

News Release: UPDATED: Prince George's County BOE Approves 2017-2018 School Calendar

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For Immediate Release

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UPPER MARLBORO, MD – Prince George's County Public Schools will begin the 2017-2018 school year September 6 and end June 13.

The school system's request to begin prior to Labor Day was denied Tuesday by the State Board of Education. Last week, the Prince George's County Board of Education approved a school calendar with August 22 as the first day of school for students and June 6 as the last day of school along with a post-Labor Day calendar.

Last August, Gov. Hogan issued an executive order mandating local education agencies to develop a school calendar that starts after Labor Day and ends no later than June 15. To date, the primary rationale given for the executive order is the boost of tax revenue for Ocean City and the popularity of the proposal with the general public.

"Under the Governor's mandate, local Boards of Education can no longer implement a school calendar that reflects the unique needs of their school districts," said Dr. Segun C. Eubanks, Board of Education Chair. "I strongly believe a pre-Labor Day school calendar is best for Prince George's County."

"As Chief Executive Officer of the second-largest school district in the state, I am concerned about summer learning loss and our ability to schedule professional development and planning opportunities for teachers," said Prince George's County Public Schools CEO Dr. Maxwell. "More importantly, I am concerned about the basic needs that many families struggle to meet, such as regular nutritious meals and child care. We do not believe this mandate prioritizes children and families."

To view a copy of the 2017-2018 school calendar, [click here \(http://www1.pgcps.org/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=240034\)](http://www1.pgcps.org/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=240034).

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Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS), one of the nation's 20th largest school districts, has 201 schools and centers, more than 133,000 students and nearly 20,000 employees. The school system serves a diverse student population from urban, suburban and rural communities located in the Washington, DC suburbs. PGCPS is nationally recognized for college and career-readiness programs that provide students with unique learning opportunities, including dual enrollment and language immersion.