

FAQs FOR WTU MEMBERS REGARDING EXTENDED YEAR

Why is DCPS instituting Extended Year?

DCPS is instituting Extended Year to achieve a more balanced academic calendar that minimizes learning loss that results from lengthy instructional breaks, allows time for intensive intersessions for students in need of additional instructional time, and facilitates ease of planning for families with alternative scheduling needs.

Aside from adding instructional days to the calendar, how else will DCPS support student achievement at Extended Year schools?

Extended Year will not be instituted in isolation, but will be part of a three-prong strategy to increase outcomes for students. Teachers at Extended Year schools will take part in enhanced professional development through DCPS' new approach to professional learning called LEAP (LEarning together to Advance our Practice). Extended Year schools will also become Family Engagement Partnership schools. Teachers will be trained on the best practices for family engagement so that the critical link between home and school flourishes in these schools. Expectations for the first year include 50% of families receiving a home visit, continual sharing of student progress through improved parent-teacher conferences and monthly individualized academic information. More information on LEAP and Family Engagement at Extended Year schools will be shared in the coming weeks.

Which schools have been selected for Extended Year?

Garfield Elementary School, H.D. Cooke Elementary School, Hart Middle School, Hendley Elementary School, Johnson Middle School, Kelly Miller Middle School, King Elementary School, Randle Highlands Elementary School, Raymond Education Campus, Thomas Elementary School, and Turner Elementary School.

Why were these schools selected for Extended Year?

Schools were selected for Extended Year based on a combination of factors, including their record of academic achievement, community interest in Extended Year, and a desire to align the calendars of elementary and middle schools in the same feeder groups.

How many instructional days will there be during the 2016-2017 school year?

The upcoming year will consist of up to 205 instructional days, inclusive of a subset of days for students who will receive additional support via eight specialized instructional days known as "intersession" days.

What are intersession days and how will they be used?

Intersessions are periods of intensive individualized and/or small group instruction geared towards students in need of additional support, during out-of-school breaks. While student participation is not mandatory, it is strongly encouraged and advised.

One of the greatest benefits of extending the school year is our ability to provide intersession days for students who may benefit from additional instruction. The Extended Year sites will have two student

breaks after the normal winter and spring break periods. During these additional breaks (i.e., intersession periods), students who have a significant need for additional academic support will attend school and receive specialized instructional support, and other students will remain on vacation.

All WTU members will be asked to work during at least one of the intersession periods. Intersession assignments will vary depending upon the number of staff members needed as a result of the student need.

During the 2016-2017 school year, what will be the first and last days of school for students?

The first day of school for students will be August 8, 2016. The last day of school for students will be July 13, 2017.

During the 2016-2017 school year, what will be the first and last days of work for WTU members?

The first day of work for WTU members will be August 1, 2016. The last day of work for WTU members will be July 13, 2017.

How will my pay be affected by Extended Year?

All WTU members at Extended Year schools will become 12-month employees beginning in the 2016-2017 school year, and will be compensated on the 12-month pay scale. Your annual salary will be provided to you in an offer letter during the week of March 14, 2016.

How many days will I be required to report to work given Extended Year?

In keeping with WTU guidelines for 12-month employees, WTU members at Extended Year schools will be required to work no more than 228 days next school year.

What will be the tour of duty for WTU members at Extended Year schools?

WTU members at Extended Year schools will work the traditional 7.5 hour tour of duty.

How will my sick leave and general leave entitlements be affected by Extended Year?

Pursuant to Article 17 of the WTU contract, your sick leave entitlement will increase to 15 days of sick leave a year. Four of those days may be used for general leave.

If I do not want to work at my school once Extended Year has been instituted, what should I do?

Although we hope you will choose to take part in Extended Year, if you do not wish to do so, you should decline the offer of employment to a 12-month position. ***Please note failure to respond to the offer by the deadline indicated in the offer letter will be considered a rejection of the offer.***

In addition, if you are not interested in working at any DCPS school during the upcoming school year, please be certain to submit your Declaration of Intent to Not Return (DINR) form by April 1, 2016, to ensure you are able to receive a \$1,000 bonus.

How long will I have to respond to the offer?

You will have until March 25, 2016 to respond to the offer.

What happens if I decline the offer?

WTU members who decline the 12-month offer will receive an excessing notice on April 11, 2016, pursuant to Article 4 of the WTU contract. Employees should then make a good faith effort to locate a position elsewhere in DCPS. A WTU member who is unable to secure another position at DCPS will be afforded excessing options, if they are eligible for such options. The eligibility rules for excessing options can be found in Article 4 of the WTU contract. WTU members who are not able to secure positions at other DCPS schools, and who are not eligible for options, will be separated from employment with DCPS.

Where should I direct any questions I may have?

Please feel free to email us at extendedyear@dc.gov with any questions. Thank you for your continued dedication to our children. We sincerely hope you will choose to take part in Extended Year and look forward to working with you to produce outstanding outcomes for our students.