



# Notebook

November 2023



## KEY DATES

November 7, 6 p.m.  
School Board meeting  
District Office

November 8, 1 p.m.  
School Board workshop  
District Office

November 10  
Holiday-Veteran's Day  
(Schools closed)

November 14, 6 p.m.  
Public Hearing on Rezoning  
District Office

November 16, 6-8 p.m.  
High School Magnet Showcase  
Eastside High School

November 20-21  
Student/Teacher Holidays  
(Schools closed)

November 22-24  
Holidays-Thanksgiving  
(Schools closed)

November 28, noon  
Interim Reports Available in  
Family Access

December 5, 6 p.m.  
School Board meeting  
District Office

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

## District issues new December school calendar; schools will now be closed Friday, Dec. 22

Alachua County Public Schools has revised its plans for making up the two school days lost to Hurricane Idalia in August.

Originally the district planned to use both Thursday, December 21 and Friday, December 22 as make up days. Both were listed as 'flex days' in the 2023-24 school year calendar distributed in February.

However, the district has revised that plan. Under the new December school calendar:

- **Wednesday, December 20 will now be a full school day for elementary schools (as well as middle and high schools), with no early release.**
- **Thursday, December 21 will be a regular school day for all schools.**
- **Friday, December 22 will be a student/teacher holiday and schools will be closed.**

The revised school year calendar is available at [www.sbac.edu/calendars](http://www.sbac.edu/calendars).

Notification about the make up days was sent to families through email and phone and through text for those families that have opted in to the text messaging system. To opt in, parents/guardians can text 'Y' or 'YES' to 67587 using a cell phone on file with their child's school.

*Alachua County Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, age, disability (Section 504/ACA), sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, genetics or legally-protected characteristics in its educational programs, services or activities, or in its hiring or employment practices. The district also provides equal access to its facilities to the Boy Scouts and other patriotic youth groups, as required by the Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act.*

*The School Board designates the following individuals to serve as the district's 'compliance officers' (also known as the Civil Rights Coordinators), who shall also serve as the district's Section 504 Compliance Officers/ADA Coordinators and Title IX coordinators.*

*Questions, complaints or requests for additional information regarding discrimination or harassment may be sent to: Alisha Williams, 352-955-7713, [williamsar@gm.sbac.edu](mailto:williamsar@gm.sbac.edu) (for employees); Kimberly Joy, 352-955-7676, ext. 1670, [joykm@gm.sbac.edu](mailto:joykm@gm.sbac.edu) (for students).*

## Transportation changes take effect January 16, 2024

Because of the ongoing shortage of bus drivers and the impact of that shortage on bus schedules and school attendance, the district is making changes to its bus transportation system. The goals are to significantly reduce the number of late and non-arriving buses and use public funds more effectively.

Under the new system, 'courtesy' buses for all students except those attending the highest needs elementary schools will be eliminated beginning January 16 of 2024. Courtesy buses are those provided to students who live within two miles of their zoned school and are not part of the Exceptional Student Education (ESE) program.

The district is also revising the current system for transporting students who attend magnet and other choice programs not located at their zoned school. The current system of 'hub' stops for those students will be updated to increase efficiency and reduce the number of buses needed to transport magnet/choice students. Those changes will also take effect January 16.

Information has been sent to the families of magnet/choice and courtesy busing students. More detailed information on new magnet stop locations is already available at [www.sbac.edu/magnetbusing](http://www.sbac.edu/magnetbusing). New times and route numbers will be posted on that site on December 1. Information on changes to courtesy busing is available at [www.sbac.edu/courtesybusing](http://www.sbac.edu/courtesybusing).



## Proposed rezoning maps for elementary schools revised

In response to public input and other factors, the proposed maps for the rezoning of the district's elementary schools have been revised. No new revisions have been made to middle or high school maps, although that could change before the School Board votes on a comprehensive rezoning plan for all schools in early December.

All current proposed maps are posted on the district's website at [www.sbac.edu/rezoning](http://www.sbac.edu/rezoning). That site also includes charts showing the potential impact of the maps on the student population at each school, answers to frequently asked questions about rezoning and other information.

A public hearing on rezoning has been scheduled for November 14 at 6 p.m. at the District Office (620 E. University Ave.). The School Board is scheduled to vote on the comprehensive rezoning plan during its regular meeting on December 5 at 6 p.m. The new plan would take effect in the fall of 2024.

A promotional poster for a "High School Magnet Showcase" event. The poster features a yellow and blue color scheme with a circular photo of five diverse middle school students. The text on the poster includes:

- Alachua County Public Schools logo in the top right corner.
- Headline: "High School Magnet Showcase"
- Target audience: "ATTENTION 8th Graders!"
- Event details: "THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16 6:00-8:00 PM AT EASTSIDE HIGH SCHOOL"
- Call to action: "LEARN ABOUT ALL 18 MAGNET PROGRAMS!"
- Additional info: "VISIT PROGRAM REPRESENTATIVES ANY TIME BETWEEN 6:00 AND 8:00 PM"
- Event focus: "CAREER AND ACADEMIC MAGNETS IN ONE PLACE FOR ONE NIGHT!"
- Contact information: "Contact 352-955-7622 or 352-955-6847"