



SB 612 Talbot County- Public Schools- School Schedule Options

Mar 3, 2026

Education, Energy, and The Environment

SUPPORT

The Members of the Board of Education of Talbot County Public Schools (TCPS) and the Superintendent of TCPS **support** Senate Bill 612.

This bill authorizes the Board of Education of Talbot County to establish a pilot program in one or more Talbot County public schools using an innovative scheduling model. The innovative scheduling model may include an extended school year; year-round school; four-day school week; or any other model approved by the county board. The bill also authorizes any local board of education to explore the use of such innovative school scheduling models, provided that the models do not allow for prolonged lapses in instructional time in public schools. Maryland school districts have been challenged to “reimagine” public education by the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future and this pilot provides an ideal opportunity for innovation and creativity. Currently, state law mandates schools to be open for a minimum of 180 days annually, with specific hourly requirements for different grade levels. These rigid requirements hinder programmatic innovation.

With having the one of largest PreK-5 schools in the state with 1,070 students, this legislation opens up endless possibilities for finding scheduling solutions that meet our diverse student needs. However, this journey cannot begin without the legislative change that will enable discussions with students, staff, and school communities. We know that TCPS will go above and beyond to actively involve students, families, staff, and stakeholders in any innovative school scheduling pilot program pursued.

For these reasons, TCPS **supports** Senate Bill 612, and requests a **favorable** committee report.

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