

Your School Calendar How Is It Determined?

Each fall, FCPS staff works with a Calendar Committee to prepare 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 typically adopts and announces the calendar in December or 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 (HSA, PARCC, PSAT, SAT, AP)
- 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

2010		2011	
August 17-20	Teachers Report to Work: Training and Preparation	January 1	Schools Re-open
August 23	First Day of School	January 19-21	High School Assessments
September 6	Schools Closed: BOE Approved Holiday	January 24	First Semester (Second Term) Ends
September 9	Schools Closed: BOE Approved Holiday	January 27	Schools Closed: State Standard Holiday
September 14	Schools Closed for Primary Grades, State Standard Holiday	January 28	Schools Closed for Students: Professional Development for Staff
September 28	Schools Closed for Students, Fall Day: Teacher Work Day	January 29	Schools Closed for Students: Teacher Work Day
October 1	2 Hour Early Dismissal for Students: Teacher Work Session	January 30	Second Semester (Third Term) Begins
October 6-7	High School Assessments	February 19	2 Hour Early Dismissal for Students: Teacher Work Session
October 12	PLAF Testing	February 20	Schools Closed: State Standard Holiday
October 12	Schools Closed: BOE Approved Holiday: State-Supervised Educational Training	March 3	All schools dismiss 4 hours late due to existing Parent Teacher Conferences: No pay 4 classes: High schools hold Grades 3 and 4
October 20	End of 2nd Term	March 4	All schools dismiss 3-11 hours early due to afternoon Parent Teacher Conferences: No pay 4 classes: High schools hold Grades 1 and 2
November 1	Schools Closed for Students: Teacher Work Day	March 7-10	Midyear School Assessments: Math and Reading
November 1	Schools Closed for General Grades: State Standard Holiday	March 24	2 Hour Early Dismissal for Students: Teacher Work Session, End of 3rd Term
November 19	2 Hour Early Dismissal for Students: Teacher Work Session	March 25	Schools Closed for Students: Teacher Work Day
November 23	All schools open 4 hours late due to evening Parent Teacher Conferences: No pay 4 classes: High schools hold Grades 3 and 4	March 29-31	Midyear School Assessments: Science
November 23	All schools dismiss 1-11 hours early due to afternoon Parent Teacher Conferences: No pay 4 classes: High schools hold Grades 1 and 2	April 1-11	Midyear School Assessments: Science
November 28-30	Schools Closed: BOE Approved Holiday for Students and Teacher Work Days	April 19-21	Schools Closed: BOE Approved Holiday
December 1	2 Hour Early Dismissal for Students: Teacher Work Session	April 22-23	Schools Closed: State Standard Holiday
December 1	Schools Closed: State Standard Holiday	May 3	2 Hour Early Dismissal for Students: Teacher Work Session
December 21	2 Hour Early Dismissal for Students: Teacher Work Session	May 10-19	High School Assessments
December 21-22	Schools Closed: State Standard Holiday	May 30	Schools Closed: State Standard Holiday
		June 1-7	2 Hour Early Dismissal/Last Day of School for Students
		June 19-20	Last Day of School for Teachers

*Includes 1 day for snow or other emergency closings. If all days are not needed the school year will be shortened by the number of unused days to provide 180 days for students. If more days are required the year will be made up to 180 days by February 12, April 19, 20, 21 and June 14.

By law, school starts after Labor Day and ends in mid-June. The end date usually allows for at least 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.

The length of spring break, parent-teacher conference dates, 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, typically in December or January.