Arlington Public Schools

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APS Strategic Plan
2024-30



Proposed Revisions to the 2026-2027 School Year Calendar

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October 22, 2026

Proposed Revisions to the 2026-2027 School Year Calendar

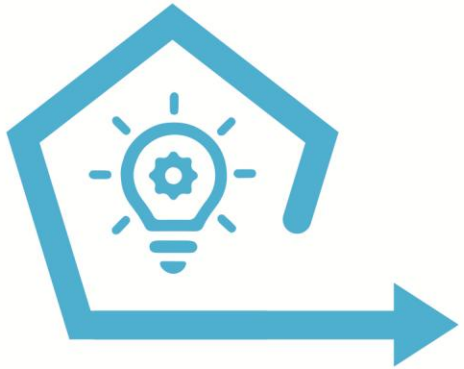
Proposed Calendar Revision:

Move the Eid al-Fitr holiday from Wednesday, March 10, 2027, to Tuesday, March 9, 2027, to align the approved school year calendar with the updated anticipated date of the religious observance.

Wednesday, March 10, 2027, will become a regular instructional day.



Proposed Revisions to the 2026-2027 School Year Calendar



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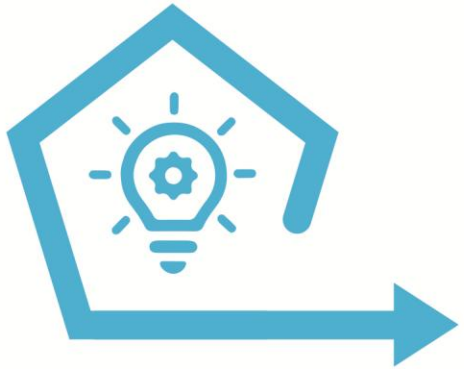
Background/Rationale:

- APS develops and approves school year calendars up to two years in advance to support planning and preparation.
- Certain religious observances, including Eid al-Fitr, follow lunar calendars and may shift from initially projected dates.
- The approved 2026–2027 calendar identifies Wednesday, March 10, 2027, as the Eid al-Fitr holiday.
- Updated lunar calendar projections indicate that Eid al-Fitr is anticipated to fall on Tuesday, March 9, 2027.
- APS previously made a similar calendar adjustment for Diwali in the 2025–2026 school year to reflect an updated observance date.
- The proposed revision maintains the existing number of instructional days while ensuring the calendar reflects the anticipated religious observance.

Proposed Revisions to the 2026-2027 School Year Calendar



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Calendar Revision Comparison

Current vs. Proposed Calendar

	Current Approved Calendar	Proposed Revision
Tuesday, March 9, 2027	Regular instructional day	Eid al-Fitr Holiday — Schools Closed
Wednesday, March 10, 2027	Eid al-Fitr Holiday — Schools Closed	Regular instructional day

**The proposed revision changes only the designated date of the Eid al-Fitr holiday. No additional instructional days or holidays are being proposed.*

Proposed Revisions to the 2026-2027 School Year Calendar

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March-2027

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3 E E(PL)	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 E	19 ++	20
21	22 Spring Break	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Mar. 3 - ER - Professional Learning Day - School-based

Mar. 10 - Eid al-Fitr

Mar. 17 - ES Full Day

Mar. 18 - ES Early Release

Mar. 19 - ES/MS Conference - ES/MS No School

Mar. 22 - 26 - Spring Break

March-2027

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3 E E(PL)	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 E	19 ++	20
21	22 Spring Break	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Mar. 3 - ER - Professional Learning Day - School-based

Mar. 9 - Eid al-Fitr

Mar. 17 - ES Full Day

Mar. 18 - ES Early Release

Mar. 19 - ES/MS Conference - ES/MS No School

Mar. 22 - 26 - Spring Break

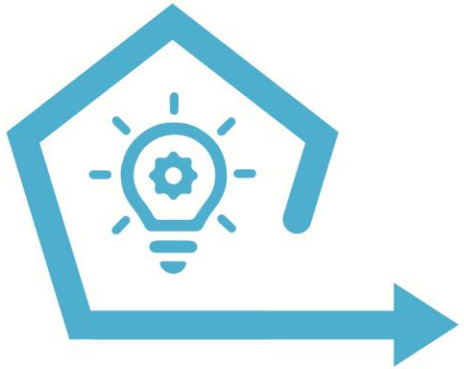
Proposed Revisions to the 2026-2027 School Year Calendar

Proposed Contingent Calendar Revision – June 15, 2027

- June 15, 2027, is a scheduled primary election date in Virginia.
- APS schools may need to close to accommodate election operations.
- Contingent approval is requested to allow APS to close schools on June 15, if necessary, without requiring additional School Board action.



Proposed Revisions to the 2026-2027 School Year Calendar



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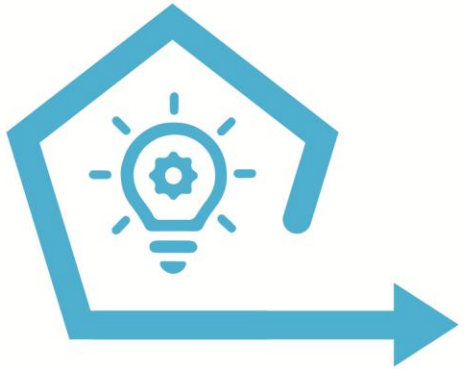
Background/Rationale:

- The approved 2026–27 school year calendar currently identifies June 15, 2027, as an instructional day.
- APS schools may be needed as polling locations, potentially requiring a school closure to accommodate election operations.
- If a closure is necessary, the proposed revision would reduce student reporting days by one.
- Contingent approval would allow APS to implement the calendar adjustment, if necessary, without returning to the School Board for additional action.

Proposed Revisions to the 2026-2027 School Year Calendar



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Instructional Time Impact

The proposed contingent revision would reduce student reporting days by one for each school level if APS schools are required to close on June 15, 2027, while maintaining instructional hours above Virginia's minimum requirement of 990 hours.

School Level	Current Reporting Days	Proposed Reporting Days	Proposed Hours Above State Minimum after proposed June 15 closure
Elementary	178	177	95.3
Middle	178	177	86.5
High	180	179	107.1

If implemented, the contingent revision would reduce annual instructional time by approximately 6.3 hours for elementary schools, 6.2 hours for middle schools, and 4.1 hours for high schools. All three school levels would continue to exceed the state minimum.

Proposed Revisions to the 2026-2027 School Year Calendar

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June-2027

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2 E	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 E	10	11 HS ER	12
13	14	15 HS ER	16	17 § LD TL	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Jun. 11 - 16 - HS ER- High School Early Release
Jun. 17 - ER - ES/MS/HS Last Day of School
§ Jun. 17 - Last Day for Teachers (TL)
June 19 - Juneteenth - Observed June 18

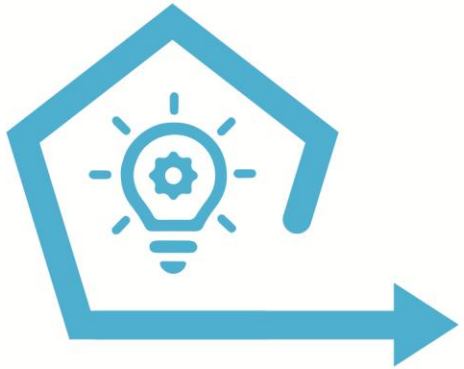
June-2027

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2 E	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 E	10	11 HS ER	12
13	14 HS ER	15	16 HS ER	17 § LD TL	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Jun. 11 - 14 - HS ER- High School Early Release
Jun. 15 - Special Election - No School
Jun. 16 - 17 - HS ER- High School Early Release
Jun. 17 - ER - ES/MS/HS Last Day of School
§ Jun. 17 - Last Day for Teachers (TL)
June 19 - Juneteenth - Observed June 18

**The proposed revision would take effect only if APS determines that a school closure is necessary to accommodate election operations on June 15, 2027.*

Proposed Revisions to the 2026-2027 School Year Calendar



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Recommendation

Approval is requested for the proposed revisions to the 2026–2027 School Year Calendar, including:

- Moving the Eid al-Fitr holiday from Wednesday, March 10, 2027, to Tuesday, March 9, 2027.
- Authorizing a contingent school closure on June 15, 2027, if necessary to accommodate election operations.

Upon approval, APS will publish the revised calendar and communicate the changes to employees, families, and the school community. The June 15 contingency will be implemented only if a school closure is necessary.

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QUESTIONS