

MODIFIED SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR FAQs

Please take a few moments to review some Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) regarding a modified school year calendar.

MODIFIED VS TRADITIONAL CALENDAR



Both a traditional calendar and a modified calendar have students attending school 180 days a year and teachers working 190 days a year, meeting the requirements of state statutes and law. A modified calendar allows for additional breaks during the school year to help balance time in school and breaks. After each nine weeks there would be a two-week break for students and staff with opportunities for extra academic support and enrichment.

SC DISTRICTS ON A MODIFIED CALENDAR

Schools across the nation are successfully moving to a modified calendar, including several right here in South Carolina. Neighboring Edgefield County School District is currently considering this possibility as well. We are exploring this option to offer the best academic experience to students and educators alike.



BENEFITS OF A MODIFIED CALENDAR



REDUCING BURN OUT

The modified calendar allows for a two-week break after each nine weeks of school allowing students, families, and teachers to rest and recharge. This may also improve attendance.

PREVENTING THE "SUMMER SLIDE"

The modified calendar will shorten summer break, which is a time when students often experience learning loss due to the amount of time out of the classroom.



OFFERING EXTRA ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Some students need remediation, and a modified calendar potentially allows for a more timely response to those who need it. Allowing time during the two-week break after every nine weeks for students who need one-on-one opportunities with their teachers could alleviate stress for students and families by providing more time throughout the year instead of only catching up during the summer break.

ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Students will have time during the two-week break after every nine weeks to dive deeper into their desired fields including the arts, clubs, organizations, GT, and other STEAM/STEM activities. Offering students extra time to work on activities important to them will help build self-esteem and provide opportunities to enhance their abilities and skills.



WHAT ARE POTENTIAL CHALLENGES OF A MODIFIED CALENDAR?

Some employees, students, and families may want to continue with a traditional calendar, keeping summer breaks longer. Some families may also need to shuffle their work and personal schedules

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT ABOUT CHILD CARE?



We recognize moving to a modified calendar may present a challenge for some families to find childcare. We will work with our community partners to help find solutions for those families. During the 2019-20 school year when COVID-19 forced unexpected school closures, a number of community partners, including after school programs and churches, worked together to provide adequate childcare with very little time to plan.

WILL STUDENTS STILL HAVE HOLIDAYS OFF?

Yes. Students and staff will have traditional holidays off.



WILL SPRING BREAK STILL COINCIDE WITH MASTER'S WEEK?



Yes. The Aiken County Public School District values the opportunities that the Master's Tournament provides for our community, including temporary employment for high school students and staff.

WILL THERE BE A SUMMER BREAK?

Yes. In a modified calendar, students will still have a summer break lasting approximately 6 weeks.



WHEN WOULD SCHOOL START AND END IN A MODIFIED CALENDAR?



Potentially, the first day of school would occur between mid-July and early August, and the last day of school would be the first week of June.

HOW WILL THE PRE-PLANNED VACATION AND REQUESTS FOR TIME OFF BE HANDLED IF THE MODIFIED CALENDAR IS APPROVED?

We understand that many vacations are pre-planned, and we will be flexible with these requests during the first year of implementation if a modified calendar is approved. The District would allow students to make up work missed. There is also potential for virtual learning options as well.



HOW WILL THIS IMPACT SPORTS AND BAND PROGRAMS?



We do not anticipate a modified calendar having a negative impact on sports or band programs. There will be opportunities over the two-week breaks for practices to still occur.

After reading the FAQ sheet, if you have a question, please email it to Communications@acpsd.net. Watch our website and social media for more information, including upcoming opportunities to share your thoughts and ideas!