

Office of the Superintendent of Schools  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Rockville, Maryland

June 26, 2019

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education  
From: Jack R. Smith, Superintendent of Schools  
Subject: Spring Weather Impact on High School Athletics (05-14-19-03)

**Question**

During Board/Superintendent Comments, Mrs. O'Neill requested an update regarding the impact that the rainy weather has had on the athletic schedules for MCPS sports teams.

**Response**

Following a fall season severely impacted by weather, the 2019 spring season for Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) athletics was relatively minimally impacted. Primarily due to the addition of two more artificial turf fields at Albert Einstein and Walt Whitman high schools, the Athletics Unit was able to reschedule games from natural grass fields to the artificial turf fields during periods of heavy rain.

It should be noted that time on artificial fields was used to the maximum degree possible, while honoring the contracts with our field partners to the best extent possible. While the weather had some impact on the athletic schedule, stakeholder collaboration and scheduling flexibility allowed the games to continue on the synthetic surfaces, which do not require field closure during heavy rain. The adjustments to the game schedules required changes in transportation, game officiating lineups, and game management plans. However, school athletic programs were able to accommodate these changes with minimal impact this spring.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Andrew M. Zuckerman, chief operating officer, at 240-740-3050 or Dr. Jeffrey K. Sullivan, director, Systemwide Athletics, at 240-740-5650.

JRS:AMZ:JKS:rtm

Copy to:  
Executive Staff  
Dr. Sullivan  
Ms. Webb