

Summary of Community Calls

Participant's Comments/ Suggestions Regarding the Proposed Calendars

Commenter 1:

- Summer learning loss only effects a select portion of the student population
- General student population shouldn't be punished for those who experience summer learning loss
- Provide mandatory summer sessions for specific students
- New calendar prohibits his children and other students from pursuing extracurricular activities during the summer (internships, camps, etc.)

Commenter 2:

- Likes to use the summer as time for her kids to pursue academic/athletic opportunities (college programs that provide exposure to campus life)
- Shortening the summer is not fair for the kids who are excelling in school.
- Is there a guarantee the district will stop taking time off of summer break?
- How does School Board address issue of teacher retention (teachers might leave school due to new calendar)?

Commenter 3:

- Nothing academic occurs during the last few weeks of school.
- Elongate school day instead of the school year to increase productivity
- More breaks would make adjustment more difficult for students.

Commenter 4:

- New calendar may negatively affect businesses who employ teen/college students.
- New schedule will make students less available to work, which will force businesses to find other ways to recruit staff

Commenter 5:

- Ending later in the day doesn't help students with sleeping/ getting their homework done/ ability to have a job after school.
- By extending school year, students have no time to work if they are involved in summer activities (theater camps/ swim team practices/ etc.)
- Main concern is two weeks off in Spring is scheduled right before testing occurs.

Commenter 6:

- Clarify the planned use of 10 days that could be used for "interventions."
- The decision on whether or not to implement the calendar should be based on the wellbeing of ALL students, not specifically on behalf of the students who are succeeding or those who are struggling.

Commenter 7:

- Start a 4 week summer session mandatory for students who are struggling with keeping up.
- Include in the curriculum motivational speakers to demonstrate the benefits of an education.

Commenter 8:

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- Please clarify why the decision being made. Is it for students, teachers, to create remediation opportunities?
- Everyone's opinion is based on what is best for their child/ family but LCS must go on what is best for the student population in general.
- No decision will be easy, and everyone has to understand that the best decision might not be the best decision for their specific child.

Commenter 9:

- Reducing summer to 8 weeks doesn't end learning loss for students who are experiencing it.
- Proposed calendar is a gradual step toward year-round schooling. Year round schooling would create lost opportunities for students and add stress for parents who are trying to get vacation time from work.
- Instead of changing the calendar, LCS could work with Boys and Girls club/ other programs to provide resources for students during the summer to mitigate the summer learning loss
- Calendar change could result in an "exodus" of students from the city schools which could result in reduced funding

Commenter 10:

- Agrees we can't cater to everyone
- Does not have a major personal issue with new proposed calendar
- The second week at the end would be worthless because school post SOL's are a party and no learning goes on in the last week.
- Remove ½ days
- Create summer work or homework like book reports to mitigate summer learning loss.

Commenter 11:

- Work with community organizations to ensure there are opportunities for child-care during new breaks and the community is ready to support the district's students

Commenter 12:

- Children enjoy being in school and some do not want extra days off/vacation; new calendar provides too many days off
- New calendar will impact days available for students to engage in internship or employment in the summer

Commenter 13:

- Students need summer break and 6 weeks is not enough for summer
- Parents pay for pool and country club memberships children will not be able to use
- Change in schedule creates extra burden for working moms by increasing need for child care
- Leave schedule alone; should be up to the parents to continue education in summer

Commenter 14:

- Likes the idea in principle because it could help catch kids up in the fall
- Provide a 5-year plan rather than a 1-year plan
- Clarify if every school will become like Bass
- Clarify how intersessions will be funded

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- There is no value to additional days after SOL as students want to start summer; remove extra week in June
- Place one week break between quarters (1 and 2) in Fall
- Clarify if intercessions will cover enrichment and remediation
- Community organizations are likely to provide services during new break periods

Commenter 15:

- Proposed 2 week spring break will have negative effect on AP Exams and SOL
 - AP Teachers will not have enough time to cover all the content for the exam; changing the calendar directly affects outcome of AP exams which in turn will affect parents' bottom-line regarding tuition, class credits
 - Little learning seems to take place after the SOL
- Clarify if LCS is going towards Year Round school
- Not all students need more time
- Investigate ways to improve summer school and think of outside of the box to address students' academic needs
- Leave calendar alone
- LCS may be proposing an intervention and the students who would benefit most may not participate/engage

Commenter 16:

- For a single mother this schedule is not feasible as it creates additional burden for child-care and could require taking vacation days from work
- Under this calendar, children will miss first week of camp that has been paid for
- Breaks will interfere with learning
- Children better off with existing/traditional breaks
- Provide a 5-year proposal rather than 1-year proposal

Commenter 17:

- Clarify which studies show the proposed start and end dates effect student achievement; determine if schools with similar calendars (1 week early/1week late) have had positive impacts
- Note that schools in VA and NC have reverted back to traditional calendar because this didn't work
- It will be difficult to find one intervention that will meet all students' needs given the demographic variability and diverse population in LCS
- This seems to be a move to Year Round School
- LCS should develop interventions that take place in summer and school year to help students; explore ideas such as after school, tutoring sessions, extra summer hours to help students; explore other options to improve achievement for student sub-groups
- Calendar has negatives for camps, internships, and employers that use HS students
- Clarify how this initiative will be funded
- Clarify purpose of VDOE grant funding (planning or implementation)
- Clarify how this benefits the college-bound

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Commenter 18:

- Not opposed if only 2 week impact on summer but cannot support this initiative if this will be the first of many additional calendar changes
- There should not be an extra week in June because it will not help students perform better on AP or SOL exams
- Breaks should be in Feb and Oct because this is when students and staff need brain break
- A break totaling one week total is more than enough; breaks should be a just few days; the 2 week break Christmas and Spring is too long
- Show testing days on the calendar so it is possible to identify where the breaks fit with scheduled testing
- Participation in intercessions should be mandatory

Commenter 19:

- Does not oppose the proposed calendar but would like to see the research that shows this will benefit students
- Clarify how the proposed calendar is helpful if your child doesn't have need for intersessions/remediation
- Ensure individuals who need remediation participate in services
- Ensure all Division academic interventions related to (AP enrollment, changes to schedule) are aligned