

2022 - 2024 Traditional Academic Calendar

Relationship to ACPS	Comments:
Parent	We have had students in ACPS since 2005 and every year Rosh ha Shanah and Yom Kippur we need to take our children out of school, rendering not only loss in learning but the sense that our most important religious days or not appreciated. THANK YOU for finally including Jewish holidays in the calendar! It is a huge step forward for us as a family, and I am incredibly grateful. Similarly for our other religious minority families, thank you for including Muslim and Hindu holidays at last!!!
Parent	I strongly disagree with the start pre-labor day.
Parent	I appreciate the expansion of holidays to include the diverse cultures of Alexandrians. However, since many employers are not so open minded, it will be helpful if ACPS can work with other community organizations (Parks & Recreation, Alexandria Library, Alexandria Soccer Association) to offer alternative programs when possible so that children still have enrichment and childcare opportunities on school closure days.
Employee	I appreciate the inclusion of additional holidays for our diverse community. I also think that we should close for Veteran's Day considering how many of our families have members who are currently serving/have served. For the 2023-2024 calendar, I do question having the very end of the school year have a day off that Monday but then a required teacher work day that Tuesday. Could that become a flex day of some sort since many staff will have finalized grades and already packed up their classroom for the year by then.
Employee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Gross misrepresentation of staff by the calendar committee -I am a 10mth employee stop trying to make me an "equivalent to 10mth" spread thin over 11mth -Not equitable, but trendy. If you want to be equitable, include days off for all religions. There are over 4000. 12 major. Who on the committee decided what religions get preference. (again, not equitable) -Would prefer what neighboring counties do and honor religious days as excused "Religious Observance" days for those families concerned but hold regular school with nothing new taught or tested on those days. -staff and students needs the 11 and 12 month of the year for self care and rejuvenation -considering leaving ACPS aftr 20yrs
Employee	We've learned this year that mental health after the pandemic is affecting all aspects of the school year and employee and student health. More teacher planning time (without PD and meetings) is necessary to allow employees the space to regroup, organize, grade, and collaborate with team members as the demands of the profession increase.
Parent	Go back to starting after Labor Day
Parent	It is unclear on the draft calendars how you intend to handle inclement weather and other school day disruptions. Are there days designated as "no school for students" that will instead become learning days? If no such days are used, in part or in whole, what is the benefit of the extended schools year? I think a greater level of detail needs to be provided as we're asked to consider how the proposed calendar impacts our need for childcare when school is not in session.
Parent	It is great that ACPS is recognizing non-Christian holidays. I cannot speak to all the needs of the community, but as an elementary school parent I would prefer to start school after Labor Day and have winter break start later and go further into elementary school. Also, I'm surprised we don't even have 180 days of instruction. I feel like we are losing class time, and after everything that happened with COVID I would be in favor of added additional days to the calendar to close

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Relationship to ACPS	Comments:
Parent	I applaud the inclusion of diverse holidays! Feedback- I do not understand the frequent use of half days. Could spring conferences be a full day off on Friday? And why not bump them up against other days off so the schedule isn't so choppy? For ex. why not move the ms/hs conf. to bump up to Yom Kipper in '22? And why drag out the last week of school with so many half days? June 12th could be a full day, 13th a full day and TWD on 14th for '2024. I also never understood why we don't consider adding minutes to the day in order to shorten the year. The day goes by so quickly and being able to lengthen classes even by just a bit would be beneficial for teachers and students. Thank you.
Parent	I think this schedule does not benefit working parent homes where every day off is one that is a challenge to find childcare or children having safe spaces. Plus, it doesn't really help our students embrace empathy/gain understanding of other religions. It would be more effective to have celebration or non-instruction time at school on those holidays where students that do not practice that religion learn why their peers/teachers are not at school and have a safe space to spend their school day. We should have sufficient substitutes. We seem to take the easy route (give everyone a day off) vs looking at something that actually fosters change and respect.
Parent	I think that the random days off in the middle of the week, that are not for specific holidays, should be moved to the Friday or Monday to allow for a long weekend. For example, this year for conferences, the Middle Schoolers had Thursday off and a half day on Friday. What was the point of that? It should have been switched to allow for the long weekend to give families a chance to get away or do something special. Just my perspective.
Employee	Looks like the 2023-2024 calendar is missing Rosh Hashanah. Eid Al-Adha is missing from the 2022-2023 calendar but on the 2023 - 2024 calendar year at the wrong time. It is not observed on that day. This may be intention to acknowledge that holiday however I think it is inappropriate to have a holiday the day before the last day of the contract year when teachers are trying to wrap up the school year before summer.
Employee	Thank you!
Parent	Please bring back a student start date after Labor Day! Teachers are burnt out enough; it is unnecessarily painful to make them return mid-summer to begin the next school year. After all we just needed to give them extra days to recoup at Thanksgiving. Please reconsider this early start, it's not too late to change course.
Employee	The amount of days that teachers work in this district compared to other districts in other states is very disproportionate. Many states track this time in minutes. If we also use minutes, then I would rather have 10 extra minutes with students per day, rather than having all of the additional work days.
Employee	How about Chinese New Year holiday
Employee	I would love to have the whole Thanksgiving week off again...but I know that would mean starting a day earlier and ending a day later!
Employee	Both calendars reflect a longer than 10 month contract for teachers. Without sufficient time off between the end of the school year and the beginning of teacher work days, these calendars may lead to teacher burnout. As a new employee, I am not aware of the community feedback on the calendars before they were drafted, so I cannot speak to whether or not this honors that feedback.

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Employee	I would appreciate a discussion around making the day after winter break a TWD so staff can prepare without working on their holiday break. If the desire for staff to have a better work-life balance is sincere then adding this day would allow staff to truly put aside work and spend the holiday season with our loved ones as intended.
Parent & Employee	I'm not sure that "learning loss" from having an 8-10 week Summer for students is a significant part of community feedback, and there are some real problems with having such a short Summer break, especially at the high school level. Traditional student summer activities, including Summer employment, are limited in ways that will impact our families. As a teacher, I know that very few teachers are asking for MORE teacher Professional Development days. More PD days is a district want, not a community or professional need. We can preserve at least a few days of summer by decreasing the number of Professional Development days.
Parent	<p>Calendar is too choppy in the fall. I don't like all the 2 day blocks from Sept. 26 to Oct 10 in 2022-23. Does not promote learning.</p> <p>Put the Feb. conferences together for all divisions. No reason to divide them. It helps families to have them the same time so older kids can watch younger kids while parents work.</p> <p>It's too early to decide 2023-24 calendar. This calendar is a big departure from previous calendars and we need more time to evaluate its effect.</p>
Parent	I appreciate the inclusion of non-Christian holidays but often they aren't single days they are holy periods vs. Christmas day. Why are there entire days off from school and then a 1/2 day? The kids are essentially having a "free" day on the 1/2 day. Most kids can't focus or complete work on these one-off days. The best thing for educating the kids is routine, consistency and making sure the parents have more than enough time to plan and prepare for time off. There is a monetary cost for the random days off in the middle of the week and the half days which negatively impact low income households and those parents who are working - asking for time off, etc. Back to the drawing board please!
Parent	<p>I've heard from teachers that when the Spring Break is not the same as Fairfax and other surrounding districts, teachers have to be home to watch their own kids. All districts in Northern Virginia and surrounding districts should align.</p> <p>In the second year, if people don't celebrate Eid they should be allowed to be done with the school year on Eid.</p>
Employee	The proposed 2022-2024 school year calendars are absolutely too long for a school year. Since when do we start school in July and end in late June? This is not respectful towards ACPS staff and it is also an unfair expectation for students to be able to attend to school during such a long school year. There is surely another way to include inclusive holidays for all religions without needing to extend the school year a full month earlier and also a few weeks later. If this ends up being the approved calendar, I will definitely be seeking employment elsewhere. This is not a sustainable proposed calendar for staff or students.

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Relationship to ACPS	Comments:
Employee	<p>As long as we get at least three days for Thanksgiving, two weeks at Christmas and a week at spring break I think most staff members will be happy.</p> <p>Maybe make October 11th-Indigenous Peoples Day? Just a thought.</p> <p>Definitely no need for spring parent conferences. They are a waste of time to be honest. FCPS doesn't even have parent conferences at the middle/secondary level at all so I am a little surprised as to why we continue to have conferences not only once, but twice a year. Not necessary at all. Ask your teachers and principals. Fall conferences are more than enough.</p>
Employee	<p>It is great that we are respecting cultural holidays, but teachers shouldn't have to work earlier in August and later in June to make up for it .</p> <p>Staff members should begin one week from student start dates - not at the end of a vacation week on Thursday and Friday . Just let teachers have that last full week of vacation .</p> <p>June 2024- why not end on the 14th . Why would we be off on the 17th and then come back for one day on the 18th .</p>
Employee	<p>It doesn't make sense to have teachers come in for their last day of the year right after a holiday.</p>
Employee	<p>Thank you for recognizing the additional holidays.</p>
Employee	<p>School is long enough as it is and the students can barely handle 90 minutes classes and now there are additional days.</p> <p>Can not get spent time back nor can it be made up. More stress , anxiety and frustration.</p>
Employee	<p>After some thought, I like and support the new calendar.</p>
Employee	<p>Beginning before Labor Day was also designed to end school earlier in June adding additional days off is defeating the purpose. Why not add O days like FCPS and give people excused religious days off where they don't have to make up work and teachers can't assign assessments.</p> <p>Instead of having Nov 3 & 4 2022 off we should have Nov 4 & 7 to avoid having students have two days off return for 1 day and then be off again. 2023 Nov 3 & 6 should be off. Why is there a TWD before and after spring break Mar 22& April 1? The school year should end the week of June 10 2024. There are several ways to make this happen.</p>
Employee	<p>Eid al-adha and eid al-fitr are not represented in the 22-23 school year calendar.</p>
Employee	<p>I love that ACPS is trying to create a calendar of diversity for families, staffs, and students. I am concerned by the choppiness of the schedule throughout the school year. This will make it difficult for students to get into a routine and schedule that can promote their academic learning needs with the consistency needed to make progress.</p>
Community Member	<p>I am curious how Fairfax is able to acknowledge many of these holidays and end the school year at a reasonable (10 month calendar) time for students, June 10. I am not sure why our schedule is being stretched out for an additional week, but we are still being asked to return to school in August, same time as Fairfax. I am wondering if we can use our teacher workdays as a way to honor these holidays. For example, Diwali is on a Monday and then we have a workday the next day, Tuesday. Is there any way we can make Diwali a teacher workday. This would keep students in school consistently and also get teachers out of school closer to June 10...closer to 10 months.</p>

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Relationship to ACPS	Comments:
Parent	Need more parent-teacher conference slots at the high school level. I have two kids in high school and am not able to meet with all of their teachers.
Parent	The week long fall break for Thanksgiving should be a permanent decision, and be reflected on the calendar to allow families to plan.
Employee	Keeping with the traditional school calendar allows for teachers to get a much needed relaxed break or take on another job if needed. It follows close to other area school districts.
Employee	I appreciate the efforts that have been made to even out instructional time in Semester 1 and Semester 2 and to take secondary testing days into account so that instructional time is not diminished in Q4.
Parent	The calendars fail to consider the extra days that parents will have to find childcare for their children now for the additional holidays that parents won't otherwise get off of work.
Employee	I think this is a well thought inclusive calendar. Time for work life balance. I especially love the Labor Day holiday. Thank you ACPS!
Employee	We should have the whole week of Thanksgiving off.
Employee	I would like to see school closing a little earlier than June 15th, since we are starting before Labor Day.
Parent & Employee	<p>2022-2023: Move Nov. 8th PD day to the Monday so not to break the flow of instruction. I HIGHLY Suggest switch the full day of conferences on Thursday Nov 3 and the 1/2 day Nov 4th. If students only have to a half day on that Friday after a full day many parents who can afford to will take their child for a 4 day weekend. Let them do it without losing instruction. Do a 1/2 day on the Thursday and Zoom conferences on the Friday.</p> <p>2023-2024: MOve Oct 9th PD day to 13th and give students 4 day week instead of chopping up the week. swap the full day of conferences and half day Nov. 2nd and 3rd. Move the 7th PD day to the Monday. Drop the 18th of June...</p>
Parent	THANK YOU for creating a more diverse calendar that reflects the religious diversity of ACPS and the broader community. This is a big step forward and we really appreciate being seen!
Employee	Please make spring break and winter break align with neighboring districts. Thanks.
Employee	<p>After looking at the proposed calendar it is evident that employee needed time off is not a significant consideration.</p> <p>Most yearly holidays are spent planning and strategizing or trying to catch up on student work so there is no added benefit to the extra days off during the year.</p> <p>I think this calendar will increase call outs and burn out and is management comfortable with staff taking vacations during the school year.</p>
Employee	The calendar goes too late in June. As soon as SOLs start, real learning stops. SOLs need to be scheduled earlier in the year and there should be an earlier end date to reflect that.
Employee	Why can't the quarters be equal number of learning days? The should be and this has been an issue for many years.
Employee	Wondering why we are not keeping the Thanksgiving holiday as the extended full week off? It makes since to take the days as a mental break for the entire school community. It would work much like winter and spring breaks.

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Relationship to ACPS	Comments:
Parent	The mid August start is too early and makes coordinating time to see family in other parts of the country very difficult. We will be planning for our children to miss that week for the foreseeable future.
Parent	The point to starting before Labor Day was to finish earlier in June. These calendars do not reflect this.
Parent	<p>How does pre Labor Day start reduce summer learning loss if the summer vacation starts earlier? In other words , are there actually LESS summer vacation days with the pre Labor Day start?</p> <p>When are the AP exams scheduled? How many school days were there prior to AP exams pursuant to the "old" calendar? How many school days are there prior to AP exams under the new, pre Labor Start?</p> <p>If ACPS is so concerned about maximizing school days in advance of AP exams, why has ACPS surprisingly announced that it will cancel school days around the 2021 thanksgiving holiday?</p>
Parent	Thank you for recognizing diverse religious holidays! It is very much appreciated by those of us who observe them.
Employee	The point in starting before Labor Day was to finish earlier in June. As a Jewish family, we are ok with not having those holidays. My question as an employee and a parent of ACPS students, did you poll the Jewish community? Perhaps that could be done prior to suggesting this calendar.
Parent	I support respecting whatever holidays are important to the people of our community. But, I want the school year to start after Labor Day.
Parent	Thank you for looking into honoring community diversity. I am concerned that 8 of the 12 first weeks of school for 2022 will be abnormal with closures. 4 Mondays are impacted. My son has a breakout group on Mondays that he adores and even this year he laments missing it. Will adjustments be made for equity for students missing 1/3 of the first quarter's Mondays? This is why I ranked instructional needs lower - as currently presented, it's not clear if students with Monday sessions will be rescheduled or will miss out.
Parent	There are no days off for Eastern Orthodox Christian holidays like Good Friday (April 14 2023) or Theophany. Will Eastern Orthodox Christians who celebrate Christmas on January 7th have their Christmas off when it's not on a Sunday? There is also no day off for Ash Wednesday. I'm surprised we are adding Hindu holidays, which are celebrated by less than 0.5% of Alexandria City residents, while ignoring Christian holidays like Theophany/Epiphany and Ash Wednesday, which are celebrated by a much higher percentage of our community.
Parent	<p>The proposed calendars start too early in August.</p> <p>Is ACPS still offering the kindergarten orientation days before school starts? I don't see it on the proposed calendar.</p> <p>Teachers should also have the day off for the Oct 10 Indigenous People's Day holiday.</p>
Employee	I really don't mind putting my 2 cents in but y'all are going to do what you want to please a certain group of people.
Parent	I support the modified calendar proposals over the traditional calendar.

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Relationship to ACPS	Comments:
Parent	If we are starting school two weeks before labor day then why are we still going so late in June??
Parent	The multiple days off and half days are challenging for working parents. It is difficult to balance work with various days at various times being closed for school. It feels as though ACPS has little regard for the burdens that days off and half days have on working parents who have to find child care for those days. Also I thought part of the reason for the pre-Labor Day start was to finish earlier in June, but this schedule pushes us back to summer break starting in mid June.
Parent	The days off in the middle of the week are so disruptive. Give students excused absences for their religious holidays. We should never go to school on a Monday and then have a Tuesday off. Please change the elementary conference days to Nov 4 and 7 2022 and Nov 3 and 6 2024. Why are extending spring break by another day?
Parent	I 100% support ACPS having a holiday schedule that reflects the faith of all students in ACPS. That said, given that so many of these holidays fall on a Monday ACPS needs to adjust some of the special opportunities for children that happen to fall on a Monday. For example if a child's IE session falls on a Monday, they will not excel and thrive as other children that have IE sessions NOT on a Monday. Additionally, for those parents that do not have or cannot afford care/nutrition for their children during these non-school days will there be accommodations made?
Employee	I would like the opportunity to vote on three calendar options. This is the usual custom. I do not have a voice in the selection of which calendar option best suits the employees.
Employee	The 2 teacher work days in on the Thursday and Friday after new staff orientation in August should be incorporated into the first whole week back at school before students start. For example, for the 2022-23 school year I propose Monday Aug. 15 would be entire day for TWD, Aug. 16th be half day for school PD and half day for TWD, Wednesday Aug 17th all day division-wide PD, Thursday Aug. 18 1/2 day school PD, 1/2 day TWD and Friday all day TWD with staff meeting at discretion of Principals. While PD days may be reduced the time allotted would be adequate and staff would have TWD time. This would improve overall feeling of teacher appreciation and boost morale.
Employee	With the testing that happens in the high schools in the fall, we will likely only have 36 instructional school days (for 2022-23 SY). This is something that may want to be considered so that the quarters are even. Also, is it set the conferences in the Fall will be a full day? I know many teachers who did not like the full-day format
Parent	I don't understand why you made the Friday before Labor Day a holiday. Also, please don't make changes to the calendar after the school year has begun. The recent change you made Thanksgiving break is totally inappropriate and, frankly, unprofessional. How does that factor into your commitment for equity when you tell a family that counts on school as a form of child care that they have one month's notice to find two extra days of child care?

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Relationship to ACPS	Comments:
Parent & Employee	<p>Please do not make teachers come in for an additional work day at the end of the school year after a holiday. This can easily be changed by moving the winter break back one week instead of giving one week and 1 day & ending one day earlier in June.</p> <p>Please consider make the teacher work days the first Thurs/Fri in August either flex days for teacher who may wish to set up their room earlier or work on site optional. Many teachers have traditional gone to the beach fur a week in summer amd reporting back for a Thur & Fri takes an entire potential vacation week away since most rentals are Sat to Sat.</p> <p>Please make sure teachers have a workday at the end of each quarter to do grading.</p>
Parent & Employee	Please don't abruptly add additional days. Difficult for teachers and parents
Parent	My only feedback is that starting with a 4-day rather than 5-day week is easier for our young children. That worked well at the start of 2021. Thanks for the great work and planning!
Parent	I appreciate the increased focus on holidays other than Christian holidays.
Parent	So relieved to see a diversity of holidays here!
Parent	Hi, this is great! However, what is the thought/plan to address missed 1/3 of Mondays in the first quarter? In addition, have you considered to add Chinese New Year for most of Asian students/Families/Staff? Thanks.
Employee	It's about time!
Parent	I am so happy to see the other holidays being observed, especially as a Jewish parent. I'm just confused about the 22/23 calendar because I don't see Eid being recognized and it does not appear to fall on a weekend. On another note, why do we need to have half days at the end of school? This is very difficult for childcare and in my years of being an ACPS parent it seems like it leads to even less being done on those days. I don't understand why the days cannot be combined to end earlier?
Parent & Employee	There should be days included in which teachers can have the day off before grades are due to catch up on grading assignments.
Parent	Would like to highlight the presence of Asian populations here in Alexandria as well - how about honoring Lunar New Year for all who celebrate?
Employee	I'm concerned about the length of quarter 4 in both calendars (but more so in the 2023-2024 school year). By spring, the students are struggling to maintain focus already and 52 instructional days with very little break seems to be an unreasonable expectation. We need to disassociate Spring Break with Easter, especially if we are looking to be more honorable of diversity. Spring Break should be pushed back later (into April at least), and if one day needs to be reserved for Easter Monday or Good Friday, that would show more respect of student diversity.
Employee	<p>Indigenous People's day is not recognized as a full holiday.</p> <p>The high school is moving towards semester classes and there are not an equal number of days in S1 and S2.</p> <p>I'm confused by the conferences and TWD combination. Neither day is a school day for students? For high school, I would suggest doing the first conference AFTER Q1 and the second conference later in Q3 (especially for semester classes).</p> <p>Why do we have division wide PD on the last day of pre-service week? Teachers need planning time the day before students return - that should be the priority. If it is necessary to have two division PD days, please put them earlier in the week or provide another TWD before students return.</p>

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Relationship to ACPS	Comments:
Parent	Thank you for making the Jewish, Muslim and Hindu holy days school holidays! This is huge and really appreciated by so many. In the same light, I recommend making Indigenous Peoples Day a full holiday, not just for students, but also for staff. Making it a staff workday doesn't recognize all of the staff who would have to work on that holiday, when there is no reason they, too, should be able to celebrate Indigenous Peoples Day along with students and their families. This fits in with ACPS's goal of Equity for All, including our indigenous communities and the importance of recognizing them even if there may not be many Native American staff.
Employee	Are employees restricted from taking the day off before or after the additional holidays? Can a week off for Thanksgiving be built into the calendar?
Parent & Employee	Would prefer a week for Thanksgiving.
Parent	I feel the addition of days off for diversity is one thing; however, not providing after care/recs to be open in lieu of school on those days is detrimental to your working parents overall well being. At the last minute the thanksgiving break was modified in order to provide respite for the teachers without regard to parents or providing an alternative. And last time, we voted on the calendar and it was modified so I don't know if anyone even cares how we feel.
Employee	Since a lot of our professional development occurs on Mondays, why is there a need for so many professional development days to extend the school year for teachers? I like that you added the additional holidays, but that should have only extended the last day of school by 3 or 4 days, but that is not necessarily reflected in either calendar. Teachers need the summer vacation to refuel just as much as students, but you lessen it every year. This is one of the main reasons why teachers are leaving the profession - burn out. Decrease the professional development days.
Employee	Since I'm a Veteran, I would like to see Veteran's Day added as a day to honor past and present service members. Thanks
Parent	I like that ACPS is being more inclusive of Muslim, Jewish, and Hindu holidays, but it really bothers me that Christian holidays are not even acknowledged. What about Good Friday before Easter? That is the most holy day on the entire Christian calendar. And instead of "winter break" we actually acknowledge Christmas and Hanukkah and Kwanzaa? If we are going to be inclusive, let's be inclusive of everyone by calling out all holidays including Christian holidays.
Parent	Teacher conferences where kids have no school all day Thursday and half-day Friday makes no sense. Two half days would be better than one full day closed.
Parent	It seems like we are starting even earlier and not getting out the much earlier in June! I disagree with these mid-August start dates. Start the week after in August-- starting the 21st or 22nd is too early. If we are starting then, we should get out before June 15th,

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Relationship to ACPS	Comments:
Parent	<p>1- I said neither agree nor disagree BECAUSE all of the diverse holidays can be recognized without extending the school year.</p> <p>2- I said neither agree nor disagree BECAUSE the needs of students can be met without extending the school year.</p> <p>3- I have no idea what percentage of parents requested an extended calendar so I have no idea if this accurately reflects feedback from all!</p> <p>Arlington and Fairfax manage to recognize all of the diverse holidays without extending the school year by two weeks.</p> <p>I ASK YOU TO PLEASE PLEASE RECONSIDER! ALL of this can be done without extending the school year two weeks.</p> <p>I understand the need for makup from COVID, but not going forward. Thanks!</p>
Parent	<p>It is important that acps recognize additional holidays, not only because it honor the diversity but because students will be able to celebrate their holidays without missing any test or new concepts during those days.</p>
Parent	<p>Next year there should be two options to consider with two start dates. The options that were shared in the spring shouldn't count. Consider starting Tuesday or Wednesday of the first week back, and offer a couple of PD days to be done over the summer if teachers prefer that. Offer one week prior to Labor Day as start date for students, Monday - Thursday. Members of the committee should be named publicly, along with their affiliations and whether the parents are also staff or teachers within ACPS. More parents should be included in the committee - SPED, ACHS, EL - would be helpful.</p>
Employee	<p>I do not support the August return dates for staff and students. This significantly interferes with end of the summer travel/vacation plans and is a different start date than DCPS and APS. Many employees with children live in DC or Arlington and want to be on the same schedule as their children. I would like to return to the post Labor Day start date for students and have the school year end later in June.</p>
Employee	<p>Please align with neighboring school districts, particularly school start and spring break)</p>
Parent	<p>The calendars unduly burden families with parents that cannot work from home on non-federal holidays. If ACPS adds holidays, it needs to ensure that Campagna care, Rec, etc is available so students are not left at home unsupervised while their parents work. We also need meals for students who rely on school breakfast and lunch. Elementary school conference days should be half days so students can attend Campagna while their parents attend conferences. Campagna is open on half days but closed if school is closed. This year elementary school parents are arranging for conferences on days other than Nov. 11 because their children are at home, which impedes their ability to attend a conference.</p>
Parent & Employee	<p>In regards to the November/February Parent Conferences days: it should be considered for all early release days instead of 1 day off and the second day a 1/2 day. In February, we have 2 full days off for conferences and 1 1/2 day.</p> <p>This completely disrupts the students learning routine and cause the parents to either find child care for ES students, or take days off from work.</p> <p>Please reconsider this aspect on the calendar.</p>

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Parent	<p>I like the proposed calendar a lot. In addition, please consider the following:</p> <p>a) Keep the week-long Thanksgiving break (this comes as a great blessing this year). - or -</p> <p>b) Extend the Winter Break through January 6. Many cultures celebrate Christmas through Jan 6 (our family does). An extended Winter Break would also allow those of us with family overseas a true and meaningful alternative of travel to the summer break.</p> <p>Extra days to make these happen can be taken from the summer = start the school year sooner. I think it would be better for everyone's mental and physical well-being to have more substantial breaks throughout the school year.</p> <p>Thank you for considering.</p>
Employee	<p>The 1/2 day after Fall Conferences should remain early release for staff as well. After conferences and teaching in the AM instead of a PM TWD.</p> <p>This seems like an early start when we only get out about a week earlier than when we started after Labor Day (even with the additional holidays).</p>
Parent	<p>1) If this is the accepted calendar, please explain to parents why there is a full day off from school for parent-teacher conferences, followed by a half day? Why isn't it the other way around? If the half day came before the full day, wouldn't it be smoother to dismiss students at noonish on Thursday not to return until Monday?</p> <p>2) If ACPS is just going to decide to close for Thanksgiving week, maybe it should be included in the calendar now. Those of us with young, elementary school-aged children who can't be left alone would really like to be prepared for it.</p>
Parent	<p>Calendar committee! It was a nightmare trying to do conferences for my middle schooler and two high schoolers this year! If I had been able to, I would have had upwards of 20 10 minute conferences in one day! That's too many! And, I never was able to reschedule half of them resulting in me not getting to connect with my kids teachers. I have four kids in acps- please consider people with multiple children in same and different schools! Also, for back to school night, too.</p>
Parent	<p>I definitely want to see a more diverse recognition of holiday which this calendar has done a great job of. I do wish we could accomplish that and not have the school year go for so long into June. One of the benefits of starting in August was to end the year earlier but now we start early and end almost as late.</p>
Parent	<p>Focus on the 2023-24 calendar ONLY. Nov. 22 & 23 nice for some for others problematic because of lack of vacation time, food, and money for childcare. DO NOT MODIFY once adopted. Begin school on Tuesday, August 23rd. Ease into the school year. Last day of school to Friday. Ensure that conferences are not a ½ day the following day. Disruptive to kids. February conferences same days for all grade levels, preferably Feb. 16 and 17. Fall middle/high school conferences move to avoid having 3 two-day blocks of school in a row to Sept. 22 and 23 for a 5-day break (Rosh Hashanah) or Oct. 6 & 7th with a 6-day break (Diwali and Indigenous People's Day). Continue to offer virtual conferences.</p>

2022 - 2024 Traditional Academic Calendar

Relationship to ACPS	Comments:
Employee	This survey asks questions in a way to get approval instead of feedback. First, there is too much time taken for professional development. This extends the year and doesn't allow teachers to prepare their classrooms. Additionally, there are too many religious holidays on the calendar. Again, this extends the year and shortens the summer break. Why don't we follow the federal government and take federal holidays only. Why are there two holidays for Labor Day? Why do we have 3 half days at the end of the year? This again extends the school year. I hope that the committee understands the toll these things take on teachers. We are seeing more "burn out." This just adds fuel to the fire.
Parent	The conference days should be a half day (Thursday) and day off (Friday).... makes so much more sense for families!
Employee	The dates for Eid Alfitr in 2023 are wrong. It occurs on Friday and should be noted in the calendar correctly.
Employee	I am not sure why on the 23-24 calendar there is holiday for June 17 when school has ended for students by that time. While professional development is important, having it in the same months that are already choppy due to conferences and these additional holidays, seems like a bad idea and impacts instructional time. Part of the reason of starting before Labor Day was supposed to be ending earlier in June. By adding these additional holidays and PD days, we are now almost back to end of school dates when we started after Labor Day. On the 23-24 calendar, why is there a teacher work day both the Friday before Spring Break and the Monday after spring break? Shouldn't it just be one or other?
Parent	There are no Muslim holidays on this calendar, as anticipated from the first question. Eid al-Fitr would fall late April 2023. (Eid al-Adha falls during summer break.) I remain opposed to the pre-Labor Day start due to family disruptions and added expenses.
Parent	<p>I dislike starting two weeks before Labor Day as with the current school year, but staying in school for another full week in June. One week prior to Labor Day is the maximum I'd like. No need for a 2-day Labor Day holiday A four day break is not needed 2 weeks after school starts.</p> <p>It is disingenuous to separate out the New Year Holiday from Winter break to pretend winter break is only 10 days. It is not a 10 day winter break - it is 11 weekdays. When you add in the weekends, it is a 17 day break. That is not necessary. A break of 10 calendar days is sufficient.</p> <p>I'd much prefer a shortened winter break which would allow to start a week later or get out a week earlier.</p>
Community Member	As a community member, I disagree with the 2022-23 & 2023-2024 proposed calendars. The teachers/parents have been overworked and overwhelmed in the past year or so and continue in this Covid pandemic. Teachers deserved to have their entire summer break. Too many interruptions during instruction time. There was no consideration about summer camps starting and vacation time for families etc... I recommend the additional holidays should be removed from the calendar, a shorter school year, change Spring Break, and also a longer Thanksgiving Break would be appropriate. Look into following Fairfax Co. Schools calendar. If these calendars are approved, teachers will leave ACPS. RESPECT TEACHERS!!!!
Student	Please add حفلة, it's an Islamic holiday that occurs on the last Friday of August (which happens to be the 26th). We typically celebrate that whole week.

2022 - 2024 Traditional Academic Calendar

Relationship to ACPS	Comments:
Parent	No Muslim holidays 2022-23. I would like a re-engagement in the start day before Labor Day—I have not heard any in my community who prefer it.
Parent	I do not support the removal of Veterans Day.
Parent	I do not approve of this calendar. We have been subject to changes in the calendar for three years. Why continue this trend
Parent	Any calendar would be more or less fine. But when ACPS changes it without warning, it sends families scrambling to make plans.
Parent	Too many days off during the fall. Would much rather have the school year shortened.
Parent	You all keep taking away the kids summer. There's no reason they should get out the middle of June and go back before Labor Day. Please change it back to after Labor Day like every other
Parent	I hope ACPS will consider a year round program with shorter breaks throughout the year. This will likely prevent widening achievement gaps, promote equity and spare parents the cost of summer camps and related transportation.
Parent	CDI all the way! Superb!
Parent	I don't know why ACPS bothers with this. They do what they want anyway. Is this just a "CYA" thing so they can say they surveyed the community? Pathetic. Transparent. Terrible school district lead by a joke of a Superintendent who respects his own schools so little that he sends his daughter to a private school in the city.
Parent	Just pick a calendar and stick with it instead of throwing in unexpected off days that pose massive childcare issues. The decision to cancel school this 11/22 & 11/23 was not well planned.
Parent	Posting the current school calendar as a point of reference would have been helpful in making better objective informed selections.
Parent	The early start of school before labor day is an inconvenience for our family. We always take our vacation the last week of August combined with labor day.
Parent	The Holiday's should stand as is Federal Holidays only.
Parent	Just make sure the calendar follows neighboring Fairfax County school calendar.
Parent	Stop with this nonsense. Focus on teaching.
Parent	The holiday breaks are not inclusive to the working families who do not have the ability to take off work for one two weeks at a time and cannot afford childcare to cover it.
Student	Add more instructional time.
Parent	The school year absolutely does not need to start before Labor Day.
Parent	While the calendars honor diverse holidays, until those holidays are recognized by employers having no school on those days causes undue hardship on parents, especially parents that can't work from home and who are not white collar workers.
Parent	I do not support the before Labor Day start especially when the start then has a immediate day off the same week. The earlier start also requires families to vacation at the highest cost summer time. The before labor day start is not specifically asked on the survey. It would be informative to ask it as a separate item.
Parent	I would like to support the most learning for our children. For working parents it is especially hard for children who do not have these additional days the school is proposing and leaves the kids at home on a tablet when they could be learning. Think about this. There are other ways the celebrate equity by talking about those holidays in school as opposed to giving the kids the day off to sit at home without any additional enrichment.

2022 - 2024 Traditional Academic Calendar

Relationship to ACPS	Comments:
Parent	School starts too early before Labor Day, and runs too far into June.
Parent	The school year is running too long with too many non-instruction days during the year. Ending the year on multiple half days is particularly unhelpful.
Parent	We would rather have full days off than a series of half days.
Parent	Students should go back to school after Labor Day
Parent	Muslim holidays, especially Ramadan and arid, are not noted or observed on either proposed calendar.
Parent	2 months is what the kids should get as vacation on summer. To allow the parents to spend some time of vacation with family .and I dis not see any spring break mentioned at the proposal.
Parent	Have school start after Labor Day like it used so our children can have an uninterrupted summer. Nothing is learned starting Aug 21/22 just to leave again the beginning of Sept.
Parent	I appreciate the diverse religious holidays being added. ACPS has done a remarkable job during these challenging pandemic years. Thank you!
Parent	Please share the data that states one week of summer break significantly impacts education...and/or loss of material. Not in favor of this schedule.
Parent	As an active duty military family, it is unbelievably hurtful and disappointing to see Veterans Day is not honored. As it is a federal holiday, it's unfortunate we do not honor the men and women that give us freedom. I also do not like a pre Labor Day start.
Parent	Please DO NOT EVER AGAIN set Parent Teacher Conferences on Thursdays with half days on Fridays. That was the worst, most bitter pill in ACPS history. Also, shortened Summer was really awful last year. Kids who are 9-12th need time to take classes, do internships, learn to drive, have jobs, practice languages, AND travel or spend down time with family!!! "Diverse holidays" is an excellent addition. As a High School Parent, starting pre- Labor Day is important for AP students. Just end school earlier in June.
Parent	Really doesn't matter..., like this years change over Thanksgiving, I have no anticipation that you will follow any calendars that you publish.
Parent	Days off scattered throughout the year are more difficult for working parents to manage and extend the school year. Consolidating days off and the calendar would be easier to manage.
Parent	I would love for ACPS to consider extending the duration of the school day and shortening the overall year length like some of the private schools in the area- even just until 3 pm to let students out slightly earlier in June. I also would like to see the first day of school on a Wednesday versus a Monday as working with children I know the transition back to school is very tiring and this would ease their brains and bodies back into the more restrictive learning environment of sitting for long periods etc.
Parent	As an Indian immigrant who moved here at a young age, I remember feeling embarrassed when people would discuss "winter holidays" - no one knew what Diwali was. To see it being recognized as an official holiday for our kids, I don't think I can not convey how special and inclusive this small change is. Thank you.

2022 - 2024 Traditional Academic Calendar

Relationship to ACPS	Comments:
Parent	I oppose starting school in August when my family and many others take vacation during Congress's August recess. It is very difficult for those who work for Congress, in agencies that support them, or in firms that can't take vacation when Congress is in session during June and July.
Parent	I'd like to see us push back the start date to September.
Parent	I would like the school year to start the Tuesday after Labor Day. Stop with the diversity stuff.
Parent	Just summer break seems to be getting short for the kids.
Parent	School year should begin after Labor Day. Students deserve their full Sumer break and family time for travel for end of summer vacations.
Parent	There are not enough instructional days in these calendars. ACPS robbed my sons of more than a year of in-person instruction. Continuing to rob them of instruction in the name of diversity and inclusion is merely hiding laziness behind a veneer of political correctness. Summer vacation is not a religious holiday. If you wish to include numerous religions' holidays throughout the year, reduce the expanse of summer vacation to increase the number of in-person instructional days. Unless it is a value of the Christian, Jewish, Muslim, and Hindu religions to fail to educate our children, then recognizing and honoring these religions on their holidays should also include a complete school year.
Parent	I just think they need to go back to the way the school calendar use to be. They are changing things to much.
Parent	Pre-labor day start is a bad idea. Change in June last day does not make up for it.
Parent	In addition, consider a full week off for Thanksgiving holiday break. Also consider 15 days off for winter break. Ten days off from instruction and perhaps five additional asynchronous days to transition from winter break. Students and staff could use the extra days to recharge and fully refresh themselves as they push through the school year.
Parent	I do not want to start before Labor Day!
Parent	I am excited about the proposed changes.
Parent	Starting school after Labor Day seems to work well. Starting at the end of August seems unnecessary and disruptive. Maybe in the public school environment we shouldn't recognize any holidays with a day off but learn about those holidays instead.
Parent	Yes, this calendar checks all the boxes above but it cuts into the traditional summer time children love. Some use this time to allow their children to learn outside of the classroom in camps, family travel, etc
Parent	Once again, ACPS is placing more burden on parents and is not rooted in the reality of our work schedules. The goal of a pre-Labor Day start was to extend the Summer period, not, as proposed, to find other days within the school year to have extra days of disruption.
Parent	I think they should start after Labor Day
Parent	I don't think adjusting the November 2021 calendar truly had the community's mental health in mind. Very short notice for parent who work. Honesty about why the decision was made with such short notice would have been appreciated.
Parent	Your questions are stupid

2022 - 2024 Traditional Academic Calendar

Relationship to ACPS	Comments:
Parent & Employee	Despite starting very early, we are ending the school at almost the same time we did when we started after Labor Day. Having so many days off or teacher work days throughout the year make it difficult for parents to get childcare because they still have to work. Also there are 17 staff days where students are not present. These additional days were originally added back in the early 2000s to justify a pay raise for teachers. Why not instead eliminate a few of these days and give teachers a pay raise without costing taxpayers any additional funds. This could be a win-win for staff and the city.
Parent	All these revised calendars do is place an increased burden on parents and caregivers to find care outside of the typical months during the summer when camps and other means like high school and college students on break, are widely available. There is nothing g “traditional” about this.
Parent	Thank you for connecting with the parents in regards to the calendar.
Parent	I do not like school opening before Labor Day.
Student	Students start early to end later, previous year calendars work better. Students should be starting in the start of August and ending early June that way there is time to study for AP tests and students are not ending very late. Also, there are so many holidays and off days that there are barely any full weeks of school. Instead there should be longer breaks that incorporate holidays and teacher work days, similar to the Samuel Tucker schedule. The Samuel Tucker schedule makes sure that students are not forgetting learnings over the summer and that they have the valuable 2 sets of 2 week breaks to either learn or spend time with family.
Parent	Great job on the calendar but why has Veterans Day been dropped.
Parent	We have entirely too many days out of school. Not only has thanksgiving and Christmas break days increased as soon as they return the out again for teacher development day or teacher workday or parent conferences. As much school as we have missed why would we be adding more days out. Compared to other countries out statistics are horrible. We need more days in school not less.
Parent	No surprise extension of holidays, like what happened at thanksgiving this year. We plan our year ahead of time, with 2 working parents it is disruptive to make last minute changes.
Parent	Find it comical that you ask for input when you will just make changes at a whim like you did this year. Thanks for adding stress to me on trying to figure out how to a manage kids the two extra days around Thanksgiving.
Parent	Spring break needs to STOP being associated with Easter. It should be affixed to the first full week of April, regardless of when Easter is. It should match neighboring counties.
Parent	I’m a little sad that the summer break is so short. I really enjoy our family time in the summers.
Employee	All these days off are ridiculous. If your going to observe holidays why not “Good Friday”. No School November is what I’m naming this season. Moving here from Indiana the year round schedule has worked great. The kids get a one week fall break one week off the week of November. 2 week Christmas break 2 week spring break school end at the end of May. School starts end of July Early August. All these other holidays are fine if the school offers full time daycare for students under 12. Or if you can’t do all the religious holidays opt for an excused absence option.

2022 - 2024 Traditional Academic Calendar

Relationship to ACPS	Comments:
Parent	Summer break is too short. I feel the move towards a shorter summer break is driven more by a desire on the part of some parents to find a place to warehouse their children than out of a proven learning loss. The early weeks of school are largely spent reviewing material covered in the previous year anyway. I don't have an issue with starting before Labor Day, but that early start should be complimented by an earlier beginning to the summer break.
Parent	I appreciate you for asking for community feedback and recognizing diversity of holidays. I can't say if this calendar honors community feedback as you don't summary feedback you've addressed. I'd recommend ending school on 6/9 or 6/12. There is no educational value to students and it is a difficult for working parents to have 3 half days in the last week of school. It is easier on students and parents when teacher work days and professional development days are part of a long weekend. I recommend considering 11/7 or 11/11 (Veterans Day that many parents have off) instead of 11/8 and considering 1/13 instead of 1/23 (one of 3 Mondays off in January). Thank you for your consideration.
Parent	Starting before Labor Day was the wrong decision. ACPS leaderships has consistently demonstrated that they do not include community feedback and opinion in their decisions. Religious holidays of ANY religion should not be a consideration when making decisions for a secular public education.
Parent	Does this calendar even matter when the Superintendent just up and cancels school on a whim?
Parent	What difference does this make? The school board will just change the calendar with minimal notice and without consideration for families. These calendars mean nothing for our ability to plan or budget. I don't have time for these meaningless surveys.... I'm too busy trying to line up arrangements for the "gift" of two days of cancelled school we got for the holiday week of Thanksgiving.
Parent	The addition of holidays that reflect non-Federal holidays puts parents in a difficult spot with younger children as they are forced to take additional days of annual leave or unpaid time off to care for students not in school. Moving TWD to match holidays allows for 4 day weekends that are more convenient for out of town travel. We have to remember that parents end up paying the price for kids not in school!
Parent	Do not wish for school to start before Labor Day.
Parent	What about Chinese New Year? And what about Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday)? Adding Muslim and Jewish holidays seems to be too exclusive.
Parent	The school year starts too early and interferes with precious family vacation time. The school year should start after Labor Day as it has in the past.
Parent	All I want is school to start after labor day like it used to.
Parent	I'd prefer they start one week before Labor Day instead of two weeks.
Parent	Don't start school before Labor Day.
Parent	Where are the options that have been provided in the past? Why is this being presented as we are either for inclusion or against a calendar that does not reflect the work schedule of parents?
Parent	I agree with the proposed new calendar.
Parent	I would like to see the ethnic makeup of the student population so I can better understand the
Parent	Please keep Columbus Day/ Indigenous Day as a holiday not a teacher work day.

2022 - 2024 Traditional Academic Calendar

Relationship to ACPS	Comments:
Parent	<p>This survey doesn't ask us how they feel about the calendar and only allows for 700 characters. This is a joke but communication and feedback the absolute worst attribute of ACPS.</p> <p>So quickly:</p> <p>Pro: Like the days off for non-Christian holidays.</p> <p>Cons: There are too many days off for conferences, which creates a huge burden for parents with kids in both HS/MS and Ele. You can't get a conference anyway for HS and MS so unless that is fixed this is just a day off for no reason for most students.</p> <p>The school year should end earlier than it does in this calendar even if that means a couple fewer days at Christmas.</p>
Parent	<p>I think the school year is way too long. I thought that we were starting early to get out earlier and now are children will be getting out mid-June. They spend the last two weeks of school watching movies and not getting true instructional time. It angers me to have my child in school just to say they were in school for a certain amount of days.</p>
Parent	<p>Government recognition of anything other than secular US official holidays risks running afoul of the separation, establishment and equal protection clauses of the Constitution. The calendars disproportionately support Judaism and Shia Muslim faith communities. My family strongly opposes these biased and unlawful endorsements of faith systems. The calendars are a clear move away from the concept of equity espoused by ACPS leadership.</p>
Parent	<p>I dislike that school starts before labor day. We did that this year, and it appears that extra time was used for additional time off during the year, e.g. Thanksgiving. I strongly disagree with this approach. Parents need to be able to plan accordingly for childcare coverage. It is far easier to organize childcare in the summer, i.e. have a week or two longer summer, than to quickly get coverage when you find out school will shut down, e.g. close for a week at Thanksgiving. For some, this was an inconvenience. For others who can't telework and who don't have add'l income for babysitting, it's an extreme hardship.</p>
Parent	<p>Is there a way to not go that deep into June?</p>
Parent	<p>The starting before Labor Day put a little pressure on the parents. Most summer camps and sporting activities go to the week before.</p>
Parent	<p>This starting before Labor Day thing is a complete travesty. I absolutely detest it.</p>
Parent	<p>How about Ethiopian/Eritrean holiday?</p>
Parent	<p>1. While I think the new calendar represents a more diversity, I don't see Muslim holidays on the calendar. I'm unsure when I'm April Eid actually occurs in next school year but that would be good to include. 2. I'm opposed to starting school year before Labor Day.</p>
Parent	<p>No one I know is aware of any effort to solicit community or student needs. My assumption is that this calendar is reflective of someone's opinion of community and student needs. It is not reflective of my community's or my student's needs. Continually, feedback is sought using methods that completely bypass the majority of the community, yet the feedback is presented as fair, unbiased and representative. I am most disappointed and not at all surprised. And I am sure that this calendar will simply be adopted. Based on what is being presented, how can anyone be in a position to judge the appropriateness of the instructional time. This appears to be yet another 'check the box' exercise.</p>
Parent	<p>Go back to starting school after Labor Day like it used to be. Thanks</p>

2022 - 2024 Traditional Academic Calendar

Relationship to ACPS	Comments:
Parent	Bring back after Labor Day school start. Please
Parent	Bring back after Labor Day school start. Thanks
Parent	Calendar committee go back to starting school after Labor Day please. Thanks
Parent	Bring back after Labor Day school start. Thanks!
Parent	Bring back after Labor Day school start. Thanks
Parent	Bring back after labor day school start. Thanks
Parent	Bring back after Labor Day school start. Thanks
Parent	Bring back after Labor Day school start. And include these holidays. Thanks
Parent	Bring back after labor day school start. Thanks
Parent	No options for starting after Labor Day. This survey is biased. I want school start after Labor
Parent	I like the August opening and the recognition of diverse holidays.
Parent	Where is the option to start school after Labor Day? Please start school after Labor Day. Summer is magic. Thanks for ruining summer!
Parent	I prefer the post Labor Day start even if it means going later into June.
Parent	I don't like any of these options. Bring back starting school after Labor Day. Guess we don't get bargains in beach vacations and closet time with the family anymore in late August. So sad
Parent	I truly appreciate the decision to give staff, students and families the entire week of the Thanksgiving holiday. The emphasis on family time during a time uncertainty. Thank you.
Parent	While I recognize that spring break is timed with Passover and Easter, it would be nice to have it earlier in mid-March to align with other schools.
Parent	My only disagreement is with the full day conference day when a half day would be easier on parents and would seem to accomplish the same needs for conferences.
Parent	What kinds of pre-formed conclusory questions are these? This is not a productive survey to get input on opinions for the calendar year. I do not support starting school in Aug for a week and a half and then having a 4 day Labor Day break. I do not support all the new single days off each month. Give them and families a longer summer break instead of single days off that aren't helpful at all. This survey is not helpful at all.
Parent & Employee	The calendar should only reflect state and federal holidays. Alexandria is great because of its diversity and these calendars are not inclusive and could never be fully inclusive as there are too many significant holidays for different races and religions. Choosing some of others makes this more divisive. Why are there no AAPI exclusive holidays for instance. Also one of the tenants for having a two year calendars is to help with scheduling, etc. While this group has done an admirable job, the recent changes to the school calendar mid year (Thanksgiving break) does not allow one to believe whatever is completed is reliable.
Parent	If there are no unexpected closures, the year-end half days should be "given back" i.e. eliminated. It is preferred to flip the 1.5 days of conferences so that students' full day off occurs on a Friday instead of a Thursday. Nice to see Diwali and Jewish high holy days in the calendar, I would support shortening Christmas break if it meant the year could end earlier in June. Any time after the last tests are administered in may is wasted.
Parent	I DO support two full days for parent-teacher conferences in the fall. Are we comparing anything to anything or what are the choices? These types of activities should be more thoroughly discussed if true input is sought. Maybe presentations at PTAs or a video explaining the process and the major features/differences would be helpful.

2022 - 2024 Traditional Academic Calendar

Relationship to ACPS	Comments:
Parent	Thank you
Parent	I don't see the Muslim holidays on the calendar until 2023-2024. Why is that? Those two holidays should also be in the 2022-2023 calendar, like our community's other added religious holidays, please.
Parent	I disagree about summer learning loss. Bring back after Labor Day start. I know you work hard but this survey makes me sad. We used to have awesome family time just before Labor Day but now this is harder to find due to the school calendars starting in August. Thank you
Parent	Thank you for not repeating this year's mistake of an extra long no-notice thanksgiving break.
Parent	Whatever calendar is implemented, it should not be changed in the middle of the school year (i.e., 2021 decision to change the week of Thanksgiving) as it does not respect the needs of parents to adequately plan for childcare needs.
Parent	Your claim that pre-Labor Day start prevent summer learning loss isn't a FACT! I totally DISAGREE, bring back prelabor day start. Thank you ACPS parent and TAXPAYER
Parent	Now that the election is over we can do this survey.... Bring back prelabor day school start. No supporting facts on learning loss. Miss the family time we had in the late summer isn't the same in June, guess that ain't a fact either so why does anything you do really matter....
Parent	Give teachers and school bus drivers a raise please. Thank you
Parent	My opinion school should start after Labor Day. I pay taxes my opinion should be heard.
Parent	My opinion school should start after Labor Day. I pay taxes and am an ACPS parent my opinion ought to be heard.
Parent & Employee	Why are full day teacher conferences on Thursdays with a half day on Friday? It upsets the flow of the week and the classroom, having a Thursday off and half day on Friday. It would make more sense to swap them. Also, it's easier on teachers to have a full day of conferences instead of two half days. Please consider FULL days for conferences so that teachers can meet with parents instead of two half days back to back (February).
Parent	I'm glad you're recognizing more holidays! After living from New York, I appreciate this more inclusive calendar.
Parent	There needs to be a fall break of one week just as we have a spring break. Or go back to the old schedule of starting after Labor Day.
Parent	There are too many holidays combined with teacher work days resulting in an extended school year and shorter summer. If we are to have more days off for holidays, the counter to balance the year should be fewer teacher work days.
Parent	Please let the teachers have at Least 15 minutes for conferences especially at the HS level ... give them more Time ans access with parents!
Parent	Please explain how starting school before Labor Day decreases "summer learning loss" if the school year ends earlier? And when are AP exams? Does starting school after labor day actually allow for more in school days leading up to AP exams?
Parent	Good idea for me

2022 - 2024 Traditional Academic Calendar

Relationship to ACPS	Comments:
Parent	The 2022-2023 calendar in particular has many mid-week days off, which are particularly challenging for working families.
Parent	I think schools in Alexandria City should go back to starting AFTER Labor day as well as recognize more and Jewish, Hindu and Muslim holidays. Plus give better breaks such as after Christmas and real spring breaks after Easter.
Parent	This leaves out a lot of key questions and information. Plus character count is very limited. Do you actually want feedback?. For the first ?, which holidays? They aren't marked so it's unclear. Clarify what means no school. Conferences yes? Prof dev and teacher work days? Unclear. While not asked for, here are a few other points: 1) Many in the DMV get 11/11 off from work. Why not shift the 11/8 teacher work day to 11/11 to help with childcare? 2) Random days off are a lot harder to deal with from a childcare perspective. 3) I'm glad to see that the full day off on Thursday and half day on Friday for conferences was dropped. 4) Strongly dislike early start date.
Parent	It looks like we are using diversity as a reason to push for trimesters. What is "Intersession"? Where can we learn more about the roots of this plan? Where are the published documents? The "Traditional" has only been in effect for one year. "Traditional" is starting school after Labor Day.
Parent	Too early start to the year and too many days off.
Parent	Why was Columbus Day taken away? That is a lot of additional days out of school. Also, I disagree with the additional thanksgiving break days added this year.
Parent	The students would benefit from a longer summer. More hours of school does not mean more learning.
Parent	The early start to the school year is inconsistent with August being the only month many working families are able to vacation.
Parent	The only thing I disagree with is students returning to school pre-labor day.
Parent	What a terrible survey! The questions are so bland as to be nearly meaningless. As if any one person could possibly know if the proposed calendar "honors the community feedback and is responsive to community, student and staff needs."! Give me a break. Please adjust the calendar to start school after Labor Day. It looks like you've just started the year earlier so you could add a bunch of new holidays... Boooo! School should start after Labor Day! But of course the decision has already been made and this survey is simply a tool to allow staff to say they "solicited community feedback".
Parent	I like how this year we get the full week for Thanksgiving. That would awesome if that could happen going forward.

2022 - 2024 Traditional Academic Calendar

Relationship to ACPS	Comments:
Parent	<p>1) do not set 2023-24 until we live with 2022-23, keep it proposed</p> <p>2) teacher conferences should align for all grade levels, splitting over 3 weeks is challenging for families with kids in each level.</p> <p>3) until February there are never more than 2 full 5 day weeks in a month- Feb is when most people need a break, suggest moving all conferences to 2/16-17 making for a 5 day weekend</p> <p>4) May has more hrs than any month- this is when 1/2 days are critical for kids.</p> <p>5) short weeks disrupt learners this calendar does not support kids who need solid routine for learning, 4 day weeks seem to be the goal of this calendar</p> <p>6)not having veterans day is disrespectful to all military families</p>
Parent	Need to start after labor day and end closer to memorial day. Matchup spring break with Easter and Passover when the weather is nicer.
Parent	Add the last day of each quarter.
Parent	<p>Why even bother with a calendar if you don't stick with it anyway, and cancel school with 3 weeks notice? How does THAT support equity?</p> <p>Digging into summer vacation also hurts family time.</p>
Parent	<p>Please work with neighboring school districts to align major breaks (winter break, spring break). The holidays and teacher work days appear to make the weeks choppy, especially the 1st semester. Since holidays are fixed, consider moving the teacher workday to the day before or after the holiday. This allows families and staff who celebrate an extended holiday and helps maintain consecutive in person school days. Thank you for considering.</p>
Parent	<p>I appreciate the intent for a more diverse calendar, but I don't think it's truly in alignment with the demographics of the ACPS community. Given the large percentage of Latino & Amharic students, is the observance of Hindu AND Jewish holidays appropriate? What about the observance of an Amharic-oriented holiday? Or Also, it's very disappointing that with a pre-Labor Day start, students and staff are still in school until the third week of June.</p>
Parent	I would prefer having a four-day week the first week of school to allow student time to ease the transition to school, as we have in year's past.The school year could end on Friday to accommodate.
Parent	Yes I like the program for the children for the education
Parent	This is a long time coming and so important for the Alexandria community.
Parent	I appreciate the diversity of the holidays, although it is extremely challenging for parents that work outside the home since those holidays are not recognized by employers. And why did we drop veteran's day as a holiday for kids? Especially in this area with so many federal employees and veterans.
Parent	<p>Fix your calendars they are impossible to read and comprehend. Why does ACPS make everything harder than needed? Does pink mean kids have no school? Are you saying kids will have school on Veterans Day, a federal holiday? Appalling.</p> <p>"Likewise, to allow families to better plan and schedule family activities." - this is a lie</p>
Parent	Love to see an alternative that allows for more year round options that may work better for people who work full time. The cost and access to childcare and food during breaks puts those without ample economic resources at a disadvantage.

2022 - 2024 Traditional Academic Calendar

Relationship to ACPS	Comments:
Parent	School calendar extends too far into August. One week before Labor Day would be better than two.
Parent	I think this proposed calendar looks fine in terms of balancing diversity goals with instructional time. However, I notice that Thanksgiving break is the typical 3 days vs the full 5 days off like this year. If the Superintendent would like to make that offer again next year, I don't see it reflected here. I'm not for or against the full week off. I am in favor of giving working parents more than a few weeks notice when making changes to the calendar. Thank you!
Parent	All of the partial weeks are hard, but I don't really see another way to do it. Thanks for the thought you put into this.
Parent	Start school after Labor Day.
Parent	Please make sure spring break in Alexandria aligns with break in the other counties.
Employee	The school should consider following Samuel Tucker's Modified Calendar to reduce summer learning loss and provide more frequent breaks for students and staff.
Parent	I'm not sure exactly what the community feedback was, so I can't comment on whether it addresses that feedback. I do hope that teachers and administrators feel this calendar is good for them - almost half of the weeks are partial weeks.
Employee	The 2023-2024 return for teachers is far too early. Professional staff lose the entire month of August. This may impact the ability to recruit summer school and summer enrichment programming staff. I am also concerned about the lack of time off in March. This will be a very long month for everyone in school buildings. Will there be enough staff to cover teacher days off? Illness?
Parent	My biggest concern is how disrespected I felt as a parent, for my daughter as a student and for our family as a whole that in a year in which she's already had to take off exceedingly long periods for being deemed a "close contact" at school, the superintendent then decided to take away two more education days before thanksgiving. I fear more last minute, non-emergency school closures. What is the point of voting if the calendar can be changed mid-year for non-emergency reasons. It makes parent feedback feel like lip service.
Employee	I no longer support Intersession.
Parent	Please give the kids the whole week off for Thanksgiving. And what does intercession mean?
Parent	The 4 days off in October are burdensome for working parents. The 5/24/25 are not federal holidays- and indigenous peoples day is not a holiday for most industry jobs. This means being off at least 1 day a week 3 or the 4 weeks of the month for me- after being off 3 days in September.
Parent	It is not best for children to have nearly every week punctuated by some day off or holiday. Children thrive on routine and there has been nothing but disruption for the last few years. We need to provide some stability for our kids. Adding in holidays and days off in the middle of the week is not going to help that. I think we can respect all holidays and celebrate all cultures at school, also allowing for permission for anyone to take off days to celebrate holidays that are important to them. I am really worried about our kids and the impact of the pandemic. This calendar does not reflect that. It also is odd that we have holidays from every religion except Christianity listed.

2022 - 2024 Traditional Academic Calendar

Relationship to ACPS	Comments:
Parent	I would like to see the Veterans Day Holiday lining up with the professional work day so that I do not have to take an extra day off work when I already have a day off that week (Veterans Day being a federal holiday). This pertains to both calendars. That is a definitely a big issue for me. Otherwise it looks fine, it's great to see the other holidays being recognized! I would much prefer an after Labor Day start to school but I realize that decision was also made to shift it earlier!
Parent	October 2023, if you move the teacher day from October 9th to October 13th that would give students a 4 day weekend. Vacationing in October is less crowded and more affordable; it is also a good weather time of the year. That small change could lead to a good break after being in school for two months....and some great family time.
Parent	I'm furious the proposed calendars include more than the required 990 hours of instructional time. Summer break is too short and students don't have enough time to decompress, have recreation, spend time with their families, be in nature, or explore interests outside of school. With the proposed calendars you are losing sight of whole person well-being. If someone has truly learned something, it won't be "lost" during summer. Butt in seat time does not equal learning. Don't warehouse students and call it school. The job of school isn't to be daycare. Bring back 3 month summer, start after Labor Day, keep the 2 week Winter Break, & permanently increase Thanksgiving break to 1 week.
Parent	Starting after Labor Day would coincide with those of us who work in fields where we return to work after Labor Day. It would also give us a chance to spend more time with relatives.
Parent	No need for so many early release days the last week of school. Make them full days and just end school sooner.
Parent	I am curious why the entire ACPS system isn't considering the modified calendar that allows for intercessions throughout the school year and a shorter summer break? This is much more advantageous, reduces "summer creep" and allows families to schedule lengthier family getaways.
Employee	You are shortening our "time off" more snd more. As a staff member I ask that you take away some of the professional development data and let us out earlier in May or June if you are bringing us back so early in August. Schools I worked for in another state had us out by Memorial Day when we started this early in August! While I agree with some extra holidays for religious observances, at least let kids and teachers out the first week of June. We need to regroup and rest after all that is happening from this pandemic.
Parent	The school year is too long because there are too many days off during the year. The calendars start two weeks early (compared with normal day after Labor Day) but release only one week early. This one week extension surely will have no effect on "summer learning loss". Friday before Labor Day does not need to be a day off. Winter break does not need to be two full weeks (1.5 would be enough). Parent-teacher conferences do not require a day off from school. With regards to honoring "...the diversity of our community...", there are now days off labeled with the faith-based holiday/observance names for Jewish, Hindu, and Muslim faiths, but not Christian. How is this equity for all?

2022 - 2024 Traditional Academic Calendar

Relationship to ACPS	Comments:
Parent	I don't object to the frequency of holidays and staff work days - as an adult. What I do foresee is the kids (especially the younger ones) will be habituated to frequent four-day weeks in the fall and winter, and then enter a stretch of several weeks in April and May that are all five days long, the only time on the calendar this happens. The spring is going to DRAG for these kids who will be so used to frequent breaks by that time. You can't move holidays, but would there be value in spreading the staff days more evenly through the year?
Parent	I absolutely do not support the first day of school starting before labor day
Community Member	<p>I like the continued plan to begin before Labor Day and end at a reasonable time in June. I like how ACPS is looking at ways to make the school district more equitable for all religions, cultures, and ethnicities.</p> <p>Concerns:</p> <p>The school being extended to almost 11 months - are employees seeing an increase in pay for the extended year?</p> <p>Ability of families to plan family vacations</p> <p>Consistency in student school schedule may impact parent work schedule</p> <p>Accessibility of ACPS students to summer camp</p> <p>Aligning our schedule to resemble Fairfax - they are also honoring various holidays and were able to get students and teachers out in early June</p> <p>Shorter summers = less time for teachers to recharge</p>
Employee	To long of a school year why start early to end late
Employee	Not happy getting out late June especially still in a pandemic
Parent	<p>You don't actually give us any choice in the calendars. In the past, we've been able to vote on two or three versions which was nice. It seems this survey is just to make you feel better about your choice.</p> <p>Calendar is too choppy and has too many days off in the fall. While you can't change the holidays, you can move the conferences to make it smoother. For instance, you can do conferences the day before election day.</p> <p>Why do you list the Jewish and Hindu holidays but not the Christian and Muslim holidays on the calendar? That is not recognizing the diverse community as you say you want to do.</p>
Parent	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Move elementary school fall conferences. They could be Oct. 31 and Nov. 1 to give families Halloween off and save elementary teachers from teaching the day after Halloween or Nov. 4 and 7 to make a smoother schedule and a long weekend. 2. Make February conferences the same days for all grade levels. 3. Start school on Tuesday, Aug. 23. A four-day week will help students ease into school. 4. Note that there is an error on the Thanksgiving days listed in the text: it should be 23-25 not 24-26.

2022 - 2024 Traditional Academic Calendar

Relationship to ACPS	Comments:
Parent	<p>There is only one full week of school in October 22. There is only one full week of school in the month of November 22. There is only one full week the month of January 23. I could go on. 11/40 Mondays are no school.</p> <p>Please stop with all of the half days. Those are just a waste of student learning, especially the last week of school. No teachers at my child's school (Brooks - 4th grade) are actually offering conferences on designated conference days. Please just combine conference days to one day and require teachers to hold conferences that day. I also don't think the calendars should be created for two years at a time.</p>
Parent	<p>So much time is wasted during the school day that could be taken back for learning not requiring extra pre Labor Day learning. Also, while diversity is a good goal, adding three mid-week holidays for the small number of families who celebrate Diwali, Yom Kippur and Eid El-Fitr we should not lose three days of instruction. What about the 12 Ethiopian holidays not included? It's a slippery slope and at most one holiday for each large demographic group is plenty. And where did Easter go?! We should not be doing two calendar years at a time. All the changes this year will have to be evaluated before we can plan for another. Please do one at a time! And reconsider starting before Labor Day!!</p>
Parent	<p>What is the schedule/time line for the Early College High School Program / Overview?</p>
Parent	<p>I would suggest:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Move elementary school fall conference to be Oct. 31 and Nov. 1 to give families Halloween off and save elementary teachers from teaching the day after Halloween. 2. School should start on Tuesday, Aug. 23, to give a 4-day week for the first week to ease into school. You could end on Friday, June 15 to make up that day if needed.
Parent & Employee	<p>Each year for the past 3, our traditional summer vacation has gotten shorter and shorter. Asking for our input on this matter means nothing if you don't really care, or intend to act on the input you get from us. Case in point, parents were surveyed two years ago on their desire to have school begin before or after Labor day. Even though 66% of parents stated that they wanted school to continue to start after Labor Day (when both choices for a post Labor Day start were counted together as they should have been), the school board ignored their wishes and rammed a pre Labor Day start down everyone's throat. Why even ask for our opinions if you are going to ignore our answers? What a shame!!!</p>
Parent & Employee	<p>No comment</p>
Parent	<p>There should be no religious holidays in the calendar. Instead students and staff should be offered flex days that they can use for religious holidays or mental health days.</p>
Parent	<p>The old schedule of starting school after Labor Day was way, way better.</p>
Parent	<p>I am disappointed by the august start dates</p>
Parent	<p>It would be great if there are Eid holidays added for Muslim students</p>
Parent	<p>Thank you</p>
Parent	<p>Way to many days off spaced throughout the calendar. This will make it difficult to have continuity in learning.</p>
Parent	<p>There are more days off for Jewish holidays not Mulsim</p>

2022 - 2024 Traditional Academic Calendar

Relationship to ACPS	Comments:
Parent	I think it doesn't make sense for the whole district to close school from the Jewish holiday and I say that as a Jewish family. There are so few kids that observe these holidays in ACPS. Instead why don't you make President day and Memorial Day weekends a 4 day weekend? Seems like more of a true break for all- and also when many kids end up missing a day or two on either end of those holidays. I appreciate the desire for inclusiveness but also need to really think about % of impact and if impact would be better served on alternate days off. Thank you.
Parent	N/A
Parent	If school is starting earlier it should get out earlier. Spring break should always fall in March, and there should be a week long fall break.
Parent	We need enough conference time so that all middle schoolers can have conferences with their teachers, and teachers don't have to schedule conferences on non-contract time.
Employee	Being an Alexandria City Staff Member and a parent to a child in Fairfax, it's important to me that major breaks are aligned.
Parent	Very happy to see diverse holidays included
Parent	Yes I agree.
Parent	The school year beginning before labor day is not in line with government allowed vacation. Individuals how work in DC on the Hill or related to our government in our community can take vacation in August only. Beginning school mid August hurts those families
Parent	Please keep the traditional calendar!
Parent	The school year starts way too early. This negatively impacts family time and work/life balance with families who have 2 working parents trying to coordinate family activities during summer. There's no proof that going back to school much earlier benefits children, especially when test scores are so low in the City of Alexandria compared to adjacent counties that have shorter school years.
Parent	Due to work imperatives some of us may be located are in different times zones during certain times, when organising zoom calls it will be a plus to indicate the different time zones so some of don't dial in late. Just a suggestion.
Parent	Satisfied
Parent	Eid al fitr is not included as an off day in the 2022-2023 traditional calendar. it is scheduled to be Friday, April 21, 2023.
Parent	The calendar proposed seems fine - my only concern is that the school district stick to the calendar and not add additional days off like Thanksgiving break this year. Our child has two working parents who are trying to get back into the office and the schools decision this year has given us an added strain of finding care for our child or having to take more time off of work.
Parent	Muslim holidays that fall in the school year are not acknowledged which is a glaring omission. Eid al fitr is a big holiday in Muslim culture marking the end of the month of Ramadan when Muslims fast for 30 days (among other observations). ACPS should acknowledge this holiday along with other holidays named, if the intent is true inclusion and belonging.
Student	A Muslim holiday, Eid al Fitr, isn't included in the 2022-2023 school year traditional calendar. It should be on April 21st, 2023, which is a Friday.

2022 - 2024 Traditional Academic Calendar

Relationship to ACPS	Comments:
Parent	Thank you for including different religious holidays.
Parent	Not that's any parent opinion matters, but I am Jewish and we don't need more days off from school. Don't make days off about religion. What a terrible idea! That's why we call it winter break not Christmas break. We also do not need more days off, we need more days learning. No one asked for schools to get involved with religious matters and no one asked school to give more days off for Thanksgiving week, last minute, forcing salaried workers to take off from work to watch their children, and costing many families money they need for living expenses. Why approve the calendar if the administration can change it anytime they want?
Parent	I don't know why the kids start two weeks before Labor Day when they don't get out much earlier. With the inevitable climate changes coming and our deteriorating schools and HVAC systems, shouldn't we be more weather conscious of the schedule? I understand the excuse of summer school gaps and care, but the time off is the same, it's just shifted to hotter weather which mean unhealthier air quality and heat risks associated with being active outside. However whatever is more equitable and needed as opposed to those who are more affluent and just complaining I support, whatever my opinion may be.
Parent	Hello, Even though I respect and appreciate you giving us a chance to give our opinion and anticipate in the decision, I also respect and trust the school responsible including teachers principles etc.
Parent	Please make the 1/2 days in June go away if there are no snow days!!!! The perk of starting school before Labor Day is getting out earlier in June! Those half days have never had academic value.
Parent	The change to school starting before Labor day is not a good change for families impacting summer vacations and schedules. Moving back to a start after labor day is preferred by many families and it seems ACPS did not listen to the community when making the change this year very disappointing
Parent	Do not support pre-Labor Day start to schoolyear.
Parent	We do not like the start Before Labor Day schedule
Parent	I would rather see the first day of school be a Tuesday. The three four day weeks were a good way to start the school year. Additionally, I do not think the kids need a 2 week winter break. I would prefer something closer to 7 days. Having kids home for two weeks can be a challenge to parents that need to work at that time. This reduction would also allow the end of the school year to be a couple of days earlier.
Student	Starting mid-August and going into mid-June seems like overkill and I don't want to be in school for that long!
Parent & Employee	Having a day off school followed by a half day does not make sense. It should be half day Thursday and full day off Friday. In June it would also make more sense to have a full day of school then a half day as opposed to three half days the last week of school. I would prefer to start a week later in August and end a week earlier. August is still summer for families and the heat in some schools in August can be unbearable. I would prefer not having the extra holidays added if we could start school a week later.

2022 - 2024 Traditional Academic Calendar

Relationship to ACPS	Comments:
Parent	Having MS and ES conferences being on two different weeks puts more burden on parents with kids in both MS and ES because multiple days need to be taken off work or childcare needs to be found to attend conferences and to have childcare. Having them on the same days would cut that challenge in half.
Parent	What is the point of this survey? It seems that ACPS is simply asking for affirmation, rather than legitimate input and feedback.
Parent	No changes to the calendar once it is announced. It is extremely disruptive to have last minute days off added.
Parent	I don't understand what the change requests from the community are, so no have no idea if this proposed schedule meets that.
Parent	No feedback taken into account
Parent	School should start after Labor Day
Parent	Perfect
Parent	A day off of school does not equate to respecting the diversity of the student body and is highly disruptive to working parents. Shorten the year or start later and acknowledge the new holidays through assemblies, generous policies for the few students who are jewish or celebrate the other religious holidays (my famioy is Jewish), and through strong communication to teach students about the occasions. Also, if we are respecting the diversity of the population why is spring break pegged to holy week each year and the resurrection of Jesus Christ? That is absurd. Make it constant each year and not tied to Jesus. That is offensive to non Christians like myslef.
Parent	I appreciate and respect the inclusiveness of the proposed calendar. I do not agree with removing Veterans Day as a school holiday. Taking this time off to reflect on the sacrifices of those who served should be a priority for ACPS. Additionally, adding two additional days before the traditional Thanksgiving should be a permanent change. School could start Wednesday, August 17th to accommodate these suggestions. Thank you for your consideration.
Parent	Please consider aligning some of the teacher/staff workdays and PD with federal holidays to impact families less. For example, the student holiday in Nov could be on Veteran's Day which might impact some families less in arranging childcare. Also, consider those federal holidays for conferences.
Parent	Easter 2024 falls very early - on March 31, 2024. For 2024, it seems to make sense to have the spring break fall the week after Easter. In fact, this is how spring break is scheduled every year in Catholic schools. The 40 days before Easter (exceeding Sundays) are a penitential time called Lent. The Thursday evening and Friday before Easter are sacred and solemn holy days. By contrast, Easter and the eight days that follow (the octave of Easter) is considered the most important celebration of the liturgical year. So from the Christian perspective, the ideal vacation would be the week after Easter, and would include the Friday before Easter so that services can be attended.
Parent	Only Federal Holidays should continue being honored, not religious holidays. There are no Federal religious holidays for a reason the importance of separation of government/state and religion.
Parent	Thank you ?
Parent	Please go back to the start of the school AFTER Labor Day. Loosing last week of summer break is detrimental to family times and vacation plans.

2022 - 2024 Traditional Academic Calendar

Relationship to ACPS	Comments:
Parent	School should start after labor day like in the past.
Parent	The calendar does not honor diversity of Alexandria residents or students. If ACPS considers the racial, ethnic and religious backgrounds of its students one would find that Muslim holidays and Ethiopian/Eritrean holidays (alternative to traditional US Christian holidays) are extremely important. Hindu holidays may also be practiced by many students. Including any religious holidays in the calendar means that ALL religions practiced in our communities should be honored (not all holidays, but all religions). If you can't/won't do this, then there should be NO
Parent	The criteria for adding religious and cultural holidays is unclear to me. 1. Move elementary school fall conferences. They could be Oct. 31 and Nov. 1. could also do Nov. 4 and 7. 2. Make February conferences the same days for all grade levels. 3. I think school should start on Tuesday, Aug. 23. I've always liked the 4 day week for the first week to ease into school. They could end on Friday, June 15 to make up that day if needed. 4. Don't do 2023-24 calendar now. We need to wait to see how these big calendar changes work before doing another calendar just like this one. (And give us some choice, rather than just one calendar that you want us to support.)
Parent	We'd like for school to start after Labor Day like before. Thank you.
Parent	Four day week to start school should be considered. Only approve for one year rather than through 2024. Dropping the Veteran's Day holiday in a community where so many of our families are currently serving in the military or have served in the past is an outrageous insult to the sacrifices of many ACPS families. A way to add the recognition of additional holidays to honor diversity and keep the Veteran's Day holiday must be found in our community, just a few miles from the Pentagon, numerous military bases, and Arlington National Cemetery. I would like to note that neither I nor my husband served in the military, yet I find the proposed loss of the holiday to be completely tone deaf.
Parent	for 2022-23 school year, the teacher work day on Nov. 8 should be moved to Nov. 11 to allow for recognition of Veterans Day.
Parent	NA
Parent	A few veterans I spoke with were disappointed that they will no longer recognize the day as a holiday. Although I have elementary aged children now it would be preferable to have the conference for all on the same days. We have a large population of Ethiopians should we consider recognizing Eid as well? I applaud the inclusivity of the calendar. And appreciate the extra time during Xmas. It would be great to consider a full Thanksgiving week since it helps with family travel during that busy time. I don't mind seeing how next year's calendar goes and then making changes to 2023 accordingly. Thank you.
Student	Make note of holidays that don't have the day off / fall on breaks (Christmas, Kwanzaa, Passover, Lunar New Year, etc.) Move middle and high school Q1 2022-23 conferences to even out break time, preferably to November 6th and 7th Move Q1 elementary school conferences to October 31st and November 1st 2022 Potentially move end of Q3 22-23, students have week of Q4 and then Spring Break Add some kind of time off in 2023 between TWD on April 10 and Memorial Day; there are 6 weeks of school in a row with no break Half- or full day off on Friday, April 21, for Eid al-Fitr

2022 - 2024 Traditional Academic Calendar

Relationship to ACPS	Comments:
Parent	<p>It's a little weird starting school in August but I haven't really researched or surveyed the importance or improvement it makes it would be nice to make some virtual options during this time too with allowing teachers and students some flexibilities for example allow a certain number of kids to be virtual or access the introduction period with teach online with no penalties for physical absenteeism....also access to the syllabus and books would help too so if students need to switch classes or needed extra time to acclimate themselves to the course</p> <p>Thanks for listening Good luck to us</p>
Parent	<p>My job does not recognize all the other holidays from around the world. I cannot take so many days off.</p>
Parent	<p>Start school on a Tuesday in August not on a Monday. Make conferences the same for all grade levels if possible. Don't do 2023-24 calendar now. Let's wait for now. And PLEASE do not allow the superintendent to make changes midway that destroy parent trust of the public school system. I was hesitant to even provide comments on the proposed calendar b/c I thought to myself, what does it matter if the superintendent can and will just willy-nilly make changes after the fact. Thanks.</p>
Parent	<p>Treatment of holidays by name. A few religious holidays are named, but none of the Christian or Jewish holidays are named. The same treatment should be used for all religions.</p>
Parent	<p>As an employee of a neighboring school district, please align Acps calendars with the neighboring districts. It is extremely difficult when the districts have different calendars.</p>
Parent	<p>I think mid June is too late to end the school year if we are starting mid August.</p>
Parent	<p>The school year ends too late in June. We're starting earlier, but reverting back to being let out later. School should end June 9th 2023 and June 7th 2023. What's the point of starting earlier if the kids have to stay in school late into June. Also please change the date of school conferences so they are around Halloween. This way the kids don't have to go to school the following day.</p>
Parent	<p>I love our school!</p>
Parent	<p>Christian holidays fall on weekends and are not observed. Having days off during week for other World religions it's not equity for all. Strongly disagree! Stop it with the extra days off and teach the children.</p>
Parent	<p>Would like to see all religious holidays celebrated. Would prefer to see Good Friday provided than the Monday after spring break.</p>
Parent	<p>It would be nice if April 8, 2024 were an off day since it is the day of a total solar eclipse that will have totality in other parts of the county.</p>
Parent	<p>Please consider moving elementary school fall conferences to Oct. 31 and Nov. 1 to give families Halloween off and save teachers from teaching the day after. Nov. 4 and 7 are also good possibilities. Consider holding February conferences the same days for all grade levels. It's helpful for families with kids in different age groups to all be on the same schedule. School should start on Aug. 23 instead of Aug. 22nd and end on Friday, June 15. Please hold off on deciding the 2023-24 calendar for now. It would be nice to have choices for families to review on the calendars to choose one. Lastly, I prefer to start the school year after Labor Day as we did in years past.</p>

2022 - 2024 Traditional Academic Calendar

Relationship to ACPS	Comments:
Parent	As the parent of a Jewish child I am delighted that ACPS will recognize Jewish holidays and not force us to decide between religious observance and class. I support recognizing the other religious holidays for the same reason. It is only equitable for ACPS to make it possible for children of all faiths to honor their traditions and spend time with their families without missing work or being marked absent. Thank you.
Parent	Strongly prefer the first day of school to be on a Tuesday or Wednesday, so the first week back to school is not a full week.
Parent	The plan does not take into consideration the fact that many high school students rely on summer jobs to pay for personal expenses and college savings. Last year you implemented, and in the next two years, you are proposing - to start school a full 2 WEEKS earlier than usual, 2 weeks BEFORE labor day weekend, and many summer jobs, including camps and life guarding, want employees to commit through ideally thru labor day. This will ruin many job opportunities for rising 9th thru 12th graders. Also, if the reason school started on August 24 this year is because of lost learning, why was it so easy to add days to Thanksgiving break? My child would rather have the opportunity to get job.
Employee	I respect and appreciate the recognition of the diversity in both calendars.
Parent	The role of the school is education but it is possible to have educational and guidance overlap for students with the participation of parents or educators because I see many of the things first of all need a permanent alert to help their children in behavior outside the school and link them to the school permanently because certainly many of them are not educated and need to be alerted and draw their attention for the benefit of their children and this improves their school levels
Parent	There should be two options with different start dates. PD and conference dates should be grouped with holidays to avoid multiple weeks with sporadic days on and off in first quarter. Calendar should be done annually, as we have too many unknowns these days, especially when we try to align at least somewhat with neighboring districts. Early dismissal conferences should all be the same week. Transportation has said this is not an issue.
Parent	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) I like having school start on a Monday instead of a Tuesday -- child care is hard then because there's no more camp. So thank you for that. 2) Thank you also for recognizing non-Christian religious holidays. 3) I appreciate having the Feb MS conferences right before the long weekend for President's Day. I imagine families with kids in ES and HS would appreciate having it then too. 4) If possible, it would be good to have the January TWD on the 16th to align with MLK Day and to move the March TWD to the 31st to abut spring break.
Student	Do not like this plan - my family takes vacation always the last week of August. This won't be possible yet again. I also can't have the job as counselor at the camp that goes thru 3rd week of August. I dont feel I'm getting as much out of the high school class as I have to take more classes and am short changed 20 minutes of each class in high school because of lack of space. Why do we get 2 days off for Labor day? Too much choppy weeks. instead start day after labor day please! Need my summer
Parent	Thanks for the help and success to the entire school mate.

2022 - 2024 Traditional Academic Calendar

Relationship to ACPS	Comments:
Parent	The additional weeks of school added prior to Labor Day should be optional. August is the main month that families can do vacations in this area (because Congress takes it off which impacts staffers, journalists, most people with jobs related to politics). Parents should not be penalized for taking their kids on vacation in August. If school is being extended beyond required days, it should be a parental choice on whether to send kids.
Parent	I do not agree or support the pre-labor day start to the academic year
Parent	Please make sure the calendar aligns as much as possible with other local school divisions--especially Arlington and Alexandria. When holidays don't align, it creates difficult childcare situations for parents with students in one division and who work in another.
Parent	This is not an honest assessment of feedback. Feedback involves providing choice and time. In years past, we have voted on various calendars. If we want to include some holidays, we should discuss why we have made the two week winter break a permanent change. This does not align with many of the schedules for working families. It does not recognize the economic diversity of our community. It continues a pattern of disproportionately placing financial burdens of child care. We should focus on a schedule that implements our federal funding to deal with learning loss. Finally, asking for comments late on Thursday and finalizing it on Sunday, shows how little feedback was actually desired.
Parent	This is the illusion of feedback. No choices offered (as in years past). Almost no time given for feedback. Essentially trying to get this done over a weekend.
Parent	Days off midweek is a real pain for parents of younger students, it is a lot easier to have a day off on a Monday or Friday.
Parent	My expectation is this calendar will further incentive long weekends and disruption to instruction. Has ACPS consulted any research on the adoption of this calendar? Why such short notice on feedback? What is the rush? Let's not approve the second year calendar until we have tried this.
Parent	School needs to start back up after Labor Day
Parent	Are you kidding me! How about more recognition for African American days such as emancipation day or Kwanzaa! And ONE MONTH for a break between schools years is ridiculous! There is no time for decompressing or for planning all important family time, ESPECIALLY with regards to COVID!
Parent	As a parent at schools that have needed the summer to complete construction projects, one of the big pushes for a before Labor Day start was an earlier end of the year. We are now trading the pre-Labor Day start for additional days during the school year. This is going to further delay summer construction projects and have an impact on instruction. Has this calendar received the input of facilities to ensure it does not impact their schedules?
Parent	No choices, no time. This is a joke.
Parent	Can't wait for the excuse that the shorter summer caused even more construction delays. That has a real impact on instruction and is the real diversity and inclusion issue for ACPS. Let's focus on getting SOLs up vs. a calendar that provides no real opportunity for feedback.

2022 - 2024 Traditional Academic Calendar

Relationship to ACPS	Comments:
Parent	<p>A weekend feedback timeline!</p> <p>I guess the board remains concerned about email campaigns.</p> <p>If you really cared what we think, you would actually engage with the community.</p>
Parent	<p>The proposed calendar decreases time over the summer for students to adequately decompress from a tedious school year. ACPS has added additional testing for “growth” purposes which is unnecessary. Furthermore, the addition of holidays are not inclusive to the African American community. ACPS hardly recognizes Black History Month and there are no programs aligned thereof. Lastly, there’s no concrete data that proves an extended school year increases academic performance. It’s a burnout for the students and the teachers collectively. School year should begin after Labor Day and end first week of school. Anything longer is torture.</p>
Parent	No comments
Parent	What about our/ Ethiopian holidays?
Parent	First day of school is better after Labor Day like used to not in August
Parent	<p>First, I would prefer that ACPS not take days off for any particular religious holidays. This is ridiculous. We are not supposed to be honoring religions with the school calendar.</p> <p>Second, if we must take those midweek holidays, please pair them with teacher days to give four day weekends rather than random midweek days.</p> <p>Third, once you make a decision please stick with it rather change it at the last minute. This thanksgiving decision this year is supremely unhelpful.</p> <p>Fourth, this survey is intentionally designed to produce a result. I don’t see the opportunity in the responses to register my displeasure with silliness.</p>
Parent	<p>The proliferation holidays and extended school year punish households with two working parents which works against equity. Wealthy families can pay for childcare. White collar jobs with flex time can take off. Only lower income families have to not work those days to care for children losing income and opportunities.</p> <p>The holiday break appears to be 11 school days, not the suggest 10 days above, but is actually 17 days without school. The only reason for such an extended break is to cater to privileged families. Holiday break should be no more than 5-7 days off providing a break of 9-11 days without school.</p>
Parent	<p>I think the school year is still too long. I’d like to see a few additional days trimmed from the end of the year perhaps ending on 6/9 or 6/13. Students have a hard time staying committed that late in the month. I think too we can agree snow days are a thing of the past. Students will be expected to continue with virtual learning on those days when buildings are closed. So how necessary are they?</p>
Parent	The pre-covid schedule was so much better.
Parent	We should have year round school.
Parent	Do not agree with the August start date.
Parent	<p>Please stop having teacher workdays/conference days on Thursdays than expecting students to come to school half day on the Friday after a student holiday. Students and teachers lose all momentum during a week like that. Also, please collaborate with neighboring districts to ensure the bigger breaks (winter, spring) align. Many employees live outside ACPS - breaks should align. Also, never close school for Thanksgiving break with just a few weeks notice.</p>

2022 - 2024 Traditional Academic Calendar

Relationship to ACPS	Comments:
Parent	I recommend instead of having the last week of school be half days, the school year should end earlier - suggest by June 9 or 12. Half days are not productive days, and teachers would likely appreciate this week to grade and pack up their room. Thanks for considering.
Parent	<p>I would prefer for elem school fall conferences to be moved to Oct. 31 and Nov. 1, or November 4 and 7, to keep the schedule smoother.</p> <p>We are a family with children in multiple ACPS schools please make February conferences the same days for all grade levels.</p> <p>It seems wise to start the year with a shorter week. I would prefer that we start on 8/23. If necessary, the end date could shift to 6/15.</p> <p>I do NOT want two years of calendars approved now.. the 2021 Thanksgiving week change proves we need to be able to observe reactions to calendars and other circumstances. Locking in 2023-24 at this point, before we have staff, parent, and student feedback on 2021-22 and 2022-23, is not sensible.</p>
Parent	I am confused as to why, when we are starting the school year so much earlier, the year ends so late. While I can see the effort to reduce summer learning loss, children also need an opportunity to grow and learn in different environments and by having different experiences.
Parent	I agree with recognizing the additional Holidays (Muslim, Jewish, etc), however, I don't agree with extending the teacher's contracted hours.
Parent	Our students are much worse academically post COVID-19 pandemic due to the loss of learning and development opportunities in the 20/21 school year. It will require a multi-year ACPS learning plan and surge to get our children to the learning standard they deserve and should otherwise be at. We don't need more holidays/days off in lieu of that plan of action.
Parent	Non
Parent	Keep the whole week of Thanksgiving as a holiday week.
Parent	Thank you for considering holidays from other religions!
Parent	Please go back to starting school AFTER Labor Day!
Parent	If students are going back two weeks *before* Labor Day, then they ought to get out well before the middle of June. We load up these extra-long school years that just wear out students, parents, faculty, and staff (i.e. everyone involved). For what purpose? I don't believe that this will at all improve the quality of education, so give everyone a longer summer break
Parent	Please consider recognizing November 11, Veteran's Day, which is a Federal holiday that many parents have off work. Even if ACPS chooses not to make it a holiday you could move the November 8 professional development day to the 11th so that families can have the day off together
Parent	<p>Shorter summer breaks don't suit families that traditionally travel abroad during the summer (to visit extensive families) and stay for the duration.</p> <p>Additionally a day or two vacation here and there during the school year, only serves keeping the kids home for that day (when parents are often at work) thus doesn't really serve any purpose.</p> <p>Those families who want to celebrate their own holidays can choose to keep their at home those days. No need to change the traditional calendar. It has been working totally fine for many years.</p>

2022 - 2024 Traditional Academic Calendar

Relationship to ACPS	Comments:
Parent	<p>The 1/2 days are VERY hard on working parents. It would be better for the students to be off for one entire day than 2 1/2 days to accommodate working parents. Splitting the levels (HS/MS/ES) into three different weeks also makes it hard for families to have a winter vacations/schedule meaningful family time. We only have so much leave.</p> <p>These calendars do not meet 508 compliance, are incredibly poorly designed, and hard to follow visually. If you want to make inclusive calendars you should consider people with visual disabilities, including color blindness. Something written out is much easier to follow. Here's an example of what I mean: https://www.nvcc.edu/calendars/academic/fall21.html</p>
Parent	<p>While this calendar is more respectful of cultural diversity, it is still heavily biased towards those with privilege & against working parents. There are only 18 full weeks out of 40 here, if you have a child in more than 1 level of school. 2 full weeks Winter Break sounds great to some & covers Hannuakah as well, but with limited camps during that time & not everyone even getting 2 weeks of leave A YEAR, this is an incredible challenge. Why can't the conferences for HS/ES/MS be stacked on the same week? Why do we have a Fri. off to provide folks an even longer weekend not even 2 weeks into school? If this is the calendar there MUST be more affordable and accessible care options.</p>
Parent	<p>Disappointed that the schools will begin before Labor Day.</p>
Parent	<p>The kids don't get homework regularly. The food is not healthy and fatty.</p>
Parent	<p>With the additional holidays for others added in new calendars, will exempt the week off for spring break?</p>
Parent	<p>Spring break needs to align with surrounding districts. Some of us live here and work there and we will have different spring breaks as our kids. ACPS should consider affixing spring break to the first full week of April.</p>
Parent	<p>First day of school needs to begin the day after Labor Day like it has been for so many years</p>
Parent	<p>Thanks for asking</p>
Parent	<p>I do not support nor will ever support school starting before Labor Day. Let the kids have July and August off, then go until the end of June.</p>
Parent	<p>Thank you for the effort you put into reconciling community, practical, and legal demands necessary to create a calendar. helpful for non-holiday teacher work days, conferences, etc to be on Mon or Fri so that fams can travel. Thurs off followed by a fri half day difficult. Children can't learn much during a half day; the thurs becomes a nuisance in work week. Half day on thurs and full day off fri better, or communicate to parents why you chose current. Hope religious elders gave input regarding WHICH Muslim, Hindu and Jewish holidays were most deserving of time off. Growing up in a NY district recognizing Jewish holidays, minor holidays were off while more major holidays were overlooked.</p>
Parent	<p>My impression is that the days off are not driven by respect for tradition but rather a desire to have a certain number of days off for the staff and teacher. Unless there is a significant request of the percentage of acps families who are unable to observe holidays in the current calendar do not make these changes. Also, we have days off for conferences but teachers schedule conferences for a variety of days - many of which do not fall on days off. So it seems that the calendar is random. Also half days are not useful. Not enough time for any learning to take place.</p>

2022 - 2024 Traditional Academic Calendar

Relationship to ACPS	Comments:
Parent	<p>Here you say that winter break should only be 10 days but on the PDF calendar drafts, they are both two weeks. I support a two-week winter break. 10 days is not enough especially for families who travel.</p> <p>I also see that we are now starting school two weeks earlier than we used to but only getting out in June one week earlier than we used to. These calendars have shaved a full week off summer (9 weeks instead of 10) and have given more single days off during the year. While I respect wanting to honor all holidays, I much prefer to have longer breaks in the summer and winter and fewer days off during the year. These days off (for whatever reason) are difficult for working parents. Thanks.</p>
Parent	We are totally agree with you that we are appreciate you
Parent	No extra holidays. No starting before Labor Day. No extra school days.
Parent	We would like for our children to start school after Labor Day in order to accommodate family summer visits and travel
Parent	<p>(Nov 2022) ES teacher conferences should be over Veteran's Day like this year -- otherwise parents have to find childcare for 2 random days the first week of November but have to get kids to school on a federal holiday!</p> <p>(Feb 2022) Why are there back-to-back half days instead of 1 full day?</p> <p>Labor Day holidays should be longer to allow for travel.</p> <p>(Oct 9-13, 2023) It makes no sense to have no school on a Monday and Thursday but attend TWF.</p> <p>(Nov 2023) The ES conference days should be adjacent to the teacher holiday.</p>
Parent	<p>What does AF TWD mean? Please do not have any half day Fridays after student Thursday holidays, or consecutive half days—inconvenient for parents for no reason and confusing for kids too. And why not extend Thurs holidays to make long weekend, eg, Diwali 2023. Also should move fall ES conference days to coincide with Veterans Day when parents may be off—why have conferences a week earlier?</p>
Parent	As a parent , I do not agree with school opening in August , I would rather it continue with the traditional way school reopen in September. Thanks
Parent	More conference days/time is needed for Middle School. All parents should get the opportunity to have a conference and that was not the case this year.
Parent	I am concerned about the number of holidays / days off in the first few months of school. Could we start earlier than August 21/22 or reduce the winter break days to make up the
Parent & Employee	By the 2023-2024 school year we start earlier and almost get out at the same time we did with the after Labor Day start. Other school districts have added these cultural holidays and kept the end of school time the same.
Parent	<p>Thank you for considering the Muslim Holidays.</p> <p>Bu the way Muslims have 2 major Holidays: Eid El Fitr & Eid Adha</p> <p>Thank you</p> <p>Parent</p>
Parent	They have a lot of days off. Random off days in the middle of the week and non-recognized federal holidays are definitely a burden on leave days for parents who do not have the ability to stay at home.

2022 - 2024 Traditional Academic Calendar

Relationship to ACPS	Comments:
Parent	In 2022-2023, March and May look like really long months. In 2023-2024, April and May have a huge stretch without a half day. During these times, students are preparing and taking standardized tests which are stressful. During these times, teachers are forced to get the kids ready for the stressful tests. Please consider putting in a testing holiday or half days to help both students and teachers.
Parent	Begining the school year prior to Labor day and the Jewish holidays is non-sensical. The students are out of school within weeks of beginning. If there is such a concern about academic loss and building momentum, why start the school year so early to have to break the continuity of things within 10 school days? (Labor Day, Rosh Shoshana)
Parent	What are we actually providing feedback on? There are no choices. We need to have options to provide real feedback. This is disappointing.
Parent	Considering you apparently change the calendar whenever you feel fit this survey seems disingenuous.