



Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.  
State Superintendent of Schools

200 West Baltimore Street • Baltimore, MD 21201 • 410-767-0100 • 410-333-6442 TTY/TDD • msde.maryland.gov

**TO:** Members of the State Board of Education  
**FROM:** Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D. *KBS*  
**DATE:** December 5, 2016  
**SUBJECT:** Innovative School Scheduling Models Workgroup

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**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this agenda item is to inform the State Board of Education on the process that will be used to explore the use of innovative school scheduling models in low-performing or at-risk public schools.

**BACKGROUND/HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:**

Nationally, the traditional school calendar consists of 180 days and approximately 720-1080 instructional hours<sup>1</sup>. Momentum is growing to move beyond the traditional calendar to increase learning time. Several school systems across the nation have begun lengthening the school day, week, or year to accelerate student learning in low-performing schools<sup>2</sup>.

Education Article §7-103.1 directs the Maryland State Board of Education to, “....*explore the use of innovative school scheduling models, including extended year, year-round schooling, or other school scheduling models that do not allow for prolonged lapses in instructional time, in low-performing or at-risk public schools. The State Board shall encourage county boards to use the school scheduling models that are determined to be most effective in enhancing student achievement in low-performing or at-risk public schools.*”

On October 25, 2016, State Board of Education members requested that the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) undertake a study that will be used to inform State Board members on innovative school scheduling models. The attached plan details the timeline for the innovative school scheduling study.

**Citations:**

1. Rowland, J. (2014, October). *Number of Instructional Days/Hours in the School Year*. Retrieved from <http://www.ecs.org/clearinghouse/01/15/05/11505.pdf>
2. McMurrer, J., Fizzell, M., & Yoshioka, N. (2015, January). *Expanded Learning Time A Summary of Findings from Case Studies in Four States*.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The Maryland State Department of Education will lead a workgroup to explore innovative school scheduling models. The workgroup will review effective practices and explore impacts of innovative school schedules, with a focus on expanding the school day and year. A report will be produced for the State Board of Education with recommendations for innovative school scheduling models.

The workgroup will identify:

- Innovative schedules that increase academic gains for students at different grade bands;
- Effective use of time for different innovative scheduling models;
- Effective structure, staffing, and financing models for innovative schedules;
- Promising practices and lessons learned from other school systems that have implemented extended learning time programs (Massachusetts, Illinois, California, New York, etc.).

There will be five workgroup meetings from January - June 2017. Draft recommendations will be submitted to the State Board in April 2017 and recommendations will be released for public comment in May 2017. Final recommendations will be presented to the Board in June 2017.

**ACTION:**

For information only.

Attachment: Innovative School Schedule Workgroup Summary



Innovative School Schedule Workgroup



Date	Action
February 2017	<p><b>Meeting 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Morning Session: Structures, staffing, and financing models for innovative schedules.</li> <li>• Afternoon Session: Promising practices and lessons learned from other school systems that have implemented extended learning time programs.</li> </ul> <p>Key Questions to be Addressed During Sessions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the costs associated with identified innovative school scheduling models?</li> <li>• What resources are needed to implement selected innovative school scheduling models?</li> <li>• How will the implementation of innovative school schedules impact transportation, meal programs, athletics, student work experiences, out-of-school time programs, and other enrichment experiences currently offered to students?</li> </ul> <p>The workgroup will continue the development of draft recommendations based on information discussed at the meeting.</p>
March 2017	<p><b>Meeting 3</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review and modify draft recommendations.</li> <li>• Prepare draft recommendations for review by the State Board of Education.</li> </ul> <p>An additional meeting date will be reserved in March in case inclement weather causes cancellation of a previous meeting date.</p>
April 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft report submitted to State Board of Education.</li> </ul> <p><b>Meeting 4</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Modifications of recommendations based on input from State Board members.</li> <li>• Prepare recommendations for public comment.</li> </ul>
May 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preliminary recommendations released for public comment.</li> </ul>
June 2017	<p><b>Meeting 5</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review and address public comments.</li> <li>• Prepare final report for the State Board of Education.</li> </ul> <p>Recommendations presented to the State Board of Education on June 27, 2017.</p>

## Innovative School Schedule Workgroup



### Recommended Organizations to Participate in the Workgroup:

1. Baltimore Teachers Union
2. Maryland Association of Boards of Education
3. Maryland Association of Community Colleges
4. Maryland Association of Elementary School Principals
5. Maryland Association of Secondary School Principals
6. Maryland Association of Student Councils
7. Maryland Business Roundtable for Education
8. Maryland Higher Education Commission
9. Maryland House of Delegates
10. Maryland Out of School Time Network
11. Maryland Parent Teacher Association
12. Maryland School Counselor Association
13. Maryland State Board of Education
14. Maryland State Education Association
15. Maryland State Department of Education – Division of Curriculum, Research Assessment, and Accountability
16. Maryland State Department of Education – Division of Special Education/Early Intervention
17. Maryland State Department of Education – Office of School and Community Nutrition Programs
18. Maryland State Department of Education – Pupil Transportation
19. Public School Superintendents Association of Maryland
20. Senate of Maryland
21. Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association