

Survey Questions for Parents and Teachers

For the past few years there have been conversations about changes to the school calendar that would have the school year end earlier in June. These conversations always came too late in the year. We have learned that parents and educators make plans for summer work, travel, and other personal commitments well in advance. This year we wanted to have the conversation and get comprehensive feedback from parents and educators with sufficient lead time for everyone to plan appropriately if the feedback indicates a strong desire for a different schedule. This survey will be given out to educators and parents in February of 2016, and could result in changes to the school calendar in the 2017-2018

Parents: Please limit your responses to this survey to one per family.

Problem: School Year ending too late in June

Some years, due to snow days and a late Labor Day, students are in school until almost the end of June. This schedule can interfere with summer plans for families, and late June days are seen as less productive by educators for effective learning conditions.

Please answer the following questions to help inform the conversation for the **2017-2018** school year. Please indicate your level of support for each proposed change with a number from 1-5, with 1 expressing weak support, 5 expressing the highest level of support, and a 3 indicating that you are neutral.

1. The current calendar has students beginning on the first Tuesday after Labor Day and school ending after the requisite 180 school days, including any snow days. Does the current school calendar work for your family? 1 indicates dissatisfaction, 3 is neutral, and 5 indicates strong satisfaction.
2. Please indicate your level of support for each of the following options that would ensure an earlier end to the school year. 1 indicates weak support, 3 is neutral, and 5 indicates strong support.
 - a. Starting school before Labor Day (explored further in question #3 below)
 - b. Starting school before Labor Day only when Labor Day occurs after September 4th.
 - c. Eliminating religious holidays (explored further in question #4-6 below)
 - d. Cutting into April vacation when snow days push school to the last week of June
 - e. Merging February and April vacation (potentially difficult to do unilaterally)
 - f. None of the above - I prefer to leave the calendar as is
3. One scenario for a pre-Labor Day start to the school year is the following. Please indicate your support for this scenario? 1 indicates weak support, 3 is neutral, and 5 indicates strong support.

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|-------------|-------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Teacher Day | Teacher Day | Day 1 for Students | Day 2 for Students | No School Day |

4. Arlington currently does not hold school on the following religious holidays: Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and Good Friday. Another option for ending the school year earlier would be to hold school on these days. Please indicate your level of support for holding school on all three of the following religious holidays: Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and Good Friday. 1 indicates weak support, 3 is neutral, and 5 indicates strong support.
5. **Parents Only:** Were we to hold school on these three days (Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and Good Friday) would you keep your child(ren) home from school on each of these days? 1 indicates not likely, 3 is neutral, and 5 indicates a strong possibility you would keep your child home from school.
- a. Rosh Hashanah
 - b. Yom Kippur
 - c. Good Friday
6. **Teachers Only:** Were we to hold school on these three days (Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and Good Friday) would you take the day as a religious holiday? 1 indicates not likely, 3 is neutral, and 5 indicates a strong possibility you would take the day as a religious holiday.
- a. Rosh Hashanah
 - b. Yom Kippur
 - c. Good Friday

Elementary Early Release Day Schedule - Elementary Parents and Teachers Only

7. Currently, the weekly early release day at the elementary level takes place on Tuesday. For elementary school-aged parents and/or teachers only, please let us know your preference by choosing one of the following:
- ____ Tuesday works for me
 - ____ Move to Monday
 - ____ Move to Wednesday
 - ____ Move to Thursday
 - ____ No preference

High School Start Time - Middle School and High School Parents, and High School Teachers Only

8. The American Academy of Pediatrics recently issued a recommendation that High School start times should be no earlier than 8:30 AM to allow adolescents to get the sleep they need. The current AHS start time is 8:00. For Middle and High School parents and/or AHS teachers only, would you favor making the High School start time later? 1 indicates weak support, 3 is neutral, and 5 indicates strong support.
- a. Keep the current start time
 - b. Move the start time to 8:30 if all other Middlesex schools do the same (to alleviate problems with athletic and scholastic competitions)
 - c. Move the start time to 8:30 regardless of what the other schools do

Timeline:

Goal is to get a final draft by 2/11.

Get SC approval for survey on 2/11.

Send to parents on 2/22 - leave open for two weeks until Sunday, 3/28 at midnight.

Linda will send out via AEA communication network with same timeline in mind.

SC CR Sub-Committee will meet on 3/1 at 5:30.

Present draft calendar at SC meeting on 3/10.

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