

Comments Submitted with Traditional Version 1
(Community Member) - I do not want my kids in school before Labor Day. During the summer, we learn a lot of non school skills such as religious study, visiting family out of this area, and learning about America through road trips
(Employee) - Good Afternoon, Here are my thoughts. 1. All of our ACPS schools are now fully accredited. Why would we change a calendar that is already working? 2. I feel an earlier start would also cut into family time and vacations. Our school district may even have a higher absentee rate because of this change. Some of our students are from other countries, and we need to be sensitive to their needs. They might be visiting relatives in other countries during the Summer Break. 3. Traditionally, Labor Day has been seen as the last hurrah of Summer Break. Students work so hard during the year; why would we want to increase the burden on them and their families by starting school earlier? Start school after Labor Day. It's a good choice for ACPS.
(Employee) - I absolutely do not want to start prior to Labor Day. I have long standing activities and commitments during the summer months.
(Employee) - I believe that students need the full summer off. The traditional schedule gives older students the chance to work and earn money for college. It also allows them time for internships and to pursue volunteer work. I strongly believe that students also need this time off to relax and spend time with their families and to play and just be kids.
(Employee) - I can handle any version except the 3 days set aside for parent teacher conferences; 2 for actual meetings and 1 for early release is cruel. I think it would be better to have one whole day set aside for conferences (9am-7pm) would be better or if it is to remain the same as this year, it is only fair to allow the same amount of early release days for teachers as are asked of us to stay late. We want to see parents which is why I made the suggestion above but the fatigue at the end of two long days is "real".
(Employee) - Please don't start before Labor Day!
(Employee) - The most concerning thing about all of these calendars is that this committee has chosen to stick with middle school conference schedule from this school year which has to be just one of the most ill conceived plans I've ever seen. Scheduling them on the same week as Columbus Day was dumb in the first place since it leaves us with one full instructional day, making instructional planning and behavior management and school climate management EXTREMELY difficult for that entire week. Additionally, you've failed to add an additional compensatory day for two 12 hour days for staff, which frankly would never happen in a district with a proper teachers union so this feels like you're just really taking advantage of staff. It cannot be emphasized enough how poorly this goes down at the school level and it makes clear how little this committee values ACPS staff time when making this calendar. That being said version one seems the least offensive. Staggering our first day from surrounding districts means staff can attend their child's first day of school without sacrificing educational quality for our students. A four day weekend for Labor Day is wildly unnecessary. In conclusion, please for the love of god do not schedule two back to back nights of conferences, and not on the same week as Columbus Day. It can't be overstated what a terrible decision that was/is.
(Employee) - Version 2 and Version 3 reduce teacher contract days by one day. Will a one day reduction in the teacher contract affect the 2020-2021 teacher salary scales? In other words, would a modified teacher salary scale calculation be used based on 195 days, consequently reducing teacher salary by one day instead of using the current teacher salary scales calculations based on 196 days?
(Parent) - 1st choice is Version 1 2nd choice is Version 3 NO SCHOOL BEFORE LABOR DAY PLEASE
(Parent) - Adding 2 teacher professional days is a burden on working families to find childcare. Please go with version one.

(Parent) - Additional professional development days are difficult for working families! PLEASE do not start before Labor Day- families have planned vacations for years in advance based on this assumption.
(Parent) - Although Labor Day comes very late next year, I think it's best to maintain the practice of starting after Labor Day. Also, it's easiest on parents and best for students to maximize student days. Thank you.
(Parent) - As a household with 2 working parents, option 3 causes a bit of stress in having to worry about coverage for additional days
(Parent) - As a parent you plan vacations around your children school year. With most parents having off for Labor day it would make more sense to start school after Labor Day. Think about the interruption it cause when school starts a week before then turn around and close for a long weekend. I think keeping the school year start after Labor day would benefit both parents, students, and teachers/.
(Parent) - Ask one of the math teachers at TC to help you set up the next ballot for Ranked Pair scoring instead of this "pick one" setup that seems likely to split the After Labor Day vote and make the Start Early vote more likely to appear most popular.
(Parent) - August is slower work month in DC and when most people take vacations. Starting earlier won't solve the problem of insufficient camps available and will likely cut into vacation plans.
(Parent) - Calculating by hours rather than days has proven ineffective as they become "busy work time." A pre-Labor Day start conflicts with family time and rare opportunities for our daughter and others to bond with distant relatives.
(Parent) - Coming back prior to Labor Day would make it impossible for my child to participate in some summer activities that are crucial to his growth independence. Please keep the calendar so that it school doesn't start until after Labor Day.
(Parent) - Families at ACPS have scheduled around the current academic calendar (starting after Labor Day) for years. Many families have standing vacation and other commitments that week. Changing the start date would negatively impact many many ACPS families, teachers and staff.
(Parent) - Hi! I understand that Labor Day is late in 2020, but I still vote for starting school after Labor Day. In addition, version 1 if preferred with its shorter winter break. 10 days out of school is too much! Both parents in many families work and we don't have enough vacation time to cover all these days and can not afford extra childcare expenses. August is also typically hotter than June.
(Parent) - I am in favor of starting after Labor Day. It allows a more complete summer for the kids. Starting the week before is silly because you have a 4 day weekend built in right after the start and summer isn't really over until Labor Day so it impacts families travel schedule. The kids do not need a full 2 weeks for winter break. Frankly, it just ends up being a burden for working parents.
(Parent) - I do not want school to start before Labor Day.
(Parent) - I do not want to see school start before Labor Day.
(Parent) - I like version 1 and 3 but if I had to pick the first choice is version 1.
(Parent) - I love that ACPS starts after Labor Day and hope that continues.
(Parent) - I prefer school start after Labor Day. The 3rd version of the calendar would be my 2nd choice.
(Parent) - I prefer starting after Labor Day. I don't think having two four -day weeks to start the school year makes sense. Though I think that June is generally a wasted month for elementary school kids- after SOL testing, I don't think getting out a week earlier in June is going to make it better. Camps won't magically appear for working parents.
(Parent) - I prefer starting after Labor Day. There are financial advantages to taking a family vacation in late August over June and July when prices are double the cost. I also have to pay for a camp or take a day off from work each day the school is closed and would thus prefer Version 1.

ACPS – 2020-2021 Academic Calendar Comments Submitted via Online Feedback Form

(Parent) - I prefer starting after Labor Day. There are financial advantages to taking a family vacation in late August over June and July when prices are double the cost. I also have to pay for a camp or take a day off from work each day the school is closed and would thus prefer Version 1.
(Parent) - I prefer the after-Labor Day start and also like that Version 1 has the most instructional days.
(Parent) - I prefer Version 1 with Version 2 as a close second.
(Parent) - I prefer Version 1, my second choice would be Version 3 but I am opposed to starting the year prior to Labor Day. Thank you
(Parent) - I think the Version 1 calendar works and any other plans have minimal benefit. Many people in DC can only take vacation in August due to work revolving around the Congressional schedule, so keep August free. And this has worked fine for years. It won't change test scores - better support for SPED and continued improvements in equity will make the difference - not one earlier week of school. Version 2 would be the second choice, as long as the start date doesn't keep "creeping" earlier. Version 3 would be a nightmare. When ACPS extended hours to make up for snow days, it did not give meaningful extra academic time and hurt students by decreasing activity and homework time. Nothing is gained by that planned, plus it causes harm. Please do NOT do it.
(Parent) - I want to continue starting after Labor Day.
(Parent) - I would be happy with any except number 3. I do not support 3.
(Parent) - If the schools want to start before Labor Day, it should not happen without more notice. My job is now closed the week after Labor Day to align with schools going back. It would also be good to coordinate with Arlington given sports and recreational schedules before making such a big change. We haven't gone on a big trip in years but are contemplating one this coming August; if we don't know when school starts, that is a problem.
(Parent) - Is there a reason school has to start at the beginning of the week? Some districts that start before Labor Day start the Wednesday before (so the first week is 3 student days, second week is four student days).
(Parent) - It's hard on everyone to have the schools closed on more days!
(Parent) - Leave it alone. Stop changing things that work. Redistricting was a fail. Charles Barrett is over crowded. Don't mess this up too.
(Parent) - Leave the way it's always been after Labor Day
(Parent) - Let us have our summer! Starting before Labor Day is ridiculous
(Parent) - Like several people in this area, my job follows the congressional schedule. The month of August is the one time of the year I can spend quality time with my children without having to keep checking into work. We always take the month of August for vacation and it would be unfortunate to cut our vacation short or miss the first week of school.
(Parent) - My family and I prefer to start the school year after Labor Day, and we also think the winter break should be as short as possible, so we prefer the eight-day winter break. We also like the idea of aligning spring break with the spring break of other area northern Virginia schools, but not because our children play sports. It's because it's helpful in our workplaces when parents with kids in northern Virginia public schools are taking breaks at the same time.
(Parent) - My opinion is that school should start AFTER Labor Day!
(Parent) - No one wants 10 days of winter break
(Parent) - Or Version 3. Start after Labor Day.
(Parent) - Please continue to start after Labor Day.
(Parent) - Please do not begin the school year before Labor Day!!

ACPS – 2020-2021 Academic Calendar Comments Submitted via Online Feedback Form

(Parent) - Please do not start before Labor Day.
(Parent) - PLEASE do not start school before Labor Day. Pretty Please!
(Parent) - Please don't make winter break any longer!!!
(Parent) - Please don't start before Labor Day!
(Parent) - Please don't start before Labor Day. Let the kids enjoy their summer.
(Parent) - Please keep our post Labor Day start date.
(Parent) - PLEASE keep school start date AFTER LABOR DAY, under either either Version 1 (first choice) or Version 3 (second choice). But please keep school start date AFTER Labor Day as it has always been... So many families coordinate summer plans to be together through Labor Day/are away through/after Labor Day and would miss school. THANK YOU!
(Parent) - PLEASE KEEP THE SCHOOL YEAR THE SAME START DATE AFTER LABOR DAY AS ALWAYS!
(Parent) - Pls don't start before Labor Day.
(Parent) - Prefer starting as late as possible.
(Parent) - School should never start before Labor Day. Family time, free time, enrichment programs are all very important.
(Parent) - Schools should go back to the schedule where summer break is Memorial day to Labor day for all schools.
(Parent) - Stick with version one. Don't need extra winter break days. Count school days, not hours.
(Parent) - Strong preference NOT to start before Labor Day.
(Parent) - Strongly prefer starting after Labor Day.
(Parent) - Strongly prefer starting the school year after Labor Day, since Aug and early Sept are prime family vacation weeks. Further prefer maximizing the number of student days and thus time our children are in school learning - and not checking out once SOLs are complete.
(Parent) - Thank you.
(Parent) - The days right before labor day are lower cost and lower crowds around the state and US for vacations. The week right before Labor Day are for instance the cheapest and least attended at Disney. As a family we are able to save money and have a better vacation because we start later than most in the country. It is a big benefit year after year.
(Parent) - The longer winter break is hard for those of us in families in which both parents work. So the more time in school the better!!! My opinion rests solely on childcare issues.
(Parent) - This calendar best supports a family with both the mother and father working full time jobs. It's easiest to have a longer summer than multiple breaks throughout the year and school starting while Congress is still in recess (for all those parents who's jobs revolve around the Congressional calendar). I hope the city will support an option that supports working mothers given the cost of living demands it.
(Parent) - Two full weeks off for a winter break around the New Year is very hard on families who have to find child care during that time. The way the holidays fall, there is still a nice break in Version 1
(Parent) - Version 1 works best for working parents, i.e. fewer random days out of school. I also appreciate the shorter winter holiday break with fewer days off ahead of Christmas.
(Parent) - Version 1, definitely. I know my kid needs that extra day of school! You guys are doing a great job, please keep up the good work!
(Parent) - Versión 2 starting before Labor Day is not easy for planning summer Vacations and it's just too hot outside. This would be a disruptive move.

(Parent) - Veteran's day should be a holiday. Take away Columbus day if you have to, but students should learn that Veterans should be honored and their holiday should be recognized. Going to school on that day sends a message that the school district does not honor our veterans - many of which are parents in this school system.
(Parent) - Want my children in school as much as possible, similar to what we have now.
(Parent & Employee) - Stick to the regular schedule, please!
(Student) - Why change what's already working well??

Comments Submitted with Traditional Version 2
(Community Member) - I provide childcare for an ACPS student
(Community Member) - There is too much wasted time at the end of the school year after mandated testing. Better to have extra time before testing rather than after.
(Employee) - Thank you for allowing us to have input on this.
(Employee) - I like starting before Labor Day. There are some mental health benefits to teachers having some time to reset after the intensity of starting a new school year. I am a little concerned about how far into the summer we are suggesting/asking our students and teachers to go. If we are trying to match our holidays and spring break dates with neighboring counties, shouldn't we try matching our school year as well? Last year was my first year in ACPS, Once June 10, 11, or 12 hit and we were the last district in school (for the area), student and teacher productivity really slowed down...As veteran teachers to the district explained, "We are just babysitting at this point." I am wondering if it would be of greater benefit for students and teachers if our schedules going forward were more in line with our neighboring districts. Thank you for the opportunity to share my observations and thoughts.
(Employee) - Aligning calendar to meet the needs of us who live in another district and have children in other districts would be beneficial.
(Employee) - As a ACPS employee does it really matter what we think, because it seems like every year the calendar ends up being one that never benefits the teachers, so with that said I choose number 2 because I don't want an hourly calendar just so you can take whatever extra days we have and load us up with even more and more meetings. In all honestly just pull up Fairfax County Public Schools, and implement their school calendar because it sure seems like that's the direction we are going anyway.
(Employee) - Beginning before Labor day is very important!
(Employee) - Being able to give students two weeks in a row of four day weeks to transition into the school year would help with routine building and many school divisions in the area are moving to starting before Labor Day so this better accommodates staff who have children in other school divisions as well.
(Employee) - Consider changing parent conferences back to 2 days instead of 3 for MS and ES. Consider making April 5th a teacher work day and April 18th a PD day.
(Employee) - Continuing to teach after SOL's have been finished is unproductive and a waste of time. It makes more sense to start earlier. That time teaching is beneficial to all students.
(Employee) - Either version 2 or version 3 make the most sense. We should be starting after labor day to be on a similar schedule to surrounding districts. Winter break should be 10 days, as this leads to less student and staff absences that a partial week brings. Students days should be calculated in hours to be most accurate.
(Employee) - Get rid of the last teacher work day on that Monday- make that Friday a "full day" for teachers.

ACPS – 2020-2021 Academic Calendar Comments Submitted via Online Feedback Form

(Employee) - Having half day teacher work days, instead of professional days on holidays like Columbus Day when not all parents are off, would be more beneficial for employees and parents/students.
(Employee) - I am interested in the idea of hours. My understanding from other divisions is that the need for snow make-ups is vastly covered with the hours vs. additional days. Therefore, of these options, I prefer version 2.
(Employee) - I appreciate the longer winter break, and getting our earlier in June
(Employee) - I came from a district that started before Labor Day, and it works well...it gives us (teachers and kids) a small break from the intensity of the beginning of the year (Labor Day weekend) and lets us get out of school a bit earlier. June feels like it drags a bit for all of us...I say start earlier when we are fresh from a break and kids are eager to learn.
(Employee) - I have been teaching AP courses for the last 11 years, and because of our late start date we have had 2-3 fewer weeks to prepare the students for the AP exam. The earlier start date will help to "level the playing field" for this global standardized test.
(Employee) - I have been teaching for 12 years and I can tell you, every year the teachers are absolutely exhausted in first quarter. There is not a single day off to grade/plan and since Columbus Day is a PD day there is no time to get caught up. I like the idea of starting before labor day, but I think we also need to find a true TWD (i.e. NO meetings) during 1st quarter.
(Employee) - I have several concerns about choice made in the calendar that were consistent across all three versions. 1) Having a professional development day following spring break is very challenging. If these days are to provide meaningful learning and growth for teachers, having it back up to a holiday does not convey that message. 2) Having two full days of parent conferences and an early release day the same week as a professional learning day in October creates a very disruptive week for middle schoolers and a very taxing week for middle school teachers. 3) Putting the teacher work days at the beginning of the school year has been unproductive for teachers. Classrooms are often not ready at that time and teachers are not able to work in their rooms. Furthermore, teachers can not prepare materials prior to staff meetings where they learn about new school priorities and policies. Please move these days to the Thursday and Friday before school starts when teachers most need to be in their classrooms, the classrooms are ready and teachers are clear about expectations for the school year. Thank you for soliciting feedback from staff.
(Employee) - I hope that in 2020-2021 we begin a week earlier, followed by 2021-2022 with two weeks earlier. I also do NOT want to extend the school day.
(Employee) - I like that there are adequate breaks for students as well as teachers throughout the school year on Version 2, as well as it follows suit with other nearby counties. Many employees have children in other neighboring counties.
(Employee) - I like the 10 day winter break and getting out earlier in June.
(Employee) - i like the 10 day winter break to rest mid year.
(Employee) - I like the aspect of winter break being 10 days. It helps with travel.
(Employee) - I like version 2 for this year since Labor Day is so late
(Employee) - I prefer no version of these draft calendars but I had to vote for one in order to make comments. Here's an idea: How about if we start before Labor Day, base time on hours instead of days, reduce professional days from 15 to 13, have an 8 day instead of a 10 day winter break, and finish the year before the last week in June? Our school year seems to go longer into June than any surrounding jurisdiction. Why? We can do something about this.

<p>(Employee) - I prefer none of these options. What makes no sense is that you had asked us earlier if we would prefer basing our schedule on teaching hours or on starting after labor day, but our options still have us going to school until the week before July. Why would we use 990 teaching hours but still be going to school until June 24? Why not use a hybrid schedule and combine the best of the 3 calendars that you have offered? For instance, Version 3 has moved to 180 student days, but we begin after Labor Day; why not start before Labor Day? In one of your criteria for the schedule, you said that we stay with other districts regarding spring break for obvious reasons, but how come our yearly schedule continues to differ in almost every other way? We are only allowed 3 snow days before making them up, we are scheduled to go to school for 183 days where other districts are at 180, I'm assuming is because of our snow days where as, for example, FCPS has double digit days before they begin making up days. We will eventually go in the direction of the other districts, per usual, this is the perfect year to do so. Start the school year before Labor Day and make changes in other spots as well. No one enjoys going to school until the end of June (maybe some parents for child care purposes). It is mind boggling to have a child in FCPS and see how different our schedules are, let alone all the PD oriented days you have for staff. A schedule that I'm sure won't be considered: Start Aug 31, 2020 180 student Days Have early release days and in the afternoons, have staff go to a PD (counts as a school day and we can get out earlier) END - Early to Mid June, no later than June 18, 2021 And now I have to vote for an option that I don't want so my voice can be 'heard'.</p>
<p>(Employee) - I prefer this version for the dates of next year. This is not a vote for permanently moving the start date prior to Labor Day (however, I understand it sets a precedent).</p>
<p>(Employee) - I prefer Version 2 as it is beneficial to employees, students and parents. The majority of students in schools across the US start school prior to Labor Day.</p>
<p>(Employee) - I suggest having the teacher's last day on June 18 as well. Anyway, in the past, we barely canceled classes on snow days even though the entire Northern Virginia schools were closed.</p>
<p>(Employee) - I teach an AP class - an extra week in the schedule before the AP Exam in May would make SUCH a difference.</p>
<p>(Employee) - I think it is good to give it a try at least one school year and see how it goes!</p>
<p>(Employee) - I think that September 8 is really late to start and June 23/24 is really late to finish. By that point in June the kids are mentally done, and many want to leave for summer programs. Also, can we please not have 3 parent-teacher conference days for middle school? Having two back-to-back days this fall was brutal and left me exhausted and sick.</p>
<p>(Employee) - I vote to start the school prior to Labor Day. This version of calendar gives the students the opportunity to prepare the advanced placement tests early. This calendar is also in line with other neighbor school districts, which helps the scheduling in student activities (eg, sports, music, club...etc)</p>
<p>(Employee) - I would have preferred moving to hours, not days if the hours could start before Labor Day.</p>
<p>(Employee) - I would like the calendar to be aligned with Arlington County. I would prefer a 4th option where we start before Labor Day as well as calculate on hour instead of days. ACPS is consistently the latest school system to get out in June. FCPS is often out 2 weeks before us. It makes it difficult for child care when working for ACPS and living in another district. Plus the teacher contract was increased in days under Mort Sherman without an increase in pay. I think it would be changed back by using the 180 student days and not increase the staff professional days.</p>
<p>(Employee) - I would like to calculate by hours instead of days and start before Labor Day. Why isn't this an option.</p>
<p>(Employee) - I would like to have the full 10 days for winter break. I also like that we are able to get out of school mid-June. This will also allow more time to teach the curriculum before the SOL window opens without feeling so rushed throughout the year.</p>

ACPS – 2020-2021 Academic Calendar Comments Submitted via Online Feedback Form

(Employee) - I would like to see the entire district move towards the Samuel Tucker Modified Schedule in the near future.
(Employee) - Ideally, I would love to move to an hour-based calculation AND starting a week before Labor Day (at least in years like next year when Labor Day falls very late in the calendar).
(Employee) - If the 196 days need to be preserved for contracts then teachers could report back on August 19. New teachers say 3 full days is a lot (read: too much) of orientation. Two or 2.5 days could work for them.
(Employee) - If we combined an early start with hours could we get out earlier?
(Employee) - Instead of Professional Learning Days, why don't we increase the number of TWD, to ensure teachers have adequate planning time? Also, why don't we combine the hours and the start prior to Labor Day? Additionally, for Version 3, how do we get out of school 1 day later than Version 1 if we are counting hours? Are we planning on extending our too short school day to fit in the additional time for recess and curriculum needs.
(Employee) - Is there a way that the last day of work for teachers is not a Monday, but is instead a Friday?
(Employee) - It is ridiculous that we have 4 pd days at the beginning. We do not need that many. We need 3 days in the classroom, 1 day for meetings, and maybe 1 pd. PD is a waste of time!!!!
(Employee) - It is so much easier as a working parent when our school division aligns with what others are doing such as fcps and pwcs.
(Employee) - It is very difficult to make this decision without knowing how the school counselors are impacted by the other versions.
(Employee) - It just makes sense.
(Employee) - It would be nice if we could do version 2 and have it calculated based on hours instead of days.
(Employee) - Labor day is so late in September next year. Option 2 allows for more instructional time before the high-stakes testing period in the Spring.
(Employee) - May need to also consider the Presidential Inauguration Day on Jan 20, 2021 as a non-school day.
(Employee) - Middle schools now have an additional day of Parent teacher conferences in the fall, however are only "given" one early release day as "compensation" for two late days in a row. This is two days away from our families and an additional day of dinner outside of our homes. Something should be provided in terms of compensation for that additional day of conferences, whether that be dinner, budgeted to schools by central office/the school board, or additional time "off" allotted to us on a professional (not work) day. Either of those options would seem fair and appropriate for the additional time being devoted to our students and their families.
(Employee) - My only real concern about Version 2 is it seems we will have lost a snow day, and I cannot figure out why that is the case. Three snow days is not enough to begin with, so two is less desirable. I like having a similar calendar to other districts like FCPS, where my children attend, and I feel a lot of ACPS staff members would agree. I also prefer the 2 weeks for winter break. Version 3's calculation based on hours vs days---other districts (like FCPS) use this method to add snow days. They have something like 13 free snow days (and they use them!). I don't like the idea of working more minutes in a day for students to lose 2 days of school....2 days I still have to work anyway. I would happily work extra minutes in a day if it were to give us more snow days. Yes snow days have always been a concern for me since leaving FCPS for ACPS :) Thank you for allowing us to have input on this calendar.
(Employee) - My second choice would be version 1.
(Employee) - Need to be out of school before end of June!

<p>(Employee) - No matter which calendar is adopted, I would like to see the November conference days for elementary reduced from 3 days to 2 days. Or, alternatively, have at least one of those conference days as a no school day, so that teachers could hold conferences all day.</p>
<p>(Employee) - Not sure if this is the space to share this. If not, would someone please forward it to those in charge? Since SY 2013-2014, we don't have convocations on that week before school starts. I'd suggest we return with convocations on Monday morning (8-10am) as adult pep rally. No Division Wide Professional Development. Instead, schools would be in charge of tailoring professional development to their specific needs.</p>
<p>(Employee) - Only 2 days of conferences for Middle schools instead of 3. It is unfair to employees to be asked to stay until 7:30pm two nights in a row when they have families to go home and tend to. Many employees drive from far away, commuting 45-75 minutes daily (one way) and they now do not get home until after 8:30pm on those nights.</p>
<p>(Employee) - Our HVAC systems as a whole are too unreliable to attend school so late in June.</p>
<p>(Employee) - Please calculate by hours rather than days. Thank you!</p>
<p>(Employee) - Please do not choose the calendar with 3 parent conference days. It was very, very, difficult to plan for child care as a single parent with no family in the area.</p>
<p>(Employee) - Shouldn't we be planning to have Inauguration Day off?</p>
<p>(Employee) - Starting slightly earlier gives more time before the set dates for AP testing and SOL testing. This gives teachers more opportunity to review and less of a rushed crunch to finish content. This is particularly true for AP classes, which have a set date for every school in the nation for each test. Many schools begin classes the first week of August in other parts of the country, giving an enormous advantage when it comes to covering and reviewing all the content in the most rigorous of courses as they have an extra month of course time. In addition, the end of the year is always when it is the most difficult for students to focus, particularly if they have friends or siblings who are already on Summer break. Adding time to the beginning of the year instead avoids this issue.</p>
<p>(Employee) - Strongly prefer this model - as long as it stays this way for years to come. Switching back and forth would ruin everyone's summer calendar.</p>
<p>(Employee) - Teachers still do not have enough "Teacher Work Days," time to implement what they are taught during PD days or to simply plan lessons, on the calendar. This is sad. Please think about adding this into the future calendar. Take the time to consider your employees who work tirelessly to help all these students. We are really just babysitting children when the when report cards are done a week before school is even close to over. Either start earlier or end later! Thank you.</p>
<p>(Employee) - The attraction for me on version 2 is 10 days Winter Break and secondary is start one week earlier.....</p>
<p>(Employee) - The plan that I like the least is Version 3. A professional day in December and in May (so close to the SOL testing season would be disruptive to students. For me, Version 2 was the best option, although it doesn't seem to matter if we start before Labor Day or not, we're still going to school until late into June. I would prefer to start even earlier in August and have more time off in June.</p>
<p>(Employee) - The Spring PD day should be a day that all ACPS employees can participate in Division Wide PD...a day that Traditional and Modified Calendar can both go.</p>
<p>(Employee) - The two weeks at winter break is very beneficial for teachers who travel to see family as well as families who travel during this time. The short weeks before or after the holiday break are basically wasted instructional time anyway.</p>

ACPS – 2020-2021 Academic Calendar Comments Submitted via Online Feedback Form

(Employee) - There are too many professional development days throughout the year. In addition to PD on every National Holiday, some schools require PD every Monday after school. After SOL testing, school should be over.
(Employee) - There needs to be a professional development day or teacher work day in the middle of March. That stretch is really grueling for the students and has been a point of conversation every year I've been in the school district.
(Employee) - There should not be two nights for PTC for middle school with only leaving early two hours on one Friday. In years past it has been one night and leaving only two hours early on that Friday, and now there is an additional very late night staff must stay. An alternative would be to hold all-day conferences on a holiday (Indigenous People Day) since many parents have that day off, and staff already must be present for PD.
(Employee) - Things that bring up teacher morale: having either Columbus Day or Veteran's Day off, always keeping that Wed. before Thanksgiving, 2 solid week break for Christmas.
(Employee) - This calendar is the most balanced and most closely resembles neighboring school districts.
(Employee) - This schedule aligns with other districts in the area. Most importantly, it allows hard working dedicated ACPS teachers to enjoy Labor Day weekend without having to use personal leave.
(Employee) - This schedule allows for more equitable distribution of the days of the quarters, where as Version 1 has Q1 at 39, and Q2 at 50.
(Employee) - To align with the surrounding counties. No school doing elections for security. Spring break will align with surrounding counties.
(Employee) - Ultimately, WE NEED A LONGER SCHOOL DAY. The mandated I/E block is taking a ridiculous amount of time away from core subjects. There has been NO DATA to support that it is helping those we seek to help. If state hadn't changed SOL formula, many would still not be accredited.
(Employee) - Version 1 and 3 calendar June 24 is too late to be in school.
(Employee) - Version 1's winter break is too short, and Version 1 and 3 start too late and get out too late.
(Employee) - Version 2 is my first choice. Version 1 is my second choice.
(Employee) - Version 2 with the suggestion to change the mandatory TWD on June 21st to as needed and add a division wide professional development day in January or February.
(Employee) - Version 4 School begins two weeks before labor day and end two weeks earlier to accommodate for a longer Summer.
(Employee) - We do not need more professional time.
(Employee) - We need a version 4 where we calculate based on hours instead of days, but still start before labor day. I don't know why we have to choose between those two good ideas and only select one of them. As a teacher, it only makes sense to have two weeks off for winter break, because so many parents choose to take their kids out those days anyway that it doesn't make sense to have school when so many kids are absent.
(Employee) - We should have parity with FCPS
(Employee) - While creating for one year of a shorter summer I feel that version two offers the best schedule for student learning, while supporting families and staff. It also aligns closely with FCPS and other jurisdictions which is important for many of our staff who live in surrounding counties with children. Could we count hours as in option three in option two and open up some additional days for across school collaboration for staff? So excited for the potential!!
(Employee) - Why is Veteran's Day still not a holiday? Especially considering where we live?
(Employee) - Winter break should always be long to allowed families from other countries to travel

(Employee) - With Labor Day so late this year I feel we would still get a decent amount of time for summer break, end the school year earlier than the other versions and be back on track.
(Parent) - Anything we can do to get out earlier in June would be wonderful! Especially with Labor day being so late next year.
(Parent) - At this point, ACPS is on the tail end of making the shift to starting school before Labor Day. It will make coordinating with students in college and planning family trips with relatives in different states.
(Parent) - Because Labor Day is so late in 2020, I personally like the look of Version 2 the best. In future years, when Labor Day is earlier, I may think differently. I do feel getting out June 24 is too late - especially given camp schedules. My second choice is Version 1.
(Parent) - Because Labor Day is so late this year, I prefer the option to start earlier (on Aug 31). However, I dislike that the first week is only four days and that Friday, Sept 4 is being treated as a holiday. Most employers don't give that day off, so ACPS will need to be sure that alternative programming is available to support working families.
(Parent) - Better aligns with neighboring school districts.
(Parent) - Camps are already very challenging to find in late August. A September 8th start would make this even worse.
(Parent) - Consideration to year round calendar
(Parent) - Delaying school into September makes child care option extremely difficult in households where parents are working. Camps and college-aged child care givers are limited starting in late August.
(Parent) - Ending the school year earlier allows ACPS students to take advantage of more summer opportunities. Many camps and summer enrichment activities begin before the end of June and we have had to forgo those opportunities because of the poor timing. Also, there are few camps at the end of August and an earlier start date would help many families have a more balanced summer without worrying about care and activities at the end of August.
(Parent) - For those of us who have two parent working families and rely on camps for the summer, it is difficult to have school start after labor day. There are almost no camp options for the last two weeks of the summer. However, there are loads of camp options earlier in June, so it would be wonderful if we could shift the school schedule up a week to start before labor day and end a week earlier in June. I didn't choose the 3rd option as having to cover two more days of our kids out of school would be difficult as well. Thanks for the opportunity to comment!
(Parent) - For those of us with two income households and children too old for full day summer care, but too young to be left independent all day, this earlier schedule better aligns with a broad array of summer camp offerings. Really, I'd love to see all of ACPS go to a year round calendar. We appreciate it when we had the experience, and really liked being able to schedule family trips outside the typical summer peak vacation weeks.
(Parent) - For us it seems ideal to match the neighboring counties like fairfax county so that Our Summer break lines up with Summer Camps in the area. This year it was hard to find a program for the week leading up to school starting since it seemed like many great programs followed FCPS calendar.
(Parent) - For Version 2, I think you mean "Begins *week* prior to Labor Day" Also, I am disappointed to see that there is still no option that ends the school year before the middle of June. ACPS students are substantially disadvantaged when it comes to early summer work, camp, and academic opportunities like military academy summer seminars, American Legion Boys and Girls State, etc.

<p>(Parent) - Generally, I feel that my own kids would be ready to go back to school by August 31 and they would definitely prefer to be out as early as June 18. I do have a couple of questions that I haven't seen addressed. 1 - how might a schedule change impact graduation? (Or would it?) 2 - how might a schedule change impact activities and sports that begin practice in early August?</p>
<p>(Parent) - Generally, I prefer beginning school after Labor Day. However, this year I'd support beginning on August 31 since Labor Day is so late in the year. In a future year I would not support starting before Labor Day if Labor Day is on or about the first few days of September.</p>
<p>(Parent) - Getting out of school so far into the summer is hard on everyone! The kids are done and the parents are ready for vacation! Also, by the end of summer, parents are ready for school to start!</p>
<p>(Parent) - Given how late Labor Day is in the school year I support starting before Labor Day for this calendar year.</p>
<p>(Parent) - High school students all take AP exams the same date, and most schools around the country start earlier than ACPS. An earlier start date makes sense for this reason. Also, we have children with significant disabilities. There are many summer programs for them in June but none in late August/early September, so early completion is better for us.</p>
<p>(Parent) - I also support version 3. We value our kids getting 2 full weeks around the holidays.</p>
<p>(Parent) - I assume Version 2 means the week prior to Labor Day. If so, I vote for it. Thank you.</p>
<p>(Parent) - I don't have very strong views, but I understand that those schools that start later are at somewhat of a disadvantage with State testing, as it occurs at the same time for all schools. Maximizing instructional time in advance of the testing would seem to worth strongly considering, particularly considering the challenges ACPS has faced in this area.</p>
<p>(Parent) - I fully support Version 2, for a multitude of reasons, including summer camps start in June and we're not able to fully participate; the financial costs and the quality of "gap" camps in last August, etc.</p>
<p>(Parent) - I generally do not like starting before Labor Day but since it's so late in 2020 and there would still be 4 weeks of vacation in August, I support a 8/31 start date this year. Plus 2 weeks in December.</p>
<p>(Parent) - I generally like starting after Labor Day but due to the lateness of the holiday in 2020 I am voting for version 2. 6/23 or 6/24 are really late to be ending the year. Hs is for taking community feedback on these decisions!!</p>
<p>(Parent) - I guess I'm choosing option 2 - but only to give you my comments. Would be easier to compare the options if you'd provide the same level of information for all of the options. Specifically - you should tell us the number of student hours for all of the options - not just that Version 3 meets the minimum. That would help me make a decision on how much schooling my child would get in each option.</p>
<p>(Parent) - I hate having the kids in school until nearly July. It's ridiculous. Start 3rd week of August and let them out in Early June.</p>
<p>(Parent) - I have been wanting this for years! Students and parents are always anxious to start summer and also anxious to get back into the routine of things in August! Please, please make this change!</p>
<p>(Parent) - I like a mix of version 2 and 3, like why can't we start earlier, but count the days by hours instead of days?</p>
<p>(Parent) - I like starting after Labor Day, but getting out at the end of June is very late and takes a week away from summer camp activities. For Option 3, I note the use of "hours instead of days" student days calculation to add more teacher work days and a longer Christmas break to version 3 but still the release on June 24. Why not use the same calculation to get out earlier, keep breaks a little shorter and still start after Labor Day?</p>

<p>(Parent) - I like the idea of starting earlier and ending earlier (June 18). No matter what, though, I support 10 days of winter break, NOT 8. Kids need this time often given the long break between winter holidays and spring break.</p>
<p>(Parent) - I like the start of the year before Labor Day to align with other school districts and to end school as early as possible. The kids are done mentally after Memorial Day so let's minimize the pain for everyone.</p>
<p>(Parent) - I prefer the earlier start with the longer break. It will better align with the availability of camps in the summer and provide a nicer break in the winter.</p>
<p>(Parent) - I prefer version 2, especially because Labor Day 2020 is so late, but also in general. What I don't like about v2 is having the last day of school on Friday. Since it is an early release for most schools, it doesn't help working parents to have school that last Friday anyway, and it interferes with summer travel plans. I would prefer an earlier start to the year AND a mid-week finish, even if it means taking a day off of a midyear holiday.</p>
<p>(Parent) - I strongly support beginning prior to Labor Day for this year because Labor Day is so late. What we've found is that the last two weeks of August there is very little in terms of options for childcare. I can see that being much worse with the late labor day, having to figure out three weeks of childcare with very few options. I think starting earlier this year makes sense and will reduce the stress on families for finding care options.</p>
<p>(Parent) - I support starting before Labor Day next year only because Labor Day is so late into September and I don't want school pushed out until the end of June.</p>
<p>(Parent) - I think that by the end of August all students are ready to return to school. In the area kids left for college already, all the private schools are back, Fairfax County schools are back in session and camps are over, and kids need to be back in school so parents can join the rest of the workforce. In other parts of the country, kids are back in school in mid-August, and virtual companies expect that all workers are off summer vacation schedules. Having Alexandria children home until September is not just impacted by local jobs since so many companies are virtual and global. At the end of June, kids and families are ready to get into summer and begin plans. Allowing the kids to be out earlier also gives those looking for jobs a better opportunity because they are out of school as the kids in the private schools and giving them an equal opportunity for jobs.</p>
<p>(Parent) - I think we need to consider a February winter break and a shorter New Year and Christmas break like other parts of the country. The second half of the year seems very long, particularly after SILs. Getting started sooner and having more mental health breaks scattered would be better for students and teachers.</p>
<p>(Parent) - I think we need to use hours no matter what - we seem to go longer than any other school division in VA except for Arlington. With high school sports usually starting the first week of August, and games/competitions starting by the end of August, we need to begin school earlier and then letting students out earlier - the week before the 4th of July is insane.</p>
<p>(Parent) - I think we should start before Labor Day! It is difficult to find child care the last week of the summer</p>
<p>(Parent) - I work in a global consulting firm with people from all over the country (and the world). Almost everyone goes back before Labor Day and by following Version 2 we will be consistent which makes it easier on working parents. This also gives kids a chance to get acclimated to school and then have a bit of a break to decompress and come back ready to really start learning.</p>
<p>(Parent) - I would even encourage starting earlier in August!</p>

(Parent) - I would love to see a start before labor day with an 8 day winter break. Harder to get kid focused back at school after such a long break
(Parent) - I would prefer an alternate of version two that starts a week earlier so the school year ends a week earlier to better match other area school districts and local universities.
(Parent) - I'd rather get out early than have a 2 week Winter Break. How about adding some teacher work days on one or more of religious holidays like Rosh Hashanah/Yom Kippur or Eid al-Fitr and Eid Al-Adha when they fall during the school year?
(Parent) - If I could pick a second choice, it would be calendar version #1.
(Parent) - It helps to get the kids back at school earlier in the summer w/the same number of days and a little longer break for winter it is ideal.
(Parent) - It is an extreme hardship to start after labor day. All colleges have started so there are no babysitters available. There are also no summer camps after the 2nd week of August. Parents who work scramble every year to find coverage for the week before Labor Day just because some beach towns and amusement parks want to get some extra business. ACPS should be more concerned about kids who are just sitting at home that last week bc their parents have to work than about accommodating the wishes of these tourist entities. Get the waiver to start early!!
(Parent) - It is important to start earlier to be more in line with the AP class and testing dates across the nation.
(Parent) - It would be wonderful to start the school year during this week. There is very few camps or childcare available this week for children with working parents and this would be very helpful to families with elementary aged children. Is it possible to begin the year before Labor Day and also do the calculation based on hours instead of days? Why are these two separate options?
(Parent) - Love that school starts before labor day. Not in favor of less student days
(Parent) - Much prefer Version 2, with a question of why Version 2 can't also count hours as Version 3 does.
(Parent) - My family attends Mount Vernon, and there is only one full week after school is over before the 3 week Summer Language Academy starts. More time between the end of school and the beginning of SLA would be nice. It's also odd to be going into the summer so late when neighboring jurisdictions start earlier. Also, though not presented as an option, two full weeks off at Christmas presents a hardship for many families, as you need so much leave or expensive camps to cover that time. Christmas Eve to New Year's Day would be more palatable. I don't understand the point of the last version...?
(Parent) - My preference for Version 2 is largely because the AP exams in High School happen in May so an extra week of school time will make a big difference in getting through the material in time. However, I also have children in Middle School and think they would benefit from starting earlier rather than going later because their minds begin to wander once June starts and summer gets into full swing.
(Parent) - My TC and GW kids both want to start earlier and get out earlier. They don't like summer sports overlapping with exams.
(Parent) - Nothing happens in June! Textbooks are gone. Please let's work in September and learn and then finish earlier!
(Parent) - Please try to minimize the professional days. Campagna is not open on those days and it is very difficult to find childcare. For single parent families 13 professional days uses up a significant amount of the parent's annual PTO. If you do 15 days some parents won't have any leave for the holidays. Please be considerate of working parents.
(Parent) - Prefer version 2, followed by version 1, which result in greatest number of student days per year.

<p>(Parent) - Preference would be Version 2 as it allows for a longer winter break and earlier year-end. However, I would further modify Version 2 to eliminate the holiday on the Friday before Labor Day. It would seem to me that we either go "all-in" on an early Labor Day start or don't start before Labor Day at all. Least preferred is Version 3 as the extra teacher work days during the year create complications for child care.</p>
<p>(Parent) - Second choice is version 1. Christmas break is too long under all proposals.</p>
<p>(Parent) - September 8 is too late to start school. There will be no summer care options after mid-August so this is 3 weeks for working parents to cover.</p>
<p>(Parent) - Since Labor Day is so late, it makes sense to start August 31. It would still allow people to have the entire month of August.</p>
<p>(Parent) - Starting after Labor Day is so late and requires the students to finish too late in June. I think Version 2 is much preferable.</p>
<p>(Parent) - Starting before Labor Day and ending June 18 would be PERFECT! Thank you!!!</p>
<p>(Parent) - Starting before Labor Day gives students an additional week before spring testing and minimizes the long, underutilized weeks between SOLs and the end of the year. Many summer opportunities for students begin in mid-June and this would allow them to have access to those camps, etc.</p>
<p>(Parent) - Starting earlier, and ending earlier in June, is preferable because it allows more time for learning. The weeks in June seem painful for both students and teachers as everyone is in summer mode so it seems like wasted school time. Limiting that and getting kids back into a routine before Labor Day seems like a better choice for student learning.</p>
<p>(Parent) - Stop giving so much break at Christmas and give us a late Jan./early Feb. winter break, so we can travel at times that aren't peak travel times PLEASE, and/or give us a four day weekend in October. I ask for this every year, but Alexandria doesn't seem interested. As things stand, we can only travel at Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter, all of which are extra-expensive and book up before we're ready to make plans. We want a quieter non-summer time to travel without taking the kids out of school.</p>
<p>(Parent) - Strongly OPPOSE the "hour counting" calendar with extra development days - those days are nightmares for working parents. If teachers need additional development, bring them in a week before school starts.</p>
<p>(Parent) - Strongly support Version 2!!</p>
<p>(Parent) - Summer break is too long. Really wish we had all year round option. Learning is interrupted and activities/camps too expensive. Breaking up year into 4 terms with 2 weeks break works well in many other places. Not sure why we don't do it here.</p>
<p>(Parent) - Summer programs end the last 2-3 weeks before Labor Day and there is no child care</p>
<p>(Parent) - The best way for kids to succeed and keep America on top is for kids to be challenged in the classroom MORE, not less. We are falling behind other countries whose kids are in school more days and longer.</p>
<p>(Parent) - The current schedule is out of sync with most schools Nationwide. Given that there's no good justification (Kings Dominion? Harvest time?) for this two-week swing, moving school into August will harmonize family and travel opportunities outside city limits.</p>
<p>(Parent) - The earlier the better!!!</p>
<p>(Parent) - The school year ending in late June is just too late. The 4th of July is less than 10 days away, and that is often regarded as the midpoint of summer! By late June, kids and teachers are tapped out. It is not optimal learning. Let school out earlier in June and begin before Labor Day.</p>

<p>(Parent) - The school year goes too far into June with all of these options. I chose version 2 because it is the option with the earliest end date. Ideal end date would be June 11. The last week of school is always a wash with early release and students watching movies the last several days—doing no real work. Why can't the year end earlier in June and forego all the wasted time the last several days in June?</p>
<p>(Parent) - The timing of Labor Day being late this seems to make the most sense. I wouldn't make starting after Labor Day a consistent thing necessarily in the future depending on the way the holiday falls. It's nice to have the flexibility to adjust given the calendar!</p>
<p>(Parent) - There is NOTHING for students to do the last week of August. All camps, most recs, and sports are done for the season. If you're working, this is a huge inconvenience and expense.</p>
<p>(Parent) - This greatly helps with childcare planning. The last week in August is difficult to find camps. I like the longer winter break, which also allows for more flexibility for international families.</p>
<p>(Parent) - This is only slightly earlier but will result in a lot less wasted time after the standardized tests.</p>
<p>(Parent) - This provides for more instructional days before SOLs and APs. It is also aligned to other local school divisions. Please start the school year before Labor Day. ACPS requested waivers from the state for many years to begin before Labor Day. They were all denied. Not to do it now is incredulous.</p>
<p>(Parent) - This works better with summer camps in the area that all follow the Fairfax County schedule. Regarding more teacher work days, nobody would care about the teachers getting more work days if there was a provision for childcare on those days. School performs two functions - education and childcare. Most families are like mine where both parents work full time jobs, so random days with no childcare means either we work without pay or we use large amounts of personal leave. It is important for our sanity to be able to use our leave for actual breaks from work (vacations, trips to see family, etc) rather than use it all up on teacher work days.</p>
<p>(Parent) - This would be a welcome change, especially for working parents. It's virtually impossible to find good summer camp options for the last week of August but they are abundant in late June. This will make summer childcare options align better with what is available in the northern Virginia area.</p>
<p>(Parent) - This would help working parents because there is basically no summer camp coverage the week before Labor Day. Would also help with sleep away camps that usually start on the first day of our summer break.</p>
<p>(Parent) - To better match the schedules of other local schools, and to come closer to matching college and university calendars, I would prefer a start before Labor Day. It's very hard to find childcare in the last 2 weeks of August because other schools are back in session. It creates a real hardship for working families. It seems to me the only argument for starting after Labor Day centers on people who take longer vacations and have more flexible worklives. It is much easier to find camps in late June. Version 3 additionally reduces student days too drastically. Our children depend on school for not only educational reinforcement, but for nutrition and social support. This is a very real equity issue for the working families in ACPS, whom I'm aware are less likely to fill out this survey. Please keep our kids in school and match the schedule with other surrounding school districts to support our struggling families.</p>
<p>(Parent) - Version 2 lines Alexandria up with many neighboring jurisdictions on school start. The week before Labor Day is also notoriously bad for finding childcare--the availability of camps is significantly reduced and college-aged caregivers, staff, and counselors have already returned to school. For families who are unable to take vacations during this period (or at all), childcare is difficult!</p>

ACPS – 2020-2021 Academic Calendar Comments Submitted via Online Feedback Form

(Parent) - Why did version 3 have to go until June 24 if we saved on student says? Why give the full 2 weeks at Christmas and more teacher work days and not let us get out early. I would be in support of a version 3 that starts later and gets out earlier. This is the holy grail for the calendar. We don't need 2 weeks at Christmas. We need to get out earlier!
(Parent) - wonderful, about time. filling a gap week in August when there are very few local camps/child care options is a huge help to working families with limited time off.
(Parent & Employee) - As a first grade teacher, I find the first two weeks of school being 4 day school weeks beneficial for students to transition back from summer vacation. Also, teachers have a lot more energy and enthusiasm at the beginning of the school year to carry us from Aug. 31st to Thanksgiving break. This will help alleviate the burnt out feeling teachers have towards the end of the school year knowing that the school year ends a week earlier.
(Parent & Employee) - As a teacher and parent, I strongly support version 2 as it mirrors our neighboring jurisdiction, FCPS. Every time we move away from FCPS calendar, we are forcing our staff (me!) to take time off from work for childcare. This calendar will ultimately improve staff attendance for those of us living in Fairfax County. Thank you for your consideration!
(Parent & Employee) - Being in so late in June only creates days that we have to 'fill in' as teachers. They are a waste and especially since the rest of the country for the most part is out. We have many students who travel to their home countries and take off that last week anyway. Also, being out when the weather is still nicer is great, in August, it is so hot, would rather be in school. I've worked in three other states in four other districts, they were mostly aligned, not ACPS.
(Parent & Employee) - Can you move Columbus day PD to another day? It is difficult to find child care because it is a federal holiday and day care is closed. Causing teachers to take the day off and miss PD. ACPS should have Veterans day off for teachers and kids.
(Parent & Employee) - Finishing school in late June when it is too hot, not a good idea, so at least one week earlier, I'll take it. Winter break should be 10 days, more useful to make holiday traveling/plans.
(Parent & Employee) - However, if 183 days are mandated, why do you only have 182 in this calendar? Isn't that a problem? Also, what about snow days? How would those be dealt with?
(Parent & Employee) - I think we should have the same calendar as other districts
(Parent & Employee) - I would like to recommend teacher holidays on national holidays. It can be hard for educator parents to get childcare with no after-care programs opened. It often results in educator parents missing professional learning opportunities. I would recommend 1/2 day professional learning days instead of holiday scheduled ones. ACPS Parents and our teacher parents would be supported by after-care programs while our staff get professional learning. Just an idea.
(Parent & Employee) - I would like to see us get out earlier in June. If that means going back before Labor Day so be it. However I think it would be so much more efficient to use the hourly calculation and add minutes to the day in order to get out earlier in June. Simply adding 20 minutes to each day would add up and it would help give teachers more time in their schedule for meaningful activities with students instead of being rushed through things! Add minutes!!!
(Parent & Employee) - It would be great if we could match up with other districts in the region who start before Labor Day now.
(Parent & Employee) - More instructional time before state tests
(Parent & Employee) - please calculate by hours and not by days
(Parent & Employee) - Please keep 1 - 3 snow days as No Make Up

(Parent & Employee) - Prefer 2 weeks of winter break and also like that we'd finally start before Labor Day, which would align us with Fairfax County. It also takes care of what to do with kids during the last week of August when there are usually no options for summer camp offered. As an employee, I think we already have enough PD days. As a parent, if we add more PD days, that's just more child care I'd have to pay for while my son is out of school while I'm working--no thanks!
(Parent & Employee) - Thank you!!
(Parent & Employee) - The school year start on Sep 8 is very late. For AP testing this is like weeks lost of instruction. Also, many summer opportunities begin in midJune and my children and students would miss school at the end which is frustrating to kids and teachers
(Parent & Employee) - Version 2 has only 182 days but you state above that you are mandated to have 183. Isn't this a problem? Also, how would snow days be dealt with?
(Parent & Employee) - Version 2 is good plan for both students and employees! Works out for parents that work for ACPS.
(Parent & Employee) - Would prefer an even longer winter break. During some years in ACPS there were two-week spring breaks. Just feel we have to start a bit earlier to be in line with FCPS and other neighboring school divisions. Sports calendars should be comparable with neighboring divisions as well. There should be better choices than just these three! Staff development should be more ongoing during a school year (some monthly time).
(Student) - Aligns more with other programs, like other schools, summer jobs, and summer programs
(Student) - I am a middle school student at ACPS. I support the idea of school starting before Labor Day. In previous years, many of my friends' camps begin during the last week of school. This means that many students will skip the last week so they can go on vacation. If school was moved up one week, then less students will skip the last week of school. This means that there will be higher attendance at school.
(Student) - My family often travels for winter break. This calendar would work in our favor, so that I would not miss as much school. Thank you

Comments Submitted with Traditional Version 3
(Employee) - Any time I am given to increase my professional development is SUCH a huge positive. It increases bonds between teachers, gives students a well needed mental-health day, and decreases stress all around.
(Employee) - Could we start looking at making the first two teacher work days (Aug 27 & 28) on Version 1 - Professional Development Days and then the Thursday and Friday right before school starts Teacher Work Days? As a special education teacher without a classroom, I typically do not have a solid caseload or schedule to begin my "paperwork" work until the Friday before school starts. I waste this Thur and Fri trying to stay busy, and then am in meetings when I finally have the paperwork needed to start the work.
(Employee) - Do not start before labor day.
(Employee) - Great to have extra PD days!
(Employee) - Having a longer winter break ensures that staff is able to have more flexibility with their own holiday travel.
(Employee) - Honestly I think our school day is too short. I think we need to add at least 30 minutes to the school day. Adding days doesn't help. We need more time in a day to teach! I like the third version because there are more professional development days, although a PD day on May 7th seems pointless.
(Employee) - How do start/end dates impact 11 month admin employees?
(Employee) - I am a parent as well.

ACPS – 2020-2021 Academic Calendar Comments Submitted via Online Feedback Form

(Employee) - I believe we should have Veterans Day off.
(Employee) - I like the added professional days as well as the 10 day winter break.
(Employee) - I prefer starting after labor day and I need the 2 week winter break.
(Employee) - I prefer version 2 or 3 where we have 2 full weeks for winter break.
(Employee) - I really appreciate that we are using the student in class hours as the impetuous for our calendar.
(Employee) - I think it is important for teachers to have a full two weeks in December as it supports recharging through rest and settling of the mind from all the pressures of today's academic responsibilities.
(Employee) - I think the 2020-2021 calendar should be a combination of option 2, starting before Labor Day, and option 3, which is based on hours instead of days.
(Employee) - I want to start after Labor Day and have two weeks off at Winter Break.
(Employee) - Instead of having a professional development day on Columbus day, could that day be moved to the Monday before election day to create a 4 day weekend for students and two professional days in a row for staff. Columbus Day could be a holiday for staff and students just like it is for federal workers. Currently, because of the federal holiday, it is very difficult to get local partners to support professional development because of the holiday. Additionally, other local school systems have it as a holiday, so staff members living in Fairfax County, Arlington, or Falls Church cannot participate in the professional development because they do not have childcare for their children who attend other schools. By moving this professional day to November, it would not only give all teachers the chance to participate, but align us with other local systems who do the same thing https://www.fcps.edu/calendars/2019-20-standard-school-year-calendar
(Employee) - Is it possible to change parent conferences so that instead of 2 half days with 1 being a very long day for teachers, can we have the Friday be parent conferences with no classes that day and the teacher's workday would go from 12noon to 7:30? This is the way that parent conferences are done in DC and it works nicely so as not to burn out the teachers. The half days also tend to be wasted instructional days and half days sometimes can be a burden on parents of younger children.
(Employee) - Is it possible to have veterans day off, especially if version 2 is selected.
(Employee) - It makes sense to align the school year structure like the districts we share borders with. We should all be on hours instead of days for uniformity
(Employee) - It sent a really disrespectful messege to middle school teachers that a third parent conference day was added to the calendar without discussion. In reality, the school division demanded additional labor hours without compensation. Working two twelve hour days in a row only to teach again the next day is not good for either teachers or students.
(Employee) - Possible change is to have two days of conferences for middle school. One of the middle school conferences should be moved to Columbus Day; October 12th, since many parents are off and it would allow them the opportunity to visit teachers. The other should be a 1/2 day on the next day.
(Employee) - Teachers are in need of more time for PD and working in their classrooms throughout the school year.
(Employee) - The other calendar would condense summer break and intrude on plans some already have for the upcoming summer.

<p>(Employee) - The three days of conferences for middle school teachers need to stop. Teachers cannot do two 12-hour days in a row and still show up to teach yet again the next day. It's stressful and exhausting. If you haven't noticed, ACPS middle schools have a hard time keeping teachers - you should think about what you're doing that's making teachers want to leave. Also, I'd be fine starting before Labor Day except for having back to back four-day weeks at the beginning. Students, especially those going to new schools, need routine. Two 4-day weeks is going to mess up the kids and delay their adjustment. I'm voting for version 3, but I'd point out that having a professional day in December is a horrible idea. Everyone just had Thanksgiving off, winter break is coming, and giving the kids another day is just going to prevent them from falling back into the routine. Plus there's usually a crunch to get everything done before winter break. You'd be better off putting that professional day in March during the long haul before spring break.</p>
<p>(Employee) - This brings ACPS closer in line with neighboring divisions (Fairfax and APS) with regards to work days. This should not be used as an excuse to alter the salary schedules, however.</p>
<p>(Employee) - This version of the calendar is a win win for all. I maintains current start dates while maximizing professional development and allowing for two full weeks for winter break.</p>
<p>(Employee) - This works because there are so many govt employee families and spouses in the system that an August start interrupts vacations that many take in mid to late August.</p>
<p>(Employee) - Two nights of parent/teacher conferences back to back is a lot to ask of teachers; especially followed by another instructional day on Friday. Perhaps we could have one full day of conferences. For example, this school year Columbus Day was a PD day, we could have had middle school parent/teacher conferences from 9am-6pm that day or 9am to 7pm. While I understand the thought process behind two nights, it makes for a very long week for staff. There has to be some thought given to those required to stay both nights as well. There other options that we could consider like the example provided above.</p>
<p>(Employee) - Version 2 with Sept 4 and 7 as holidays is too much at the start of the year.</p>
<p>(Employee) - Version 3 allows more planning/reflection time for educators throughout the year. Teaching would be more effective and efficient.</p>
<p>(Employee) - Will teachers see a decrease in salary by going down to 195 days?</p>
<p>(Employee) - Will the division close for Inauguration Day 2021?</p>
<p>(Parent) - A longer winter break (without any assignments!) is so necessary for children, teachers, and families!</p>
<p>(Parent) - Allow families to vacation when other schools are back in session!</p>
<p>(Parent) - Assuming this does not mean a longer school day and/or starting earlier.</p>
<p>(Parent) - At its core this seems to be a questions of whether or not school starts before or after Labor Day and I think that's how most would view the choice. My concern is a scenario where version 2 garners 40% of the vote while version 1 picks up 30% and then version 3 garners the same 30%. This would be a situation where a clear majority exists for having school start after Labor Day, but that may not be apparent from the way the results are presented. Please try to account for this dynamic when thinking through the results. Thanks</p>
<p>(Parent) - Calculating by hours meets the state requirements while giving more time off at winter break and more professional days for teachers.</p>
<p>(Parent) - Do not want before labor day</p>
<p>(Parent) - Either calendar starting after Labor Day would be fine. It doesn't seem worth it to mess up the summer schedule for 4 days, especially when followed by 4 days off. What good does that do?</p>
<p>(Parent) - I always prefer starting after Labor Day and having a full two week winter break to accommodate long trips.</p>
<p>(Parent) - I appreciate the longer winter break and the later start.</p>

(Parent) - I chose Version 3 because I prefer the after Labor Day start, and the extra 2 days of Winter Break. Had Version 1 included the 2 extra Winter Break days, I would have voted for that option. I'm not a fan of the 15 professional days in Version 3.
(Parent) - I don't like the idea of starting before Labor Day. I like the 10 days at holidays
(Parent) - I have always liked starting school after labor day. It gives time for family vacations in late summer. I also like having the extra time for winter break for family travel etc. I don't mind counting hours vs days as long as student learning is prioritized and test scores do not go down.
(Parent) - I like starting after Labor Day. It works very well for my family and we always take vacation the week before Labor Day. Also, I am not sure how much work will really get done in the week prior to the Labor Day long weekend. It makes more sense to start after the holiday instead of starting school and immediately taking a holiday.
(Parent) - I like the calculation based on hours rather than days. However, I'd like the hourly calculation paired with the earlier start date of August 31st if possible.
(Parent) - I like the start right after Labor Day. I also am happy to have school closed for Election Day. Also, I want to make sure the teachers are supported adequately and it seems that giving them two more professional days can only be a helpful thing. The one item I noticed about option 3 that I would want to change is to give the teachers the full 196 contract days - I assume a day less affects their salaries? I would want to make sure their pay is not impacted. They are valuable to our children and thus to all of us.
(Parent) - I prefer not to start until after Labor Day if at all possible.
(Parent) - I prefer to start school after Labor Day because it seems quite disjointed to have the kids stop and start as is proposed for version 2. I also like that the kindergarten prep is a week later in version 1 and version 3. I especially appreciate version 3 because I love a longer winter break. This is the time that my family loves to spend together traveling. In order of my favorites: Version 3, Version 1, Version 2.
(Parent) - I really value starting school after Labor Day, please do not change that. Either Option 1 or 3 are great.
(Parent) - I strongly prefer starting after Labor Day as we historically have done.
(Parent) - I think it makes sense to base the calendar on hours rather than days. I do NOT like the idea of starting before Labor Day, this upcoming year or any year. I am also ok with Version 1, which models the current year.
(Parent) - I would like 1 as well. Either 1 or 3 but not 2.
(Parent) - I would like the 3rd version. However, I would really like to see the city go to year round school. It would help with retention and kids who don't have stable family lives could have access to food for longer periods of time. It would be great to have more breaks throughout the year. For example, start school before Labor Day but have a fall break in October, Thanksgiving break, Christmas break, spring break and summer break end school closer to Memorial Day.
(Parent) - If you are going to start before Labor Day (which I don't support), please wait another year to implement that calendar. Many people have already made plans for the summer of 2020 under the assumption that school will start after Labor Day since it has always been that way.

ACPS – 2020-2021 Academic Calendar Comments Submitted via Online Feedback Form

(Parent) - I'm concerned that the way you have presented this issue shows the bias of ACPS to start before Labor Day. Unfortunately, those of us who still want to preserve summer for kids will have our votes split between 1 and 3, thus stacking the deck against us. My preference is Version 3 because our kids waste enough time at school after SOLs doing nothing. There's no reason on earth to build in more time! Reduce the number of student days and extend winter break. I fear otherwise we will have bowed to the desires of working parents only and turned school into daycare and teachers into babysitters. This is not what school is about - it's for learning and coming back to the classroom refreshed after a mere ten weeks of summer. Please don't take that away!!
(Parent) - Keep post Labor Day start!
(Parent) - My second choice is Version 1
(Parent) - My second choose is Version 1.
(Parent) - No to starting school before Labor Day. Version 1 or 3.
(Parent) - NOT BEFORE LABOR DAY!
(Parent) - Open to Version 1. NOT open to starting the school year prior to Labor Day. Thank you.
(Parent) - Our family would like the calendar that includes school starting after the Labor Day Holiday so that we can enjoy the holiday.
(Parent) - Plans for next summer are already made based on start date after Labor Day. Please wait until 2021-22 school year if you are going to make this significant change of starting before Labor Day so parents have enough notice. Thank you.
(Parent) - Please do NOT implement any start to school before Labor Day in the same calendar year you propose it. Families have already made 2020 financial commitments for summer camps, travel, older sibling college starts given the expected 2020 start after Labor Day. If you are going to propose a change to start date it should be for year 2020-2021 so families can plan for the summer transition. -- Version 3 based on hours instead of days is great!
(Parent) - Please do NOT start before Labor Day.
(Parent) - Please do NOT start school before Labor Day!
(Parent) - Please don't start before Labor Day!!! Half the kids won't show up anyway.
(Parent) - Please leave ACPS the calendar the way that it is currently formatted instead of trying to follow other school districts within the area because we appreciate the way that the school system is right now.
(Parent) - PLEASE not before Labor Day!
(Parent) - Please please please do not start school before Labor Day.
(Parent) - Please please please don't start early! August is summer, not time for school! Also would be nice to do 2 full days off for parent-teacher conferences like Arlington instead of early release, which would be possible if you count by hours instead if days. Those saved days could be used to shave off days at the end of the year. School used to go until around June 12. It's crazy it has now stretched to nearly July!
(Parent) - Please retain our summer break through Labor Day!
(Parent) - Prefer 10 day winter break. Would also find version 2 acceptable.
(Parent) - Prefer an after Labor Day start. The Version 3 schedule balances after Labor Day start with a reasonable end date for the school year. Please consider publishing a calendar for 2021-22 as early as summer 2020, so summer schedules are known a year in advance for scheduling vacations, camps, etc. If a switch is made in the future a pre-Labor Day start, plenty of advance notice of the change will help facilitate the switch for all families.
(Parent) - Start after Labor Day! I like the calculated hours option

<p>(Parent) - Starting after Labor Day still preferable. Keep Wednesday before Thanksgiving and allow 10 days Christmas break. This allows for more family time by providing some days off throughout the year. Cuts down on stress levels of students and teachers alike to have a break each month. This is my 3rd and final kid in ACPS. It has been a great experience for all of my kids.</p>
<p>(Parent) - Starting before labor day seems an unnecessary encroachment on family time. Most families enjoy an end of summer gathering that often begins the Friday before labor day or before. Starting school the week before labor day just adds unnecessary stress to family togetherness, which is far more important than ending a couple of days earlier in June imho.</p>
<p>(Parent) - Summer is sacred time for kids and family and there's no reason to start the year earlier on scorching hot August days in buildings that often have no working HVAC. Also, the calendar often feels padded and perhaps with fewer days total the kids won't sit around doing nothing for two weeks after testing. Finally, a longer winter break in the middle of the year is more important than ending the year earlier, teachers and students alike need that mental break to recharge their batteries. Thank you for letting our kids be kids for as long as possible!</p>
<p>(Parent) - This seems like the most logical way to calculate time in school given the in climate weather the DC area receives and how that impacts the school year. It should also give more flexibility surrounding conferences and an similar activities.</p>
<p>(Parent) - Version 1 or Version 3!</p>
<p>(Parent) - Version 3 makes the most sense and has a bonus day off in January. Have you thought about adapting to a 365 day calendar? I like this idea: https://iusd.org/sites/default/files/public_view_year_round_2019-20.pdf Here is a school calendar which offers a fall break and starts earlier in August: https://www.jefferson.kyschools.us/sites/default/files/parent%20calendar%2019-20.pdf</p>
<p>(Parent) - Version 3 makes the most sense to me and focuses on actual time in learning by counting hours rather than days. I also prefer the after Labor Day start and do not mind the later last day of school. Having two extra days off for winter break is also a great bonus, and I think this is highly beneficial to students and teachers alike to give them a break without sacrificing hours in the classroom or contract time for teachers. Thank you for asking for input!</p>
<p>(Parent) - Version 3 or 1 please! No pre-Labor Day start. Our family (and others, I would guess) has already made non-refundable vacation reservations for the last week of summer. If this change is made, at least give a year's notice. Thanks!</p>
<p>(Parent) - Versions 1 and 3 are equally acceptable and preferable to Version 2</p>
<p>(Parent) - We don't need to start before Labor Day. Many schools have a mid fall break unless that is going to be set in place it is not needed to start early</p>
<p>(Parent) - We don't want them to start school before Labor Day always after !!! If not version 3 our 2nd choice is version 1</p>
<p>(Parent) - We should use seat hours, not days. DO NOT START BEFORE LABOR DAY.</p>
<p>(Parent & Employee) - But with a start date on Sept. 1</p>
<p>(Parent & Employee) - I LOVE version 3. There is ample time for snow make-up in this version as well.</p>
<p>(Parent & Employee) - I prefer the additional professional development days for teachers and a longer winter break.</p>
<p>(Parent & Employee) - Less stress and disruption. I like starting the year on a four day week because I think that's less overwhelming for small students. Additionally, I feel like if we start after Labor Day, all the school supplies are on sale. Buying school supplies in early August is more expensive.</p>

(Parent & Employee) - No need to count days-- the law clearly allows for counting hours and that provides more than enough time for student learning. Winter break should definitely be 10 days.
(Parent & Employee) - Please put match Tuckers division PD days up with the traditional calendar.
(Parent & Employee) - This version is the best because it builds in some flexibility(ie. extending days in increments if necessary to make up time) if there is some type of long term weather issue
(Parent & Employee) - Using hours more accurately communicates students actual learning time, provides more flexibility for scheduling and professional development for teachers. This also preserves families, and teachers, traditional vacation schedule.
(Parent & Employee) - Why was an additional conference day added without compensation or teacher input? Forcing teachers to work back to back 12 hour days and then only giving a two hour early release is absurd. No wonder the district is hemorrhaging experienced teachers.
(Student) - Because of a prior work commitment, I would be missing the first few days of school, as I applied for the job assuming school would (as usual) start after Labor Day.
(Student) - Because of work commitments
(Student) - Don't start before Labor Day please.
(Student) - no
(Student) - starting before labor day or replicating this year will not go over well with the other students. the 3rd option will be more different and hopefully please the students and staff both.
(Student) - This replicates the 2019-20 calendar

Comments Submitted with Modified Version 1
(Employee) - Opening day for Kindergarten Registration should be announced so employees and parents can plan in advance for vacations and days off. Parents would also benefit by announcing the date early so parents know when they need to have all the paperwork in order for them to complete the registration.
(Employee) - We DO NOT need 3 days for conferences. This asks too much from teachers. We have a life outside of school and staying for three days of 11 hours is not fair
(Parent) - I am confused by the information provided because version 3 says it starts "after Labor Day," but the start date is identified as August 6, the same as with the modified calendar. Additionally, version 2, which claims to be the traditional calendar, but still starting prior to Labor Day, says the start date is July 30, which would be even before the only option identified as the modified option. I think that you have either supplied incorrect start dates or you have not explained everything that each calendar is accomplishing well enough for me to understand. In any event, I very much want to keep the modified calendar where they return to school in early August and continue to have Spring and Fall intersessions.
(Parent) - I like the longer school year, but I have to say as a single parent, it is difficult to arrange for care for 13 professional days and 8-10 winter break days. That wipes out a whole year of annual leave right there. And if there is no other parent to alternate with and no family in the area, the parent has to figure out who will care for child if they cannot take leave. It's nice that you have Scramble camps, but those cost a bunch more. I don't know how single parents on a limited income do that.
(Parent) - Option 2 does not provide enough of a break for students.
(Parent) - Please don't start before Labor Day. Kids and parents need to be able to take vacations in August!
(Parent) - Please think about adding Veteran's Day to calendar. It is a recognized Federal Holiday. The school system should be an example to our community and military families. And teach students the importance and respect for our military.

(Parent) - Teacher professional days should be in 1 or 2 week blocks or eliminated. It us an unfair burden to parents getting all these days covered. The rest of us pursue our development on our own time.
(Parent) - The day of July 30 is too early to start!

Comments Submitted with Modified Version 2
(Community Member) - You should start 2 weeks before Labor Day. Teachers and students would rather be in school in August opposed to June.
(Employee) - I like the idea of starting before Labor Day but i believe there may be a requirement to have the Friday prior to Labor Day off in order to make a 4 day weekend. This is how Fairfax County has created their calendar and I thought this was a state requirement. Also, I believe there is a typo above where the first day of school in Version 2 is listed as July 30. Thanks for all your hard work.
(Employee) - looks great! good 2 weeks off for winter break, staff and families are able to enjoy that time
(Employee) - Possibly move September 4th day off to another month? Make the days in quarters more even which would help pacing or make sure pacing aligns better with the number of days that are in a quarter and take into account the testing that takes place within that quarter.
(Employee) - This district should start two to three weeks before labor day.
(Employee) - This makes so much more sense! Other schools are already out in early-mid June and our students always complain about how they hate getting out last!
(Employee) - While many dont want to start prior to labor day the option to end prior to the final week of June has its advantages.
(Parent) - A two week winter break is very important for families needing to travel during this time.
(Parent) - FCPS starts early and their students get an advantage in preparing for the AP tests. ACPS students should get the same advantage and not be penalized. In addition once June rolls around the teachers & students are burnt out. Less school time in June is the way to go. Start early and let the students start their summer jobs, internships, etc., sooner.
(Parent) - I also support the change to counting hours instead of days.
(Parent) - I definitely think the kids need a longer winter break!
(Parent) - Many parents who live in Alexandria City work in Fairfax County Public Schools. The calendar for FCPS has already been released for the 2020-2021 school year, and students will be starting school 2 weeks prior to labor day. Many other neighboring counties also start before labor day (Prince William and Loudon...). There are very few camps available at the end of August, and because Labor Day is so late in 2020, parents have few options for childcare. Additionally, starting before Labor Day allows for additional teaching days prior to the SOLs, and earlier release in June.
(Parent) - September 8th is so late to start. Let's start earlier like the other districts near us so our poor kids don't have to go so late in June. The sun is out later and it's hard for them to get to sleep on time for early school throughout June, but especially later June. Everyone else in Virginia and elsewhere is already done and our kids still are trudging to school.
(Parent) - Version 2 allows kids to get out of school earlier in the summer. It is antiquated and arbitrary that they start so late in the year.
(Parent & Employee) - Like getting out earlier. However, Tucker should follow traditional calendar if everyone starts before labor day.

<p>Comments Submitted with Modified Version 3</p>
<p>(Parent) - Hi - I voted for 3, but would also be okay with version 1. I really, really don't favor version 2 - - please, please don't go that route. Starting on 30 July means that orientation is the 3rd week of July, making summer very short. We love the modified calendar, but shrinking summer a whole extra week just seems like a bad idea. Thanks for letting us comment! PS - Tucker is amazing.</p>
<p>(Parent) - I continue to be concerned by the high number of professional development and teacher work days. They are too random and not well coordinated. They come in the middle of the week or tacked onto a holiday. This is not conducive to working parents and it feels like the calendar remains catered to stay-at-home parents. Please also remember that Tucker is part of ACPS. Far too many times, information about the traditional calendar is shared publicly without considering Tucker's schedule, which leads to a lot of confusion. Please do not start school on July 30. Our summer schedule is already short --making summer vacation planning a challenge -- and starting in July just doesn't make any sense. I don't see a valid justification for starting school five weeks after school ends. Also, please make intersession more family friendly--giving parents the option of doing one week only. The modified calendar really favors stay-at-home parents, who don't have to worry about taking two weeks off from work to care for their children if they aren't crazy about the intersession offerings, which really haven't been that strong. Also, please consider parents feedback. I know teachers weigh in on the calendar in overwhelming numbers, but that makes the weighting unfair giving them the edge when they have a vested interest in selecting a calendar that works better for them than for parents. Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback.</p>
<p>(Parent) - I do not support version 2. Version 1 is an acceptable alternative to version 3</p>
<p>(Parent) - I like the extra 2 days of winter break and extra professional days for teachers in version 3. Second choice would be version 1.</p>
<p>(Parent) - I prefer either versions 1 or 3. The start day should remain after Labor Day.</p>
<p>(Parent) - I prefer version 3 or version 1, but am opposed to version 2. It will be difficult for Samuel Tucker students to return to school in July as opposed to August. This would be hard for our family to coordinate with other schedules that follow a more typical school calendar year.</p>
<p>(Parent) - I would really prefer either option 1 or 3. Starting the modified calendar in July pushes things like open house even earlier as well, which shortens our summer even more. I presume attendance would be effected by summer vacations, and I personally find the Tucker open houses (which are more like classroom orientations/back to school nights) to be highly valuable to families. Thanks for reaching out to the community! ACPS does a great job asking for feedback.</p>
<p>(Parent) - Please consider the following: - Only version 1 or version 2 for the modified academic calendar; - Request that the first day of school to be continually held on the first Thursday of August. That is a good starting point and allows the students and families to enjoy a full month of July as a summer break without feeling that the students and teachers are being rushed back into school in July as described in version 2 of the modified academic calendar for 2020-2021.; - In version 1 consider adding May 7th as a "Prof Development-Division" - Please do not consider the presented version 2. In addition, I feel that other schools (middle schools and perhaps the high school) in ACPS would significantly benefit with the usage of the modified academic calendar. Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>
<p>(Employee) - Prefer later start date and longer winter break</p>
<p>(Employee) - Samuel Tucker Modified version aligns best with my families FCPS calendar. Not as many days of childcare needed for July Summer Break.</p>

ACPS – 2020-2021 Academic Calendar Comments Submitted via Online Feedback Form

(Employee) - School starts after Labor Day. Our student hours are more than FCPS' that has 3 hours early release before major holidays and end of quarter. P. S. Why school starts on August 6 in this calendar?

(Employee) - Version 3

(Employee) - Why is Veteran's Day not considered a holiday? It is a federal holiday and people would like to use that day to honor veterans, especially when there are veterans in their family.