


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

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

**DATE:** April 29, 2025

**SUBJECT:** Request from Harford County Public Schools for a Calendar Modification

### Purpose

To consider the request to waive one day of student attendance for Harford County Public Schools for the 2024-2025 school year. Harford County Public Schools requests to end the school year on Wednesday, June 18, 2025, after 179 days instead of Friday, June 20, 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**

Harford County Public Schools were closed on January 6, 2025, January 7, 2025, January 21, 2025, February 6, 2025, and February 12, 2025, due to inclement weather. Harford County Public Schools have identified June 13, 2025, June 16, 2025, June 17, 2025, June 18, 2025, June 20, 2025, and June 23, 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 Friday, June 20, 2025. This day follows a closure on June 19, 2025, in observance of the Juneteenth holiday. Harford is requesting a waiver of one missed day after the closure, consistent with COMAR 13A.02.01.04D(2)(a), utilized for a one-day opening following a closure (typically occurring on Monday).

**Action**

Request that the Maryland State Board of Education approve the request to waive one day of the 180-day instructional requirement for Harford County Public Schools ending the 2024-2025 school year on Wednesday, June 18, 2025, at 179 days consistent with COMAR 13A.02.01.04D(2)(a).

**Attachments**

Waiver Request from Harford County Public Schools

April 9, 2025

Carey M. Wright, Ed.D.  
State Superintendent of Schools  
Maryland State Department of Education  
200 West Baltimore Street  
Baltimore, MD 21201-2595

Dear Dr. Wright:

The Board of Education of Harford County is requesting a waiver of one (1) student day for the 2024-2025 school year.

Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) was scheduled to end the 2024-2025 school year on June 12, 2025. Due to inclement weather conditions this winter, HCPS was closed for five (5) days during the 2024-2025 school year. Through the use of emergency days built into the calendar, we are able to make up these days. However, the last day for school would be Friday, June 20, 2025. This day follows a closure on June 19, 2025, in observance of the Juneteenth holiday.

HCPS is requesting a waiver of one missed day after the closure, consistent with COMAR 13A.02.01.04D(2)(a), utilized for a one-day opening following a closure (typically occurring on a Monday).

If this waiver request is approved, all HCPS students with the exception of Joppatowne High School will make up four (4) inclement weather days on *June 13, 16, 17 and June 18*. Students at Joppatowne High School will attend school on *June 20* as their last day due to one additional closure day. Again, these make up days were built into the school calendar beyond the original end date of June 12.

Attached you will find the current schedule and the proposed schedule.

Thank you in advance for taking this request into consideration.

Sincerely,



Sean W. Bulson, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

cc: Dr. Eric Davis  
Heather Kutcher  
Bernard P. Hennigan

/jej

June							CURRENT CALENDAR		2025
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7			
8	9	10	11	12	13 Inclement Weather Make-Up Day 1	14			
15	16 Inclement Weather Make-Up Day 2	17 Inclement Weather Make-Up Day 3	18 Inclement Weather Make-Up Day 4	19 HCPS schools and offices closed Juneteenth	20 Inclement Weather Make-Up Day 5	21			
22	23 JOHS Make-Up Day	24	25	26	27	28			
29	30								

June							PROPOSED CALENDAR		2025
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7			
8	9	10	11	12	13 Inclement Weather Make-Up Day 1	14			
15	16 Inclement Weather Make-Up Day 2	17 Inclement Weather Make-Up Day 3	18 Inclement Weather Make-Up Day 4	19 HCPS schools and offices closed Juneteenth	20 JOHS Make-Up Day	21			
22	23	24	25	26	27	28			
29	30								