

2019-2020 Calendar Feedback - Additional comments related to Version 1 versus Version 2.

(Parent) - Would have preferred the additional winter break days in Version 2 if the extra days had been in December vs. January.
(Parent) - Work schedules cannot accommodate the Winter holiday ending so long after NY Day.
(Parent) - We should never be in school as late at June 22 - and having one last day on a Monday is ridiculous. Parents need to plan for camps, etc. I do not like having p/t conferences over 3 weeks. I'm not sure why they are so spread out. I really don't like how late in Nov. the elementary school conferences are - the entire month of November becomes a child care headache. If you have a child at all 3 levels (elementary, middle and high school), you need to take 3 different afternoons off from work. February is also ridiculous. I do like the TWD the Monday after spring break. I'm not sure why we go for 183 days anyway - how about 182 or 181 and get out even sooner?
(Parent) - We prefer to have two full weeks for winter break.
(Parent) - Version 2 will force many families to pay for a week of camp the week of 6/22, but miss the first day of camp. It will also conflict with Summer swim team schedules.
(Parent) - Version 2 allows more flexibility for travel.
(Parent) - Two weeks off in the middle of the year is a LONG time for parents who may not be able to take 2 consecutive weeks of leave.
(Parent) - Two weeks is too long for a child to be out of the educational environment. Particularly if Tucker wants to be a year-round type school.
(Parent) - Too late for this year (again), but please stop giving two days off in November a week apart and just give us a four day Fall break! So aggravating to have two days off that we can't do anything with, and no breaks during the entire year allowing us to vacation at off times from the rest of the country.
(Parent) - There summer break it's too short as it is already.
(Parent) - The two-week winter vacation aligns with other school systems in the area. It is nice not to have to race home on January 1, to make it back to school on time for January 2.
(Parent) - The last day of school on June 22 is very late. There are summer camps to consider (UVA SEP, for example); having the last day of school on a Monday disrupts the entire camp schedules (more kids won't be in attendance that last day, etc.). It can also disrupt family vacations. An 8-day break at winter is plenty for most families. Parents have to return to work (generally) on Jan 2; unless a European/International vacation is planned over Winter Break (how many acps families can afford that?), 8 days is plenty.
(Parent) - The extended winter break would work better if it started earlier in December instead of running further into January. Adding the days in January will be harder on work schedules.
(Parent) - Strongly prefer version 1. Shorter winter break seems more than sufficient, especially given early spring break/intersession in 2019. Last day of school falling on a Monday and being early release is more of a hassle than it's worth and pushes the start of summer even later unnecessarily. Much prefer children returning from winter break on a Thursday, as the short weeks are easier to transition back to.
(Parent) - Primary motivation is the impact of V.2 on summer options.
(Parent) - Prefer the two weeks winter break.
(Parent) - Please push again for a before Labor day start.
(Parent) - Please give parents predictability in scheduling from year to year by ALWAYS having a full two weeks for winter break. We shouldn't have to wait for the issuance of a calendar every year before making plans to visit family, arrange childcare, etc.
(Parent) - Only picking V2 because going back for 2 days after winter break is tough. That said, ending the 4th week of June is also hard -- many camps are already in session! Ending school on a Monday that's a half day is going to be a lightly attended day ;)
(Parent) - No one will come to school on June 22nd because it's a Monday. Camps will start then, and people will be confused about which day is the true last day of school.

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(Parent) - No one is going to go back for the final day of school on a Monday. I prefer option 1. I did not appreciate the second of January being a holiday this year and last. I would be happy to see that go.
(Parent) - My primary concern is that we never start before Labor Day. All of July and August should be vacation time.
(Parent) - My comment applies to both calendars and is problematic for the current calendar year as well. There is a day off (Nov. 5) in both calendars and the following Monday (Nov. 11) is an observed holiday. While I understand that schools are used as polling places it poses significant challenges for working parents to have a day off during two consecutive weeks. ACPs has not always observed Veteran's Day as a federal holiday, which is also a holiday many private businesses do not observe. Re: Version 2 - adding the last school day on 6/22, a Monday, throws off the entire week for those parents who will put their children in camp for the week and many classes would likely experience diminished attendance due to camps/vacation beginning for families.
(Parent) - More time for students to learn earlier in the year is better. Student days in January give time for teachers to cover things students will need for SOL testing and AP exams; school days in late June do not. Extra days in June are not very productive use of time as students are checked out and ready for summer. Plus, who ends a school year on a Monday with a half day? That seems disruptive and pointless.
(Parent) - Many students and teachers do not return to school for the two days after winter break. This causes the school to spend money on subs for the teachers and it causes very little work to be done in class. Having a longer break would also endurance families not to take their children out of school early before break, allowing for more instructional time during the last week of school in December. Have two full weeks also makes it easier to get childcare, because local organizations are able to offer full week camps.
(Parent) - Longer winter break offer most opportunities for families to travel at a less prohibitive cost.
(Parent) - Like the idea of a longer winter break
(Parent) - Last day of school on a Monday (and a half-day at that) seems ridiculous. Why not combine the half-days at the end of the year into full days and then let the kids out a few days earlier. I don't think much teaching is happening those last few days anyway.
(Parent) - It's a hard trade-off between winter break and end of year, but given how everyone is *done* at the end of the year, pushing to Monday isn't going to accomplish anything academically. Better to be done earlier at the end of the year.
(Parent) - It would make more sense to get rid of the half days at the end of the year and just make the 19th the last full day. I've also heard from many teachers that 2 half days for conferences is not necessary. Why not make it one?
(Parent) - It makes no sense to send the kids to school for a half day on Monday - that is problematic for camp and vacation planning. I guarantee you would have huge attrition on June 22 if version 2 is implemented.
(Parent) - Is it possible to use the 990 hour formulation described below for 2019-20, so that Winter Break is a full two weeks AND the last day of school is June 18? Does the high school testing schedule impact ES and MS schedules? If so, is it possible to limit the impact of the testing schedule to HS only?
(Parent) - I would not want my child to miss the first day of a summer camp session if the last day of school is a Monday. It increases the difficulty of transition for young children. For young children, wpllle find the winter break to be sufficient.
(Parent) - I strongly support having two full weeks at the winter break. Eight days is just not enough time to give the kids a rest from the intensity of school.
(Parent) - I prefer to have a longer winter break. Additionally, I would prefer another break in February that is more than just a 3 day weekend. We get very little family time outside of the summer with these traditional calendars.
(Parent) - I prefer the one-week break during end of year holidays.
(Parent) - I much prefer more time off. However having a half day on a Monday as the last day of school feels like very poor planning.

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(Parent) - I like that Christmas Break is a full two weeks! A lot of us go out of town and have had to cut our trip short in the last years; including this one.
(Parent) - I like having Monday after Spring Break a TWD and I like having Wednesday off for Thanksgiving Break. With the only difference being in the Winter Break - I would take the longer one because it is so strange to go back for two days and then do a weekend.
(Parent) - I like 2 weeks for winter break.....but only if APS has it too.
(Parent) - I don't think many families would stick around to send their kids to a half day of school on a Monday, so I'd definitely prefer Version 1. I'd also like to see more of the half conference days at GW Middle School used for actual conferences. It seems no one can explain why we had two half days this fall and yet only one afternoon for conferences. There are 140+ kids in my son's section and we were told only 33 slots exist so basically don't even try to get one unless your kid is failing every class. My son is a good student but got a D on one quiz for example and since we can't see a copy to help him figure out what he did wrong (one of the many ills of all computerized testing) we would have liked to talk to his teacher for some guidance, especially since many teachers at GW do not respond to emails. Thanks.
(Parent) - I don't really care much because both versions have only ONE FULL week of school in November for elementary. It is ridiculous to be off for Election Day AND observe Veteran's Day a week later, followed by 3 days at Thanksgiving.
(Parent) - I don't mind not having a two week break at the holidays, and I think coming in on a Monday for a half day the last day of school is silly.
(Parent) - I am concerned that ending school on a Monday will not line up well with camp schedules
(Parent) - Having the extra Monday at the end of the year is a really awkward scheduling situation when it comes to vacations in childcare. Much prefer that the school year ends at the end of the week. The extra days in January for winter break are also unhelpful. Working parents will be back in the office after January 1. These extra days would require that we pay for childcare
(Parent) - Having a half day on Monday the 22nd will disrupt vacation and camp schedules. An eight day winter break is long enough, feel no need to have a full two weeks.
(Parent) - Ending school on a Monday would not align well with our schedules - camps will start then and there's a good chance we would not send our daughter to school for a half day on the last day if it were scheduled for the first day of camp. Furthermore, our work schedules ramp up beginning Jan 2 and so two extra days off in early January are not an attractive option for extending vacations.
(Parent) - Ending school earlier in June lines up with other school systems, summer programs and summer opportunities for our students. Requiring students to be in school until nearly July limits the opportunities available to them during the short summer break. These opportunities are necessary for whole person growth and for employment options for older students.
(Parent) - Earlier for summer break is always better in my opinion. Thank you!
(Parent) - Both are messed up.
(Parent) - As much as I love two full weeks off at Christmas, pushing the end of school to June 22 is just too late. Having one day at the beginning of that week disrupts working parents' ability to put kids in camps for the week.
(Parent) - A full two weeks off for Winter Break will be easier to plan for a vacation to spend time with family.
(Parent & Employee) - With the longer days, will the salary be compensated for the employees?
(Parent & Employee) - With the a/c not working well in many of our school buildings it makes sense to end school as soon as we can rather than have students, staff and teachers working in environments that are much too hot to be safe or appropriate.
(Parent & Employee) - Too many students miss the days right after New Year's Day if they are close to a weekend so we lose those instruction days anyway. We might as well have them off.
(Parent & Employee) - No comment

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(Parent & Employee) - It is important to have the full two weeks off in December for Christmas/Winter break. As an employee and a mom, there is a lot of traveling and celebrating with family and friends.
(Parent & Employee) - I'd prefer my children not be in school any extra days; and as a family, we don't need those 2 extra days for Winter Break.
(Parent & Employee) - I think a two week winter holiday would bring us in line with other divisions and allow plenty of time for return travel. Starting back to school on January 2 is always very difficult. I would suggest removing one of the professional development days so that school could end June 19.
(Parent & Employee) - I believe Version 2 is a better plan than Version 1 because you have more time with family when you need it the most. Especially those teachers or students that travel for the holidays.
(Parent & Employee) - Future consideration: - starting before Labor Day so there is more time for instruction for SOL and SAT - always have a two week Christmas break
(Parent & Employee) - Ending school on a Monday is not ideal. As an employee I would like to see three early release days for parent conferences at least in the first quarter.
(Parent & Employee) - Are we able to vote on how we do Parent Teacher Conference days? Why can't we close the schools for a day to allow parent conferences? That would give us a full day (ex. 8am - 5pm) to meet with parents. This would also allow parents to meet at a time most convenient for them. Many other districts in the area have already changed to this model. It could be included as a Teacher Work Day.
(Employee) - Why do both versions only include 2 early release days for elementary conferences? Originally, we had 2 ER days for conferences, and 4 ER days at the end of the school year. A few years ago, we were told 2 of the 4th quarter days were being taken and used to add a third day for our conference weeks. When those days were removed, they were not replaced in 4th quarter. Teaching is a profession that cannot be managed successfully within the contract hours of a school day. Losing time and being told to take care of the overflow on our own is very bad for morale in our district. Please be considerate when we tell you what we need. We are working to manage overflowing class sizes, coordination with resource teachers, and scheduling limitations of interpreters. We need 3 ER days to complete our conferences.
(Employee) - Who wants to come back to school after Christmas and New Years on a Thursday? I just like version 2 a little bit better.
(Employee) - We need three early release conference days in the fall for elementary school. It is impossible to meet with all students parents in the time allotted and while three days does not provide enough time for schools like Mt Vernon with special circumstances the growing class sizes all teachers need more time for this.
(Employee) - Version two is preferable amongst most teachers. It would be much more beneficial for students and staff to get that full 2 weeks off during the Holidays. Please take that into consideration!
(Employee) - Version 2, with a longer winter break
(Employee) - Version 1 is similar to what we are used to already. There do not appear to be any major changes. Families can have an idea of what to expect. We should not be in school until June 22nd.
(Employee) - Two weeks for the winter holiday is crucial for those of us that need to spend time with aging family members on the other side of the country. It allows time to get back into town and still have time to be refreshed before starting back with students again. The years that have been 1 1/2 weeks have resulted in teachers being very drained when they return due to still having to travel during the shortened time. As far as the end of the school year, by having a full-week of school, it will increase the importance of those days. The single day of instruction on that following Monday would help to set aside the importance of the various graduations of elementary schools and middle schools. This past year, the last day was on a Thursday which meant the last real day that students were doing any meaningful instruction was on that Wednesday because so many students left school early on Thursday due to their sibling graduating.
(Employee) - Two full weeks at Winter Break is the deal maker.
(Employee) - The two week break is beneficial for staff and students. The calendar committee should consider returning the teacher workdays prior to pre-planning flex days again.

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<p>(Employee) - The school system needs to eventually come to an earlier end date in June! Education doesn't go this long, teachers have become babysitters, and half the class population has decreased by this time! Please incorporate an equal amount of ACTUALLY TEACHER WORK DAYS and professional days. There has to be a balance of planning what we learn at professional development days. Otherwise these PD days will become pointless.</p>
<p>(Employee) - The long winter break is VERY appealing.</p>
<p>(Employee) - That allows us to spent more time with our own children that attend other school district that get more days off during winter break</p>
<p>(Employee) - Teachers need 3 conference days at the very least in the fall. See TAC September meeting minutes (1st question).</p>
<p>(Employee) - So many students will be absent on that Th/Friday of Winter Break, so all that it does to have those as school days is cut the staff members' vacations short.</p>
<p>(Employee) - PLEASE get rid of Winter Parent teacher conferences!!!! At the high school attendance is very low and is time that could be used for instruction.</p>
<p>(Employee) - Please align with surrounding counties. Those of us who are employees here in ACPS may have our own children in surrounding counties, making childcare difficult when calendars are different (especially at winter break).</p>
<p>(Employee) - Our days off should align with FCPS and other counties, not just for sports but for all of us who have kids that attend the neighboring districts.</p>
<p>(Employee) - One more early release day to support parent teacher conferences in the fall, especially at the elementary school level.</p>
<p>(Employee) - On either version of the calendar, elementary teachers need to have 3 half days for conferences, rather than two. Only having two half days means that parents have less availability to attend, and teachers have to donate more time outside of contract hours (before and after school) and stay later (many until 8PM, creating a 10 hour work day, as we begin our contract time at 7:40 AM) than they would if there were three half days. Please consider our personal lives and health, and add a third half day for conferences. Working a 10+ hour day two days in a row, and coming in to teach our students the next day, is no way to create an optimal learning environment for our students.</p>
<p>(Employee) - My concern as a teacher is that 2 days for parent conferences is not sufficient for our school. Redistricting, which has resulted in increased class sizes (everyone takes +2 over the cap) and number of students enrolled, requires additional conference time (an additional half-day needs to be added). In addition, the demographics of our school (817 students, 56.1% are LEP compared to the division at 40.7% - taken from SchooNet on 10/29) require additional time per conference due to non-English speaking parents. More than half of the students are ELL and often require interpreters for conferences which take longer (face-to-face interpreters or use of language line increases conference minutes). Originally, the calendar committee asked for 3 days for 1st quarter conferences. Unfortunately, CO administration did not include them in the drafts. Because conferences are a critical time for ALL teachers, it is necessary to coordinate and schedule a sufficient number of conference days which allow for all support staff and specialists to be available to meet with parents of students who receive those services (ELL, Special Ed, Reading, etc). In reading the notes from the recent TAC meeting, the response that "School administrators at each school will work with teachers to provide parameters and options for parent conferences" is all well and good...however, school administrators can't give us an additional half day to meet the needs of our parents/students. Asking teachers and support staff to take personal time before/after contract hours to complete parent conferences is unfair. As educators, we already use excessive personal time to prepare lessons, etc. for our students (45 min. 3x/week is not sufficient — 2x/week are designated for PLC meetings). My hope is that CO understands the importance of meeting with ALL parents during 1st Quarter Conferences (at least at the elementary level). This contact/discussion is crucial to establishing good home-school relationships which support instruction and foster student success. Adding an additional half day will help meet the needs of our Tucker families and teachers, allowing us to have those critical conversations that will move students forward in their learning. Isn't that part of ACPS's mission statement...Every Student Succeeds?</p>
<p>(Employee) - Longer winter recess would be ideal. We should advertise this version as the "Longer Winter Break" one.</p>
<p>(Employee) - Longer break in the middle brings staff, employees and students feeling refreshed after winter break.</p>

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<p>(Employee) - It's unfortunate that both versions lack enough teacher work time for fall and winter conferences. With increased enrollment/class sizes and less time for conferences, it's implied that teachers must use personal time to meet with all students.</p>
<p>(Employee) - It would be wonderful to have a full two week winter break to align with other local jurisdictions. I hope this change is made! Thank you so much for considering it.</p>
<p>(Employee) - It would be extremely helpful to have an additional early release day for parent teacher conferences like we used to have. This helps accommodate more families' work schedules.</p>
<p>(Employee) - It seems clear that you are biased towards Version 1 with the way this voting was phrased.</p>
<p>(Employee) - It makes sense to take the last couple days the first week of January since so many students and staff just don't come anyway. It helps give flexibility to families-- both the families of students and to staff.</p>
<p>(Employee) - It is possible to move the division professional development from October to a later month? Or make that day half day professional development and half day teacher work day? As a teacher, the beginning of the year is stressful enough, let alone adding on new material. It would be more beneficial to staff to learn something half way through the year that we can work into an already functioning routine, and then carry over to the next year.</p>
<p>(Employee) - It is more restorative to have a longer mid-year break for teachers and allows for travel options as well.</p>
<p>(Employee) - It is closer to the Fairfax calendar, which helps the many families that live in Fairfax.</p>
<p>(Employee) - Is there a way to still end on Friday, June 19th using the Version 2 calendar and still have a two week winter break?</p>
<p>(Employee) - Instead of coming back to school for the last two days first week of January 2021; it's best to start with a full week.</p>
<p>(Employee) - In Version 2, is it possible to have a FULL day on Wednesday, June 17th and then have our last day with students be Friday, June 19th. The 22nd could then be turned into a TWD. If and only if that were the case, I would prefer Version 2 over Version 1.</p>
<p>(Employee) - In both cases I see no reason why we need Veteran's Day off. This is not in sync with other school districts including Fairfax County Public Schools. Schools can easily offer lessons/assemblies that honor and respect Veteran's Day. We really need to follow the calendar of other area school systems. ACPS continues to ignore this and thus causes its employees to take leave due to childcare issues.</p>
<p>(Employee) - I'm not sure why we're continuing to not have 2 full weeks off for winter break this year, even when other surrounding districts are. Most people did not grow up here and take this opportunity one time a year to see their family. Please show us respect and consideration (quite frankly for our mental health too) and give us time for our own personal lives and families. In addition, why are we suddenly having Veteran's Day off again? Put Veteran's Day back in and then school can be done on Friday the 19th. Obviously I'm asking for calendar 2.</p>
<p>(Employee) - I would like to have a FULL day off instead of 2 half days to do parent/teacher conferences. At MVCS, most teachers have at least 43 conferences to hold because of our dual language program. Each year it is extremely hard to fit them all in, and many of us end of staying after school for several days prior and after in order to see everyone. On the half days we end up staying until around 8pm and it is exhausting. If we had one full day, we could finish them all at a decent time and may not have to stay after school as many days. The whole process right now is exhausting and very difficult especially for teachers with children of their own to worry about.</p>
<p>(Employee) - I want to understand how administrators don't have Veteran's Day off. Having to take personal or annual leave on a federal holiday is absolutely bizarre to me. I do not understand why just 12 month employees have to report on this day. This should be added as a holiday for ALL going forward. How about we start after labor day and end the first/second week of June like countless other divisions around the US. There is no need to go on for as long as we do when we could end roughly 12 days earlier than we do.</p>
<p>(Employee) - I vote for the 2019-2020 SY Version 2 (longer winter break)</p>

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(Employee) - I think it is important to recognize all Federal Holidays, both for patriotic reasons as well as child care. Conferences also need to be at least 3 days in the Fall.
(Employee) - I really like that a TWD is scheduled on the Easter Monday in both versions! Thank you!!!
(Employee) - I prefer that winter break goes through January 3rd (Version 2). I have a feeling if we went with Version 1 attendance for teachers and students will be low on Thursday, January 4th and Friday, January 5th if we had scheduled class. Also, both calendars have a professional day on October 14th. I propose to move this date. Attendance is always low for this day since we have the professional development day on August 28th. It would be more beneficial to move ONE of those professional developments to later in the year. I would prefer to not have Columbus Day off. Is there a way we can not take that day off so we could end the school year a day later?
(Employee) - I prefer a two week winter break.
(Employee) - I like the fact that there is a full two weeks during winter break.
(Employee) - I like the 2 weeks during winter break.
(Employee) - I like having the day before Thanksgiving due to having to travel out of town to be with family. I prefer version two because I don't like coming back to school on a Thursday at the beginning of January. It's very disjointed and if there's snow then we may come for one day and be out for the next. I would rather start with a full week.
(Employee) - I like better more winter days breaks
(Employee) - I know very few co-workers who have family in Alexandria, or the DC metro area. Most people travel "home" to be with family during winter break, so having a long break allows to better plan this travel. The same goes for having the Wednesday off before Thanksgiving, and I appreciate that being a priority for the calendar committee every year. Traveling after school on Wednesday, or Thanksgiving morning would be a traffic nightmare. Looking at the 2 options for next year, it is also difficult to return to work on January 2nd, so having more days off after New Year's is a better option. Because of this, I prefer version 2 of the calendar.
(Employee) - I feel that it would be in the best interest to complete the school year on June 18th, rather than June 22nd. Each year after SOL's most students are "checked out" therefore creating more opportunities for behavior issues. I am sorry but we are not a daycare and keeping us in school longer simply because they want to have 2 full weeks off for xmas is ridiculous. Please establish version 1 as our calendar for next year.
(Employee) - I feel like we should have 2 weeks off from school to enjoy our winter break and reset.
(Employee) - I believe the two complete weeks off for Winter break is the best version for those that travel.
(Employee) - I believe that students should not have school on conference days. If we had one full day to hold conferences, teachers would be able to maximize their time and energy to provide parents with the best conferences that we can. I would prefer to have one full day for conferences in November and another in February, and I personally would not mind if two days were added in June or at some other point throughout the year to make up for these conference days. According to the current and proposed calendars, teachers are expected to be at school for 12+ hours on conference days, teaching for 4.5 hours and then holding conferences until late at night. These days are very taxing, particularly for dual language teachers who need to meet with all 46+ families. Due to the exceedingly long day, our exhaustion does not permit us to maintain our energy levels as we meet with all parents. This is a disservice both to teachers and to parents.
(Employee) - I appreciate the option of a FULL 2 week break versus only 8 days in Version 1. Additionally, I would like the addition of a FULL day of conferences versus the scheduled half days. A full day of conferences would allow teachers to conference with ALL parents. A full day would allow the flexibility for parents to meet with parents in their child's school at their convenience and not an allotted time frame as we give them this year. A full day would not have teachers staying after school until 7:45, losing planning time and losing precious time with their families. As a single mother, this is very important to me. I love working for this district, but it is very unsettling to me that teachers are only given 2 half days for conferences and one of those half days includes meeting with parents until late in the evening. A full day would allow more flexibility and would be more beneficial for teachers and parents.

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(Employee) - I appreciate that Spring Break is aligned with other school districts. Many teachers are unable to take advantage of professional development in October because of the holiday. There are very few childcare options because it is a federal holiday and the city rec programs and other programs are closed. Please consider moving this PD day to November 4. This would give students a long weekend for college visits and it would give teachers a PD day and teacher work day back to back. It would also give more time between the start of school and the first PD day.

(Employee) - I am always in favor of getting out before the 20th of June.

(Employee) - I absolutely cannot imagine the last day of school being a Monday. Neither option gives the needed three elementary conference days in the fall.

(Employee) - Hi as an employee of a dual language school we have 2 sections/classes and it is very hard to fit in 48 conferences in 2 days. I think this should be taken into consideration for MV every year.

(Employee) - full 2-week winter break needed and will match neighboring districts (ex. FCPS) resulting in staff not needing to take time off for childcare and less subs

(Employee) - for 2019-2020, my vote is for Version 2 calendar, with the longer winter break.

(Employee) - Finishing school just a few days earlier is best for all; helps to keep students behaviors minimized, parents to keep summer schedules for camps, and teachers that are tired!

(Employee) - Can we please add an additional early release day for conferences to accommodate more families' work schedules?

(Employee) - As an employee that cannot afford to live in the city I work in, we live in Fairfax County had have children that go to school there as well. It would be great to have as many same days off between Fairfax, ACPS, Arlington etc. Many of us are parents and having to juggle three and four schedules is cumbersome. Please help your employees!

(Employee) - A longer Christmas break would be really beneficial for those of us who travel to visit family during that time!

(Community Member) - I love Version 2 for the full two weeks at Christmas. I think it's better to start off fresh with a new week rather than a mid-week return and may have more kids attending. Although, for Version 1 when we came back mid-week, it did allow the kids to adjust a bit more after being off for a period of time. :-) Love Tucker!

2019-2020 Calendar Feedback - Additional Comments related to hours versus days.

(Parent) - Yes. This change makes sense. Fairfax County Public Schools does it, too.
(Parent) - YES - I would love to do the system on the hours versus days because we go so many extra days now compared to Fairfax County.
(Parent) - This seems to work well for FCPS.
(Parent) - This just feels like a way around the Labor Day rule. I'd rather fight the Labor Day rule!!
(Parent) - There is absolutely no need for that final Monday, June 22. End the school year the prior Thursday or Friday.
(Parent) - There a lot of students struggling due to lack of teacher knowledge? Are the PD day's relevant and make an impact on students or are they given because they're required by law?
(Parent) - The text above is not helpful because I do not understand how going to 990 hours yields an increase in professional development. Is there a need for more professional development? I also do not understand what impact this will have on the ending date at the end of the year when we start on September 8. A more complete explanation should have been provided. I not think you can infer anything from the responses since it will not be informed choices.
(Parent) - The school day is already at its max given the amount of homework that must be done at night.
(Parent) - The kids need more time in school, not less! Stop focusing on the minimum required by law and focus on what is needed to properly educate children.
(Parent) - Shifting to hours vs. days gives ACPS a lot of flexibility. And, we are all aware that once SOLs and Finals end, the school year is over. Forcing the students to attend to watch movies, play games and generally show up is a morale-losing, short-sighted approach to checking the box with the VA Board of Education.
(Parent) - Scheduling child care for professional days is utter chaos for us. I'd go with the usual extra time. It likely also helps us on test scores.
(Parent) - Regardless of how you count student time (hours vs. days), you shouldn't cut back on number of days in school. If you do cut back on education hours, you should spend the time conferencing with parents so they can partner with teachers to support the curriculum at home and be more involved in their children's education. I would not support more teacher development.
(Parent) - Most definitely!!!!
(Parent) - Is there a possibility to start school a week before Labor Day - I think Fairfax County is doing something similar to that. That way they finish a week earlier?
(Parent) - Is additional professional development for teachers driving the change? For high school students/AP classes, will this make it harder for them to cover all of the material?
(Parent) - I'm fine with it as long as we start after Labor Day.
(Parent) - I would support an increase in the number of professional days for teachers but I would not support losing the full 70 hour surplus (which I assume is about 10 days) of instructional time. I would like to better understand how ACPS is proposing to balance increasing professional development days against decreased instructional days.
(Parent) - I would support a reduced number of days if some of the half days were extended to full days.
(Parent) - I would only support a decrease in the number of days if the instruction at the end of year continues to the end. Nothing much is done after SOLs, so there would need to be continued instruction until the last week. I also don't understand why the number of professional days would go up with a switch from days to hours.
(Parent) - I would need to see what the change would really look like before voting. How would it change the school day. Why don't we try to change the mandate of starting after Labor Day! Really, it is just too late.
(Parent) - I would love less school days.
(Parent) - I would like to see a longer school day so that students get more recess, more PE and the schedule is less rushed. My kids find the super short lunches and lack of bathroom breaks really stressful.
(Parent) - I would also fully support starting school before Labor Day

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(Parent) - I would also consider options between 990 hours or 183 days, such as 1000 to 1020 hours to accommodate potential snow days or other disruptions while still providing flexibility in years that Labor Day falls late in September.
(Parent) - I would also be in favor of adding minutes to the school day in order to get out earlier in June. 20- 30 extra minutes added onto the day would be beneficial for learning as well as help with calendar problems.
(Parent) - I want to support what the division believes is most beneficial to learning. I'm unclear, however, why fewer school days equates to more teacher workdays. I understand the need for TWDs; regardless they are very hard for working parents. I appreciate when you schedule them as half-days and on secondary Federal holidays (e.g. Veterans Day).
(Parent) - I support fewer hours and shorter school year. However I do not support more teacher development days during the school year. Teachers should work 11 out of the twelve months and teacher development should be done outside of the school year.
(Parent) - I support and understand the need for professional/teacher development work days, but I feel ACPS school days are already too short in the length of hours/day. If elementary schools operated from 8a.m. - 3p.m./3:05p.m. (versus 2:35p.m.), the additional 25-30min per day would provide invaluable time for learning and either extending the amount of time spent on certain subjects each day; as an extra form of recess/physical activity; or for the inclusion of an (additional) work/study time to allow students extra time to work on their subject of choice.
(Parent) - I don't think there should be any changes to shorten the school year. I also think adding in more teacher work days during the school year is extremely difficult for working parents who have to find childcare more frequently.
(Parent) - I do not support beginning the school year prior to Labor Day but would very much appreciate significant lead time to plan around the scheduled teacher work days and observation of the Jewish Holidays, which also fall close to the start of the school year.
(Parent) - Have professional work days after the last day of school for kids.
(Parent) - Given our unpredictable weather, I would hesitate to be without that cushion. I feel that statement regarding the Commonwealth of VA mandate is misleading. Most school divisions in VA seem to be able to get an exception/waiver and begin school before Labor Day. I'd prefer to explore that option.
(Parent) - Exchanging teacher-student time for teacher work days will not result in positive change in the overall ACPS quality of education.
(Parent) - Do the teachers feel they can get enough done with fewer days to do it in?
(Parent) - Do not start school earlier, however.
(Parent) - Can ACPS get an exemption like Fairfax County to start school before Labor Day?
(Parent) - Because of SOL testing, my children basically learn nothing new during the entire month of June. The additional time would be helpful earlier in the school year, not as extra days in June. In addition, my children's school has poor air conditioning and those final days of June are very hot. Last year, my daughter's class had to be relocated several times. It would be great to be finished with the year by the end of the second week of June. There are plenty of camps and childcare options because many other schools are out by that date. Teachers could have teacher work days that they are paid for at the end of the year instead of working for free over the summer. I also support a schedule where we would not have to make up the first 1-2 snow days. Often there are less than 3 snow days during the entire year. It has been so much easier in recent years not having to scramble plans and make up days for just a single snow day.
(Parent) - As long as we meet the criteria in one manner or another it is fine with me. However, if there are less days, I hope that those days will be more focused on new material as opposed to so much review at the start and end of the year. Thank you.
(Parent) - As a single parent that relies on paid outside care to continue working on non-school days, it is more difficult when there are fewer student days.

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(Parent) - Again, thinking of working parents, it is very difficult and expensive to find coverage for children when they are out of school. I would rather the year shift slightly with a late start after Labor Day than have to find coverage when I have to work.
(Parent) - ACPS should get out much sooner than it does. The last few weeks of school are really tough for the kids to stay engaged since SOL's are over. The fact that teachers show movies in the classroom is evident that everyone is ready to be done with school. Teachers should also schedule a couple field trips per week those last 2 weeks of school - get the kids to have other experiences off-site.
(Parent) - 70 hours divided by 6.5 hours per school day = 10 less days of school for our children in the 2020-21 school year. That's two full weeks, and seems like too much time for children to miss out on learning.
(Parent & Employee) - Yes, this makes sense. I would like to see it used to create a holiday in October instead of or in addition to a PD day then.
(Parent & Employee) - Yes, of course.
(Parent & Employee) - With the change to hours I hope that still means we will still have three built in snow days we won't have to make-up.
(Parent & Employee) - They should not start early they should start on the day of the other ACPS.
(Parent & Employee) - Not in favor of having more teacher day since my child is in elementary school and would need child care or ultimately have to take off .
(Parent & Employee) - More time for PD for teachers will benefit student academic outcome and well being.
(Parent & Employee) - I support the change as long as the focus is on providing more teacher work days and not increasing the professional development days.
(Employee) - YES. Teachers are overwhelmed, which is why we can't keep any! Those days would be so incredibly beneficial for staff to get things done, and would directly impact student achievement. It seems like all we do is ask teacher to do more, but don't give them more time to do it...
(Employee) - Yes, that would be great to have it based on minutes so we wouldn't have to go so long. If we have a lot of snow days we could add minutes to the day if need be.
(Employee) - Yes!! Teachers would love an extended day! Even an extra 30 minutes per day would be so helpful!
(Employee) - Yes! We are in desperate need of more professional days. That time is valuable to keep our staff up to date on best practices so they are providing the best instruction when students are in session.
(Employee) - Yes! We are in school much longer than neighboring districts.
(Employee) - Yes teachers need more professional development days. For example this year schools are scrambling to fit in the ALICE training part 2. That training should be given on a PD day.
(Employee) - yes please!
(Employee) - Would the school day be longer?
(Employee) - With the trend towards extreme weather (severe snow, wind days, hurricane days) and days lost as a result of old, poorly-maintained ACPS facilities (electrical panel and flood issues, AC or heat out), ACPS needs to be building in flexible snow makeup days that do not take away from professional time or teacher work days. If days are unused (as happened at times in neighboring Fairfax County, specifically 2011-2012), they can be deducted from the end of the school year. While ACPS is traditionally extremely conservative with taking snow days, if they build in more snow makeup days (that could be removed if not used), they could allow for more liberal use of snow days. Due to the high cost of living and real estate in Alexandria City, the majority of teachers cannot afford to live near where they work. As a result, when ACPS is open and other districts are closed for inclement weather, teachers struggle to get to work safely, resulting in costly car accidents for staff and issues of injury getting into school, which results of time absent, emergency sick leaving being used, lack of subs or teachers, and worker's compensation claims that occur.

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(Employee) - When we had to make up days by adding 30 minutes to the day, it was torture for everyone, and adding minutes isn't the same as having a whole new day to present information to students.
(Employee) - What is the purpose of extra teacher work days? The number we currently have is too many and we have not seen an increase in student achievement with these extra days!
(Employee) - We need more instructional time with our students and starting before Labor Day is a plus. You site that the Commonwealth of Virginia mandates that school divisions begin the day after Labor Day. So Fauquier County's 1st Day of School was AUGUST 15, Prince William County started AUGUST 27, Fairfax County started August 28, and Loudoun County started AUGUST 23. All these schools are in the commonwealth but play by different rules? Yes, I can look up what defines school divisions, but clearly you all don't want to start before Labor Day either. Lets get more instructional time with our students. After testing, nobody is doing anything anyway - it's a waste of time and a tick on the calendar to count a day. Our students deserve better and more - let's give it to them.
(Employee) - We currently go over the state requirements (at the HS level) by 13 DAYS. Thirteen DAYS. As a division, we are over by 11.2 days. There is literally no reason that we should have any concerns regarding snow days given the insane amount of days we are already over. 13 PD days is also astonishing to me. What are these days used for? I only count 11 days on the school calendar. Where are the other two?
(Employee) - We already go 13 days longer than other districts, this is ridiculous.
(Employee) - Unless the teacher pay is increasing to cover the increase in hours with the teacher work days I would not support this. We took a pay cut this year (and for every year going forward) with not having our step- do NOT cut our pay any more by contracting us to work more hours! Look at more frequent early releases (secondary schools) or delayed starts (elementary) for PD time.
(Employee) - Teachers need time in their classrooms to plan and prepare for their students. Also, high-quality professional development is lacking in ACPS. We are constantly being asked to implement new programs (such as the Lucy Calkins reading workshop and Words Their Way) and we are not properly trained on these programs. Much more than a 2 hour session is needed to understand these programs in order to successfully implement them. I would also support adding 5-20 more minutes to each school day, if we decrease the number of student days, as there is already too much to teach and not enough time in the day. Thank you for your consideration :)
(Employee) - Teacher work days are so helpful for teachers to get all of their planning done ahead of time and to have time to collaborate with their team. I would love to have more time to plan!
(Employee) - Students need the academic days of instruction -
(Employee) - Professional developments for educators have not been of high quality lately. It is concerning to think that this professional day is going to become days where staff are required to sit through meaningless professional development.
(Employee) - Our students would benefit from more structured time in their day. Being longer at school would help these adolescents stay away from risk factors in their communities.
(Employee) - Longer days support departmentalization in elementary schools; and the PD and work days are needed. A calendar like Fairfax would be great. Teachers need time to be great!
(Employee) - Is there an example of what that might look like? Has ACPS ever considered applying to start a week earlier like Fairfax and Prince William? Has ACPS also considered adding time to the day especially since we are mandated by the district to include 30 minutes a day for recess?
(Employee) - I'm not fond of the idea of increasing teacher work days unless it's a few telework days incorporated.
(Employee) - I would only support the change in hours if staff is fairly compensated for the number of hours they would work.
(Employee) - I would need to need to see the compensation impact of this change.

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(Employee) - I would definitely support that change. More time for professional learning and planning means that students will receive better prepared teachers and more knowledgeable with staff developments and on-going building-wide training.
(Employee) - I will only support that change if ACPS staff and teachers are appropriately compensated for any service that goes beyond their contracted number of days.
(Employee) - I will need to see an example of what a school year would like before making a final decision about this, but I would lean towards going to hours.
(Employee) - I think professional development and work days are beneficial to teachers in helping us renew, strategize, and plan ahead.
(Employee) - I support this move, especially since it seems like our district goes later than all surrounding districts, like Fairfax, who despite starting at the same time as us, end earlier. I think we go too late into June.
(Employee) - I support this change if it will increase the number of PD and teacher work days. Teachers and schools continue to ask for additional professional development days and teachers often have to pick between two trainings or take leave and request a sub, which is costly for the school district. Teachers also do not want to do professional development in the summer because it is unpaid. Many districts do professional development at the be end of the school year when teachers are still under contract but students are finished for the year.
(Employee) - I support the change as long as our pay scales and income are not negatively impacted.
(Employee) - I support more hours as long as that means more teacher planning instead of teacher instruction. I support more hours that supports having both a 30 minute recess and 30 minute lunch at the elementary level, instead of the current 30 minute recess and 20 minute lunch at certain schools. Elementary school teachers need more planning time in general, so more hours that supports teacher planning and less duty coverage is appreciated.
(Employee) - I like the idea of having more planning time during school hours.
(Employee) - I honestly don't feel the need to increase the number of professional workdays/teacher workdays. I would rather see our non students days used more efficiently. instead of 2 early release days for conferences, what if we had one full day for just conferences, the other day for professional development.
(Employee) - I feel this would be beneficial to teachers to increase their planning time to make for better lessons, have more time to co-plan with Specialists (Sped and EL teachers) in order to better maximize time and have co-taught classrooms run more effectively and efficiently. This time also helps to train new staff or staff that was not trained on programs earlier.
(Employee) - I feel this change could be a great way to increase collaboration in PLCs which is a big initiative in the district and would allow for such collaboration to be done in ways that don't take away from already limited time in planning blocks.
(Employee) - I do not support the longer school day, increase in number of PD/teacher work days, UNLESS teachers are fairly compensated for the increase from the amount of days we are currently working.
(Employee) - I believe days are easier to track then ours
(Employee) - How would this proposed change affect our students who rely on school for their meals? • Could more breaks or slightly longer breaks be placed throughout the year so as to lessen the impact of Summer Slide?
(Employee) - How many professional development days are required? If this change meant more time for teachers to get their classrooms together, have team meetings, complete administrative tasks, and plan upfront then I would support that change. If it means sitting in more meetings and repetitive PD sessions then I don't support that change.
(Employee) - How many professional development days are required? If this change meant more time for teachers to get their classrooms together, have team meetings, complete administrative tasks and plan upfront, then I would support this change. However, if it means sitting in more meetings and repetitive PD sessions, then I don't support this change.

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(Employee) - How come we continue to have 183 school days to 'provide cushion' when other school districts are 180 school days with more snow/inclement weather days provided? I am all for going 990 hours but I still can't figure out why we are trying to reinvent the wheel. Obviously with having 70 hours extra already, there is plenty of cushion already there and yet we need to be in school longer. We also start at a later date, which hopefully this fix will limit the fact we go to school til the end of June, but who knows what will happen to us with the result. Will you then pay us less due to having a 'shorter' school day year? It makes me wonder what the full intentions may be

(Employee) - Can we look into lengthening the school day?

(Employee) - Can we extend the school day to include more instructional time for students? This is something that Loudoun County does which gives more instructional time and more built in snow days.

(Employee) - Calculating by hours actually seems like a better idea since the high school's long days already put us well beyond the minimum; however, your proposal suggests just making teachers work those days anyway, which I do not support. It's far preferable to the too-long year, but the ACPS school year is too long for BOTH staff and students; we should be concerned about ending at a reasonable time in June. One aside, I assume your question to be asking whether we should count hours instead of days when determining whether we meet the standard for student contact time. This would result in fewer student contact days. Good plan. But the question's phrasing could be misinterpreted. At first read I thought you were asking whether I'd support changing the hours of a school day (i.e. lengthening the day), which I would not.

(Employee) - Based upon additional time for recess. I would like for it to be extended an extra 15 minutes.

(Employee) - As a teacher the current school hours are found to be very difficult for fitting everything in. I would fully support a longer school day in order to best continue the flow of my lessons and allow students to not be so rushed in each subject. This would be especially appreciated if it would also end school earlier in June for students who lose focus quickly as summer approaches.

(Employee) - As a staff member it would be great if we could just establish some form of consistency in regards to a school calendar. I am fine with changing to set number of hours, but is adding more professional development days really needed. Could we perhaps just put in place a calendar that models other school districts?

(Employee) - A slightly longer school day and fewer days would allow for a longer Language Arts block in elementary schools (making it easier to fit in reading strategies groups and writing practice). It also allows students and teachers to be out for summer at the same time as those in other nearby districts.

(Community Member) - I'm not sure how this relates specifically to Tucker since we start earlier anyway? I love the Tucker schedule, but not sure how the teachers would feel with more professional development time vs. less student time. Our teachers need to be taken care of, they are with our kids almost every day. I think their input on this topic is probably the most important factor - they know the curriculum and students best and would have the greatest insight on a positive outcome.