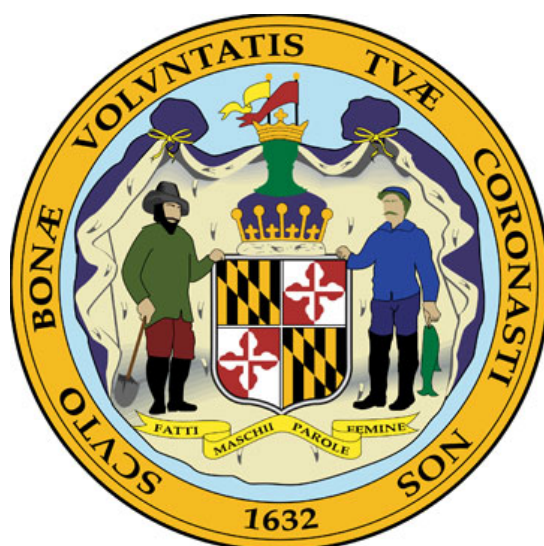


Task Force to Study a Post-Labor Day Start Date for Maryland Public Schools

Appendix XVI



June 2014

Impact of Moving the Start Date of the Public School Year in the State to After Labor Day on the Economy (Workgroup #2)

DRAFT VERSION

Introduction:

Our work group was tasked with studying the economic impact of moving the start date of the public school year in the State to after Labor Day. Our work focused on the economic impact of not only tourism but other facets that contribute to the state's economy. Some include: parks and recreation, ports, and agriculture, to name a few.

We were provided numerous newspaper articles, economic studies from various other states, and a comprehensive economic study from the Comptroller of Maryland. Many guest speakers representing a wide variety of stakeholders also addressed the task force.

The information provided framework for discussion that allowed us to make our recommendation.

Statewide Data:

We have included a Maryland map, broken down by county, that highlights the variety of economic activity that will benefit from a post Labor Day start. We thought it would be valuable to point out how far-reaching the benefits are, not just in the “typical” tourist areas, but statewide. See the attached map for detailed information.

Data Analysis:

(Note to Dr. Angelis and friends: We still have some editing to do in this section but in an effort to get this to you as soon as possible, I wanted to ask if we could finish it up at our May 19th? Or at least send an updated version in the next week or so? The content won't change. We just want to write a little better introduction to this section and maybe a one sentence overview of each state report just above the bullets)

We combed through many “school start date economic impact” reports from a variety of states. While complete copies of each state report are attached, we wish to highlight a few key pieces of information from each of the state reports that we studied. We did not treat this information as gospel but rather used it to facilitate discussion within our work group as we considered our recommendation.

Texas (dated December 2000)

- *Reduced tourist activity
- *Higher school cooling costs
- *Lost income to farm/migrant worker families
- *Overall employment of high school and college students by seasonal establishments is reduced (employment loss equates to reduction in personal income for these individuals)
- *Camp season shortened – college students employed 2 to 3 weeks shorter in summer

South Carolina (dated August 2002)

- *Conservative scenario estimates economic and tax revenue impacts where as little as 4 out of 10 families take one additional vacation would generate \$6.03 million in State tax revenue and \$2.34 million in local tax revenues
- *Chart on page 14 of South Carolina packet shows, in great detail, the economic impact of potential vacation spending

*Weather and heat related factors of August vs September school openings

Minnesota (July 2012)

*Over 50% of families report at least one trip of two or more nights away from home with a post-Labor Day start, having a direct impact on the Minnesota economy

Tennessee (dated January 2008)

*Statewide economic, state tax, local tax, payroll, and employment impacts estimated to generate \$9.72 million in new state tax, \$5.50 million in new total local county tax, \$79.2 million in new worker incomes, and generate 2,619 new jobs statewide

Florida (January 2003)

*Best way to determine whether families would travel and increase tourism expenditures as a result of later school start dates is to conduct a survey to ask how tourism expenditures would change

*Revenues will likely shift from one segment of the state's economy to the tourism industry – therefore later school start dates are not likely to provide a net economic benefit to the state

*Recommendation is that district school boards continue to have the authority to set calendar at their discretion

Maryland (August 2013)

The entire packet provides a compelling argument for starting school post Labor-Day.

Issues Considered:

*Electricity use – June versus August

*Economics of families

*Employment opportunities for teachers and students

*Impact on tourism and other large scale industries

*College start dates

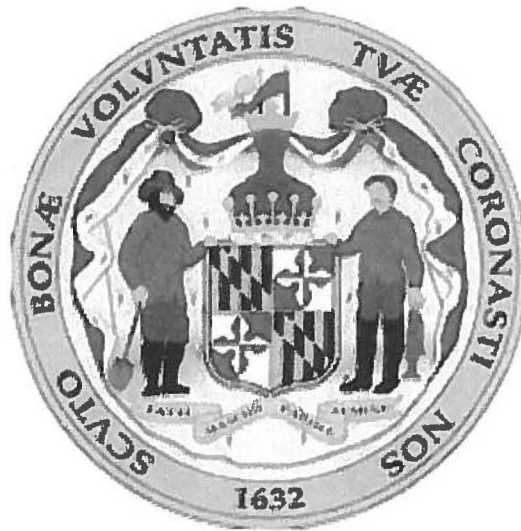
Closing/Recommendation:

(Note: There will be edits coming to this section as well. No 'content' edits, just additional information to better clarify our thoughts on the recommendation.)

We recommend a start date of no earlier than September 1st each year. Our group thought it critical to respect the feedback of the Superintendents and other guest speakers. We feel this solution offers the best of both worlds in that it protects “local control” over the school calendar while still allowing for maximum positive economic impact on a statewide level.

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

Final Report



Annapolis, Maryland
June 2014

5/19/14

Economy
Group
* * See changes

Impact of Moving the Start Date of the Public School Year in the State to After Labor Day on the Economy

Introduction

The economy work group was responsible for studying the effect of a post-Labor Day Start date on the economy. This work group focused on the economic impact of not only tourism but other facets that contribute to the state's economy. Based on a thorough review of the information provided by Task Force staff and additional materials supplied by the work group; the work group made one recommendation.

Statewide Data

Data Provided by Economy Work Group

- Economy work group report (Appendix XVI)
- Economic Impact Map (Appendix XVII)

Laws and regulations

- N/A

Speakers

- Ms. Teresa Tudor, Senior Manager, Office of School and Family Partnerships, Anne Arundel County Public Schools (Appendix IV)
- Mr. Edward F. Sparks, Executive Director, Maryland Secondary Schools Athletic Association (Appendix IV)
- Mr. Ray Leone, President, Maryland Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs) (Appendix IV)
- Mr. David Reel, President and CEO, Maryland Hotel and Lodging Association (Appendix IV)
- Mr. Thomas Noonan, CEO, Visit Baltimore (Appendix IV)
- Mr. John Woolums, Director of Governmental Relations, Maryland Association of Boards of Education (Appendix IV)
- Dr. Bernard Sadusky, Executive Director, Maryland Association of Community Colleges (Appendix IV)
- Dr. Carl Roberts, Executive Director, Public School Superintendents' Association of Maryland (Appendix IV)
- Dr. Lillian M. Lowery, State Superintendent, Maryland State Department of Education (Appendix VI)
- Dr. Michael J. Martirano, Superintendent, St. Mary's County Public Schools (Appendix VI)
- Mr. Franklin Chaney, Chief of Recreation Services, Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks (Appendix VI)

- “Economic Impact of the Publicly Funded K-12 Education on the Eastern Shore of Maryland in FY 2013” Business Economic and Community Outreach Network at Salisbury University (Appendix XI)

News Articles

- Mathias Seeks Task Force to Study Later School Start, *The Dispatch*, February 22, 2013 (Appendix III)
- Start school after Labor Day, Md. Is urged, *The Baltimore Sun*, August 16, 2013 (Appendix III)
- One week and counting, *The Baltimore Sun*, August 19, 2013 (Appendix III)
- Starting School after Labor Day has serious benefits, *The Baltimore Sun*, August 21, 2013 (Appendix III)
- Shorter school summer break is better policy, *The Baltimore Sun*, August 21, 2013 (Appendix III)
- Saving summer at the expense of student learning, *The Washington Post*, August 21, 2013 (Appendix III)
- Franchot gains O’Malley’s support on school start, *The Baltimore Sun*, August 21, 2013 (Appendix III)
- Franchot’s school proposal doesn’t hold water, *The Baltimore Sun*, August 22, 2013 (Appendix III)
- Post-Labor Day school start merits investigation, *The Baltimore Sun*, August 22, 2013 (Appendix III)
- Our say: Delaying school’s start a backward-looking idea, *Capital Gazette*, August 23, 2013 (Appendix III)
- Year-round school would benefit kids, economy, *The Baltimore Sun*, August 27, 2013 (Appendix III)
- Don’t reject out of hand a post-Labor Day start for schools, *The Baltimore Sun*, September 4, 2013 (Appendix III)
- Mathias optimistic about post-holiday school start committee, *The Dispatch*, October 4, 2013 (Appendix V)
- Task Force Debating Delaying School Year to After Labor Day, *Fox 45 News*, November 12, 2013 (Appendix VII)
- Franchot continues push for post-Labor Day school start, *Southern Maryland News Papers Online*, December 13, 2013 (Appendix VII)
- Franchot should stop meddling, *Southern Maryland News Papers Online*, December 18, 2013 (Appendix VII)
- Lowery says school districts need autonomy on start of school year, *Baltimore Sun*, January 7, 2014 (Appendix IX)
- Texas schools’ later start means big savings on utilities, *Pearland News*, August 21, 2008 (Appendix IX)
- School Start Dates, *Texas Association of School Boards*, Governmental Relations 2012 (Appendix IX)

- School start date has no bearing on tourism, *The Gaffney Ledger*, February 18, 2013 (Appendix IX)
- Area Boards Want State OK to Start School Before Labor Day B.P Smith, Lawmakers Back Early Start to Improve Academics, *Belle Plaine Herald*, January 28, 2014 (Appendix IX)
- Minnesota's school start date spurs fights, *Star Tribune*, January 20, 2013 (Appendix IX)
- VA. Senate panel protects post-Labor Day school law, *The Roanoke Times*, February 14, 2013 (Appendix IX)
- Delegates offer new approaches to Labor Day school debate, *Richmond Times Dispatch*, February 3, 2014 (Appendix IX)
- Lawmakers Propose Changes in Mandatory School Start Law, *WUWM News Radio*, June 26, 2013 (Appendix IX)
- *Neighborhood News Service Milwaukee*, September 16, 2013 (Appendix IX)
- Worcester OKs Post-Labor Day Start To School; County Will Be Only One in Md. *The Dispatch*, February 20, 2014 (Appendix XI)
- Poll to Gauge Opinion on Post-Labor Day School Start, *The Dispatch*, March 20, 2014 (Appendix XIII)

Data Analysis

One speaker presented studies concerning Texas, South Carolina, Minnesota, Tennessee, Florida, and Maryland, and provided these reports to the Task Force. These studies reported the projected economic benefits to the respective states with regard to a post-Labor Day start date. Four of these reports were more than six years old; therefore, Task Force staff provided members with more current information pertaining to each state studied in the aforementioned reports.

This material contained calendar information regarding the school year start dates across the United States (2011-2012), a summary of the states with school start date laws (updated July 31, 2012), and a summary of the required school days, instructional hours and school start dates by state (2011-2012). Additionally, articles regarding current updates on the issues surrounding school start dates for Texas, South Carolina, Minnesota, Virginia, and Wisconsin (dated 2012-2014 with the exception of one article) were provided to members as well.

Comptroller Peter Franchot presented Maryland's report prior to the initial meeting of the post-Labor Day Task Force. As a result, at the initial meeting of the task force, members were reminded that the Governor had selected them to study the effects of a post-Labor Day start date on Maryland public schools. While the taskforce should recognize the report and acknowledge the public discussion that has occurred prior to the Task Force meeting, it is important for the Task Force to build on the information we already have available, and to explore any and all additional information, before issuing findings and recommendations.

Maryland's report, written by the Bureau of Revenue Estimates in August 14, 2013, highlighted 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 is reported that tourism and family recreational activities are the catalysts for the increased economic activity. The Bureau of Revenue Estimates projects a post-Labor Day start date will result in \$74.3 million in direct economic activity and approximately \$7.7 million in new state and local government revenues.

The Economic Analysis of the Changing School Start Date in Texas Report (2000) indicated that, in tourist destination areas, at least \$332 million dollars were lost due to an early school start date. Furthermore, 65% of Texans reported that parents would prefer a uniform start date and that the children of migrant workers would benefit most from that decision.

The report concerning South Carolina (2002) examined the effects and impacts of early school start dates on the Travel and Tourism economy of the state. This report concludes that South Carolina schools have moved start dates up by as many 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, in 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.

In 2003 the Florida Senate conducted an interim report (2003) 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 current 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 Florida committee recommended against enacting uniform school start date or calendar at that time.

A Tennessee study (2008) was conducted 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.

Current information pertaining to states that have laws governing school calendars indicated that 15 states (30%) have laws pertaining to school start dates and only 10 states (20%) actively enforce these laws. Also, just because a state has a law pertaining to school start dates, does not mean that all ten of these states mandate a post-Labor Day start date.

Furthermore, current articles addressing school start dates in the states identified in the aforementioned articles highlight how local school systems and the legislators and business community members continue to be divided on when the first day of school should be. In fact, the Texas Association of School Boards reported in 2012 that the debate has been ongoing for over two decades and control over the calendar start date has swung back and forth between the school system and the legislature. In general, school system personnel and representatives advocate for local control to meet the needs of their communities, and the business community advocates for state control, citing increased economic growth and increased tourism.

The economy work group reports that it reviewed the many "school start date economic impact" reports representing a variety of states. The committee chose to highlight the key pieces of information from each of the identified state reports that provided the foundation for the work group's discussions as they considered their recommendations. Key sources of information included:

Texas (dated December 2000)

- Reduced tourist activity
- Higher school cooling costs
- Lost income to farm/migrant worker families
- Overall employment of high school and college students by seasonal establishments is reduced (employment loss equates to reduction in personal income for these individuals)
- Camp season shortened – college students employed 2 to 3 weeks shorter in summer

South Carolina (dated August 2002)

Conservative scenario estimates economic and tax revenue impacts where as little as 4 out of 10 ~~families~~ ^{families} take one additional vacation, would generate \$6.03 million in state tax revenue and \$2.34 million in local tax revenues ~~Comment WG2:~~

~~Are these SC families?~~

- Chart on page 14 of South Carolina packet shows, in great detail, the economic impact of potential vacation spending
- Weather and heat related factors of August vs. September school openings

→ South Carolina families

Minnesota (July 2012) ...

- Over 50% of families report at least one trip of two or more nights away from home with a post-Labor Day start having a direct impact on the Minnesota economy

Tennessee (dated January 2008)

Please add
 • Tennessee conducted a study to examine economic impact of post labor day school start dates

- Statewide economic, state tax, local tax, payroll, and employment impacts estimated to generate \$9.72 million in new state tax, \$5.50 million in new total local county tax, \$79.2 million in new worker incomes, and generate 2,619 new jobs statewide *Comment WG2: Please clarify this bullet*

• *462,712 TN residents would take 1 additional TN summer vacation*

Florida (January 2003)

- Best way to determine whether families would travel and increase tourism expenditures as a result of later school start dates is to conduct a survey to ask how tourism expenditures would change
- Revenues will likely shift from one segment of the state's economy to the tourism industry – therefore, later school start dates are not likely to provide a net economic benefit to the state
- Recommendation is that district school boards continue to have the authority to set school calendars at their discretion

Maryland (August 2013)

- The entire packet provides a compelling argument for starting school post Labor-Day. *Comment WG2: Please consider providing specific bullets for the MD report as you have done above*

**7 days equals \$70 million of economic impact*

Finally, the economic work group generated a Maryland map, broken down by county that highlights the variety of economic activities that will benefit from a post-Labor Day start. This map was designed to illustrate how far-reaching the benefits of a post-Labor Day start date would be on the economy, not just in the "typical" tourist areas, but statewide. See the attached map for detailed information.

**Over \$13.6 million in new wages*

**Over \$5.2 million in new state gov't revenue*

Issues Considered

After each small group work session, work groups were required to report their discussions to the Task Force. These briefings and the work group's independent report indicate that the following issues were considered by the economy work group:

**Over \$2.4 million in local revenue*

discussed and (Appendix IX)

- Electricity use – June versus August *Comment WG2: Please provide data*
- Economics of families *Comment WG2: Was a specific document or data set used?*
- Employment opportunities for teachers and students
- Impact on tourism and other large scale industries *Comment WG2: Please provide data*

(Appendix XVI)

Please add college start dates (example)

- College start dates Comment WG2: Please provide chart of colleges considered.
- Feedback from local school system superintendents Comment WG2: Please verify that this addition is acceptable

(Appendix IV)

* Teachers missing their first day to take their own children to school college

Closing

TO INCLUDE A SUMMARY OF ANY DISCUSSIONS AT THE LAST MEETING ON MAY 19TH

Recommendations From the Economy Work group

We recommend a start date of no earlier than September 1st each year. Our work group thought it critical to respect the feedback of the Superintendents and other guest speakers. We feel this solution offers the best of both worlds in that it protects "local control" over the school calendar while still allowing for maximum positive economic impact on a statewide level.

Disseminate

Fall 2014 Start Dates

Bowie State University	September 2
Frostburg State University	September 2
Hood College	August 25
McDaniel College	August 25
Morgan State Univ.	August 25
St. St. Marys College	September 2
Salisbury University	August 25
Towson University	August 27
Univ. of MD - Balt. County	August 27
Univ. of MD - College Park	September 2