

HOUSE BILL 1084

F3

6lr1006

By: **Montgomery County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2026

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Montgomery County – County Board of Education – School Operation**
3 **Requirements**

4 **MC 14–26**

5 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Montgomery County Board of Education to require
6 public schools within the county to be open for pupil attendance for a minimum
7 number of actual school days or a minimum number of school hours instead of both;
8 and generally relating to school operation requirements and the Montgomery County
9 Board of Education.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11 Article – Education
12 Section 7–103(a), (g), and (h)
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2025 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
16 Article – Education
17 Section 7–103(b) and (d) through (f)
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (2025 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

20 BY adding to
21 Article – Education
22 Section 7–103(g)
23 Annotated Code of Maryland
24 (2025 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



Article – Education

1
2 7–103.

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

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

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

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

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

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

18 (i) The following adjustments:

19 1. An increase in the length of the school year; or

20 2. A decrease in the length of the school year;

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

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

24 (iv) Schools to be open on holidays.

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

27 (i) Natural disaster;

28 (ii) Civil disaster; or

29 (iii) Severe weather conditions.

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

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

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

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

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

14 (f) (1) In this subsection, "minimal hours of attendance" means the minimum
15 hours of attendance for the school year required under COMAR 13A.03.02.12, in effect on
16 July 1, 2025.

17 (2) Subject to the requirements of this subsection, the Anne Arundel
18 County Board of Education may elect to operate all of the schools within the county using
19 a scheduling model that eliminates early dismissal days to allow for less than 180 school
20 days if the minimal hours of attendance are met.

21 (3) If the Anne Arundel County Board of Education elects to use a
22 scheduling model that eliminates early dismissal days in accordance with this subsection,
23 the county board must use the scheduling model for all schools in the county.

24 (4) If the Anne Arundel County Board of Education uses a scheduling
25 model that results in a school in the county being open for less than 180 days, the county
26 board shall offer school employees who receive pay at an hourly rate an opportunity to make
27 up the lost wages through other duties before the beginning of the next school year.

28 **(G) THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MAY ELECT TO**
29 **REQUIRE PUBLIC SCHOOLS WITHIN THE COUNTY TO BE OPEN FOR PUPIL**
30 **ATTENDANCE FOR AT LEAST:**

31 **(1) THE MINIMUM NUMBER OF ACTUAL SCHOOL DAYS REQUIRED**
32 **UNDER SUBSECTION (A)(1)(I) OF THIS SECTION; OR**

33 **(2) THE MINIMUM NUMBER OF SCHOOL HOURS REQUIRED UNDER**
34 **SUBSECTION (A)(1)(I) OF THIS SECTION.**

1 **[(g)] (H)** Publicly funded half–day prekindergarten programs are not subject to
2 the requirements of subsection (a) of this section.

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

6 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
7 1, 2026.