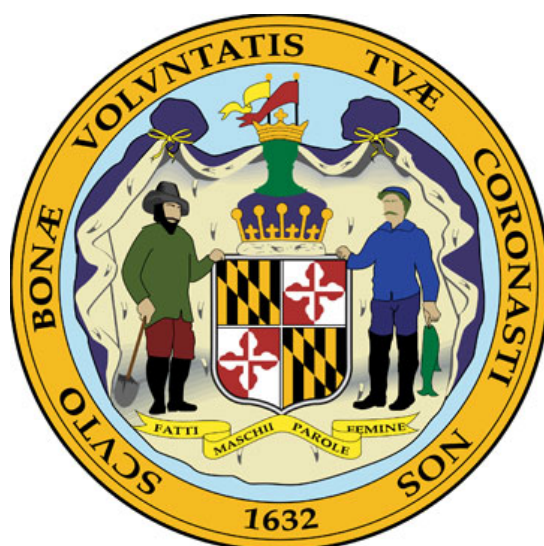


Task Force to Study a Post-Labor Day Start Date for Maryland Public Schools

Appendix V



June 2014

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

Materials of Interest

November 12, 2013 Meeting

(Amended November 13, 2013)

Materials of Interest by Speaker

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

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

COMAR 13A.06.03 Interscholastic Athletics in the State

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

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

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

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

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

Mr. Thomas Noonan, CEO, Visit Baltimore

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Various Documents Based on the Expressed Interest of Task Force Members

Student Testing Calendar Years 2013-2014 through 2015-2016

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Subtitle 06 SUPPORTING PROGRAMS

Chapter 03 Interscholastic Athletics in the State

Authority: Education Article, §§2-205 and 2-303(k),
Annotated Code of Maryland

.01 Authorization

- A. The following regulations have been established by the State Superintendent of Schools to govern the athletic program for all high school students in Maryland public secondary schools which are members of the Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association (MPSSAA).
- B. Local school systems may adopt rules governing their athletic programs that are more restrictive than those of the MPSSAA. Less restrictive rules may not be adopted.

.02 Eligibility

Student eligibility for participation in interscholastic athletics at the high school level shall be based on the following criteria:

- A. Students shall be officially registered and attending **the** member MPSSAA school **they are authorized to attend under regulations of the local school system**. They may represent only the school in which they are registered and at which it is anticipated they will complete their graduation requirements.
- B. Each local school system shall establish standards of participation which assure that students involved in interscholastic athletics are making satisfactory progress toward graduation.
- C. Students who are 19 years old or older as of August 31 are ineligible to participate in interscholastic athletics.
- D. **Students in grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 may participate in interscholastic athletic contests for a maximum of four seasons in any one sport.**
- E. Middle, intermediate, or junior high school students are not eligible to compete or practice with high school teams. However, ninth grade public school students who reside in the attendance area of a high school organized grades 10–12 may participate in the interscholastic athletic program of that high school.
- F. Students shall maintain amateur status as defined by Regulation .10 of this chapter.
- G. Students, while participating on a school team, are permitted to participate **on sports teams** outside of school during the **high school** sport's season. This participation shall meet the following criteria:
 - (1) The outside participation may not conflict with the practice or contests schedule of the school including district, regional, and State championship play unless prior written approval has been obtained from the school principal and coach;

- (2) Students who elect to participate on an outside team and do not participate and practice with the school team throughout the designated sport's season are ineligible to represent the school in all contests that determine a county, district, regional, or State championship during that sport season.

H. **Students shall present to their high school principal a certificate of permission to participate signed by their parent(s) or guardian(s).**

I. **Students** shall be examined and certified to the high school principal as being physically fit to participate in any try-out, practice, or contest of a school team. The examination shall be performed by a licensed physician, certified physician assistant under the supervision of a licensed physician, or certified nurse practitioner.

J. Students legally transferred to another school may participate. "Legally transferred" means a change of residence or a transfer from one school to another by action approved by the local superintendent of schools.

K. Graduates.

- (1) Graduates of high schools are not eligible to practice with or participate on interscholastic sports teams. However, they may participate in the remaining athletic contests of that semester.
- (2) Students are considered graduates when they have completed the work required for graduation and are declared graduates by the local board of education.

.03 Sports Season

Member MPSSAA schools shall conduct all interscholastic athletic contests and practice sessions in accordance with the following:

A. The sports seasons shall be defined as follows:

- (1) "Fall" means the 6th **Wednesday** following the first **Sunday** of July, until the final date of the **local**, conference, district, regional, or State tournament.
- (2) "Winter" means November 15th until the final date of the local, conference, district, regional, or State tournament.
- (3) "Spring" means March 1st until the final date of the local, conference, district, regional, or State tournament.
- (4) When November 15th or March 1st falls on Sunday, practice will start the preceding Saturday.
- (5) **Required Practice.** A member MPSSAA school 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.

B. Maximum Number of Contests Permitted During a Sports Season.

- (1) All school athletic schedules shall be established before the first **MPSSAA allowable playdate** of each sport's season according to the following instructions:

(a) Badminton

- (i) 15 regular season games;
- (ii) No more than two matches per week; and
- (iii) Three matches in one week may be scheduled twice during the season.

(b) Baseball

- (i) 18 regular season games or 20 with designated optional tournament;
- (ii) No more than three games per week;
- (iii) A team may elect to play in one designated optional two or three-game tournament;
- (iv) If a team elects to play in a designated optional three-game tournament, only 17 regular season games may be scheduled; and
- (v) If a team elects to play in the designated optional two or three-game tournament, a fourth game may be played during that week.

(c) Basketball

- (i) 20 regular season games or 22 with designated optional tournament;
- (ii) No more than two games per week;
- (iii) Three games in one week may be scheduled twice during the season;
- (iv) A team may elect to play in one designated optional two or three-game tournament; and
- (v) If a team elects to play in a designated optional three-game tournament, only 19 regular season games may be scheduled.

(d) Cross Country

- (i) 10 regular season meets;
- (ii) No more than two meets per week; and
- (iii) Three meets in one week may be scheduled once during the season.

(e) Field Hockey

- (i) 12 regular season games or 14 with designated tournament;
- (ii) No more than two games per week;
- (iii) Three games in one week may be scheduled twice during the season;

- (iv) A team may elect to play in one designated two or three-game tournament; and
 - (v) If a team elects to play in a designated optional three-game tournament, only 11 regular season games may be scheduled.
- (f) Football
- (i) 10 regular season games; and
 - (ii) No more than one game per week.
- (g) Golf
- (i) 12 regular season matches; and
 - (ii) No more than three matches per week.
- (h) Gymnastics
- (i) 8 regular season meets;
 - (ii) No more than two meets per week; and
 - (iii) Meets may not be held on consecutive days.
- (i) Indoor Track
- (i) 10 regular season meets;
 - (ii) No more than two meets per week; and
 - (iii) Three meets in one week may be scheduled once during the season.
- (j) Lacrosse
- (i) 12 regular season games or 14 with designated optional tournament;
 - (ii) No more than two games per week;
 - (iii) Three games in one week may be scheduled twice during the season; and
 - (iv) A team may elect to play in one designated optional two-game tournament.
- (k) Outdoor Track
- (i) 10 regular season meets;
 - (ii) No more than two meets per week; and
 - (iii) Three meets in one week may be scheduled once during the season.

(l) Soccer

- (i) 12 regular season games or 14 with designated optional tournament;
- (ii) No more than two games per week;
- (iii) Three games in one week may be scheduled twice during the season;
- (iv) A team may elect to play in one designated optional two or three-game tournament; and
- (v) If a team elects to play in a designated optional three-game tournament, only 11 regular season games may be scheduled.

(m) Softball

- (i) 18 regular season games or 20 with designated optional tournament;
- (ii) No more than three games per week;
- (iii) A team may elect to play in one designated optional two or three-game tournament;
- (iv) If a team elects to play in a designated optional three-game tournament, only 17 regular season games may be scheduled; and
- (iv) If a team elects to play in the designated optional two or three-game tournament, a fourth game may be played during that week.

(n) Swimming

- (i) 12 regular season meets;
- (ii) No more than two meets per week; and
- (iii) Meets may not be held on consecutive days.

(o) Tennis

- (i) 18 regular season matches; and
- (ii) No more than three matches per week.

(p) Volleyball

- (i) 15 regular season matches or 14 with designated optional tournament;
- (ii) No more than two matches per week;
- (iii) Three matches in one week may be scheduled twice during the season;
- (iv) A team may elect to play tri-matches provided the total number of opponents does not exceed 15 during the season; and

(v) Teams may play 14 matches plus one designated optional multi-team tournament.

(q) Wrestling

(i) 14 regular season contests including dual meets and a maximum of three tournaments and three tri-meets;

(ii) No more than two contests per week including a maximum of one tournament;

(iii) Multi-team events may be used to make up postponed contests between teams originally scheduled;

(iv) A city/county/conference tournament required to qualify for the state tournament will not be counted as one of the three allowed tournaments; and

(v) Wrestling tournaments and meets are defined by Regulation .04D(3) and (4).

(2) Conference/League Championships. One additional contest beyond the maximum allowable number may be played to determine a conference/league championship. The results of that contest may not count towards MPSSAA standings.

(3) Postponed Games. Postponed contests may be rescheduled during the season, provided the number of games does not exceed the maximum number permitted in a week plus one additional contest.

.04 Operational Guidelines

The regulations given below are established for all MPSSAA interscholastic sports:

(A) Equal Opportunity for Participation.

(1) Students may not be excluded on the basis of sex from overall equal opportunity to participate in athletic programs. If a school sponsors a team in a particular sport for members of one sex but sponsors no such team for members of the opposite sex, and before July 1, 1975, overall opportunities for members of the excluded sex have been limited, the excluded sex shall be allowed to try out for the team.

(2) Athletics Equity for Students with Disabilities.

(a) Students who meet the eligibility requirements of Regulation .02 of this chapter may not be excluded on the basis of disability from the opportunity to try out for and if selected, participate in mainstream interscholastic athletic programs.

(b) Member MPSSAA schools shall provide reasonable accommodations necessary to provide students with disabilities with equal opportunities to participate to the fullest extent possible in mainstream athletic programs.

(c) Students with disabilities who meet the eligibility requirements of Regulation .02 of this chapter may be excluded from mainstream athletic

programs if inclusion:

- (i) Presents an objective safety risk to the student or others based on an individualized assessment of the student; or
- (ii) Fundamentally alters the nature of the school's mainstream athletic program.

(B) MPSSAA Coaching Eligibility.

(1) Member MPSSAA schools shall employ as coaches:

- (a) Teachers or certificated professional educator **employed by** the local Board of Education.
- (b) Persons certifiable as professional educators by the State Department of Education according to 13A.12.01.
- (c) Credentialed **coaches** who meet the following requirements:
 - (i) **Are** eligible to hold a Maryland certificate under COMAR 13A.12.01.03D;
 - (ii) Possess a MPSSAA/MSDE **Coaching** Certification;
 - (iii) **Have** completed two years of successful coaching as an emergency coach; and
 - (iv) **Have** spent the previous one year as a successful emergency coach at the school of hire in the position of hire.

(2) If no acceptable and qualified coaches are available from the teachers or certifiable professional educators employed by the local board of education, a temporary emergency coach may be employed if the following procedures are followed:

- (a) The person shall be officially appointed by the local superintendent of schools on a one-season basis for a specific coaching assignment;
- (b) The coaching salary of the appointed coach shall be paid exclusively by the local school system;
- (c) After July 1, 2010, an emergency coach is required to possess an MPSSAA/MSDE coach certification prior to the start of his or her fourth year as an emergency coach;

(d) **Teams** having more than one coach, emergency coaches may not comprise more than 50 percent of that sport staff;

(e) The emergency coach shall be at least 21 years old and possess a high school diploma.

(3) All coaches shall have completed or be enrolled in a one-credit course in the prevention and care of athletic injuries.

(4) Member MPSSAA schools may permit volunteer athletic coaches to assist their coaching staff. The volunteer coaches may not serve as head coaches at any level and shall work only under the direction of the head coach. The

volunteer coach may be used if the following procedures are followed:

- (a) The volunteer coach is at least 21 years old and possesses a high school diploma or equivalent;
- (b) The volunteer coach **shall have** completed or **be** enrolled in a one-credit course in the prevention and care of athletic injuries;
- (c) The volunteer coach shall be formally appointed on a 1-season basis for a specific coaching assignment.

C. Limits of Participation.

- (1) Each local school system and state tournament committee shall establish guidelines that ensure a minimum loss of instructional time for coaches and students involved in interscholastic athletic contests.
- (2) Students who participate **on** both varsity and junior varsity teams may not play in a number of contests that exceed the maximum number allowed **for that** sport in a week or season. Students may not compete on both a varsity and junior varsity **level against the same school on the same day.**
- (3) School athletic teams may not participate in any **contests** representing their school **before or after the defined sports season.**
- (4) **Member** MPSSAA schools may not play or practice on Sundays.
- (5) Individual students may participate in two all-star games per sport, upon the completion of their eligibility in the sport in which this participation occurs.
- (6) **Member** MPSSAA schools shall practice with or play against only high school teams as defined in **§H** of this regulation.
- (7) Individual students or teams representing a **member** MPSSAA school shall participate only in games, meets, or tournaments which are conducted by appropriate educational institutions.
- (8) **Member** MPSSAA schools may not enter competition preliminary to a college or professional game.
- (9) A varsity or junior varsity team member of the previous season may not participate in interscholastic competition and in intramurals or school sponsored athletic programs in the same sport outside the sport season.

D. Policies Pertaining to Wrestling.

- (1) Students shall have their minimum weight class in which they can wrestle certified by a qualified physician before the students' first match.
- (2) Students may not wrestle below the minimum weight class established for them at the time of certification.
- (3) A wrestling meet is a contest involving two or three schools.
- (4) A wrestling tournament is a contest involving four or more schools.

E. Out-of-Season Practice.

- (1) **Member** MPSSAA schools and coaches of member schools shall confine **school practices** to the seasonal limitations as defined in Regulation .03 of this chapter.
- (2) A coach may not coach a team representing the coach's school beyond the sports season as defined in Regulation .03 of this chapter.

F. Sports Officials. Schools involved in interscholastic contests shall use only those officials certified by **MPSSAA**. Only qualified officials shall be used in all sports **when** MPSSAA certified officials are not available.

G. Summer Camps.

- (1) Students may attend a summer sports camp of their choice.
- (2) **Member** MPSSAA schools, member school coaches, school-related organizations, or individuals may not sponsor or conduct a camp in which students who are returning players are involved or participate. A camp composed of several coaches with their respective teams is a violation of this regulation.
- (3) Coaches of **member** MPSSAA schools, while affiliated with a camp, may not conduct any form of team or group practice involving their school. Such a practice is considered a violation of the out-of-season practice rule defined in Regulation .03 of this chapter.
- (4) A **member** MPSSAA school may not provide school uniforms or equipment for students who attend a camp outside of the defined sports season in Regulation .03 of this chapter.

H. Competitors.

- (1) **Member** MPSSAA schools shall only practice with or play against high school teams that:
 - (a) Ensure fair competition, athlete safety, and appropriate supervision by a responsible entity;
 - (b) Maintain athletics as an integral part of the total educational program;
 - (c) Promote academic progress;
 - (d) Develop leadership; and
 - (e) Deter exploitation of students.
- (2) High school teams that meet these purposes include high school teams that:
 - (a) Are members of a state interscholastic athletic association recognized by the National Federation of High Schools (NFHS);
 - (b) Have been approved to play members of a state interscholastic athletic association recognized by the NFHS;
 - (c) Are members of an athletic conference that:

- (i) Formally adopts the standards of competition as established by the Maryland State Superintendent of Schools as part of its constitution and bylaws; and
 - (ii) Has enforcement authority; or
 - (d) Represent a school that verifies compliance with standards of competition as established by the Maryland State Superintendent of Schools.
- (3) To verify compliance under §H(2)(d) of this regulation, the administrative head of the school who is responsible for the day-to-day administration of the school shall:
- (a) Sign the verification provided by the Maryland State Department of Education; and
 - (b) Submit the verification for approval to the State Superintendent of Schools annually before the first practice or athletic competition against a **member** MPSSAA school team.

.05 Violations, Penalties, and Appeals

A. Failure to comply with these regulations shall constitute a violation which will result in the following penalties against the **member** MPSSAA school and either the student or the coach, or both. Depending upon the severity of the violation, more than one penalty may be imposed against the **member** MPSSAA school, student, or coach, or all of the above. Penalties shall be imposed in the order listed below:

- (1) Against a **member** MPSSAA school:
 - (a) First—Declare forfeit of all games in which the violation occurred.
 - (b) Second—Declare the **member** MPSSAA school ineligible for championship honors for the current school year in the sport in which the violation occurred.
 - (c) Third—Declare the **member** MPSSAA school on probation for one school year which shall render the school ineligible to compete in any approved State meet or tournament for that year.
 - (d) Fourth—Impose additional penalties as may seem justified in the particular case considered.
- (2) Against a student:
 - (a) First—Declare the student to be ineligible for the next 60 school days following the date the student was found to be in violation. These 60 school days will carry over into the next school year if the violation occurs during the second semester.
 - (b) Second—Declare the student to be ineligible to compete in the sport in which the violation occurred during the subsequent season.
 - (c) Third—Impose additional penalties as may seem justified in the particular case considered.

- (3) Against a coach:
 - (a) First—Censure.
 - (b) Second—Declare the coach ineligible to coach a team for the current school year in the sport in which the violation occurred.
 - (c) Third—Declare the coach ineligible to coach a team in any sport for the current year.
 - (d) Fourth—Impose additional penalties as may seem justified in the particular case considered.

B. Procedure.

- (1) First—Any **member** MPSSAA school, student, or coach shall notify the local supervisor of interscholastic athletics and the MPSSAA Executive Director of the alleged violation.
- (2) Second—The superintendent or the superintendent’s designee of the local school system in which the school allegedly in violation is located shall convene a hearing within 5 school days.
- (3) Third—If the superintendent or the superintendent’s designee of the local school system in which the school allegedly in violation is located concludes that a violation has occurred, a penalty shall be imposed in accordance with this regulation.
- (4) Fourth—A report of the hearing and decision in the local school system shall be forwarded to the Executive Director of the MPSSAA.
- (5) Fifth—The MPSSAA Executive Director, in consultation with the appropriate committees, or the Executive Council of the MPSSAA, shall review the report of the local hearing and decision in the local school system. The MPSSAA Executive Director shall either accept the penalty imposed or modify the penalty in accordance with this regulation.

C. Penalties imposed by local school systems for violations of local school system rules adopted in accordance with Regulations .01B and .02 B shall be uniform with the penalties designated in Regulation .05A of this chapter.

D. Appeals.

- (1) A **member** MPSSAA school, student, or coach may appeal the imposed penalty within 30 days and request a hearing before the Appeals Committee of MPSSAA.
- (2) **The Appeals Committee of the MPSSAA serves in a quasi-judicial capacity.**
- (3) The membership of the MPSSAA Appeals Committee shall include one representative from each district in the Association and a representative from the Association of Secondary School Principals. Five members will constitute a quorum.
- (4) The MPSSAA Executive Director shall notify the Appeals Committee of the hearing and establish a date, time, and hearing site. The appealing school, student, or coach, or all of the above, shall be notified of the date, site, and time of the hearing.

- (5) The MPSSAA Executive Director or the Executive Director's designee shall present the case to the Appeals Committee on behalf of the MPSSAA.
- (6) The principal of the involved school, the student, or coach, or all of the above, shall present grounds for appeal. If appropriate, the local school system's supervisor of interscholastic athletics involved in the appeal may present the case.
- (7) The MPSSAA Appeals Committee shall convene in closed session and vote to deny or uphold the appeal or modify the penalty. A majority vote is required to deny or uphold an appeal or modify the penalty.
- (8) The MPSSAA Appeals Committee shall report its findings to the concerned parties.
- (9) Any party aggrieved by the MPSSAA Appeals Committee decision may appeal the decision to the State Superintendent of Schools within 30 days after receipt of the Appeals Committee decision. The State Superintendent of Schools, upon examination of the facts, may, in his or her discretion, allow the appeal and appoint a special committee of three local superintendents of schools to hear the appeal. The committee of superintendents may deny or uphold the appeal or modify the penalty.
- (10) Unless otherwise ordered by the State Superintendent of Schools, the application for appeal to the State Superintendent of Schools may not stay the enforcement of the MPSSAA Appeals Committee decision, or excuse the person affected thereby from complying with its terms.
- (11) The decision of the committee of local superintendents of schools is final.
- (12) A member of the MPSSAA Appeals Committee or the committee of local superintendents of schools may not hear an appeal if that member has offered advice, made a recommendation, rendered a decision, or in any other way participated in the case being appealed.

.06 Classification

- A. For the purpose of parity in competition in meets and tournaments coordinated by the MPSSAA, member schools shall be divided as equally as possible into four classifications based on enrollment. If, in this calculation, two or more schools with equal enrollments fall between two classifications, they shall be placed in the lower classification.
- B. The local superintendent of schools shall submit to the MPSSAA Executive Director by November 1, a report on the actual school enrollment of students in Grades 9, 10, and 11 in each of the **member** MPSSAA schools as of September 30, in each even-numbered year. The MPSSAA Executive Director and the Classification Committee of the MPSSAA shall present a recommendation for classification of member schools to the MPSSAA Board of Control for adoption. Classification shall be determined every 2 years based on the September 30 enrollment of the previous year.
- C. When the MPSSAA Board of Control adopts classifications for member schools, the classifications shall remain in effect for the next 2 school years.

- D. A new **member** MPSSAA school that opens or a member school whose enrollment is significantly changed by growth or consolidation during the two-year period shall be placed in the proper classification by the Classification Committee. “Significantly changed” means a decrease or an increase in enrollment of more than 25 percent. This new placement shall affect only the involved school and may not affect the classification of other member schools.
- E. When a **member** MPSSAA school does not have all three grades included in the enrollment figures upon which the classification is based in the even-numbered year, but will have all three grades in the following odd-numbered year when classification becomes effective, the enrollment figure shall include the existing grades and average of the current class sizes applied to each projected grade.

.07 State Tournament Policies

- A. The **MPSSAA** games or tournament committees representing all of the districts shall administer and supervise tournaments in the various sports at the district, regional, and State level.
- B. All participating schools shall abide by the rules established by each MPSSAA tournament committee.
- C. Although certain aspects of a tournament may vary from year to year, the following basic policies shall be observed by all tournament committees:
 - (1) The tournament may not interfere with local board of education policy.
 - (2) A **member** MPSSAA school or local school system may decide whether or not to participate in the tournament.
 - (3) A **member** MPSSAA school shall compete in its classification when the tournament is so structured.
 - (4) Certified and approved officials’ organizations shall be assigned games in a fair, equitable, and nondiscriminatory manner.
 - (5) All awards and recognition shall conform to Regulation .08.
 - (6) MPSSAA tournament committees shall make every effort to establish game sites to avoid extensive travel for participating teams.
 - (7) All policy and procedure changes for State tournaments shall be subject to the approval of the MPSSAA Executive Council with the Association Tournament Committee serving in an advisory capacity. Emergency decisions on tournament policies and procedures may be made by the MPSSAA Executive Director.
 - (8) When a student is found ineligible during the progress of a tournament, the contest last played shall be forfeited, and the team which was defeated shall take its place.
 - (9) “All-star teams” or best “individual athlete” awards may not be selected from approved tournaments.
 - (10) Sports at the State tournament level shall be governed by approved game rules.

(11) If a team or any students participating in a State tournament contest leaves the field **of competition** before completion of a contest, or fails to continue play when eligible to do so, or is guilty of misconduct detrimental to the tournament, then the team, coach, or students may be suspended from further participation in the current tournament, and from the same tournament in the succeeding year, upon the determination of the tournament committee and the Executive Director.

(12) The rules of the MPSSAA do not provide authority to order games replayed. Protests arising from decisions and interpretations by officials during the game will not be considered. Officials' decisions and interpretations are final.

- D. Expansion of any sport to the State level shall be recommended by the State Board of Control of the MPSSAA and approved by the State Superintendent of Schools after consultation with local superintendents of schools.
- E. Tournament rules and procedures established by the MPSSAA may be appealed on behalf of a student, coach, or school by a local superintendent of schools to the State Superintendent of Schools. The appeal shall be adjudicated by a committee of three local superintendents of schools appointed by the State Superintendent of Schools. The decision of the committee shall be final.

.08 Awards and Recognition

- A. Awards may be made as follows:
 - (1)** A school, school related, or nonprofit group may purchase and present to a student for athletic achievement a school insignia, medal, pin, or similar article;
 - (2)** Awards from outside the school may be given to individual athletes or school teams provided the awards are approved by the local superintendent, meet MPSSAA guidelines, and the presentation is made at a school-approved function.
- B. Recognition of student athletes and teams, other than through awards, shall be limited to appreciation banquets approved by the local superintendent.

.09 Sanction Rules

- A. Students or teams representing a **member** MPSSAA school shall participate only in contests conducted by educationally related organizations.
- B. **Member MPSSAA schools may not compete in any contest in any other state if either school's participation violates the regulations or established policies of either state's high school interscholastic athletic authority.**
- C. **Sanctioning Guidelines**
 - (1) Sanctioning for Interstate Competition**
 - (a) Member MPSSAA schools may not compete in any of the following contests unless the contest has been sanctioned by each of the interested state authorities through the NFHS:**
 - (i) Any interstate meet in which four or more schools participate;**

- (ii) Any competition involving schools from three or more state athletic associations;
 - (iii) Any interstate two-school contest which is not sponsored by a NFHS state association or a state member school;
 - (iv) Any interstate two-school contest which involves travel outside the United States of America; or
 - (v) Any interstate two-school contest (regardless of distance to be traveled) which is sponsored by an individual or an organization other than a member MPSSAA high school.
- (b) A school or school system that wishes to serve as a host for an interstate contest shall file the appropriate sanction request form prior to the first play date and at least 15 days prior to the event for events within the first two weeks of the season.
 - (c) Schools participating in interstate contests shall use the National Federation contract form furnished by the MPSSAA Executive Director.
 - (d) In all interstate contests, each participating school shall follow the rules of the host state athletic authority.
- (2) Sanctioning for Intrastate Competition
- (a) Member MPSSAA schools may only compete against other member MPSSAA schools or schools approved through the Standards of Competition.
 - (b) Approval of the MPSSAA Executive Director is required for any intercounty contest involving more than three teams and sponsored by a non-member educational institution.
 - (c) The host school shall file the appropriate sanction request form with the MPSSAA Executive Director prior to the first play date and at least 15 days prior to the event for events within the first two weeks of the season.
 - (d) Member MPSSAA schools may host intercounty contests involving only other member MPSSAA schools or schools approved through the Standards of Competition without sanctioning approval.
- (3) MPSSAA Sanction Guidelines. The following criteria shall be met for sanction approval by the MPSSAA:
- (a) The competition may not determine a regional or national championship;
 - (b) The competition is not preliminary to a college or professional game;
 - (c) The competition is sponsored by an educational institution or similar nonprofit organization;
 - (d) Participation in the event is within the United States of America, does not involve loss of instructional time, and complies with the local school system policies and procedures for school-sponsored travel; and

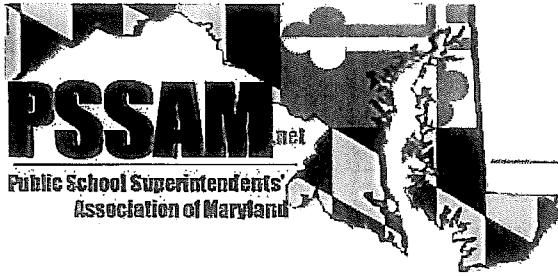
(e) All awards shall comply with Regulation .08 of this chapter.

.10 Amateur Rules

- A. Students who have not used or are not using their athletic skill as players for financial gain, or who have not competed under assumed names as players, shall be considered amateurs. Employment as an instructor, counselor, or official may not be considered a violation.
- B. Students who have ceased to be amateurs in a particular sport may not represent their school in interscholastic athletics in that sport.
- C. Students who have lost amateur standing may apply for reinstatement to the MPSSAA Appeals Committee after the lapse of 60 days. The 60 days shall commence with a letter of determination from the local superintendent of schools.
- D. Students may not lose amateur standing by playing with or against professional players as long as they do not receive pay for their services.
- E. Students shall lose their amateur status in a particular sport if they sign a professional contract in that sport.

.11 Amendments

- A. Proposed written amendments to these regulations may be submitted only by a **member** MPSSAA school, local superintendent of schools, MPSSAA committee, or the MPSSAA Executive Director. Proposed amendments shall be received by the MPSSAA Executive Director at least 45 days before the annual meeting of the MPSSAA Board of Control.
- B. Upon receipt, proposed amendments shall be referred to the Constitution Committee for appropriate action and recommendation.
- C. Notice of the proposed amendments shall be sent to each **member** MPSSAA school, local superintendent of schools, and the State Superintendent of Schools at least 15 days before the annual legislative meeting of the MPSSAA.
- D. Ratification of the proposed amendments shall require a majority vote of the delegates present at the annual legislative meeting of the MPSSAA.
- E. Amendments approved by the MPSSAA shall be forwarded to the State Superintendent of Schools who will receive recommendations from local superintendents of schools before the State Superintendent of Schools submits recommendations to the State Board of Education.
- F. The amendments approved by the State Board of Education shall be in effect according to the date established by the Board.



Michael J. Martirano, President

November 6, 2013

Mr. William Cappe – Co-Chair
Task Force to Study a Post-Labor Day Start Date of Maryland Public Schools
Maryland State Department of Education
200 West Baltimore Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Dear Task Force Members:

As the elected representative of the twenty-four public school superintendents of Maryland (PSSAM), I appreciate the opportunity to express our position on the possibility of seeking a state law requiring all school systems to commence each school year after Labor Day.

All twenty-four public school superintendents are **OPPOSED** to any legislation that would remove local decision making regarding the school calendar from the local board of education. The local school system calendar is best determined after thorough discussion and review by the constituents in each local jurisdiction.

Superintendents offer that the far greater significance to the question you study is the fact that it is the incorrect discussion to have. The one-hundred and eighty day school-year averaging six and one-half hours of attendance for students each day is no longer adequate for the expectations and requirements to ensure our children are properly prepared for success in the 21st Century. The future of public education in the United States, and therefore, in Maryland will feature year-round aspects offering additional days and extended time where all students will have opportunities to seek enhancements to their learning and receive supports to ensure that mastery of necessary knowledge and skill is acquired.

With all due respect, superintendents offer that the correct question is how will the State and local governments partner with local constituents to address the unique geographic and cultural needs that distinguish our access to resources while all preparing for the same desired outcome. That is high school graduates prepared to perform and live successfully in this rapidly changing global society.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide our view on this important matter. Please call upon us if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Martirano, Ed.D.
President, PSSAM

MJM:bad

cc: Dr. Carl Roberts, Executive Director of PSSAM
Maryland Superintendents

Today's leaders inspiring tomorrow's future.

Senate Bill 963 – Chapter 336: Task Force to Study
Post-Labor Day Start Date for Maryland Public Schools

Position Statement

Local school system superintendents are opposed to any state mandate that would require all local school systems to start a school year on a predetermined date established by the Maryland General Assembly and Governor.

Maryland Law currently requires that public school systems have a school calendar that includes a minimum of 180 days for students. Maryland School Law, Title 4-101 that discusses county boards of education cites *Control of education matters: Educational matters that affect the counties shall be under the control of a county board of education in each county.*

This is interpreted to mean that given consideration to the 180 minimum student days and other mandated state holidays, local school boards upon the recommendation of the superintendent and the school-calendar committee determine the school-year calendar.

The school system calendar committee members are representative of administrators, teachers, parents, community leaders and students. Several meetings are conducted at which the parameters associated with the August-June calendar are taken into consideration along with other local preferences. Ultimately a proposed calendar is approved by the committee and presented to the local board of education for adoption.

Calendar considerations include but are not limited to:

- State mandated holidays,
- Locally approved holidays,
- State and local student testing dates,
- History of inclement weather resulting in school delays and closings,
- Number and length of time associated with the interruptions of student instruction,
- Other local preferences,
- Training & professional staff development needs of employees.

Local school system superintendents believe that the responsibility to determine the school system calendar for students and employees given the wide diversity of the twenty-four jurisdictions rests properly with the local boards of education. The creation and adoption of the school calendar allows for constituent input and critique each year dependent upon the variables under consideration.

Additional Consideration

Local school system superintendents offer that the discussion of a school-year calendar that has 180 days for students with most of them attending an average of six and one-half hours per day is significantly out of touch with the reality of learning research and the requirement to address individual student needs. To successfully prepare all students for 21st Century challenges much more flexibility along with the support of state and local leaders is required. Consideration includes but is not limited to:

- Additional days and more flexibility of those days for students,
- Longer or extended days applied with flexibility to address individual student learning needs,
- Access to alternative learning methods,
- Access to digital learning supports,
- Reduction of lengthy breaks in student learning (e.g. summer),
- Individual student choice in regard to when and how to receive and gain access to learning opportunities.

Local school superintendents believe that serious research and discussion with subsequent action must occur to determine if the current delivery model for students attending Maryland's public schools is satisfactory given the critical demands that must be addressed. The question is not when to start a 180 school-year but whether our current state mandate is appropriate for student learning in the 21st Century?

MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Student Testing Calendar School Years 2013-2014 through 2015-2016

Official as of September 20, 2013

Updates to this test calendar are available by logging on to <https://docushare.msde.state.md.us>.

*Note: Testing in Special Placement (Non-public) Schools is governed by the
Special Placement Schools State Testing Calendar Edition, available on Docushare*

The Student Testing Calendar for the school years 2013-2014 through 2015-2016 includes the following Maryland State assessments:

High School Assessments (HSA)

- End-of-course Tests: English*, Algebra/Data Analysis*, Biology*, and Government

Modified High School Assessments (Mod-HSA)

- End-of-course Tests: Mod-English*, Mod-Algebra/Data Analysis*, Mod-Biology*, and Mod-Government

Maryland School Assessment (MSA)

- Grades 3 – 8 in reading and mathematics
- End-of-course tests in English*, Algebra/Data Analysis*, and Biology*
- Grades 5 and 8 in science

Alternate Maryland School Assessment (Alt-MSA)

- Grades 3 – 8 and grade 10 in reading and mathematics, and grades 5, 8, and 10 in science for students with significant cognitive disabilities who are unable to participate in the Maryland School Assessment, even with accommodations

English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPA)

- Test of English language proficiency administered to active English learners in Grades K through 12
- Measures English language proficiency in the areas of listening, speaking, reading, writing, comprehension, and literacy

| Statewide Primary Test Administrations Are Not Scheduled on These Religious Holidays** | | | |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Holiday | 2013-2014 | 2014-2015 | 2015-2016 |
| Rosh Hashanah | Sept. 5-6, 2013 | Sept. 25-26, 2014 | Sept. 14-15, 2015 |
| Yom Kippur | Sept. 14, 2013 | Oct. 4, 2014 | Sept. 23, 2015 |
| First of Ramadan*** | June 28, 2014 | June 18, 2015 | June 6, 2016 |
| Eid Al-Fitr*** | July 28, 2014 | July 17, 2015 | July 5, 2016 |
| Eid Al-Adha*** | Oct. 15, 2013 | Oct. 4, 2014 | Sept. 23, 2015 |
| Passover | April 15-16, 2014 | April 4-5, 2015 | April 23-24, 2016 |
| Good Friday - Western | April 18, 2014 | April 3, 2015 | March 25, 2016 |
| Good Friday - Orthodox | April 18, 2014 | April 10, 2015 | April 29, 2016 |
| Shavuot | June 4, 2014 | May 24, 2015 | June 12-13, 2016 |

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*The end-of-course tests in English, Algebra/Data Analysis, and Biology are part of **both** the High School Assessment program **and** the Maryland School Assessment Education accountability program.

**Make-up test administrations may be scheduled on religious holidays, as long as another make-up testing date is available for students who were unable to test due to a religious observance.

***Actual dates may differ locally as determined by authoritative religious leaders. Students who observe holidays and miss school on alternative holiday dates should be allowed to use local make-up dates.

| Test or Action | 2013-2014 | 2014-2015 | 2015-2016 |
|--|--|--|---|
| Alt-MSA: Opening of Test Administration Window | Sept. 3 | Sept. 2 | Sept. 8 |
| Unique Accommodation and Multiple Day Accommodation Requests are Due to MSDE for the October HSA/Mod HSA Administration | August 16 | August 22 | August 21 |
| Local Accountability Coordination Meeting | Sept. 10 | Sept. 9 | Sept. 22 |
| ACCESS for ELL's Logistic Training (Webinar) For LACs and ESOL program managers and/or ESOL testing specialists | Sept. 26 | Sept. 25 | Sept. 24 |
| HSA & Mod-HSA October Administration - Paper Note: October HSA and Mod-HSA (Paper) have one make-up day used for all contents | Sept. 30 - Oct.3 09/30— Biology 10/01— Alg/DA 10/02— English 10/03— Make-up for all contents | Oct.6 – Oct.10 10/06—Government 10/07— English 10/08— Biology 10/09—Alg/DA 10/10 – Make-up for all contents | Oct.5 – Oct.9 10/05—Government 10/06—Alg/DA 10/07—English 10/08—Biology 10/09 – Make-up for all contents |
| HSA & Mod-HSA October Administration-Online | Sept. 30 – Oct.11 | Oct. 6 – 17 | Oct. 5 – 16 |
| Unique Accommodation and Multiple Day Accommodation Requests are Due to MSDE for the January HSA/Mod HSA Administration | Nov. 14 | Nov. 25 | Nov. 20 |
| Local Accountability Coordination Meeting Meeting to be held at MAG Conference | Nov. 21 | Nov. 20 | Nov. 19 |
| Local Accountability Coordination Meeting Test Administration Training – MSA | Jan. 14 | Jan. 6 | Jan. 5 |
| MSA Reading, Math, and Alt-MSA Pre-test file submission | Jan. 2 – 17 | | |

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| Test or Action | 2013-2014 | 2014-2015 | 2015-2016 |
|--|--|---|--|
| MSA Science Pre-test file submission | Jan. 2 – Feb. 14 | Jan. 2 – Feb. 27 | Jan. 4 – Feb. 26 |
| ELPA (ACCESS for ELLs®) Administration Window | Jan. 13 – Feb. 14 | Jan. 12 – Feb. 13 | Jan. 11 – Feb. 12 |
| ELPA Make-Up Window | Feb. 17 – Feb 25 | Feb. 16 – Feb. 24 | Feb. 15 – Feb. 23 |
| HSA & Mod-HSA January Administration - Paper | Jan. 6–9 1/06—Government 1/07—Biology 1/08— Alg./DA 1/09—English | Jan 12—15 1/12—Government 1/13—English 1/14—Biology 1/15—Alg/DA | Jan. 5—8 1/05—Government 1/06—Alg/DA 1/07—English 1/08—Biology |
| HSA & Mod-HSA January Make-up Testing - Paper <i>Note: January HSA and Mod-HSA (Paper) have one make-up week</i> | Jan. 13–16 1/13—Government 1/14—Biology 1/15— Alg./DA 1/16—English | Jan. 20–23 1/20—Government 1/21—English 1/22—Biology 1/23--Alg/DA | Jan. 11–14 1/11—Government 1/12—Alg/DA 1/13—English 1/14--Biology |
| HSA & Mod-HSA January Administration – Online | Jan. 6–17 | Jan. 12–23 | Jan. 4–22 (No testing Jan. 18) |
| PARCC Assessment Block Schedule (Operational) | | PBA: TBD EOY: TBD (No testing week of Nov. 24 and December 22—January 2) | PBA: TBD EOY: TBD (No testing week of Nov. 23 and Dec. 21 – Jan. 1) |
| Unique Accommodation Requests are Due to MSDE for the <u>MSA Reading and Mathematics Administration</u> | Jan. 17 | | |
| Unique Accommodation Requests due to MSDE for the <u>MSA Science Administration</u> | Feb. 7 | Feb. 27 | Feb. 26 |
| Unique Accommodation and Multiple Day Accommodation Requests are Due to MSDE for the <u>Senior HSA/Mod HSA Administration</u> | Feb. 21 | Feb. 27 | Feb. 19 |

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| Test or Action | 2013-2014 | 2014-2015 | 2015-2016 |
|---|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Local Accountability Coordination Meeting (via Web-Ex) | Feb. 6 | Feb. 5 | Feb. 4 |
| MSA Reading and Mathematics Test Administration: Grades 3 – 8 in reading and mathematics | March 3 – March 12 | | |
| MSA Reading and Mathematics Make-up Testing | March 13 – March 18 | | |
| MSA Reading Test Administration Grades 5 and 7 Only (Online) | March 3 – March 21 | | |
| Alt-MSA: Last date for Portfolio Construction | Feb. 26 | March 2 | Feb. 24 |
| Unique Accommodation and Multiple Day Accommodation Requests are Due to MSDE for the <u>May HSA/Mod HSA Administration</u> | April 4 | April 3 | April 8 |
| MSA Science Test Administration – Paper Science testing in Grades 5 and 8 | March 24 – Apr 4 | April 13 -- 24 | April 4 - 15 |
| MSA Science Test Administration – Online Science testing in Grades 5 and 8 | March 24 – April 11 | April 13 – May 1 | April 4 – 22 |
| MSA Science: Deadline for LACs to submit Post-test files | May 16 | June 5 | May 27 |
| PARCC Assessment – Field Test | PBA – March 24, 2014 – Apr. 11, 2014 EOY – May 5, 2014 – June 6, 2014 | | |
| PARCC Assessment – Operational | | PBA – TBD EOY – TBD | PBA – TBD EOY – TBD |

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| Test or Action | 2013-2014 | 2014-2015 | 2015-2016 |
|---|---|--|--|
| HSA & Mod-HSA Senior Administration - Paper Note: Senior HSA and Mod-HSA (Paper) have <u>one make-up day</u> used for all contents | Apr. 7-10 | Apr. 13-16 | Apr. 4-8 |
| | 04/07—Biology 04/08—Alg/DA 04/09—English 04/10—Make-up for all contents | 04/13—English 04/14—Biology 04/15—Alg/DA 04/16—Make-up for all contents | 04/04—Government 04/05—Alg/DA 04/06—English 04/07—Biology 04/08—Make-up for all contents |
| HSA & Mod-HSA Senior Administration - Online | Apr. 7 – 11 | April 13 – 17 | Apr. 4-8 |
| HSA & Mod-HSA May Administration - Paper | May 19 – 22 | May 18 – 21 | May 23—26 |
| | 5/19—Government 5/20—Biology 5/21—Alg/DA 5/22—English | 5/18—Government 5/19—English 5/20—Biology 5/21—Alg/DA | 05/23—Government 05/24—Alg/DA 05/25—English 05/26—Biology |
| HSA & Mod-HSA May Make-up Testing – Paper Note: May HSA & Mod-HSA (Paper) have <u>two make-up weeks</u> | May 27–30 & June 2–6 | May 26-29 & June 1-4 | May 31-June 3 & June 7—10 |
| | 5/27—Government 5/28—Biology 5/29—Alg./DA 5/30—English 6/02—Government 6/03—Biology 6/05—Alg./DA 6/06—English (No testing June 4) | 5/26-Government 5/27—English 5/28—Biology 5/29—Alg/DA 6/01—Government 6/02—English 6/03—Biology 6/04—Alg/DA | 05/31—Government 06/01—Alg/DA 06/02—English 06/03—Biology 06/07—Government 06/08—Alg/DA 06/09—English 06/10—Biology |
| HSA and Mod-HSA May Administration - Online | May 19 – June 6 (No testing May 26 and June 4) | May 18 – June 4 (No testing May 25) | May 23 – June 10 (No testing May 30 and June 6) |
| Unique Accommodation and Multiple Day Accommodation Requests are Due to MSDE for the <u>Summer HSA/Mod HSA Administration</u> | June 6 | June 12 | June 10 |

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| Test or Action | 2013-2014 | 2014-2015 | 2015-2016 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Local Accountability Coordination Meeting (This full-day meeting includes training for Alt-MSA Administration for next testing year) Intended participants: LACs and Alt-MSA Facilitators | June 10 | June 9 | June 7 |
| HSA & Mod-HSA Summer Administration Week #1 Testing - Paper Note: First Summer HSA and Mod-HSA (Paper) testing week has <u>one make-up day</u> used for all contents. | July 21 – 25 7/21-Government 7/22-Biology 7/23-Alg./DA 7/24-English 7/25-Make-up for all contents | July 27 – 31 7/27—Government 7/28—English 7/29—Biology 7/30—Alg/DA 7/31—Make-up for all contents | July 25 –29 07/25—Government 07/26—Alg/DA 07/27—English 07/28—Biology 07/29—Make-up for all contents |
| HSA & Mod-HSA Summer Administration Week #1 Testing – Online | July 21 – 25 | July 27 – 31 | July 25 - 29 |
| HSA & Mod-HSA Summer Administration Week #2 Testing - Paper Note: Second Summer HSA and Mod-HSA (Paper) testing week have <u>one make-up day</u> used for all contents | July 29 – Aug 4 7/29—Government 7/30—Biology 7/31—Alg./DA 8/01—English 8/04—Make-up for all contents | Aug 3 – 7 8/03—Government 8/04—English 8/05—Biology 8/06—Alg/DA 8/07—Make-up for all contents | Aug 1 - 5 08/01—Government 08/02—Alg/DA 08/03—English 08/04—Biology 08/05—Make-up for all contents |
| HSA & Mod-HSA Summer Administration Week #2 Testing - Online | July 29 – Aug 4 | Aug 3 – 7 | Aug 1 – 5 |

STATE TESTING CALENDAR (Based on current school start date of last week in August)

| SCHOOL YEAR 2014-2015 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |
|--------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|
| September 2014 | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ |
| October | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ |
| November | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ |
| December | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ |
| January 2015 | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ |
| February | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ |
| March | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ | █ |
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| MSA Science | █ | Weekends/Holiday | █ | | |

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Maryland Community News

Published: Friday, September 13, 2013

A later start to school year worth a look (The Herald-Mail)

[A later start to school year worth a look](#)

Maryland Comptroller Peter Franchot raises an intriguing question: Why not start school after Labor Day, the more traditional date for the beginning of school?

Franchot believes this would generate a significant amount of tax revenue — \$73 million to be exact — from families that would use the added week to vacation in Ocean City or elsewhere in the state.

If he's right — the numbers are not necessarily firm — this would contribute some much-needed revenue to the treasury....

Perhaps the greatest challenge to the idea is the truth that kids retain less and less of their learning the longer they are away from the classroom....

But all things being equal, there might be advantages to a post-Labor Day start. Taxes generated and wages earned might be at the top of the list, but the cost to cool classrooms in August cannot be insignificant either....

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Maryland Community News

Published: Wednesday, September 18, 2013

Coalition wants Montgomery County schools to close on Muslim holidays *by Lindsay A. Powers*
Staff writer

A coalition of local Muslims and others are urging Montgomery County Public Schools to close on two holidays, which the coalition's co-chair, Saqib Ali, framed as a civil rights issue.

Besides an amended county school system calendar, the Equality for Eid Coalition — sponsored by the Maryland chapter of the Council of American Islamic Relations — wants students and staff members to skip school on Oct. 15 and instead celebrate Eid al-Adha.

Supporters can sign the coalition's online petition at www.equality4eid.com. As of Monday, it had about 260 signatures.

The coalition, which formed about a year ago, also wants schools to close when classes conflict with another Muslim holiday, Eid al-Fitr. However, for at least the next three years, Eid al-Fitr will fall on days during the school system's summer break.

Both Eid holidays fall on different days each year, as they follow the Islam lunar calendar.

Eid al-Adha marks the Hajj pilgrimage to Mecca. Eid al-Fitr celebrates the end of Ramadan, according to the coalition's website.

The issue was discussed by the county Board of Education in November 2012, when it opted not to close school on the Muslim holidays after parents and community leaders requested it.

School system staff reported at the time there was not a high absentee rate on the holiday in the past three years.

Ali — a state delegate from 2007 to 2011 who has filed to run again next year — said, however, the coalition thinks attendance is “not the right question to ask.”

The decisions to close school on or near Christian and Jewish holidays were not based on similar analyses of attendance records, Ali said, and Muslim holidays should not be held to a different standard.

“If we're only going to use them (the attendance studies) for certain communities, that's not equitable,” Ali said.

Ali said the number of Muslim students in the county school system is unknown.

"But we know there's a significant number and it seems to be growing," he said.

According to its website, the coalition's supporters include Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett, County Council President Nancy Navarro, and seven state senators and delegates.

Montgomery County Board of Education member Philip Kauffman (At-large) of Olney said it boils down to what the law allows.

"We need evidence of student absences or staff absences that would impact on the delivery of instruction," he said.

The school system will monitor absences this year, he said, though past studies in recent years have not indicated a "discernable trend."

Schools close on Christian holidays such as Christmas and Good Friday under state law.

Chief Operating Officer Larry Bowers said the school system added Jewish holidays such as Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur based on low attendance from Jewish teachers and students on the holidays.

The school system, however, does not have records showing how it came to the decision in the early 1970s, he said.

Since then, Bowers said, case law has arisen that lets districts close schools only for secular purposes.

"We make it clear that these are excused absences, but we, at this stage, we really need to follow the law," Kauffman said.

The school system recognizes both Muslim holidays by declaring them nontesting days and giving Muslim students excused absences.

Mimi Hassanein, outreach coordinator for the Islamic Society of Germantown, said she personally has advocated on this issue for about 25 years and joined the campaign about a year ago.

Hassanein has had three children go through the county school system and has five grandchildren currently attending. She said she has had a "positive" experience in her efforts to help educate school system teachers and staff about Muslim holidays and culture.

Yet, she wants schools to close in observance of the Eids, either entirely or just for students.

Hassanein said the school system has been more sensitive to Muslim students and staff by trying not to schedule exams or introduce new topics in class.

But, she said, "it varies from school to school. It's not set in stone."

In her experience, she said, about half of Muslim families have their children miss school to celebrate an Eid holiday.

Montgomery County Council member George L. Leventhal (D-At large) of Takoma Park has supported efforts to close school on Muslim holidays in the past and said he thinks the school system eventually will decide to close schools.

"It poses a conflict for people who want to exercise their right to religious observance," Leventhal said.

If schools remain open, he said, parents and students "highly motivated toward academic achievement" will go to school instead of celebrating.

If schools were open on a Jewish holiday such as Rosh Hashanah, Leventhal said, he thinks "a substantial number" of Jewish students would attend classes.

Leventhal said the school system has "a lot of flexibility" when it comes to closing schools.

"They've drawn the line at Christians and Jews, and that's exclusionary," he said.

Area mosques and organizations, including Jews United for Justice, which has an activism focus in the Washington, D.C., area, are supporting the campaign.

Rebecca Ennen, the organization's development and communications manager, said generally holidays are "crucial and central" to a religious group's community and identity.

"When those don't get recognized, it's a real negation of what our values are and what we stand for," she said.

The coalition plans to hold a press conference Monday outside the Montgomery County Council Office Building in Rockville announce itself and its mission.

The school board is scheduled to discuss the issue next in the fall of 2014.

lpowers@gazette.net

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Church Fire Victim Released From Hospital; Community Plans Benefit Friday

OCEAN CITY – The woman battling back from injuries sustained in last year's St. Paul's by the Sea Episcopal Church fire was released from the hospital over the weekend and the community is planning to come together for a fundraiser this Friday. The benefit for Dana Truitt will be held Jan. 10, from 5-9 p.m. at Seacrets on 49th Street. ...

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Fall Real Estate Magazine

Click link to view more than 100 listings of local real estate:

<https://interactivepdf.uniflip.co/2/64036/314397/pub/>



Star Charities Holds Fund Raiser For Wounded Soldiers Of Maryland

Anna Foults's Star Charities held its latest fund raiser at

Mathias Optimistic About Post-Holiday School Start Committee

Posted on 10/04/2013 by **Shawn J. Soper**

OCEAN CITY — The task force studying the issue of moving the start date for public schools across Maryland back after Labor Day had its first meeting last week with positive results, but it will likely take serious support from the resort business community to make the change a reality.

Last spring, the Maryland General Assembly approved a bill that created a task force to study the issue of moving the start date for public schools across the state back after Labor Day. Maryland Comptroller Peter Franchot last year pushed legislation to create task force to study a post-Labor Day start date for public schools, citing the economic benefit while preserving the mandated number of days in the school calendar.

In a report released in August, Franchot pointed out a post-Labor Day start date for schools could result in \$7.7 million in state and local revenue and an additional \$74 million in direct economic impact.

Senator Jim Mathias introduced legislation in the 2013 session that would establish a task force to study the issue and state lawmakers approved the bill. The task force, which includes Ocean City business owners Greg Shockley and G. Hale Harrison, met for the first time last week and began preparing recommendations. Mathias told Economic Development Committee (EDC) members this week the first task force meeting was positive and called on business leaders to continue to press state lawmakers for the change.

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 Foultz, candidate for Maryland House of Delegates for District 38C Mary Beth Carozza, Senator Jim Mathias, Co-host Gilly Foultz and Emcee Larry Walton. ...
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Yenney, Emergency Outreach Coordinator for the Community 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 Yenney, Emergency Outreach Coordinator for the Community Church's Emergency Outreach Program. Also pictured is speaker chair Graham Caldwell.

"The task force had its first meeting and there is real optimism in the air about getting this done," he said. "I feel really good about it but there is a lot of work yet to be done."

Mathias said the economics of the post-Labor Day start for schools alone could make a significant difference business in the resort.

"You all need to reach out and let us know just how important this is," he said. "It's millions of dollars. We all know when we lose a weekend in the summer in Ocean City it could be all of our net. By the same token, if we get a week back in August, that can be huge." EDC Chairman Michael James agreed the resort business community needs to continue to push for the post-Labor Day start date for schools.

"This is an important issue and it's not just about the economics," he said. "This is really about families and quality of life. We're really going to need a full-court press on this one. We need to work hard and let our officials know just how important this is."

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

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POST COMMENT

Dan Clayland, Project Manager 410-723-6983

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Sarah Spross

From: Richmond, MaryJo J [MaryJo.Richmond@fcps.org]
Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2013 9:22 AM
To: Sarah Spross; William Cappe; Kristine Angelis
Subject: Post Labor Day Committee

Yesterday's meeting was wonderful, for starters.

I was thinking about our next meeting and potential guest speakers.

Religious holidays: there is a huge difference in the way that school systems and especially LEAs and higher education handle religious holidays. It would be wonderful if we could craft language at the state level that mimicked what the colleges say that allow for classes to still be held and for students to be excused and the calendar just progresses. Perhaps someone could come and talk about this?

If we do start post labor day and school district add three weeks to their calendar and high school students in their junior and senior year are sitting in their AP classrooms for an additional three weeks following their AP exams (for a total of about 3-6 weeks) with no curriculum because their final exam has been taken and they are mandated by law to attend class, I'd love to have a teacher that teaches AP classes come and tell the committee how this will impact their work.

One of my co-workers has agreed to pay for a substitute for one of his social studies teachers come and speak to our committee if you would like to hear from a Frederick County AP social studies teacher.

Mary Jo Richmond
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September 25, 2013

Mr. William R. Cappe, Chairman
Nancy S. Grasmick State Education Building
200 West Baltimore St.
Baltimore, MD 21201-2595

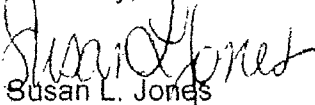
Dear Mr. Cappe,

On behalf of the Ocean City Hotel-Motel-Restaurant Association, I am writing regarding the start date for Maryland schools. We appreciate you leading the task force and bringing together all parties to connect, communicate and collaborate on best practices and solutions.

This issue is one that has a profound effect, not only on our industry, but on the State tax revenue stream. While we are extremely supportive of beginning schools after Labor Day, we would like to express our opinion that it would defeat the purpose if the school closing date slides further into June.

Again, thank you for exploring the issue. Feel free to contact us should you need any information.

Sincerely,



Susan L. Jones
Executive Director

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