


TO: Members of the State Board of Education

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

DATE: May 29, 2025

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

Purpose

To consider the request to waive two days of student attendance for Allegany County Public Schools for the 2024-2025 school year. Allegany County Public Schools requests to end the school year on Tuesday, June 10, 2025, after 178 days instead of Thursday, June 12, 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

Allegany County Public Schools were closed on December 5, January 6, 2025, January 7, 2025, May 14, 2025, and May 15, 2025, due to inclement weather. Allegany County Public Schools have identified June 6, 2025, June 9, 2025, and June 10, 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 Thursday, June 12, 2025. The May 14, 2025, and May 15, 2025, closures was due to catastrophic flooding that resulted in Emergency Services and First Responders performing water rescue for students and staff in the surrounding schools.

Action

Request that the Maryland State Board of Education approve the request to waive two days of the 180-day instructional requirement for Allegany County Public Schools ending the 2024-2025 school year on Tuesday, June 10, 2025, at 178 days consistent with COMAR 13A.02.01.04.

Attachments

Waiver Request from Allegany County Public Schools



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Members of the Board of Education

Crystal M. Bender, President
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David A. Bohn, DC
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Linda M. Widmyer

Superintendent of Schools

Jeffrey S. Blank

May 19, 2025

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

Dear Dr. Wright and Members of the State Board:

On behalf of Allegany County Public Schools, and in accordance with Education Article §7-103, annotated code of Maryland, I respectfully request to submit a waiver for two (2) days that the county sustained catastrophic flooding. The severe flooding caused all schools to be closed Wednesday, May 14, 2025 and Thursday, May 15, 2025.

Governor Moore came to Allegany County on Thursday, May 15, 2025 and declared a State of Emergency. This severe weather/flooding hasn't happened to the county since 1996. Emergency Services and other First Responders performed a water rescue for some of our students and staff in the surrounding schools.

The 24-25 school year was to end on June 5, but due to inclement weather, the county has already extended the calendar with the three built-in inclement weather days. This moved the end date to June 10, 2025.

On behalf of the Allegany County Board of Education, I respectfully request that the State Board of Education grant Allegany County Public Schools a waiver for the two (2) dates listed above consistent with COMAR regulation 13A.02.01.04.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeffrey S. Blank".

Mr. Jeffrey S. Blank, Superintendent
Allegany County Public Schools