
TO: Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee

BILL: House Bill (HB) 1084 – Montgomery County - County Board of Education - School Operation Requirements MC 14-26

DATE: March 24, 2026

POSITION: Oppose

The Maryland State Board of Education (State Board) and the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) respectfully oppose House Bill (HB) 1084 – *Montgomery County - County Board of Education - School Operation Requirements MC 14-26*, which would authorize Montgomery County Public Schools to have fewer than 180 school days under certain circumstances. The State Board and MSDE appreciate the intent of this legislation in light of the extensive inclement weather this winter.

Under current law, Education Article §7-103(a)(1) of the Annotated Code of Maryland, public schools must be open at least 180 school days and a minimum of 1,080 hours over a 10-month school year. The Code of Maryland Regulations requires a minimum of 1,170 hours in high school ([COMAR 13A.03.02.12](#)). The law contemplates the need to waive these rules under specific circumstances and authorizes the State Board to review and approve such requests. ([COMAR 13A.02.02.04](#)). All LEAs are eligible to request such a waiver.

Given the significant weather disruption this winter, the State Board and State Superintendent proactively solicited requests for calendar exceptions in a letter dated February 27, 2026. At its March 24, 2026, meeting, the State Board will consider all pending requests for waivers of the 180-day school year requirement by LEAs to ensure a consistent and transparent approach for LEAs impacted by inclement weather and related disruptions.

The Board is committed to working collaboratively with LEAs and the General Assembly to identify and implement necessary refinements to the school calendar adoption process and policies governing instructional time and weather-related closures. In addition, the State Board plans to consider a resolution providing clear direction for the development of 2026–2027 school year calendars, including expectations around the use of inclement weather days. Given these ongoing and planned efforts, the State Board believes that HB 1084 is unnecessary at this time.

The State Board and MSDE are concerned about an approach to waivers for school calendar requirements that apply in statute on an LEA-by-LEA basis and the inherent inequity that precedent could set. We look forward to working with members of this committee and others in the General Assembly to review and establish a fair system for all of our LEAs in future school years.

For further information, please contact Laurel Cratsley, Interim Executive Director of Government Affairs, at 443-571-5461 or Laurel.Cratsley@maryland.gov.