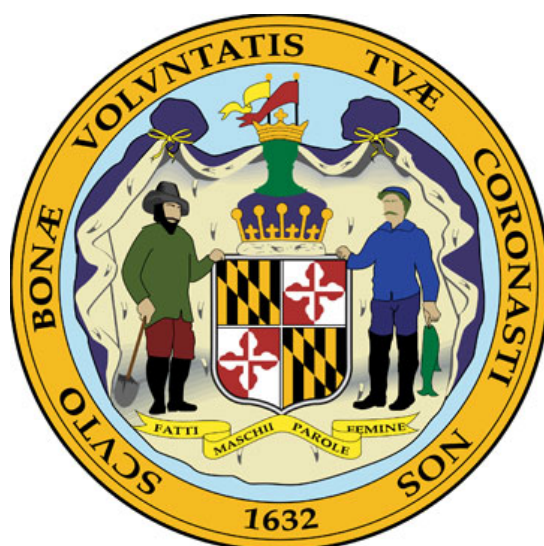


Task Force to Study a Post-Labor Day Start Date for Maryland Public Schools

Appendix III



June 2014

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

Materials of Interest September 17, 2013 Meeting

2013 Legislative Session

Chapter 336 (SB 963) Task Force to Study a Post-Labor Day Start Date for Maryland Public Schools

Statute that establishes the task force including its purpose, the participants, and the date (June 30, 2014) by which the report must be submitted to the governor.

SB 936: Department of Legislative Services Fiscal and Policy Note

Document provides a fiscal summary and analysis of the bill.

Current Statutes and Regulations Regarding School Calendar

Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article §7-103

This statute requires each public school under the jurisdiction of a county board to be open for 180 school days and a minimum of 1,080 school hours in a 10-month period. It further stipulates the minimum hours per day and prohibits schools from opening on weekends or holidays. The Statute further provides a provision for Local School System's (LSS's) to apply to the State Board of Education for waiver of these requirements in the event of a natural disaster, civil disaster or severe weather conditions.

COMAR 13A.02.01.04 Length of the School Year.

This regulation states that LSS must be open for a minimum of 180 days per year and provides the process for applying for a waiver of the 180-day requirement.

COMAR 13A.03.02.12 General Provisions.

This regulation sets forth the school year requirements for secondary schools as 180 school days and 1,170 hours. It also including requirements for transfer students, notices to parents/guardians and students, and grading and reporting.

Additional Information Regarding Public School Calendars and Labor Day

Chart, 2013-2014 Public School Opening and Closing Dates

This chart provides the opening and closing dates of each of the 24 LSS's.

- Earliest Opening Date: August 19th (Frederick and Prince George's County)
- Latest Opening Date: August 27th (Talbot)
- Earliest Closing Date: May 30th (Allegany)
- Latest Closing Date: June 18th (Howard)

Chart, Public School Start and End Dates: Ten Years of Historical Data

This chart provides a ten-year summary of the opening and closing dates dating back to 2004-2005 school year.

- 2004-2005: Four (4) LSS's opened post-Labor Day (Baltimore City, Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester)
- 2005-2006 through 2007-2008: Two (2) LSS's opened post-Labor Day (Somerset and Worcester)
- 2007-2008 through 2008-2009: One (1) LSS opened post-Labor Day (Worcester)
- 2009-2010 through 2013-2014: Zero LSS open post-Labor Day

Chart, School System Closures December 2009 – February 2010

This chart provides a sample of the number of days LSS's had to modify their existing calendars to meet the 180-day requirement inclusive of any waivers that were granted by the Maryland State Board of Education due to natural disaster, civil disaster or severe weather conditions. In the most extreme cases: Allegany had to add 8 days to the end of the year and Garrett was closed for 17 days.

Article, Labor Day in United States

This article provides a historical perspective on Labor Day and indicates what day in September Labor Day falls on from 1990-2020. The earliest date is September 1st and the latest possible date is September 7th.

Air Conditioning in Maryland Public Schools

Chart, Maryland Public Schools Air Conditioning Survey

This chart provides a summary of percentage of schools with and without air-conditioning for each of the 24 LSS's. Seventeen (17) LSS's have 100% of their schools air-conditioned. Allegany, Baltimore, Cecil, Garret, Harford, and Wicomico Counties and Baltimore City do not have all of their schools air-conditioned.

Studies Regarding a Post-Labor Day Start date for Maryland Public Schools

Economic Impact of a Post-Labor Day Start Date for Maryland Public Schools, Bureau of Revenue Estimates, August 14, 2013

Study highlighting the benefits to Maryland's economy and families if schools were required to start after Labor Day. It reports that 8.5 of Maryland families with school aged children would take either a new day trip or overnight trip in Maryland, another 5.2% would take a new out-of-state trip, and the remaining families would devote a least one additional day to family activities. It also reports that Maryland would actualize \$74.3 million in direct economic activity.

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

“Mathias Seeks Task Force to Study Later School Start,” The Dispatch, February 22, 2013

News article announcing Senator Mathias’s introduction of and support for legislation to study a post-Labor Day start time. Highlights the impact felt by local business of losing potential business in August when schools start before Labor Day.

“Start school after Labor Day, Md. Is urged,” The Baltimore Sun, August 16, 2013

News Article reporting on Comptroller Peter Franchot’s release of the August 14, 2013 study entitled “Economic Impact of a post-Labor Day Start Date for Maryland Public Schools.” Highlights the economic impact of a later start date and includes statements from business owners regarding the effect on their businesses under the current calendar system.

“One week and counting,” The Baltimore Sun, August 19, 2013

Editorial disagreeing with Franchot’s report that starting school after Labor Day would have substantial economic rewards for Maryland. This editorial criticizes the methodology used in Franchot’s report, indicates that such a change would place a considerable burden on the public schools, and asks why this report only targets public schools when colleges and universities also begin before Labor Day. Finally, it proposes that the more important issue is whether or not Maryland is educating its students to their high potential and hints at the benefits to year-round schooling. Finally it concludes with the notion that our sole focus of public education should be on better outcomes for students.

“Starting School after Labor Day has serious benefits,” The Baltimore Sun, August 21, 2013

Letter to the editor from Peter Franchot, Comptroller of Maryland concerning the Sun’s August 18, 2013 editorial, “One week and Counting.” Mr. Franchot expresses his disappointment with the editorial citing it mocked serious educational policy changes that would benefit families, small business, and the economy. He further cites the Sun’s own website that indicates that 88% of its readers support a post-Labor Day Start. He also reiterated the financial gains and increased family time that Marylanders would benefit from.

“Shorter school summer break is better policy,” The Baltimore Sun, August 21, 2013

Letter to the editor from Barbara Payne Shelton, educational consultant and adjunct faculty at Towson University concerning the August 15, 2013 article, “Post-Labor Day school start pushed as economic benefit.” Ms. Shelton expresses her dismay at Franchot’s suggestion of a post Labor-Day start date citing that his report gave no indication that families would take more vacations, that no consideration was given to the economic impact on families who need to find additional child care, and most importantly that no attention was paid to the children’s education. She further indicated that research indicates that students lose knowledge during the summer vacation and as such if we are to improve our educational system we should be discussing shortening the length of the summer break.

“Saving summer at the expense of student learning,” The Washington Post, August 21, 2013

Editorial opposing a post-Labor Day start citing the costs of a later start date greatly outweigh the benefits. The editorial cites that summer vacation contributes to the achievement gap between low-income students and their middle-class and affluent peers and identifies that Baltimore’s lower-income students would like suffer more from Franchot’s proposed calendar change.

“Franchot gains O’Malley’s support on school start,” The Baltimore Sun, August 21, 2013

News Article reporting that Franchot’s campaign to start schools after Labor Day has received the cautious support of Governor Martin O’Malley. O’Malley’s spokesperson further indicated that O’Malley wants to wait to act until after the task force makes its recommendations but that he realizes that tourism is important to Maryland economy.

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

Letter to the editor from David D. Reel, President and CEO of the Maryland Hotel and Lodging Association; Kathleen T. Snyder, President and CEO of the Maryland Chamber of Commerce; and Thomas B. Riford, President and CEO of the Hagerstown and Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau concerning the August 19, 2013 Baltimore Sun editorial, “One week and counting.” This letter emphasizes the importance of this task force and asks the editorial board of the Baltimore Sun to allow the Task Force to issue its findings before “prejudging an issue that can have a profound effect on the economy and education system of Maryland.”

“Franchot’s school proposal doesn’t hold water,” The Baltimore Sun, August 22, 2013

Letter to the editor from David Shauck, Teacher Baltimore County Public Schools concerning the August 15, 2013 article “Post-Labor Day school start pushed as economic benefit.” This letter disagrees with Franchot’s plan to start schools after Labor Day citing the 180 school day requirement, which would require schools to remain open later in June. Mr. Shauck indicates that under Franchot’s plan businesses would be impacted in June and children in schools without air condition may also be affected.

“Our say: Delaying school’s start a backward-looking idea,” Capital Gazette, August 23, 2013

Editorial criticizing Franchot’s report citing the families already have sufficient time to vacation, that trimming holidays and teacher preparation days from school calendars to meet the 180-day requirement will not be received well by school systems and teacher unions, and that the anticipated revenue is minimal. Finally the editorial recommends reducing the duration of summer vacation to eliminate the need for re-teaching that occurs in the beginning of each school year due to students loss of academic skills.

“Let summer last,” The Star Democrat, August 26, 2013

Editorial supporting Franchot’s policy change to require Maryland public schools to start after Labor Day. Article cites that this delayed start date would benefit to Maryland families, small businesses and tourism, and states that this proposal could be a win-win for the educational system and the economy.

“Year-round school would benefit kids, economy,” The Baltimore Sun, August 27, 2013

Letter to the editor from Elizabeth Heubeck, Freelance writer, concerning Comptroller Peter Franchot’s recently released report suggesting a later school start. This letter disagrees with Franchot’s plan stating that families are not “in the frame of mind” to take a vacation the week before Labor Day; she proposes that they are in fact preparing for the start of school. Ms. Heubeck goes further to propose a drastic change to make school year-round, with a greater number of shorter breaks throughout the 12-month period. She further stipulates that if teachers were not spending the first several week of school reviewing what was forgotten over the summer, that perhaps it would help the United States be better positioned to complete with our global counterparts.

“Summer programs needed to boost student achievement,” the Baltimore Sun, August 27, 2013

Letter to the editor from Matthew Boulay, Chairman of the National Summer Learning Association, concerning Comptroller Peter Franchot’s recently released report and Governor O’Malley’s Support of it in “Franchot gains O’Malley’s support on school start.” Mr. Boulay argues that the issue is not when school starts but assuring that all children have access to meaningful summer experiences; citing research completed by Johns Hopkins University and Baltimore City Public Schools which demonstrated that children that do not have stimulating experiences over the summer suffer significant academic loses. He challenges policymakers to research the need for strong summer programming to reduce the achievement gap and dropout rate while strengthening our families, communities, and workforce.

“Don’t reject out of hand a post-Labor Day start for schools,” The Baltimore Sun, September 4, 2013

Letter to the editor from Senator Jim Mathias, representing Somerset, Worcester, and Wicomico counties and Delegate Wendell Beitzel, representing Allegany and Garrett counties, concerning the August 19, 2013 editorial “One week and counting.” This letter expresses disappointment that The Sun did not allow the task force to opportunity to study this issue and release its report prior to providing their opinion. Furthermore, it emphasizes the economic impact that Maryland could experience, that families would have more time together, and that some students and teachers rely on additional summer income to support their families.

Chapter 336

(Senate Bill 963)

AN ACT concerning

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

FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study a Post–Labor Day Start Date for Maryland Public Schools; providing for the membership, chair, and staff for the Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain compensation; authorizing a member of the Task Force to receive reimbursement for certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to study issues relating to a post–Labor Day start date for Maryland public schools; requiring the Task Force to report to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force to Study a Post–Labor Day Start Date for Maryland Public Schools.

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That:

(a) There is a Task Force to Study a Post–Labor Day Start Date for Maryland Public Schools.

(b) The Task Force consists of the following members:

(1) two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of the Senate;

(2) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(3) the State Superintendent of Schools, or the State Superintendent's designee; and

(4) the following members, appointed by the Governor:

(i) four representatives of local school systems in the State, two of whom are teachers;

(ii) one representative of the Maryland State Education Association;

(iii) four representatives of businesses impacted by summer tourism;

(iv) one representative of the Maryland Tourism Development Board;

(v) one student who attends a Maryland public high school;

(vi) one parent of a student enrolled in a Maryland public elementary school;

(vii) one parent of a student enrolled in a Maryland public middle school; and

(viii) one parent of a student enrolled in a Maryland public high school.

(c) The Governor shall designate the chair of the Task Force.

(d) The State Department of Education shall provide staff for the Task Force.

(e) A member of the Task Force:

(1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but

(2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

(f) The Task Force shall study the impact of moving the start date of the public school year in the State to after Labor Day on the following areas:

(1) the education system, including the academic calendar, planning, administration, and facilities use;

(2) the economy; and

(3) summer tourism.

(g) On or before June 30, 2014, the Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2013. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of June 30, 2014, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved by the Governor, May 2, 2013.

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2013 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 963

(Senator Mathias, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Ways and Means

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

This bill establishes a Task Force to Study a Post-Labor Day Start Date for Maryland Public Schools. The task force must study the impact of moving the start date of the public school year to after Labor Day on the economy and summer tourism, as well as on the education system, including the academic calendar, planning, administration, and facilities use. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) must provide staff for the task force. The task force must report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by June 30, 2014.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2013, and terminates June 30, 2014.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any expense reimbursements for task force members and staffing costs for MSDE are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Public schools must be open for at least 180 days and 1,080 school hours during a 10-month period. However, under certain conditions (a natural disaster, civil disaster, and severe weather conditions), the State Board of Education may permit schools only to be open for 1,080 school hours.

In case of emergency, the State Board of Education may open schools on holidays. The State has designated several days as public school holidays. They include the following:

- Thanksgiving Day and the day after;
- Christmas Eve through January 1;
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day;
- Presidents' Day;
- Good Friday and Easter Monday;
- Memorial Day; and
- primary and general election days for most counties.

Labor Day is a holiday for State employees and is 1 of 11 mandatory bank holidays.

Background: Labor Day, the first Monday in September, is, according to the U.S. Department of Labor, a tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country. Local school systems in Maryland are typically closed on Labor Day.

According to posted calendars for the 2012-2013 school year, all 24 local school systems opened school for at least some students before Labor Day. Seventeen school systems opened on August 27, or five school days before Labor Day. Of the remaining seven school systems, three (Cecil, St. Mary's, and Washington counties) opened school on August 22; three (Calvert, Dorchester, and Talbot counties) opened school on August 21; and Prince George's County opened school for student attendance on August 20 (10 school days prior to Labor Day). Several school systems begin the school year for kindergarten and/or prekindergarten a few days after the start date for other students. For the 2012-2013 school year, Prince George's County public schools are scheduled to close on June 7 and school systems statewide are scheduled to be closed for attendance by mid-June.

Per Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR), the fall sports season begins the sixth Saturday following the first full week in July (*i.e.*, before Labor Day). Participating schools may not participate in a regularly scheduled game until at least 20 calendar days have elapsed after and including the first day of practice. Golf is the only exception to this regulation. Fall sports include cross country, football, field hockey, golf, soccer, and volleyball. According to the rules set forth in COMAR, the first practice day for fall sports was August 11 in 2012 and will be set at August 17 for 2013.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 1502 (Delegate Healey, *et al.*) – Ways and Means.

Information Source(s): U.S. Department of Labor, Maryland State Department of Education, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 13, 2013
mlm/rhh

Analysis by: Scott P. Gates

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Statute Text

Article Education

§7-103.

(a) Except as provided in subsections (b), (e), and (f) of this section, each public school under the jurisdiction of a county board:

(1) (i) Shall be open for pupil attendance for at least 180 actual school days and a minimum of 1,080 school hours during a 10-month period in each school year; or

(ii) If normal school attendance is prevented because of conditions described in subsection (b) of this section, shall be open for at least 1,080 hours during a 10-month period;

(2) Shall be open for pupil attendance a minimum of 3 hours during each school day; and

(3) May not be open on Saturdays, Sundays, or holidays in order to meet the 180-day or 1,080-hour requirement of this subsection.

(b) (1) If a county board submits a written application to the State Board that describes a demonstrated effort by the county board to comply with subsection (a) of this section, the State Board may permit:

(i) Adjustments in the length of the school year;

(ii) Exceptions from the requirement that the school year be completed within a 10-month period;

(iii) Adjustments in the length of the school day; and

(iv) Schools to be open on holidays.

(2) These adjustments may be granted only if normal school attendance is prevented because of:

(i) Natural disaster;

(ii) Civil disaster; or

(iii) Severe weather conditions.

(3) Education funding from State or local sources may not be reduced if there are less than 180 school days in any year because of an approved application under this subsection.

(4) In case of emergency, the State Board may open schools on holidays.

(c) (1) The following days are public school holidays:

(i) Thanksgiving Day and the day after;

(ii) Christmas Eve and from then through January 1;

(iii) Martin Luther King, Jr. Day;

(iv) Presidents' Day;

(v) The Friday before Easter and from then through the Monday after Easter;

(vi) Memorial Day; and

(vii) Primary and general election days.

(2) If the federal and State observances of a holiday are on different days, the board of education of each county shall determine which date shall be the date of observance for the public schools within the county.

(3) The public schools shall devote a part of the day to appropriate exercises for the following days:

- (i) Washington's Birthday;
- (ii) Lincoln's Birthday;
- (iii) Veterans' Day;
- (iv) Columbus Day;
- (v) Arbor Day; and
- (vi) Any other day of national significance.

(4) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this article, the public schools, in the following counties, may remain open and in session on primary and general election days:

- (i) Calvert;
- (ii) Caroline;
- (iii) Dorchester;
- (iv) Kent;
- (v) Talbot; and
- (vi) Worcester.

(d) Except as provided in subsection (e) of this section, the State Board shall divide the school year into the terms it considers appropriate.

(e) (1) The county boards of Allegany, Anne Arundel, Calvert, Howard, Montgomery, and Prince George's counties, and the Board of School Commissioners of Baltimore City, may elect to operate one or more schools within the county or Baltimore City on a year-round basis, provided that the 180-day and the minimum hour requirements under this section are met.

(2) Nothing in this section precludes a county board from conducting a year-round pilot study or program that is funded by the county board.

(f) Publicly funded prekindergarten programs are not subject to the requirements of subsection (a) of this section.

.04 Length of the School Year.

A. Schools shall be open a minimum of 180 days per year. In implementing Education Article, §7-103, Annotated Code of Maryland, a waiver of the 180-day requirement will be granted by the State Board of Education to local school systems only when:

- (1) They demonstrate that sufficient effort has been made through calendar planning and modification; and
- (2) Natural or civil disasters or severe weather conditions are sufficiently significant to warrant waiver.

B. The closing of individual schools does not require a waiver by the State Board of Education but may be granted by permission of the State Superintendent of Schools upon request of the local superintendent of schools.

C. Application for Waiver.

(1) In the required written application for waiver of school days, it shall be demonstrated that:

(a) The local school system developed a calendar which included days to be used to make up days lost. Depending upon past experience, this number could range from 3 to 10 days throughout the State. The local school system calendar shall have identified those potential make-up days which could have been used as student days when calendar modification becomes necessary; that is, make-up days, student vacation days, etc.

(b) The local school system has modified its calendar by scheduling school on the make-up days provided in the original calendar and by extending the school year 5 days beyond the previously scheduled closing date.

(2) In considering this application, the State Board of Education may waive:

(a) The final day needed to complete the 180-day schedule if that day falls on a Monday;

(b) Additional days beyond those specified in §C(1)(b) of this regulation that would have to be added to the calendar to complete a 180-day schedule.

13A.03.02.12

.12 General Provisions.

A. Length of School Year. Maryland public high schools shall be open for at least 180 school days and a minimum of 1,170 school hours during a 10-month period in each school year.

B. Transfer Students.

(1) Attendance Requirements.

(a) To receive a diploma, a student shall be in attendance at a Maryland public high school one full semester immediately preceding graduation in addition to meeting the other diploma requirements.

(b) In cases where this requirement creates an undue hardship for a student transferring to or from a Maryland nonpublic school or from an out-of-State school and wishing to receive a Maryland high school diploma, the local superintendent of schools may waive the one full semester attendance requirement.

(c) Exception shall be made for a student with disabilities in a State-approved nonpublic program.

(d) Students transferring from one Maryland public high school to another during the second semester of their senior year and meeting all requirements for graduation shall be given the option of graduating from either high school by agreement of the local superintendent of schools or the respective local superintendents when more than one local school system is involved.

(2) Maryland High School Assessment Exemption Requirements.

(a) A student who transfers from a nonpublic school or a school out of State is exempt from one or more of the Maryland High School Assessments if, consistent with local school system policy and procedure, the principal of the Maryland public school in which the student enrolls determines that the course taken is aligned with the relevant High School Assessment and awards the student credit for taking any of the courses aligned with the High School Assessments, that is, algebra/data analysis, biology, English, or government, or all of these, in accordance with the principles set forth in §B(2)(c) of this regulation.

(b) A student who transfers from a nonpublic school or a school out of State and has not received credit for algebra/data analysis but has demonstrated mastery of the core learning goals of algebra/data analysis either through an evaluation or successful completion of subsequent mathematics courses for which algebra/data analysis is a prerequisite is exempt from the Maryland High School Assessment for algebra/data analysis.

(c) To award credit for taking any of the courses aligned with the High School Assessments, that is, algebra/data analysis, biology, English, or government, a principal shall determine through the following considerations whether the transfer student demonstrates subject matter knowledge aligned with the content standards for the subject:

(i) Administration of standardized tests and examinations;

(ii) Observation of the student in the classroom;

(iii) Use of interviews that are focused around the student's demonstration of course content knowledge and performance levels; and

(iv) Inspection of transcripts, report cards, and other documentation.

(d) A student who transfers from a nonpublic school or from a school out of State into a local school system after the first semester of his or her senior year is exempt from the Maryland High School Assessment Requirements.

(e) The exemption provided in §B(2)(d) of this regulation does not apply to a student with disabilities in a State-approved nonpublic program.

(3) Local Graduation Requirements. A student who enters a local school system in his or her senior year shall be granted a waiver from locally established graduation requirements unless the student chooses to fulfill the requirements.

(4) Unavailability of Official Transcript. If the transcript of record is not available, a local superintendent of schools or designee shall determine the appropriate placement of the student within the high school program by an evaluation of the student that shall include one or more of the following:

- (a) Administration of standardized tests and examination;
- (b) Observation of the student in a classroom setting;
- (c) Use of interviews that are focused around the student's demonstration of course content knowledge and performance levels;
- (d) Inspection of report cards and other documentation.

C. Notice to Parents or Guardians and Students. Each principal shall inform all students and their parents or guardians annually at a minimum of the following:

- (1) Maryland's graduation requirements;
- (2) The student's progress on fulfilling the credit, Maryland High School Assessment, service, and applicable IEP requirements for graduation;
- (3) The results of each Maryland High School Assessment taken by the student;
- (4) A plan for appropriate assistance, if applicable; and
- (5) The Department's schedule for Maryland School Assessment and Maryland High School Assessment administration.

D. Grading and Reporting.

- (1) Each local school system shall develop a written policy on grading and reporting that shall include but not be limited to the following:
 - (a) Establishment of instructional objectives and standards of performance for each course;
 - (b) Factors to be used in determining grades;
 - (c) Reporting contacts between parent (guardian) and teacher; and
 - (d) Compliance with the student record requirements as set forth in COMAR 13A.08.02.
- (2) Each local school system shall file its policies on grading and reporting with the State Superintendent of Schools.

SCHOOL YEAR 2013-2014

MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLIC SCHOOL OPENINGS AND CLOSINGS

Revised 8/20/2013

SCHOOL SYSTEM	FIRST DAY	MSEA	THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY	WINTER BREAK	SPRING BREAK	OTHER CLOSINGS AND HOLIDAYS	LAST DAY
Allegany	Aug 26		Nov 28-Dec 2	Dec 23-Jan 1	Apr 17-21	9/2, 10/3, 1/20, 2/6; 2/17, 5/26	May 30
Anne Arundel	Aug 26**	Oct 18	Nov 27-29	Dec 23-Jan 1	Apr 14-21	9/2, 9/5, 11/25, 11/26, 1/20, 1/27, 1/28, 2/17, 5/26	June 17
Baltimore City	Aug 26		Nov 28-29	Dec 23-Jan 1	Apr 14-21	9/2, 9/27, 10/17, 10/18, 11/15, 1/20, 1/31, 2/17, 4/4, 5/26	June 16
Baltimore	Aug 26	Oct 18	Nov 28-29	Dec 23-Jan 1	Apr 14-21	9/2, 9/5, 11/1, 1/15, 1/20, 1/21, 2/17, 3/31, 5/26	June 17
Calvert	Aug 20	Oct 18	Nov 27-29	Dec 23-Jan 1	Apr 14-21	9/2, 9/18, 9/27, 11/11, 1/20, 1/29, 2/5, 2/17, 3/21, 5/26	June 12
Caroline	Aug 26	Oct 18	Nov 27-29	Dec 23-Jan 3	Apr 17-21	9/2, 9/13, 11/11, 12/11, 1/20, 1/21, 2/17, 4/4, 5/26	June 13
Carroll	Aug 26	Oct 18	Nov 28-29	Dec 23-Jan 1	Apr 14-21	9/2, 9/5, 1/20, 1/21, 2/17, 2/18, 5/26	June 12
Cecil	Aug 22##	Oct 18	Nov 27-29	Dec 23-Jan 1	Apr 18-21	9/2, 10/21, 11/1, 1/16, 1/17, 1/20, 2/14, 2/17, 3/28, 3/31, 4/17, 5/23, 5/26	June 6
Charles	Aug 26	Oct 18	Nov 27-29	Dec 23-Jan 3	Apr 14-21	9/2, 9/13, 11/6, 11/11, 1/20, 1/27, 2/5, 2/17, 5/26	June 12
Dorchester	Aug 26+	Oct 18	Nov 27-29	Dec 23-31	Apr 18-21	9/2, 9/30, 10/1, 12/9, 1/1, 1/20, 2/17, 2/24, 5/26	June 10
Frederick	Aug 19	Oct 18	Nov 27-29	Dec 23-Jan 1	Apr 14-21	9/2, 9/5, 9/20, 10/25, 1/13, 1/20, 2/17, 2/18, 3/21, 5/26	June 11
Garret	Aug 26		Nov 28-29	Dec 23-31	Apr 14-17	9/2, 10/11, 12/2, 1/1, 1/20, 2/17, 4/18, 4/21, 5/26	June 3
Harford	Aug 26	Oct 18	Nov 28-29	Dec 23-Jan 1	Apr 16-21	9/2, 9/5, 10/31, 11/1, 1/20, 1/21, 1/22, 2/17, 4/14, 4/15, 5/26	June 9
Howard	Aug 26	Oct 18	Nov 28-29	Dec 23-Jan 1	Apr 14-21	9/2, 9/5, 11/1, 11/27, 1/20, 1/21, 2/14, 2/17, 4/24, 5/16, 5/26	June 18
Kent	Aug 26#	Oct 18	Nov 27-29	Dec 23-Jan 1	Apr 14-21	8/30, 9/2, 10/17, 10/21, 1/20, 1/21, 2/17, 5/26	June 13
Montgomery	Aug 26	Oct 18	Nov 28-29	Dec 23-31	Apr 14-17	9/2, 9/5, 1/1, 1/20, 1/21, 2/17, 3/28, 4/18, 4/21, 5/26	June 12
Prince George's	Aug 19	Oct 18	Nov 27-29	Dec 23-Jan 1	Apr 14-21	9/2, 9/5, 9/27, 10/28, 11/11, 1/17, 1/20, 2/14, 2/17, 3/28, 5/26	June 6
Queen Anne's	Aug 26++	Oct 18	Nov 27-29	Dec 23-Jan 1	Apr 17-22	9/2, 10/17, 11/4, 1/20, 1/21, 1/22, 2/17, 5/26	June 12
St. Mary's	Aug 21	Oct 18	Nov 28-29	Dec 23-31	Apr 14-17	9/2, 9/20, 10/14, 11/11, 11/27, 1/1, 1/17, 1/20, 2/17, 4/18, 4/21, 5/2, 5/26	June 12
Somerset	Aug 26	Oct 18	Nov 28-29	Dec 23-Jan 3	Apr 17-21	8/30, 9/2, 9/23, 10/21, 11/27, 1/20, 1/24, 2/14, 2/17, 5/26	June 12
Talbot	Aug 27	Oct 18	Nov 27-29	Dec 19-Jan 1	Apr 17-22	9/2, 10/17, 11/7, 11/8, 1/20, 1/21, 2/17, 5/2, 5/26	June 11
Washington	Aug 21	Oct 18	Nov 27-29	Dec 23-31	Apr 14-21	9/2, 10/28, 10/29, 1/1, 1/20, 1/21, 2/17, 3/27, 3/28, 5/26	June 12
Wicomico	Aug 26*	Oct 18	Nov 27-29	Dec 23-Jan 3	Apr 17-21	9/2, 9/27, 11/4, 1/20, 1/24, 2/17, 3/31, 5/26	June 6
Worcester	Aug 26	Oct 18	Nov 27-29	Dec 23-Jan 3	Apr 17-21	9/2, 11/4, 11/5, 1/20, 1/27, 2/17, 3/28, 5/26	June 12
SEED School	Aug 26		Nov 27-29	Dec 23-Jan 3	Apr 14-18	9/2, 11/25, 11/26, 1/20, 2/17, 4/21, 5/26	June 13

Save: SchoolOpeningsClosings2013-14

**WI Aug 26 Grades 1-6, 9 all grades Pittsville, Grade 6 at Mardella; Aug 27 grades 1-12

**AA Aug 26 grades 1-5, 6 & 9, Aug 27 grades 1-12

KENT Aug 26 grades k-5, 6 & 9, Aug 27 grades k-12 (10/16-schools open, 10/21 schools closed)

+DOR Aug 26 grades 1-5, 6 and 9, Aug 27 grades 1-12

++ QA Aug 26 grades 1-9, Aug 27 grades 10-12

Cecil Aug 22 grades 1-12, Aug 27 pre-k & k

SCHOOL SYSTEM CLOSURES
December 21-23, 2009 and February 8-16, 2010
***Opened On President's Day (2/25)**
**** Opened on Prof. Development Day**

School System	Dec 21, 2009	Dec 22, 2009	Dec 23, 2009	Feb 8	Feb 9	Feb 10	Feb 11	Feb 12	Feb 16	Emergency days in calendar	# days closed 08/09 - 2/19/10+
Allegany	Closed	2 hour delay	Open	Closed	Closed	Prof dev	Closed	Closed	Prof dev	8 days added to end	9
Anne Arundel	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	4 days included in cal.	10
Baltimore City	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	5 days added to end	9
Baltimore	Closed	Closed	2 hr. delay	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	7 days included in cal.	8
Calvert	Closed	Closed	Winter Break	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	2 hour	5 days included in cal.	9
Caroline	Winter Break	Winter Break	Winter Break	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	4 days included in cal.	8
Carroll	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Prof dev	5 days included in cal.	8
Cecil	Closed	Closed	Winter Break	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	2 hour	7 days added to end	8
Charles	Winter Break	Winter Break	Winter Break	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	2 hour	4 days included in cal.	7
Dorchester	Winter Break	Winter Break	Winter Break	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	1 hour	5 days include in cal.	9
Frederick	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	5 days included in cal.	12
Garrett	Open	Open	Open	2 hr. delay	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	5 days included in cal.	17
Harford	Closed	Closed	2 hour delay	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	4 days added to end / 2 days identified in cal.	9
Howard	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	5 days added to end	8
Kent	Closed	Closed	Winter Break	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	5 days included in cal.	8
Montgomery	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	2 hour	4 days included in cal. Will add 5 days if nec.	9
Prince George's	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Prof dev	Closed	4 days added to end	9
Queen Anne's	Winter Break	Winter Break	Winter Break	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	90 min	5 days added to end **OPEN 2/15	7
St. Mary's	Closed	Closed	Winter Break	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	1 hour	5 days included in cal. Other days identified	10
Somerset	Winter Break	Winter Break	Winter Break	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	1 hour	3 days included in cal.	8
Talbot	Winter Break	Winter Break	Winter Break	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Open	Days added to end **OPEN 2/15	8
Washington	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	2 hour	8 days included in cal.	8
Wicomico	Closed	Closed	Winter Break	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	2 hour	5 days added to end	11
Worcester	2 hrs delay	Open	Winter Break	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	2 hour	3 days included in cal.	9

Labor Day in United States

Labor Day is annually held on the first Monday of September. It was originally organized to celebrate various labor associations' strengths of and contributions to the United States economy. It is largely a day of rest in modern times. Many people mark Labor Day as the end of the summer season and a last chance to make trips or hold outdoor events.



Labor Day is a day of rest for many people.

 ©iStockphoto.com/mstahphoto

What do people do?

Labor Day is a day of rest or the last chance for many people to go on trips before the summer ends. For students, it is the last chance to organize parties before school starts again. In some neighborhoods, people organize fireworks displays, barbecues and public arts or sports events. The football season starts on or around Labor Day and many teams play their first game of the year during Labor Day weekend.

Traditionally, people did not wear white clothes, particularly shoes, after Labor day. However, this custom is slowly dying out. More and more people now wear white all year round, rather than just in the summer. Similarly, it is the custom to wear a straw cowboy hat from Memorial Day until Labor Day, then a felt one until Memorial Day comes around again.

May 1 is Lei Day in Hawaii, where celebrations include lei-making competitions, concerts, as well as giving and receiving leis to friends and family.

Public life

Labor Day is a federal holiday. All Government offices, schools and organizations and many businesses are closed. Some public celebrations, such as fireworks displays, picnics and barbecues, are organized, but they are usually low key events. For many teams, it is the start of the football season. As it is the last chance for many people to take summer trips, there may be some congestion on highways and at airports. Public transit systems do not usually operate on their regular timetables.

Background

The first Labor Day was held in 1882. Its origins stem from the desire of the Central Labor Union to create a holiday for workers. It became a federal holiday in 1894. It was originally intended that the day would be filled with a street parade to allow the public to appreciate the work of the trade and labor organizations. After the parade, a festival was to be held to amuse local workers and their families. In later years, prominent men and women held speeches. This is less common now, but is sometimes seen in election years. One of the reasons for choosing to celebrate this on the first Monday in September was to add a holiday in the long gap between Independence Day and Thanksgiving.

Quick Facts

Labor Day is a federal holiday in the United States. It gives workers a day of rest and it celebrates their contribution to the American economy.

Local names

Name	Language
Labor Day	English
Día del Trabajo	Spanish

Labor Day 2013

Monday, September 2, 2013

Labor Day 2014

Monday, September 1, 2014

[List of dates for other years](#) ▶

About Labor Day in other countries

Read more about [Labor Day](#).

Labor Day Observances

Weekday ↕	Date ↕	Year ▲	Name	Holiday type	Where it is observed
Mon	Sep 3	1990	Labor Day	National holiday	
Mon	Sep 2	1991	Labor Day	National holiday	
Mon	Sep 7	1992	Labor Day	National holiday	
Mon	Sep 6	1993	Labor Day	National holiday	
Mon	Sep 5	1994	Labor Day	National holiday	
Mon	Sep 4	1995	Labor Day	National holiday	
Mon	Sep 2	1996	Labor Day	National holiday	
Mon	Sep 1	1997	Labor Day	National holiday	
Mon	Sep 7	1998	Labor Day	National holiday	
Mon	Sep 6	1999	Labor Day	National holiday	
Mon	Sep 4	2000	Labor Day	National holiday	
Mon	Sep 3	2001	Labor Day	National holiday	
Mon	Sep 2	2002	Labor Day	National holiday	
Mon	Sep 1	2003	Labor Day	National holiday	
Mon	Sep 6	2004	Labor Day	National holiday	
Mon	Sep 5	2005	Labor Day	National holiday	
Mon	Sep 4	2006	Labor Day	National holiday	
Mon	Sep 3	2007	Labor Day	National holiday	
Mon	Sep 1	2008	Labor Day	National holiday	
Mon	Sep 7	2009	Labor Day	National holiday	
Mon	Sep 6	2010	Labor Day	National holiday	
Mon	Sep 5	2011	Labor Day	National holiday	
Mon	Sep 3	2012	Labor Day	National holiday	
Mon	Sep 2	2013	Labor Day	National holiday	
Mon	Sep 1	2014	Labor Day	National holiday	
Mon	Sep 7	2015	Labor Day	National holiday	
Mon	Sep 5	2016	Labor Day	National holiday	
Mon	Sep 4	2017	Labor Day	National holiday	
Mon	Sep 3	2018	Labor Day	National holiday	
Mon	Sep 2	2019	Labor Day	National holiday	
Mon	Sep 7	2020	Labor Day	National holiday	

Other holidays in September 2013 in United States

- [Rosh Hashana](#) —Thursday, September 5, 2013
- [Carl Garner Federal Lands Cleanup Day](#) —Saturday, September 7, 2013

Labor Day in United States

- [International Literacy Day](#) —Sunday, September 8, 2013
- [National Grandparents Day](#) —Sunday, September 8, 2013
- [World Suicide Prevention Day](#) —Tuesday, September 10, 2013
- [Patriot Day](#) —Wednesday, September 11, 2013
- [International Day for South-South Cooperation](#) —Thursday, September 12, 2013
- [International Programmers' Day](#) —Friday, September 13, 2013
- [Friday the 13th](#) —Friday, September 13, 2013
- [Yom Kippur](#) —Saturday, September 14, 2013
- [International Day of Democracy](#) —Sunday, September 15, 2013
- [International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer](#) —Monday, September 16, 2013
- [Constitution Day and Citizenship Day](#) —Tuesday, September 17, 2013
- [International Talk Like a Pirate Day](#) —Thursday, September 19, 2013
- [First Day of Sukkot](#) —Thursday, September 19, 2013
- [National POW/MIA Recognition Day](#) —Friday, September 20, 2013
- [International Day of Peace](#) —Saturday, September 21, 2013
- [Emancipation Day](#) —Sunday, September 22, 2013
- [September equinox](#) —Sunday, September 22, 2013
- [Last Day of Sukkot](#) —Wednesday, September 25, 2013
- [Shmini Atzeret](#) —Thursday, September 26, 2013
- [World Maritime Day](#) —Thursday, September 26, 2013
- [World Tourism Day](#) —Friday, September 27, 2013
- [World Rabies Day](#) —Saturday, September 28, 2013
- [World Heart Day](#) —Sunday, September 29, 2013
- [Gold Star Mother's Day](#) —Sunday, September 29, 2013



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MARYLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS AIR CONDITIONING SURVEY

LEA	Elementary		Middle		High		Other		Total Number Schools	Total Schools with AC	Total Schools without AC	Percentage w/AC 2013	Percentage w/AC 2011	Percentage w/AC 2004
	with AC	without AC	with AC	without AC	with AC	without AC	with AC	without AC						
Allegany	14	0	3	2	1	1	2	0	22	18	4	82%	82%	43%
Anne Arundel	78	0	19	0	12	0	9	0	118	118	0	100%	100%	98%
Baltimore City	too many building variants								163	92	71	56%		
Baltimore County	62	44	17	10	16	8	9	3	169	104	65	62%	62%	39%
Calvert	13	0	6	0	4	0	2	0	25	25	0	100%	100%	100%
Caroline	5	0	2	0	2	0	1	0	10	10	0	100%	100%	90%
Carroll	23	0	9	0	8	0	3	0	43	43	0	100%	100%	87%
Cecil	16	1	6	0	5	0	2	0	30	29	1	97%	97%	97%
Charles	21	0	8	0	6	0	2	0	37	37	0	100%	100%	100%
Dorchester	6	0	2	0	2	0	3	0	13	13	0	100%	100%	100%
Frederick	36	0	13	0	10	0	4	0	63	63	0	100%	100%	100%
Garrett	2	6	2	0	0	2	0	1	13	4	9	31%	31%	27%
Harford	33	0	9	0	10	0	0	1	53	52	1	98%	98%	92%
Howard	40	0	19	0	12	0	7	0	78	78	0	100%	100%	100%
Kent	5	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	8	8	0	100%	100%	100%
Montgomery	132	0	38	0	25	0	6	0	201	201	0	100%	100%	100%
Prince George's	127	0	28	0	26	0	8	0	189	189	0	100%	100%	73%
Queen Anne's	8	0	4	0	2	0	0	0	14	14	0	100%	100%	100%
Somerset	5	0	1	0	2	0	2	0	10	10	0	100%	100%	100%
St. Mary's	18	0	5	0	3	0	2	0	28	28	0	100%	100%	100%
Talbot	6	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	9	9	0	100%	100%	100%
Washington	27	0	7	0	9	0	3	0	46	46	0	100%	100%	88%
Wicomico	14	2	2	1	3	0	1	1	24	20	4	83%	83%	63%
Worcester	5	0	4	0	4	0	1	0	14	14	0	100%	100%	100%
STATE TOTAL	621	51	183	13	143	11	59	5	1380	1225	155	89%	89%	78%

Prepared by Maryland State Department of Education, School Facilities Branch, Contact: Barbara Bice, 410-767-0097

Data as of 2/13/13 based on email and telephone survey conducted between 2/1/13 and 2/13/13.

"With AC" means the general purpose classrooms in the school have cooling with either a central system or window units.

Economic Impact of a Post Labor Day Start Date for Maryland Public Schools

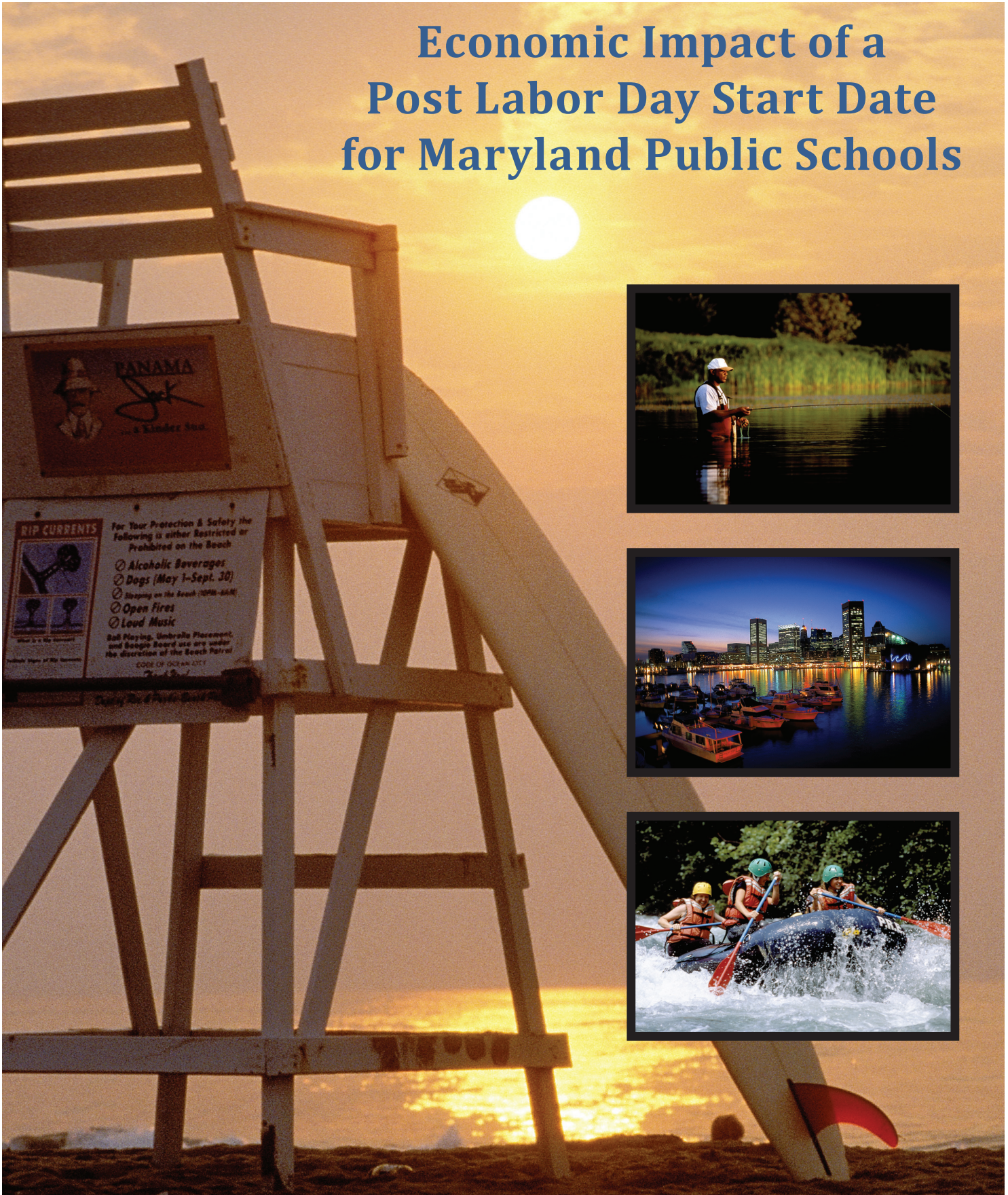


Table of Contents

- I. Executive Summary**
- II. School Calendar Impact**
- III. Direct Economic Impact**
 - Tourism Impact
 - Local Family Recreational Activities Impact
- IV. Conclusion**
- V. Appendix: Methodology**

Executive Summary

A decision to extend the traditional summer vacation beyond the Labor Day holiday for all public county school systems in Maryland would have a positive net economic and revenue impact for businesses and governments across the state. It would defer the start of the new academic year by six to 14 days for school year 2013-2014, depending upon the jurisdiction. In so doing, it would mitigate, for many Maryland families, the natural scheduling constraints that are created by the placement of the Labor Day holiday – the longtime, traditional capstone to the summer tourist season – within the confines of the public school calendar. While Labor Day weekend in Maryland is more commonly associated with family trips to resort destinations such as Ocean City and Deep Creek Lake, and for good reason, the aforementioned time window also coincides with other major events occurring throughout the state. They include, but are not limited to, the Maryland State Fair in Timonium, the Grand Prix of Baltimore and four weeknight home dates at Oriole Park at Camden Yards.

By eliminating such constraints, an estimated 8.5% of the 514,680 affected families--those with school age children--would take either a new day trip or a new overnight trip to one of Maryland's three top destinations (Baltimore City, Deep Creek Lake, or Ocean City). Another 5.2% would take a new out-of-state day or overnight trip, and the remaining families would devote at least one additional day to a family recreational activity within their own jurisdiction. The net effect for Maryland is an additional \$74.3 million in direct economic activity, including \$3.7 million in new wages and a separate \$7.7 million in state and local revenue. It should also be expressly noted that this estimate only includes the direct economic and tax impacts. Incorporating the indirect and induced activity would result in a significant upward revision of the total impact.

Table 1
New Direct Economic Activity
(Dollars in Millions)

Destination/Category	New Day Trips	New Overnight Trips	Total New Trips	New Economic Activity	New Tax Revenue
Baltimore City	17,670	2,962	20,632	\$16.1	\$1.9
Deep Creek Lake	195	1,795	1,990	\$2.5	\$0.3
Ocean City	11,552	9,449	21,001	\$14.9	\$2.2
Subtotal	29,417	14,206	43,623	\$33.5	\$4.4
Out-of-State	12,777	13,926	26,703	(\$3.5)	(\$0.3)
Baseline In-State Activity				(\$7.8)	(\$0.6)
Net Direct Tourism Impact				\$22.2	\$3.5
Local Family Recreational Impact				\$52.1	\$4.1
TOTAL DIRECT IMPACT				\$74.3	\$7.7

Note 1: Details may not sum to totals due to rounding
Note 2: New Economic Activity includes new wages

School Calendar Impact

Currently, all Maryland school districts begin the school year earlier than Labor Day. While the majority of Maryland's twenty-four school districts begin one week prior to Labor Day, some begin even earlier. After weighing the number of additional school days by affected households, Maryland school districts would average an additional 8.7 days of summer vacation if the next school year began on September 3, the day after Labor Day. Table 2, below, shows the 2013-2014 school starting dates and the additional number of summer vacation days if school started the day after Labor Day in each jurisdiction. Under Maryland law, schools are required to be open for at least 180 actual school days and a minimum of 1,080 school hours. In order to adhere to the statute, this report assumes additional summer vacation days added to an individual school district would be accounted for during each school district's current school year calendar. Thus, the school calendar change would allow for an expansion in the number of summer vacation days, as opposed to a shift from one part of the summer to another.

Table 2
Additional Summer Vacation Days Resulting from Post-Labor Day Start Date for the 2013-2014 School Year

Jurisdiction	Start Date	Additional Summer Vacation Days	Jurisdiction	Start Date	Additional Summer Vacation Days
Allegany County	26-Aug	7	Harford County	26-Aug	7
Anne Arundel County	26-Aug	7	Howard County	26-Aug	7
Baltimore City	26-Aug	7	Kent County	26-Aug	6
Baltimore County	26-Aug	7	Montgomery County	26-Aug	7
Calvert County	20-Aug	13	Prince George's County	19-Aug	14
Caroline County	26-Aug	7	Queen Anne's County	26-Aug	7
Carroll County	26-Aug	7	Somerset Count	26-Aug	6
Cecil County	22-Aug	11	St. Mary's County	21-Aug	12
Charles County	26-Aug	7	Talbot County	27-Aug	6
Dorchester County	26-Aug	7	Washington County	21-Aug	12
Frederick County	19-Aug	14	Wicomico County	26-Aug	7
Garrett County	26-Aug	7	Worcester County	26-Aug	6

Note : Kent, Somerset and Worcester County are scheduled off the Friday prior to Labor Day

Direct Economic Impact

The mandate of a post-Labor Day school starting date for the 2013-2014 school year would result in \$74.3 million in new direct economic activity and approximately \$7.7 million in new state and local government revenues. More detail about the composition of the impact is shown in Table 3: net economic activity, exclusive of new wages, would increase by \$70.6 million, state revenue would increase by \$5.2 million, local government revenue would increase by \$2.4 million, and \$3.7 million in new wages would be realized. State and local revenues include personal and corporate income taxes, sales taxes, accommodations taxes, admissions and amusement taxes, as well as certain fees.

Table 3
Direct Economic Activity and Revenue Generated from Post-Labor Day Start Date

Economic Activity	\$70,610,232
New Wages	\$3,690,375
State Government Revenue	\$5,231,045
Local Government Revenue	\$2,437,092

The increase in economic activity stems from two components: tourism and family recreational activities. The tourism component accounts for new day and overnight trips to Ocean City, Deep Creek Lake, Baltimore City and out-of-state. Accounting for \$22.2 million in economic activity, the tourism impact represents 30% of the total new economic activity. Further details regarding the impact for each destination are provided later in this section.

Family recreational spending accounts for the remaining impact. Family recreational activities include close-to-home activities such as going to the movies, enjoying a dinner out, hosting a BBQ, attending the Maryland State Fair, attending a baseball game at Oriole Park at Camden Yards or at one of the state's multiple minor-league venues and a myriad of other, similar activities. This impact is estimated at over \$52.1 million, or approximately 70% of new economic activity.

Tourism Impact

While Maryland boasts many tourism destinations, Ocean City, Deep Creek Lake and Baltimore City are the State of Maryland's largest tourism centers and the focus for this component of the study. Using several multi-attribute models which incorporate factors such as income, geography and existing tourism statistics (more detail in methodology section), this report estimates the economic impact that a post-Labor Day starting date for the upcoming school year would have on these three tourism destinations. The aggregate economic activity of these three destinations would account for the vast majority of the in-state tourism impact of a starting date change for the 2013-2014 school year.

Table 4
In-State Tourism Impact from Post-Labor Day Start Date

Day Trips	29,417
Overnight Trips	14,206
Economic Activity	\$31,761,505
New Wages	\$1,747,938

Ocean City

As Maryland's top family destination, Ocean City visitors experience a classic beach vacation. Families can enjoy over ten miles of beach, where fishing and water sports are bountiful. With just under three miles of boardwalk, families can play at arcades, shop at boutiques, ride amusement rides and dine at restaurants. Additionally, Ocean City boasts several world class golf courses. Lastly, the extension of summer vacation would allow more visitors to enjoy Ocean City's Labor Day Weekend Arts and Crafts Festival.

A post-Labor Day school starting date would produce over 21,000 new trips to Ocean City. As shown in Table 5, Ocean City's economic activity would increase by nearly \$15 million, accounting for 20.1% of the total new economic activity. Due to this increase in economic activity, over \$930,000 in new wages would be generated. Ocean City would see a significant amount of new wages because of its large number of seasonal employees. This wage increase is not necessarily correlated with new jobs because it is likely that seasonal employment would be extended to accommodate the longer summer vacation period.

Table 5
Ocean City Tourism Impact from Post-Labor Day Start Date

Day Trips	11,552
Overnight Trips	9,449
Economic Activity	\$14,000,577
New Wages	\$936,875

Baltimore City

Boasting the Inner Harbor, the National Aquarium, numerous museums, shops and restaurants, Baltimore City welcomed over 22 million visitors in 2011. Such a diverse range of options and Baltimore's geographic location, generally bordering or very close to the state's population centers, make it a popular destination for resident day trips. In addition to these general tourism activities, a large component of Baltimore City's popularity originates with the city's sports teams and sporting events. A particularly significant occurrence in this analysis is the timing of the Grand Prix of Baltimore. The Grand Prix includes many family-friendly activities and the race event takes place over the Labor-Day weekend.

A post-Labor Day school starting date would bring more than 20,000 new family visitors to Baltimore City--17,670 for day trips and 2,962 for overnight stays. As shown in Table 6, below, Baltimore City's economic activity would increase by over \$16 million, constituting 22.8% of the total new economic activity. We estimate approximately \$650,000 of new wages would be generated from this increase in economic activity. It is important to note that Baltimore City's wage impact is smaller as a share of new economic activity relative to the other tourist destinations. This is largely attributable to the year-round nature of Baltimore's tourism industry relative to the other two destinations.

Table 6
Baltimore City Tourism Impact from Post-Labor Day Start Date

Day Trips	17,670
Overnight Trips	2,962
Economic Activity	\$15,442,685
New Wages	\$655,671

Deep Creek Lake

As the largest freshwater lake in Maryland, Deep Creek Lake welcomes an estimated 1.1 million annual visitors. Families visiting Deep Creek Lake can participate in a wide variety of outdoor activities including golfing, boating, hiking, kayaking and fishing. Families also can enjoy the beauty of Deep Creek Lake by simply relaxing by the fire or taking in the breathtaking scenery.

A post-Labor Day school starting date would produce nearly 2,000 new family visitors to Deep Creek Lake. As shown in Table 7, below, Deep Creek Lake's economic activity would increase by over \$2.3 million or 3.3% of the total new economic activity. Additionally, approximately \$155,000 of new wages would be generated. Similar to Ocean City's new wages, these do not necessarily account for new jobs, since it is likely that seasonal employment would be extended to accommodate the longer summer vacation period. Due to the proximity of Deep Creek Lake to Maryland's population centers and visitor statistics, the model predicts fewer trips to this destination relative to the other two destinations.

Table 7
Deep Creek Lake Tourism Impact from Post-Labor Day Start Date

Day Trips	195
Overnight Trips	1,795
Economic Activity	\$2,318,242
New Wages	\$155,392

Out of State and Baseline In State Offsets

Although the change to a post-Labor Day school starting date would have a gross positive direct economic impact of over \$33.5 million for the tourist destinations, approximately \$11.3 million in economic activity must be subtracted to account for resident spending that would occur out of state due to a new vacation and for spending that would have occurred in the absence of the in-state trips. We estimate that 26,703 Maryland families would travel outside of the state as a result of the longer summer vacation--13,926 for an overnight trip and 12,777 for a day trip. The loss of the economic activity for those residents totals \$3.5 million. A larger impact stems from the in state substitution effect: the \$7.8 million in foregone spending that would have occurred had the residents not taken an in-state day or overnight trip. For both instances, the counteracting spending is related to daily spending for items that would not be purchased in the wake of a new trip, generally non-durable types of expenditures. The \$11.3 million lost is more than offset by the tourism and non-tourism related gains, making every jurisdiction a net positive.

Local Family Recreational Activities Impact

While a significant impact would be felt within the tourism destinations, the larger and broader effect is attributable to families engaging in at-home activities which they could not have otherwise enjoyed, or family recreational activities. We assume families that do not take a significant day or overnight trip would each introduce one new family recreational activity per week of additional summer vacation time. Examples of such activities include a trip to the movie theater, a dinner out, hosting a BBQ, attending the Maryland State Fair or a myriad of other such activities.

Table 8, below, highlights an economic non-tourism benefit of over \$52 million across all regions of Maryland, accounting for roughly 70% of the new economic activity. Therefore, extending the summer season by a weighted average of 8.7 days would result in a net increase in economic activity across all jurisdictions in Maryland.

Table 8
Regional Economic Non-tourism Activity

Region ¹	Net Economic Activity	
Eastern MD	\$	2,800,451
Capitol MD	\$	23,538,741
Central MD	\$	19,210,458
Southern MD	\$	5,275,183
Western MD	\$	1,231,703
Total	\$	52,056,536

Conclusion

The extension of the traditional summer vacation beyond the Labor Day holiday for all public county school systems in Maryland would have a substantial positive impact on both the state and local governments' economies. This extension would generate \$74.3 million in new direct economic activity, including \$3.7 million in additional wages, and boost state and local government revenues by \$7.7 million. Perhaps most importantly, every jurisdiction in the state stands to gain an economic benefit from this change.

Additionally, it must be stressed that the actual impact of a change to a post-Labor Day school start date is likely to be higher than the estimates in this report. Our model does not take into account any multiplier effect from the direct increase in economic activity, for this reason alone, the estimate's risk is entirely to the upside. Also, for any given year, the date on which Labor Day falls would alter the number of days in which summer vacations would be impacted. For this estimate, the 2013-2014 school year served as the basis, with Labor Day falling on the second day of the month; in any given year Labor Day could be on the first or the seventh, leaving room, more often than not, for more available summer vacation days and more economic activity. Overall, it is likely that the increase in economic activity estimated by the model is conservative and the actual economic impact would be higher.

¹Eastern MD: Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's, Talbot, Caroline, Dorchester, Wicomico, Worcester, Somerset; Central MD: Harford, Carroll, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Howard, Anne Arundel; Southern MD: St. Mary's, Charles, Calvert; Capitol MD: Frederick, Montgomery, Prince George's; Western MD: Garrett, Allegany, Washington

Appendix: Methodology

The number of families affected by the proposed school year calendar change was calculated using US Bureau of the Census data and student data from the National Center for Education Statistics. Affected families by jurisdiction served as the basis for each of the models, allowing the introduction of varying income levels and geographical attributes. After determining the number of families impacted, assumptions were made to determine the number of families taking a new summer vacation as a result of the additional summer vacation days. Although most families did not take another summer vacation, it was assumed that their average spending habits would be altered by the newly available summer vacation time.

Several multi-attribute models incorporating income, geography and preference (based on visitor information) were developed to determine the destination for new summer vacations. Destinations included in the models were Baltimore City, Deep Creek Lake, Ocean City and out-of-state. The out-of-state factor was assumed to be directly related to income and preference. Income was weighed higher because, on average, travel expenses are greater when traveling out of state. Both a day trip model and an overnight model were developed. The day-trip model weighed both income and geography equally, while the overnight model weighed income more heavily.

Data was collected on tourism spending in Baltimore City, Deep Creek Lake and Ocean City. The data, collected from Maryland's Department of Business and Economic Development, the City of Ocean City's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), Garrett County Chamber of Commerce and Visit Baltimore, allowed assumptions to be made regarding average spending per family in each destination.

Using data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, United States Annual Consumer Expenditure database, we calculated an average spending at home basis for family recreational activities (entertainment, food away from home, etc.). This allowed for a new variable to be calculated for marginal spending on family recreational activities. For the tourism offsetting expenditures, similar data was used. The model estimated that every region in Maryland would benefit from a net increase in economic activity due to the change in the school calendar.

The actual impact of a change to a post Labor Day school start date is likely to differ from the estimates in this report. The model does not take into account any multiplier effect from the direct increase in economic activity. Additionally, for any given year, the date on which Labor Day falls would alter the number of days in which summer vacations would be impacted. Overall, it is likely that the increase in economic activity estimated by the model is conservative and the actual economic impact may be higher.

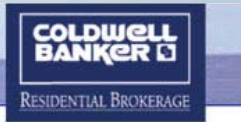




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Star Charities Holds Fund Raiser For Wounded Soldiers Of Maryland

Anna Foults's Star Charities held its latest fund raiser at the Ocean Pines Community Center Sept. 20 to raise funds to benefit Wounded Soldiers of Maryland. Pictured, from left, are Charles and Sharon Sorrentino, Worcester County Commissioner Judy Boggs, Anna Foults, candidate for Maryland House of Delegates for District 38C Mary Beth Carozza, Senator Jim Mathias, Co-host Gilly Foults and Emcee Larry Walton. ...

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Yenney, Emergency Outreach Coordinator for the Community

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Mathias Seeks Task Force To Study Later School Start

Posted on 02/21/2013 by Shawn J. Soper

OCEAN CITY — Responding to a call to revisit the issue, Senator Jim Mathias (D-38) last week introduced legislation in the General Assembly that would create a task force to study the possibility of pushing the start date for public schools across Maryland back until after Labor Day.

For decades, the public school year in Maryland always started after Labor Day, the symbolic end to the summer season, but in recent years, most jurisdictions have moved the start date earlier and earlier, into mid-August in some cases. Because of its resort nature, Worcester was one of the last to hold onto the post-Labor Day start date for schools, but the county has joined the ranks of other school systems starting in late August in recent years.

Last April, Maryland Comptroller Peter Franchot met with Ocean City business leaders to jumpstart his initiative to push the start of the school year back after Labor Day, citing the economic benefit to the state while maintaining the mandated number days in the school calendar. Meanwhile, Greg Shockley, who chairs the state's Tourism Development Board, approached Mathias recently about introducing legislation to at least study the issue and the senator obliged.

"It's a vital bill for us," said Mathias this week. "Greg Shockley reached out to me and told me it's something that's really needed and wanted. This task force would look at the issue comprehensively, from the economic impact, to keeping the

Church's Emergency Outreach Program, Guest Speaker At Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City Weekly Meeting

At the Aug. 14, weekly meeting of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City, the guest speaker was Mary Yenny, Emergency Outreach Coordinator for the Community Church's Emergency Outreach Program. Also pictured is speaker chair Graham Caldwell.



Daughters Of The American Colonists (DAC) Tour Rackliffe House

Daughters of the American Colonists (DAC) recently toured the Rackliffe House. Pictured, Rackliffe Trust President Joan Jenkins holds a plaque presented by the DAC. Pictured with Jenkins are Karen Bradley, Docent; Sue Mallory, Delaware State Regent; Wilma Jones; Irene Phillips, Hoornkill Chapter Regent; Theresa Bruner, National Vice President; and Melanie Merryweather.



Mixed Reviews For New OC Meeting Format

OCEAN CITY – Mixed feelings remain over the Mayor and City Council reformatted meeting agendas. The Ocean City Mayor and Council have met on several occasions since the new public comment period and consent agenda format were approved. Last month, the council approved a couple of measures adjusting the format for the bi-weekly regular meetings, including moving the public

summer workforce intact, and from the educational impact to the importance of keeping the family together for another week at the end of the summer.”

The bill calls for the creation of a task force to study the issue from all sides. The task force would include state and local elected officials, school administrators, teachers, students and parents and business leaders. Mathias said he was keenly aware of the potential impacts on the school calendar, but hoped a compromise solution could be reached.

“I understand that the educational system going forward has put a lot of emphasis on testing and the number of days to prepare for the tests is so important, but I think there might be a solution to keep the mandated number of days while providing considerable economic benefit,” he said. “As we move forward, we want to look at the whole picture, from the economic impact to the educational issues and have a coherent roundtable discussion. That’s the basis for this bill.”

When Franchot met with resort business leaders last spring to launch his “Let Summer Mean Summer” and “Line in the Sand” initiatives, the comptroller said the early start date for schools has made it increasingly difficult for small businesses in Ocean City and across the state.

“It has a negative impact on small businesses throughout Ocean City that rely on a strong tourist season,” he said. “During these tough economic times, we have to do all we can to foster growth. A busy summer in Ocean City is critical for this community and the entire state. Losing 7-10 days in August could be the difference between making it or closing doors.”

The numbers Franchot presented last spring appear to bear that out. For example, 32 million domestic travelers visited Maryland last year and the tourism sector employs over 340,000 workers with the summer months particularly busy. An August week in Ocean City can generate almost \$5 million in state and local revenues, and nearly \$3 million can be generated on a holiday weekend.

State law requires a 180-day school year, but Franchot has said he is confident the best public school system in the country would be able to achieve the mandated number of days with a post-Labor Day start.

“Our school system has been rated the top in the nation for several years now and our teachers, administrators, and support staff are the most talented in the country,” he said. “I am confident they can adjust the school calendar in order to provide for a start after Labor Day.”

Beyond the economic and educational aspects of the issue,

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Franchot evoked nostalgic memories of family vacations in the summer to further prove the point.

“It’s a win for students and a win for families,” he said. “Summer means summer. The end of August is about getting in the last game of mini-golf or skee ball on the Boardwalk with the family, or eating that last batch of steamed crabs on the deck. It isn’t meant for waiting on a bus stop or sitting in a classroom.”

Ocean City Mayor Rick Meehan has said changing family dynamics have made the traditional summer vacation more difficult. He said cutting summer short by a week or two at the end of August has contributed to that.

“Maryland families today find it difficult to get time off for vacation with both parents working and cutting summer short by a couple of weeks limits those opportunities further,” he said. “We can’t continue to allow that to happen.”

This article was written by **Shawn J. Soper**, . Bookmark the [permalink](#).

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One comment on “Mathias Seeks Task Force To Study Later School Start”



Mike Trott on 02/22/2013 at 2:39 am said:

Mr. Franchot Please run for governor!! Good common sense a breath of fresh air.

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SEN AUG 16, 2013

Start school after Labor Day, Md. is urged

Lawmakers, Franchot, study say waiting till after holiday would help state's economy

By ERIN COX
The Baltimore Sun

Eastern Shore and Western Maryland lawmakers joined Comptroller Peter Franchot on Thursday in calling for school to start after Labor Day.

The proposed change, hailed as a way to promote family time and extend the tourist season, would have a \$74.3 million economic impact, the Bureau of Revenue estimates, said in a new report. School starts this year in most school systems around the state Aug. 26, a week before Labor Day.

"It's one of the traditions we should bring back," Franchot said on the Ocean City boardwalk. "I almost think starting school

before Labor Day is un-American."

Maryland is among several states across the country considering delaying the school calendar until after the holiday. Franchot, who began in 2012 to lobby for a later start to the school year, called Labor Day "a common-sense capstone to our summer."

The Maryland General Assembly created a task force this year to study pushing back the start of school. Education officials and amusement park owners are among those studying whether the 180 days required for the state's school year could be compressed into September through early June.

Delaware lawmakers created a similar task force this year. Iowa did so last year. Alabama, Mississippi and Michigan passed laws forbidding schools to start before the end of August. The issue is a perennial question before Pennsylvania lawmakers.

Proponents of earlier start dates across the country say they give students more time to prepare for mandatory tests and

more time near the holidays to complete college applications, among other reasons. The change would also require scores of Maryland families to find an additional week or two of summer child care.

If school did not start until after Labor Day in Maryland, an estimated 8.5 percent of Maryland families with school-age children would take an extra in-state vacation to Baltimore. Deep Creek Lake in Garrett County or Ocean City, the new state report said. Another 5.2 percent of those families would take an out-of-state trip, and many others would spend more money at home.

Howard County businessman Bob Henley, a father of four, said his family would take advantage of a later start date.

A pre-Labor Day school start "creates a lot of disruption at the end of summer," Henley said. "We can't go anywhere, we can't do anything because the kids are back in school. It's like losing a long weekend."

Several business owners and Ocean City

residents at Franchot's event said the tourist industry continues in town even when school has started, creating community tension and lost revenue. Students have to wait for school buses on streets crowded with disoriented out-of-town drivers. Part-time high school employees go back to school, creating a labor shortage while out-of-town guests keep coming.

"We're all scrambling to keep our doors open," said Royette Shepherd, co-owner of Hooper's Crab House.

Ocean City Mayor Rick Meehan and a half-dozen other elected officials joined Franchot in calling for a longer summer break. Sen. James N. Mathias Jr., who represents Ocean City, said pushing school back to after Labor Day might only be the starting point.

"We get this done, maybe we can push it back even further," he said.

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twitter.com/ErinatTheSun



One week and counting

Our view: Do public schools open too soon? Maryland's comptroller says yes, the silly-billy

August 19, 2013

Between Egypt and disgraced politicians, August has proven itself a more robust month for news than usual this year, yet there's always room in the summer doldrums for the wacky and off-beat. And for generations, few individuals have proven themselves better suited to provide that brand of comic relief than the men who have served as [Maryland's](#) comptroller.

Whether it was Louis L. Goldstein's tireless campaigning or his cheerful but grammatically-challenged signature send-off, "God bless y'all real good," or even William Donald Schaefer's diatribes against the world or generally bizarre behavior, Maryland comptrollers have a tradition of quirky entertainment. How comforting to recognize that Peter Franchot, the man who has held the office since 2007, is continuing this proud tradition.

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The latest evidence of this, of course, is a 12-page report issued by Mr. Franchot claiming that if Maryland's schools would simply start students back after Labor Day instead of one week earlier, the state would reap substantial economic rewards: \$74.3 million in direct economic activity and \$7.7 million in state and local [tax](#) revenue.

Where would this newfound wealth come from? It is the comptroller's belief that Marylanders would take a lot more vacation days and spend them at places like [Ocean City](#) and the Maryland State Fair in Timonium. It would provide, in the comptroller's own words, "the chance for [families](#) to spend precious time together and build lifelong memories."

And all that as a result of starting school on Sept. 3 instead of Aug. 26. We would be skeptical of the methodology used by the Bureau of Revenue Estimates, but the one-page description of methodology in the report is so slight on how these calculations were actually made (aside from using "models" and "data"), that critiquing it would be impossible.

Instead, let's assume Mr. Franchot is correct. Maryland's gross domestic product is along the order of \$301 billion, so \$74.3 million would potentially add something between a minuscule and barely discernible amount to it. (That's 0.0025 percent, to be precise.) Meanwhile, school systems across the state would have to completely rewrite their calendars to either toss out existing holidays or teacher training and planning days or else extend the 180-day school year deeper into June. This would be problematic for any number of reasons, most glaringly because of the fixed dates of standardized testing and the need to cover certain curriculum by a certain date.

Add to that the need for days off for planning, for teacher education, to fulfill contracts and to allow parents to take vacations at other times of the year, and what you would have is a considerable burden for school systems from [Ocean City](#) to Deep Creek Lake. How curious that if this would such a good idea — and [Ocean City](#) so desperately needs it to staff its late-summer tourism attractions — that even the Atlantic beach resort's own Worcester County school system starts classes in August, not September.

Indeed, it isn't hard to find a lot of neighbors who see the advantage in an August 26 start date for public schools. That's when students in the District of Columbia go back. Same with students in York, Pa. and New Castle, Del. Classes at Towson University start in August as do students at the University of Maryland [Baltimore](#) County. Shouldn't the comptroller get on their case?

What makes this whole exercise especially silly is that what Maryland's elected leaders (including its chief tax collector) ought to be asking is, why do public schools still take off so much time in the summer? The far more important question — to the state's economy and well-being — is whether Maryland is educating its children to the highest possible

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[Summer vacation](#) is a vestige of the nation's agricultural past. Year-round schooling might be more effective. Studies show students who attend school year-round do as well or better than their peers in the traditional schedule. Even some business leaders have advocated for it as a means to boost employment opportunities for young people beyond the summer months.

When it comes to public education, our sole focus ought to be on producing better outcomes, not on economic chump change. As amusing as it may be to see Mr. Franchot advocate for this misguided crusade annually, it's a bit of a guilty pleasure. Ultimately, the quality of Maryland's public schools is serious stuff, and school systems don't need such sideshow distractions.

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8/21/13

**READERS
RESPOND****Starting school after Labor
Day has serious benefits**

As I read The Sun's editorial, "One week and counting" (Aug. 19), I was disappointed with how disconnected it seemed from the conversations I've had with countless families and small business owners about a post-Labor Day start to the public school calendar.

While the editorial mocked a serious policy discussion that would simultaneously help families, small businesses and the Maryland economy, a poll on The Sun's own website found that 88 percent of readers support a post-Labor Day start to the public school calendar. While \$74.3 million may, in fact, be a small fraction of the state's overall gross domestic product, tens of millions of dollars would be anything but "barely discernible" on the books of the many family-owned businesses I've visited — or the household budgets of their 320,000 employees, particularly amid a sluggish economic recovery.

The \$3.7 million in added wages would hardly be "minuscule" to Maryland's teachers who rely on supplemental income to support their families in a state workforce that's among the nation's worst in private-sector wage growth. And at a time when the state has repeatedly dug into the pockets of our citizens for tax and fee increases, \$7.7 million more in tax revenue without increasing rates would go a long way.

Just as we agree that we should ask ourselves whether we're educating our children to the highest possible standard, I hope we can also agree that we owe it to our citizens to similarly ask if we've done all we can to avoid increasing their taxes to pursue even the most worthwhile public projects. But this isn't just about the economic growth, tax revenue or supplemental wages it would generate; it's about the fleeting time families have to spend together and the lifelong memories and lessons learned during the summer that can't necessarily be taught in a classroom or textbook.

I admit, it's a "guilty pleasure" to fight every day for the best interests of Maryland's taxpayers and to carry on the legacy of my legendary predecessors, Louis L. Goldstein and William Donald Schaefer, whose memories you curiously chose to diminish. So, in their spirit of sensible public policy, and for the sake of families, small businesses and our state's economy, I'm proud to join the overwhelming majority of Marylanders in making summer mean summer once again.

*Peter Franchot, Annapolis
The writer is comptroller of Maryland.*

Baltimore Sun

8/21/13

**Shorter school summer
break is better policy**

As an educational consultant and adjunct faculty member at Towson University, I read with dismay state Comptroller Peter Franchot's suggestion that all Maryland public schools should begin after Labor Day ("Post-Labor Day school start pushed as economic benefit," Aug. 15).

He suggested two reasons for this, the first being that a later school opening would encourage more Maryland families to take another vacation at the ocean or in one of the resorts in Western Maryland, which would increase the revenues for businesses in those areas. He stated that 8.5 percent of families would do just that. There was no indication, however, that those families would take an additional trip; it's quite likely that many families would simply take their vacation later in the summer if their children's school schedule made that possible. What about the other 91.5 percent?


The second reason Mr. Franchot suggested for the change was that families would want this. He glossed over the impact for families (particularly those with limited means) who would need to find additional child care for their children, which is a burden for families.

Nowhere in the suggestion was any attention paid to children's learning. Shouldn't that be our first priority? For almost 60 years, we have endeavored in the U.S. to compete with other nations in terms of the quality of education. Most indicators are that we are not succeeding and that the educational systems in many other developed nations surpass ours in terms of student achievement. While there are many reasons for this, one significant factor is the extended summer vacation, which is typical of most U.S. schools but which is not the practice in those other nations.

There is solid research that indicates that children actually lose knowledge and skills during the summer vacation, and many teachers typically spend the first six weeks or so of each school year reviewing material from the previous year. If we are to succeed in improving our nation's schools, we should be considering shortening the summer break, not lengthening it, as Mr. Franchot suggests.

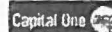
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The Post's View

'Saving summer' at the expense of students' learning

By Editorial Board, Published August 21

PERHAPS BECAUSE of the sunset symphonies of cicadas — or perhaps because of this year's unusually palatable August weather throughout the mid-Atlantic — nostalgia for the great American summer seems to be running at a record high.

August, as one commentator put it in the *Wall Street Journal*, is "the very best month of the year," a time "when the corn is sweet, the plums are purple and pungent, the baseball pennant races are mature, the ocean temperatures are warm. . . . And we have ruined it." This year, as in others, the annual quest to fix summertime — to revive the balcony, melon-stained, long-gone America recognizable only in the paintings of Norman Rockwell and in the dinner conversations of the Cleaver family — has resumed.

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Editorial Board AUG 21 If the country again used chemical weapons, the U.S. must retaliate against the forces responsible.

In a growing number of state legislatures, lawmakers have intensified the perennial push for a later start to the school year, waxing poetic about the good old days. Alabama, Michigan and Mississippi have prohibited schools from starting before the end of August, and Delaware has launched a task force examining the effects of moving back start dates. In Maryland, the pressure is especially strong. Last week, representatives from across the state joined Comptroller Peter Frauchot (D) in advocating a post-Labor Day start.


"It's one of the traditions we should bring back," Mr. Frauchot told the Baltimore Sun. "I almost think starting school before Labor Day is un-American."

Tradition isn't the extent of his pitch. Regardless of the costly burden this change would place on working families who'd need to arrange for child care, Mr. Frauchot contends that a later start would be a boon to Maryland's economy, resulting in as much as an additional \$74.3 million in direct economic activity and as much as \$7.7 million in local and state tax revenue. As the Sun notes, it's not at all clear where or how the Bureau of Revenue Estimates is getting




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these figures, and, even if they are accurate, they'd constitute only a marginal increase to the state's gross domestic product.

As we've said before, the costs of a later start to the school year greatly outweigh the benefits. This is 2013, not 1953, and there is no question that summer vacation, as "un-American" as it may be to curtail, contributes to the achievement gap between low-income students and their middle-class and affluent peers. Lower-income students already start school behind and most

students typically lose about one month's equivalent of learning each summer, no matter where they sit on the socioeconomic spectrum. That adds up over the years, and teachers eventually have no means of closing that gap during the academic year.

Ironically enough, a commonly cited study on this effect is based on data from Baltimore, whose lower-income students would likely suffer even more from Mr. Frauchot's proposed schedule change.

School shouldn't start any later than it already does. No matter what picture of America lawmakers have mistaken for reality, students in Maryland and across the country deserve the strongest fighting chance they can get.

Read more about this issue:

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Soil-Warden responds: 8/21/2013 6:22 PM EDT

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Aaron Blake, The Washington Post AUG 21

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ADA, Okla. — Chris Lane traveled from Australia to the United States for the love of the game — and the opportunity to secure a college degree while playing America's pastime. On the small campus of East Central University in Oklahoma, he made a home for himself in class and on the baseball field. Associated Press, AP AUG 21

3 Okla. teens charged in death of Australian baseball player, who is mourned on 2 continents

ADA, Okla. — Chris Lane traveled from Australia to the United States for the love of the game — and the opportunity to secure a college degree while playing America's pastime. On the small campus of East Central University in Oklahoma, he made a home for himself in class and on the baseball field. Associated Press, AP AUG 21

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Franchot gains O'Malley's support on school start

By Michael Dresser, The Baltimore Sun

7:12 PM EDT, August 21, 2013

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Comptroller Peter Franchot's campaign to push back the start of the public school year until after Labor Day picked up the cautious support of Gov. Martin O'Malley Wednesday.

After Franchot opened a meeting of the Board of Public Works by laying out the case for an extended summer vacation, O'Malley said he hopes a task force studying the proposal support the idea.

"I'm for that. Hopefully the task force will come out our way," said O'Malley, who generally doesn't show much enthusiasm for the comptroller's ideas.

Franchot has argued that a longer summer season would give a boost to business and tax revenues in Maryland's tourist areas -- especially Ocean City and Deep Creek Lake.

O'Malley's backing might not make much of a difference for advocates of a September start, however. Takirra Winfield, a spokeswoman for the governor, said O'Malley wants to wait to act until the task force submits its conclusions. She said that report is due next summer -- too late for the General Assembly to take action in O'Malley's last legislative session as governor before term limits force him from office.

Nevertheless, the governor is inclined to be supportive, Winfield said.

"He realizes that the tourism industry is important to the economy," she said.

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Post-Labor Day school start merits investigation

August 22, 2013

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The report by Maryland Comptroller Peter Franchot on the economic benefits to Maryland from a post-Labor Day school start deserves far more respect, attention and consideration than given to it in a recent editorial in The Sun ("One week and counting," Aug. 19).

The comptroller's report follows approval of legislation in the last General Assembly session to establish a task force to study a post-Labor Day start date for Maryland public schools.

It is worth noting that following public hearings in both the House and the Senate, the legislation calling for this study passed the Senate 46 to 1, passed the House of Delegates 124 to 6 and was signed into law by Gov. Martin O'Malley.

Members of the General Assembly felt that this issue merited a thorough discussion considering that there are a number of neighboring states who see the advantage of a post Labor Day school start. Virginia law already provides for a post-Labor Day school start date. Delaware just approved a task force to study the concept and legislation to require a post-Labor Day school start has been introduced in Pennsylvania.

It is also worth noting that the very first charge to the Maryland task force is to study the impact of moving the start date of the public school year on the education system including the academic calendar, planning administration and facilities.

It is very clear that elected officials from across Maryland place very high value on determining if there would be any negative impact on the quality of instruction in Maryland public schools from any school calendar changes.

It is also very clear from the timeline approved in the study legislation that elected officials from across Maryland place very high value on thoughtful deliberation and dialogue on this issue. The final report from the task force will be completed no later than June of 2014. Based on that schedule, any legislation that may be considered as a result of its recommendations will not even be considered until the General Assembly convenes in January, 2015. That is more than ample time to prepare for any impacted parties to make changes that may occur.

As this study process moves forward, the Sun's editorial board would best serve the public by waiting until the task force has issues its findings before prejudging an issue which could have a profound effect on the economy and education system of Maryland.

David D. Reel, Annapolis,

Kathleen T. Snyder, Annapolis

Thomas B. Riford, Hagerstown

The writers are, respectively, president and CEO of the Maryland Hotel and Lodging Association, president and CEO of the Maryland Chamber of Commerce and president and CEO of the Hagerstown and Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

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Franchot's school proposal doesn't hold water

August 22, 2013

Advertisement

I have been reading with great interest state Comptroller Peter Franchot's argument that schools should start after Labor Day ("Post-Labor Day school start pushed as economic benefit," Aug. 15).

While I usually agree with him on economic matters, in this case, Mr. Franchot should put on a dunce cap and sit in the corner. Here's why:

I'm sure he knows that public school students have to attend school for 180 days. If we start later, that means we also must end later.

Under his plan, students would need to attend school deeper into June, and last time I checked, June, too, is part of summer. His claim that we lose economic benefits in places like Ocean City in late August doesn't take into account that we now gain economic benefits in June.

For instance, for Baltimore County Public Schools, where I teach, last year the school year was scheduled to end on June 18. Under Mr. Franchot's plan, if we started a week later, our final day would have been June 25.

It seems to me that the economic benefits just about cancel out — a week in O.C. in mid-June, or a week in O.C. in late August.

(And while it's a separate issue, I'll note that since I teach in a non-air-conditioned school, I'll gladly take my chances of working in late August over late June.)

It would be better for Mr. Franchot to worry about taxes and budgets. Please allow the school folks to run the schools.

David Shauck

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Our say: Delaying school's start a backward-looking idea

Posted: Friday, August 23, 2013 5:00 am

Perhaps Gov. Martin O'Malley, so often at odds with state Comptroller Peter Franchot, was just trying ease things during a long Board of Public Works meeting on Wednesday by giving a boost to one of Franchot's pet enthusiasms: Postponing the start of the public school year until after Labor Day.

"I'm for that," O'Malley remarked. "Hopefully the task force will come out our way." The task force isn't scheduled to report until next summer, after the legislative session — so most likely O'Malley will never have to act on this.

That's just as well. This is one of Franchot's worst ideas — and it would move schools in exactly the wrong direction.

Starting school after Labor Day is "one of the traditions we should bring back," Franchot remarked on the Ocean City boardwalk, according to *The Baltimore Sun*. "I almost think starting school before Labor Day is un-American."

The comptroller has been brandishing a Board of Revenue Estimates projection that a one-week delay in places like Anne Arundel County, by sending families out on end-of-summer excursions to state attractions, would generate an additional \$74 million in economic activity and bring in close to \$8 million in state and local tax revenue.

Even if you accept these vaguely derived numbers, the sums are trivial next to the total state economy and total revenue. And Franchot hasn't explained why, if people want to take the kids to Ocean City or Deep Creek Lake, they can't do so during the many weeks of summer break already available.

A statement from the Comptroller's Office says Franchot is "confident" the 180-day school year can be maintained by trimming winter or spring breaks and eliminating some of the closings that allow teachers to catch up with paperwork. Such ideas won't go over well with school systems or their teachers' unions. So it's more likely the end of school would have to be pushed deeper into June — not a popular move.

Worse, this idea reeks of the small-bore gimmickry already on display this month with Shop Maryland Tax-Free Week. And while merchants and customers will take any trifling tax relief they can get, the schools shouldn't be meddled with merely because state officials think they can cadge a little extra revenue.

At the risk of being called un-American by Franchot: States should look at *reducing*, not expanding, summer break, by redistributing vacation days around the calendar. Studies have shown that the two-months-plus break hurts academic performance, with the first weeks of school wasted reteaching things students have forgotten over the summer. The damage is particularly bad for kids from lower-income families that can't afford summer camp or enjoyable vacations.

Schools are a costly public service. Why on earth do they shut down for months on end? The kids aren't needed to help with the harvest anymore.

The schools can best assist Maryland's economy by giving students the best possible education. Doesn't Franchot grasp that?

Let summer last

Posted: Thursday, August 22, 2013 3:30 am

Citing the benefits to Maryland families, small businesses and tourism overall, Comptroller Peter Franchot renewed his call for a policy change to have school systems in the state begin classes after Labor Day and released an economic impact study on the effects of his plan.

“The chance for families to spend precious time together and to build lifelong memories during that final, end-of-summer vacation has been lost by the decision to begin school a week, or even 10 days, before Labor Day,” said Franchot. “Not only does this cut into the opportunity for Marylanders to spend more time together as a family, but it also has a negative impact on small businesses. In these tough economic times, we need to do all that we can to support small businesses and promote economic activity, not cause unnecessary harm to them for no apparent reason.”

With nationally renowned vacation destinations like Ocean City, Deep Creek Lake and Baltimore’s Inner Harbor, tourism is the fourth largest industry in the state. Welcoming more than 32 million domestic travelers annually in recent years, the tourism sector employs more than 340,000 Marylanders. While Labor Day weekend is most commonly associated with family trips to resort destinations, it also coincides with other major events occurring throughout the state, including the Maryland State Fair in Timonium, the Grand Prix of Baltimore and four weeknight home games at Orioles Park at Camden Yards.

Instead of reducing the 180-day school year, the comptroller is confident the state’s school systems would be able to adjust their calendars throughout the academic year without losing time for instruction in the classroom. The flexibility of adjusting winter and spring breaks or eliminating some of the school closure dates scattered throughout the school calendar would be left to each of Maryland’s 24 school systems.

“This isn’t just necessary because of the \$7.7 million in state and local tax revenue it would create for the priorities we care about, or the \$74.3 million in direct economic activity it would generate in the midst of a sluggish recovery,” said Franchot. “Beyond the money or economic impact, it’s about families who save up a little each paycheck in order to spend one week each year in Ocean City or Deep Creek Lake, or catch an Orioles game or visit the Maryland State Fair before the children return to school.”

The economic impact estimate only includes the direct economic and tax impacts. Incorporating the indirect and induced activity would result in a significant upward revision of the total impact.

We think it sounds like a good idea. Who wouldn't like a few more weeks of summer vacation? And it's also good for the economy. Sounds like a "win-win" situation.

It's already too late for this year. Schools begin next week, a week before Labor Day, across the Mid-Shore. But let's hope school systems statewide take heed and revise their calendars for 2014-2015.

Year-round school would benefit kids, economy

Instead of starting school later, dispense with the long summer break and the brain drain in causes

By Elizabeth Heubeck

2:08 PM EDT, August 27, 2013

The office of Maryland Comptroller Peter Franchot recently released a report suggesting that Maryland students start school after Labor Day so that families can take one last summer-fling vacation, thereby giving the state a nearly \$75 million economic boost. I haven't crunched any numbers on the topic but, as a parent with school-age children, I believe the report's glowing financial projections fail to take into account several factors that work against this predicted surge in tourism-related dollars. Here's why, as well as an alternate suggestion.

For starters, the average family's state of mind before Labor Day — one consumed with back-to-school preparations — contrasts sharply with a relaxed mindset conducive to kicking back on vacation. Parents are anxiously clutching school supply lists while trolling the aisles of office supply stores. They're ticking off other pre-school "to-dos": new shoes, backpacks, lunchbox, etc. They're trying to rein in carefree summer bedtimes so that their kids aren't zombies when they return to school.

Not to mention, many parents have spent plenty of time with their children during the summer and, quite frankly, they're looking forward to a respite from family time. For those parents who have not had the luxury to do so because of inflexible work schedules, they probably have to budget for child care during the long summer break and, therefore, may be hard-pressed to find the extra money required to take an additional vacation during the Labor Day weekend.

While I doubt that a slightly revised school schedule to accommodate an extra week or so at the end of the summer would do much to boost Maryland's tourism revenue, I do think that a different revision in the school year schedule just might do the trick.

The idea is, at first glance, fairly drastic. It would make school year-round, with a greater number of shorter breaks throughout the 12-month period. A holiday such as Labor Day, if it occurred after a period when kids had been in school for several weeks or concluded the end of a four- or five-week summer break, would present a welcome opportunity for one last summer excursion before the weather turned cooler and kids returned to school. It might even bring the state the big surge in tourism dollars it's looking for.

Here's another way to look at it. While the state's tourism and education budgets may come from two separate sources, I'm assuming that all money made or saved in Maryland ultimately benefits the state. And, if that's the case, it's quite possible that the very real and calculable cost of brain

drain that happens every summer as students get a whopping 12 consecutive weeks off for summer vacation — an entire quarter of the year — negates any extra dollars the state would accumulate in tourism dollars by pushing back the start date of school by a week or so.

Conversely, if teachers didn't have to spend the first several weeks of every school year reviewing with students what they forgot over the summer, classes could move forward more rapidly, introducing new material instead of going over old stuff. Maybe that would help the U.S. break out of its very mediocre education ranking of 17th among the world's developed countries. A better global education status would likely translate into a more prepared workforce of graduates — presumably, one that would help boost the economy.

In Maryland, we're fortunate to be within close proximity of mountains, the ocean and a lot of other great places in which to frolic (and spend money). A well-constructed educational and tourism plan just might encourage more in-state residents to enjoy these resources on Labor Day weekend, thereby increasing both tourism dollars and students' education.

Elizabeth Heubeck is a freelance writer who lives in Baltimore. Her email is ehubeck@comcast.net.

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Summer programs needed to boost student achievement

August 27, 2013

The proposal by Maryland Comptroller Peter Franchot, which is supported by Gov. Martin O'Malley, to delay school opening past Labor Day argues that summer vacation strengthens families and the state economy ("Franchot gains O'Malley's support on school start," Aug. 21).

While critics have questioned this argument, the underlying challenge is not just about the last week of August. Solid research, including a major study of Baltimore City students by Johns Hopkins University researchers, demonstrates that young people who lack stimulating experiences during the summer suffer significant losses of what they learned during the previous school year.

More affluent students usually have opportunities for meaningful learning activities during the summer, while less affluent students tend not to have them. The summer break therefore sets back student achievement as a whole and significantly aggravates the achievement gap. The Hopkins research demonstrates that as much as two-thirds of the ninth-grade achievement gap in reading in Baltimore City is attributable to differences in summer experiences in the elementary years.

The real issue is not the date that school starts at the end of summer, but whether all students have access to high-quality summer learning opportunities. Families will be stronger if their young people have safe places to be during the summer with engaging and stimulating learning activities, physical exercise and nutritious meals while their parents and other caregivers are at work.

Our state policymakers should examine the relevant research and address the need for strong summer programming to reduce the achievement gap, reduce the dropout rate and thus strengthen our workforce, families and communities. Research and experience show that such programs can be effective and still allow plenty of time to let families schedule vacations.

Matthew Boulay, Baltimore

The writer is board chairman of the National Summer Learning Association.

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Don't reject out of hand a post-Labor Day start for schools

9:45 AM EDT, September 4, 2013

Advertisement

Your recent editorial significantly minimized the need to explore a post-Labor Day start to Maryland's public school calendar ("One week and counting," Aug. 19).

It was disappointing that The Sun would issue such a dismissive opinion without first giving the task force established earlier this year by the General Assembly a chance to comprehensively study this proposal and issue a report.

With Maryland's unique natural bounty, our state provides families with countless opportunities to spend the last weeks of August exploring the scenic mountains of Western Maryland, taking advantage of the richness of the Chesapeake Bay or enjoying time together on the beautiful shoreline in Ocean City.

While the \$74.3 million in direct economic activity that is lost by starting schools in August may not seem significant to some, a couple weeks of lost or diminished revenue can often be "make or break" for many family-owned businesses.

The last weeks of August are a critical time for the 350,000 Maryland farmers and 340,000 Marylanders employed in the tourism industry — our state's first- and fourth-largest commercial industries, respectively. There are also countless students and teachers who rely on supplemental summer income to support themselves.

With the fleeting amount of time Maryland families have to spend together at the end of summer, along with the positive impact changing the school calendar could have on the Maryland economy, we do our citizens a disservice by prejudging policies before taking the time to examine them thoroughly.

Jim Mathias and Wendell Beitzel

James N. Mathias Jr. represents Somerset, Worcester and Wicomico counties in the Maryland Senate; Wendell R. Beitzel represents Allegany and Garrett counties in the Maryland House of Delegates.

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