




Mohammed Choudhury
State Superintendent of Schools

TO: Members of the State Board of Education
FROM: Mohammed Choudhury, State Superintendent of Schools 
DATE: March 28, 2023
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 2022-2023 school year. St. Mary's County Public Schools is requesting to end the school year on Friday, June 9, 2023, after 179 days instead of on Monday, June 12, 2023.

Background/Historical Perspective

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

St. Mary's County Public Schools has five inclement weather days built into their calendar for the 2022-2023 school year. Three days are built into the end of the calendar (June 13, 14, and 15, 2023) and two are holidays identified as possible make up days (February 20, 2023, and April 10, 2023). To date, 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 12, 2023. Consistent with COMAR 13A.02.01.04D(2)(a), the one-day waiver will allow school to end on Friday, June 9, 2023.

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 2022-2023 school year on Friday, June 9, 2023, 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

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

Dr. J. Scott Smith
Superintendent

March 8, 2023

Mr. Mohammed Choudhury
State Superintendent of Schools
Maryland State Department of Education
200 West Baltimore Street,
Baltimore, MD 21201-2595

Dear Mr. Choudhury:

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 2022-2023 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 13, 14, 15, 2023), and two other holidays identified as possible make up days (February 20, 2023, and April 10, 2023). 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 any inclement weather days, the last day for students would be Monday, June 12, 2023. 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 9, 2023.

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

St. Mary's County Public Schools
System Operational Calendar 2022-2023

Approved 02-09-2022

Boxed days indicate students are not in school.
 Circled days indicate early dismissal.

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<p style="text-align: center;">June 2023</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td> </tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		<p>June 1</p> <p>June 2.....</p> <p>June 14.....</p> <p>June 15</p> <p>June 16</p> <p>June 19</p> <p>June 20</p> <p>June 20</p> <p>June 30.....</p>	<p>Commencement – Chopticon High School</p> <p>Commencement – Leonardtown High School</p> <p>Last Day for Head Start and PreKindergarten Students</p> <p>Two Hour Early Dismissal - No School for Head Start and PreKindergarten Students - Last Day for Students Grades K-12 - End of 4th Marking Period (47 days) and 2nd Semester (90 days) - Professional Responsibilities (including 3 inclement weather make-up days)</p> <p>Professional Day/Professional Responsibilities for Teachers</p> <p>Holiday – Juneteenth Day - Schools and Offices Closed</p> <p>Professional Day/Professional Responsibilities for Teachers</p> <p>Last Day for Teachers - Professional Responsibilities</p> <p>Last Day for 11-Month Employees (including 3 inclement weather make-up days)</p>							
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Calendar Notes

Appropriate Exercises

Appropriate exercises will be held in the schools for the following days: Patriot Day; Constitution Day; Washington’s Birthday; Lincoln’s Birthday; Veterans Day; Columbus Day; Martin Luther King, Jr.’s Birthday; Arbor Day; Flag Day; and any other day of national significance.

Extended School Year Services

Pursuant to Education Article 8-402, Annotated Code of Maryland, extended school year services will be provided to students with disabilities who are determined through the Individualized Education Program process to need specific special education services beyond the 180 school days.

Inclement Weather and Emergency School Closing Alternatives

Inclement weather and emergency school closing make-up alternatives include three days at the end of the year and other days noted as possible make-up days in the calendar. **Holidays, spring break, or days added at the end of the school year will be considered if additional days are needed.** The number of days for students will be a minimum of 180 and the number of days for teachers will be 190 duty days. The number of duty days for 11-month employees is 212. School buildings and offices may be closed on some professional days to permit all employees to participate. Notice will be given.