

Task Force to Study a Post-Labor Day Start Date for Maryland Public Schools

Materials of Interest

November 12, 2013 Meeting

(Amended November 13, 2013)

Materials of Interest by Speaker

**Ms. Teresa Tudor, Senior Manager, Office of School and Family Partnerships,
Anne Arundel County Public Schools**

Mr. Edward F. Sparks, Executive Director, Maryland Secondary Schools Athletic Association

COMAR 13A.06.03 Interscholastic Athletics in the State

This regulation sets forth the requirements for students to participate in interscholastic athletics and defines the terms for when the fall, winter, and spring sports season can begin and end. It further indicates when teams can begin practice for each season.

Mr. Ray Leone, President, Maryland Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs)

Mr. David Reel, President and CEO, Maryland Hotel and Lodging Association

“Post-Labor Day school start merits investigation,” The Baltimore Sun, August 22, 2013

Refer to document provided at the September 17, 2013 meeting.

Mr. Thomas Noonan, CEO, Visit Baltimore

“An Economic Analysis of the Changing School Start Date in Texas,” Susan Combs, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, December 2000

The purpose of this report was to study how a uniform start date would affect education and the economic issues surrounding that decision. The findings of this report indicate that in tourist destination areas there was at least \$332 million dollars were lost due to an early school start date. Furthermore, 65% of Texans indicated that parents would prefer a uniform start date and that the children of migrant workers would benefit most from that decision.

“South Carolina Early School Start Dates and the South Carolina Travel and Tourism Industries: An Analysis of Economic & Tax Revenue Impacts,” Stephan C. Morse, Ph.D., Professor & Economist School of Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism Management, University of South Carolina, August 2002

The purpose of this report is to examine the effects and impacts of early school start dates in South Carolina on the Travel and Tourism economy of the State. This report concludes that South Carolina schools have moved start dates up by as much as three weeks and that this shift in start date has been associated with lower tourism activity in

August, which has not been offset by an increase in June. Furthermore, schools have incurred higher utility costs associated with cooling school buildings due to the hot weather in August. Finally, under one scenario it is estimated that if 40% of families took one more vacation in the year the impact would be \$180 million in tourism related spending, \$6 million in new state tax revenue, and \$2.3 million in new local tax revenue.

“Impact of a Uniform School Year on Florida’s Economy,” The Florida Senate, Interim Project Report 2003-112 Committee on Commerce and Economic Opportunities, January 2003

The purpose of this interim report was to examine whether or not later school start dates would benefit the state’s economy, specifically the tourism industry, without harming the public school system. It was determined that there was not any currently available data that indicated starting schools later would benefit the state’s economy. In fact it was found that, the current early start dates may have only changed the timing of tourism revenue and expenditures. Therefore, the committee recommended against enacting uniform school start date or calendar at this time.

“Post Labor Day School Start Dates in Tennessee: An Analysis of the Economic and Tax Revenue Impacts on Tennessee Travel and Tourism Industry,” Steve Morse, Ph.D., Director & Economist Tourism Institute Department of Retail, Hospitality, and Tourism Management, University of Tennessee, January 2008

The purpose of this report was to 1) determine if a post labor day start would influence Tennessee residents’ summer travel plans, and 2) to estimate potential economic impact on state tax, local tax, and payroll. The report concluded that approximately 463,000 Tennessee residents would take an additional vacation during the summer if school started after Labor Day and approximately 223,000 residents would extend their vacation through the holiday weekend. It is anticipated that extending the summer would generate \$189 million in tourist spending, \$73 million in statewide payroll, and create more than 2600 jobs.

“Do families vacation more in the summer when school starts after Labor Day?” Elton Mykerezzi, Assistant Professor, Department of Applied Economics, University of Minnesota and Genti Kostandini, Assistant Professor, Department of Agriculture and Applied Economics, University of Georgia, July 23, 2012

This study indicates that states have historically struggled to accommodate the competing interests of the varied stakeholders in determining whether to mandate a post Labor Day start to schools. This study used data from the American Time Use Survey (ATUS) to examine the differences in family travel patterns from 2005-2010 in five states that have mandated start times. Some of these start times are pre-labor day and some are post. Findings indicated families were 50% more likely to take a two night or more trip in August or September if there was a post Labor Day start date.

Special Note: Mr. Noonan referenced the aforementioned studies in his testimony and asked that copies be provided to task force members. Due to the size of the documents, it was agreed by all members that copies would be provided at the January meeting. Therefore these studies will be posted with the January documents.

Mr. John Woolums, Director of Governmental Relations, Maryland Association of Boards of Education

Testimony before the Task Force to Study a Post-Labor Day Start Date for Maryland Public Schools

Testimony indicates that all twenty-four local boards of education oppose the adoption of a statewide prohibition on starting schools before Labor Day. Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) states that local communities and their respective boards of education should retain the right to adopt school calendars that reflect state testing, mandated holidays, and other important local considerations.

Dr. Bernard Sadusky, Executive Director, Maryland Association of Community Colleges

Dr. Carl Roberts, Executive Director, Public School Superintendents Association of Maryland

November 6, 2013 Letter from the Public School Superintendents' Association of Maryland

Letter indicates that all twenty-four local school system (LSS) superintendants are opposed to any legislation that removes the LSS ability to make all decisions regarding the school calendar. It further argues that the 180 day school-year is no longer adequate to ensure that Maryland students are prepared for success. They propose that the better question is how State and local governments will collaborate with local constituents to position our students for success in our rapidly changing global society.

Various Documents Based on the Expressed Interest of Task Force Members

Student Testing Calendar Years 2013-2014 through 2015-2016

This document provides a comprehensive overview of the student-testing calendar.

2014-2015 State Testing Calendar (Based on current school start date of last week in August)

This document provides a visual summary of all Maryland testing dates.

Various Newspaper Articles Concerning Task Force to Study a Post-Labor Day Start Date for Maryland Public Schools

"A later start to school year worth a look," Gazette, September 13, 2013

Article presents that the advantages of a Post-Labor Day school year start might be an increase in the revenue to the treasury and that the greatest challenge may be that students retain less material the longer they are out of school.

“Coalition wants Montgomery County Schools to close on Muslim holidays,” Gazette, September 18, 2013

Article provides a glimpse of one advocacy group, the Equity for Eid Coalition’s efforts to persuade Montgomery County Public Schools to close school for the Muslim Holidays.

“Mathias optimistic about post-holiday school start committee,” the Dispatch, October 4, 2013

Article summarizes the 2013 legislation that formed the Task Force to Study a Post-Labor Day Start for Public Schools and Franchot’s August report. Senator Matthias is quoted as indicating that the first meeting of the task force was extremely positive and encourages those affected by this proposed calendar change to reach out to the task force to share their views.

Correspondence Received Concerning the Task Force to Study a Post-Labor Day Start Date for Maryland Public Schools

September 18, 2013 Email from Mary Jo Richmond, Task Force Member

Poses a question about creating statewide language pertaining to religious holidays and suggests individuals to serve as potential speakers at future meetings.

September 25, 2013 Letter from Ms. Susan L. Jones, Executive Director, Hotel, Motel, Restaurant Association, Inc. Ocean City, Maryland

Supports beginning schools after Labor Day, but expresses concern that it would defeat the purpose if the school closing date slides further into June.