FCPS 2023-24

DRAFT SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

Calendar Decision-making Criteria

- Federal, State, and VDOE guidance
- Superintendent’s priorities
- School Board input
- Surrounding jurisdictions’ calendars
- Student absentee data
- Staff absentee data
- Survey and webinar results
- Calendar Feedback Committee input

Calendar Decision-making Criteria

State & Federal Law	• Must have a secular reason to establish a holiday • Must provide 180 days or 990 hours of instruction
Superintendent Priorities	• Alignment with Strategic Plan goals and ongoing commitment to a deep and authentic sense of belonging for each and every member of the FCPS community. • High quality teaching and learning experiences. • Adequate staffing to maintain school division operations. • Educators have professional development opportunities to extend and deepen their learning in support of our mission driven division work.

Calendar Decision-making Criteria

School Board
Top Priorities

- Multi-year calendar that allows for forward planning
- Alignment with surrounding divisions
- Instructional continuity
- Data-driven to ensure clarity around decisions made
- Follows the law
- Respectful of religious holidays

Calendar Decision-making Criteria

Surrounding Jurisdictions' Calendars 2023-24					
	Loudoun County	**Prince William County**	**Arlington County**	**Alexandria City**	**Montgomery County**
First Day of School	August 24	August 21	August 28	August 21	August 28
Rosh Hashanah		Observed September 15			
Yom Kippur	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday
Election Day	Student Holiday	Student Holiday	Student Holiday	Student Holiday	Student Holiday
Veterans Day		Observed November 10	Observed November 10		Student Holiday
Diwali	Observed November 14				
Winter Break	December 21 - January 1	December 21 - January 1	December 21 - January 1	December 18 - January 1	December 25 - January 1
Lunar New Year	Observed February 9				
Spring Break	March 25 - 29	March 25 - 29	March 25 - 29	March 25 - 29	March 25 - April 1
Eid Al-Fitr	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	
Last Day of School	June 14	June 7	June 14	June 14	June 13
Eid Al-Adha	Summer Break	Summer Break	Summer Break	Summer Break	Summer Break
Instructional Days	180	180	180	178	182

FCPS calendar comparisons for 2022-23 and 2023-24 (drafts) are attached to the agenda item in BoardDocs

Calendar Decision-making Criteria

Student and Staff Absence Data

- Absence data has been collected and is posted to BoardDocs for the following dates:
  - Bodhi Day
  - Día de los Muertos (11/1)
  - Día de los Muertos (11/2)
  - Diwali*
  - Eid Al-Adha
  - Eid al-Fitr*
  - First day of Ramadan
  - Lunar New Year
  - Orthodox Christmas
  - Orthodox Epiphany
  - Orthodox Good Friday
  - Passover - 1st Full Day
  - Passover - Last Day
  - Rosh Hashanah – 1st Full Day*
  - Theravada
  - Three Kings Day/Epiphany
  - Veterans Day
  - Yom Kippur*

*Holiday recognized by at least three surrounding jurisdictions

Calendar Decision-making Criteria

Calendar Survey and Webinar Highlights

- All groups preferred full student holidays for professional development days
- Employees with a preference preferred shortening the school day to accommodate extra planning time; families and the community preferred clustered student holidays
- No group favored extending the school year to add additional student holidays
- Employees were unwilling to shortening Spring and Winter Breaks; families and the community were willing to shorten Winter Break by one day and to have school the day before Thanksgiving; students were willing to shorten Spring Break by one day

Calendar Decision-making Criteria

Calendar Survey Highlights

- All groups were somewhat happy with this year's calendar
- Employees and students preferred starting two weeks before Labor day; families and the community favored starting one week before the holiday
- All groups preferred longer Winter and Spring Breaks
- Families preferred a fixed date for Spring Break; students, employees and the community preferred it to rotate with the timing of Easter
- Alignment with surrounding jurisdictions was considered extremely important by employees; somewhat important by students; not at all important by families and the community

Complete survey results are attached to the agenda item in BoardDocs

Calendar Decision-making Criteria

Calendar Feedback Committee Priorities			
	Priority 1	**Priority 2**	**Priority 3**
Group 1	Consistency: childcare issues, neighboring county consistency, knowing in advance what was going to happen.	Inclusion and recognition of different holidays and belief systems	Have a longer-term calendar plan so that people can plan.
Group 2	No synchronous or asynchronous instruction - it is not accessible or equitable for multiple populations.	Keep length of school year the same (shorter would be OK, as long as there is no negative impact to instructional time and teacher preparation)	Keeping the religious diversity in the calendar - find creative ways to address the childcare and food insecurity concerns - collaborate with community & support staff
Group 3	consistency of learning time	Not to touch winter and spring break (aligned with Easter)	keep religious holidays
Group 4	Basic skeleton framework of the calendar is consistent & predictable year to year	It appears across all groups that the longer winter break and spring break are the priority	Avoid asynchronous days as a solution to the number of days issue
Group 5	Keep the religious holidays for students and teachers.	Avoid Asynchronous learning and keep more face-to-face teaching time	Consider early school opening dates based on the equity and teachers satisfaction
Group 6	needs to be a focus on operational needs	need creative solutions to balance needs of religious minorities, differently abled, economically disadvantaged, military and others who are not always able to participate - because large minorities appear in almost all survey questions	we did not get to a third

Additional information on the Calendar Feedback Committee is attached to the agenda item in BoardDocs

2023-24 Draft Proposed Calendars:

Blue

Orange

Green

Purple

Framework for Draft FCPS Calendars: Key Differences

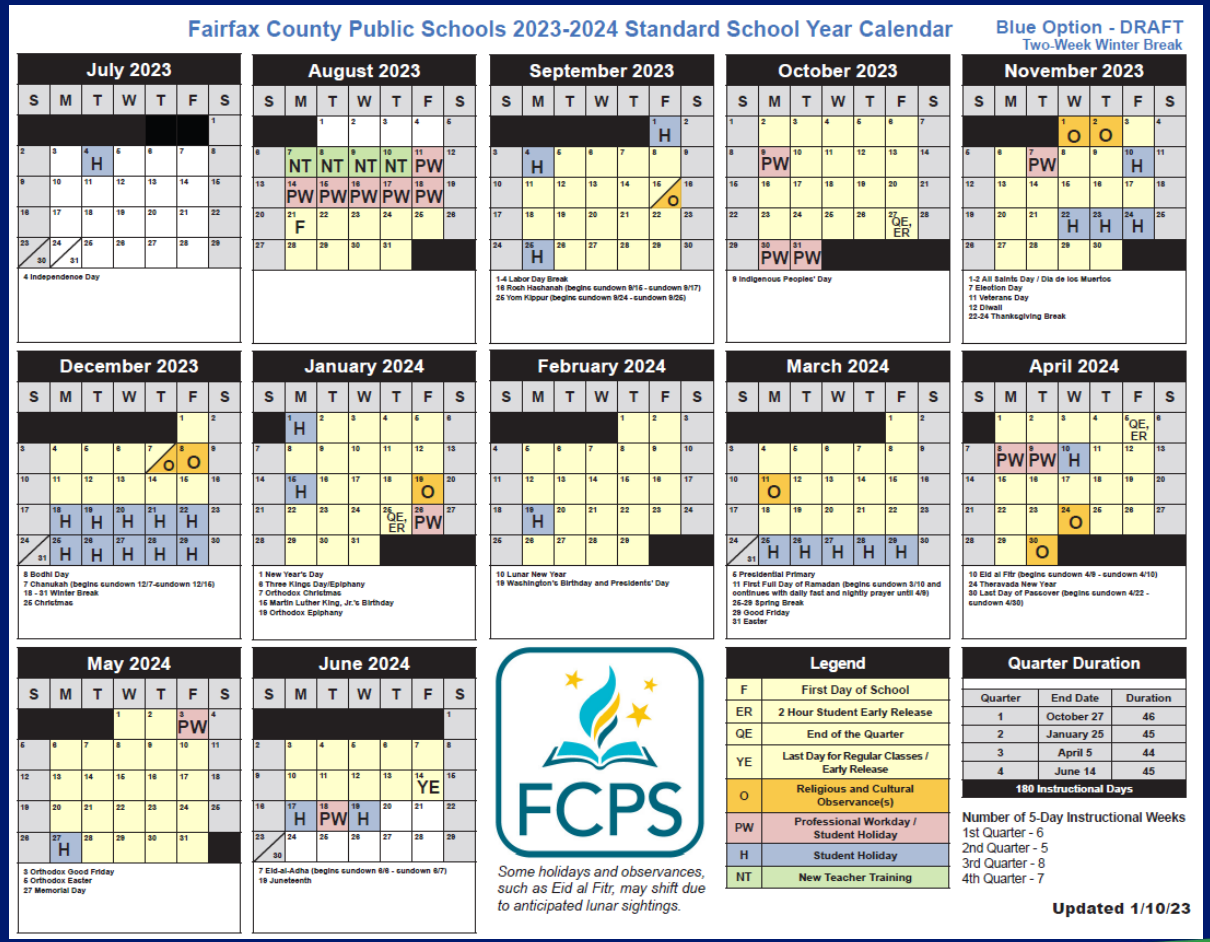
FCPS Proposed Draft Calendars				
Date	**Blue Version**	**Orange Version**	**Green Version**	**Purple Version**
First Day of School	2 weeks before Labor Day	2 weeks before Labor Day	1 week before labor day	2 weeks before Labor Day
Winter Break	Two weeks	Less than two weeks	Less than two weeks	Two weeks
Last Day of School	Variable	Variable	Variable	Variable
Instructional Days	180	180	180	177

A complete calendar framework is attached to the agenda item in BoardDocs

2023-24
Blue Option

- Starts: August 21
  (2 weeks before Labor Day)
- Ends: June 14
- Winter Break: 2 weeks + 1 day
- Instructional Days: 180

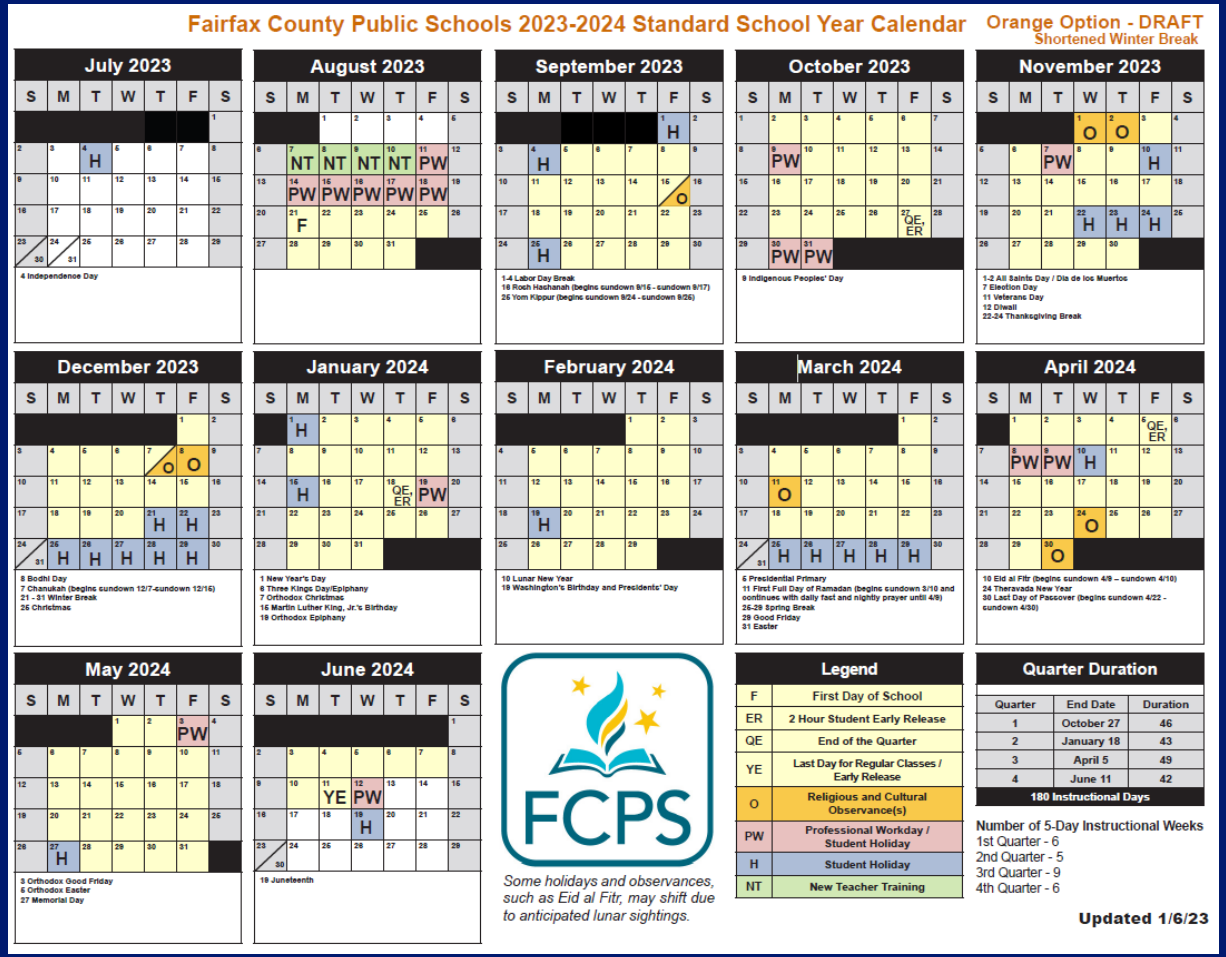
5-day Weeks		
Quarter	2022-23	2023-24
Q1	4 weeks	6 weeks
Q2	5 weeks	5 weeks
Q3	7 weeks	8 weeks
Q4	7 weeks	7 weeks
Total	23 weeks	26 weeks



2023-24
Orange Option

- Starts: August 21
  (2 weeks before Labor Day)
- Ends: June 11
- Winter Break: 8 days
- Instructional Days: 180

5-day Weeks		
Quarter	2022-23	2023-24
Q1	4 weeks	6 weeks
Q2	5 weeks	5 weeks
Q3	7 weeks	9 weeks
Q4	7 weeks	6 weeks
Total	23 weeks	26 weeks



2023-24 Green Option

- Starts: August 28 (1 week before Labor Day)
- Ends: June 20
- Winter Break: 8 days
- Instructional Days: 180

5-day Weeks		
Quarter	2022-23	2023-24
Q1	4 weeks	6 weeks
Q2	5 weeks	6 weeks
Q3	7 weeks	6 weeks
Q4	7 weeks	7 weeks
Total	23 weeks	25 weeks

Fairfax County Public Schools 2023-2024 Standard School Year Calendar

Green Option -DRAFT
Later Start/Short Winter Break

July 2023

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4 H	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 / 30	24 / 31	25	26	27	28	29

4 Independence Day

August 2023

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14 NT	15 NT	16 NT	17 NT	18 PW	19
20	21 PW	22 PW	23 PW	24 PW	25 PW	26
27	28 F	29	30	31		

September 2023

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1 H	2
3	4 H	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 / O	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 H	26	27	28	29	30

1-4 Labor Day Break
16 Rosh Hashanah (begins sundown 9/15 - sundown 9/17)
25 Yom Kippur (begins sundown 9/24 - sundown 9/25)

October 2023

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 PW	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

9 Indigenous Peoples' Day

November 2023

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1 O	2 O	3 QE, ER	4
5	6 PW	7 PW	8	9	10 H	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 H	23 H	24 H	25
26	27	28	29	30		

1-2 All Saints Day / Dia de los Muertos
7 Election Day
11 Veterans Day
12 Diwali
22-24 Thanksgiving Break

December 2023

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7 / O	8 O	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 H	22 H	23
24 / 31	25 H	26 H	27 H	28 H	29 H	30

8 Bodhi Day
7 Chanukah (begins sundown 12/7- sundown 12/15)
21 - 31 Winter Break
25 Christmas

January 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1 H	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 H	16	17	18	19 O	20
21	22	23	24	25	26 QE, ER	27
28	29 PW	30	31			

1 New Year's Day
6 Three Kings Day/Epiphany
7 Orthodox Christmas
15 Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday
19 Orthodox Epiphany

February 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16 PW	17
18	19 H	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

10 Lunar New Year
19 Washington's Birthday and Presidents' Day

March 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 O	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 / 31	25 H	26 H	27 H	28 H	29 H	30

5 Presidential Primary
11 First Full Day of Ramadan (begins sundown 3/10 and continues with daily fast and nightly prayer until 4/9)
25-29 Spring Break
29 Good Friday
31 Easter

April 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5 QE, ER	6
7	8 PW	9 PW	10 H	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 O	25	26	27
28	29	30 O				

16 Eid al Fitr (begins sundown 4/9 – sundown 4/10)
24 Theravada New Year
30 Last Day of Passover (begins sundown 4/22 - sundown 4/30)

May 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3 PW	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 H	28	29	30	31	

3 Orthodox Good Friday
5 Orthodox Easter
27 Memorial Day

June 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 H	18	19 H	20 YE	21 PW	22
23 / 30	24	25	26	27	28	29

17 Eid al-Adha (begins sundown 6/16 - sundown 6/17)
19 Juneteenth

FCPS

Some holidays and observances, such as Eid al Fitr, may shift due to anticipated lunar sightings.

Legend

F	First Day of School
ER	2 Hour Student Early Release
QE	End of the Quarter
YE	Last Day for Regular Classes / Early Release
O	Religious and Cultural Observance(s)
PW	Professional Workday / Student Holiday
H	Student Holiday
NT	New Teacher Training

Quarter Duration

Quarter	End Date	Duration
1	November 3	46
2	January 26	45
3	April 9	42
4	June 20	47
180 Instructional Days		

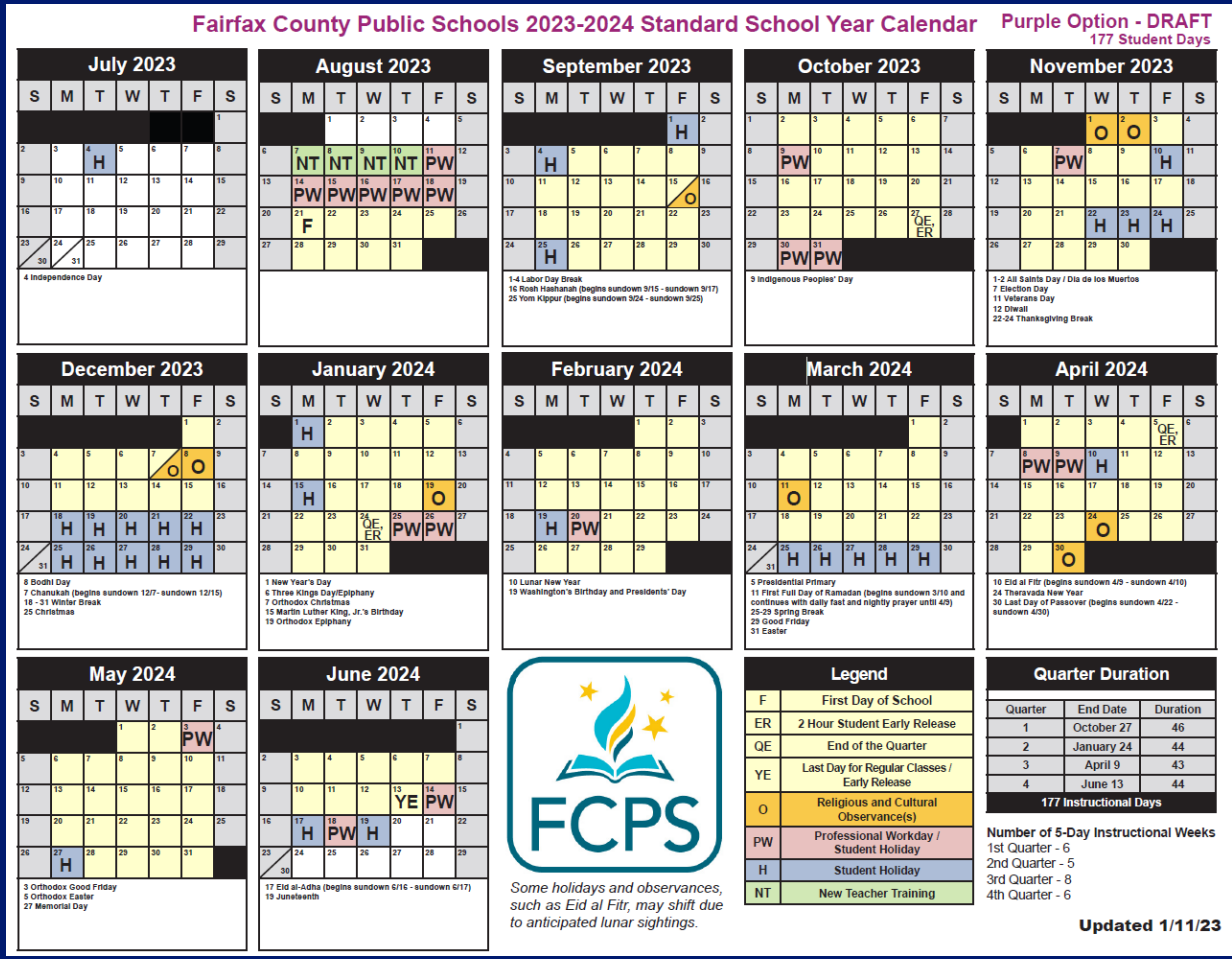
Number of 5-Day Instructional Weeks
1st Quarter - 6
2nd Quarter - 6
3rd Quarter - 6
4th Quarter - 7

Updated 1/10/23

2023-24
Purple Option

- Starts: August 21
  (2 weeks before Labor Day)
- Ends: June 13
- Winter Break: 2 weeks + 1 day
- Instructional Days: 177

5-day Weeks		
Quarter	2022-23	2023-24
Q1	4 weeks	6 weeks
Q2	5 weeks	5 weeks
Q3	7 weeks	8 weeks
Q4	7 weeks	6 weeks
Total	23 weeks	25 weeks



Questions and Discussion

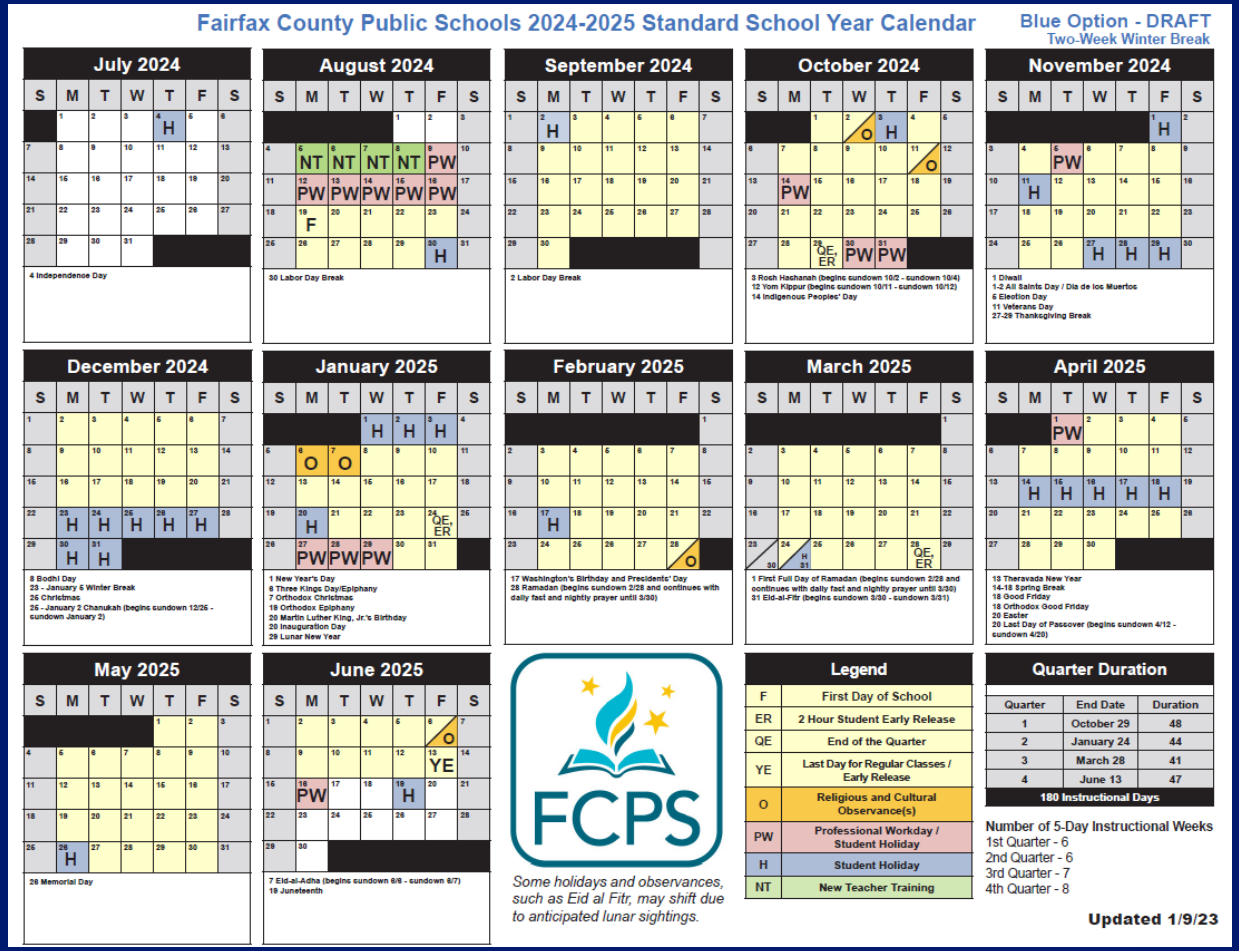
Appendix

Blue Draft Options:
2024-25
2025-26

2024-25
Blue Option

- Starts: August 19
  (2 weeks before Labor Day)
- Ends: June 13
- Winter Break: 2 weeks
- Instructional Days: 180

5-day Weeks		
Quarter	2022-23	2024-25
Q1	4 weeks	6 weeks
Q2	5 weeks	6 weeks
Q3	7 weeks	7 weeks
Q4	7 weeks	8 weeks
Total	23 weeks	27 weeks



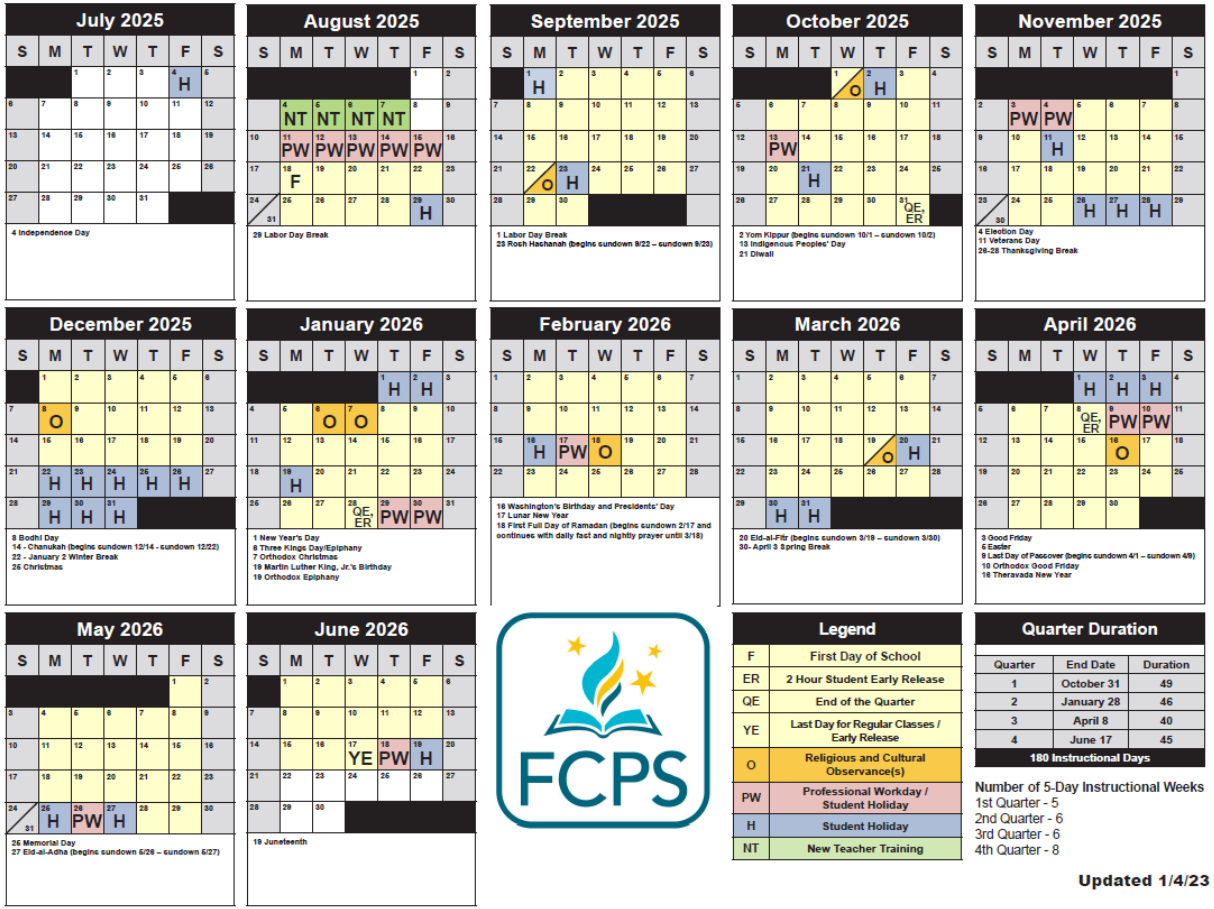
2025-26
Blue Option

- Starts: August 18
  (2 weeks before Labor Day)
- Ends: June 17
- Winter Break: 2 weeks
- Instructional Days: 180

5-day Weeks		
Quarter	2022-24	2025-26
Q1	4 weeks	5 weeks
Q2	5 weeks	6 weeks
Q3	7 weeks	6 weeks
Q4	7 weeks	8 weeks
Total	23 weeks	25 weeks

Fairfax County Public Schools 2025-2026 Standard School Year Calendar

Blue Option - DRAFT
Two-Week Winter Break

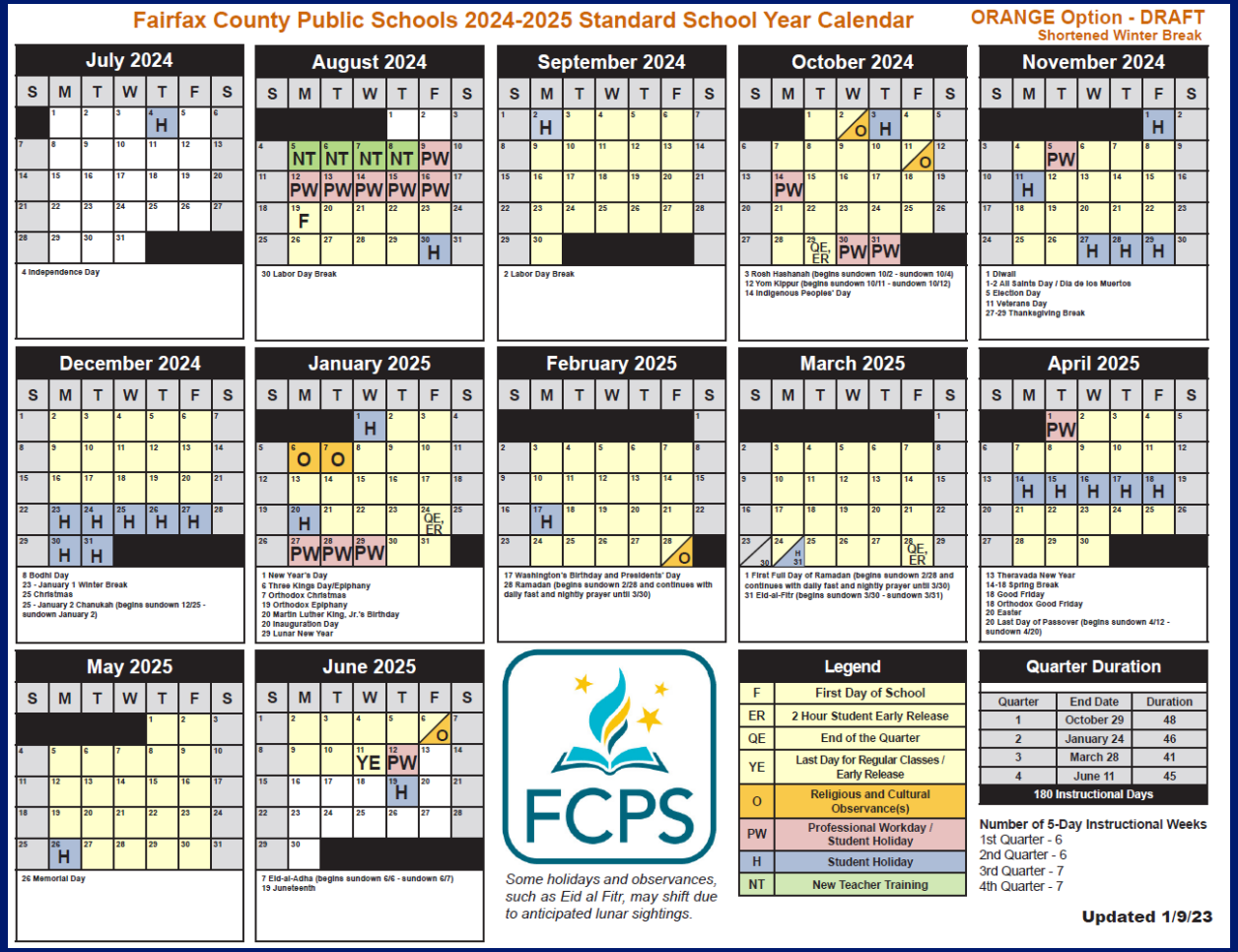


Orange Draft Options:
2024-25
2025-26

2024-25
Orange Option

- Starts: August 19
  (2 weeks before Labor Day)
- Ends: June 11
- Winter Break: 8 days
- Instructional Days: 180

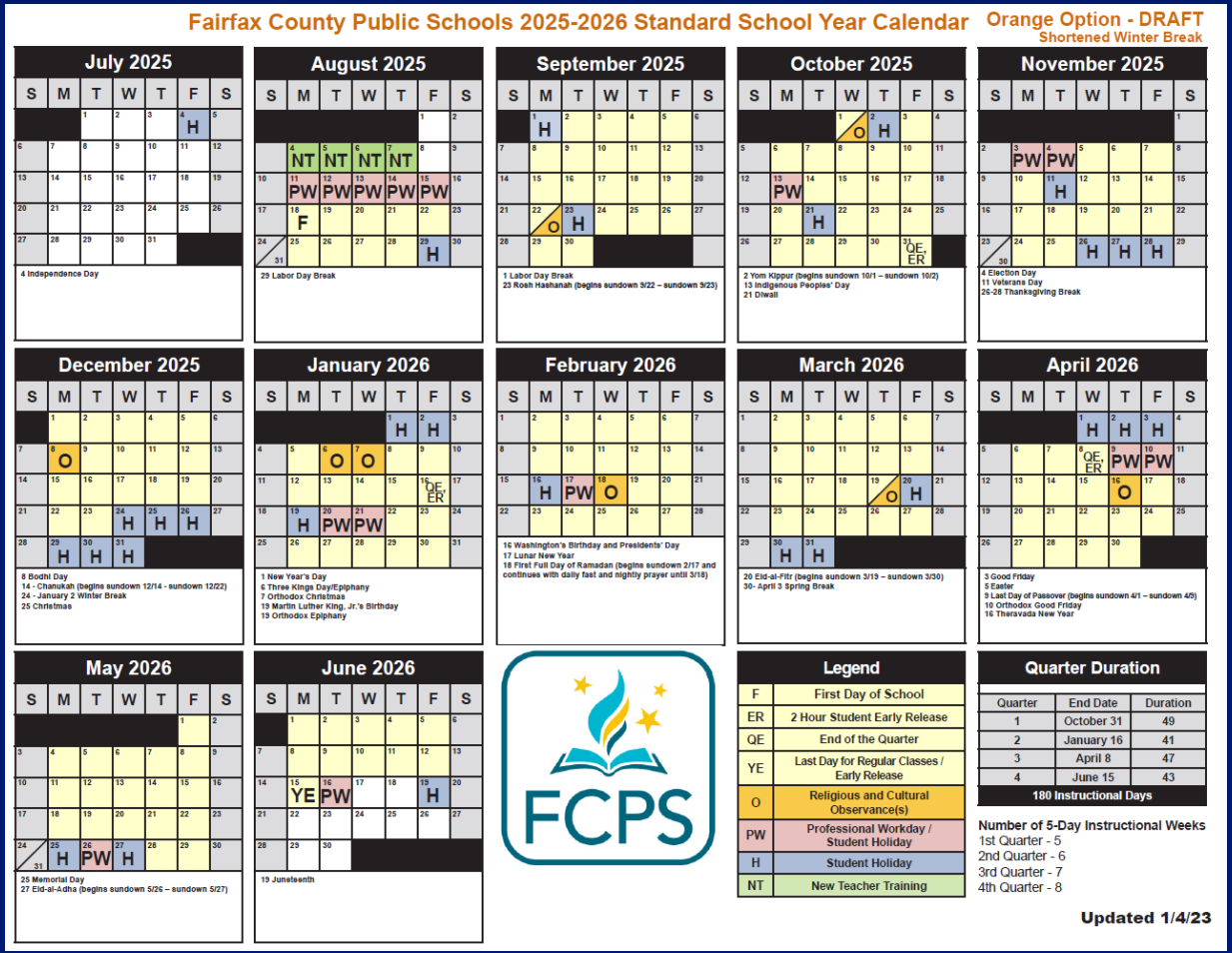
5-day Weeks		
Quarter	2022-23	2024-25
Q1	4 weeks	6 weeks
Q2	5 weeks	6 weeks
Q3	7 weeks	7 weeks
Q4	7 weeks	7 weeks
Total	23 weeks	26 weeks



2025-26
Orange Option

- Starts: August 18
  (2 weeks before Labor Day)
- Ends: June 15
- Winter Break: 8 days
- Instructional Days: 180

5-day Weeks		
Quarter	2022-23	2025-26
Q1	4 weeks	5 weeks
Q2	5 weeks	6 weeks
Q3	7 weeks	7 weeks
Q4	7 weeks	8 weeks
Total	23 weeks	26 weeks

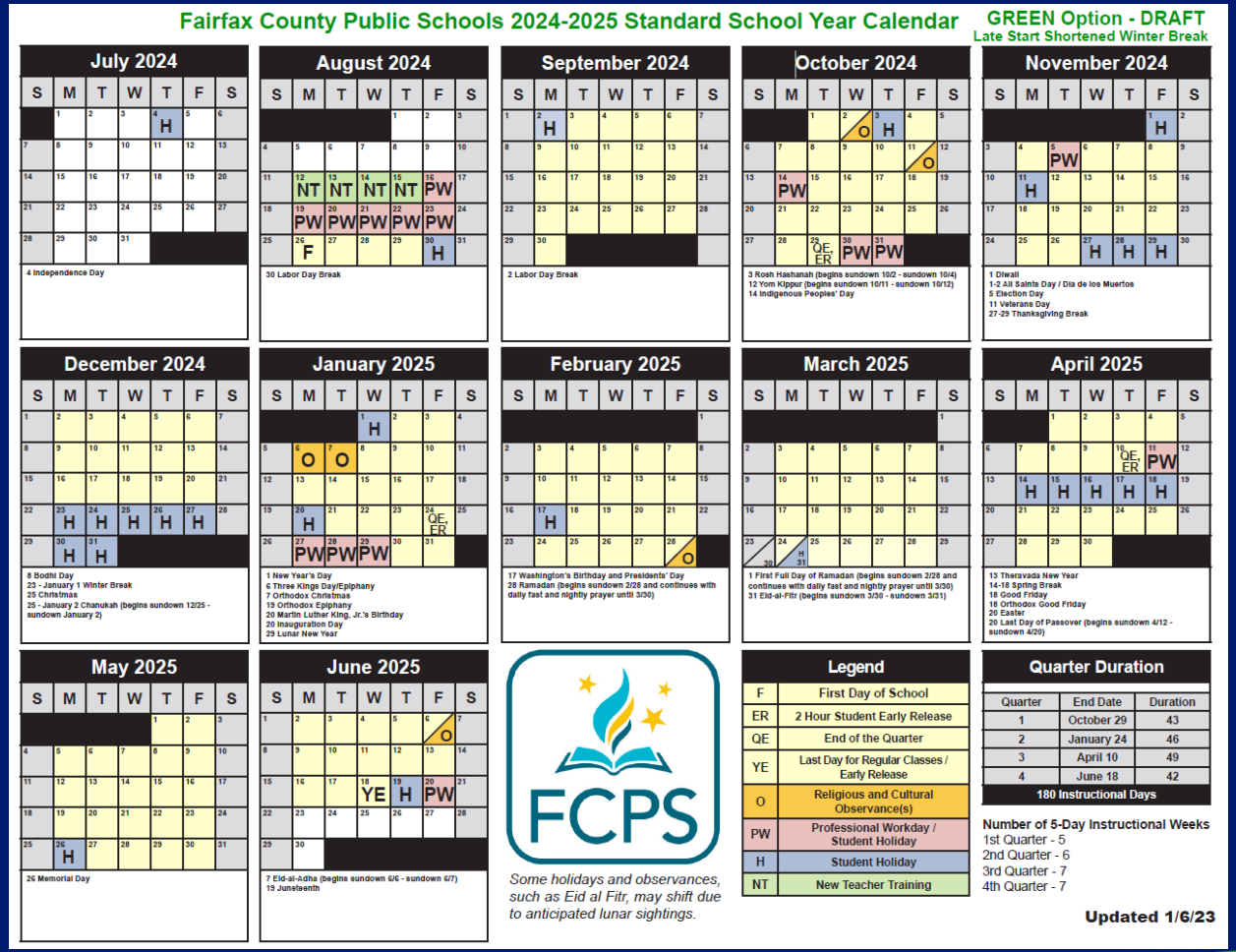


Green Draft Options:
2024-25
2025-26

2024-25
Green Option

- Starts: August 26
  (1 week before Labor Day)
- Ends: June 18
- Winter Break: 8 days
- Instructional Days: 180

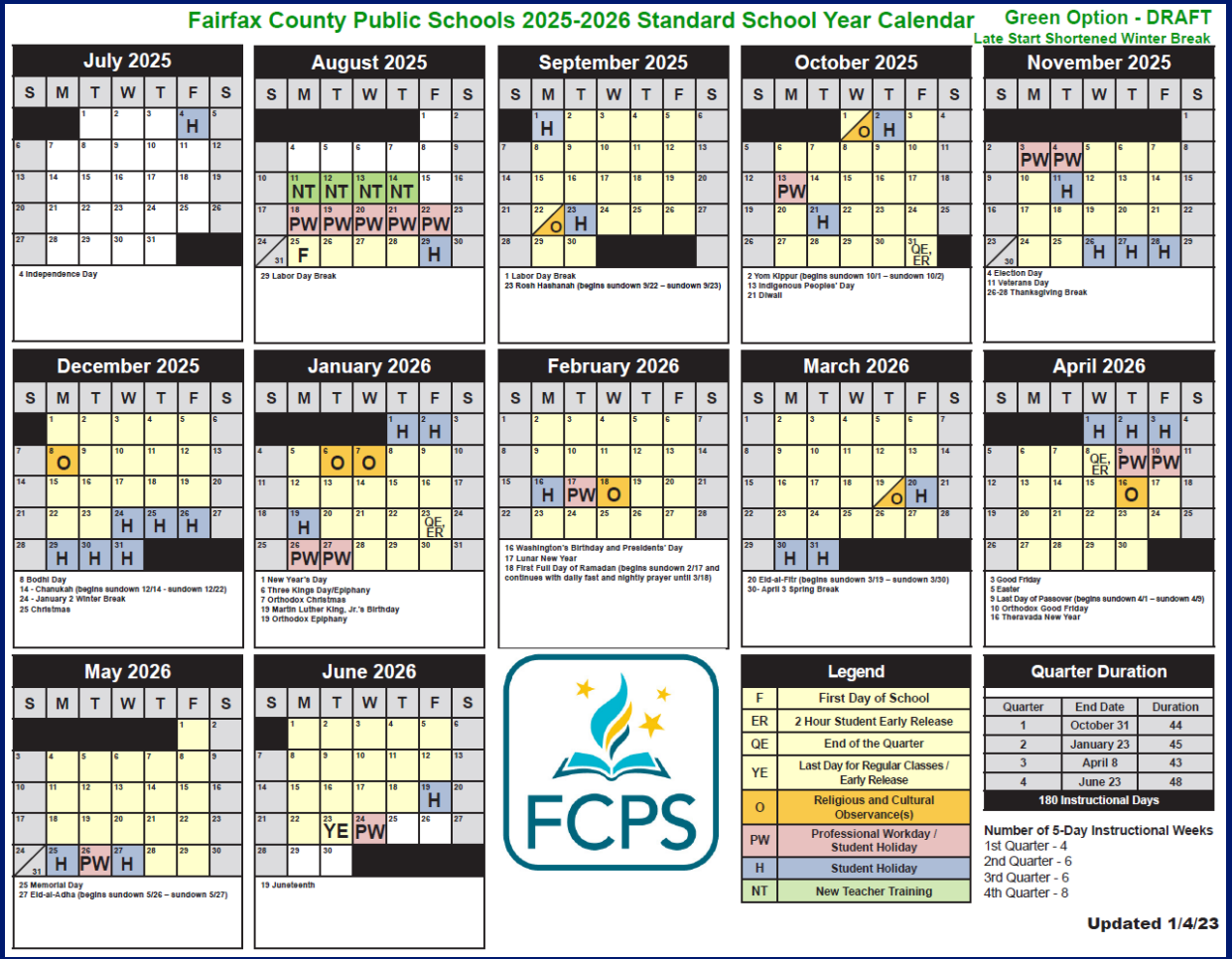
5-day Weeks		
Quarter	2022-23	2024-25
Q1	4 weeks	5 weeks
Q2	5 weeks	6 weeks
Q3	7 weeks	7 weeks
Q4	7 weeks	7 weeks
Total	23 weeks	25 weeks



2025-26
Green Option

- Starts: August 25
  (1 week before Labor Day)
- Ends: June 23
- Winter Break: 8 days
- Instructional Days: 180

5-day Weeks		
Quarter	2022-23	2024-25
Q1	4 weeks	4 weeks
Q2	5 weeks	6 weeks
Q3	7 weeks	6 weeks
Q4	7 weeks	8 weeks
Total	23 weeks	24 weeks

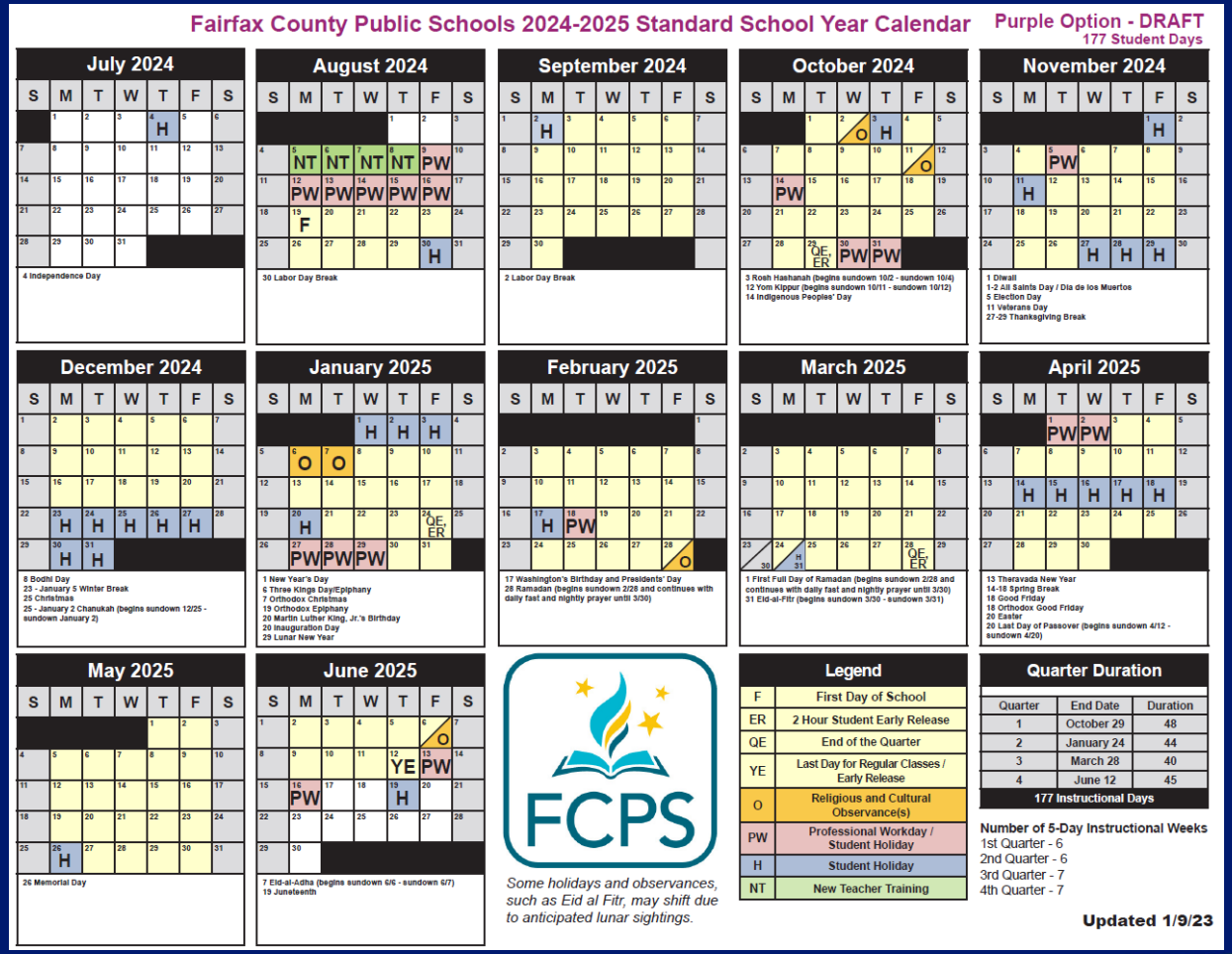


Purple Draft Options:
2023-24
2024-25

2024-25
Purple Option

- Starts: August 19
  (2 weeks before Labor Day)
- Ends: June 12
- Winter Break: 2 weeks
- Instructional Days: 177

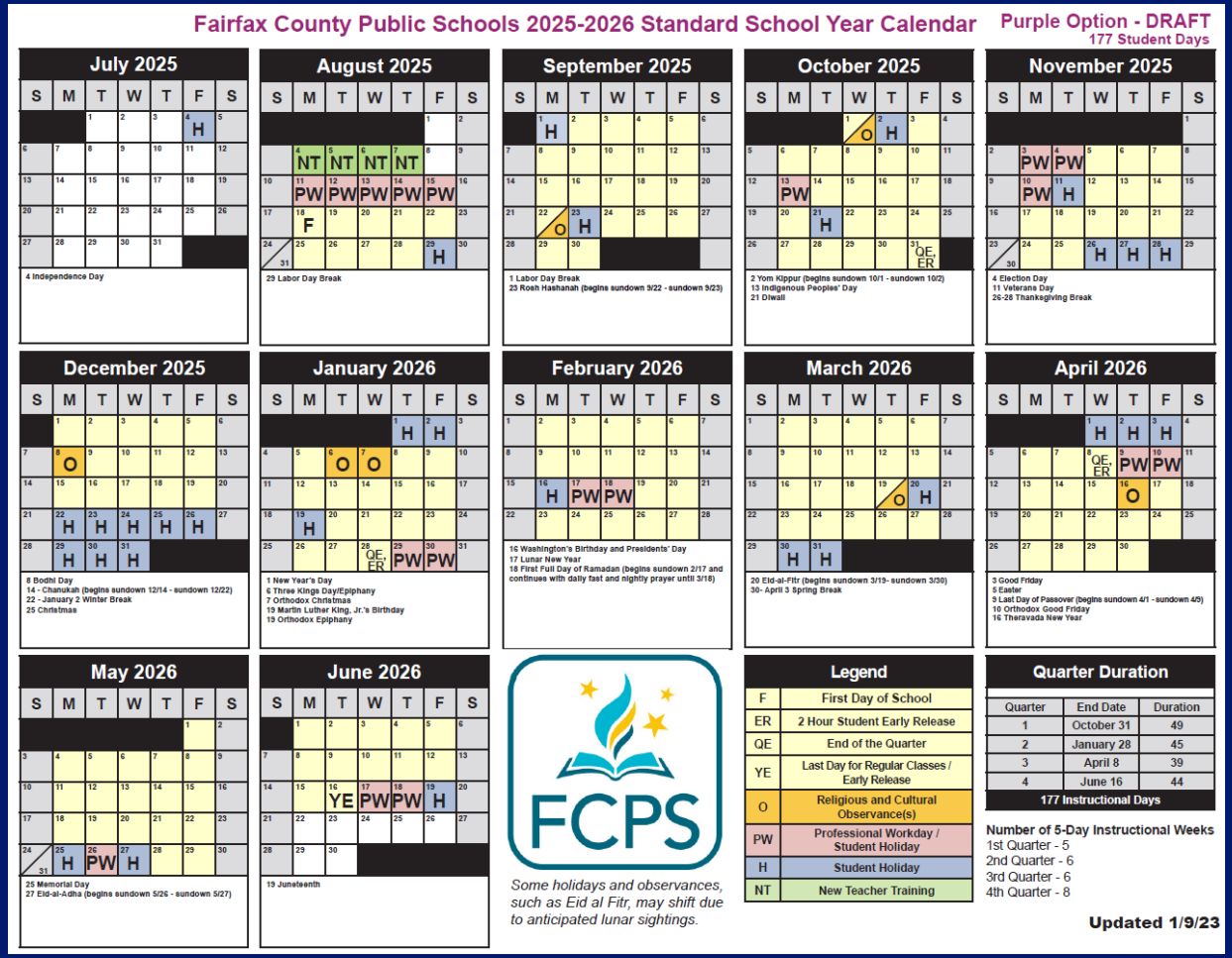
5-day Weeks		
Quarter	2022-23	2024-25
Q1	4 weeks	6 weeks
Q2	5 weeks	6 weeks
Q3	7 weeks	7 weeks
Q4	7 weeks	7 weeks
Total	23 weeks	26 weeks



2025-26
Purple Option

- Starts: August 18
  (2 weeks before Labor Day)
- Ends: June 16
- Winter Break: 2 weeks
- Instructional Days: 177

5-day Weeks		
Quarter	2022-23	2025-26
Q1	4 weeks	5 weeks
Q2	5 weeks	6 weeks
Q3	7 weeks	6 weeks
Q4	7 weeks	8 weeks
Total	23 weeks	25 weeks



Fairfax County
PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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