


TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Carey M. Wright, Ed.D., State Superintendent of Schools 

DATE: February 25, 2025

SUBJECT: Request from Somerset County Public Schools for a Calendar Modification

Purpose

To consider the request to waive one day of student attendance for Somerset County Public Schools for the 2024-2025 school year. Somerset County Public Schools requests to end the school year on Friday, June 20, 2025, after 179 days instead of Monday, June 23, 2025.

Background

Education Article §7-103 requires that schools be open for student attendance for 180 days. The State Board of Education has the authority to adjust the length of the school year by granting waivers of the 180-day requirement. Such adjustments may be granted if normal school attendance is prevented due to a natural disaster, civil disaster, or severe weather conditions.

The conditions for granting a waiver of the 180-day school year requirement are specified in Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 13A.02.01.04 and include the following:

1. The local education agency has demonstrated that they have made sufficient effort in providing instruction through calendar planning and modifications; and
2. Natural disasters, civil disasters, or severe weather conditions are sufficiently significant to warrant a waiver of days.

The conditions required for a waiver application are specified in COMAR 13A.02.01.04 (C) and include the following:

3. The local education agency developed a calendar which included days to be used to make-up days lost. Depending upon past experience, this number could range from three to ten days; and
4. The local education agency has modified its calendar by scheduling school on make-up days provided in the original calendar and by extending the school year three days beyond the previously scheduled closing date.

In considering applications for waivers, the State Board of Education may waive the final day needed to complete the 180-day schedule if that day falls on a Monday (COMAR 13A.02.01.04D(2)(a)).

Executive Summary

Somerset County Public Schools were closed on September 23 through September 24, 2024, and January 6 through January 10, 2025, due to inclement weather. Somerset County Public Schools have identified three (3) inclement weather recovery days in its 2024-2025 School Calendar and extended the school year, three (3) days beyond the previously scheduled closing date. Accordingly, the last day of the 180-day instructional requirement will be on Monday, June 23, 2025. Consistent with COMAR 13A.02.01.04D(2)(a), the one-day waiver will allow school to end on Friday, June 20, 2025.

Action

Request that the Maryland State Board of Education approve the request to waive one day of the 180-day instructional requirement for Somerset County Public Schools ending the 2024-2025 school year on Friday, June 20, 2025, at 179 days consistent with COMAR 13A.02.01.04D(2)(a).

Attachments

Waiver Request from Somerset County Public Schools

Somerset County Public Schools

Dr. Ava Tasker-Mitchell
Superintendent of Schools

Tracie Bartemy
Director of Schools



Board Members
Matthew Lankford, Chairman
Andrew Gleason, Vice Chairman
Mary Beth Bozman
Allen C. Ford
William McInturff

Second Submission

January 24, 2025

Carey M. Wright, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Schools
Maryland State Department of Education
200 West Baltimore Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Dear Dr. Wright:

On behalf of Somerset County Public Schools, I am writing to respectfully request a waiver of the 180-day instructional requirement for the 2024-2025 school year. Specifically, we seek approval to waive one instructional day that would otherwise extend our school year June 23, 2025.

Our school system experienced significant challenges this year, including flooding in late September and a snowstorm during the first week of January. These events necessitated seven inclement weather closures, exceeding the three designated make-up days built into our calendar. As a result, we added an additional three make-up days beyond the required three, bringing our total instructional days to 179.

Granting this waiver would allow Somerset County Public Schools to conclude the academic year after the Juneteenth Holiday, on June 20, 2025. This adjustment will minimize disruptions for families and staff while ensuring that we continue to provide a high-quality educational experience for our students.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Should you require additional information or documentation to support our waiver application, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ava Tasker-Mitchell". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Ava Tasker-Mitchell, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

cc: Board of Education Members

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