

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED
2023-2024, 2024-2025, & 2025-2026 TRADITIONAL ACADEMIC CALENDARS**

1	<p>From: Heather Jones [mailto:heatherjones6@bellsouth.net] Sent: Tuesday, January 10, 2023 9:29 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendar</p> <p>Option 2 for 2023-2024 is the best option.</p>
2	<p>From: kellyb0726@gmail.com [mailto:kellyb0726@gmail.com] Sent: Tuesday, January 10, 2023 10:17 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendars</p> <p>I vote for Option 2. Don't notice too many differences between option 1 and 2 but I like Option 2 having a day off in February.</p>
3	<p>From: Rebecca Taylor [mailto:beccarae96@yahoo.com] Sent: Tuesday, January 10, 2023 10:38 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendars</p> <p>Good evening-</p> <p>In reviewing the proposed calendar for 23-24, I am dissatisfied. The calendar for the 22-23 school year was the most teacher and family friendly calendar the district has had in many years. I would like to see an extension of winter break, as well as a teacher work day added during October.</p> <p>Thank you for considering the public's opinion.</p>
4	<p>From: Ashley Coleman [mailto:ashleycoleman88@icloud.com] Sent: Tuesday, January 10, 2023 10:40 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendars</p> <p>Hi,</p> <p>Winter break is too short on the calendars. This winter break was perfect. I felt refreshed and rested when I came back. Please consider making it longer.</p> <p>Thank you!</p>
5	<p>From: Ginger Keever [mailto:gingerreep@yahoo.com] Sent: Tuesday, January 10, 2023 10:46 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: School calendar feedback</p> <p>I would love for them to start earlier In Aug and get out at the end of May. That way high schools would have exams before Christmas break. I would also like the high schools to start school earlier like 830 instead of 930. Also, why can't the spring break be from Good Friday and the whole next week? That gives 10'days instead of 7. With this, one of our spring break days is actually a holiday.</p>

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6	<p>From: Karen Hartley [mailto:leekarenhartley@gmail.com] Sent: Tuesday, January 10, 2023 10:46 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendars</p> <p>Hi, The winter/ christmas holiday is way too short. This does not allow enough time to travel to out of town family. It has been 2 weeks long for many years. It does not need to be shortened. It will create lots of stress for teachers with students having to skip school to travel. Please reconsider. Thank you Karen Hartley</p>
7	<p>From: Sarah Salanik [mailto:salaniks@yahoo.com] Sent: Tuesday, January 10, 2023 11:55 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendar feedback</p> <p>Calendar feedback 2023-2024: April 1st should not be a mandated teacher workday. It is Easter Monday and should be observed or at least an optional workday.</p> <p>Election Tuesday in November: it is not a major election year however, many schools are used as polling sites. My polling site is Jefferson Elementary and when I have voted in primaries or smaller election years it feels very unsafe for the children to have school while that many public strangers are in the building.</p> <p>All election days should be teacher workdays or schools should not be polling sites. It is not safe in the world we live in.</p> <p>Sarah Carter Teacher and Parent</p>
8	<p>From: Barnes, Amelia C Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 12:00 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendars</p> <p>Good morning,</p> <p>I would like to submit feedback on the proposed calendar for the following three years.</p> <p>For 2023-2024, I prefer calendar 1. For 2024-2025, I prefer calendar 2. For 2025-2026, I prefer calendar 2.</p> <p>As an AP teacher whose class is only offered in the spring, the later start to the spring semester disadvantages my students since the exam date is set nationally and is</p>

	<p>always at the beginning of May. The calendars chosen would give my spring students a few extra days of learning before the test.</p> <p>A better solution--and one I hope GCS will consider--would be requesting a waiver from the state to be able to start school earlier in August, which would enable block schedule schools to give final exams for the fall semester prior to winter break. I think this would be most beneficial to students and teachers alike.</p> <p>Thanks, Amelia Barnes GCS Teacher</p>
9	<p>From: Laurie Castagna [mailto:llpilger1@gmail.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 12:48 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendars</p> <p>I think the winter break is far too short. Many family's travel to visit their family's and one week is not enough. This year's a wdule was nearly perfect. Why change a good thing.</p>
10	<p>From: Sophie Davidson [mailto:cj davidson@live.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 2:43 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: 23-24 calender</p> <p>I would love to have the schedule where they get out the earliest in June. My child was discouraged by the teachers not to attend the last of school at Northern. So let's just wrap it up when the teaching stops at the end of May.</p> <p>Thank you, Courtney Davidson</p>
11	<p>From: amandathacker65@hotmail.com [mailto:amandathacker65@hotmail.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 5:27 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendars</p> <p>Winter break is way too short. It would be more convenient if GCS spring break was the same as WSFCS.</p>
12	<p>From: Angela [mailto:jamiangela@yahoo.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 5:59 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: 2023/2024 Calendar</p> <p>As a teacher and a parent, the constant drastic change in calendar from year to year is difficult to manage.</p>

	<p>2022/2023 has been the absolute best calendar put out by GCS in decades. Please consider keeping the 2023/2024 calendar similar to this current year.</p> <p>My children and I enjoyed our extra time together at Christmas. It allowed all of us to recharge and get the well needed mental health break. Mental Health recharge is so important in a world and time that mental illness is an epidemic in the US, especially for the teenagers in the county/country. Please reconsider extended our Christmas break for the 2023 school year as well.</p> <p>Also, I have always been confused at the number of mandated workdays on the GCS calendar at the beginning of the school year. I have never needed that many days at the beginning of the year. I need them throughout the year not all at the beginning.</p> <p>Please consider matching closely all future calendars to our current calendar.</p> <p>Best regards</p> <p>Jamiangela</p>
13	<p>From: Michelle Moore [mailto:michelle@jasonandmichelle.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 6:46 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendar</p> <p>Please consider for school year traditional calendar 2023-2024 to extend winter break. One week is clearly not long enough. If you are wanting to retain teachers and help with student/teacher mental health, please begin winter break on December 18.</p> <p>This year was wonderful. We were able to spend time together as a family and regroup. Student life is not easy now, especially for a high school kid.</p> <p>I urge you to reconsider</p> <p>Respectfully, Michelle R Moore Northern High School Parent of a current sophomore and Junior.</p>
14	<p>From: Alex Aronson [mailto:alexaronson4@gmail.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 6:58 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendar feedback</p> <p>You have teacher workdays on November 2nd. Kids are going to be up late on October 31st and will go to school tired or hocked up on sugar on November 1st. Why not move the teacher workday 1 forward to November 1st. Parents and teacher would appreciate the move.</p> <p>Thanks Alex Aronson</p>

	<p>Father of 3 GCSNC students.</p>
<p>15</p>	<p>From: Devan Allen Williams [mailto:devanwilliams129@gmail.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 7:06 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendars</p> <p>The calendars for the next 3 years do not contain adequate break time for the winter break. This years break was perfect providing essential time to rest and recover from the first half of our school year. The mental health of our students and staff is declining at rapid rate and this time is essential for an emotional, physical and mental break for not only students but teachers. The current teacher shortage, amount of teachers walking out the doors daily and the current mental health situation in our schools clearly speaks to the need of a well deserved and needed break. This year was perfect and should be used as guidance in upcoming calendars.</p> <p>Thank you from a proud GCS parent and employee</p>
<p>16</p>	<p>From: Alex Aronson [mailto:alexaronson4@gmail.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 7:10 AM To: Rabbi Andy Koren <rabbiandy@tegreensboro.org>; GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Feedback on the 2023-26 GCSNC traditional calendar</p> <p>Dear Board Clerk,</p> <p>The feedback request for the 2025-26 traditional calendar does not shows any optional teacher workday for Rosh Hashanah. In 2025, Rosh Hashanah starts the evening of the September 22nd and ends the evening of the 25th. Traditionally, the first full day of Rosh Hashanah has been an optional teacher workday to allow Jewish students and Jewish GCSNC staff to observe the first day of service. The Torah mandates observant Jews to not work on this Holiday.</p> <p>Yom Kippur appears to fall on weekends and or already has a teacher workday planned. In the 2023-2025 calendars.</p> <p>Thanks</p> <p>Alex Aronson</p>
<p>17</p>	<p>From: jillian mackey [mailto:mjillian11@gmail.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 7:17 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: School calendar</p> <p>I think Guilford County Schools should go to a 4-day school week. With one day of remote learning for half day. This Way teachers can get used to remote learning due to inclement weather or if the pandemic was to come back. Employees will have the option for working from home or coming into work on a day. Hopefully this will give kids a balanced life. I have the more acclimated to school and work from home situations.</p>

<p>18</p>	<p>From: Heather Ellington [mailto:heatherlaneellington@gmail.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 7:29 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Feedback for Calendar</p> <p>Hello, As a teacher of near 11 years in GCS I am requesting to please have the winter break the same amount of days we had this current school year of 2022-2023. This needs to be reconsidered in relation to what's being proposed.</p> <p>This is the first time I have ever truly felt like I had a mental break and felt refreshed to come back to work. Post Covid, we always have discourse about the mental health of students but yet never about teachers. This is a small token of thanks for what we do. There is no need to have a week of workdays before school. 2-3 days suffice.</p> <p>Thank you for your time! Heather Ellington</p>
<p>19</p>	<p>From: Stacy ... [mailto:stacyharvell@hotmail.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 7:33 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendar</p> <p>There needs to be two weeks for winter break. The teachers and kids need it!!!</p> <p>Thanks Stacy Harvell</p>
<p>20</p>	<p>From: Erin Giustizia [mailto:eringiustizia@gmail.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 7:39 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: 2023-2024 Traditional Calendar Comment</p> <p>Good morning,</p> <p>Please extend the 2023-2024 Winter Break to be two weeks as it was for the 2022-2023 school year and will be in 2024-2025. A two week winter break is needed for the well being of students, families, and staff.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
<p>21</p>	<p>From: Tiff and Jeff Thompson [mailto:tiffandjeff@gmail.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 7:49 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendars</p> <p>Thank you for giving parents the opportunity to provide input on the school calendar. Please see my preferences below.</p>

	<p>2023-2024 Option 2</p> <p>2024-2025 Option 2 (I appreciate the addition of a 4 day weekend which gives families the ability to travel without missing instructional days)</p>
<p>22</p>	<p>From: dan fusaiotti [mailto:dan.fusaiotti@gmail.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 7:50 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendars</p> <p>Regarding the 3 year GCS calendar, I would really love to see GCS think differently about learning and the traditional calendar. I really think the students would benefit from having a year round schedule, either 60/20 or 45/15. The benefit are real and it's time for GCS to be at the forefront of this. 1 week earlier/later in August and June aren't the answer.</p> <p>With year round school, it's prevents kids from doing nothing academically for 2.5 months, which makes the first few weeks of the year a challenge for both teachers and students. I always hear teachers talk about how the first month of school is simply seeing what students retained from the prior year, which is a complete waste of time. In addition, it gives kids and teachers more time to refresh and recharge during the year. It gives teachers the time they need after getting periods to catch up on their work, develop future lessons plans and do so in a non-stressful environment.</p> <p>The pros outway the cons, and with the way kids have struggled with missing time during COVID-19 and remote learning... It's time to take a new approach to scheduling.</p> <p>Thank you, Dan Fusaiotti</p>
<p>23</p>	<p>From: Hurley, Joshua [mailto:hurleyj@gcsnc.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 7:50 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: calendars next 3 years feedback</p> <p>As a parent and teacher in GCS.</p> <p>My preferences are 22-23-calendar 1 23-24-calendar 2 24-25-calendar 1</p> <p>As a teacher we need more workdays a the end of the school year than the beginning. Otherwise the changes in these calendars is minimal anyway.</p> <p>Thanks-</p> <p>Joshua L. Hurley M.ed/NBCT Special Education Teacher</p>

	Hunter Elementary School
24	<p>From: Deana Whitesell [mailto:deanawhitesell@gmail.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 7:53 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendars</p> <p>Good morning, I think schedule worked really well this school year 2022-2023! I wouldn't change it!</p> <p>Thanks, Deana Whitesell</p>
25	<p>From: Allison Bowen [mailto:bowen.allison@gmail.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 7:57 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendars</p> <p>I would like to offer the following feedback regarding the proposed school calendars.</p> <p>2023-24 Drafts 1 and 2: -Both of these drafts bring up significant concerns. -There are no days off in October, which I believe is difficult for both students and employees. Shortening Q1 by a few days would allow for the early November workdays to be moved to the end of October. This would allow for a break in October, and would also make November a less "choppy" month for instruction. -The Winter Break seems very short, particularly for families who have to travel long distances for the holidays. Perhaps an additional day or two off prior to Christmas could be added. -Draft 2 includes a workday in February, which I believe makes it preferential over Draft 1.</p> <p>2024-25 Drafts: -I prefer Option 2, based on the fact that it moves one of the November workdays to October.</p> <p>2025-26 Drafts: -I think both of these are really good options.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration. Allison Bowen - parent of three GCS students</p>
26	<p>From: Elizabeth French [mailto:ejr1287@gmail.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 8:07 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendar Comments</p> <p>Having an extended winter break this 22-23 school year so such a needed time for students and staff to recharge, physically, mentally, and emotionally. It was such an amazing time to be able to unwind and focus solely on family and loved ones. I think the board should consider moving some optional teacher work days to the week of</p>

	<p>12/18 to create an extended winter break for the 23-24 school year. The 2 vacations on 6/12/24 and 6/13/24 can be moved to 12/20/23 and 12/21/23 to help create this extension as well, there is not much of a need for 2 random vacation days after the school year has ended. Please consider some placement of vacation and workdays.</p> <p>Thank you Elizabeth French GCS Employee and Parent of GCS Student who thoroughly enjoyed family time over the holidays</p>
27	<p>From: Lauren McCann [mailto:clmccan2@gmail.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 8:13 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendars</p> <p>The winter break is awful. This year was rejuvenating for staff and kids. Need some breaks in October and February. This year was wonderful.</p>
28	<p>From: Amanda Auston [mailto:amandaauston33@gmail.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 8:29 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendar</p> <p>23-24 school year:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Winter break is way too short! 2. Please please please have kids off Nov 1 (day after Halloween) <p>Thanks! Amanda Auston</p>
29	<p>From: Crystal Daye [mailto:me_amor78@yahoo.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 8:43 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendars</p> <p>2023-24 Option #2 2024-25 Option #2 2025-26 Option #1</p>
30	<p>From: rachel combs [mailto:rcombs32491@gmail.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 8:44 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendars</p> <p>The proposed calendars for the 2023-2024 school year needs to have winter break longer. The kids and teachers deserve time with family!! Please, please extend this. Our kids deserve this.</p>

<p>31</p>	<p>From: Amy Naughton [mailto:acnaughton@live.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 8:49 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: School Calendar</p> <p>Hello-regarding the three calendar options-none of them provide enough of a break for Christmas. This is a time of sickness and burnout-both teachers and students need longer off during December. Thank you very much.</p> <p>Amy Naughton Parent Northern Guilford Middle and High School.</p>
<p>32</p>	<p>From: Callahan, Sherri K [mailto:callahs@gcsnc.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 8:50 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendar</p> <p>PLEASE, PLEASE do the same calendar we had this year. This year's calendar was great. This Christmas break was the best we've had in a long time. None of the options are good for next year.</p> <p>Sincerely, Sherri Callahan</p>
<p>33</p>	<p>From: Sherri Callahan [mailto:skcallahan22@gmail.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 8:51 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendar</p> <p>PLEASE, PLEASE do the same calendar we had this year. This year's calendar was great. This Christmas break was the best we've had in a long time. None of the options are good for next year.</p> <p>Sincerely, Sherri Callahan</p>
<p>34</p>	<p>From: Kari Baumann [mailto:kari.baumann@gmail.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 8:49 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: GCS calendars</p> <p>Good morning!</p> <p>I appreciate the request for feedback on the calendars. This year, everyone in my house said repeatedly how wonderful it was to have two full weeks (plus a bit extra) to rest at the end of the year. Many places offer two weeks off at the end of the year. It is disappointing to see such a short winter break listed for next year. I think our kids and our teachers deserve a longer break.</p> <p>If our spring break is going to be centered around Easter (which . . . we could separate spring break from Easter!), I personally would prefer for it to be after Easter for</p>

	<p>traveling purposes. Easter is early next year, so having spring break after Easter makes more sense to me than having such a long period in April and May for students and teachers with no breaks.</p> <p>This year's calendar was wonderful - I noticed that we considered the Jewish holidays, had a long winter break, and had spring break after Easter. Please consider that model as it was appreciated in our house! Please also consider including the Muslim holidays so that our Muslim students do not have to miss school.</p> <p>Thank you for your time, Kari Baumann (she/her) Pastor to Children and Families College Park Baptist Church 1601 Walker Ave, Greensboro NC www.collegeparkchurch.com kari.baumann@gmail.com</p>
<p>35</p>	<p>From: Zach Hubbard [mailto:zachhubbard1@gmail.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 8:52 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calender</p> <p>I am concerned with the short winter break on the calendar options for the 23-24 year. Also the work days were not very spread out and I know teachers really appreciated having work days spread throughout the year this school year (22-23). Please consider restructuring the schedule next year to more closely resemble this year's calendar!</p>
<p>36</p>	<p>From: McNeal, Christy Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 9:00 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendar</p> <p>Good morning! In looking at the proposed 2023-24 academic calendar options, I want to offer the following suggestions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Please</u> change the workdays on November 2nd and 3rd to October 31st and November 1st. Consider making Halloween a mandatory workday and November 1st an optional workday (or vice versa). In the elementary setting, Halloween and the day after are <u>CHAOTIC</u> (I cannot emphasize this enough). This is within a couple of days of the proposed options, and makes <u>so</u> much more sense. 2. Please, please, PLEASE give 2 weeks for winter break. It was SUCH a wonderful rest this year. I think every teacher felt the same (as far as the ones I know personally, as well as in teacher groups I'm in and have heard from). 3. Please change Easter Monday to an optional workday instead of mandatory. Easter Monday is a religious holiday for many people. <p>Thank you for your consideration! 😊</p>

	<p>Sincerely, Christy McNeal Pre-Kindergarten Teacher Grade Level Chair Rankin Elementary School</p>
37	<p>From: McNeal, Christy Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 9:02 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Re: Calendar</p> <p>My suggestion for the workdays on and the day after Halloween apply to the proposed 2024-25 and 2025-26 calendars as well! Thank you!</p> <p>Christy McNeal Pre-Kindergarten Teacher Grade Level Chair Rankin Elementary School</p>
38	<p>From: Cara Medina [mailto:camedina5@gmail.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 8:53 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendars</p> <p>Hi,</p> <p>I am a parent and staff member of GCS. I would love to see a Fall Break in October. It is a very long stretch between August and November for staff members and families. It would be great to have a chance to use a fall break (long weekend) to go on a short holiday with family without missing school or work. Also, this aligns with the many colleges and universities that we have in our city.</p> <p>Also, is it possible to make winter break longer? It feels rushed, especially if you travel to see family. Students and staff need two full weeks to be with family and recharge for the second half of the year.</p> <p>Thank you, Cara Medina</p>
39	<p>From: Aislynn Denny [mailto:aislynnd@gmail.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 9:06 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendars</p> <p>Good Morning,</p> <p>After looking at the calendar options for the 23-24 school year I have some thoughts as both a parent of two GCS students and a GCS teacher.</p> <p>Please make the request to the state to start school earlier in August so the 1st semester can end in December.</p>

	<p>We need one teacher workday per month. As a parent, I know kids need that small break. And as a teacher, I know we need time for parent conferences/grading/planning/ect. These workdays need to be separate from professional development days - early release days like we used to do are perfect for PD.</p> <p>Please move the workday on the 2nd to the 7th so we continue to have election day as a more flexible day to allow all staff the opportunity to vote. I know many would disagree with me, but make the Wednesday before Thanksgiving an optional teacher workday instead of a vacation day.</p> <p>Winter Break on the 23-24 calendar is not long enough. The two weeks we had this year was perfect. Students and staff came back rested and ready to work/learn. December 19-January 2 works well, The 18th and 19th could be teacher workdays even and it would still be a good break for all.</p> <p>The two vacation days at the end of the school year make no sense to me. I would suggest those be optional teacher workdays as many teachers will still need those days to close up their classrooms and finalize grades so there is no point in making teachers work on their vacation days. If we start school earlier in August then the students would be able to get out on May 31st instead of needing the 1st week in June as well.</p> <p>Thank you for your time. Aislynn Denny</p>
40	<p>From: Carla McCain [mailto:cimccain1@gmail.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 9:37 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendars</p> <p>It is with great displeasure that GCS is considering only ONE week for winter break. Teachers are already overwhelmed, over worked and under paid. Families use this time to slow down and have a mental break. I am requesting that this is reconsidered, heavily, in the interest of all parties involved.</p> <p>Carla I. McCain</p>
41	<p>From: rebecca summers [mailto:rjsummers2001@yahoo.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 9:46 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Next 3 years school calendars</p> <p>Make the winter breaks more like this school years with 2 full weeks, 1 week and a couple days is not enough time off. Also, no learning happens after May testing, do not extend the calendar year into June. This year's calendar for 22-23 needs to be repeated.</p> <p>Becky Summers</p>

<p>42</p>	<p>From: Lateigo Herbin [mailto:lateigoherbin@gmail.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 9:46 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: 23-24 Traditional Calendar</p> <p>Greetings,</p> <p>I've never seen the school system only have a 1 week winter break. Honestly most of us heavily rely on that 2 week break because it's the middle of the school year and by then we're feeling burned out. Please give us our full 2 week winter break. 1 week is not enough!!!</p>
<p>43</p>	<p>From: Denise Altamura [mailto:denisealtamura@yahoo.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 9:50 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendars</p> <p>First, please consider starting school each year on a Wednesday instead of a Monday. That allows a more gradual begin to the year than just a shocking five full days the first week.</p> <p>On the 2023-24 calendar, please make Christmas break at least two full weeks! Kids and staff need that R&R time with family for the holidays!</p> <p>Thanks, Denise Altamura</p>
<p>44</p>	<p>From: Clapp, Brooke Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 9:52 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendar feedback</p> <p>As a high school teacher, please line up our calendars with that of GTCC. We like to encourage students to use the College and Career Promise (CCP), but our Calendar ends up creating roadblocks to their success, especially around this time of year when Gtcc has already started 2nd Semester and GCS is preparing for 1st semester exams. They end up missing someone's class and getting behind while trying to do both. There are several districts in NC that start a week or so earlier, finish 1st semester before Christmas, and end close to Memorial day. So we know it's doable. Those students are much more successful when participating in CCP because they do not have the added stress of juggling end and beginning of semesters at two different times.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilson County • Gaston County • Rowan-Salisbury County <p>Thank you, Brooke Clapp</p>

	<p>Animal Science Teacher & FFA Advisor Southeast Guilford High School</p>
45	<p>From: Sarah Sianis [mailto:ssianis@icloud.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 10:06 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: 2023-2024 traditional school calendars</p> <p>Please reconsider next years academic calendars, Winter break is way too short, and having no days off in either October or Feb will risk both teacher and student burnout, For the past two years, a local charter school has found a way to give students and staff a full 3 weeks off for Winter break, so there is a way. They should be given a minimum of two full weeks to allow families to travel, and to give these kids a mental break, there seems to be no concern for the mental health of these HS students. If necessary, start earlier in August, and give them more days off throughout the year.</p> <p>Thanks Sarah Sianis</p>
46	<p>From: Tonia Furniss-Roe [mailto:tonia@mckinneyimmigration.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 10:10 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendar</p> <p>I think Option 2 is the best option offered but if the state only requires 1025 hours of instruction, I think that should be the max we send the students. I would cut additional days off the end of the year and end school May 31. Nothing gets done at school in June.</p> <p>Thanks,</p> <p>Tonia Furniss-Roe Business Manager McKinney Immigration Law</p>
47	<p>From: charlotte lesane [mailto:clesane1@gmail.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 10:15 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendar feedback</p> <p>Good morning I am emailing to provide my feedback regarding the Gcs calendars for 2023/2024 and 2024/2025. First of all I would like to ask the reasoning behind shortening the Christmas break? Is it to ensure enough instructional hours per calendar year ? If that is the reasoning I propose adding those hours or days to end of the school in June. Families, Students, Staff and Teachers look forward to and cherish the two and half weeks of vacation time to relax and use it how they please. This allows staff and students to come back more refreshed and engaged and energetic. I propose winter break begins on 12/15 and ends on 1/3 . GCS has allowed the students to have approximately two weeks off for Christmas for several years now what please explain the reason for change in calendar.</p>

	<p>Thank you Charlotte Lesane</p>
<p>48</p>	<p>From: Melanie Coles [mailto:Melanie.Coles@bcbsnc.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 10:22 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendars - feedback</p> <p>Good morning! I hope this email finds you well. If the school system is eligible to apply for the calendar waiver based on days missed then that may be worth exploring an earlier start date. That would allow for the traditional calendars to somewhat align with the restart school calendar and also with the middle college calendars.</p> <p>It would also allow for the children to perhaps be able to complete all of their exams before holiday breaks without the learning loss that comes with the extended break.</p> <p>There are some months that do not allow for early dismissals or workdays and that is a concern as burnout and mental health are both real issues plaguing both students and teachers.</p> <p>The Christmas/Winter break has always been 2 full weeks. That should continue to give families the opportunity to make plans to be with their families over the Christmas holiday. I know many GCS families that only get the opportunities to travel to see families and loved ones or for family trips in general during this time because things are much more affordable versus travel during peak times in the summer. Stress should not be added to families upsetting that family or quality time that they are accustomed to, even adding 2 additional days would help a lot if all days could not be given.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback.</p>
<p>49</p>	<p>From: Dickson, Lindsey R [mailto:dicksol@gcsnc.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 10:25 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: 2023-2024 calendar proposal</p> <p>Please make winter break 2 weeks like the current calendar and the 2 after. Less mandated workdays in August.</p> <p>Lindsey Dickson English Language Teacher dicksol@gcsnc.com Stokesdale Elementary School/Oak Ridge Elementary School</p>
<p>50</p>	<p>From: Brenna Shepherd [mailto:brenshepherd1@gmail.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 10:25 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendar</p>

	<p>The Winter Break options for both calendars too short. This needs to be amended. Brenna Shepherd 705 Woodland Drive Greensboro,NC 27408</p>
<p>51</p>	<p>From: Humphrey-Messer, Wendy [mailto:Wendy.Humphrey-Messer@greensboro-nc.gov] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 10:29 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: calendars</p> <p>Comments about the 2022-23 proposed calendar:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start school a week earlier and end school a week earlier. • I do like the teacher work days are either on a Monday or Friday! • Move the September workday to the first week in October • Option 2 looks better of the two proposed calendars <p>Wendy Messer Parent of 3 Guilford County Schools Students</p>
<p>52</p>	<p>From: Rachel Villalba [mailto:rachhope1@icloud.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 10:38 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Option 2</p> <p>Good morning, I prefer option two for all three school calendars. Thank you, Rachel Villalba</p>
<p>53</p>	<p>From: Casey Francis [mailto:caseyfrancis@deutermanlaw.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 10:47 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: 2023-2024 Calendar Comments</p> <p>Good morning. I posted my comment on the Guilford County Schools Facebook page, but wanted to email it here as well. I have spoken with the previous superintendent about the Guilford County Schools calendar, and would like to reiterate my request for a year-round calendar. I know that is not going to happen anytime soon, so for the proposed 2023 calendar here are my below impressions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I love the later start date. Starting at the end of August allows my family to take a vacation that we would otherwise not be able to afford with peak summer prices. - I do not like that there are no days off in October or February. I also feel that the amount of time between spring break, and the next day off of memorial day is too long and will cause burn out. I would move the two days off at the beginning of November to October. - Winter break is a little bit short. That time is very important for family holidays and travel.

	<p>Thank you, Casey Francis (mother of 3 elementary kids at Summerfield Elementary)</p>
<p>54</p>	<p>From: Shannon Johnson [mailto:shannonj@verticalsupplygroup.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 10:59 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendars</p> <p>2023-2024 calendar Not sure why we can't get the calendars to work better with holidays. Specifically in Jan, Feb and October/Nov.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why can't we get the workdays to fall so we have Nov 1st off to help with Halloween. 2. Why can't the Jan work day be in conjunction with MLK day to have a longer weekend? 3. Think over all, we could start earlier in August...say the week of 21-25 on that Wed to adjust the end dates. Getting out so late in June seems off. <p>2024-2025 calendar Same as above... why can't we start on Aug 21/22 to get out earlier in June. That last day of June 11 seems really LATE. And what is the point of those 3 days.... Parents will pull kids out if there are vacations planned. Seems like a waste of days. I vote for option 2</p> <p>2025-2026 calendar Vote for option 2 and the earlier finish date</p> <p>Shannon M. Johnson</p>
<p>55</p>	<p>From: Chris Downey [mailto:chris.downey80@gmail.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 11:07 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendars.</p> <p>Hello,</p> <p>There were 12 school days the children had off in the 2022-2023 school year for the winter break. There are only 8 in the upcoming year, including only the Friday before Christmas being a day off that week. This is taking a lot of travel and family time away.</p> <p>Chris Downey.</p>
<p>56</p>	<p>From: Sarah Thompson [mailto:sarahunc12@gmail.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 11:02 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: 2023-2024 calendar</p> <p>I taught in Guilford county for 7 years and am now a parent. In looking at the calendar for next year I see a few issues.</p> <p>No days off in October or February will be hard on students and staff, especially considering that winter break is also shorter than usual.</p>

	<p>It would be wonderful if the schedule could be adjusted to make the November workdays coincide more with Halloween. In other words, make a day off on November 1. That is always a hard day for students, parents, and teachers</p> <p>Many parents share my concerns (take a look at the comments on the Facebook post on this topic).</p> <p>Thank you, Sarah Thompson</p>
<p>57</p>	<p>From: Erin Cecil [mailto:erincecil23@gmail.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 11:09 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Proposed school calendars</p> <p>Hi! Just wanted to send my feedback for the school calendars. Just curious why there are vacation days at the end of the year next year instead of having a longer Christmas break? Or maybe an extra day in January like we used to have around MLK day? Especially since they are useless after school gets out.</p> <p>I prefer option 2 for the 25-26 school year. I like the days off being back to back in January instead of a week apart.</p> <p>I don't have a preference for the 23-24 school year. I prefer a longer winter break. This short break makes it so we can't travel to see my family that lives out of state. If they could add some vacation days to that from the end of the year, that would be nice. Kids are checked out by then any way. The instructional time that close to Christmas is not productive.</p> <p>And I prefer option 2 for 24-25. Finally a back to back day off in January. We'll.at least a Friday & Monday. And also, I prefer getting out June 6 vs the 11th. Glad for the longer winter break too. 👍</p> <p>Thanks for considering feedback. 😊</p> <p>Erin Cecil (Parent of kids at northern Elementary and High Schools)</p>
<p>58</p>	<p>From: Lesley Maybloom Coussis [mailto:lmcoussis@gmail.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 11:17 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com>; Board Of Education <BoardOfEd@gcsnc.com> Subject: 2023-2024 calendar input</p> <p>Hello,</p> <p>I'm responding to the request for input of the future academic year calendars. For right now, I'm only focusing on next year's calendars. I'm sure much of this is repeat info.</p>

	<p>First, is there any data to show that just tacking on additional days will improve Covid learning loss? Many kids who are struggling are missing a lot of school when we only have 173 days. I would love to see data that adding an additional week and a half of school is beneficial to recovering learning loss. Has this worked well for the restart schools?</p> <p>As for specifics on the calendar:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The proposed winter break is entirely too short. Many families go out of town, and/or have visiting family over that time period. A compromise would be a full week off at Thanksgiving. 2. Spring break is at the end of March, and then school runs straight through without any breaks until Memorial Day. There are also no days off in October or February. This seems like way too long to go without breaks, leading to burnout for students and faculty. <p>Thank you. Lesley Coussis</p>
<p>59</p>	<p>From: Caitlin Trahan [mailto:catiyo512@gmail.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 11:17 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: ATTN: Office of the Superintendent, 712 N. Eugene Street, Greensboro, NC 27401.</p> <p>Good morning,</p> <p>We have a rising K for school year 2024-2025, looking over the proposed calendars, I see it highlighting the fact that both parents have to work and it will relieve the extra stress and the financial hardship of trying to find care for two weeks and the additional expense of sending them to a camp or childcare during the longer breaks. Although this is fantastic for both working parents, this also will create more stress on the educators.</p>
<p>60</p>	<p>From: Ashley Purcell [mailto:ashleypurcell526@gmail.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 11:19 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendars</p> <p>For the 23-24 calendar, I prefer option 2, but with both options, students are getting a short winter break. This is such an important time for students and teachers to recharge. This year truly felt like a nice break. Instead of two weeks, we would be getting one week and some change. Is there any way we could go back to the drawing board and start winter break a bit sooner?</p> <p>Thanks, Ashley Purcell GCS teacher and parent</p>

<p>61</p>	<p>From: Darcie Knight [mailto:darcieknight2@gmail.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 11:28 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Proposed calendar feedback</p> <p>Good morning,</p> <p>I am writing to address the proposed calendars for the upcoming Guilford county school years. I think next year's calendars (23-24) are both horrible. You are going to run into a lot of teacher and student burnout because of the shorten breaks. For example, winter break or Thanksgiving break needs to be longer to allow for more family travel time. You will have a lot of upset families who cannot see their loved ones because you shortened the breaks. I have been in other states and counties where Thanksgiving was the whole week, I don't know why GCS isn't the same. Also, this past winter break was the perfect amount of days. You will have students who will not show up that week you are proposing to keep because like I said their families will want to travel during the holidays. Please allow for that. You need more teacher workdays and at least one break in February and October or like I said you will run into a lot tired, stressed out students or teachers. Maybe have Halloween or around it off since it's such a big holiday for kids. Education is important, but so is the mental health of our students and staff. Teachers are leaving because of the burnout, don't loose anymore than you are because of a calendar system you can easily change. Thank you and have a wonderful day.</p>
<p>62</p>	<p>From: Dusty and Kristine Myers [mailto:dkmyers03@att.net] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 11:31 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Proposed calendar</p> <p>Good morning,</p> <p>I have a few issues with the proposed calendar.....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -no break in October or February - 3 days off for Thanksgiving (this doesnt leave time for us to travel to see family) - Christmas break only 1 week. Again we have to travel 12 hours each way to visit family. This allows no time for that. Also, kids and teachers need an actual break and one week isnt it. -too long between spring break and memorial day -2nd 9 weeks should end before Christmas break. -too many days off in November. Can any of those be added to Thanksgiving break instead? <p>Thanks for your consideration.</p> <p>Kristi Myers</p>
<p>63</p>	<p>From: lori johnson [mailto:loriruthj@yahoo.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 11:58 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendars</p>

	<p>This school year, the calendar has been nearly perfect. With that being said, there are multiple problems with both of the new proposed calendars.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Winter break is too short. Families need as close to two weeks as possible for travel. 2. There are too many mandatory workdays in August. 3. There are no workdays in October and February which will lead to burnout. 4. A mandatory workday the day after Easter Sunday is unwise. This needs to be somewhere else in the calendar. <p>The school calendar really makes a difference in people's lives. Please ask the board for another option that is closer to what most families and staff want.</p>
<p>64</p>	<p>From: Dana [mailto:vtdanarae@aol.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 12:13 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Comment on the 2022-2023 Calendar</p> <p>As a Guilford County Schools teacher, here are my thoughts on the proposed Calendars.</p> <p>Start of School: Option 1 is better for teachers. Put the optional workdays first so teachers can still travel the week of the 14th if they choose. Then the mandatory days come second.</p> <p>Neither option has workdays in October or February. ?????</p> <p>Why have 6-7 teacher workdays been taken away and added as student days? This will cause horrific teacher burn out and substitute shortages when teachers have to take school days off to make appointments, mental health days etc. The public needs an answer as to why 173 was good enough this year and now suddenly we are back at 180. As a teacher with 125 students, I am desperate for workdays to get caught up on my grading. Neither option allows for this time for teachers.</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p> <p>Dana Swayze</p>
<p>65</p>	<p>From: Becky e [mailto:b_emmons@hotmail.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 12:21 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendars</p> <p>Proposed Calendar Feedback:</p> <p>2023-24: Option 2 is preferred. Winter break should be extended to 2 weeks. Many of us travel to family and need the extra days. No workdays in October and February (Option 1) will make the months extremely tedious for both teachers and students.</p>

	<p>November 1st should always be a workday. Why is President's day not a holiday/vacation day as it was in the past? What good are vacation days in June when school is out? No workdays between April 1 and May 27th is going to be extremely difficult as everyone will already be suffering from end of year burnout.</p> <p>2024-25: Option 2 is preferred. November 1st should always be a workday. June 11th is too late into the summer (Option 1), many make plans for vacations the 2nd week in June.</p> <p>2025-26: June 10th is too late into the summer (Option 1), many make plans for vacations the 2nd week in June. Option 2 is preferred.</p>
<p>66</p>	<p>From: Elizabeth Southern [mailto:lizsouthern10@gmail.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 12:25 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendars</p> <p>Winter break needs to be longer. - gcs teacher</p>
<p>67</p>	<p>From: Greene, Deborah A [mailto:greened2@gcsnc.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 12:39 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: calendar</p> <p>Hi, My comment relates to winter break. Students and teachers benefit from having a 2-week break. Most experienced teachers don't need 5 mandatory workdays at the beginning of the school year, if we have time to actually prepare instead of attending multiple mandatory meetings. Thank you.</p> <p>Deb Greene EL teacher Northern Middle and High Schools</p>
<p>68</p>	<p>From: Jill [mailto:cjberry@northstate.net] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 12:49 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendar</p> <p>Good afternoon, Please keep the calendar as close to this year as possible. It is important for students and staff to have a long winter break.</p> <p>Thank you,</p>

	<p>Jill Berry</p>
<p>69</p>	<p>From: Silver, Elizabeth [mailto:silvere@gcsnc.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 1:01 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendar Feedback</p> <p>Good afternoon, After looking at both drafts, I was not happy to see how short Winter Break is for the 23-24 calendar. Winter break should start by the 19th at least (last day being Tuesday, December 19th). This year's break was the perfect length and allowed for the rest the students and staff need. Please reconsider the calendar in regards to winter break.</p> <p>Thank you, Sissy Silver, MLIS Media Specialist</p> <p>Guilford Elementary School</p>
<p>70</p>	<p>From: Whiting, Teresa C [mailto:whitint@gcns.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 1:05 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: calendars</p> <p>Good afternoon, In looking at the options for calendars, it is apparent that decisions are not made based on what's in the best interest of the students or the teaching staff.</p> <p>Students and teachers would be more productive if the year started on a Wednesday instead of a Monday. After 8 weeks off during the summer, it is really challenging to get kids to refocus consistently for an entire week of rigorous learning. At the secondary level, we do start in quickly with curriculum to help accommodate preparation for AP/IB classes.</p> <p>From a teacher perspective, it would be helpful to move some of those beginning of the year workdays to the end of the year. It is difficult to finalize the year and pack up everything in the one mandatory and possibly one optional workday at the end of the year.</p> <p>Also, if you look at the calendar and see a month + without a break, you will see increased opportunities for higher absenteeism and higher levels of burnout on the part of both students and staff. We do not have the luxury of taking a "mental health day" as needed due to having to provide sustaining lesson plans for classes even in our absence from school. If you've been in a classroom, you will know that it takes a great deal of work to be away from your classroom, regardless of the reason for the absence.</p> <p>In light of the fact that teacher turnover continues to increase, especially once the school year has started, it would be wise to consider the teacher's perspective when you create these calendars. There's more at stake than just fitting days into a Aug 25-Jun 10 window. Exceptions/waivers can be awarded. If our purpose is to best</p>

	<p>educate the youth of Guilford County, then consider what is in the best interest of the students and the ones who are teaching those students. More and more teachers are leaving abruptly, which hurts everyone in the end.</p> <p>Thank you for the time you took to read this.</p> <p>Teresa Whiting Math Teacher Senior Class Advisor Grimsley High School</p>
<p>71</p>	<p>From: Breedlove, Heather [mailto:Heather.Breedlove@pnfp.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 1:13 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Proposed School Calendar</p> <p>Good afternoon,</p> <p>I wanted to share my personal feedback on the proposed calendars, specifically to the winter break proposals. The last 2 years the kids have had the full week prior to Christmas and the week after for a break. I feel this has been a great mental break not only for the kids but the teachers as well. The proposal only gives one full week off. Please reconsider the options for winter break and allow the kids and the teacher and faculty time to recharge their batteries and come back refreshed for the new year.</p> <p>Heather R. Breedlove</p>
<p>72</p>	<p>From: Dana Arellano [mailto:dddrolet417@gmail.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 1:09 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: GCS Academic Calendar 23-24</p> <p>Hello,</p> <p>In my opinion, winter break is too short for both students and teachers. Everyone needs a chance to unwind a bit from the hustle and bustle of the holidays. The break this past winter was very nice at right around 2.5 weeks.</p> <p>I also would suggest that back to school weeks should start on Wednesday. This gives kids the opportunity to ease back into the school routine without exhausting them.</p> <p>Thanks! Dana Arellano</p>
<p>73</p>	<p>From: Suzanne Powell [mailto:selizale@gmail.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 1:28 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendars</p> <p>Good afternoon,</p>

	<p>I'd like to recommend a half week for the first week of school. The transition from full on summer to full on school is challenging and exhausting for students and staff. When my fist child started school up in Boone, he always started with a short week. The full week after was a much easier transition for everyone. Maybe start the half week the week before the proposed full week so families who depend on school for meals and childcare won't have to worry as much about how much longer they'll have to make it.</p> <p>Thanks for your consideration,</p> <p>Suzanne</p>
<p>74</p>	<p>From: Tammy Guynn [mailto:tlguynn18@gmail.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 1:29 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendars</p> <p>Hi!</p> <p>I wanted to offer my feedback on the proposed school calendars, both as a teacher and a parent of three.</p> <p>First, I believe the holiday break this year was phenomenal and very much needed for both me and my children. Having that full week before and after Christmas was honestly a much needed mental break for everyone. Having break start on the 23rd is just not enough time before Christmas and is my biggest concern with the proposed calendars.</p> <p>I also believe having a workday immediately after Halloween would be appreciated from both parents and teachers.</p> <p>My last suggestion would be to try to have at least one workday each month unless there is already a holiday break that month.</p> <p>Thank you for allowing parents to offer input and hopefully have a voice in future proposals!</p> <p>-Tammy</p>
<p>75</p>	<p>From: canise wade [mailto:wade_wear@yahoo.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 1:36 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: 23-24 school calendar opt B</p> <p>suggestion for calendar option B for the 2023-2024 school year.</p> <p>Can August 16th and 17th and November 22 be moved for days in January to give two week winter break?</p>
<p>76</p>	<p>From: Tanya Merritte [mailto:tanyamerritte@gmail.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 1:54 PM</p>

	<p>To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: School calendar feedback</p> <p>Hi,</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to review the proposed school calendars for the next three years. My main concern with the 23-24 calendar is the very short winter break. Is it possible to take the two vacation days that are slated for June 2024 and add them to winter break?</p> <p>Otherwise, I like the later school start and have no real concerns anywhere else. I do agree with the comments on Facebook that this current year's calendar is great.</p> <p>Thanks, Tanya Merritte Villarreal (one student at Jamestown Middle)</p>
77	<p>From: Lynch, Janette [mailto:lynchj2@gcsnc.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 2:13 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Traditional Calendar</p> <p>Hello-</p> <p>Parents travel for Christmas and Easter. There will be a lotto students who will be out. The Christmas holidays are sacred times. We could at least have 1-2 optional workdays before and after the Christmas break.</p> <p>The day after Easter is another important holiday with travel. It should be an optional workday not mandatory.</p> <p>Thanks for hearing me out.</p> <p>Parent and teacher- Janette Lynch</p>
78	<p>From: Estes, Abigail L [mailto:estesa9745@stu.gcsnc.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 2:37 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: 23-24 calender for gcs</p> <p>I think we should keep out 2 weeks for christmas break and the 3 additional days into the new year as well. we should also have 4 day weekends in october, and february. This is my suggestion. Please don't make our christmas break longer it should be longer. I am a student at GHS and in 11th grade, please consider my opinion into this case.</p>
79	<p>From: Erika Esposito [mailto:erikalynnesposito@gmail.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 2:55 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Feedback on calendar</p> <p>Hello GCS-</p>

	<p>I read the proposed changes to the 2023-24 calendar for schools and here's my feedback-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Start a few days earlier, end a few days earlier. Or start a few days earlier and add in a few days off in either October or February when the kids have no days off. This would help with student and teacher burnout. February is in the dead of winter and the students and teachers really need a day or two off— something to entice them to keep going! 2. Move the November days off (Nov 2-3) to October. Since the kids already have off a lot of days in November for Thxgiving, I think it's important to spread out the days off by putting one or two days off in October rather than November. 3. Move the high school start time to earlier, more like 8:30am or 8:45am. My high schooler dislikes the late start and late finish times as they stand now. She also plays sports and has to run in the dark for her sports. She gets home late and has a lot of homework and then goes to bed late all because of the school bell schedule starting and ending so late. <p>Thanks! Erika</p>
80	<p>From: SHERRIE NEWKIRK [mailto:sherrie672@aol.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 3:08 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendars</p> <p>Hi,</p> <p>I think shorten the winter/Christmas break from 12 days (this year) to 8 days will not allow the students enough time to allow for a mental break and avoid burn out. Winter break is a time that helps with refreshing the mind, the body, and the spirit of students. Statistics show students that are refreshed are found to experience higher levels of success in school.</p> <p>Thank you!!!</p>
81	<p>From: Sissy Silver [mailto:sissyreads@gmail.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 4:22 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: 23-24 calendar</p> <p>Good afternoon, I saw the calendar options for 23/24 and am concerned with the length of the winter break. Both drafts have school ending 12/22 and starting again 1/3. Compared to this past winter break, that is really short. I feel like getting out on the Tuesday of that week would at least feel like a 2 week break, instead of basically one off. I don't understand why it would change so much. Don't we usually get 10 week days off? This would only allow for 6. Please consider making changes to winter break.</p> <p>Thank you, Sissy Silver</p>
82	<p>From: Erynn Yoder [mailto:erynnyoder@gmail.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 4:25 PM</p>

	<p>To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Academic Calendars</p> <p>Hey there,</p> <p>I wanted to reach out with feedback on the proposed academic calendars. I really enjoyed this past year with just a few changes. I believe the day after Halloween should always be a teacher workday. The kids are so excited it's hard to get them to bed and this spills over to teachers having to deal with unwanted behaviors. I would prefer the children to go to school as close to holidays and after more time off post holiday. The reasoning being the last few years of gatherings have bought a lot of illness. And this allows all to be healthy returning and less passing of the viruses. Ending the school year close to the beginning of June to mirror other surrounding schools make it easier for programs, daycares etc if we try to work together. I hope these suggestions are helpful. Thank you for all you do.</p> <p>Erynn Yoder</p>
<p>83</p>	<p>From: walnut.formers_0n@icloud.com [mailto:walnut.formers_0n@icloud.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 4:46 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendars</p> <p>CAUTION: This email originated from a Non-Guilford County Schools email address. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.</p> <p>To whom it may concern:</p> <p>As a GCS employee I would request an extended winter break like we had this year. We had 16 glorious days to reconnect with family, run errands and reset our mind and body.</p> <p>I also would suggest looking into starting earlier in August so we can get out in early June. Half days were also very helpful in planning and professional development. There is a lot of training and new curriculum protocols to consider and we need more time to implement these with fidelity.</p>
<p>84</p>	<p>From: courtney adams [mailto:cmadams1983@yahoo.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 5:32 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendar feedback</p> <p>GCS school board: You've asked for feedback on the proposed calendar. From someone who has experienced many different school calendars from private school to home school to now GCS, here are a few things I have noticed GCS does well and could benefit from. A start date for students around August 21 has proven to be more beneficial in giving students and teachers time to establish routine and expectations before the first long</p>

	<p>weekend of Labor Day. Starting on the 29th is too late. Moving this date back would provide you with a few extra days for some of the following suggestions. I don't personally attend A&T homecoming but I have only seen it lead to a sense of resentment and discontent if teachers and families are. Or easily provided the opportunity to attend. There should be a workday on the day of this event. There should also be a workday on the day after Halloween. Parents and teachers both know the struggle of exhausted students coming off a sugar high the night before. Giving students the day to recover would be beneficial for them and for our teachers' sanity.</p> <p>Winter Break should be at least 2 weeks long like it was this year. GCS is made up of many culturally diverse families who travel out of the country to see relatives. As it is proposed now, it would be difficult for them to travel without either taking additional days cutting into educational time or cutting short their time with family devaluing the meaning of spending that time with them in the first place.</p> <p>February could use a workday to break up the month and provide a break.</p> <p>Spring break should be Good Friday and the week after to maintain a consistent format throughs the years.</p> <p>I hope you will consider some of the provided suggestions for changes to GCS calendar that would benefit all families and staff.</p> <p>Courtney Adams</p>
<p>85</p>	<p>From: Cora Abbott [mailto:coraabbott@gmail.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 5:39 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendar feedback</p> <p>Hello</p> <p>In regards to the draft calendars-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. One week for Christmas is just not enough. Please consider going back to 2 weeks. 2. Can days off in November please come on the 1st and 2nd. I feel for my kids teachers having to deal with kids over tired from Halloween when days off could just be shifted <p>Thank you</p> <p>Cora Abbott 2nd and 5th grade mom Jesse Wharton Elementary School</p>
<p>86</p>	<p>From: Melanie Huynh-Duc [mailto:mfehrenbacher@gmail.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 6:03 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Concern about calendars for next year</p> <p>To Whom It May Concern:</p> <p>As a GCS parent of two students (rising 7th and rising 2nd grades), I'm concerned about these calendars for the following reasons.</p>

	<p>1) School doesn't start until August 28. That's so late, and it causes our family tremendous hardship. Summer camps are not widely available the week of August 21-25 because most college students have already returned to their schools. As a result, many families with younger children have to scramble for childcare, and I know in some cases, young kids are being left at home unsupervised. Guilford County Schools needs to be a leader in challenging the state tourism law that says schools cannot resume until after August 25. Schools should not prioritize the economy over children's safety and well-being.</p> <p>2) Winter Break is entirely too short. Students will not be focused through December 21. Add those days back in so the break is similar to this year's winter break. There is no valid reason to "exceed" the state law's requirements of 1,025 hours of instruction by nearly 7 days. Students need and deserve rest throughout the year, not just during the long months of summer.</p> <p>3) In Option 1, please move the mandatory teacher workday to the Tuesday following the MLK holiday. It is easier for parents to plan for a four-day weekend with their families than have two consecutive Mondays off.</p> <p>Respectfully submitted, A GCS Parent</p>
87	<p>From: Nijah Simmons [mailto:missnijah81@hotmail.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 6:27 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Line Calendars</p> <p>I would really love it if teachers and students could have a break for Christmas next year like this past break. I think that length of time was much needed for everyone and not just teachers. I think that mental health is very important and it really helped to come back nice and refreshed after the break.</p>
88	<p>From: wife2150 [mailto:wife2150@aol.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 6:29 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendar</p> <p>I am a parent and a teacher. The Winter Break in all of these proposals are a joke! I loved having the 2 weeks off this year for Winter Break with my family. I actually felt like I had time to spend with my family and to reset before going back on January 3rd. Really need to fix the Winter Break.</p> <p>Sincerely, Katie Lipscomb</p>
89	<p>From: Julie Meadows [mailto:julieb.meadows@gmail.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 6:49 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendars</p>

	<p>Hello,</p> <p>As a parent of two middle school students at Northern Guilford Middle, we have loved the school calendar this year. Having a solid two weeks off for winter break gave us all a chance to enjoy the holidays and have time to relax and reset before coming back to school. The minimal winter break proposed in the holding years calendar is very disappointing and impacts the ability to travel and have the time to recharge that so many families, students, and teachers need.</p> <p>In addition, having spring break begin on Good Friday and go through the next week allows us a more extended break than having break the week leading up to Easter. Breaking during the week leading up to Easter also heavily impacts those working in clergy as traveling/ taking vacation during Holy Week is not doable.</p> <p>Having two vacation days off at the beginning of November, followed by Veterans Day, followed by Thanksgiving makes November a very choppy month to get into any sort of routine and places a burden on working parents trying to secure sitters 3 weeks in a row. Consider moving the two days off to mid October or extending Thanksgiving break to a full week as surrounding counties do.</p> <p>I would love to see us continue with the 173 day calendar vs the 180 day calendar, those few days make a big difference in allowing each month to have some days off. Kids learn best when they've had time to recharge and teachers are more engaged, the 2021-22 calendar really allowed for this, but the upcoming calendars do not offer that same benefit. Please consider aligning the upcoming calendar to that of the 2021-22 calendar.</p> <p>Thank you, Julie Meadows</p>
<p>90</p>	<p>From: Stacey Carolina [mailto:staceycarolina@rocketmail.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 6:55 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendar</p> <p>Please extend Christmas vacation...the break last year was wonderful. Those few days make a difference for the sanity of staff and students who need a serious break to get rejuvenated and recharged for the last 2 quarters of school.</p> <p>Also why is Spring Break so short???</p> <p>Thanks</p>
<p>91</p>	<p>From: Reagan Burcham [mailto:reagan.burcham@gmail.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 7:08 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendars</p> <p>I vote option one.</p> <p>Reagan Burcham</p>

<p>92</p>	<p>From: Burcham, Reagan [mailto:burchar@gcsnc.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 7:09 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendars</p> <p>I vote option one!</p> <p>Ms. Burcham</p>
<p>93</p>	<p>From: Gena [mailto:campbellgena@ymail.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 7:14 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendars</p> <p>To whom this may concern,</p> <p>Please allow us to have two weeks for winter break again in the years to come. It was great for mental health for all and attention for students. Students came back refreshed and ready to learn. Many of us teachers came back ready to move mountains and excited to come back having the time to care for our families we often must put in the back burner during the school year.</p> <p>In addition, I feel as though the two weeks would help students and parents to navigate the schedule more easily when their child is taking classes at GTCC etc and the schedule for break/ exams is similar.</p> <p>Aside, I would vote for option b in looking at the 23-24 school calendar.</p> <p>All the best, Gena Marshall</p>
<p>94</p>	<p>From: wayne spears [mailto:powerhouse27260@yahoo.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 7:30 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendar</p> <p>Teachers enjoy at least one day a month off. It gives us a chance to catch up on paper work and take a mental break. It could be a teacher workday or holiday. We had 2 weeks for Christmas this year. This break gave us the opportunity to rejuvenate, enjoy our family, and relax. I witnessed first hand the refreshed teachers. We want to be the best we can for our studetns</p>
<p>95</p>	<p>From: Kimberley Tiluk [mailto:slp4kidz@icloud.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 9:06 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendar</p> <p>Please consider lengthening winter beak in next years calendar. You could move at least 1-2 days from teacher workdays at the beginning of the year and 1 or both of the vacation days in June to the week before Christmas.</p> <p>Thanks</p>

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<p>96</p>	<p>From: Sarah Warner [mailto:swarner80@yahoo.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 9:41 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendars</p> <p>Hello,</p> <p>I find the Winter Holiday break in the 23-24 Calendar options way too short. Ten days should be the minimum. Children need to rest and recharge - and families need adequate time to do the same. Please reconsider this break and bring the number of days in line with other years past and those after this one.</p> <p>Thank you, Sarah Warner</p>
<p>97</p>	<p>From: CaSandra Rathel [mailto:crathel1013@gmail.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 11:01 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendar</p> <p>Good evening,</p> <p>I vote to have the week before Christmas as well.</p> <p>Thanks, CaSandra Rathel</p>
<p>98</p>	<p>From: Jason Reynolds [mailto:jasonreynolds05@gmail.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 9:20 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Cc: Amy Reynolds <amyreynolds05@msn.com> Subject: Comments on Proposed Calendars</p> <p>We are against any reduction in days off for future academic year calendars. Specifically, the reduction of winter break to anything less than two weeks off is just not acceptable. Mental health is an important part of the overall calculation of child (and teacher) welfare. Children are under immense pressure and elevated stress, these days off are needed for downtime and a break from school pressure. Reducing time off is short sighted and I'll advised.</p> <p>Thank you, Jason and Amy Reynolds NWHS parents</p>
<p>99</p>	<p>From: Danielle Parker [mailto:daniparker@icloud.com] Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2023 4:02 AM</p>

	<p>To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendars</p> <p>Hello,</p> <p>I'm writing to offer feedback to the proposed calendars. I would like to propose the next three years of school dates look more like the 2022-23 school year. With special attention to the winter breaks. I would like to suggest the full two week break. Additionally it has been nice to have several off days throughout the school year for both students and teachers. It is my hope the future calendars can look like this years. Thank you!</p> <p>Dani Parker Moore, Ph.D.</p>
<p>100</p>	<p>From: Emmy Biaggi [mailto:emmy.biaggi@gmail.com] Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2023 5:28 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: calendar</p> <p>I would like to offer feedback on the calendar as a teacher. This year we had a two week break for the Christmas break. It was time that was needed for it allowed us to rest and rejuvenate. Coming back from the break, all the teachers I asked said they felt so rested. I'd like to see the upcoming calendars have a two week winter break.</p> <p>Thanks for your consideration. Emmy Biaggi</p>
<p>101</p>	<p>From: Robin Hardy [mailto:robinhdy2@gmail.com] Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2023 6:45 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendars</p> <p>Option 2</p>
<p>102</p>	<p>From: Sara Babcock [mailto:petesarab@att.net] Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2023 8:51 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: School calendar</p> <p>Staff and Parent feedback</p> <p>Options with at least one work day per month. There are so many days off in November - put one in October. Calendar 23-24 Option B has a workday in February.</p> <p>Calendars 24-25 and 25-26 have days of each month but Spring break in April is awful- it is too long from December. It is ok to move spring break away from Easter.</p> <p>For all calendars -please don't make spring break connect to Easter. Just put it a certain week in March. When Easter is in April there is too long of a stretch from December. Also, a break in April makes a rush of events in One month.</p>

	<p>I like the start and end dates of the school year .</p> <p>Studies show breaks every so many weeks is better- performance and less absences for staff and students. The northeast has a break in December, February and April.</p> <p>Thank you</p>
<p>103</p>	<p>From: Anne-Marie Larson Earl [mailto:annehyphenmarieearl@gmail.com] Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2023 9:04 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendars</p> <p>The first option for 23/24 is better, but I have to say that the start date for the school year is pushed so far out that it makes the month of August really difficult for working parents. Teacher workdays sprinkled in each month are also hard to navigate. I get 10 days PTO TOTAL for an entire year and it's all eaten by teacher workdays. I get no vacation, it goes to days here and there when school is closed. I realize some of these days are built in so teachers can catch their breath, but I never get that chance, and I certainly don't get an entire summer off either.</p>
<p>104</p>	<p>From: Jamie Kirby [mailto:kirbyj124@gmail.com] Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2023 9:55 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Future School Calendar</p> <p>Good morning,</p> <p>I'd like to respond to the proposed options for the upcoming school year. I have an upcoming 1st grader and Kindergartener for the 23/24 school year. I don't see any issues with the start and end dates of the year, however I do think there are a few months where no breaks/workdays would cause burnout. It would be helpful and probably necessary to provide a day off for students and teachers in October and February. I don't agree with or understand why there are two workdays on Nov 2nd and 3rd when there are two holidays in November already. A better option in my opinion would be to have a workday in October and allow the kids to be off on Nov 1 following Halloween. That's one of the holidays that almost all kids love and participate in. It just doesn't make sense to have the kids show up the next day then close school for the two days following.</p> <p>It might be an unpopular opinion but I like the shorter Christmas break compared to this school year. As a working parent 2 1/2 weeks was difficult to manage. Unfortunately my kindergartener had way too much screen time and no routine due to our busy working schedules. Going back in January has been torturous even today because she's having a hard time adjusting to getting up earlier, no down time and a constant schedule after being off for so long.</p> <p>I truly appreciate you letting parents speak up about these options and listening to us. If you have any questions, please let me know.</p> <p>Thank you,</p>

	<p>Jamie Pritchard</p>
<p>105</p>	<p>From: Lundi Hill [mailto:lundihill@gmail.com] Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2023 10:48 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendar</p> <p>Good morning,</p> <p>In regards to the 2023-2024 proposed traditional calendar, I suggest the Winter/Christmas break be revisited. This is a much needed rest for all parties involved and the time allotted on the proposal is not sufficient. I recommend beginning the break with Dec. 18 much like this current school year. A lot of families take this opportunity to visit and spend time with extended family. I anticipate a large number of absences, both staff and students, if only given the Friday before Christmas off.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration, Lundi Hill</p>
<p>106</p>	<p>From: Erica Harden [mailto:emharden1@gmail.com] Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2023 11:04 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendars</p> <p>I prefer Option 2 of the calendars presented.</p> <p>Thank you! Erica Harden</p>
<p>107</p>	<p>From: Alisha [mailto:alishaschwanke@hotmail.com] Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2023 12:06 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: proposed calendars</p> <p>Good morning,</p> <p>In response to the proposed calendars provided this week by GCS, I would kindly ask that you strongly consider a longer winter break. For the many of us who live far from family, the extra time given this year was very helpful in traveling. My students seemed to do well with the longer break and were even refreshed enough to be excited about returning to the classroom in January! I believe most would prefer an earlier start to the school year if it meant a longer winter break.</p> <p>Thank you, Alisha Schwanke mother of GCS 6th and 10th graders</p>
<p>108</p>	<p>From: Hardy, Robin L [mailto:hardyr@gcsnc.com] Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2023 3:18 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: calendars</p>

	<p>23-24- Option 2 24-25- Option 2 25-26- Option 2</p> <p>Robin Hardy Media Specialist Lindley Elementary School</p>
109	<p>From: Sara [mailto:saranicole513@yahoo.com] Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2023 4:35 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendar</p> <p>The kids need 2 weeks off for Christmas break and would like to start school back in mid august to let them out end of may/early June.</p>
110	<p>From: Nicole Weingrad [mailto:nicoleweingrad@gmail.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 8:24 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Proposed 2023-2024 Calendar</p> <p>Good evening,</p> <p>I have reviewed the proposed calendar for next school year and there could be improvement. As a parent, I would like to see some of the adjustments below happen.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Teacher workdays October 31 & November 1 - 2 weeks for Christmas vacation - Continue to have Jewish holidays recognized and coordinated with teacher workdays/holidays, such as Yom Kippur, Rosh Hashanah and Passover. - Presidents Day should be a holiday off - I feel like another teacher workday could be worked into the spring months of April or May. <p>In case you are wondering, I am a parent that works full time and so does my husband . We will have two children at Jesse Wharton Elementary School in the 2023-2024 school year.</p> <p>I appreciate your time and consideration of my feedback.</p> <p>Sincerely, Nicole Weingrad</p>
111	<p>From: Jeff Pratt [mailto:jeff.pratt@wsel.com] Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2023 7:42 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendars</p> <p>I want to know why anyone on the board would think it is a good idea to cut Christmas break to one week? Do you know what that does to families who travel or take trip with loved ones over the holidays? It cancels trips and screws up holiday traditions. Think</p>

	<p>about your teachers and employees as well! What are you going to do with those extra five days? Very bad idea. Students will not show up and the teachers will suffer. Do not adopt calendar!</p> <p>Jeff Pratt</p>
<p>112</p>	<p>From: Wyrick, Shannon H [mailto:wyricks2@gcsnc.com] Sent: Friday, January 13, 2023 10:18 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: proposed school calendars for traditional schools in GCS</p> <p>I would like to discuss the proposed school calendars presented online. As a high school teacher for 27.5 years I have taught both on traditional and block schedules. The proposed calendars are not conducive to current high school students on a block schedule.</p> <p>First, with so many of our students doing the dual enrollment with GTCC, it is imperative that our schedule mimics theirs. Currently, our students are still in first semester while those who are dual enrolled at GTCC have already began their second semester classes. This causes a major problem because those students have conflicts with our semester exam schedule and their GTCC second semester classes.</p> <p>Second, our students would greatly benefit from ending the first semester prior to Winter break. This would allow them to have a mental break over the time away as well come into a new semester fresh. Another benefit from having exams prior to Winter break, we could lessen the likelihood of exams being interfered with in climate weather.</p> <p>In addition, I would like to add that teachers do not need 6 workdays at the beginning of the academic year. As a high school teacher, I would benefit from having those workdays being added within the school year at the end of a quarter to allow more time to finalize grades. Not only within the school year, teachers would benefit from having more than one day at the end of the school year to finalize semester grades.</p> <p>I hope you will take my input into advisement.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Mrs. Shannon Wyrick Mathematics Teacher at SEHS</p>
<p>113</p>	<p>From: Garrett, Thomas [mailto:garrett@gcsnc.com] Sent: Friday, January 13, 2023 11:04 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calender</p> <p>For Whom,</p> <p>Please consider Starting the school year earlier in August like the local Community Colleges, this way the students would be able to test, taking Exams before Winter Break. Winter break becomes a disconnect and therefore a massive distraction for</p>

	<p>students and staff. Many students also take part in the dual-enrollment with our local community colleges as well. They would also be able to finish the School Year at the End of May before Memorial Day. On a staff level, 10 month employees would also be paid consistently with the months/hours paid, as they would no longer have to balance the August start with the June ending as May is the official last paycheck.</p> <p>Thank You, Nicholas Garrett Southeast Guilford HS CTE-Carpentry CTE Department Chair</p>
114	<p>From: Cox, Jed [mailto:coxj6@gcsnc.com] Sent: Friday, January 13, 2023 12:18 PM Cc: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendar feedback</p> <p>We need first semester to end before Christmas break. Students need their exams given before a 2-2.5 week break with learning loss. Jed Cox</p>
115	<p>From: Ava S [mailto:avalayne10@gmail.com] Sent: Friday, January 13, 2023 1:13 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Gcs calender 23-24</p> <p>This is unbelievable. There is more holidays than just Christmas. Students deserve 2 weeks of winter break like it has been EVERY SINGLE YEAR. School is already super draining for students I would know because I am one. I struggle even with the amount of breaks we have this year and sure enough there is less breaks next year! What is the point I genuinely just do not understand your reasoning. Why are we starting school the 17th a week before we normally do and why are we ending 4 days later than normal. This is crazy. I can not believe this at all I'm in shock at this possible calendar. I can't believe how messed up this school system is and the lack of care you have for the students and teachers. We need our breaks it's mentally exhausting and so draining why can you not just keep it the same?</p>
116	<p>From: Bagnell, Heather A [mailto:bagnelh@gcsnc.com] Sent: Friday, January 13, 2023 2:11 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendars</p> <p>I would love to see first semester end before winter break. High school are taking GTCC classes and it is frustrating for them because their classes start in January before second semester. I also would love to have two full weeks off at Christmas. We need more teacher workdays and/or half days.</p> <p>Heather Bagnell, MAT Earth and Environmental Science Teacher Biology Teacher Lucy C. Ragsdale High School</p>

<p>117</p>	<p>From: Hagler, Angela M [mailto:haglera@gcsnc.com] Sent: Friday, January 13, 2023 2:18 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: 2023-24 Calendar proposal</p> <p>Please consider putting the teacher vacation days currently placed at the end of the year in June into somewhere during 2nd Semester. There are not many breaks during that semester and students need a mental break.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
<p>118</p>	<p>From: Spencer, Danielle E [mailto:spenced4@gcsnc.com] Sent: Friday, January 13, 2023 2:21 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendars</p> <p>Hello!</p> <p>I just wanted to share my feedback for the 2023-24 school calendar drafts.</p> <p>I would prefer Option 2 wholeheartedly, primarily because Option 1 has an 8-week stretch of no holidays/workdays that will be extremely difficult to get through. As a high school teacher, my kids thrive when breaks occur every 2-3 weeks, even if it is just one day. The monotony of school and “going through the motions” hurts student morale and enthusiasm.</p> <p>This would also hinder my planning and grading abilities because I rely on workdays to get caught up and put extensive time into planning long term projects and activities. As a first year teacher, I am creating much of my activities from scratch, so the workdays are even more vital to me because I have no prior activities to fall back on from previous years. It would be extremely difficult for me to plan 8 weeks of material in advance.</p> <p>Thank you for providing this space to share my perspective!</p> <p>Danielle Spencer she/her/hers English I Teacher Northwest Guilford High School</p>
<p>119</p>	<p>From: Tarver, Rosalind R [mailto:tarverr@gcsnc.com] Sent: Friday, January 13, 2023 2:25 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendars</p> <p>2023-2024 Option 1 2024-2025 Option 1 2025-2026 Option 1</p> <p>Rosalind R. Tarver Second Grade Teacher</p>

	Hunter Elementary
120	<p>From: Sullivan, Sharon L [mailto:sullivs@gcsnc.com] Sent: Friday, January 13, 2023 2:29 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: traditional calendar feedback</p> <p>Board- Please revisit both 2023-2024 calendars. Teachers need a day off each month, whether a holiday or workday. The current calendar and both the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 calendars incorporate a day off each month. We have more on our plates than ever with addressing learning loss, Canvas maintenance, extended periods required for makeup work, and supporting students' SEL. We need a day off each month to recharge. Thank you,</p> <p>Sharon Sullivan American History AP United States History</p> <p>Ragsdale High School</p>
121	<p>From: Taylor, Crystal L [mailto:taylorc3@gcsnc.com] Sent: Friday, January 13, 2023 2:40 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendars</p> <p>I see very little difference in the 2023-24 calendars shown. Maybe 2-3 dates difference. For this reason I do not understand why this is really up for public comment when the choices are so similar. That being said I do prefer option 2 even though it is still not a great calendar. If we could end the grading period (1st semester) before Christmas break that would help block high schools. We would also get out of school earlier, maybe in May if we started sooner in August. GCS has been pushing high schooler's to take classes at GTCC, this interferes with our classes after Christmas break as students are missing instruction to go to their GTCC class because we are still in 1st semester when GTCC's 2nd Semester starts. Also, there should never be a month where there isn't at least one teacher workday (like October on both calendars).</p> <p>The future calendars for 2023-24 and 2024-25 Seem to follow the same pattern as the first and my comments would remain the same.</p> <p>In addition, please change our high school schedule back to a normal time, like 8-3 or 8:30-3:30 for example. Students are missing way too much for 4th block because they have to get out early for games. Not to mention when studies say high schoolers do better with later schedules they meant 8am not 9:25am. That is way too late to be starting school.</p> <p>Thank you, Crystal Taylor Social Studies 9-12</p>

	Southeast Guilford High School
122	<p>From: Jimenez, Sarah D [mailto:jimenes@gcsnc.com] Sent: Friday, January 13, 2023 2:44 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: calendars</p> <p>Option #1</p>
123	<p>From: Mcneil, Vanessa [mailto:mcneilv2@gcsnc.com] Sent: Friday, January 13, 2023 2:55 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendars</p> <p>Option 1</p> <p>Vanessa McNeil, M.S. School Counselor College Advisor College & Career Promise Contact Eastern Guilford High School</p>
124	<p>From: Brown, Valerie E [mailto:brownv@gcsnc.com] Sent: Friday, January 13, 2023 3:10 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendars</p> <p>Good Afternoon. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to share our thoughts with you. I will write down what option I think would work best for both Students and Staffs in Guilford County Schools. It is important to maintain balance as to not burn anyone out. I will also make a suggestion for next year.</p> <p>2023-2024 - Option 2 however It would be nice to start Winter Break on the 20th instead of the 22nd for those of us who have to travel</p> <p>2024-2025 - Option 2</p> <p>2025-2026 - Option 2</p> <p>Thanks Valerie Brown 6th Grade Math Northwest Middle School</p>
125	<p>From: Jillian Angel [mailto:absolutnurs@yahoo.com] Sent: Friday, January 13, 2023 3:51 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendars</p>

1. Why are there 180 days in 2023-2024 but subsequent years only 177? If only 177 needed then remove 3 days from the 2023-2024 calendar. There are only 173 days in this current calendar year. I do not understand the discrepancy.

23-24 Calendar

1. There are no breaks in October!!
2. There are too many breaks in November when the Winter Break is the following month.
3. Our Winter Break this year was 12 days but this calendar is only 8. Those additional 4 days should be spread out!
4. Option 2 is superior-It better spaces out the breaks in January and gives a break in February!!
5. Please use the Option 2 layout from 24-25/25-26 to rework this calendar!!!!!!!!!!!!

24-25 Calendar Option 2 is FANTASTIC

1. These breaks are spread out wonderfully with 2 - 4 day weekend breaks in October & January! Thank you!
2. The students end on June 6th! Thank you!
3. This should be applied to ALL YEARS!!!

25-26 Calendar Option 2 is FANTASTIC
For all reasons listed above!!

Thank you for looking at my responses.
Jillian Angel

From: Bowman, Tammy L [mailto:bowmant@gcsnc.com]
Sent: Friday, January 13, 2023 4:03 PM
To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com>
Subject: Feedback on Calendar

23-24 School Year
Prefer Option 2

Note: If at all possible, as a high school counselor, please do not schedule graduation the weekend of June 8th. It will be IMPOSSIBLE for us to our job and be ready for graduation if the last student day is June 7th and you schedule graduation that weekend. We work around the clock the days leading up to graduation because no time allowed between the end of the year and graduation for us to verify grads and do all the things necessary.

24-25 School Year
Prefer Option 1

25-26 School year
Prefer Option 1

Tammy L. Bowman, MS
10th-12th Grade Counselor (alphabet A-D)
Southwest High School

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<p>127</p>	<p>From: Afi Johnson Parris [mailto:afi@alumni.virginia.edu] Sent: Friday, January 13, 2023 5:37 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendars</p> <p>I think the longer breaks for holidays are helpful for children who live in two households so that they can have meaningful time with each parent. I enjoyed the long winter break this time and my teen needed it, however, it would have been a childcare challenge for me when my kids were little.</p> <p>Best, asjp</p>
<p>128</p>	<p>From: Christin Atkins [mailto:cgoodman0508@gmail.com] Sent: Friday, January 13, 2023 6:42 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Proposed Calendar</p> <p>I would like express concerns over both options for 23/24, 24/25, and 25/26 school years.</p> <p>I sincerely hope there is room to reconsider both calendar options.</p> <p>The winter break is way to short, especially for families that prepare to travel for holidays, the proposed calendar poses a burden. Suggesting that the first day off for break being the day before Christmas Eve poses a travel nightmare. Is it possible to tack on the optional workdays during this time? Or possibly have less instructional time?</p> <p>I would also like to suggest, starting the school year earlier, where possible or later where possible, to have a short first week back to allow for easier transitioning back to school from the summer. This is especially useful to elementary school students.</p> <p>Thank you, Christin Atkins</p> <p>(Mom of 2, in elementary) -- Christin Atkins, MBA</p>
<p>129</p>	<p>From: Shay Barwick [mailto:slgarner24@hotmail.com] Sent: Friday, January 13, 2023 7:52 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendar comments</p> <p>I would prefer the traditional calendar 2023-2024 option 2. I will add that the longer 2.5 week winter break this year was fabulous and would love to have that again. Also we always prefer the Easter/Spring break to be the week after Easter Sunday instead of the week before. Thank you!</p>

	<p>Shay Barwick</p>
<p>130</p>	<p>From: Laurel Castilla [mailto:laurelcastilla16@gmail.com] Sent: Friday, January 13, 2023 8:23 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendar</p> <p>Dear GCS board,</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to express my concerns over the proposed 2023/2024 calendar. I urge you to reconsider the winter break in both proposed calendars. In the past and in the future students had/ have a full two week vacation which allows parents to travel with their children out of state. However, with the next year's proposed calendar, students only receive one week and three days vacation. I believe this will cause confusion and lack of attendance, both on the part of teachers and students.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p> <p>Sincerely, Laurel Castilla</p>
<p>131</p>	<p>From: Una Yang [mailto:unay428@icloud.com] Sent: Friday, January 13, 2023 9:14 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendar</p> <p>Hi! I'm a junior at Grimsley high school and I saw the calendar for the 2024 school year and I just wanted to say that you guys should bring back long winter breaks since for first week we're all working on late work and teachers are also working on grading work. I also think we should have at least one break day a month since school can really take a toll on student and teachers and knowing that there's a 3 day break coming up can be motivating. I personally think students do so much better when they're well rested and happy. Therefore please change the calendars, thank you.</p> <p>Sincerely, Una</p>
<p>132</p>	<p>From: Melissa Brooks [mailto:mb92008@gmail.com] Sent: Saturday, January 14, 2023 7:49 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendar</p> <p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>In reviewing the calendar, I would love to see a longer winter break, spring break to begin on Good Friday and the following week off, there needs to be a workday in October and February and would love to start school earlier than 8/28 so kids can finish earlier. June is always a wash with no learning after EOG's.</p> <p>Best,</p>

	<p>Melissa Brooks</p>
<p>133</p>	<p>From: slimy-umbra-08@icloud.com [mailto:slimy-umbra-08@icloud.com] Sent: Saturday, January 14, 2023 2:04 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: CALENDARS</p> <p>As a licensed veteran employee of GCS, I am emailing to advocate for a 2-week winter holiday break in Dec/Jan when developing school calendars moving forward.</p> <p>For families to gather together and share in holiday celebrations, many student and employee families are required to travel. Many are unable to gather with loved ones for Thanksgiving because the district schedules instructional days during that holiday week, which leads many to rely on the winter break as the only available time to gather in love and fellowship during the holiday season.</p> <p>Employers must prioritize the health and wellbeing of their staff. A healthy work-life balance is a critical component to ensure the mental, emotional, and physical wellbeing of their employees.</p> <p>Students receive better quality instruction when teachers, specialists, administrators, and all other faculty and staff feel supported with adequate, and much-needed breaks throughout the school year. This also fosters more positive and supportive relationships between staff, students and their families both in and outside the classroom.</p> <p>The structure of school calendars also influence staff hiring and retention. A calendar reflecting much-needed fall, winter holiday, and spring breaks are much more appealing and desirable than those that offer poor work-life balance opportunities.</p> <p>Sincerely, One who strives for positive mental health and cherishes quality time with loved ones</p>
<p>134</p>	<p>From: Jennifer Musser [mailto:jennijoe21@hotmail.com] Sent: Saturday, January 14, 2023 7:08 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendars</p> <p>I like calendar option 1 for 2023-24, but feel the 2 vacation days at the end of the year in June should be moved to December before the proposed winter break.</p> <p>I like option 2 for both the 2024-25 and 2025-26 calendars.</p> <p>Sincerely, Jennifer Musser</p>
<p>135</p>	<p>From: Bevan McNamara [mailto:bevan.mcnamara@yahoo.com] Sent: Sunday, January 15, 2023 7:28 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: School calendar</p> <p>Biggest issue with proposed school calendar. Winter break should be two weeks.</p>

	<p>Our children need time to decompress. Traditional school already eliminates so much precious time children need to be outside or to move their bodies freely. Let them be kids.</p> <p>Also November 1st the day after Halloween should be a teacher workday. We don't need to push it back and give a 3 or 4 day weekend. Just the first should be a day off for kids. Let them sleep in after trick or treating.</p> <p>Be mindful of 6-7 weeks without a day off or what even happened to half days? I remember having those as a kid and it was nice.</p> <p>School is for our children it is not a daycare. We need to remember that a child needs time away to rest and decompress.</p>
136	<p>From: Shannon Brown Peeples [mailto:shannonfae@gmail.com] Sent: Sunday, January 15, 2023 8:12 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendars</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity. We prefer calendar 2/B for each year. However, winter break is too short for 2023-24 on both options. We'd prefer two full weeks somehow.</p>
137	<p>From: Jason Reynolds [mailto:jasonreynolds05@gmail.com] Sent: Sunday, January 15, 2023 12:13 PM To: Bellamy Small, Dianne <bellamysmall@gcsnc.com>; Hayes, Deena <hayesd@gcsnc.com>; irby@gcsnc.com; jenkinsb2@gcsnc.com; Welborn, Linda <kbwelborn2@triad.rr.com>; napperd@gcs.com; Pratt, Crissy <prattc2@gcsnc.com>; Sherouse, Alan <sheroua@gcsnc.com>; Superintendent <superintendent@gcsnc.com> Cc: Amy Reynolds <amyreynolds05@msn.com> Subject: Comments on Proposed Calendars</p> <p>Thank you all for your service to GCS and our community. We're reaching out regarding proposed academic year calendars. The invitation for public comment is very much appreciated.</p> <p>We are against any reduction in days off for future academic year calendars. We believe the two week winter break is essential and should be maintained. Mental health is an important part of the overall calculation of child (and teacher) welfare. Children (and teachers) are under immense pressure and elevated stress, these days off are needed for downtime and a break from academics and elevated stress levels.</p> <p>Another point for consideration is our community being increasingly populated by people and families who are not originally from the area. The winter break is an excellent opportunity to visit family and friends distant from Guilford County. Please don't take this away.</p> <p>We hope our input with help to inform the decision making process and maintain the calendar as it has been for several years. We place particular emphasis on the holiday break two weeks off. Thank you for taking the time to read this email.</p>

138	<p>From: Kim Briscoe [mailto:suncouch@hotmail.com] Sent: Sunday, January 15, 2023 1:07 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendars Feedback</p> <p>I like having teacher work days on Mondays or Fridays so I can have some opportunities to travel with my children without pulling them from school. 2023-2024 fall break should be a bit earlier to be in October- placing it in November makes it a long stretch without a break and also makes November have multiple days off school.</p> <p>Thanks! Kim Briscoe</p>
139	<p>From: OSullivan, Lisa A [mailto:osullil@gcsnc.com] Sent: Sunday, January 15, 2023 2:59 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendar</p> <p>Hello,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to provide feedback on the schedule.</p> <p>2023-2024 Calendar: Instead of sticking two vacation days for teachers in June, can you put one on Monday, August 28th and start school on the 29th?. Also, can you put the other one in February for President's day? Then have students finish on June 11? Please respectfully reconsider using the two vacation days at the end of the year. We can use a break during the school year. If not, I vote for calendar #2.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
140	<p>From: Olivia Hyatt [mailto:ohyatt@aol.com] Sent: Sunday, January 15, 2023 7:51 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Comment on 2023-24 calendar</p> <p>Please give more time off at Christmas break. The kids/teachers need at least two full weeks. This can be accomplished by taking away the 11/2 and 11/3 teacher workdays and moving them to the December break.</p> <p>Please move spring break to the week after Easter. Spring break is entirely too early AND it's during Holy Week.</p> <p>Thanks for your consideration! - Olivia Rembach</p>
141	<p>From: Maegan Brewer [mailto:brewermc@ymail.com] Sent: Monday, January 16, 2023 8:08 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendars</p> <p>The calendar that is currently proposed will cause my children to miss precious days of school as we travel to visit family during breaks and are fully involved in our religion.</p>

	<p>I do not think it is fair to punish students because of these circumstances. I am sure there are better options for the students and staff at GCS. Please reconsider and put out a new calendar that is fair and equitable for all.</p> <p>Much appreciated, Maegan</p>
<p>142</p>	<p>From: Suzanne van Thillo [mailto:svanthillo@gmail.com] Sent: Monday, January 16, 2023 2:25 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendars</p> <p>I am a high school teacher with block schedule, and my daughter attends my school, so my perspective is that of both a staff member and a parent.</p> <p>I have been working for GCS since 1998. We always used to have THREE calendar options to consider, and each option contained marked differences from the others. That isn't the case this year. There are only two options, and they are practically identical, which makes staff and parents feel like we really don't have any options or voice at all.</p> <p>Option one does not have any break or workday in October, which is a mistake. That is historically the month where teachers and students alike are "hitting a wall," desperately needing a respite. It also appears that there is no workday on Election day? That, too, feels like a slap in the face as we have usually had the flexibility to vote during this day as it suited our optional workday schedule. Option 1 also has no break in February, a mistake just like October, a workday on January 2nd, and a mandatory workday on Easter Monday, which has already garnered an outcry of dismay. As all of my family is out of state, having a longer winter break as we did this year would show that you value your employees your students, and their families.</p> <p>The only real difference with Option 2 was the work day in February; otherwise all the same concerns apply.</p> <p>Our students at the high school level are already struggling very badly with attendance, so scheduling MORE days is not going to magically catch them up. Instead, please consider more frequent breaks so they can stay up to date with work, possibly scheduling some remote days where teachers could hold office hours and catch up on paperwork instead of holding live classes. The amount of time I have had to spend EACH DAY this year just keeping up with the paperwork and communications for students who are absent has seriously cut into time that should be spent on grading and giving feedback. I routinely have 5-10 students absent EVERY DAY in my 9th grade classes, and 3-5 in my AP junior class for a total of 13-25 students daily, and many of these are repeat offenders who miss multiple days a week, if not whole weeks at a time. I really wish the U.S. would take note of other countries who mandate fewer hours of seat time and have much better results.</p> <p>Thank you. Suzanne van Thillo</p>

143	<p>From: Welch, Rachel [mailto:welchr2@gcsnc.com] Sent: Monday, January 16, 2023 3:30 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendars</p> <p>Dear GCS Board, Please consider adding days to winter break. This is a much needed break for both students and teachers. This past break was perfect. It allowed time with family and everyone to recharge their batteries.</p> <p>The proposed calendar has teachers working through December 21st. That does not allow much travel time and rest.</p> <p>You hear, and we see first hand, the extra pressure of learning loss from the pandemic. This puts extra pressure on teachers to individualize education, and we do. But in order to do our best, we need to take care of ourselves.</p> <p>Please consider reducing the number of days (we would still have the required hours) and making the winter break 10 school days off.</p> <p>Thanks for your consideration.</p>
144	<p>From: Frissen, Lisa R [mailto:frissel@gcsnc.com] Sent: Monday, January 16, 2023 9:27 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendars</p> <p>Hello, I have looked at both of the proposed calendars for next year and the winter break for Christmas and New Year is very short in both options. Why are 2 vacation days added to the end of the school year when we don't need them? I would like to see both those days added to winter break, maybe Dec. 20-21. We need a long break there for traveling and just because we need a break.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration!</p> <p>Mrs. Lisa Frissen Instructor of French Southeast Guilford High School</p>
145	<p>From: Williams, Nancy [mailto:willian@gcsnc.com] Sent: Monday, January 16, 2023 11:58 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendars</p> <p>Good evening. I am a third-grade teacher at Northern Elementary. I would like to share my thoughts about next year's academic calendar. First let me say, thank you for approving this year's calendar. The winter break was one of the best, most restful break in my 25+ years of teaching.</p>

As I look at next school year's calendar's proposal, it worries me that teachers will be burned out much too early as our winter break is much less. Please consider an earlier vacation and/or add in one or two workdays in October.
Thank you.

Nancy M. Williams, M. Ed.
National Board Certified
3rd grade teacher
Northern Elementary School

From: Jamie OBrien [mailto:jeo5327@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 8:48 AM
To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com>
Subject: Calendar

While I appreciate GCS finally planning ahead and pushing out 3 years of calendars, I worry that pushing out 3 years of these calendars is binding us to calendars that are not in the best interest of block high schools. I know the district has had discussions under the previous Superintendent about making all high schools traditional rather than block but I think that would not be in the best interest of students. Traditional schools, with just 24 credit opportunities, expose students to mainly core requirements (18 courses are pre-determined by grad requirements if they are college bound) as if all students are going to college. This is no longer the path that leads to success for MANY students. Block high schools are able to offer students 32 credit opportunities which allows them to explore career options within the CTE area, take more classes at GTCC or even enter the GAP program. If the district looked at student participation data in these most worthwhile career ready programs for block vs. traditional, they would better understand the benefits of block scheduling.

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Understanding that block scheduling is in the best interest of students, we need to then create a calendar that levels the playing field for block testing. We must create calendars that have schools finishing quarter 2 or semester 1 before the Winter Break. Students coming back for 1 or 2 weeks prior to their 1st semester exams is equivalent to the summer slide. The state offers a waiver for start date no earlier than the Monday closest to August 26. Pender County (NC coast) utilizes this waiver:

https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/2643/PCS/2235123/22-23_PCS_Traditional_School_Calendar.pdf.

Block schools need to finish testing semester 1 prior to break because it will lead to improved test scores, falls in line with GTCC calendars (which the district has encouraged so heavily), allows more time for instruction in AP classes prior to AP testing (always the first 2 full weeks in May), and mirrors what students will see at the college level. Aside from block schools, finishing quarters before extended breaks is good for elementary, middle and traditional high schools as natural breaks should create natural ends to grading periods. We already let our most at risk (middle colleges) and highest achieving (early colleges) follow this schedule so why do we create calendars that put thousands of block high schools at a disadvantage and then use their EOC scores to make claims about poor instruction or increased failure rates.

	<p>Please consider a calendar that has all schools in GCS finish quarter 2/semester 1 before Winter Break.</p> <p>Thank you, Jamie Davis CF at SEHS</p>
147	<p>From: Kate Harding [mailto:k8harding@yahoo.com] Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 10:59 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: feedback on upcoming school calendars</p> <p>Hello there, I wanted to take a moment to provide feedback on the proposed calendars. I am looking at this as both a parents of middle and high school students and also as someone who runs a private preschool which follows the GCS calendar.</p> <p>I think the calendars for 24-25 and 25-26 look great. However, I have concerns about the 23-24 calendar. The one week and three days for Christmas break as well as zero days off in October, February and March are of great concern to me. While I understand that you are hoping to help students catch up on lost learning, this only translates to a handful of days, which I do not believe will make a meaningful different. But what I do think it will do is burn out teachers and students to go such long periods without a break.</p> <p>Please reconsider this 23-24 calendar and making it more similar to this year and the years following it.</p> <p>Thank you, Kate Harding</p>
148	<p>From: Bahlke, Rachel [mailto:bahlker@gcsnc.com] Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 11:18 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: 2023-2024 proposed traditional calendar feedback</p> <p>Hello,</p> <p>I am concerned that Winter break is only 1 week. Student's families travel over Winter break. I think this reduced break will lead to high absences and student will miss important information/learning opportunities at school.</p> <p>Thanks,</p> <p>Rachel Bahlke</p>
149	<p>From: Mooney-Flynt, Alicia S [mailto:mooneya2@gcsnc.com] Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 11:50 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Traditional calendar 23-24 Option 1</p>

	<p>Hello. I vote for Option 1, please. Teacher's don't need eight workdays upfront. Thank you.</p> <p>Best regards, Alicia Mooney-Flynt, NBCT NGHS English Department Chair AP English Language & Composition Creative Writing</p>
<p>150</p>	<p>From: Mooney-Flynt, Alicia S [mailto:mooneya2@gcsnc.com] Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 12:02 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Traditional Calendars 23-24, 24-25, and 25-26</p> <p>Hello. I should have sent one email earlier. I apologize. Option 1 is best for all three calendar proposals.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Best regards, Alicia Mooney-Flynt, NBCT NGHS English Department Chair AP English Language & Composition Creative Writing</p>
<p>151</p>	<p>From: Nicole McCann [mailto:mccann.nik@gmail.com] Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 12:39 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendars</p> <p>Hello, I am writing to express my preference for Option 2 for all of the calendar years (2023-24 as well as the 2024-25 and 2025-26 calendar years). While I sympathize with the hope that more in-class time will help shore up deficiencies exacerbated by the pandemic, Option 2 for all the calendar years still exceeds the required state minimum anyway and offers slightly more "off" time in the summer for staff and students alike. None of us is immune to burn out, after all! All the time in-class in the world won't help if students aren't engaged, encouraged by parents and family, and eager to learn.</p> <p>Sincerely, Nicole McCann</p>
<p>152</p>	<p>From: Stacy, Melissa S [mailto:stacym@gcsnc.com] Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 1:32 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendar feedback</p> <p>Good morning,</p>

Thank you for allowing staff/parents to provide feedback on the proposed calendar for next year. Please take the following comments into consideration.

Can we please make the day after Easter a holiday or at minimum, an optional workday. If we are adding holidays and optional workdays at other times of year (i.e. Rosh Hashanah), then we should also respect those who celebrate Easter and honor that day as we have in the past.

Instead of tacking on vacation days at end of year, could those be added to extend winter break? We are a diverse county and many students travel out of the country during the winter break; extending break would reduce the number of days they have to miss and give staff a better opportunity to be refreshed before finishing the year.

Lastly, why are we not considering options for waiver to start school earlier so that for middle and high, first semester can be completed before winter break? This makes sense for many reasons and would also better line up with students attending local colleges too.

Thank you for taking time to consider these requests.

Shea Stacy

From: Nicole Reznikov [mailto:nicolet1102@hotmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 2:50 PM

To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com>

Subject: Calenders

Good afternoon,

Regarding the upcoming academic calendars, is there any reason GCS is not able to use the current calendar again? Implementing the current 2022-2023 calendar going forward would be my choice. My reason for this is in support of teachers.

I'm in a local parenting group that includes many GCS teachers. The general feedback seems to center around staff and student burnout, and the need for common sense breaks throughout the year. In this particular conversation, teachers are saying they would like to see:

- a full two weeks for winter break
- the teacher workdays that hover around Halloween to be October 31 & November 1
- at least one day off in October and February (President's Day is a federal holiday)
- teacher workdays throughout the year that are not tied to a holiday

There may be more teacher opinions regarding the calendar, but those are the comments I saw frequently that I also wholeheartedly agreed with as a parent. We (students and parents) need the breaks almost as much as the teachers.

I think it's important to weigh the opinions of the teachers very heavily in your decision-making process. They are the ones that have "boots on the ground" and know what they and their students are capable of at different points in the year. This, coupled with the rate of teachers leaving the field, would leave me with the realization that administration needs to support teachers in any way they can.

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	<p>Thank you, Nicole Reznikov</p>
<p>154</p>	<p>From: Jen Cox [mailto:jencox9@gmail.com] Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 3:28 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendar feedback</p> <p>Winter break is entirely too short. This will prevent families from traveling and truly getting the break they need during that time. There should be at least one workday every month to give students and teachers a break.</p> <p>Thanks,</p>
<p>155</p>	<p>From: Laurie Clapp [mailto:trenlaur1@bellsouth.net] Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 3:39 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendar</p> <p>Hi, As a teacher, I prefer NOT having any GCS calendar with 8 workdays at BOY. This is counter - intuitive for teachers. Three mandatory days is plenty prior to BOY. Provide those extra workdays during the year, allowing teacher's opportunities to make adjustments that meet the needs of students.</p> <p>Thank you, Laurie Clapp</p>
<p>156</p>	<p>From: Jennifer Welch [mailto:jbogley63@msn.com] Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 7:15 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendars</p> <p>Hi.</p> <p>Winter break is way to short. That needs to be the full week before Christmas. People travel and kids needs the break. Please please change that!</p> <p>Thanks, Jennifer Welch</p>
<p>157</p>	<p>From: BRIAN & JULIE JERSEY [mailto:brijuljersey@bellsouth.net] Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 8:20 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendar</p> <p>None of the options are ok one week for Winter break is unacceptable for teachers and children..... Everyone deserves time to be spent with family and friends..... you must reconsider the winter break otherwise teachers and students will</p>

	<p>not be there anyway. Let's try to attract new teachers instead of getting rid of everyone..... concerned parent</p>
<p>158</p>	<p>From: Blair Overman [mailto:boverman89@gmail.com] Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 8:25 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendars</p> <p>Good evening, I would like to give some feedback on the proposed calendars. To me, these calendars look pretty great. I would love to see the 23/24 school year calendar include a full 2 weeks for winter break. I noticed that was how it is on the other two years. I think this break is essential for teachers and students to refresh and be ready to come back excited about learning. Thank you for giving the public a chance to voice their opinion.</p> <p>Blair Overman</p>
<p>159</p>	<p>From: Nicolette Martinez [mailto:nikkispell@hotmail.com] Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 8:53 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Proposed calendars for 23/24, 24/25, 25/26 school years</p> <p>Considering the fact that the district is exceeding the number of hours required for the students to be in school, I think taking away an entire week of winter break is ridiculous! The children are working harder today than they ever have in any decades before and frankly, both they and the teachers need the time off to recharge and relax . I feel like every year, school systems are putting more unnecessary stress on kids and they just need time to be kids. I'm absolutely opposed to these proposed calendars!</p> <p>Nikki Martinez Guilford County school parent</p>
<p>160</p>	<p>From: Becky bassett [mailto:beckybassett1@me.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 18, 2023 12:14 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendars.</p> <p>I appreciate Gc schools being open to input to the upcoming calendars.</p> <p>I would support the calendar with the earliest end of school date. Minimal school work gets done after exams/eoc/eog and there is no reason for students and teachers to sit in school after those are completed.</p> <p>However — I don't think Its acceptable to have fewer than 10 days off during the Christmas / New Years holiday.</p> <p>Although this is not on the calendar — I believe the first quarter should end before Halloween — giving students off the day of Halloween and the day after. This is especially helpful to the younger students and parents.</p>

	<p>Thanks Becky Bassett</p>
<p>161</p>	<p>From: Marcela Souza Calsavara [mailto:marcela.calsavara@gmail.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 18, 2023 6:26 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: School Calendar</p> <p>I don't like any option, the students need to have 2 weeks on xmas break, it would be much easier to parents arrange their schedule without too many workdays during the year Even Aces was closed during workdays this year making difficult to the parents</p>
<p>162</p>	<p>From: Mitchell, Frances B [mailto:mitchelf@gcsnc.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 18, 2023 1:10 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendars</p> <p>My feedback regarding Calendar proposal, especially 2023-2024:</p> <p>I prefer Option 1- 12/20/2022</p> <p>However,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Spring Break is too short - at least 10 days (add 2 days in December) gives enough time for all of the holiday events, family traveling, and time for some respite before coming back to the school routine. • Build 2-3 more Optional Teacher work days - as this really promotes creativity and collaboration and decreases staff burnout. You are very likely to lose more staff with decreasing optional work days, AND decreasing Christmas Break. To do this start the year 8/14 three days earlier, and end the year a day later 6/14. • Here's how it would look: Start school workdays on 8/14 (keeping 8/18 closed)and then workdays 8/21,8/22 8/23 and officially students start 8/24 (or take away one of the mandated work days, and start students 8/23..to create another work day in the year, when teachers needed to have time to plan, collaborate and create, and recharge. <p>Thanks in advance for your consideration.</p> <p>Ms. Fran Boyd Mitchell, MEd-CCC-SLP Speech Language Pathologist Oakview Elementary</p>
<p>163</p>	<p>From: Lauren Sellers [mailto:laurensellers101@gmail.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 18, 2023 1:28 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: 23/24 calendars</p> <p>To whom it may concern,</p>

I am a parent and employee of GCS and I would like to share my thoughts on the proposed 2023-2024 school year calendar are listed below:

1) It's my understanding that other districts (large districts: Union, Cabarrus and small: Anson) are able to waive the mandatory start date (8/26) from the NC state to start earlier some as early as 8/9. It is my opinion that school should start earlier than 8/26 giving the high school students more time to finish exams while they are still in their first semester. Further, starting earlier in August will allow for more opportunities for breaks (than the second semester allows) so that students, and staff do not get 'burnt out' during the second semester--ask any teacher--we all agree the Jan/Feb/March are tough months! The earlier start will also maximize the full summer break in the months of June/July (starting earlier=ending in May--not mid June).

2). The winter break of 22/23 was the perfect amount of break time for staff and students. The whole 2 weeks were a great way for families to take a break from school, enjoy their families and allow for reprieve. This 2-week break should be on the calendars moving forward.

3). The start time for elementary school students should be adjusted. Many adults employed by the GCS district with small children (including myself) rely on daycare for their non-elementary school aged children. Most centers do not open until 7am; which is the start time of elementary school. Moving the start time forward will allow these parents more time (less stress) to get their other children to school. Furthermore, the start time for elementary school students put some, maybe even the majority of students) waking earlier than 5:30am. A 7:30-8:00am start time is far more reasonable. Other counties have elementary school start times of 8:00am--this should be a consideration moving forward with the academic calendars. Ultimately, the sun should be up by the time the first bell rings--this is not the case once the time falls back in November.

Thank you for your time in reading this and taking my considerations into account for the 23/24 school year calendars/start time.

Lauren Sellers

From: Jenny T. [mailto:jennyappletierney@gmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, January 18, 2023 2:10 PM

To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com>

Subject: Calendars

Hello,

Below is a list of items I would like to be considered before the board finalizes the 2023-2024 traditional academic calendar.

1. Please move the November workdays back to October, preferably Monday 10/30 and Tuesday 10/31.

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	<p>2. There are FOUR days off in January and none in February. Please move at least one workday to February.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p> <p>Jenny Tierney</p>
<p>165</p>	<p>From: Brook McRae [mailto:macfamilyfun7@gmail.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 18, 2023 5:00 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendars</p> <p>Good Afternoon, I know states are different with school calendars and in NC there is the law about start date, so that is fine. I am also against kids going to school past Memorial Day, but fine. All schools should just do right after Labor Day until right before Memorial Day.</p> <p>The really terrible choice in all of these calendars is the winter break. Families will always want and need more than 1 full week off. It is very unfortunate and unsettling that the school district has not prioritized family time around holidays. You are now just going to have tons of families who take THEIR CHILDREN out of school to see and spend time with their families that may even live across the country, and have to travel to them by car, plane, train etc.</p> <p>Family time should always play a crucial role in a school calendar. And the fact that you have shortened it is beyond upsetting. Now students will get penalized for spending time with FAMILY during a time it should have already been given to them. There is still time to change this and make it better and more FAMILY FOCUSED. I am not the only parent getting so fed up with schools/ school boards thinking THEY know what is best for OUR OWN CHILDREN. Schools really need to make some serious changes when it comes to their role in a students life. They should always be secondary to parents. Family is the center of a child's life (in the cases where family is not a positive factor for a child that is so very sad and of course needs to be addressed, those students are not the majority and those are not the majority of the parents).</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p> <p>Thank you, Brook McRae</p>
<p>166</p>	<p>From: H Smith [mailto:hjsmith4@gmail.com] Sent: Thursday, January 19, 2023 6:28 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendar</p> <p>Hi,</p>

	<p>I am not in favor of the proposed calendars. I do not feel increasing the amount of hours from 1025 will be as beneficial as other areas the school can focus on. The school should be focused more on the quality of teaching and instruction on those dates and not quantity. The push more more more approach is not helping our kids- it's stressing them out. As someone who works in the mental health field, I see the impact daily. More homework (ineffective busy work, leaving our kids stressed, less family time or less time to focus on enrichment activities- arts, music, athletics), more instructional hours (to assign more homework, to take away from valuable family time), less on research based effective strategies like increased recess time, being outside, learning through play. Wrong direction, GCS.</p> <p>If you want real feedback, then set up a link for a poll with a comments section. Having people to send an email is a barrier and going to result in very few responses.</p> <p>Thanks,</p> <p>Concerned about the direction of GCS 1st grade parent</p>
<p>167</p>	<p>From: Sara Nunn [mailto:smnunn5@gmail.com] Sent: Thursday, January 19, 2023 6:44 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Upcoming school calendar</p> <p>Hi,</p> <p>Your proposed school calendars are the worst I've seen. Teachers and children need these breaks. One week for Christmas break? A week filled with family obligations?! Where is the actual break? This school year calendar has been almost perfect. I don't understand having Halloween day off but back to school the next day. Poor teachers! I propose going off this year's calendar!</p> <p>Sara Nunn</p>
<p>168</p>	<p>From: Rachel Wilson [mailto:rachel@artisanimage.com] Sent: Thursday, January 19, 2023 12:12 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendar</p> <p>As a teacher and GCS parent, I feel we don't need 7-8 days of workdays prior to the beginning of the year. Survey the teachers and find out how many actually used these mandated days this past year for training- it's not the majority. In lower elementary we've been teaching CKLA and eureka 5 years and have received more than enough training. In years past we've survived with less than a week. By far the worst day of the year is the day after Halloween across ages and grades. Is it possible to move quarter one back one day so the brake Falls directly after Halloween. High schoolers at unfocused, lots of tardies and the sugar overload is very hard to deal with as a teacher.</p>

	<p>Please put mental health days back in as many other counties have. Teachers need these as well as students where they aren't required to work.</p> <p>With the return back to 180 student days-How is the daily schedule being adjusted? 22-23 is 173 days. 23-24 180 that an extra 52.5 hours staff is working.</p> <p>Thank you. Rachel W</p>
<p>169</p>	<p>From: Polly Geisler [mailto:pollyot@hotmail.com] Sent: Thursday, January 19, 2023 2:28 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendars</p> <p>I wanted to provide feedback for school calendar years. Year 23-24 both options are not good- too short winter break and no break in October. 24-25 and 25-26 option 2 are best for both. Getting out earlier in June is ideal. Thank you for your consideration, Polly Geisler</p>
<p>170</p>	<p>From: Iseley, Sarah O [mailto:iseleys@gcsnc.com] Sent: Thursday, January 19, 2023 2:49 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: 23-24 proposed calendar</p> <p>Dear GCS School Board,</p> <p>Thank you for what is probably a daunting task in creating our school calendars each year. I must say, the calendar this year has been so nice. Winter Break was truly a break and students and staff came back refreshed and ready to learn. My 4th graders are off to a great start this year! Spring Semester is typically one with a surge of growth from students. I know that this is in part due to the rest they get over the winter break. I am concerned that the break proposed in the 23-24 calendar is much too short and will not allow for such a rest and will negatively impact both students and staff.</p> <p>Additionally, I believe that many parents, recognizing that the proposed break is short, will take their children out of school on their own accord. Teachers will spend time in January reteaching material that only part of the class got before the break.</p> <p>In the past, winter break has always been 2 weeks or 10 days. In future proposed calendars, it is that way. Please consider changing the calendar next year to give all students and teachers the two weeks.</p> <p>Thank you so much,</p> <p>Sarah Iseley 4th Grade Teacher Northern Guilford Elementary School</p>

171	<p>From: Marcia Spivey [mailto:mgspivey77@gmail.com] Sent: Thursday, January 19, 2023 3:12 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: School year</p> <p>As a previous full time Exceceptional Children's teacher and many years of substituting at various schools, I recommend year round school.</p>
172	<p>From: Andrew Lofters [mailto:alofters@gmail.com] Sent: Thursday, January 19, 2023 6:12 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendar feedback</p> <p>I'm a GCS parent to a rising 6th and 10th grader. I have some concerns about the proposed calendar. I believe winter break should be a minimum of two full weeks. This gives time to celebrate the holiday season with family and have the time to travel. I'm also concerned about the month of October and February having no workdays. My children and their teachers work extremely hard during the school days and it is important to have some sort of break periodically to reset, have a mental health break and avoid burnout. Please consider making these changes when moving forward in making a decision about the calendar.</p> <p>Sincerely, Drew Lofters</p>
173	<p>From: Mary Ann Hassett [mailto:maryannhslp63@gmail.com] Sent: Thursday, January 19, 2023 6:56 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendars</p> <p>Christmas break needs to start earlier than 22nd . This years calendar was fabulous!</p> <p>Mary Ann Hassett</p>
174	<p>From: Becky Hinerman [mailto:hinerma@bellsouth.net] Sent: Thursday, January 19, 2023 7:46 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendars</p> <p>To Whom it May Concern,</p> <p>These calendars do not consider teacher mental health. These calendars do not consider the following teacher concerns: Two weeks should be the standard for winter break as both students and staff travel during the season to see families leaving not much time to rest and recover from prepping for family time. This past calendar year, we were given workdays that were optional. Teachers need the option to take off on times when grades or trainings are not happening as we also</p>

	<p>have minds that need rest. Our breaks need to be considered as many teachers are leaving the profession due to the stress and sickness that the job causes. Easter Monday is often considered a holiday in the south as it is a tradition, this should not be a <i>mandatory</i> workday as many students and staff may observe this day. Also, please see issue number 2.</p> <p>These things show a lack of respect for teacher’s personal lives and family time when “mental health” is the word of the day. Please consider teacher’s morale as we know there is a national shortage, and these calendars should reflect the respect GCS has for teachers and staff.</p> <p>Thank you, A concerned teacher</p>
<p>175</p>	<p>From: Kim Scott [mailto:kimberlyjnccu15@gmail.com] Sent: Thursday, January 19, 2023 9:18 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calander 23- 24 & 24-25</p> <p>Hello & Good Evening,</p> <p>Please give students and teachers a 2 week break during Christmas break. We all need the time to rest.</p> <p>Thank you for your time, Kim Scott</p>
<p>176</p>	<p>From: Nelley Dowd [mailto:nelleydowd@gmail.com] Sent: Friday, January 20, 2023 12:36 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendars</p> <p>Hello, Hope you are well.</p> <p>I wanted to put in my vote that the best version of the 2023-24 and the 2024-25 Calendar year are</p> <p>Draft 2023-24 OPTION 2 Draft 2024-25 OPTION 1</p> <p>It seemed a better layout for both teachers and the students.</p> <p>I am not sure if my opinion will even be considered but I thought to let you know.</p> <p>Hope you have good rest of the day!</p> <p>Thank you Nelley</p>

<p>177</p>	<p>From: Caitlynn Tyler [mailto:caitlynntyler1@gmail.com] Sent: Friday, January 20, 2023 9:59 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Proposed Calendars</p> <p>The winter break for all three calendars is upsetting. I am not only staff but a parent as well. This year's winter break gave us all of a time to breathe and rest. It felt like for once the county wanted us to get a much needed break. I was well rested and ready return for 2023.</p> <p>We go through so many trainings that we need to make room for self care and mental health care, but these proposed calendars breaks do not show what the county likes to preach.</p> <p>Please consider changing the proposed calendars to look out for not only the teachers but also give much needed family time we all need and deserve.</p>
<p>178</p>	<p>From: Brandi Higginbotham [mailto:brandihig@yahoo.com] Sent: Saturday, January 21, 2023 9:02 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendars</p> <p>PLEASE reconsider the dates for spring break on the 2023-2024 school calendar! It would be much better suited for the week after Easter as opposed to the week before. I think spring break should be April 1-5. Perhaps move the workday from April 1 to May 3 or 10.</p> <p>I also have always thought the last day of school should be the last weekday of May but at the very least we should shave off a couple days especially since snow days are no longer needed and the children are remotely learning on days of inclement weather. Thank you for your consideration.</p> <p>Brandi Higginbotham Mother of 2 elementary students and a Substitute Teacher</p>
<p>179</p>	<p>From: Bethany Mason [mailto:bethcmason@gmail.com] Sent: Saturday, January 21, 2023 9:09 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: 2023-2024 traditional calendar feedback</p> <p>Hello!</p> <p>Please give some time off in October or February. we need to have some sort of "fall break" mid October.....</p> <p>The long spread between the "end of January day off" to spring break is waaaaaaay too long without a day off. I have also seen comments from clergy requesting spring break not be attached to Easter anymore. They are never able to utilize those days off or go anywhere!</p>

	<p>I have also seen comments from Teachers that they do not need to have so many workdays before the start of school. So spread some of these out throughout the school year.</p> <p>If we need to have a minimum of 1025 hours of instructional learning, do we really need to go 1080/1074? Kids would be better off with a couple of extra days off for mental breaks.</p> <p>Please try to spread out/add days off for the kids and the staff.</p> <p>Thank you- Beth Mason</p>
180	<p>From: Renee Leonard [mailto:renee.leonard@hotmail.com] Sent: Sunday, January 22, 2023 7:09 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendars</p> <p>Good evening, I have two children in Guilford county public schools. I prefer option 2 for each of the school calendar years for comment. For the 2023-2024 school year, I like option 2 as it recognizes the Presidents Day holiday. As a working mother that gets this day off, I would like to see the school board continue to also recognize it as a holiday. Option 1 for the 2023-2024 school year does not do so.</p> <p>Option 2 is my preference for the remaining 2 years as well.</p> <p>Thanks, Renee Leonard</p>
181	<p>From: Tiffany Robinson [mailto:tltomlinrobinson@gmail.com] Sent: Sunday, January 22, 2023 10:09 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendars</p> <p>To Whom it may concern, I would like to say that the proposed Calendars for 2023-2024 look good but the Winter break in December needs to be longer it should at least be 2 weeks long. The 2024-2025 Proposed Calendar options are very good; the same can be said about the 2025-2026 Proposed Calendar Options.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Sincerely, Tiffany Robinson</p>
182	<p>From: Anne Whitehurst [mailto:apheuphong@gmail.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 7:59 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendars</p> <p>Here are my preference of school calendars. I am a parent of 2 GCS students. 2023-24 Option 2</p>

2024-25 Option 2
2025-26 Option 2

From: Shady, Karin J [mailto:shadyk@gcsnc.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 9:40 AM
To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com>
Subject: Calendar feedback

As an office support person in an elementary school, I favor the following calendars:

- 2023-24 – Option 1. I appreciate the mandatory teacher workdays just prior to school beginning. It is very hard to accomplish anything when a lot of the teachers are not available the two days just before school begins. If the Open house is held early in the week of 8/19, there is a lot of follow up that can be accomplished to endure a smooth first day for the students.
- 2024-25 – Option 2. Again, minimum 5 work days needed before school starts to make the first day of school better. And, due to the last day of school mid-week in Option 1, it is highly likely that students will just not come to school at all that week.
- 2025-26 – Option 2. I like more work days at the beginning again despite having to come back in the Monday and Tuesday after school ends. There is so much that needs to be done in the office before school starts that I appreciate more work days.

Thanks,
Karin Shady
Office Support
Hunter Elementary School

From: Michelle P. [mailto:michelle380@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 9:48 PM
To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com>
Subject: Calendars

Hello,

My 2 daughters are students at Summerfield Elementary, in K and 3rd grade. I don't have much feedback on the calendars, just a few notes I'd like to share:

- Thank you for shortening the Christmas/holiday break - it was WAY too long this year! Around 10 days is perfect - please keep it this way.
- Teacher workdays aren't a concern, though the one at the beginning of November should just be the 1st of November. It would be much easier to have the day after Halloween so it isn't such a struggle in the morning on 11/1. Otherwise, having them on Mondays or Fridays is best and causes less interruption throughout the week.

Separately, I'd like to just note that the early start time for elementary school doesn't make sense. Younger children have an easier time waking up closer to sunrise - they shouldn't be going out in the pitch black to get on the bus at 6:30am. Please consider

	<p>switching the schedule to something more reasonable! 8am to 3pm would make more sense, and be in line with other schools in the area and across the country.</p> <p>Thank you, Michelle Piccirillo</p>
185	<p>From: Skinner, Addea L [mailto:skinnea@gcsnc.com] Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2023 10:37 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendar feedback</p> <p>Neither option , not enough time to prepare for personal plans and mental break, over winter break, consider giving educators the 1st full week of January off, this will allow us to truly rest after the hustle and bustle of the holidays.</p> <p>Thanks for your time!</p> <p>Addea Skinner Curriculum Facilitator for Brightwood Elementary</p>
186	<p>From: Cary Williams [mailto:caryw280@gmail.com] Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2023 7:19 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: 2023-24 Calender</p> <p>Hi. I wanted to give feedback on next years calender, and even the next couple of years calender. I know students need to get a certain amount of days, but the winter break is terribly short. Many students mental health is struggling and they just need a solid break. But starting winter break 5 days later than this year is sad. I can assure you the kids loved the break and I saw a change in happiness, it seemed to help them. In general, over the next few calender drafts I feel that I speak for many when I say winter break is one of the most exciting and best holidays of the school year, and for you guys to cut that very short is sad. Everyone wants a good winter break, and time to spend relaxing at home stress free. I hope you take this under consideration and please change the length of the break.</p> <p>Have a great day!</p>
187	<p>From: Coble, Janna M [mailto:coblej@gcsnc.com] Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 9:43 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendars</p> <p>Hello,</p> <p>I am writing to give feedback on the calendar for the 2023 - 2024 school year. I prefer draft 1 for the calendar that year. However, I feel the two vacation days on June 12 and 13 should be added to winter break instead of at the end of the year. I think adding those vacation days to winter break will be beneficial for student and staff. Our longer winter break this school year allowed everyone time to rest and recharge for the new year.</p>

	<p>I also prefer draft 1 for the 2024 -2025 and 2025 - 2026 calendars.</p> <p>Thank you for your time,</p> <p>Janna M. Coble M.Ed CCC-SLP Speech-Language Pathologist Pre-K Intake Team</p>
188	<p>From: Karen Harris [mailto:kbharris319@gmail.com] Sent: Monday, January 30, 2023 2:50 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: 2023-2024 traditional school calendar.</p> <p>I would like to thank the school board for diligently working on the school calendars. I would also like to say the number of days allotted on the 2023-24 calendar doesn't allow for body repair. Working on the school bus daily is extremely hard on the body. This can and often does lead to muscle strains, pulls, dislocated disc's etc. These injuries lead to lost work time, lost wages and loss of man power on the job. Not including any off days in any 1 month is exhausting. I understand the kids need to keep a routine;however: if days were included in the calendar schedule this would be their routine.</p> <p>Thank you</p>
189	<p>From: Tanya Scott [mailto:pricanandblack@gmail.com] Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2023 9:02 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendar</p> <p>Hello,</p> <p>I would like the board to reconsider the 23-24 calendar.</p> <p>Consider creating a calendar that is similar to the 22-23. Such as:</p> <p>Teacher workdays set prior/after the grading period</p> <p>Extension of winter break for mental health of all stakeholders (parents, teachers, students, district personnel, etc.)</p> <p>Consider the extra days allotted to extended year and restate schools - The staff at these schools really endure a lot mentally.</p> <p>Thank you</p>
190	<p>From: Burck, Allison S [mailto:burcka Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2023 9:41 AM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendars</p> <p>Good Morning,</p>

Thank you for taking feedback in regards to our district's upcoming calendars.

2023-2024 Calendar Options

- Both options include a Teacher Workday on September 25th. I think it would be more beneficial to teachers to move that workday to October. In September, we are still beginning our school year and are already out on Labor Day. October would be more beneficial because this is when many teachers across the district are expected to complete their fall conferences. A workday in October would allow a day for teachers to complete many of these rather than using planning periods and working well outside of school hours.
- It is also important to consider the amount of time given for winter break. In our 2022-2023 school year, we were allotted a mix of workdays, vacation days, and holidays to give us a total of 12 days. In the proposed calendars, we are getting out on Friday, December 22, which totals to 8 days. In our school we have many families who take vacations or travel to see family during the winter break, so I can anticipate that we will have many absences during that week. I would suggest moving our last day up to December 20th.
- I also think it's important to have workdays spread out, so I like the February workday in Option 2.

2024-2025 Calendar Options

- Prefer Option 1- Teachers do not need 8 days to prepare for the first day of school.
- Again, consider winter break.

2025-2026 Calendar Options

- Prefer Option 1- Teachers do not need 8 days to prepare for the first day of school.

Thank you in advance for taking my feedback into consideration when deciding what's best for our schools.

Sincerely,
Allison Burck

From: Katie Barrett Todd [mailto:revkbtodd@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2023 1:30 PM
To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com>
Cc: Katie Todd <revkbtodd@gmail.com>
Subject: Calendars

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January 31, 2023

To Dr. Oakley, and the Guilford County Board of Education,

I write to you today to express my concerns about the proposed school calendars for the upcoming three years that have been published for public input. I have no doubt that you have received several comments and based on what I have seen on social media, my guess is that most of them revolve around the proposed winter holiday breaks. I,

however, am writing to express concern about the proposed spring breaks for the next three academic years. I have waited until today to share my concerns as I wanted to do my due-diligence and confer with my colleagues of various religious traditions, so as not to speak out of turn. Please note that in preparation for my letter, I also consulted the interfaith holidays calendars published each year by religious life councils at two of our local universities, Guilford College, and the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Since moving here to Greensboro and enrolling our children in Guilford County Schools in 2017, I have noticed a trend for our district to hold spring break during Holy Week, which proves to be problematic for my household as we are a two-clergy household with two children in elementary school. It has only been in the most recent two school years (not counting our COVID year in 2020) that our children have had a spring break that fell after Holy Week and Easter Sunday. Upon my initial investigation and offering of my time to serve on a calendaring committee, I was informed by the staff-person responding to the boardclerk email address that the decisions are made to be inclusive of our Jewish students and staff, offering them a holiday for Passover, which has in the past fallen during Holy Week. I applaud and support these decisions.

It appears to me, however, that the same considerations are not being given to the proposed calendars for the next few years, and it makes me wonder if we could completely scrap the current spring break plans in favor of a spring break that falls after Easter each year (or at least most of the years). Especially given that Passover will not fall on the proposed spring break dates or Holy Week again until the spring of 2026, if the dates of Passover are as important to planning spring break dates as I've been led to believe they are. I also am aware that there is concern from the school board about giving families appropriate time to attend religious services, which could be seen as an argument for holding spring break during Holy Week to create that opportunity. However, I'd like to challenge that thought with a response that nearly every congregation has already taken into consideration our membership and visitors who are working adults and school-aged children when we plan the multitude of Holy Week services, offering these services in evening and early morning hours, as well as virtually, to fit into the schedules of families desiring to attend.

Now, in writing this letter, I realize that I am an anomaly, having two clergy in my household, but I also recognize that I am not an anomaly in Greensboro and in Guilford County Schools. In fact, I can name quite a few clergy and church leaders who have family members in or working at my children's school (for example) and are impacted by the proposed dates. While I am an anomaly, meaning that I will require additional expense for childcare during the weeks when spring break and holy weeks coincide, I also know that it is not myself or my spouse who suffers with this arrangement. Rather, it is our young children. Additionally, Guilford County Schools employs teachers, administrators, and staff who are in families with clergy, meaning their families are also affected.

It is my opinion that holding spring break during Holy Week is detrimental to the mental, physical, and familial health of the children (and staff) in clergy households. If the intent of spring break is to allow students a break from their schoolwork, then there is no detriment. However, if the intent of spring break is to allow students, teachers, administrators, and staff time to break with their families as much as possible, then the students, teachers, administrators, and staff who are related to a Christian clergy person

will be at a loss. These individuals will not be afforded this time because their clergy family members will not only be working but will unequivocally be unable to take any time off work. Holy Week is, after all, a week of our holiest days of the year. Our children will not only be unable to spend time with us, but we will not be able to spend time with them. Furthermore, it also means that the clergy parents and family of these children, teachers, administrators, and staff are unable to rest or break with our families following Holy Week, since we will have missed the week of break in the spring because of the school calendar's incompatibility with Holy Week. This, then, leads to another level of mental and physical health concerns within families. Spring break as it currently is proposed also continues to wear down the clergy-volunteers who regularly volunteer within so many of our district schools.

Let us also not forget that holding school or a mandated workday on the Monday after Easter is detrimental to our staff. This arrangement requires them to travel home, leave family or church gatherings early, etc. so they can be home in time to prepare for a workday the day after one of the two highest holy days in the Christian church. (The other day being Christmas, and you'll note that Guilford County Schools has decided to be off school on either side of Christmas for the winter holidays in all three calendars thus to allow for rest, travel, and vacation.)

It is my strongest urging that the board of Guilford County Schools consider moving the dates of spring break away from the dates which coincide with holy week for, at a minimum, the next two academic years. This includes the springs of 2024 and 2025. Ideally, and selfishly, I would love to include the spring of 2026 as well, but I do want to continue to be cognizant of and respectful to the holidays of my friends and colleagues in other faith traditions. I believe it is in the best interest and health of the students, teachers, administrators, and staff of Guilford County Schools to move spring break to the week following Easter in these upcoming years.

By moving spring break to the weeks of April 1-5, 2024, April 21-25, 2025, and April 6-10, 2026, the board is saying to the community in and around Guilford County Schools that your mental health, your rest and recovery, your connection time with your families, and your involvement in your religious celebrations to the fullest is a high priority to us as your school board. It says, essentially, "you matter" and "your health and wellbeing are important to us." It also says to the families who will be negatively impacted by the currently proposed calendars that you value our students being in schools to learn enough to realize that a week where they are unable to break with their families will mean another week taken at another time, which will most-likely pull these students out of school so that the family can be together.

I thank you for your time in seeking feedback from the community about the calendars. I appreciate the careful consideration you are giving to each person who has taken the time to give you the feedback you have requested. Thank you for your diligent work, and I look forward to seeing how future calendaring committees of the board work to be fully inclusive of all High Holy Days for the various religious traditions represented in Guilford County Schools.

Again, I want to offer my services to any future calendaring committees of the Guilford County School Board to be a resource. I am including my contact information below

	<p>should there be a desire to further engage in conversation or take me up on the offer of my time as a resource. I welcome further conversation.</p> <p>Peace,</p> <p>Rev. Katie Barrett Todd (<i>she/her/hers</i>) Executive Director & Campus Minister UKIRK Greensboro, a PC(USA) ministry to college students in Greensboro</p>
<p>192</p>	<p>From: Bowman, Angela C [mailto:bowmana@gcsnc.com] Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2023 4:59 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Subject: calendar feedback</p> <p>As a parent I do not like the short break at Christmas. It leaves little to no time to travel and spend time with family.</p> <p>My vote is for neither calendar.</p> <p>Angie Bowman</p>
<p>193</p>	<p>From: Warren, Tranista S [mailto:warrent5@gcsnc.com] Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2023 6:40 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Cc: Warren, Tranista S <warrent5@gcsnc.com> Subject: Calendar agenda</p> <p>Happy evening, I looked over the calendar's for 23-24 school year. I really feel that the calendars are not really allowing our educators that mental break they need during the holidays and breaks. As an educator I work really hard to ensure my students get what they need to be successful and juggling the trainings, and documentation, and personal family life as well. It is a lot during the year. Thanks, T. Warren</p>
<p>194</p>	<p>From: Jeff Elliott [mailto:JElliott@ncsportshalloffame.org] Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2023 7:02 PM To: GCS Board Clerk <boardclerk@gcsnc.com> Cc: Tyler Key <tylermkey@yahoo.com>; Brett Weathersbee <brett@weathersbee.com> Subject: Calendars</p> <p>January 31, 2023</p> <p>For the past 46 years, the Greensboro Sports Council has hosted a basketball tournament, which is currently known as The HAECO Invitational. This event has included boys and girls teams from Guilford County Schools as participants. Our most recent tournament in December, 2022, was played at the Greensboro Coliseum Complex from December 20-22 and included 6 public schools and 2 private schools.</p> <p>For many years, this Invitational has resulted in over \$10,000 being awarded to each of the participating high schools and we anticipate this amount continuing in the</p>

future. In addition, scholarships are awarded to deserving high school student-athletes based on both academic and athletic achievements. The checks presented to each institution go to the school and not to the athletic department, thus, allowing the funds to be disbursed at the discretion of the administration.

The recent proposed changes to the public school calendar may conflict with the Sports Council conducting the HAECO Tournament the week prior to Christmas. The schedule for the next four years at the Greensboro Coliseum Complex dictates this as the time period available for our organization to host the tournament. The move to pre-Christmas dates in 2022 was made with the school calendar provided by Guilford County schools and at the suggestion of the participating high school coaches.

We would appreciate consideration from the Guilford County School Board in reviewing our request to continue with this prestigious event on the dates of December 19-21, 2023. Dates outside of these might result in our inability to continue the Tournament and, consequently, cause the loss of prestige and financial resources for participating schools that they now enjoy.

The Sports Council is extremely supportive of the efforts of the Guilford County School Board in implementing measures to improve education in our community. Our hope is to help facilitate this goal by continuing to host our long-standing basketball tournament which benefits the Greensboro community and the local high schools in a number of ways, including financial.

Sincerely,

Greensboro Sports Council

Jeff Elliott
Tyler Key Brett Weathersbee
President
President-elect Past President