

Office of the Superintendent of Schools
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Rockville, Maryland

March 23, 2021

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Jack R. Smith, Superintendent of Schools

Subject: 2021–2022 Traditional and Innovative School Year Calendars

Board of Education Policy IDA, *School Year Calendar*, states that no later than early fall, the Policy Management Committee (Committee) will review the proposed school year calendar for the following school year prior to its presentation to the Board of Education.

- On September 15, 2020, the Committee held its first review of the 2021–2022 School Year Calendar. The Committee reviewed the structural parameters of the calendar, and the context and next steps for developing the 2021–2022 School Year Calendar. The Committee also recommended that due to the ongoing uncertainties of the current school year as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the time frame for approving the school year calendar as called for in Policy IDA, *School Year Calendar*, should be modified.
- On November 10, 2020, the Board of Education approved Policy IDA, *School Year Calendar - Modification of the Timeline for the Review and Adoption of the 2021–2022 School Year Calendar* (Resolution No. 492-20). This resolution temporarily suspended the requirement in Policy IDA for the Board of Education to adopt the calendar for the upcoming school year no later than the end of December.
- On February 25, 2021, the Committee reviewed the 2021–2022 School Year Calendar and recommended that two scenarios be brought forward to the Board of Education for consideration.
- On March 9, 2021, the Board held a work session to review the two scenarios recommended by the Committee. The Board endorsed the two scenarios for public review and feedback.
- The Board also received updates on the progress of developing the Innovative School Year Calendar at each of these meetings.

Today the Board will take action on the 2021–2022 School Year Calendars for the Traditional School Year and for the Innovative School Year.

Superintendent's Recommended 2021–2022 Traditional School Year Calendar

My recommended 2021–2022 Traditional School Year Calendar (Attachment A) is before the Board today for review and action. The chief elements of the recommended calendar follow.

- The first day of school is Monday, August 30, 2021, and the last day of school is Wednesday, June 15, 2022.
- The calendar includes a total of 182 instructional days. This is the same number of instructional days that have been scheduled since the 2017–2018 school year.
- The 13 dates that schools are required to close by state law are noted with an asterisk on the attachments. Labor Day, Monday, September 6, 2021, also is marked with an asterisk although not specified in state law. School systems are required to close on the following dates:
 - Labor Day: September 6, 2021;
 - Thanksgiving and the day after: Thursday, November 25, and Friday, November 26, 2021;
 - Christmas Eve through New Year's Day: Friday, December 24, 2021, through Saturday, January 1, 2022 (in 2022, the New Year's Day holiday will be observed on Friday, December 31, 2021);
 - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day: Monday, January 17, 2022;
 - Presidents' Day: Monday, February 21, 2022;
 - Friday before Easter: Friday, April 15, 2022;
 - Monday after Easter: Monday, April 18, 2022; and
 - Memorial Day: Monday, May 30, 2022.
- One non-instructional day is scheduled to coincide with Rosh Hashanah (Tuesday, September 7, 2021) and one with Yom Kippur (Thursday, September 16, 2021), due to the anticipated difficulty in operating schools on these dates.
- Three professional development and make-up days are scheduled to align with Diwali (November 4, 2021), Lunar New Year (February 1, 2022), and Eid al-Fitr (May 2, 2022). Having the opportunity for professional development but not holding instruction on these dates aligns with the educational and operational objectives of Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS).
- One full non-instructional day is scheduled for planning and grading at the end of each quarter. These days may also be used for make-up days if needed.
- Early release days are scheduled, one in each semester, which are required in the Montgomery County Education Association contract and are placed to coincide with interims.
- Two early release days for parent-teacher conferences are aligned with the week of Thanksgiving (Monday, November 22, and Tuesday, November 23, 2021). Together with the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, this creates three early release days during a week that is already interrupted by the holiday. This approach is similar to the approach taken in fall 2020, and reflects interests in more continuity of learning and uninterrupted weeks during the fall and increased flexibility for holding parent-teacher conferences.
- The calendar has a total of six scheduled early release days.

- Four non-instructional days are scheduled for spring break in addition to the 2 state-mandated closures, resulting in a 10-day spring break (6 non-instructional days plus 2 weekends).
- The July 4 holiday will be observed on Monday, July 5, 2021.
- Thursday, November 4, 2021; Monday, January 24; Tuesday, February 1; Monday, April 11; Tuesday, April 12; and Monday, May 2, 2022, are identified as possible make-up days due to weather or emergency closings. As the state required minimum number of instructional days is 180, instructional days 181 and 182 function as the first 2 possible make-up days (Tuesday, June 14, and Wednesday, June 15, 2022). MCPS also schedules instruction on these days; however, MCPS will not need to make up those days of instruction in the event of closures because they exceed the state-mandated minimum.

Superintendent's Recommended 2021–2022 Innovative School Year Calendar

My recommended 2021–2022 Innovative School Year Calendar (Attachment B) is before the Board today for review and action. The chief elements of the recommended calendar follow.

- The first day of school will be Monday, July 12, 2021.
- The last day of school will be Monday, June 13, 2022.
- The Innovative School Year Calendar will have 210 instructional days, with quarters between 43 and 75 days in length. As a result, it will not be necessary to include additional days for possible make up due to emergency closure.
- Following instruction in July and early August 2020, the Innovative School Year Calendar will include an extended break from August 23–27, 2021.
- After receiving feedback from parents/guardians and staff, there was an interest in closely aligning the innovative calendar to the traditional calendar. Having a one-week extended break from August 23–27, 2021 and returning August 30, 2021, provides parents/guardians and staff with children in other schools or districts to arrange for coordinated child care. Exploring options for longer or additional breaks for the Innovative School Year Calendar will be included in the planning and feedback for School Year 2022–2023.
- Between the August 30, 2021, and June 13, 2022, time frame, the Innovative School Year Calendar will follow the same structure as the Traditional School Year Calendar. This will include all state-mandated closures, as well as days identified for closure by the Board for the Traditional School Year Calendar.
- During the September 6, 2021, and June 15, 2022, time frame, the Innovative School Year Calendar differs in terms of placement and number of early release days, parent/guardian conferences, and various instructional features.
- The Innovative School Year Calendar has a total of 18 scheduled early release days.

Superintendent's Recommended 2021–2022 School Year Calendars

WHEREAS, The establishment of school terms by the Board of Education is required by Maryland state law; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County Public Schools parents/guardians, community members, students, and staff members should be informed of the Board of Education adopted school year calendar each year and the subsequent contingency plan identifying days that will be used to make up lost instructional time due to emergency closing; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County Public Schools conducted an inclusive calendar development process that included convening focus groups of internal and external stakeholders, soliciting open comments and survey responses via the website, and review by the Board of Education Policy Management Committee beginning September 15, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Arcola Elementary School and Roscoe R. Nix Elementary School operate on an Innovative School Year Calendar with 210 instructional days; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the proposed calendars and contingency plan for Montgomery County Public Schools for the 2021–2022 Traditional and Innovative School Years be adopted.

JRS:DGT:EMC:hd

Attachments

2021-2022 TRADITIONAL SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

School Start Date August 30, 2021

Board Adopted 3-23-21

	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	School Days in Month	Cumulative School Days					
2021																											
AUG	2	3	4	5	6	9	10	11	12	13	16	17	18	19	20	23	24	25	26	27	30 F	31	2	2			
SEP			1	2	3	6 H*	7 NI	8	9	10	13	14	15	16 NI	17	20	21	22	23	24	27	28	29	30	19	21	
OCT					1	4	5	6	7	8 ER	11	12	13	14	15	18	19	20	21	22	25	26	27	28	29	21	42
NOV	1	2	3	4 PD/M	5	8	9	10	11	12	15	16	17	18	19	22 ER	23 ER	24 ER	25 H*	26 H*	29	30	19	61			
DEC			1	2	3	6	7	8	9	10	13	14	15	16	17	20	21	22	23 NI	24 H*	27 NI	28 NI	29 NI	30 NI	31 H*	16	77
2022																											
JAN	3	4	5	6	7	10	11	12	13	14	17 H*	18	19	20	21	24 PD/M	25	26	27	28	31	19	96				
FEB		1 PD/M	2	3	4	7	8	9	10	11	14	15	16	17	18	21 H*	22	23	24	25	28	18	114				
MAR		1	2	3	4	7	8	9	10	11 ER	14	15	16	17	18	21	22	23	24	25	28	29	30	31	23	137	
APR				1 PD/M		4	5	6	7	8	11 NI/M	12 NI/M	13 NI	14 NI	15 H*	18 H*	19	20	21	22	25	26	27	28	29	14	151
MAY	2 PD/M	3	4	5	6	9	10	11	12	13	16	17	18	19	20	23	24	25	26	27	30 H*	31	20	171			
JUN			1	2	3	6	7	8	9	10	13	14	15 L	16 PD/M	17 M	20 M	21 M	22 M	23	24	27	28	29	30	11	182	

- F First Day of School
- H Holiday (Schools and offices closed)
- ER Early Release Day
- PD/M End of Quarter Grading/Planning—possible instructional day due to emergency school closure
- L Last Day of School (Early release day)
- M Make-up Day—possible instructional day due to emergency school closure
- NI Non-Instructional (No school for students and teachers)
- NI/M Non-Instructional—possible instructional day due to emergency school closure
- PD/M Scheduled to be a professional day for teachers—possible instructional day due to emergency school closure

Q1 = 45
 Q2 = 46
 Q3 = 46
 Q4 = 45

For more information on the
MCPS calendar, please visit
www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org
 and click on calendar.

* Mandated for closure by state law.

	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	School Days in Month	Cumulative School Days					
2021																											
JUL				1	2	5	6	7	8	9	12 F**	13	14	15	16	19	20	21	22	23	26	27	28	29	30 ER (ISC)	15	15
AUG	2	3	4	5	6	9	10	11	12	13	16	17	18	19	20 ER (ISC)	23 NI	24 NI	25 NI	26 NI	27 NI	30 F	31				17	32
SEP			1	2	3	6 H*	7 NI	8	9	10 ER (ISC)	13	14	15	16 NI	17	20	21	22	23	24	27	28	29	30		19	51
OCT					1	4	5	6	7 ER (ISC)	8 ER	11 ER (ISC)	12	13	14	15	18	19	20	21	22	25	26	27	28	29 ER (ISC)	21	72
NOV	1	2	3	4 PD/M	5	8	9	10	11	12	15	16	17	18	19	22 ER	23 ER	24 ER	25 H*	26 H*	29	30				19	91
DEC			1	2	3	6	7	8	9	10 ER (ISC)	13	14	15	16	17	20	21	22 ER (ISC)	23 NI	24 H*	27 NI	28 NI	29 NI	30 NI	31 H*	16	107
2022																											
JAN	3	4	5	6	7	10	11	12	13	14	17 H*	18	19	20	21	24 PD/M	25	26	27	28	31					19	126
FEB		1 PD/M	2	3	4	7 ER (ISC)	8	9	10	11	14	15	16	17	18	21 H*	22	23	24	25	28					18	144
MAR		1	2	3	4	7	8	9	10	11 ER	14 ER (ISC)	15	16	17	18	21	22	23	24	25 ER (ISC)	28	29	30	31		23	167
APR				1 PD/M		4	5	6	7	8 ER (ISC)	11 NI/M	12 NI/M	13 NI	14 NI	15 H*	18 H*	19	20	21	22	25	26	27	28	29	14	181
MAY	2 PD/M	3	4	5	6	9	10	11	12	13	16	17	18	19	20	23	24	25	26	27 ER (ISC)	30 H*	31				20	201
JUN			1	2	3	6	7	8	9	10	13 L	14 PD/M	15	16 M	17 M	20 M	21 M	22	23	24	27	28	29	30		9	210

- F First Day of School
 - H Holiday (Schools and offices closed)
 - ER Early Release Day
 - PD/M End of Quarter Grading/Planning—possible instructional day due to emergency school closure
 - L Last Day of School (Early release day)
 - NI Non-Instructional (No school for students and teachers)
 - NI/M Non-Instructional—possible instructional day due to emergency school closure
 - PD/M Scheduled to be a professional day for teachers—possible instructional day due to emergency school closure
- * Mandated for closure by state law.

Q1 = 75 Ends November 4
 Q2 = 46 Ends January 24
 Q3 = 46 Ends April 1
 Q4 = 43 Ends June 13

For more information on the
MCPS calendar, please visit
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 and click on calendar.