



Mohammed Choudhury
State Superintendent of Schools

TO: Members of the State Board of Education
FROM: Mohammed Choudhury
DATE: April 26, 2022
SUBJECT: Request from Queen Anne’s County Public Schools for a Calendar Modification

PURPOSE:

To consider the request to waive one day of student attendance for Queen Anne’s County Public Schools for the 2021-2022 school year.

BACKGROUND/HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:

Education Article §7-103 requires schools to be open for student attendance for 180 days. Subsection (b) (iv) provides the State Board of Education 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 because of natural disaster, civil disaster, or severe weather conditions.

Code of Maryland Regulation (COMAR) 13A.02.01.04, further specifies the conditions for granting a waiver of the 180-day school year requirement and includes the following:

1. The school system demonstrates 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 waiver applications are specified in COMAR 13A.02.01.04 (C) and include the following:

1. The local school system developed a calendar which included days to be used to make-up days lost. Depending upon past experience, this number could range from 3 to 10 days; and
2. The local school system has modified its calendar by scheduling school on make-up days provided in the original calendar and by extending the school year 3 days beyond the previously scheduled closing date.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Queen Anne’s County Public Schools was closed six days due to inclement weather. The request submitted by Queen Anne’s County Public Schools on April 6, 2022 asks for a one-day waiver of the 180 day instructional requirement. Queen Anne’s County Public Schools has used the three inclement weather recovery days built in its School Calendar. Additionally, Queen Anne’s County Public Schools adjusted its School Calendar to recover two days, February 21, 2022, and April 15, 2022, as instructional days. If the waiver is granted, the last day of school will be on Tuesday, June 14, 2022.

ACTION:

It is being requested that the Maryland State Board of Education approve the request to waiver one-day of the 180-day instructional requirement for Queen Anne’s County Public Schools for the 2021-2022 school year.

Attachment: Waiver Request from Queen Anne’s County Public Schools.



**QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Where Our Future Begins

April 6, 2022

Mr. Choudhury,

To date, Queen Anne's County Public Schools, due to inclement weather, have missed a total of six (6) days - January 3, 4, 5, 7, 20, and 31. Three of those days were built into our current calendar - June 10, 13, and 14. In an effort to make up for the additional days, the Queen Anne's County Board of Education requested and received waivers of COMAR ED.7-103 (iv), allowing February 21, 2022 and April 15, 2022 to be days on for students.

Our current calendar presents little opportunity for additional school days to be added in place of holidays. With that in mind, we respectfully request a waiver of COMAR ED. 7-103 to allow Queen Anne's County Public Schools to be open 179 days for student attendance.

Your consideration is appreciated. If you have any questions or need additional information, I can be reached at richard.smith@qacps.org.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Richard Smith', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Richard Smith,
Queen Anne's County
Board President