus days = 100

Survey Results

The following is a breakdown of the data from respondents when asked which traditional calendar version was preferred.

	Version 1	V1 %	Version 2	V2 %	Total
Employee	60	32%	125	68%	185
Parent	91	60%	60	40%	151
Parent & Empl.	7	29%	17	71%	24
Student	2	50%	2	50%	4
Comm. Member	2	50%	2	50%	4
Totals	162	44%	206	56%	368

Survey Results

The following is a breakdown of the data from respondents when asked which modified calendar version was preferred.

	Version 1	V1 %	Version 2	V2 %	Total
Employee	6	26%	17	74%	23
Parent	29	47%	33	53%	62
Parent & Empl.	2	50%	2	50%	4
Student	0	0%	2	100%	2
Comm. Member	1	100%	0	0%	1
Totals (92)	38	41%	54	59%	92

Survey Results

The following is a breakdown of the data from traditional calendar respondents when asked if they preferred to base a school calendar on 990 hours or 180 days.

Would you support a change to hours which results in fewer student days?	Yes	YES %	No	NO %	Unsure
Employee	142	77%	19	10%	24
Parent	86	57%	39	26%	26
Parent & Empl.	20	83%	1	4%	3
Student	2	50%	0	0%	2
Comm. Member	3	75%	1	25%	0
Total (368)	253	69%	60	16%	55

Survey Results

The following is a breakdown of the data from **modified** calendar respondents when asked if they preferred to base a school calendar on 990 hours or 180 days.

Would you support a change to hours which results in fewer student days?	Yes	YES %	No	NO %	Unsure
Employee	16	70%	4	17%	3
Parent	18	29%	31	50%	13
Parent & Emp.	3	75%	1	25%	0
Student	0	0%	1	50%	1
Comm. Member	0	0%	0	0%	1
Totals (92)	37	40%	37	40%	18

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Key Features of Calendars

- 183 student instructional days

- The first day of school is September 3, 2019 for traditional calendar schools and August 1, 2019 for the modified calendar. The last day of school on both calendars is June 22, 2020.

- The Wednesday before Thanksgiving remains a holiday and the length of Winter Break is two weeks.

- Professional Development days are on August 28, 2019, October 14, 2019 and March 3, 2020.

- Columbus Day is a professional development day on the traditional calendar.

- Veterans' Day is a holiday on both calendars

- The first 3 snow days will not be made-up. Additional make-up days, if needed, will be as follows:

  - Traditional & Modified Calendars: April 13, June 23 and June 24

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Questions?

Joseph Makolandra

Chief Human Resources Officer

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