

To consider a local school system request for a waiver of the 180-day school year requirement

Annotated Code of Maryland Education Article

- Section 7-103(a) requires that schools be open for pupil attendance for at least 180 actual school days and a minimum of 1,080 school hours in a 10-month period;
- Section 7-103(b) provides the State Board the authority to make adjustments to the length of the school year. Such adjustments may be granted if normal school attendance is prevented due to natural disaster, civil disaster, or severe weather conditions;
- Section 7-103(b)(4) provides the State Board with the authority to open schools on holidays.

Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR)

Public Schools

- COMAR 13A.03.02.12(A) provides that Maryland public high schools shall be open for at least 180 days and minimum of 1,170 school hours during a 10-month period in each school year;
- COMAR 13A.02.01.04(C) provides the provisions for waivers, including that school systems develop a calendar that includes between 3 to 10 days to be used to make up days lost;
- COMAR 13A.02.01.04(C)(2)(a) provides that the State Board of Education may waive the final day needed to complete the 180-day schedule if that day falls on a Monday.

Non-Public Schools

- COMAR 13A.09.09.10(B)(2) and (4) provides that schools shall be open 170 days and the school calendar shall include 3 to 5 additional school days for inclement weather or emergencies. There is no waiver provision for these schools. (Privately Funded)
- COMAR 13A.09.10.14(B)(3-5) provides that schools shall be open for 180 days, 1,080 hours for elementary programs and 1,170 hours for secondary programs. There is a waiver provision for these schools. (Publically Funded/Special Education Programs)

Declaration of a State of Emergency (Executive Order 01.01.2016.01)

- Governor Hogan declared a State of Emergency on January 22, 2016;
- The Declaration, in part, was to waive certain regulations to facilitate emergency response and restoration activities, to activate certain emergency contracts and to facilitate the deployment of requisite resources. The use of resources of the Maryland National Guard may be required and an Executive Order to implement the emergency powers of the Governor is a prerequisite for potential federal emergency and disaster assistance.