



Hanover County Public Schools 2023-24 Calendar Frequently Asked Questions

How do I share my opinion on the proposed calendar?

All families, faculty, staff, and community members are encouraged to provide input and suggestions regarding the proposed 2023-24 calendar. The public comment period will be open from Wednesday, November 9, 2022, to Tuesday, December 6, 2022. Please submit your comments to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8GK32LD>.

Why is the school year starting earlier?

Following an extensive public input process, the Hanover County School Board approved a pre-Labor Day start for the 2023-24 school year. You can learn more [on our website](#).

Why don't students go to school on Election Day or the day before?

In order to ensure the safety of our students, Election Day is a student holiday. Seventeen of our schools serve as voting precincts and experience hundreds of visitors on Election Day every November. As a result, we are proposing to hold parent-teacher conferences on Monday, November 7, 2023, in order to reduce traffic and increase safety at our schools.

What are Flexible Learning Days?

Two Flexible Learning Days have been built into the 2023-24 school calendar. A Flexible Learning Day is an asynchronous learning day in which students will participate in carefully designed and meaningful learning activities from home. Flexible Learning Days provide teachers with opportunities to collaborate within their content area, provide time to plan instruction, and assess individual needs of students. You can learn more about Flexible Learning Days [on our website](#).

Why don't students have Veterans Day off?

One of the rights our students have is to have access to a free and public education. Our longstanding tradition is to celebrate this right by providing opportunities for our students to honor our veterans through various activities and assemblies. These efforts have been well-received by our community's veterans for many years.

Why would Spring Break be the first full week of April?

There are many perspectives to consider regarding Spring Break. Our regional school partners (e.g., CodeRVA and Maggie L. Walker Governor's School) have agreed to observe a consistent Spring Break each year to allow for the planning and organization of sports, music competitions and festivals, and theater arts performances. Second, a consistent Spring Break supports many of our families and employees who work in one school division but live in another. Finally, a consistent Spring Break allows for families to make plans well in advance of the calendar being officially approved by our School Board.

During an inclement weather event that impacts only one part of the county, why do the other parts of the county not impacted by the weather have to be closed?

The HCPS school corridors (Western, Courthouse, Central, and Eastern) do not operate independently from one another. Hanover County Public Schools has many students who travel between schools at the secondary level. For instance, all four comprehensive high schools send students to The Hanover Center for Trades and Technology every day. Additionally, Advance College Academy students also travel from Atlee High School and Hanover High School to Mechanicsville High School and Patrick Henry High School, respectively. Therefore, if one part of the county experiences weather conditions that prohibit safe travel for our students (and a closing is necessary), the entire school division closes.

Why don't we have any weather make-up days in the school calendar?

The Commonwealth of Virginia requires that students attend school for 180 days or 990 instructional hours for the school year. In the past, we have adhered to the 180 days of instruction. However, the proposed calendar is based on 990 hours of instruction. Enough make-up time is built into our school calendar that we do not need to include make-up days for inclement weather.