MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Jack R. Smith, Superintendent of Schools

Subject: 2020–2021 School Year Calendars—Traditional and Innovative

The Board of Education Policy IDA, *School Year Calendar*, states that no later than early fall, the Policy Management Committee (Committee) will review the proposed school year calendar for the following school year prior to its presentation to the Board of Education.

- The Committee first met to discuss the 2020–2021 School Year Calendar on June 12, 2019. The Committee reviewed the structural parameters of the calendar and the context and next steps for its development.
- On September 12, 2019, the Committee met to review potential draft scenarios for the 2020–2021 instructional School Year Calendar. At that meeting, the Committee recommended three scenarios to form the basis of the Board of Education’s initial review. The Committee also discussed potential changes to Policy IDA that would be necessary to implement one of the possible scenarios.
- On October 8, 2019, the Board of Education held an initial discussion to review the structural parameters of the calendar, the work to date to develop possible scenarios for the instructional calendar, and receive an initial range of scenarios to begin the Board of Education’s discussion about the 2020–2021 instructional School Year Calendar.
- On November 12, 2019, the Board of Education received an update on the feedback and comments received from the community through the online survey and other communications. The Board of Education also took action to amend Policy IDA to allow schools and offices to be open on Inauguration Day.
- The Board of Education also received updates on the progress of developing the Innovative School Year Calendar at each of these meetings.

Today the Board of Education will take action on the 2020–2021 School Year Calendars for the Traditional School Year and for the Innovative School Year.
Superintendent’s Recommended 2020–2021 Traditional School Year Calendar

My recommended 2020–2021 Traditional School Year Calendar (Attachment A) is before the Board of Education today for review and action. Briefly, the chief elements of the recommended calendar are as follows:

- The first day of school is Monday, August 31, 2020, and the last day of school is Wednesday, June 16, 2021.
- The calendar includes a total of 182 instructional days. This is the same number of instructional days that have been scheduled since the 2017–2018 school year calendar.
- The 14 dates that schools are required to close by state law are noted with an asterisk. Labor Day, Monday, September 7, 2020, also is marked with an asterisk although not specified in state law. School systems are required to close on the following dates:
  - Tuesday, November 3, 2020: Election Day;
  - Thursday, November 26 and Friday, November 27, 2020: Thanksgiving and the day after;
  - Thursday, December 24, 2020, through Friday, January 1, 2021: Christmas Eve through New Year’s Day;
  - Monday, January 18, 2021: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day;
  - Monday, February 15, 2021: Presidents’ Day;
  - Friday, April 2, 2021: Friday before Easter;
  - Monday, April 5, 2021: Monday after Easter; and
- Schools are scheduled to be open on Wednesday, January 20, 2021, which also is Inauguration Day. The Board of Education’s amended Policy IDA, School Calendar, allows schools to be either open or closed on Inauguration Day following considerations of other operational features of the calendar in a particular year. Given that Inauguration Day in 2021 falls on the Wednesday following the observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Day on Monday, January 18, 2021, I find that the operational objectives of the instructional calendar are better served by having schools in session. We will work with our principals and teachers to include information reflecting and honoring the importance of Inauguration Day in their instruction and work with students on that day.
- One noninstructional day is scheduled to coincide with Rosh Hashanah (Monday, September 28, 2020), due to the anticipated difficulty in operating schools on this date.
- Two professional development and make-up days are scheduled to align with Lunar New Year (Friday, February 12, 2021) and Eid al-Fitr (Thursday, May 13, 2021). Having the opportunity for professional development but not holding instruction on these dates aligns with the educational and operational objectives of Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS).
- One full noninstructional day is scheduled for planning and grading at the end of each quarter.
- Early release days are scheduled, one in each semester, which are required in the Montgomery County Education Association contract and are placed to coincide with interims.
• Two early release days for parent-teacher conferences are aligned with Veterans Day (Wednesday, November 11, and Thursday, November 12, 2020). This is consistent with past practice and reflects the interests of some parents/guardians and schools to have an opportunity for conferences on a day that some parents/guardians may have off from work.
• The calendar has a total of seven scheduled early release days.
• Four noninstructional days are scheduled for spring break in addition to the 2 state-mandated closures, resulting in a 10-day spring break (6 noninstructional days plus 2 weekends).
• Monday, November 9, 2020; Friday, January 29; Friday, February 12; Monday, March 29; Tuesday, March 30; Friday, April 16; and Thursday, May 13, 2021, are identified as possible make-up days due to weather or emergency closings. As the state required minimum number of instructional days is 180, instructional days 181 and 182 function as the first 2 possible make-up days (Tuesday, June 15, and Wednesday, June 16, 2021). MCPS also schedules instruction on these days but will not need to make up those days of instruction in the event of closures because they exceed the state-mandated minimum.

Superintendent’s Recommended 2020–2021 Innovative School Year Calendar

My recommended 2020–2021 Innovative School Year Calendar (Attachment B) is before the Board of Education today for review and action. Earlier this year, staff inquired with the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) regarding whether an additional waiver or any further documentation is needed to continue the Innovative School Year Calendar framework for Arcola and Roscoe R. Nix elementary schools. MSDE staff stated that no action is needed to continue this approach.

Briefly, the chief elements of the recommended calendar are as follows:
• The first day of school will be Monday, July 6, 2020.
• The last day of school will be Monday, June 14, 2021.
• The Innovative School Year Calendar will have 210 instructional days, with quarters between 51 to 54 days in length. As a result, it will not be necessary to include additional days for possible make up due to emergency closure.
• Following instruction in July and early August 2020, the Innovative School Year Calendar will include an extended break from August 17–28, 2020.
• Between the August 31, 2020, and June 14, 2021, time frame, the Innovative School Year Calendar will follow the same structure as the traditional school year calendar. This will include all state-mandated closures, as well as days identified for closure by the Board of Education for the Traditional School Year Calendar.
• During the September 3, 2019, and June 15, 2020, time frame, the Innovative School Year Calendar differs in terms of placement and number of early release days, parent/guardian conferences, and various instructional features.
• The Innovative School Year Calendar has a total of 17 scheduled early release days.
Superintendent’s Recommended 2019–2020 School Year Calendars

WHEREAS, The establishment of school terms by the Board of Education is required by Maryland state law; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County Public Schools parents/guardians, community members, students, and staff members should be informed of the Board of Education adopted school year calendar each year and the subsequent contingency plan identifying days that will be used to make up lost instructional time due to emergency closing; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County Public Schools conducted an inclusive calendar development process that included convening focus groups of internal and external stakeholders, soliciting open comments and survey responses via the website, and review by the Board of Education Policy Management Committee beginning June 12, 2019; and

WHEREAS, Arcola Elementary School and Roscoe R. Nix Elementary School operate on an Innovative School Year Calendar with 210 instructional days; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the proposed calendars and contingency plan for Montgomery County Public Schools for the 2020–2021 Traditional and Innovative School Years be adopted.

JRS:AMZ:em

Attachments
# 2020–2021 Traditional School Year Calendar

### School Days in Month

| M | T | W | T | F | M | T | W | T | F | M | T | W | T | F | School Days |
| AUG | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 31 | F | 1 | 1 |  |
| SEP | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 7 | H* | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 28 NI | 29 | 30 | 20 | 21 |  |
| OCT | 1 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 22 | 43 |  |
| NOV | 2 | 3 | H* | 4 | 5 | 6 | 9 | PD/M | 10 | 11 ER | K–12 | 12 ER | K–12 | 13 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 23 | 24 | 25 ER K–12 | 26 H* | 27 H* | 30 | 17 | 60 |  |
| DEC | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 H* | 28 NI* | 29 NI* | 30 NI* | 31 NI* | 17 | 77 |  |

### 2021

| JAN | 1 H* | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 18 H* | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 PD/M | 18 | 95 |  |
| FEB | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 PD/M | 15 H* | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 18 | 113 |  |
| MAR | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 ER K–12 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 29 NI/M | 30 NI/M | 31 NI/M | 20 | 133 |  |
| APR | 1 NI | 2 H* | 5 H* | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 PD/M | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 18 | 151 |  |
| MAY | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 PD/M | 14 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 31 H* | 19 | 170 |  |
| JUN | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 14 | 15 M | 16 L/M | 17 PD/M | 18 M | 21 M | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 12 | 182 |  |

### Key:
- **F**: First Day of School
- **H**: Holiday (Schools and offices closed)
- **ER**: Early Release Day
- **PD/M**: End of Quarter Grading/Planning—possible instructional day due to emergency school closure
- **L**: Last Day of School (Early release day)
- **M**: Make-up Day—possible instructional day due to emergency school closure
- **NI**: Non-Instructional (No school for students and teachers)
- **NI/M**: Non-Instructional—possible instructional day due to emergency school closure
- **PD/M**: Scheduled to be a professional day for teachers—possible instructional day due to emergency school closure
- ***: Mandated for closure by state law.

For more information on the MCPS calendar, please visit [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org) and click on calendar.

Q1 = 47  
Q2 = 48  
Q3 = 46  
Q4 = 41
## 2020–2021 Innovative School Year Calendar

### School Start Date
July 6, 2020

**Superintendent Recommended**

**DRAFT 12/3/19**

For more information on the MCPS calendar, please visit [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org) and click on calendar.

### 2020 Year Overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>School Days in Month</th>
<th>Cumulative School Days</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>JUL</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AUG</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SEP</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OCT</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>3 H*</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NOV</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>3 H*</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DEC</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2021 Year Overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>School Days in Month</th>
<th>Cumulative School Days</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>JAN</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 H*</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FEB</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MAR</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>APR</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>JUN</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Legend**

- **F** First Day of School
- **H** Holiday (Schools and offices closed)
- **ER** Early Release Day
- **ER** Early Release Day, End of Quarter Grading/Planning
- **L** Last Day of School (Early release day)
- **NI** Non-Instructional (No school for students and teachers)
- **NI/M** Non-Instructional—possible instructional day due to emergency school closure
- **PD/M** Scheduled to be a professional day for teachers—possible instructional day due to emergency school closure

* Mandated for closure by state law.

**Q1** = **53** Ends October 2

**Q2** = **51** Ends December 18

**Q3** = **54** Ends March 19

**Q4** = **52** Ends June 14