

# Your School Calendar

## How Is It Determined?

Each fall, FCPS staff prepares calendar options for the next school year for the Board of Education’s review, modification and approval. In November or December the Board publishes the proposed calendar and solicits input from employees and the community. The Board adopts and announces the calendar in January.

The chief objective of calendar design is to maximize the amount of instructional time in full-week sessions. The greatest challenge is balancing this objective with the following scheduling factors:

- Federal, state and local Board-approved holidays
- State-required 180-day school year for students
- Mandated state and national testing dates (PSAT, SAT, AP)
- Mandated High School Assessment dates (HSA)
- Mandated Maryland School Assessment dates (MSA)
- Parent-teacher conferences
- Adequate days for terms and semesters
- Negotiated work years for employee groups
- Time for teacher training and work sessions
- Availability of commencement ceremony facilities
- Community priorities



Typically, school starts before Labor Day and ends in mid-June. The end date usually allows for 4-5 snow or other emergency closings. If all are not needed, the school year is shortened by the number of unused days to meet the 180-day minimum for student days. If more make-up days are required, they may be added during and/or at the end of the school year. The Board includes make-up dates in the calendar adopted in January.

It is important to note that start and end dates, the length of spring break, parent-teacher conferences, teacher work days and a variety other dates are subject to change from one school calendar to the next.

*Many people call the Communication Services Division each fall seeking dates for the upcoming school year; these are not available until the Board determines them in January.*