Board of Education Calendar Decision

November 23, 2026

HCPS 2027-2028 Calendar Development

- Community Listening Session
- Board of Education Work Session
- Calendar Survey
- Board vote on the 2027-2028 HCPS Calendar

Community Listening Session Themes

- Start prior to Labor Day
  - Establish a consistent start date
  - Earlier end to the school year
  - More instructional time prior to assessments
- Provide consistency in calendar development from year to year
- Shorter Spring Break to end the year earlier
- Protect teacher planning time
  - Including through use of early dismissals

BOE Work Session Discussions

- Preserve consistency in calendar development from year to year
- Observe Veteran's Day as a school and office closure
- Prioritizing 5-day school weeks
- Start date
- Length of Spring Break
- Adding a calendar survey for additional stakeholder input

What we heard from the calendar survey

A high-level view of 875 community responses

≈900

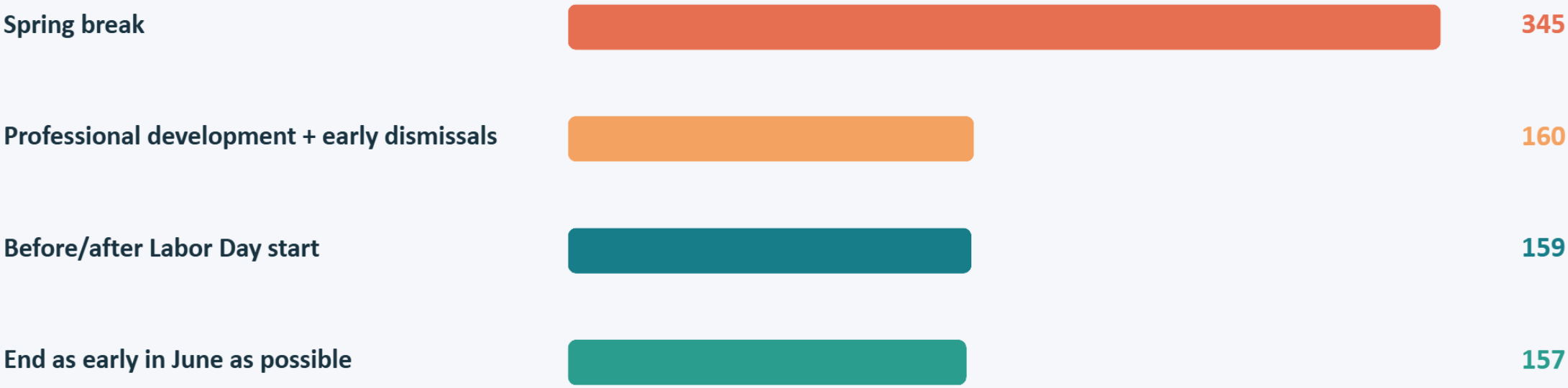
responses received

≈200

liked the calendar “as is”

Top discussion items

Respondents often discussed more than one topic, so theme counts overlap.



The strongest discussion centered on spring break. Start and end dates were often treated as a tradeoff: many respondents accepted an August start when it meant an earlier June dismissal.

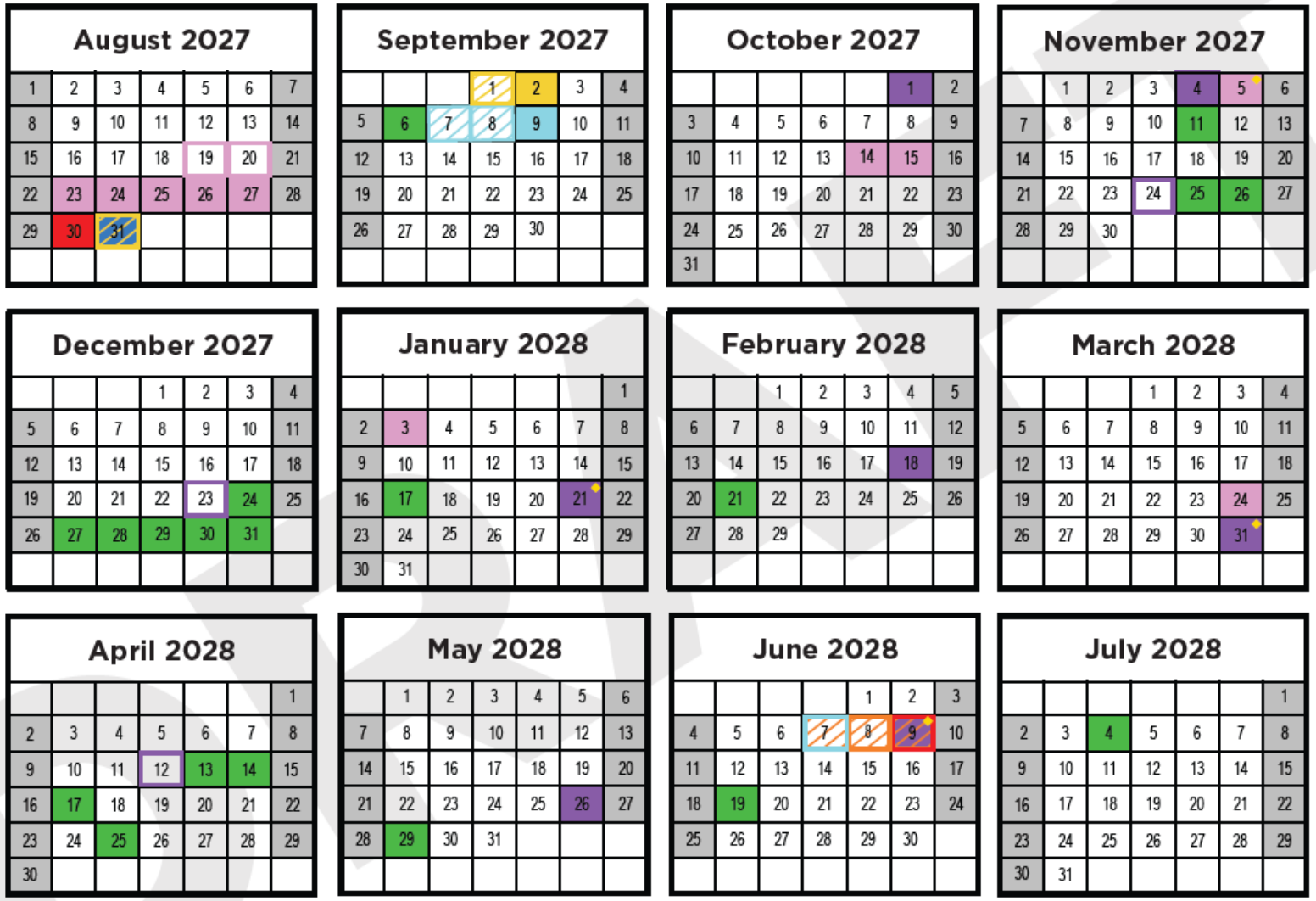
2027-2028 HCPS Calendar

- **Logistics**
  - Provide consistency
    - Start date
    - Continuity
    - Spring Break
    - COMAR
    - Negotiated Agreements
- **Instructional Integrity**
  - Gradual entry days
  - Early dismissals
  - Inclement weather policy

HARFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2027-2028 COLOR CODED CALENDAR

Quarters
1st: Aug. 30 - Nov. 4 = 46 days
2nd: Nov. 8 - Jan. 21 = 44 days
3rd: Jan. 24 - Mar. 31 = 48 days
4th: Apr. 3 - Jun. 9 = 45 days



- First Day of School (Grades 1-6, and 9)
- First Day of School (Grades 7-8, and 10-12)
- Last Day of School (K-11)
- Gradual Entrance (K) — Half-day for Kindergarten students
- First Day of School (K) — Full day for Kindergarten students
- Gradual Entrance (PreK) — Half-day for PreK students
- First Day of School (PreK) — Full day for PreK students
- Last Day of School (PreK)
- 3-hour Early Dismissal (ALL schools close early for students)
- 3-hour Early Dismissal (Schools AND Offices)
- Scheduled Closings (Schools AND Offices)
- Professional Development (Schools closed for students)
- New Teacher Professional Development
- Inclement Weather Make-Up
- Weekend