

Greetings AACPS Community!

As many of you already know, all Maryland public schools must now start after Labor Day and end by June 15, per the school executive order. Currently, the mandated school year end date is June 15 (a day, not a date). This date falls on a Saturday next year, and on a Sunday the following year which constricts the school year even further, especially when coupled with a late falling Labor Day.

As a result, AACPS and school districts statewide are now struggling to fit in the 180 school days and 1080 hours needed to comply with state law while also complying with the school executive order. The AACPS Board of Education and Dr. Arlotto have been working with our state lawmakers to find a reasonable solution towards solving this problem.

HB0679, with 50 co-sponsors and FULLY endorsed by AACPS Board of Education, corrects some of the problems created by the school executive order by allowing AACPS and other school districts to schedule to the 3rd Friday of June if they choose.

This bill is within the spirit of the original executive order and is enabling, not restrictive, providing extra flexibility to potentially be used for a longer spring break, important professional development days such as MSEA Day to remain non-instructional, a little flexibility for extra snow days, etc.

A hearing on this **bill is scheduled for Thursday, February 22 at 1pm in Annapolis**. If the school executive order has impacted you or your family, you may testify orally, submit written testimony, and/or attend the hearing. If this interests you, please email Folger McKinsey Elementary parent, Dana Schallheim at danafish1@hotmail.com for more information. Those wishing to testify publicly must sign-up in advance, so please reach out to Dana so she make sure you are on the list. Thank you!