

**Recent & Ongoing Activities**

- BOD meeting with Montgomery County delegation to the Maryland legislature
  - discussions focused on access to State resources for operating budget, facilities, and pre-K as well as other policy concerns such as the school calendar.
- League of Women Voters engaging MCCPTA on voter guide survey
- The State-appointed *Commission on Innovation & Excellence in Education*, charged with revising state school funding formulas will not finish its work by its Dec. 31 deadline, Chair Kirwan announced.

**Future Activities**

- MCCPTA Questionnaire for BoE, CC, Md/GA candidates for political office to be circulated by 12/15
- League of Women Voters +MoCo Media to plan future BoE candidate and County Council forums

**Important Dates**

- Dec 5- Superintendent's initial presentation to Board of Education on 2019 Operating Budget proposal
- Dec 19- Superintendent Presents Recommended FY 2019 Operating Budget to Board of Education
- Dec-Jan \* Sign-up period for speakers at Board of Education Public Hearings
- Jan 4 & 10- 2018 Board of Education Public Operating Budget Hearings
- Jan 18 & 25- Board of Education Operating Budget Work Sessions
- Feb 13- Board of Education Action to Adopt Superintendent's FY 2019 Recommended Operating Budget

**Special Notes:**

Letter from Superintendent Smith to Governor Hogan on 2018-19 Calendar.  
It points out the contradictory requirements presented by the Governor's executive order.  
See attached.



## MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

850 Hungerford Drive ♦ Room 123 ♦ Rockville, Maryland 20850

December 1, 2017



The Honorable Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.  
Governor  
The State of Maryland  
100 State Circle  
Dear Governor Hogan:

On November 14, 2017, the Montgomery County Board of Education adopted the enclosed 2018–2019 school year calendar. The calendar abides by your executive order: the school year will begin on Tuesday, Sept. 4, 2018, and the last day of school is scheduled for Thursday, June 13, 2019. The calendar includes 182 days of instruction, two closed days for planning and professional development, and two operational closures that coincide with the observances of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

On behalf of the Board of Education, I am writing to share two concerns we have with the end date of June 15 prescribed in the executive order. I wish to emphasize that we are not asking for a change in the start date of after Labor Day however, we believe that there are some unintended and unforeseen consequences with a hard stop of June 15.

While in the first year of abiding by the executive order, June 15, 2018 falls on a Friday, in future years that is not the case. For example, for the 2018–2019 school year calendar, June 15 falls on a Saturday; as such, the last day to schedule school is June 14. This problem is exacerbated in future years when June 15 falls on days of the week like Monday (2020) and Tuesday (2021). For financial, attendance, and family logistical concerns, it would be challenging for a school system to schedule a last day of school on such week days. For example, school systems would need to keep air-conditioning running over the weekend for the additional day or two. Another concern would be how summer camps or child care would be impacted by a shortened week; if they did not start until the following week, families would need to find coverage for the days following the last school day.

We again respectfully ask that there be some flexibility in future years. We urge a change to the executive order that would prescribe the third Friday of June (as June 15, 2018 is) as the last day of school for students. This would mean school would close on June 19, 2020, and in the following year, June 18, 2021.

In December 2016, our school system received guidance from the Maryland State Department of Education that in order to be compliant with the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) and extend the school year by five days at the end of the school year, districts must build emergency

weather make-up days into the schedule **before** the date of June 15. Therefore, in order to fulfill both the requirements established in your executive order and under COMAR, effectively the last day of school scheduled on any school district's 2018–2019 calendar in the state Maryland was June 11, 2019. There must be 180 days of instruction, the state's minimum number of days required, scheduled on or before June 11, 2019.

If in Montgomery County there are no school closures due to weather emergencies, then that means the last day of school for students would fall before June 15, the final date of school established in your executive order. We ask that you adjust your executive order to establish a certain final date for students that allows for emergency weather days to fall outside the established instructional timeframe.

It is our hope you will consider revising your executive order because of the two reasons mentioned. We again urge you to consider alternative approaches in future years to accomplish your objective of maximizing time available for summer vacation while still allowing local jurisdictions to set the structure of the school year according to the operational and educational needs and priorities unique to each district in the state.

Sincerely



Michael A. Durso

President, Montgomery County Board of Education

MAD:prs

Enclosure

Copy to:

Members of the Montgomery County Delegation  
Mr. Peter Franchot, Comptroller  
Mr. Leggett, Montgomery County Executive  
Members of the Montgomery County Council  
Dr. Karen Salmon, State Superintendent of Schools  
Members of the Montgomery County Board of Education  
Dr. Jack R. Smith, Superintendent of Montgomery County Public Schools



# 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

School Start Date September 4, 2018  
Adopted 11-14-17

	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	School Days in Month	Cumulative School Days
<b>AUG</b>			1	2	3	6	7	8	9	10	13	14	15	16	17	20	21	22	23	24	27	28	29	30	31	0	0
<b>SEP</b>	3 H	4 F	5	6	7	10 NI	11	12	13	14	17	18	19 NI	20	21	24	25	26	27	28						17	17
<b>OCT</b>	1	2	3	4	5 ER K-12	8	9	10	11	12	15	16	17	18	19	22	23	24	25	26	29	30	31			23	40
<b>NOV</b>				1	2	5	6 H*	7 ER/PD K-12	8	9	12 ER K-12	13 ER K-12	14	15	16	19	20	21 ER K-12	22 H*	23 H*	26	27	28	29	30	19	59
<b>DEC</b>	3	4	5	6	7	10	11	12	13	14	17	18	19	20	21	24 H*	25 H*	26 NI*	27 NI*	28 NI*	31 NI*					15	74
<b>JAN</b>		1 H*	2	3	4	7	8	9	10	11	14	15	16	17	18	21 H*	22	23	24	25 ER/PD K-12	28 PD/M	29	30	31		20	94
<b>FEB</b>					1	4	5	6	7	8	11	12	13	14	15	18 H*	19	20	21	22	25	26	27	28		19	113
<b>MAR</b>					1 ER K-12	4	5	6	7	8	11	12	13	14	15	18	19	20	21	22	26	26	27	28	29	21	134
<b>APR</b>	1	2	3 ER/PD K-12	4	5	8	9	10	11	12	15	16	17 NI/M	18 NI/M	19 H*	22 H*	23	24	25	26	29	30				18	152
<b>MAY</b>			1	2	3	6	7	8	9	10	13	14	15	16	17	20	21	22	23	24	27 H*	28	29	30	31	22	174
<b>JUN</b>	3	4	5 PD/M	6	7	10	11	12	13 L ER K-12	14 M	17	18	19	20	21	24	25	26	27	28						8	182

- F First Day of School
- H Holiday (Schools and offices closed)
- ER Early Release Day
- ER/PD Early Release Day/End of Quarter Planning
- L Last Day of School (Early release day)
- M Make-up Day—possible instructional day due to emergency school closure
- NI Non-instructional (No school for students and teachers)
- NI/M Non-instructional—possible instructional day due to emergency school closure
- PD/M Scheduled to be a professional day for teachers—possible instructional day due to emergency school closure

Q1 = 44  
Q2 = 47  
Q3 = 46  
Q4 = 45

For more information on the MCPS calendar, please visit [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org) and click on calendar.

\* Mandated for closure by state law.