

12 Taft Ct.
Rockville, MD 20850
301-294-6232
David Stein, President



March 20, 2026

House Bill 1084

Montgomery County - County Board of Education - School Operation Requirements

Education, Energy, and Environment Committee

Position: FAVORABLE

The Montgomery County Education Association **SUPPORTS** House Bill 1084 – Montgomery County – County Board of Education – School Operation Requirements. This Bill authorizes the Montgomery County Board of Education to be open for pupil attendance for a minimum number of actual school days or a minimum of school hours instead of both under certain circumstances, and if passed, would only be in effect through June 30, 2027.

State law currently requires that schools be open each year for a minimum of 180 days and for a certain number of hours: 1,080 at the elementary and middle school levels and 1,170 at the high school level during a ten-month period. This dual mandate places an onerous burden on Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), limiting its ability to preserve the health and safety of its students and families while also meeting state instructional requirements. This Bill would lift the current burden on MCPS students and families without reducing overall instructional time.

There is a clear and compelling rationale to support the passage of this legislation:

- **Time-Bound and Limited:** This bill does not enable MCPS and its Board to forgo the 180 days and 1,080-hour requirement in perpetuity. The bill's provisions sunset on June 30, 2027. MCEA also supports a permanent and state-wide solution to this dual requirement, but this bill has a much more targeted and limited effect.
- **Consistency:** The requirement for minimum days and hours is not consistent in MSDE policy. A good example is the new Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) Daily Math Instruction Requirements. MSDE will require a minimum of 60 minutes of daily mathematics instruction for all students in Grades K-8. MSDE does not require a minimum number of hours and days of math instruction, avoiding the dual-day and hour mandate.
- **Past Precedent:** This legislative body supported the passage of HB226 (2025), which enabled Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) to have greater scheduling flexibility by permanently exempting AACPS from MSDE's dual-day and hour mandates. What's good for the goose should be good for the gander.
- **Burden on Local Taxpayers.** The cost to MCPS and its taxpayers under the current statutory regime is burdensome to local taxpayers. Each additional instructional day that MCPS is required to make up costs taxpayers \$2 million.

The Montgomery County Education Association supports giving Montgomery County Public Schools, its students, families, and its educators the flexibility needed to respond to emergencies, while ensuring that instructional commitments are fulfilled. For these reasons, the Montgomery County Education Association respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** report on House Bill 1084.