

2013-2014 Recommended Calendar Survey Results

Q1. How do you rate your satisfaction with the recommended calendar draft?											
	1 - Extremely dissatisfied		2		3 - Neutral		4		5 - Extremely satisfied		Total
Responses Received	3	2.73%	18	16.36%	22	20.00%	44	40.00%	23	20.91%	
Weights	1		2		3		4		5		
Weighted Average	3		36		66		176		115		

Q2. Comments about the calendar:	
Response #	Response Text
1	The two half days for 1/16 and 1/17 is an unnecessary burden on parents. A single full day would be better.
2	I don't like the spring break being so early.
3	All looks good EXCEPT for the 4 days of no school on Jan 16, 17, 20 & 21. That's a lot of time for working parents to look for alternative coverage for their children so soon after the 2 week Christmas/New Year's Break. Many of us work on MLK day (Jan 20).
4	what does the days 1/2 red stand for? 1/2 day with no students or what?
5	If they could end the school year any earlier I think it would be beneficial for students participating in summer programs, working, or trying to get internships.
6	It's too bad the school year can't start earlier so that the kids are out before Memorial Days as it is with other counties in the area. Many activities for the kids start in June and the kids from Albemarle are forced to miss out on them so that they can sit around the classrooms staring at one another just waiting for the end of school.
7	I am unclear about the half days in January - are they half days for students AND teachers, or just half days for teachers (no students all day)
8	I feel that January, with the two half days before a 4 day weekend is not good. It will be troublesome for working parents, and it is right after the winter holiday time off.
9	Much better than last...still would prefer Spring break to be later in April.
10	The break in January (around MLK Day) seems long after coming back from the winter holiday. Other than that, all looks great!

11	The uncertainty caused by refusing to use hours to account for all inclement weather days, like Loudoun County does, unnecessarily disrupts family plans. Of course, no one expects ACPS to conduct their business intelligently, so I suppose it's par for the course to do it the way you do!
12	Do not like spring break right after the third nine weeks. Would like to have spring break moved to the week before/after Easter. Also, concerned about all the days off in January - do we really need two days off for MLK and two additional half days for teachers added on to that weekend? I am sure that students/families will just skip out on that Th and F before MLK weekend to make it a long weekend. And, we will have just had two weeks off for Christmas just one week before that. This is a lot of time off in January for the children. Also, do not understand the Green workday or how it will work. Will teachers be held accountable for logging in from home and actively participating in an online class or other instructional experience? If not, how will administrators make sure that teachers are actually working on those days when they are at home rather than just having an extra day away from school with no accountability. This should be communicated to parents/taxpayers better.
13	Teachers should not be required to attend school 7 days before students. Three days is optimal and five days should be the maximum. Also, teachers should not have to work 2 days after school lets out. If all end of the year work is completed, teachers should be able to leave for the summer the last day of school.
14	Could you PLEASE build in some snow make-up days during the school year so days 3 and after don't have to all be added on to the end of the year?
15	The only thing I don't care for is the half day teacher workdays on Jan. 16 and 17. Does this mean that the students will go half days on those two days? This is a difficulty for working parents. I would prefer having Jan. 17 be a full day off and having the students in school a full day Jan. 16. Otherwise the calendar looks great!
16	No opinion on content. I'd strongly suggest providing the calendar in the industry standard electronic format. The ACPS calendar site is great, but I'd really like to import data into my own applications (like Google Calendar).
17	This one is difficult to read the January vacation does that mean the mid terms are the following week and they have half days on those days also. I like the move in October.
18	The half days seem to be a waste of time for students and teachers. Wouldn't it be more beneficial for all involved to have one or two complete days off of school so that parents and teachers can make proper arrangements? Half days are rushed and not efficient for teaching. Parents are rushed to find daycare and transportation. This seems like a waste of time and money!
19	Happy about the long holiday break

20	Why can't you line up teacher work days with federal holidays? For example, in November the students are off Nov 4th for a teacher work day, but Nov 11th is Veteran's Day, when many parents will be off and not have to arrange child care for elementary aged kids (plus not have to pay someone to watch their kids or take a vacation day from work). There are several other instances of teacher work days in a month when there is a federal holiday that the work day could be aligned with. It would be nice for the school system to try and help out working parents - especially when there is a teacher work day within a week of a federal holiday.
21	Please restore the half days to the exam days at the end of second semester.
22	I'm not sure that students need the day off before Thanksgiving.
23	I do not see any value for 2 1/2 days on January 16 and 17. It seems that half days historically have not provided good instructional time, so why not just have the entire day of Jan. 17th off instead. Thank you.
24	Not sure why kids need 6 days off in a row in January - this might be hard on working parents - but I understand teacher workday issue.
25	I disagree with having the first two days of missed school "made up" from the minutes we spend every day in school. I don't think there is significant learning that occurs in the extra minutes each day to justify them as make up days. I think it's a cheap way to save money. Also, I think it's unrealistic to expect teachers to communicate virtual plans to their students on days off. Not sure why so many days are being proposed for 1/2 days and days off the third weekend in January.
26	The two half days for Teacher workdays in January (Thur, Fri) followed by a Holiday and Professional Development day (Mon, Tues) is a big braeak from school for the students so soon after winter break. I feel this will be disruptive to the students and suggest a full Teacher workday instead of the half days.
27	I think the last day of class should be the day before the Memorial Day weekend.
28	The only thing I would change is the half day teacher work days. I think it would be more beneficial to student learning and teacher efficiency to have one full day of school and one full professional day.
29	The two days in January that are 1/2 teacher workdays, I assume are 1/2 days for students. This is a problem for working parents who need to be home for their elementary-age children.
30	Student days off and teacher/professional work days are clumped toward the first half of the school year. I believe the students should have fewer days off to provide more consistent schedules academically at the earlier part of the year to help prepare for SOLs. (It seems they have a lot of wasted time during the partial weeks during this current school year.) In my opinion, teacher professional development can be accomplished at any time, I.e., before student school year begins, after end of school year, during summer break, etc.
31	I like the change of spring break date to coincide with end of quarter.

32	No half days, please.
33	January 1/2 days...a hassle for students and parents....just make that Friday a full day off and eliminate the 1/2 days. Plan for inclement weather...first 2 days to communicate a virtual learning plan...for parents to do the at-home teaching??? Do not like that idea...let them enjoy a true snow day and take other days from the calendar during the year to make up the time. Thanks to everyone for your planning efforts AND the very great job that you have done of communicating and soliciting input!
34	I would much rather have a shorter Holiday Break and have those days elsewhere. Also, for the students' benefit, I feel strongly that starting earlier and finishing First Semester before Holiday Break would be very helpful.
35	The 2 half days in a row are not good. I think students would benefit from one or the other (either full day or 1 half day). This will be difficult for the younger children.
36	This Calendar is perfect! And I thought the last one was great! This one is even better! You rock! Thanks!
37	I am still very concerned about the number of days with no kids between October and January. The two week period between Oct 17 through Nov 8, there are three days off. I understand why there is no school on election day but is it really necessary to have the other two days also off? Also in January only eight school days after Christmas break, there are another 4 days of vacation (Jan 16 - 21). I believe it will be very difficult to get the kids back into a routine after Christmas and then have another long break a very short time afterwards. You might as well write off January for any serious learning.
38	Would prefer to start after Labor Day
39	I would prefer to not have moved a teacher workday moved from spring to fall. I would prefer to have school let out earlier for Christmas (Winter Break). Thank you for the opportunity to see it and provide feedback, I really appreciate that!
40	If January 16th and January 17th are BOTH half days for students I DON'T like that at all. Why not just make the 17th a no students day? It would be easier to find childcare for one day verses having to coordinate for two half days. I don't understand the reasoning for breaking up the day from the teachers/students perspectives. If this is not what the calendar means, I like everything else about the start date, end date, holiday break dates.
41	The problem with two half-days in a row is that anyone with afternoon classes or groups misses twice in a row.
42	I think that the teacher work day in October should be combined with the "election" break the students have for two days following the above four day school week.
43	Looks good!
44	Could the school year calendar begin a week later in August and end a week later in June?

45	Concerns: --Two half day workdays at the end of the second grading period, followed by a holiday and a professional day....so, what we have is four days either short scheduled or students out of school at a time that falls less than two weeks after a two-week break over the winter holidays. Surely the committee can do better! Seems it would be better to seize on teachers and students hopefully being "fresh" after the long break and ready for some consistent time in the classroom. --Though I like knowing up front that the first two missed days for inclement weather will be covered by accumulated hours, I would wish you "Good luck" with having a lot of productivity from students on the first two inclement weather days.....this has been tried and not been succesful at some private schools in the region.
46	Looks very comprehensive!!! Thank you for your hard work!
47	The calendar looks good, though I'm not sure I like to the two 1/2 days in January.
48	I don't like the two half-days in Jan. I would prefer one full day. I don't like having that much time off only a week after winter break ... There's enough time regain momentum after two weeks off and then there's a five-day weekend.
49	None, it looks good.
50	It is very difficult for hourly classified workers to make up the time they will miss for those first 2 inclement weather days. This requires 1) Employees to use sick time/LWOP, 2) Employees to be paid for days they did not work, 3) Department has meetings, etc to try and make up the time.
51	I still beleive that the county needs to review the start and end date of the school year. Having to attend school into June should be reviewed....I do beleive that beginning a week earlier in August would be better so that school is completed by May 31st! Thanks
52	Will our division ever consider starting earlier in order to complete semester 1 before winter break?
53	There are too many teacher work days/professional days/days off combined. After being out for two weeks for Christmas, the kids will then be out an additional 4 days in the month of January. Additional snow make up days (after two) should come from these days as opposed to being tacked on to the end of the school year
54	Love the idea of the green work day.
55	Instead of coming back on Monday August 12th, why can't we come back on that Tuesday like we have done in the past?
56	For the two half days in January, I would rather work one full day and have the kids for another full day.
57	Wow. having another four days off less than two weeks after winter break seems odd, cannot imagine that will allow for the students to get focused back into school, knowing they will turn right back around and have another break

58	Prefer to not have half days in Jan. It would be easier to just have 1 of those days off for students
59	I HATE the idea of two half days in January for teacher work days. This means two days that parents need to find child care, and camps do not run for half days. This is very difficult, and I don't think half days do much for child learning. Also, it's a sneaky trick to have days that "count" as full days as long as the kids have lunch, even though they are not actually educated for a full day. These elementary kids are fed at 10:30 and sent home. How much learning really takes place?
60	Would like to see fewer teacher work days, hard for working parents.
61	To many days off in January
62	As an art teacher at the elementary level, I'm concerned about all the Monday professional dev./work days. Students have art only once a week so between holidays and teacher work days, students with art on Monday, miss 4 days in the first 11 weeks of school, a third of their art classes.
63	I think having four more essentially consecutive days off (1/16-1/21) less than two weeks after winter break could and will likely pose a hardship to many working families.
64	Can't understand why we would purposely schedule a 4 day week at the end of October and a 3 day week at the beginning of November. Change the 28th day off for students to November 1st. Makes the most sense for student learning and then students don't miss two Mondays in a row. Thanks!