

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 569 (Anne Arundel County Senators)
Education, Energy, and the Environment

Anne Arundel County - Public Schools - School Schedule Options

This bill authorizes the Anne Arundel County Board of Education to choose to operate one or more public schools in the county using a scheduling model that eliminates early dismissal days if the requirement under current law that public schools be open for pupil attendance for a minimum of 1,080 hours during a 10-month period is met. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2025.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: State operations and finances are not materially affected.

Local Effect: No direct effect on Anne Arundel County, as the bill is authorizing in nature. If Anne Arundel County Public Schools chooses to operate one or more schools using an alternative schedule, it can do so using existing resources.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law:

Public schools must be open for at least 180 days and 1,080 school hours at elementary and middle schools or 1,170 hours at high schools during a 10-month period. However, a local board of education may apply to the State Board of Education (SBE) for a waiver from these provisions of State law; the waiver application must describe a demonstrated effort by the local board to comply with State law, that the school system calendar included from 3 to 10 days to be used to make up days lost, and that the modified calendar makes use of

these make-up days and extends the school year by 3 days beyond the previously scheduled closing date. In response, the State board may permit:

- increases or decreases in the length of the school year;
- exceptions from the 10-month period requirement;
- adjustments in the length of the school day; and
- schools to be open on holidays.

These adjustments may be granted only if normal school attendance is prevented because of natural disaster, civil disaster, or severe weather conditions. After any school system closure, the local school system must notify SBE within 10 days of reopening of its plan to make up the missed school days, including the dates of the make-up days. Education funding from the State or local sources may not be reduced if there are fewer than 180 school days in any year because of an approved application to SBE for a decrease in the length of the school year.

SBE must explore the use of innovative school scheduling models, including extended year, year-round schooling, or other school scheduling models that do not allow for prolonged lapses in instructional time, in low-performing or at-risk public schools. The local school boards of Baltimore City and Allegany, Anne Arundel, Calvert, Howard, Montgomery, and Prince George's counties, may operate one or more schools on a year-round basis, provided that the 180-day and the minimum hour requirements are met.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: HB 226 (Delegate Bagnall) - Ways and Means.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education; Anne Arundel County Public Schools; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 31, 2025
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