

# Your School Calendar

## How Is It Determined?

FCPS staff works with a Calendar Committee to prepare calendar options for upcoming school years for the Board of Education's review, modification and approval. The Board publishes the proposed calendar and solicits input from employees and the community.

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, MCAP, 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
- Local college schedules
- Community priorities



The official school-year end date is fully dependent on how many inclement weather or emergency closings are necessary. For every snow day or emergency closure needed, the school year is extended by one day. This ensures FCPS meets the 180-day state requirement for instruction. If more make-up days are required, they may be added as necessary. The Board includes make-up dates in the calendar. Typically, 4-5 days are included.

The length of spring break, parent-teacher conference dates, teacher work days and a variety of other dates are subject to change from one school calendar to the next.