



# Notebook

February 2023



## KEY DATES

### CALENDAR NOTE:

*Just a reminder that school will be in session on Presidents Day, Monday, February 20, to make up for instructional time lost to Hurricane Ian.*

### School Board Meeting

February 7, 6 p.m.  
Board Meeting Room

### School Board Workshop

February 8, 10 a.m.  
Board Meeting Room

### Deadline for Magnet Program Applications

February 14, 4 p.m.

### Interim Reports in Family Access

February 16

### School Board Meeting

February 21, 6 p.m.  
Board Meeting Room

More information at [www.sbac.edu](http://www.sbac.edu)

## Free Wi-Fi now available on buses

Alachua County Public School students who ride a district bus will now have access to free Wi-Fi while on board.

Through the federal Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF), which was established to expand Internet access for students, the district was able to equip all 125 buses in regular operation with a Wi-Fi connection.

Students will be able to access the Internet through a district network, which includes filters for inappropriate websites and social media.

Students can connect through the network labeled ACPS-Bus. The password is School-Bus and is case-sensitive.

The connection on buses will be active at least through September, including during the summer. There is also a possibility the funding will be extended beyond that time.

Students must follow the same rules for technology use that are in effect at school and school-related activities. Those rules can be found in the district's Code of Student Conduct, which is posted at [www.sbac.edu/conductcode](http://www.sbac.edu/conductcode).

The ECF also funded the free internet-connected laptops the district has been distributing to ACPS families throughout this school year. Families can still request one by contacting their child's school. If that school does not have any devices left, ACPS families can send an email to [ecfsupport@gm.sbac.edu](mailto:ecfsupport@gm.sbac.edu) to request one.



## Draft calendar for 2023-24 school year now available

A draft calendar for the 2023-24 school year is now available on the district's website at [www.sbac.edu/calendars](http://www.sbac.edu/calendars). It is scheduled to be approved by the School Board during its regular meeting on February 7 at 6 p.m.

Under the draft calendar, the first day for students would be August 10 and the last day May 31. Spring Break in 2024 would run from March 11—15. Unlike this year, it would not align with the University of Florida's Spring Break, which has been scheduled for a week earlier than this year.

Flex days have again been built into the calendar as potential make up days for instructional time lost to severe weather or other emergencies. During the current school year, three days had to be made up due to Hurricane Ian and Tropical Storm Nicole.

## Deadline to apply for magnet programs is February 14



Families still have time to apply for their child to attend one of the district's academic or career tech magnet programs. Applications must be submitted by 4 p.m. on February 14.

The online application is available at [www.sbac.edu/magnet](http://www.sbac.edu/magnet) and can be completed on a cell phone. For more information or help completing an application, parents can email [alachuamagnets@gm.sbac.edu](mailto:alachuamagnets@gm.sbac.edu) or call (352) 955-7622.

Families will be notified through email about their child's application status in early April.

School buses are assigned to transport students to and from magnet programs, but due to the current bus driver shortage, the district cannot guarantee that a bus will be available or on time on every route. Special consideration will be given to the transportation of students at the Professional Academies Magnet@Loften High School, which is entirely a school of choice with no attendance zone. Parents are asked to consider this information as they complete a magnet application.

## Parents can apply for college savings plans now through April 30

Parents can now enroll their child in a Florida Prepaid College Savings Plan and save money on college tuition and fees. The deadline to apply is April 30.

Prepaid plans are a risk-free, stress-free way to save for college, allowing families to lock in lower tuition costs and earn \$125 for each year of tuition purchased with a plan that fits their budget.

To learn more and enroll, visit <https://bit.ly/3Hs4jQs>.

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