

INSTRUCTION: Schedules

School Calendar

I. PURPOSE

TO ESTABLISH GUIDELINES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND ADOPTION OF A SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR THE BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS (BCPS) FOR EACH SCHOOL YEAR.

II. [Composition of the] Calendar Committee

A. ANNUALLY [Each year], the Superintendent will convene a Calendar Committee to assist in the development of a proposed school calendar.[.] THE APPOINTMENT OF SUCH COMMITTEE SHALL BE MADE NO LATER THAN 16 MONTHS PRIOR TO THE SCHOOL YEAR FOR WHICH THE COMMITTEE IS MAKING THE CALENDAR RECOMMENDATION. [that will be presented to the Board of Education of Baltimore County (Board) for its consideration. The Board has the final obligation to approve the school calendar.]

B. COMPOSITION

1. THE [Each year, the] Superintendent will designate a [committee] facilitator TO CONDUCT MEETINGS AND REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE CALENDAR COMMITTEE.[.]
2. THE COMMITTEE SHALL BE COMPRISED OF principals, [and] office heads, AND [to serve on the committee and will invite a] representativeS from the COLLECTIVE BARGAINING UNITS AND THE Board's stakeholder and advisory groups [to serve on the committee].

III. GUIDELINES

A. SCHOOL YEAR

1. THE SCHOOL YEAR WILL BE DIVIDED INTO TWO GRADING TERMS (SEMESTER) THAT INCLUDE AT LEAST 90 DAYS EACH.
2. A SEMESTER SHALL CONSIST OF TWO QUARTERS OF APPROXIMATELY EQUAL LENGTH OF BETWEEN 42 TO 48 DAYS.

3. STATE LAW REQUIRES THAT SCHOOLS BE KEPT OPEN FOR NOT LESS THAN 180 DAYS.
4. THE LENGTH OF THE WORK YEAR FOR TEACHERS SHALL BE NEGOTIATED WITH THE TEACHER'S ASSOCIATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY.

B. ASSESSMENTS

THE SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR SHALL BE ALIGNED WITH FEDERAL, STATE, AND BCPS ASSESSMENTS.

C. STAFF DEVELOPMENT

THE CALENDAR SHALL INCORPORATE TIME TO MEET THE STAFF DEVELOPMENT NEEDS OF THE SYSTEM AND ITS EMPLOYEES.

D. HOLIDAYS

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH STATE LAW, THE FOLLOWING HOLIDAYS WILL BE OBSERVED:
 - a. THANKSGIVING DAY AND THE DAY AFTER;
 - b. CHRISTMAS EVE AND FROM THEN THROUGH JANUARY 1;
 - c. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY;
 - d. PRESIDENTS' DAY;
 - e. THE FRIDAY BEFORE EASTER AND FROM THEN THROUGH THE MONDAY AFTER EASTER;
 - f. MEMORIAL DAY; AND
 - g. PRIMARY AND GENERAL ELECTION DAYS.
2. THIS LIST IS NOT MEANT TO BE EXHAUSTIVE, AND THE BOARD HAS THE AUTHORITY TO DESIGNATE AND DETERMINE WHETHER SCHOOLS MAY BE CLOSED AT ANY OTHER TIME.

E. [III.] Inclement Weather [-]

The [proposed] calendar SHALL [should] include no fewer than 7 [seven (7) inclement weather] days SET ASIDE FOR SCHOOL CLOSURES DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER OR SUCH OTHER CONDITIONS AS MAY REQUIRE THE CLOSURE OF SCHOOLS.

F. PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

THE CALENDAR SHALL ESTABLISH DATES FOR PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES.

IV. APPROVAL [Notice to the Public]

- A. IN APRIL, THE SUPERINTENDENT WILL PRESENT A PROPOSED SCHOOL CALENDAR TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY (BOARD) FOR ITS CONSIDERATION.
- B. THE CALENDAR WILL BE ADOPTED ANNUALLY BY THE BOARD DURING ITS JUNE PUBLIC MEETING AND AMENDED, IF NECESSARY, AS DETERMINED BY THE BOARD.
- C. THE APPROVED SCHOOL CALENDAR WILL BE POSTED ON THE SCHOOL SYSTEM'S WEB SITE. [The proposed calendar, once approved, will be shared with the public at least one year prior to the year in which it is to be implemented.]

LEGAL REFERENCES: *ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND*, EDUCATION ARTICLE §7-103, *REQUIRED SCHOOL DAYS AND HOLIDAYS*
COMAR 13A.02.01.04, *LENGTH OF THE SCHOOL YEAR*

RELATED POLICY: BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 6304, *COMMEMORATIONS AND OBSERVANCES*

Rule

Superintendent of Schools

Approved: 09/09/02

Revised: 07/08/08

REVISED: _____