

Proposed

2027-2028 and 2028-2029 Standard School Year Calendars

July 9, 2026

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Fairfax County PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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Overview and Timeline

Date	Item
November 2023	Fairfax County School Board provided guidelines to FCPS administration, including the advanced creation and distribution of three standard school year calendars.
April 9, 2026	On April 9, 2026, the Board approved the 2026-2027 standard school year calendar, requiring the Superintendent to return with recommended calendars for 2027-2028 and 2028-2029. • The Board also required that the recommendation incorporate comprehensive community engagement, including electronic surveys and in-person feedback.
June 11, 2026	The School Board adopted revisions to Policy 1344 (Standard School Year Calendar).
June 11, 2026 - June 22, 2026	A survey was administered from June 11 - June 22, 2026 to parents and guardians of current FCPS students and a separate survey was administered to FCPS staff during the same window. Additionally, the Superintendent leveraged previously-scheduled community meetings to gather input from division constituents.
July 9, 2026	Recommended 2027-2028 and 2028-2029 calendars presented to the school board for review and approval, re-establishing advanced creation and distribution of three standard school year calendars.

Calendar Policy Highlights

- Calendar must meet or exceed Virginia instructional time requirements.
- Calendar must include 180 student instructional days or 990 instructional hours.
- School may not begin earlier than two weeks before Labor Day.
- Schools are closed from the Friday immediately preceding Labor Day through Labor Day.
- The last day of school must occur before Juneteenth.
- Winter break must be two full weeks and include Christmas Day and New Year's Day.
- Spring break must be one full week and aligned with surrounding divisions to the greatest extent possible.
- Federal holidays, except Veterans Day, are student holidays.
- The Wednesday before and Friday after Thanksgiving are student and staff holidays.
- The policy identifies specific religious holidays on which there shall be no school.
- The calendar should prioritize full five-day instructional weeks and avoid fragmented weeks to the greatest extent possible.
- The Board must maintain three years of approved calendars.

Engagement Process

FCPS administered a voluntary survey to parents/caregivers and staff.

The survey was offered in 44 languages, with responses submitted in 30 languages, and provides helpful insight to staff about priorities.

The Superintendent also used previously scheduled community meetings to gather feedback from division constituents.

How Survey Findings & Input From Community Engagement Were Used

# Parents/Caregivers Completing Survey	# Staff Completing Survey
33,389	14,402

- Survey results and input from community engagement were used as one datapoint, alongside Board policy, state requirements, balancing the calendar, school operations, and instructional priorities.

- The following priorities for development of the calendar emerged:
  - Preserve the two-week winter break.
  - Preserve the one-week spring break.
  - Maximize five-day instructional weeks where possible.
  - Balance quarter lengths as evenly as possible.
  - Maintain 180 student instructional days.
  - Maintain 15 professional workdays for instructional staff.
  - Use professional workdays strategically on select student holidays.
  - Continue to identify observance days, while preserving instruction when permitted by policy.
  - Predictability and reliability for families and staff.

Survey Findings

# Parents/Caregivers Completing Survey	# Staff Completing Survey
33,389	**14,402**

- Staff reported higher satisfaction with the current calendar structure than parents/caregivers.
  - Parents/caregivers: 39% extremely or somewhat satisfied.
  - Staff: 56% extremely or somewhat satisfied.
- Parents/caregivers most often identified the number of five-day instructional weeks as the most important calendar factor.
- Staff most often identified alignment with federal holidays as the most important calendar factor.
- When asked to rank priorities, both parents/caregivers and staff ranked a full two-week winter break and a full week of spring break as their top two priorities.
- When asked about potential modifications, respondents showed the least support for shortening winter break or spring break.
- No single modification option received a majority of responses, underscoring that all calendar changes involve tradeoffs.

Proposed 2027-2028 Calendar

The proposed 2027-2028 calendar best advances the priority of instructional continuity, while preserving the breaks that parents/caregivers and employees value.

- First day of school: August 23, 2027.
- Last day of regular classes: June 14, 2028.
- Winter break: December 18, 2027 - January 2, 2028.
- Spring break: April 8-15, 2028.
- Maintains 180 student instructional days.
- Maintains 15 professional workdays for instructional staff.
- Includes 27 full five-day instructional weeks *(note that two holidays fall during the weekend)*.
- Quarter durations:
  - Quarter 1: 45 days.
  - Quarter 2: 43 days.
  - Quarter 3: 46 days.
  - Quarter 4: 46 days.

Proposed 2028-2029 Calendar

The proposed 2028-2029 calendar remains compliant with policy and improves instructional continuity compared with recent calendars.

- First day of school: August 21, 2028.
- Last day of regular classes: June 15, 2029.
- Winter break: December 23, 2028 - January 7, 2029.
- Spring break: March 24 - April 1, 2029.
- Maintains 180 student instructional days.
- Maintains 15 professional workdays for instructional staff.
- Includes 26 full five-day instructional weeks.
- Quarter durations:
  - Quarter 1: 49 days.
  - Quarter 2: 43 days.
  - Quarter 3: 46 days.
  - Quarter 4: 42 days.

Maximizing Instructional Time

School Year	Number of Full Five-Day Weeks	Quarter 1 *(days)*	Quarter 2 *(days)*	Quarter 3 *(days)*	Quarter 4 *(days)*
2025-2026	25	48	46	37	47
2026-2027	25	46	48	37	39
2027-2028	27 *(note that two holidays fall during the weekend)*	45	43	46	46
2028-2029	26	49	43	46	42

Changes Based on Policy and Feedback

- A Calendar Review Committee will be formed during the 2026-2027 school year, to support development of the 2029-2030 standard school year calendar.

- Indigenous Peoples' Day continues as a student holiday and professional workday.
  (note that for the 2027-2028 school year Indigenous Peoples' Day coincides with Yom Kippur; therefore, it is both a student and staff holiday)

- Veterans Day remains a regular school day and observance day, consistent with policy.

- Winter break and spring break remain in place.

- The calendars maintain required instructional days and professional workdays.

- The committee prioritized five-day weeks and balancing quarters to the greatest extent possible.



Thank You

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www.fcps.edu/calendars