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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August 13, 2026

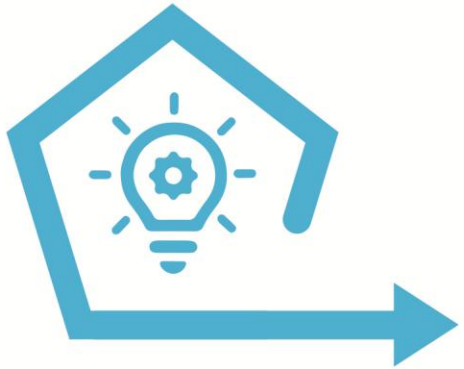
Proposed Revisions to the 2026-2027 School Year Calendar

Proposed Calendar Revision:

Replace three half-day early release days with one and a half professional learning days to provide dedicated time for elementary parent-teacher conferences in October and March.



Proposed Revisions to the 2026-2027 School Year Calendar

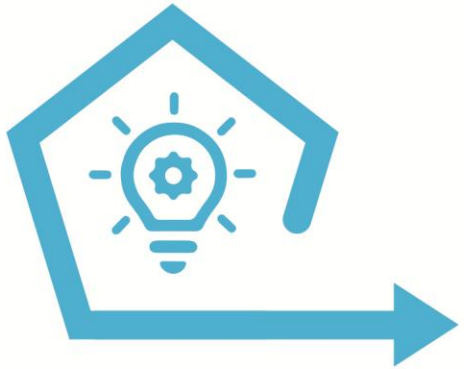


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Background/Rationale for why Revision is Being Proposed:

- Provide dedicated time for elementary parent-teacher conferences in October and March.
- Increase opportunities for meaningful family engagement by expanding time for parent-teacher conferences.
- Improve conference scheduling and accessibility for families by reducing the time lost to early dismissal logistics associated with half-day release schedules.
- Respond to feedback and recommendations from school leaders, instructional staff, teachers, and families.
- Maintain compliance with state instructional time requirements, as the proposed revision does not reduce required instructional minutes.

Proposed Revisions to the 2026-2027 School Year Calendar



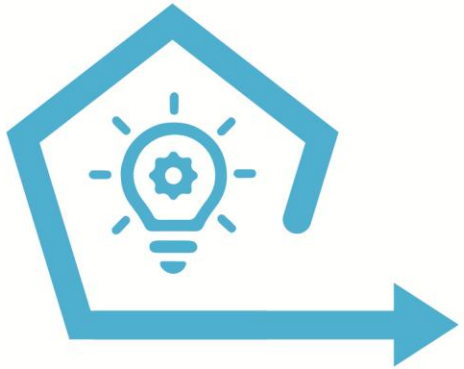
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Conference Schedule Comparison

Current Schedule vs. Proposed Revisions

	Current Elementary School Schedule	Proposed Elementary School Revisions
October 7-9, 2026	October 7: Early release day October 8: Early release day October 9: Early release day	October 7: Full instructional day October 8: Early release day October 9: No school
March 17-19, 2027	March 17: Early release day March 18: Early release day March 19: Early release day	March 17: Full instructional day March 18: Early release day March 19: No school

Proposed Revisions to the 2026-2027 School Year Calendar



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Instructional Time Impact

The proposed revisions reduce elementary instructional days from 180 to 178 while maintaining instructional hours well above Virginia's minimum requirements.

	Current Calendar	Proposed Calendar
Instructional Days	180 days	178 days
Instructional Hours	1,067.7 hours	1,064.8 hours
Excess Instructional Time Above State Minimum (Days Equivalent)	12.7 days	12.3 days
Excess Instructional Time Above State Minimum (Hours Equivalent)	77.7 hours	74.8 hours

Although the proposal reduces two instructional days, it decreases total instructional time by only 2.9 hours while maintaining more than 74 hours of instructional time above the state minimum.

Proposed Revisions to the 2026-2027 School Year Calendar

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Proposed conference calendar showing the revised October and March conference schedule

October-2026

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

Oct. 7 - PSAT Day

Oct. 7 - ES Full Day

Oct. 8 - ES Early Release

Oct. 9 - ES Conference - ES No School

Oct. 12 - Indigenous Peoples Day - Professional Learning Day

Oct. 28 - ER - Professional Learning Day - School-based

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 ES - NS	20
21	22	23	24 Spring Break	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 Conference - ES No School

Mar. 22 - 26 - Spring Break

Recommendation

- **Replace three half-day early-release days with 1.5 professional learning days** to provide dedicated time for elementary parent-teacher conferences in October and March.
- **Increase meaningful family engagement** through dedicated conference time.
- **Improve scheduling and accessibility** for families by reducing early-release logistics.
- **Maintain required instructional time** and compliance with state requirements.

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QUESTIONS