

DANA JONES  
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Anne Arundel County

Ways and Means Committee

Secretary, Women's Caucus

Vice Chair, Anne Arundel  
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony of Delegate Dana Jones  
Before the Ways and Means Committee**

**In Support of HB 510**

**Public Schools - Length of School Year and Innovative School Scheduling Models -  
Revisions  
February 22th, 2023**

Chair Atterbeary, Vice-Chair Wilkins, and members of the Ways and Means Committee

For the record, I am Delegate Dana Jones.

I come before you today to introduce House Bill 510, Public Schools - Length of School Year and Innovative School Scheduling Models - Revisions. This enabling legislation addresses outdated and artificial constraints in the scheduling of the school year for public school students. Currently, State law requires that public schools be open for student attendance for **both** 180 days **and** a minimum number of seat hours **during** a 10-month period. A minimum number of 1,080 student seat hours are required at the elementary and middle school levels, and 1,170 student seat hours are required at the high school level.

House Bill 510 removes the requirements that public schools be open for student attendance for a minimum of 180 days during a 10-month period, but leaves the minimum number of seat hours required in place. This change is necessary in order to provide local school systems with the flexibility to tailor instructional programs and school operations to innovatively best meet the needs of their students but **does not** diminish, in any way, requirements regarding instruction provided to students. The increased flexibility will allow school systems to explore scheduling that can provide better educational outcomes for students.

I want to emphasize that this bill **does not** mandate that a school system alter current operations and **does not** reduce instructional time for students. What it does do is provide local school systems with much needed flexibility to better address their needs of their students and families when creating the school calendar.

I respectfully request a favorable committee report on HB 510.

Dana Jones

Delegate Dana Jones