

*Allegany County Public Schools (ACPS) has received a number of requests for information regarding the flash flooding events of May 13, 2025. Below is a general timeline of events starting with the first flood watch issued by the National Weather Service on May 12, 2025, and until the last child was reunited with their parent/guardian on May 14, 2025. This timeline is not an exhaustive list of events but is intended to provide a summary of the events that occurred during the dates referenced. Not included are the over 300 phone conversations from the Incident Command Center established at ACPS Central Office to staff, as well as emergency personnel, during the natural disaster.*

*As indicated herein, the severity of the storm that caused the flash flooding was not forecasted or anticipated. Under the circumstances, forecasts did not warrant a school closure as of the evening of May 12, 2025 or the morning of May 13, 2025. Weather Watches (for snow, rain, tornadoes, high winds, etc.) are common and do not regularly result in school closures. All counties in the surrounding region opened school on May 13<sup>th</sup> on a regular schedule. The National Weather Services issued its flood warning after flooding began. Upon notification of flooding conditions, ACPS's only focus was on the safety of students and staff.*

*The Elected Board would like to note, that thanks to the efforts of ACPS staff and emergency services, no students or staff were lost or injured during what was later declared a State of Emergency.*

### **Monday, May 12, 2025**

**1:26pm** Flood watch issued for Allegany and Garrett County until 6:00pm  
Wednesday, May 14, 2025

\*National Weather Service Flood Watch definition: there is a potential for rapid flooding or wide spread areal flooding, or river flooding. The occurrence of flooding is neither certain nor imminent.

### **Tuesday, May 13, 2025**

**7:00am** Allegany County Public Schools open on regular schedule

**10:15am to 11:30am** Superintendent and Supervisor of Transportation in attendance at Transportation Appreciation Luncheon

**12:04pm** Beechwood and Castle Hill Street in Lonaconing are closed due to flooding conditions

**12:11pm** Main Street in Lonaconing is closed due to flooding at the intersection of Koontz Run and Pershing Street

- 12:23pm** Flood warning issued for Allegany County, MD
- \*National Weather Service Flood Warning definition: flooding is imminent or in progress
- 12:24pm** Superintendent consults with Supervisor of Transportation regarding flood warning
- 12:30pm** Superintendent contacted by Westernport Elementary School (Westernport) principal regarding conditions at the school
- 12:37pm** Supervisor of Transportation contacted 911 Center to gather information on flood conditions in the county
- 12:38pm** Supervisor of Transportation contacted Director of Allegany County Department of Emergency Services (Emergency Services) to gather information on flood conditions in the county and seek guidance
- 12:30pm to 12:59pm** Superintendent continued communications with transportation and operations departments to access weather and road conditions throughout the county
- 12:59pm** First flood waters detected at Westernport



- 1:02pm** Superintendent call with Emergency Services
- 1:10pm** Westernport parking lot covered in flood water and playground and yard on north side of school flooded
- 1:17pm** Front field of Westernport flooded and water reaches fenders of cars in parking lot

**1:20pm**

**First car in Westernport parking lot floats away**



**1:34pm**

Superintendent consults with Emergency Services and is instructed to hold students and staff at Westmar Middle School (Westmar), George's Creek Elementary School (George's Creek), and Westernport

**1:34pm**

Westernport parking lot fully flooded and all cars floating and/or under water



**1:37pm**

Superintendent instructs Supervisor of Transportation that all schools except Westmar, George's Creek, and Westernport will begin dismissing at 2pm

**1:45pm**

Westernport students returning from field trip redirected to Mountain Ridge

**1:48pm**

ACPS Public Information Officer (PIO) issues the following dismissal

notice:

“Under advisement of Emergency Services of Allegany County, we will not be able to transport any students from Westmar Middle, Westernport Elementary, George’s Creek Elementary, and those students from Mountain Ridge that live in those areas.

Accommodations are being made for those students who are not able to be safely dismissed. They will be with school personnel until Emergency Services determines they are able to be transported safely.

All other Allegany County Public Schools will be dismissing at approximately 2 p.m.

Mount Savage students may be delayed due to detours.

All afterschool activities are canceled.”

- 2:02pm** ACPS PIO issues statement to Westernport parents that those students on the field trip will be taken to Mountain Ridge
- 2:53pm** First Westernport students taken from the school by boat and then by emergency vehicle to 1 Fusner Street in Westernport (church building)
- 4:12pm** Last boat leaves Westernport school
- 4:40pm** Front of Westmar parking lot flooded



- 5:10pm** First bus leaves George’s Creek and transports students to Mountain Ridge High School (Mountain Ridge)
- 7:30pm** Westmar begins preparation to transport students to Mountain Ridge
- 8:34pm** ACPS issues announcement that all schools are closed Wednesday,

May 14, 2025

- 8:44pm** All students have been safely transported to Mountain Ridge
- 8:58pm** Frostburg City Police and additional School Security Employees arrive at Mountain Ridge to help with reunification process
- 9:45pm** Message sent to parents regarding overnight accommodations  
\* Ultimately 12 students stayed overnight at Mountain Ridge

**Wednesday, May 14, 2025**

- 8:24am** Last student was picked up at Mountain Ridge