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Purpose
Create and develop the next block of 3 (three) APS Student Calendars for the 2025-2026, 2026-2027, and 2027-2028 school years (SY) for the APS Board of Education to review and approve

Goals
- Review survey data and stakeholder feedback
- Provide the Core Team with an outlined approach for calendar choices with implications and considerations
- Build the knowledge base to develop an executive summary for the Superintendent detailing the 3 calendar options and final recommendation

Roadmap
- Welcome and Introductions of Committee Members
- Meeting Norms
- Student Calendar Guidance
- Student Calendar Process and Timeline
- Review APS Student Calendar Data from SY 2016-2017 through SY 2024-2025
- Review Current APS Student Calendar Survey Data

Takeaways
Begin to understand the parameters in creating and developing of the APS Student Calendar

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APS Student Calendar Invited Committee Members

Core Team Members:
- Carolyn Barnett - Strategy + Engagement
- Dr, Alpachino Hogue - Strategy + Engagement
- Dr. Dione Simon - Performance
- Dr. Jermain Sumler-Faison - Academics
- Chalanda Tucker - Performance
- Thomas M. Munn - Academics
- Yolanda Weems - Academics

Deputy Superintendent (Schools, Equity):
- Paul Brown - Schools
- Dr. Patricia Ford - South Atlanta HS
- Dr. Timothy Gadson - Deputy Superintendent
- Ronald Garlington - Young MS
- Shelly Goodrum - Schools
- Dr. Kala Goodwine - Schools
- Dr. Zawadaski Robinson - Hank Aaron Academy
- Joseph Salley - Kimberly ES
- Sedric Smith - Schools
- Dr. Isaac Sparks - Schools
- Matthew Underwood - Schools
- Tommy Usher - Schools
- David White - Burgess-Peterson Academy
- Dr. Tasharah Wilson - Atlanta College + Career Academy
- Dr. Margul Retha Woolfolk - Schools

Academics:
- Dr. Margaret McKenzie - Multilingual Programs + Services
- Chelsea Montgomery - Student Services

Chief of Staff:
- Shonda Liddell - Ombudsman

Communications:
- Will Powell - Communications

Human Resources:
- Jennifer Lang - Total Rewards + Workforce Management
- Nicole Lawson - Chief Human Resources Officer
- Felecia Lester - Talent Management, Leadership + Career Development
- Dr. Isis Manboard - Employee Relations

Operations:
- Robert Palmer - Facilities Services

Performance:
- Michael IInesher - Testing + Assessment
- Stephanie Sanders - Innovation, Improvement + Redesign

Go Team:
- Alicia DeCriscio - Jackson Cluster
- Marsha Leverette - Washington Cluster
- Kristy Perez - Midtown Cluster
- Patia Odom - Therrell Cluster
- Jessica Pope - South Atlanta Cluster
- Keely Sutton - Carver Cluster
- Lizzy Wickland - North Atlanta Cluster
- Tinia Wismer - North Atlanta Cluster

Community Members:
- Kara Stimpson - Big Brother Big Sister
- Michael Lamont - Boys and Girls Club
- Delicia Lucky - Emory Reads
- Toya Russell - Girls of Excellence
- Kacey Venning - HEY! Help Empower Youth
- Jim Walsh - Elevate Atlanta

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Connection Activity

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Unpacking the Norms

Norms

Equity of Voice

Active Listening

Safety To Share Different Perspectives

Confidentiality

Commit to Each Other
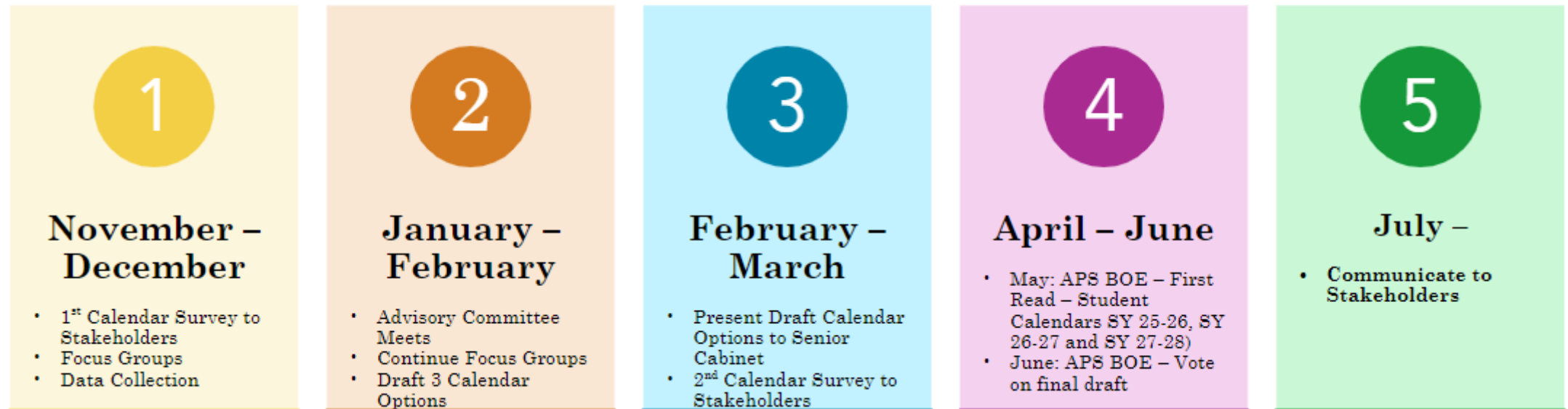
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Discuss at your table

- What does each norm look like in action
- What norm should be added
- What norm should be deleted

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APS Student Calendar Guidance

- The Atlanta Board of Education (APS BOE) approves the student calendar in blocks of 3 (three) school years.

- The current block of Student Calendars (SY 2022-2023, SY 2023-2024, SY 2024-2025) was approved by the APS BOE on February 2, 2022.

- Given the three-year block approval cycle, it is time to start developing and creating our next block of student calendars for SY 2025-2026, SY 2026-2027, and SY 2027-2028.

- The APS BOE guardrail #2 states "The Superintendent will not make major decisions or bring major recommendations to the board without first implementing a stakeholder engagement strategy, including students, parents, staff, governance teams, and community members."

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APS Student Calendar Process and Proposed Timeline

APS desires to create a student calendar that seamlessly aligns with educational goals, maximizes learning opportunities, and fosters community engagement.

1

November – December

- 1st Calendar Survey to Stakeholders
- Focus Groups
- Data Collection

2

January – February

- Advisory Committee Meets
- Continue Focus Groups
- Draft 3 Calendar Options

3

February – March

- Present Draft Calendar Options to Senior Cabinet
- 2nd Calendar Survey to Stakeholders

4

April – June

- May: APS BOE – First Read – Student Calendars SY 25-26, SY 26-27 and SY 27-28)
- June: APS BOE – Vote on final draft

5

July –

- Communicate to Stakeholders

We have <u>4 meetings</u> to create and develop 3 different calendar options for SY 2025-2026, 2026-2027, and 2027-2028

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Beginning with the End in Mind

Our Mission

Through a caring culture of equity, trust, and collaboration, **every** student will graduate ready for college, career, and life.

Our Vision

A high-performing school district where students love to learn, educators inspire, families engage, and the community trusts the system.

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APS Survey Data Highlights

Diving Into The Data

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Our Current/Past Student Calendars

Atlanta Public Schools Student Calendars
SY 2016 – 2017 through SY 2024-2025
DRAFT

	SY 2016 - 2017 (5/2/16)	SY 2017 - 2018 (3/7/16)	SY 2018 - 2019 (8/6/18)	SY 2019 -2020 (10/1/18)	SY 2020 - 2021 (3/2/2020)**	SY 2021 - 2022 (5/4/2020)	SY 2022 - 2023 (2/7/2022)	SY 2023 -2024 (2/7/2022)	SY 2024 - 2025 (2/7/2022)
Summer Break	41 Staff Days/47 Student Days	41 Staff Days/46 Student Days	41 Staff Days/47 Student Days	48 Staff Days/56 Student Days	47 Staff Days/55 Student Days	44 Staff Days/50 Student Days	40 Staff Days/46 Student Days	40 Staff Days/46 Student Days	41 Staff Days/48 Student Days
Preplanning Days	7/27-8/2, Wed., 5 PL Days	7/26-7/31, Wed., 4 PL Days	7/26-7/31 Wed., 4 PL Days	8/5 -8/9, Mon., 5 PL Days	8/3 -8/7, Mon., 5 PL Days	7/29- 8/4, Thurs., 5 PL Days	7/25-7/29, Mon., 5 PL Days	7/25-7/31, Tues., 5 PL Days	7/25 - 7/31, Thurs., 5 PL Days
First Day of School	8/3, Wed.	8/1, Tues.	8/1, Wed.	8/12, Mon.	8/10, Mon.	8/5, Thurs.	8/1, Mon.	8/1, Tues.	8/1, Tues.
Total Instructional Days	180 Days	180 Days	179 Days	179 Days	180 Days	180 Days	180 Days	180 Days	180 Days
Total PL Days *	11 Days	11 Days	12 Days	11 Days	11 Days	11 Days	11 Days	13 Days	11 Days
Holidays Total	32 Student Days	34 Student Day	34 Student Days	26 Student Days	28 Student Days	31 Student Days	35 Days	34 Days	36 Days
Labor Day	9/5, (1 Day)	9/4 (1 Day)	9/4 (1 Day)	9/2 (1 Day)	9/7 (1 Day)	9/6 (1 Day)	9/5 (1 Day)	9/4 (1 Day)	9/2 (1 Day)
October Break	10/ 7- 10/11, Fri. (3 Days, 1 PL Day)	10/9-10/13 (5 Days, 2 PL)	10/8-10/12 (5 Days, 2 PL)	10/14-10/15 (2 Days, 1 PL)	10/12-10/13 (2 Days, 1 PL)	10/7-10/11 (3 Days, 1 PL)	10/10-10/14 (5 Days, 1 PL)	10/9-10/13 (5 Days, 2 PL)	10/14-10/18 (5 Days, 1 PL)
Election Day	11/8 (1 PL Day)	11/7 (1 PL Day)	11/6 (1 PL Day)		11/3 (1 PL Day)	11/2 (1 PL Day)	11/8 (1 PL Day)	11/7 (1 PL Day)****	11/5 (1 PL Day)
Thanksgiving Break	11/21 - 11/25 (5 Days)	11/20 - 11/24 (5 Days)	11/19-11/23 (5 Days)	11/25-11/29 (5 Days)	11/23-11/17 (5 Days)	11/22-11/26 (5 Days)	11/21-11/15 (5 Days)	11/20-11/24 (5 Days)	11/25-11/29 (5 Days)
December Break	12/19 - 1/3 (12 Days, 1 PL)	12/25 - 1/5 (10 Days, 1 PL)	12/24 - 1/4 (10 Days, 1 PL)	12/13-1/3 (10 Days, 1 PL)	12/21 - 1/4 (11 Days, 1 PL)	12/20-1/3 (11 Days, 1 PL)	12/19-1/2 (11 Days, 1 PL)	12/18-1/2 (12 Days, 1 PL)	12/23-1/6 (11 Days, 1 PL)
MLK Day	1/16 (1 Day)	1/15 (1 Day)	1/21 (1 Day)	1/20 (1 Day)	1/18 (1 Day)	1/17 (1 Day)	1/16 (1 Day)	1/15 (1 Day)	1/20 (1 Day)
Winter Break	2/17-2/21, Fri. (3 Days, 1 PL)	2/19 - 2/23 (5 Days, 1 PL)	2/18-2/22 (5 Days, 2 PL)	2/17 Mon. (1 PL Day)	2/15, Mon. (1 PL Day)	2/17-2/21, Thurs. (3 Days, 1 PL)	2/20-2/24, Mon. (5 Days, 1 PL)	2/19-2/23, Mon. (5 Days, 1 PL)	2/17-2/21 (5 Days, 1 PL)
March PL Day	3/17,Fri. (1 PL Day)	3/19, Mon. (1 PL Day)	3/18, Mon. (1 PL Day)	3/16, Mon. (1 PL Day)	3/15, Mon. (1 PL Day)	3/21, Mon. (1 PL Day)	3/20, Mon. (1 PL Day)	3/12, Tues, (1 PL Day) Virtual	3/17 (1 PL Day)
Spring Break	4/3 -4/7 (5 Days)	4/2 - 4/6 (5 Days)	4/1-4/5 (5 Days)	4/6-4/10 (5 Days)	4/5 - 5/9 (5 Days)	4/4 - 4/8 (5 Days)	4/3-4/7 (5 Days)	4/1-4/5 (5 Days)	4/7-4/11 (5 Days)
Last Day of Instuction	5/25 (Thrus.)	5/25 (Fri.)	5/24 (Fri.)	5/22 (Fri.)	5/26 (Wed.)	5/26 (Thrus.)	5/26 (Fri.)	5/24 (Fri.)	5/29 (Thrus.)***
Postplanning Day(s)	5/26 (1 PL Day, Fri.)	5/29 (1 PL Day, Tues.)	5/28 (1 PL Day, Tues.)	5/26-5/27, Tues (2 PL Days)	5/27, Thurs. (1 PL Day)	5/27, Fri. (1 PL Day)	5/30, Tues. (1 PL Day)	5/28-5/29, Tues. (2 PL Days)	5/30, Fri. (1 PL Day)

* Including Pre/Postplanning Days
** Did no use COVID-19 School Calendar approved on 8/3/2020
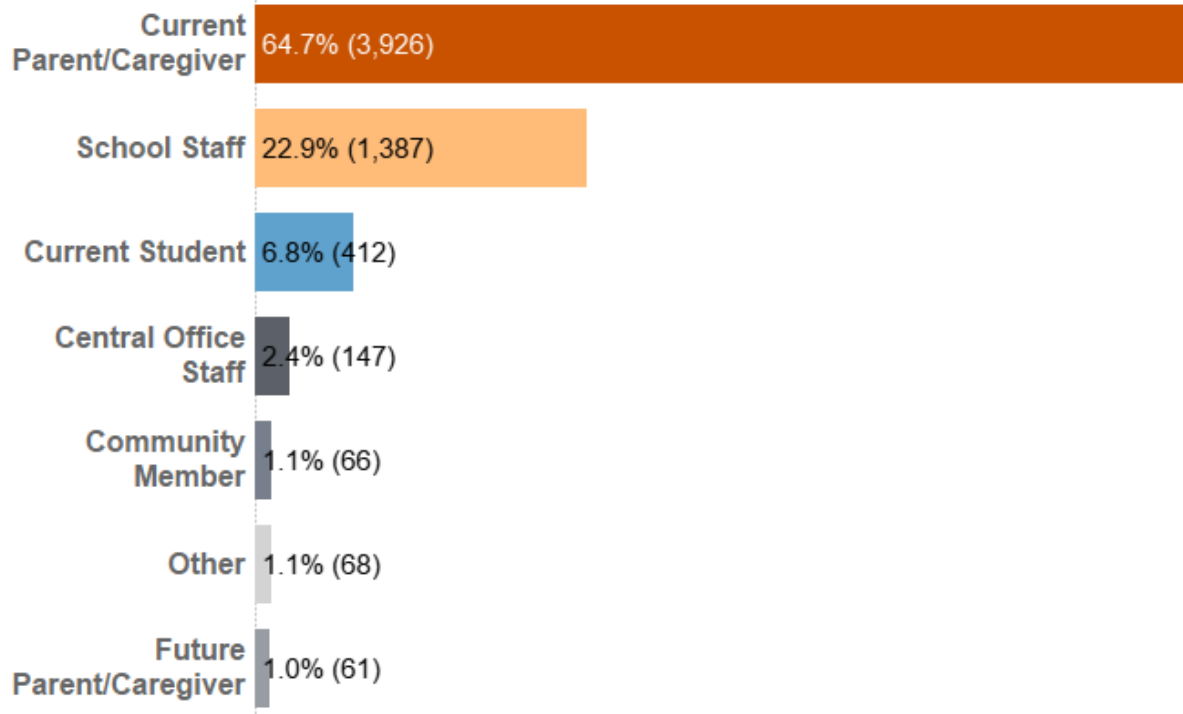*** After Memorial Day
**** Nov Election PL Day add 8/23

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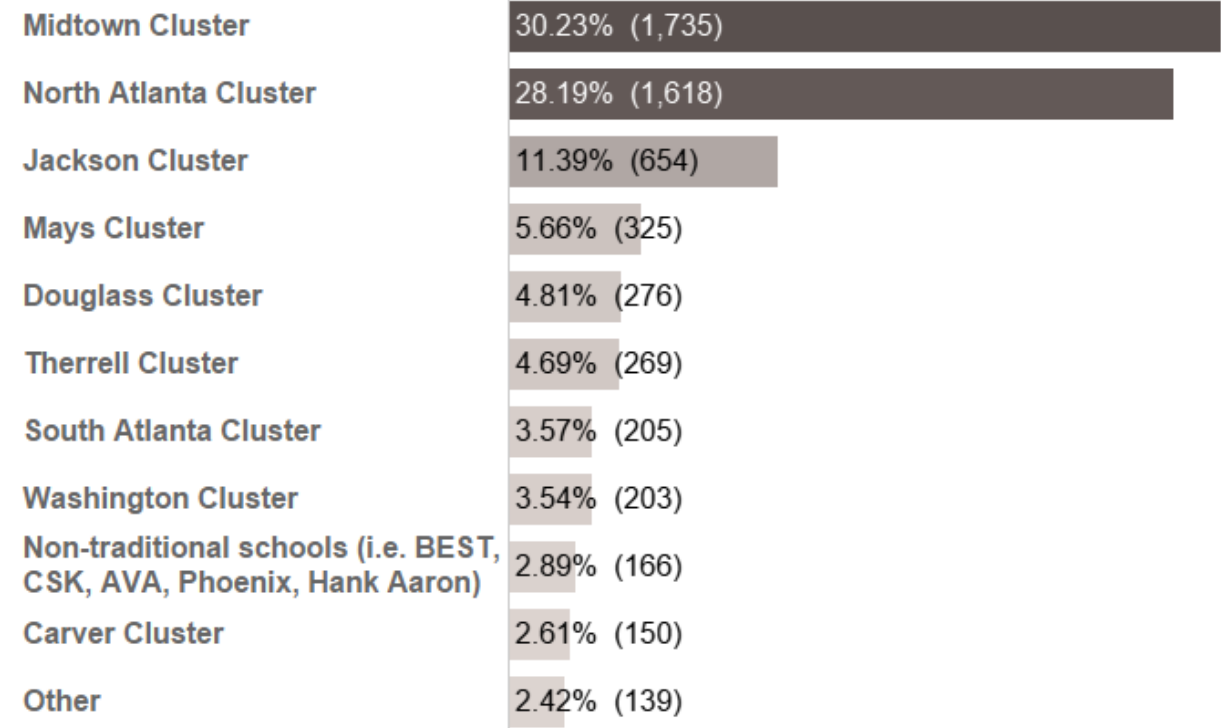
APS Student Calendar Survey Data

6,067 responses as of survey close date…….

- **We typically receive a proportionally higher number of survey responses from the Midtown and North Atlanta clusters**

Stakeholder Groups

Stakeholder Group	Percentage (Count)
Current Parent/Caregiver	64.7% (3,926)
School Staff	22.9% (1,387)
Current Student	6.8% (412)
Central Office Staff	2.4% (147)
Community Member	1.1% (66)
Other	1.1% (68)
Future Parent/Caregiver	1.0% (61)

Cluster

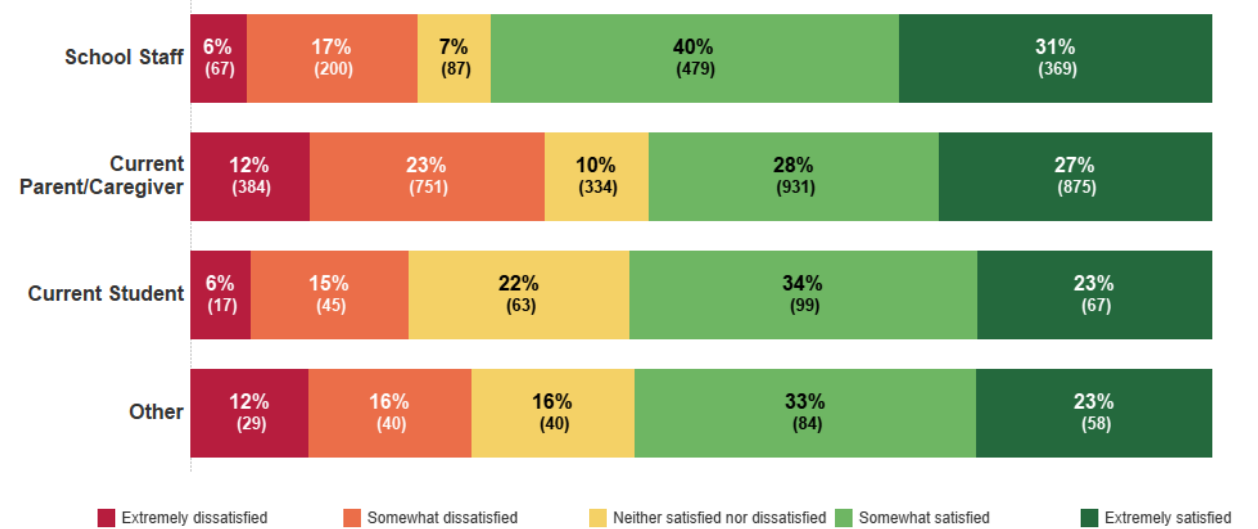| Cluster	Percentage (Count)
Midtown Cluster	30.23% (1,735)
North Atlanta Cluster	28.19% (1,618)
Jackson Cluster	11.39% (654)
Mays Cluster	5.66% (325)
Douglass Cluster	4.81% (276)
Therrell Cluster	4.69% (269)
South Atlanta Cluster	3.57% (205)
Washington Cluster	3.54% (203)
Non-traditional schools (i.e. BEST, CSK, AVA, Phoenix, Hank Aaron)	2.89% (166)
Carver Cluster	2.61% (150)
Other	2.42% (139)

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APS Student Calendar Survey Data

Overall

- **Overall, 59% of respondents were somewhat or extremely satisfied with the current calendar**
  - 71% among school staff
  - 55% among current parents
  - 57% among students

- **More parents and community members prefer having a longer summer break, while more staff prefer shorter breaks during the school year**
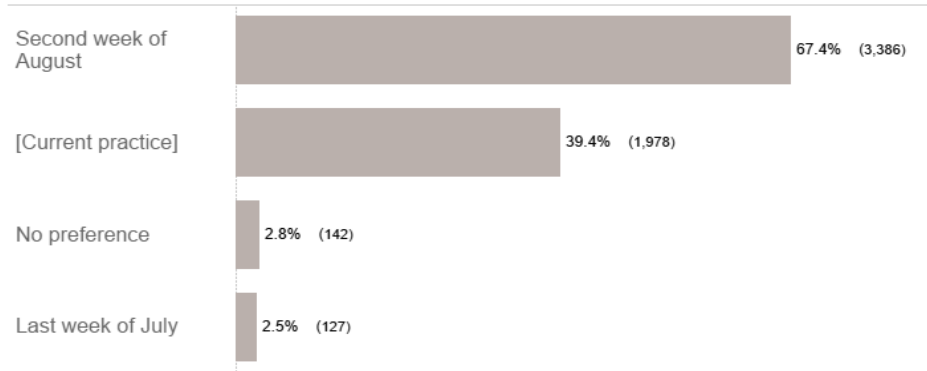

Open-ended feedback
- Parent respondents cited vacations and visiting family during the summer as reasons to have longer summer breaks
- Many working families felt that the week-long breaks during the school year made it more difficult or expensive to obtain childcare than during the summer
- Many families and staff like the week-long breaks because it gives them a chance to rest throughout the year and they believe it poses less risk of 'summer slide'

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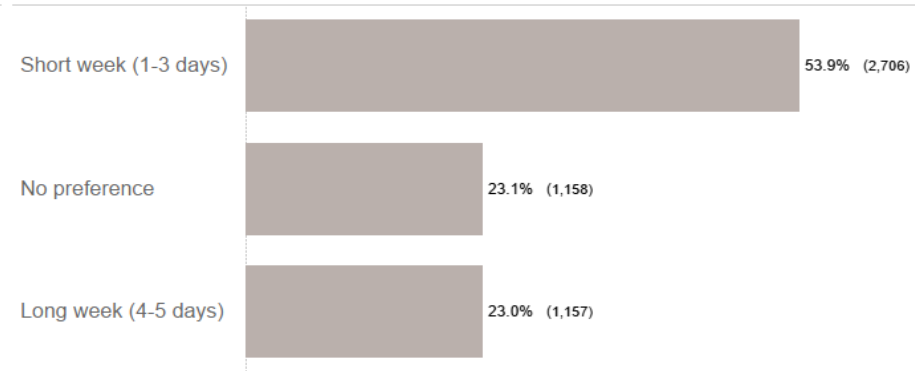
APS Student Calendar Survey Data

Start and End of School Preferences

- **There is support across stakeholder groups for starting later and having a shortened first week (1-3 days versus 4-5 days).**
- **Open-ended responses cited the heat as a downside to an early start**
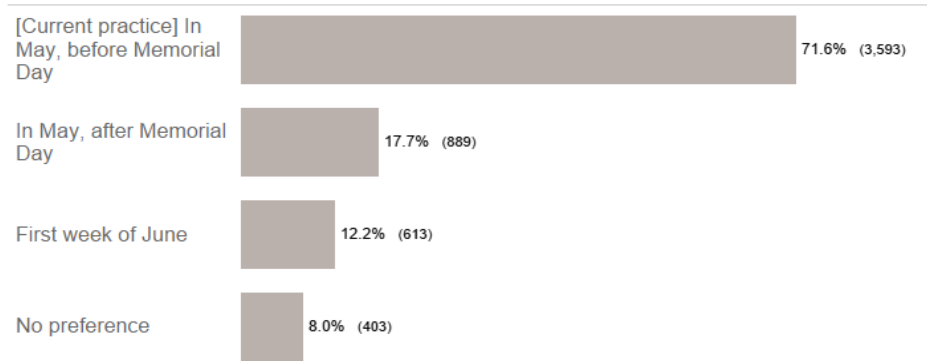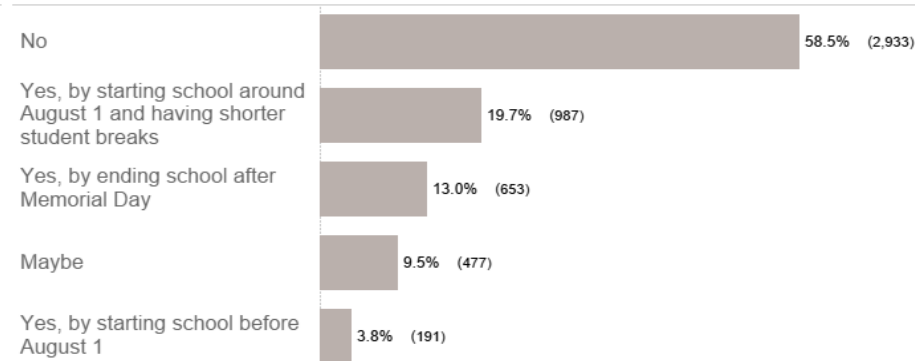- **Ending in May is acceptable to most respondents**

Start of School

Second week of August	67.4% (3,386)
[Current practice]	39.4% (1,978)
No preference	2.8% (142)
Last week of July	2.5% (127)

First Week Length

Short week (1-3 days)	53.9% (2,706)
No preference	23.1% (1,158)
Long week (4-5 days)	23.0% (1,157)

End of School

[Current practice] In May, before Memorial Day	71.6% (3,593)
In May, after Memorial Day	17.7% (889)
First week of June	12.2% (613)
No preference	8.0% (403)

Instructional Days

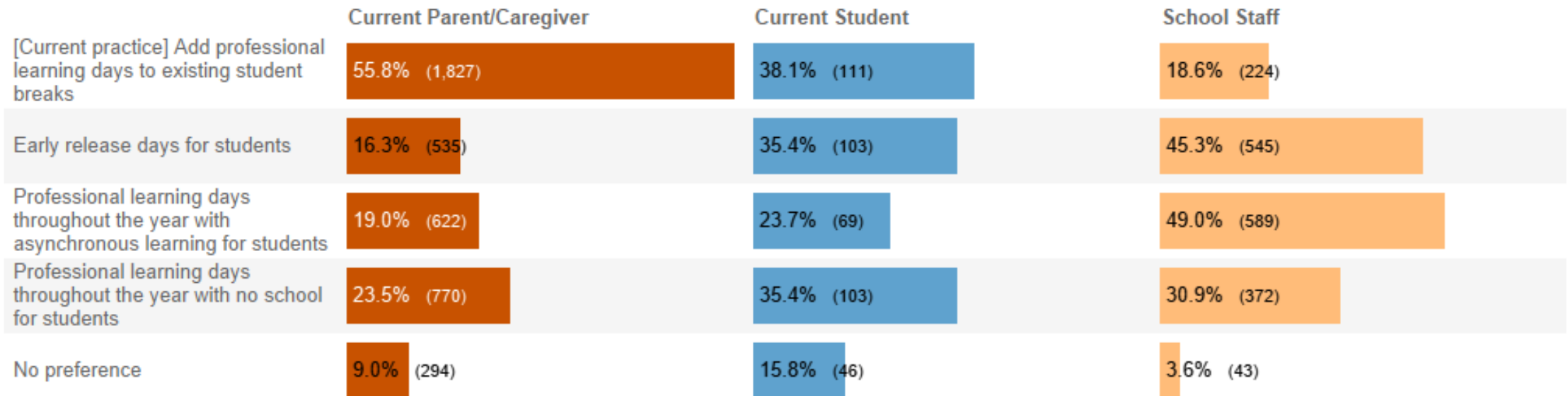|	
No	58.5% (2,933)
Yes, by starting school around August 1 and having shorter student breaks	19.7% (987)
Yes, by ending school after Memorial Day	13.0% (653)
Maybe	9.5% (477)
Yes, by starting school before August 1	3.8% (191)

APS Student Calendar Survey Data

Professional Development

- **Satisfaction with the current professional development structure was 3.3 overall (out of 5) and 3.0 among school staff**
- **Parents generally like the current model of adding professional learning days to week-long breaks**
- **School staff would prefer asynchronous or early release days**
- **In open-ended responses, many staff cite wanting the week-long breaks fully off**
- **Working parents, including staff who are parents, are concerned about child care on asynchronous, early release, and other days off**

	Current Parent/Caregiver	Current Student	School Staff
[Current practice] Add professional learning days to existing student breaks	55.8% (1,827)	38.1% (111)	18.6% (224)
Early release days for students	16.3% (535)	35.4% (103)	45.3% (545)
Professional learning days throughout the year with asynchronous learning for students	19.0% (622)	23.7% (69)	49.0% (589)
Professional learning days throughout the year with no school for students	23.5% (770)	35.4% (103)	30.9% (372)
No preference	9.0% (294)	15.8% (46)	3.6% (43)

APS Student Calendar Survey Data

Start & End of School, Summer Break	School Breaks	Instructional Days
I think the breaks throughout the school year are too long. Very hard for working class parents to manage so many breaks. I would prefer a longer summer break. I also would prefer school start later in August versus so early in August. [Parent] Students and teachers need consistency, but they also need brain breaks. There should be no school/work during June and July unless it is summer school. Please take into consideration, several staff members work the month of June and are returning before the end of July. Therefore, pre-planning should not start until the first week of August. All other breaks should remain the same. [School Staff] I value and appreciate the current breaks throughout the school year, and I notice a positive difference in students when we come back from those breaks. Having the current breaks that we already have also help with burnout. I like the starting date and ending date of school as is. [School Staff] **I really like how many breaks there are throughout the year. I also really like how long summer break is. It would be nice if summer break was a little longer. Breaks should be around the same time as other schools. School should start at the second week of august, not the first. I'm okay with whenever the school year ends as long as it's in May, not June [Student]**	The current calendar is near perfect. Do not mess with it. Longer summer break is inequitable for lower income students (summer slide) and onerous for parents who need childcare. However, a longer school year is not necessary for all students and should not be forced on everyone. If you can't get it done in 180 days, send those who need it to summer school. Longer breaks during the year with PD tacked on gives teachers a breather that they desperately need for morale. If it ain't broke, don't fix it. [Parent] Having these random week long breaks is hard for working parents. We have to find a camp or family for when these breaks occur. At least a longer summer means a consistent camp experience that is much more cost effective than random camps throughout the year. [Parent] Don't short change the teachers of their breaks. I don't think they should be required to have professional learning days intertwined with their fall/winter breaks. Give them the entire five days just like the students get. [School Staff] **I like having lots of breaks throughout the year as opposed to a long summer break. It is nice to have weeks off. [Student]**	You cannot start adding instructional days until you leverage the days you have. Counting students absent on days around breaks and the end of the year when students are watching movies, "taking down bulletins boards'," have long-term subs, or otherwise are not receiving high quality instruction cannot be counted as instructional days. Use the 180 days we have. Prioritize instruction in the existing calendar and better leverage what exists. [Parent] I think APS should consider how far behind students are following Covid and extend the school year. [Parent] Adding more instructional days will not have a positive effect on student learning. Students shut down after GA Milestones testing. Depriving teachers and staff of breaks increases teacher burnout. Education needs to evolve more to include virtual practices, outdoor classrooms, and intentional PLs. Performance is greater when needs are met and people feel happy. [School Staff] **We don't need five extra days too increase learning it will just lead to students feeling fatigued about school. Students get lazy at the end of the year and adding extra days will cause teacher dropouts, students getting mad, and unnecessary time. We are unable to fully learn what we missed in the year of the pandemic. More breaks in the year cause students to focus more during learning time. If everyone is always in school kids will get very bored often. By having more breaks students will value their school and break times evenly. [Students]**

APS Student Calendar Survey Data

Other topics

	Current Parent/Caregiver	Current Student	School Staff	Other
Start of school year	2.6	3.2	3.0	2.9
Summer break	2.8	2.3	2.8	3.0
School year breaks	2.9	2.3	2.5	2.8
Number of instructional days (school days for students)	3.4	3.9	3.4	3.2
End of school year	4.2	4.2	4.4	4.5
Alignment with other Metro Atlanta school districts	5.1	5.2	4.8	4.5

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APS Survey Data Highlights

Diving Into The Data

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Data Protocol and Purpose

Describing the Data (25 minutes)

- You will need a **person to be the recorder** at your table to write down all the observations

- In your groups – based on the data, "what do you see/what do you notice?"

- Try to avoid judgments about quality or interpretations.

- If judgments or interpretations do arise, ask the person to describe the evidence on which they are based as a wonder. Jot down all wonderings.

- It may be helpful to identify where the observation is being made — e.g., "On page one in the second column, third row…"

- **One person should be prepared to report** out themes from your conversations

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Proposed Next Steps

Next Meeting Dates
- Thursday, January 18, 2024; 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM
  - Other Considerations + Emerging Data
- Thursday, January 25, 2024; 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM
  - Create 3 Draft Calendar Options for each year
- Thursday, February 1, 2024; 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM
  - Consensus on 3 Draft Student Calendar Options for each year

Review Student Calendar Data
- Continue to review the Student Calendar Data and bring back any questions you may have

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