

Summary of Calendar Survey Feedback

Responses to Option 1 with a start date of August 27

Parents did not like option 1 for the following reasons. The first reason was childcare. Starting school early and then out again for a holiday for 2-3 days would be disruptive for family plans and scheduling. Parents generally schedule family vacations when summer camps end allowing them to have 2 weeks before Labor Day. Family time is important and upcoming trips are booked well in advance. Most parents wanted a least a year's notice if the calendar is changed to a before Labor Day start date. Some suggested that school should start on August 31st or Sept 1st as better option.

Staff liked or can live with Option 1 because starting before Labor Day would mean school ending earlier in June. They feel that that 7 teacher PD and prep days are excessive and more time is needed for setting up classrooms. There is support for keeping two-week winter break.

Community members that liked Option 1 wanted the early start date but felt that a two-week winter break was too long and school should end earlier in June.

Community members that did not like Option 1 felt that school should start after Labor Day. Students have their whole lives to work and be forced into obligations and requirements. Don't take away their summer vacation with their families needlessly. Teachers won't accomplish much and all will be forgotten over the long weekend anyway. Please consider Jewish Holidays on your school calendars.

Students did not like Option 1. Most wanted to start after Labor Day and wanted to keep the two-week winter break. A junior said that shorter summer will put him/her at a disadvantage for college searches.

Students that liked Option 1 wanted to start early and end school early.

Responses for Option 2 with a start date after Labor Day September 8

Parents overall liked Option 2 because of after Labor Day start. However, some parents were concerned that school would end too late in June. Coordinating summer camp schedules is an issue with parents with smaller children. Many of them are willing to reduce winter break to end school earlier in June.

Staff that liked or can live with Option 2. Many wanted to eliminate Parent/Teacher conference for elementary schools and reduce PD days.

Community members liked Option 2 because vacation schedules for their grand kids would remain the same. Most responded that school ended too late in June.

Students liked Option 2 - Arlington County has started school after Labor Day forever don't change that! Changing tradition will not only anger many people in the community but starting school in August is ridiculous. Many students attend summer programs, if you start school too early we won't get a summer break. Working students' summer hours on their jobs continue through Labor Day and they could be let go if they can't report for work.

Responses for Option 3 align calendar with FCPS

Parents that liked Option 3 stated that aligning our calendar with FCPS was a good idea. A parent stated that many of them depend on full week summer camps for child care while they work. This past summer there were virtually no camp options open after Fairfax went back to school as APS student enrollments were not sufficient on their own to keep them open.

Parents that did not like Option 3 wanted the calendar to remain the same. They felt that before Labor Day is disruptive to vacation schedules. Willing to reduce winter break and start after Labor Day.

Staff liked Option 3 because many staff cannot afford to live in Arlington County. Staff that live in Fairfax county are heavily impacted when the calendars vary so greatly. Having the same start and end dates would be appreciated.

Staff that did not like Option 3 stated that teachers do not need to return 7 days prior to the start of school. We prefer to shorten winter break and get out earlier in June.

Community member do not like Option 3 because many families have government employees and August vacations are their only option. Vacations are already booked for next August which will conflict with any calendar starting before Labor Day.

Students did not like Option 3. Would like to start school after Labor Day to enjoy vacations with family. Strongly supported the two-week winter break. If possible, keep the calendar the same.