


TO: Members of the State Board of Education

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

DATE: March 25, 2025

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

Purpose

To consider the request to waive one day of student attendance for Carroll County Public Schools for the 2024-2025 school year. Carroll County Public Schools requests to end the school year on Friday, June 13, 2025, after 179 days instead of Monday, June 16, 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:

1. 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
2. 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

Carroll County Public Schools were closed on January 6, 2025, January 7, 2025, February 6, 2025, and February 12, 2025, due to inclement weather. Carroll County Public Schools have identified June 11, 2025, June 12, 2025, and June 13, 2025, as inclement weather recovery days in its 2024-2025 School Calendar. Accordingly, the last day of the 180-day instructional requirement will be on Monday, June 16, 2025. Consistent with COMAR 13A.02.01.04D(2)(a), the one-day waiver will allow the school year to end on Friday, June 13, 2025.

Action

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

Attachments

Waiver Request from Carroll County Public Schools



Carroll County Public Schools

125 N. Court Street | Westminster, MD 21157

410-751-3000
410-751-3034 TTY
410-751-3003 FAX

Building the Future
Cynthia McCabe, Ed.D.
Superintendent

March 14, 2025

Dr. Carey Wright
State Superintendent of Schools
Maryland State Department of Education
200 West Baltimore Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Dear Dr. Wright:

The Board of Education of Carroll County is requesting a waiver of one (1) student day for the 2024-25 school year. Due to the inclement weather conditions this winter, CCPS was closed four (4) days during the 2024-25 school year. Through the use of emergency days built into the calendar, we are able to make up three (3) of those days. In addition, with these calendar adjustments, Carroll County Public Schools will be in compliance with the total hour requirement for elementary, middle, and high school students.

If the waiver is granted, our last student day will be rescheduled for Friday, June 13, 2025. Without the waiver, our last student day would be Monday, June 16, 2025. Extending the student school year to the following Monday creates a series of hardships. Several system professional development trainings are slated for that week. Many teachers are scheduled to begin summer graduate coursework during that same week. In addition, our extended school year programs as well as the sequencing of summer facilities projects would benefit from beginning that Monday. Finally, our school communities may have planned summer family obligations that might be impacted.

On behalf of the Board of Education of Carroll County, and in accordance with COMAR 13A.02.01.04 D(2)(a), Annotated Code of Maryland, I respectfully request that you grant a one (1) day waiver from the 180-day school requirement for the students of Carroll County Public Schools.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please contact me at 410-751-3138 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. McCabe', is written over a thin, light-colored line that extends from the signature towards the right side of the page.

Cynthia A. McCabe, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

c: File