


**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 Cecil County Public Schools for a Calendar Modification

### Purpose

To consider the request to waive one day of student attendance for Cecil County Public Schools for the 2024-2025 school year. Cecil 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**

Cecil County Public Schools were closed on January 6, 2025, January 7, 2025, and February 12, 2025, due to inclement weather. Cecil County Public Schools have identified April 22, 2025, May 23, 2025, and June 16, 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 Cecil 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 Cecil County Public Schools



Serving Learners, Families, and the Community

# CECIL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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Jeffrey A. Lawson, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

Diana B. Hawley  
President, Board of Education

March 12, 2025

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

Dear Dr. Wright,

On behalf of the Cecil County Board of Education, I formally request a waiver for one school day on **Monday, June 16, 2025**. As outlined below, our efforts to recover instructional time lost to winter weather have resulted in Monday, June 16, 2025, becoming our 180th school day. Pursuant to COMAR 13A.02.01.04(D)(2)(a), which states: (2) In considering this application, the State Board of Education may waive: (a) "The final day needed to complete the 180-day schedule if that day falls on a Monday." Given these circumstances, our request aligns with the waiver criteria.

Cecil County Public Schools (CCPS) has closed for three days this school year. On January 6 and 7, the Governor declared a State of Emergency due to several inches of snow, high winds, icy road conditions, and single-digit temperatures, which caused CCPS to close school these days. Additionally, due to inclement weather, schools were closed on February 12, 2025. CCPS incorporated five make-up days into the original school calendar: April 22, May 23, June 16, June 17, and June 18. We will utilize two of these days in the coming weeks as illustrated below:

Date	Status	Make-up
January 6, 2025	Closed	Tuesday, April 22, 2025
January 7, 2025	Closed	Friday, May 23, 2025
February 12, 2025	Closed	Monday, June 16, 2025

The waiver of Monday, June 16, 2025, will minimize disruptions for families and staff while ensuring we continue providing a high-quality educational experience for our students. Thank you for considering this request. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require additional information or documentation to support our waiver application.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey A. Lawson, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools