


**TO:** Members of the State Board of Education

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

**DATE:** March 26, 2024

**SUBJECT:** Request from St. Mary's County Public Schools for a Calendar Modification

### **Purpose**

To consider the request to waive one day of student attendance for St. Mary's County Public Schools for the 2023-2024 school year. St. Mary's County Public Schools requests to end the school year on Friday, June 7, 2024, after 179 days instead of Monday, June 10, 2024.

### **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**

St. Mary's County Public Schools has five (5) inclement weather days built into their 2023-2024 school calendar, with three (3) days identified at the end of the calendar (June 11, 12, and 13, 2024). St. Mary's County Public Schools has not used any inclement weather days. Accordingly, the last day of the 180-day instructional requirement will be on Monday, June 10, 2024. Consistent with COMAR 13A.02.01.04D(2)(a), the one-day waiver will allow school to end on Friday, June 7, 2024.

### **Action**

Request that the Maryland State Board of Education approve the request to waive one day of the 180-day instructional requirement for St. Mary's County Public Schools ending the 2023-2024 school year on Friday, June 7, 2024, at 179 days consistent with COMAR 13A.02.01.04D(2)(a).

### **Attachments**

Waiver Request from St. Mary's County Public Schools.



**St. Mary's County Public Schools**  
**Central Administration**  
Office of the Superintendent  
23160 Moakley Street, Suite 109  
Leonardtown, Maryland 20650

**Dr. J. Scott Smith**  
Superintendent

Phone: 301-475-5511 ext. 32178; Fax: 301-475-4270

March 18, 2024

Dr. Carey Wright  
Interim State Superintendent of Schools  
Maryland State Department of Education  
200 West Baltimore Street,  
Baltimore, MD 21201-2595

Dear Dr. Wright:

On behalf of the Board of Education of St. Mary's County, and in accordance with Education Article §7-103, Annotated Code of Maryland, I respectfully request a waiver for St. Mary's County Public Schools (SMCPS) to adjust the length of the 2023-2024 school year by one day.

St. Mary's County Public Schools (SMCPS) has five inclement weather days built into the school year operational calendar, with three days built into the end of the calendar (June 11, 12, 13, 2024) and two other holidays identified as possible make-up days (February 19, 2024, and April 1, 2024). Historically, SMCPS has utilized an average of 3.9 school closure days for inclement weather. To date, SMCPS has not used any inclement weather days. Based on our current forecasts and the fact that we do not expect to use inclement weather days, the last day for students would be Monday, June 10, 2024. COMAR 13a.02.01.04 allows for a requested waiver of the 180-day requirement when the final day needed to complete the 180-day schedule falls on a Monday. Therefore, we request this waiver, and if approved, the final day for students will be Friday, June 7, 2024.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please contact me at 301-475-5511, ext. 32178, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

J. Scott Smith, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

Attachment

cc: Board of Education of St. Mary's County