

Proposed 2022-23 and 2024-24 Calendars Survey

The proposed 2022-23 and 2023-24 Henrico County Public School (HCPS) Calendars were developed by a committee comprised of stakeholders from each magisterial district. After receiving initial input from stakeholders, the Calendar Committee proposed four calendars which were available for review and feedback from June 24th through July 19th, 2021. Stakeholders were asked their perspective on a Pre-Labor Day Start, their role within HCPS and to provide open-ended feedback on the proposed calendars.

Summary data are provided below for the question, **“Are you in favor of pre-Labor Day starts for the 2022-23 and 2023-24 school years? (In each of the pre-Labor Day proposals, the school year would begin earlier and end earlier. See our webpage or the full introductory email for more details.)”** 667 participants provided a response and results are disaggregated by stakeholder role. The numbers in parenthesis are a count of responses. Percentages within columns do not always add up to 100 due to rounding.

	All Participants	Parents/Guardians	Staff	Both Parents/Guardians and Staff	Other/Prefer Not to Answer
Yes	32.4% (216)	30.9% (160)	46.9% (38)	26.9% (14)	23.5% (4)
No	61.0% (407)	64.0% (331)	39.5% (32)	61.5% (32)	70.6% (12)
Undecided	6.6% (44)	5.0% (26)	13.6% (11)	11.5% (6)	5.9% (1)

Participants were then given the opportunity to respond to the following open-ended question. **After reading our webpage or the full introductory email on this topic, please share any additional thoughts here. (Please do not provide personally identifying information or individual names, including students' names, in these responses, which should be considered "public".)** Comments to this question were coded for themes, which are organized below by those in favor of a Pre-Labor Day Start, those opposed, and those who are undecided. The figure in parentheses represents the number of times each theme was mentioned.

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In Favor of a Pre-Labor Day Start

For those in favor of a Pre-Labor Day start, any topic mentioned at least five times is considered a theme. This threshold is based on the concentration of codes among a subset of frequently mentioned topics. All topics, including those mentioned fewer than five times, are included in Appendix A.

Themes Related to School Start Date

- General Statement in Favor of a Pre-Labor Day Start (52)
- Academic Benefits of a Pre-Labor Day Start (40)
- Pre-Labor Day Start Aligns with other Schools/Colleges (37)
- Early Start Date Should Lead to an Early End Date (28)
- Pre-Labor Day Start Helps with Planning Vacations/Family Time (8)
- School Should Only Start One Week Earlier Than Labor Day (5)

All Other Themes

- Request for Additional Details (8)
- In Favor of Year-Round Schools (6)
- Winter Break Should Start Earlier than 12/25 (6)
- Increase the Number of Student Holidays (5)

Opposed to a Pre-Labor Day Start

For those opposed to a Pre-Labor Day start, any topic mentioned at least nine times is considered a theme. This threshold is based on the concentration of codes among a subset of frequently mentioned topics. All topics, including those mentioned fewer than nine times, are included in Appendix A.

Themes Related to School Start Date

- General Statement Opposed to a Pre-Labor Day Start (113)
- Pre-Labor Day Start Disrupts Vacations/Family Time (98)
- Do Not Find Rationale for Moving Start Date Convincing (32)
- Maintain Tradition of Post-Labor Day Start (30)
- Stakeholders Benefit from a Full-Length Summer Break (30)
- Greater Exposure to Heat with a Pre-Labor Day Start (28)
- If School Starts Earlier, Labor Day Holiday would be a Disruption (18)

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- School Should Only Start One Week Earlier Than Labor Day (13)
- Pre-Labor Day Start Disrupts Summer Jobs (12)
- Pre-Labor Day Start Will Have a Negative Impact on Attendance (12)

All Other Themes

- Calendar Discussions Not a Priority (20)
- Request for Additional Details (19)
- Increase the Number of Student Holidays (9)

Undecided about a Pre-Labor Day Start

For those who are undecided about a Pre-Labor Day start, any topic mentioned at least three times is considered a theme. This threshold is based on the concentration of codes among a subset of frequently mentioned topics. All topics, including those mentioned fewer than three times, are included in Appendix A.

Themes Related to School Start Date

- School Should Only Start One Week Earlier Than Labor Day (9)
- Early Start Date Should Lead to an Early End Date (6)
- General Statement Opposed to a Pre-Labor Day Start (4)
- Pre-Labor Day Start Disrupts Vacations/Family Time (3)

All Other Themes

- Request for Additional Details (10)
- Increase the Number of Student Holidays (6)
- Reduce the Number of Student Holidays (6)

Themes from the Three Information Sessions

Transcripts from three information sessions, two for community members and one for staff, were coded for themes. Any topic mentioned at least two times is considered a theme. This threshold is based on the concentration of codes among a subset of frequently mentioned topics. All topics, including those mentioned fewer than two times, are included in Appendix A.

Themes Related to School Start Date

- Academic Benefits of a Pre-Labor Day Start (5)
- Stakeholders Benefit from a Full-Length Summer Break (3)

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- General Statement in Favor of a Pre-Labor Day Start (2)
- Pre-Labor Day Start Helps with Planning Vacations/Family Time (2)
- School Should Only Start One Week Earlier Than Labor Day (2)

All Other Themes

- Request for Additional Details (19)
- Conduct Another Survey of Public Opinion (3)
- Eliminate/Reduce Half-Days (3)

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Appendix A

In Favor of a Pre-Labor Day Start

- General Statement in Favor of a Pre-Labor Day Start (52)
- Academic Benefits of a Pre-Labor Day Start (40)
- Pre-Labor Day Start Aligns with other Schools/Colleges (37)
- Early Start Date Should Lead to an Early End Date (28)
- Pre-Labor Day Start Helps with Planning Vacations/Family Time (8)
- Request for Additional Details (8)
- In Favor of Year-Round Schools (6)
- Winter Break Should Start Earlier than 12/25 (6)
- Increase the Number of Student Holidays (5)
- School Should Only Start One Week Earlier Than Labor Day (5)
- Approve of Two-Year Transition to Earlier Start Date (4)
- In Favor of a Longer Winter Break (4)
- Portions of County Should Not Determine School Start Date (4)
- Pre-Labor Day Start Has a Positive Impact on Fall Sports (4)
- In Favor of Region Wide Coordination of School Calendars (3)
- Pre-Labor Day Start Helps Offset Days that may be Lost to Inclement Weather/Outbreaks (3)
- Transition to Two Week Start Before Labor Day Start Next Year (3)
- Two Week Start Before Labor Day Preferable to One (3)
- Earlier End to the School Year Opens Up Summer Camp Opportunities (2)
- Proposed Calendars are More Inclusive (2)
- Spring Break Should Align to End of Marking Period (2)
- Spring Break Should be in March (2)
- Appreciate Two Weeks Off for Winter Break (1)
- Childcare Concerns with the Proposed Student Holidays (1)
- Earlier End to the School Year Helps Students Participate in Extracurricular Activities (1)
- Ensure Employees Don't Exceed Their Contractual Days (1)
- Find Rationale to Start School Pre-Labor Day Convincing (1)
- In Favor of a Two-Week Spring Break (1)
- Pre-Labor Day Start Allows for Additional Holidays (1)

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Pre-Labor Day Start Benefits Working Families (1)
Pre-Labor Day Start Has a Positive Impact on Summer Camps (1)
Pre-Labor Day Start Helps with Summer Employment (1)
Proposed Calendars Reflect Parent Feedback (1)
Reduce the Number of Student Holidays (1)
School Year Should Align with College Schedules (1)
Shorten Summer Break (1)
Shorten Winter Break (1)
Social Benefits of a Pre-Labor Day Start (1)
Stakeholders Benefit from a Full-Length Summer Break (1)

Opposed to a Pre-Labor Day Start

General Statement Opposed to a Pre-Labor Day Start (113)
Pre-Labor Day Start Disrupts Vacations/Family Time (98)
Do Not Find Rationale for Moving Start Date Convincing (32)
Maintain Tradition of Post-Labor Day Start (30)
Stakeholders Benefit from a Full-Length Summer Break (30)
Greater Exposure to Heat with a Pre-Labor Day Start (28)
Calendar Discussions Not a Priority (20)
Request for Additional Details (19)
If School Starts Earlier, Labor Day Holiday would be a Disruption (18)
School Should Only Start One Week Earlier Than Labor Day (13)
Pre-Labor Day Start Disrupts Summer Jobs (12)
Pre-Labor Day Start Will Have a Negative Impact on Attendance (12)
Increase the Number of Student Holidays (9)
Reduce the Number of Student Holidays (7)
Issue of School Start Date Has Already Been Settled (6)
Pre-Labor Day Start Disrupts Summer Camps (6)
Pre-Labor Day Start Would Negatively Impact Fall Sports (6)
Winter Break Should Start Earlier than 12/25 (6)
Current Calendar Works Best for Family (5)

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- Earlier Start Does Not Align with Other School Divisions (4)
- Early Start Date Should Lead to an Early End Date (4)
- In Favor of a Longer Winter Break (4)
- In Favor of Year-Round Schools (4)
- Childcare Concerns with the Proposed Student Holidays (3)
- Families Prefer to Have Entire Month of August Off (3)
- Delay Implementation for One Year (2)
- Eliminate/Reduce Half-Days (2)
- Mental Health Benefits of Post-Labor Day Start (2)
- Original Calendar Proposal Should Still Be Up for Discussion (2)
- Pre-Labor Day Start Would Eventually Lead to Early August Start Date (2)
- School Year Should Not Be Lengthened (2)
- Additional Information Sessions Should be Offered (1)
- All Schools Should be Early Release the Last Week of School (1)
- Calendar Should Reflect the Wishes of Parents and Teachers (1)
- Doctor Visits More Difficult to Schedule with Pre-Labor Day Start (1)
- General Statement in Favor of a Pre-Labor Day Start (1)
- In Favor of a Shorter Winter Break (1)
- In Favor of a Two-Week Spring Break (1)
- In Favor of Lengthening School Year (1)
- In Favor of Region Wide Coordination of School Calendars (1)
- Negative Academic Impacts of an Earlier Start Date (1)
- Pre-Labor Day Start Hurts Tourism (1)
- Pre-Labor Day Start Negatively Impacts Staff PD Opportunities (1)
- Pre-Labor Day Start Prevents Families from Helping Take Other Children Back to College (1)
- Pre-Labor Day Start Would Have a Negative Impact on Custody Schedule (1)
- Pre-Labor Day Start Would Negatively Impact Summer Enrichment Opportunities (1)
- School Should Start the Day After Labor Day (1)
- School Supplies Will Be Harder to Afford Under a Pre-Labor Day Start (1)
- Staff May Take Time Off When School is in Session Pre-Labor Day (1)
- Two Week Start Before Labor Day Preferable to One (1)

Proposed 2022-23 and 2024-24 Calendars Survey

Undecided about a Pre-Labor Day Start

- Request for Additional Details (10)
- School Should Only Start One Week Earlier Than Labor Day (9)
- Early Start Date Should Lead to an Early End Date (6)
- Increase the Number of Student Holidays (6)
- Reduce the Number of Student Holidays (6)
- General Statement Opposed to a Pre-Labor Day Start (4)
- Pre-Labor Day Start Disrupts Vacations/Family Time (3)
- Academic Benefits of a Pre-Labor Day Start (2)
- General Statement in Favor of a Pre-Labor Day Start (2)
- Greater Exposure to Heat with a Pre-Labor Day Start (2)
- Half Days Should be on Fridays (2)
- In Favor of Region Wide Coordination of School Calendars (2)
- School Year Should Not End Earlier (2)
- Childcare Concerns with the Proposed Student Holidays (1)
- Eliminate Half Days in the Middle of the Week (1)
- Eliminate/Reduce Half-Days (1)
- Greater Chance Hurricanes Will Disrupt School with Pre-Labor Day Start (1)
- In Favor of a Longer Winter Break (1)
- In Favor of Year-Round Schools (1)
- Insert a Fall Break into the Schedule (1)
- Maintain Tradition of Post-Labor Day Start (1)
- Need a More Detailed Feedback Form (1)
- Pre-Labor Day Start Aligns with other Schools/Colleges (1)
- Pre-Labor Day Start Disrupts Summer Jobs (1)
- Stakeholders Benefit from a Full-Length Summer Break (1)
- Start School Year with a Four Day Work Week (1)
- Three Day Weekends Beneficial (1)
- Too Much Required PD in Proposed Calendars (1)
- Winter Break Should Start Earlier than 12/25 (1)

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Three Information Sessions

- Request for Additional Details (19)
- Academic Benefits of a Pre-Labor Day Start (5)
- Conduct Another Survey of Public Opinion (3)
- Eliminate/Reduce Half-Days (3)
- Stakeholders Benefit from a Full-Length Summer Break (3)
- General Statement in Favor of a Pre-Labor Day Start (2)
- Pre-Labor Day Start Helps with Planning Vacations/Family Time (2)
- School Should Only Start One Week Earlier Than Labor Day (2)
- Asynchronous Instruction Could be Utilized for Religious Holidays (1)
- Earlier Start to Summer Helps Students Participate in Sports (1)
- Families Prefer to Have Entire Month of August Off (1)
- Half Days Should be on Fridays (1)
- Half-Days Should Not be on a Monday (1)
- If School Starts Earlier, Labor Day Holiday would be a Disruption (1)
- In Favor of a Longer Winter Break (1)
- In Favor of a Two-Week Spring Break (1)
- In Favor of the Two-Year Transition (1)
- In Favor of Winter Break Starting on 12/25 (1)
- Maintain Tradition of Post-Labor Day Start (1)
- Pre-Labor Day Start Disrupts Vacations/Family Time (1)
- Pre-Labor Day Start Has a Positive Impact on Fall Sports (1)
- Pre-Labor Day Start Helps Graduating Seniors in the Job Market (1)
- Pre-Labor Day Start Helps with Summer Employment (1)
- Pre-Labor Day Start Will Have a Negative Impact on Attendance (1)
- Spring Break Should be the Week After Easter (1)
- Winter Break Should Align with End of Semester (1)
- Winter Break Should Start Earlier than 12/25 (1)