

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 1084 (Montgomery County Delegation)
Ways and Means

**Montgomery County - County Board of Education - School Operation
Requirements MC 14-26**

This bill authorizes the Montgomery County Board of Education to require all public schools in the county to be open for pupil attendance for at least 180 actual school days *or* 1,080 school hours. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill only affects Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) operations.

Local Effect: To the extent that MCPS meets the minimum hours requirement for an academic year but cannot meet the minimum days requirement without adding instructional days to the calendar, the county may realize cost savings of up to \$1.9 million per instructional day avoided, as discussed below. No effect on revenues.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Public schools must be open for at least 180 days *and* 1,080 school hours at elementary and middle schools or 1,170 hours at high schools during a 10-month period. However, a local board of education may apply to the State Board of Education (SBE) for a waiver from these provisions of State law; the waiver application must describe a demonstrated effort by the local board to comply with State law, that the school system calendar included from 3 to 10 days to be used to make up days lost, and that the modified

calendar makes use of these make-up days and extends the school year by 3 days beyond the previously scheduled closing date. In response, the State board may permit:

- increases or decreases in the length of the school year;
- exceptions from the 10-month period requirement;
- adjustments in the length of the school day; and
- schools to be open on holidays.

These adjustments may be granted only if normal school attendance is prevented because of natural disaster, civil disaster, or severe weather conditions. After any school system closure, the local school system must notify SBE within 10 days of reopening of its plan to make up the missed school days, including the dates of the make-up days. Education funding from the State or local sources may not be reduced if there are fewer than 180 school days in any year because of an approved application to SBE for a decrease in the length of the school year.

SBE must explore the use of innovative school scheduling models, including extended year, year-round schooling, or other school scheduling models that do not allow for prolonged lapses in instructional time, in low-performing or at-risk public schools. The local school boards of Baltimore City and Allegany, Anne Arundel, Calvert, Howard, Montgomery, and Prince George's counties, may operate one or more schools on a year-round basis, provided that the 180-day and the minimum hour requirements are met.

Local Expenditures: MCPS is expected to spend approximately \$1.9 million per day for each school day added to the academic calendar in fiscal 2027. These costs include salaries and benefits for hourly wage staff, costs for substitute teachers, and operational costs for fuel for buses. During years in which severe weather requires extended school closures, MCPS may meet the hours requirement for its schools, but fail to meet the minimum 180 day requirement. Accordingly, in this scenario, MCPS may save \$1.9 million per school day not required to be added to the calendar to meet the 180 day requirement. The amount the county may save annually under this bill is dependent on the number of days that school closures are required each year.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education; Montgomery County Public Schools; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 17, 2026
jg/hlb

Analysis by: Andrew Stover

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510