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B. CALENDAR DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES

1. START OF SCHOOL

As mandated by Code of Virginia 22.1-79.1, the first day of student attendance shall be no earlier than 14 days (two weeks) before Labor Day. As such, per law, schools must be closed from the Friday immediately preceding Labor Day through Labor Day. School shall begin on a Monday.

Beginning school before Labor Day allows students to receive two additional weeks of instruction and preparation for spring testing, including on the Standards Of Learning (SOL), Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), and Dual Enrollment (DE) exams.

2. LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

The last day of school shall be before Juneteenth, and not on a Monday or a Tuesday.

3. LENGTH OF THE SCHOOL DAY

The Division Superintendent is authorized to establish the length of the school day in accordance with state law and school system needs.

a. Daily Schedules

The Division Superintendent shall issue regulations establishing minimum hours per school day (excluding meals and recess) for elementary, middle, and high schools.

b. Establishment of Daily School Start and End Times

The Division Superintendent shall issue regulations establishing guidelines for daily school start and end times.

c. Adjustments

The Division Superintendent may authorize early closings or other adjustments to the school day, provided these changes do not result in noncompliance with state requirements for total instructional hours or days.

There shall be no more than four (4) division-wide early release days per school year, plus up to four (4) more division-wide early release days for elementary schools only. Currently, these are designated for all quarter ends.

All early release days must be included on the student calendar when it is published three years in advance. In elementary schools, all early release days – whether end of quarter and or otherwise – shall be the same duration of time.

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B. CALENDAR DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES

4. STUDENT HOLIDAYS AND OBSERVANCES

a. Student Holidays

The following shall be designated as student holidays (in alphabetical order):

.....Etc

- Spring Holiday (Shall be five business days long, and always a full Monday through Friday. It shall be determined in alignment with most of the surrounding jurisdictions to account for staffing and operational concerns. If alignment is not possible, it will be the first full week of April.) There shall not be an FCPS-scheduled student holiday on the Monday after spring break.

Suggestions about the order of sections of policy 1344, Section V, 5/5/26:

Current draft:

Section V. POLICY

A. CALENDAR AND INSTRUCTIONAL TIME

1. STANDARD CALENDAR STRUCTURE
2. CALENDAR ADOPTION
3. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
4. EMERGENCY CLOSURES
5. MODIFIED SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

B. CALENDAR DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES

1. START OF SCHOOL
2. LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
3. LENGTH OF THE SCHOOL DAY
4. STUDENT HOLIDAYS AND OBSERVANCES
5. SUMMER HOLIDAY
6. COUNTY-WIDE ELECTIONS

Proposed 5/5:

Section V. RESPONSIBILITIES

A. STANDARD CALENDAR MAKEUP

1. INSTRUCTIONAL TIME
   a. *Here: intro about 180 days/900 hours as in current draft p.2.*
2. STRUCTURE
   a. *Here: content from p.2 "STANDARD CALENDAR STRUCTURE"*
3. START OF SCHOOL
   Suggested: language clarifying why school starts and ends when it does
4. LENGTH OF SCHOOL DAY
   Suggested: changing to "8" ERDs, and add that all are standard time in ES
5. LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
6. SUMMER HOLIDAY

B. CALENDAR DEVELOPMENT ~~GUIDELINES~~

7. STUDENT HOLIDAYS AND OBSERVANCES
   Suggested: language about no holiday Monday after Spring Break
8. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
9. ADOPTION

C. CLOSURES DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR

   a. EMERGENCY CLOSURES
   b. COUNTY-WIDE ELECTIONS

D. MODIFIED SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR