



# School Calendar Overview

October 19, 2024



# Strategic Plan 2023-2028

## Priority 1: Increase Academic Achievement

- Target 5: 80% or more of students will demonstrate mastery and proficiency in tier 1 instruction
- Target 7: Annually increase students' access to rigor, including critical and creative thinking, as well as offering relevant professional supports for staff.

# Sum and Sequence

- Types of Calendars
- VA Code requirements
- Four-Day Calendar
- Year-Round Calendar
- Pros and Cons
- Next Steps

# Types of Calendars

- Traditional Calendar
  - Approx. 180 instructional days spread across nine months
  - Extended breaks in winter, spring, and summer
- Four-Day Calendar
  - Typically 4 school days per week, giving students a 3-day weekend
  - Extended hours on the 4 days
- Year-Round Calendar
  - Continuous learning throughout the year
  - Includes shorter, more frequent breaks (called Intercession breaks)

# What Does VA Code Say about Instructional Days and Hours?

## **88VAC20-671-420. Standard school year and school day.**

A. Each school shall have a standard school year of **at least 180 teaching days or a total of at least 990 teaching hours per year**. The standard school day for students in grades 1 through 12 shall average **at least five and one-half teaching hours** or average 27 and one-half hours weekly.

# What Does CCS do about Instructional Days and Hours on a Calendar?

- CCS calendars have exceeded 990 hours (approx 1,026) over the past several years
- Focus is not just on quantity, but on the quality and depth of learning experiences offered during the school year

# What Does VA Code Say about Four-Day calendars?

**§ 22.1-79.1. Opening of the school year; approvals for certain alternative schedules.**

C. Individual schools may propose, and local school boards may approve, pursuant to guidelines developed by the Board of Education, alternative school schedule plans providing for the operation of schools on a four-day weekly calendar, so long as a minimum of 990 hours of instructional time is provided for grades kindergarten through 12.



# More about the Four-Day Calendar

- One VA division implemented in 2022
- Gaining popularity in other states, especially in rural areas,
- Shifts in rural areas to address teacher shortages, reduce costs, and improve work-life balance
  - sacrifice instructional time
  - concerns about student achievement over time



# What Would a Four-Day Calendar in CCS mean?

- During COVID, CCS implemented a four-day calendar with PL / planning on Fridays
  - Schools were under a waiver and 990 hours was not required
- Now, the 990-hour minimum must be met
  - Example:  $144 \times 6.5$  (instructional hours) = 936
  - Example:  $144 \times 7.5$  (instructional hours) = 1,080
- Staff buy-in
- Family buy-in

# School Division Examples - Four Day

## Colorado:

- Moffat County
- Hayden School District

## Idaho:

- The Nampa School District

## New Mexico

- Mora Independent Schools
- Estancia Municipal Schools

# What Does the VDOE Say about Year-Round calendars?

- Instructional days are distributed across 10, 11, or 12 months rather than the traditional nine-month calendar.
- Summer break may be shorter, while other breaks, known as intercessions, may be added during typical times of transition
- Intercessions may include opportunities for remediation or enrichment.

# More about Year-Round Calendars

A 2012 Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission study (PDF) of year-round schools concluded that:

- While, overall, SOL scores at year-round schools were similar to scores in traditional calendar schools, SOL scores of certain student subgroups were more likely to improve at a faster rate at year-round schools.
- Year-round calendars increased annual school expenditures, on average, by about three percent.

# What Would a Year-Round Calendar in CCS mean?

- Division-wide or individual schools
- Planning Grant / Implementation Grant through VDOE
- Staff buy-in
- Family buy-in

# School Division Examples - Year-Round

- Wake County Public School System
- Chicago Public Schools
- Los Angeles Unified School District
- Broward County Public Schools
- Fairfax County Public Schools
- Chesterfield County Public Schools

# Pros and Cons



# Pros and Cons of the Traditional Calendar

<b>Pros</b>	<b>Cons</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Consistency and predictability</li><li>● Extended break for students and teachers</li><li>● Alignment with community norms</li><li>● Familiarity</li></ul>	<p>Learning loss over summer</p> <p>Childcare challenges during summer</p> <p>Uneven academic pacing</p> <p>Pressure during the school year</p>

# Pros and Cons of the Four-Day Calendar

<b>Pros</b>	<b>Cons</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Cost savings</li><li>● Improved teacher and student attendance</li><li>● Teacher recruitment and retention</li><li>● Potential for increased focus</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Longer school days</li><li>● Childcare challenges</li><li>● Potential negative impact on academic performance</li><li>● Equity concerns</li></ul>

# Pros and Cons of the Year-Round Calendar

<b>Pros</b>	<b>Cons</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Prevents summer slide</li><li>● More continuity</li><li>● Frequent breaks</li><li>● Helps working parents manage child care</li><li>● Reduction in need for remedial education</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Scheduling conflicts</li><li>● Potential for teacher burnout</li><li>● Increased operational costs</li><li>● No significant academic gains</li><li>● Difficulty in implementing extracurriculars</li><li>● Impact on summer jobs and programs</li><li>● Interferes with summer facility and technology upgrades</li></ul>

# Next Steps

- The calendar process for 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 is underway, and we will present calendar drafts to the Board in November.
- Continued conversation about different calendars if needed
- Planning and stakeholder engagement

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# Questions?

