

Chapter 346

(House Bill 226)

AN ACT concerning

Anne Arundel County – Public Schools – School Schedule Options

FOR the purpose of authorizing the Anne Arundel County Board of Education to operate ~~certain~~ schools within the county using a certain school scheduling model that is exempt from a certain requirement under certain circumstances; requiring a school operating under a certain scheduling model to provide certain employees an opportunity to make up lost wages; requiring the Anne Arundel County Board of Education to report to the State Department of Education and the General Assembly on any schools operating under an alternative scheduling model; and generally relating to public school scheduling models and the Anne Arundel County Board of Education.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Education

Section 7–103(a), (f), and (g)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Education

Section 7–103(b), (d), and (e)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article – Education

Section 7–103(f)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Education

7–103.

(a) Except as provided in subsections (b), (e), [and] (f), **AND (G)** of this section, each public school under the jurisdiction of a county board:

(1) (i) Shall be open for pupil attendance for at least 180 actual school days and a minimum of 1,080 school hours during a 10-month period in each school year; or

(ii) If normal school attendance is prevented because of conditions described in subsection (b) of this section, shall be open for at least 1,080 hours during a 10-month period;

(2) Shall be open for pupil attendance a minimum of 3 hours during each school day; and

(3) May not be open on Saturdays, Sundays, or holidays in order to meet the 180-day or 1,080-hour requirement of this subsection.

(b) (1) If a county board submits a written application to the State Board that describes a demonstrated effort by the county board to comply with subsection (a) of this section, the State Board may permit:

(i) The following adjustments:

1. An increase in the length of the school year; or
2. A decrease in the length of the school year;

(ii) Exceptions from the requirement that the school year be completed within a 10-month period;

(iii) Adjustments in the length of the school day; and

(iv) Schools to be open on holidays.

(2) These adjustments may be granted only if normal school attendance is prevented because of:

(i) Natural disaster;

(ii) Civil disaster; or

(iii) Severe weather conditions.

(3) Education funding from State or local sources may not be reduced if there are less than 180 school days in any year because of an approved application under paragraph (1)(i)2 of this subsection.

(4) In case of emergency, the State Board may open schools on holidays.

(d) Except as provided in subsection (e) of this section, the State Board shall divide the school year into the terms it considers appropriate.

(e) (1) The county boards of Allegany, Anne Arundel, Calvert, Howard, Montgomery, and Prince George's counties, and the Board of School Commissioners of Baltimore City, may elect to operate one or more schools within the county or Baltimore City on a year-round basis, provided that the 180-day and the minimum hour requirements under this section are met.

(2) Nothing in this section precludes a county board from conducting a year-round pilot study or program that is funded by the county board.

(F) (1) ~~THE~~ IN THIS SUBSECTION, "MINIMAL HOURS OF ATTENDANCE" MEANS THE MINIMUM HOURS OF ATTENDANCE FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR REQUIRED UNDER COMAR 13A.03.02.12, IN EFFECT ON JULY 1, 2025.

(2) SUBJECT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MAY ELECT TO OPERATE ~~ONE OR MORE~~ ALL OF THE SCHOOLS WITHIN THE COUNTY USING A SCHEDULING MODEL THAT ELIMINATES EARLY DISMISSAL DAYS TO ALLOW FOR LESS THAN 180 SCHOOL DAYS IF THE ~~MINIMUM 1,080 HOUR REQUIREMENT UNDER THIS SECTION IS~~ MINIMAL HOURS OF ATTENDANCE ARE MET.

(3) IF THE ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTS TO USE A SCHEDULING MODEL THAT ELIMINATES EARLY DISMISSAL DAYS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SUBSECTION, THE COUNTY BOARD MUST USE THE SCHEDULING MODEL FOR ALL SCHOOLS IN THE COUNTY.

(4) IF THE ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION USES A SCHEDULING MODEL THAT RESULTS IN A SCHOOL IN THE COUNTY BEING OPEN FOR LESS THAN 180 DAYS, THE COUNTY BOARD SHALL OFFER SCHOOL EMPLOYEES WHO RECEIVE PAY AT AN HOURLY RATE AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE UP THE LOST WAGES THROUGH OTHER DUTIES BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF THE NEXT SCHOOL YEAR.

[(f)] (G) Publicly funded half-day prekindergarten programs are not subject to the requirements of subsection (a) of this section.

[(g)] (H) Notwithstanding any other law and subject only to this section, each county board annually shall set the start and end dates of the school year for schools in the county.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) On or before June 30, 2026, and on or before June 30, 2027, the Anne Arundel County Board of Education shall report to the State Board of Education and, in accordance

with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly on the operation of schools during the preceding school year that used an alternative scheduling model in accordance with Section 1 of this Act.

(b) The reports required under this section shall include a summary of each day a school operating under an alternative scheduling model was open and the number of hours per day that the school was open with students in attendance.

SECTION ~~2~~ 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2025. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June 30, 2027, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved by the Governor, May 6, 2025.