



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

TO: Members of the State Board of Education (Revised)

FROM: Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.

DATE: December 4, 2018

SUBJECT: Request from the Baltimore City Public Schools for a Calendar Modification

PURPOSE:

To consider the conditional waiver request to open school on Presidents' Day as an inclement weather make-up day for Baltimore City Public Schools for the 2018-2019 school year.

BACKGROUND/HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:

On August 31, 2016, Governor Larry Hogan issued Executive Order 01.01.2016.09 which requires all Maryland kindergarten through grade 12 public schools to open for pupil attendance no earlier than the Tuesday immediately following the nationally observed Labor Day holiday. The school year for every public school in Maryland shall adjourn no later than June 15.

Education Article §7-103 requires that schools be open for student attendance for 180 days. The State Board of Education has the authority to adjust the length of the school year by granting waivers of the 180-day requirement. Such adjustments may be granted if normal school attendance is prevented because of natural disaster, civil disaster, or severe weather conditions. Subsection (b) (iv) provides the State Board the authority to permit schools to open on holidays because of closures related to severe weather conditions. Education Article §7-103 was amended in the 2018 legislative session. The law, as amended, allows a county board to extend the length of the school year up to five (5) school days beyond June 15 without approval from the State Board.

The conditions for granting a waiver of the 180-day school year requirement are specified in Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 13A.02.01.04 and include the following:

1. The school system demonstrates they have made sufficient effort in providing instruction through calendar planning and modifications; and
2. Natural disasters, civil disasters, or severe weather conditions are sufficiently significant to warrant a waiver of days.

The conditions required for waiver applications are specified in COMAR 13A.02.01.04 (C) and include the following:

1. The local school system developed a calendar which included days to be used to make-up days lost. Depending upon past experience, this number could range from 3 to 10 days; and
2. The local school system has modified its calendar by scheduling school on make-up days provided in the original calendar and by extending the school year 3 days beyond the previously scheduled closing date.

In considering applications for waivers, the State Board of Education may waive the final day needed to complete the 180-day schedule if that day falls on a Monday.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Baltimore City Public Schools has identified eight (8) inclement weather recovery days in their 2018-2019 School Calendar. The three (3) inclement weather recovery days prior to June 15 are Presidents' Day, February 18 and the first two days of spring break, April 15, and 16, 2019. The remaining five (5) inclement weather recovery days are June 17 through 21, 2019. The request submitted by Baltimore City Public Schools on November 14, 2018 asks for a conditional waiver to use February 18, 2019, Presidents' Day, as a snow make-up day, if needed. The conditional waiver has been requested in advance to allow Baltimore City Public Schools the opportunity to make a calendar modification and recover instructional time prior to spring break.

ACTION:

It is being requested that the Maryland State Board of Education approve the conditional waiver to open school on February 18, 2019, Presidents' Day for Baltimore City Public Schools, if needed for the 2018-2019 school year.

Attachment: Waiver Request from Baltimore City Public Schools.

BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Catherine E. Pugh
Mayor, City of Baltimore

Cheryl A. Casciani
*Chair, Baltimore City Board of
School Commissioners*

Dr. Sonja Brookins Santelises
Chief Executive Officer

November 9, 2018

Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.
State Superintendent of Schools
Maryland State Department of Education
200 West Baltimore Street
Baltimore, MD 21201

Dear Dr. Salmon:

On May 22, 2018 the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners (“Board”) considered and approved a revised academic calendar for school year 2018-2019. As required, the academic calendar meets the 180-day requirement for student attendance defined in Education Article §7-103, Annotated Code of Maryland and was constructed within the parameters of Executive Order 01.01.2016.13.

Revisions to the academic calendar included an updated professional development schedule and articulated inclement weather recovery plan. Baltimore City Public Schools (“City Schools”) shifted its traditional mid-February professional development and scheduled it to occur on the business day following the last day of school. The academic calendar identifies eight (8) inclement weather recovery days, including three (3) days built into the existing calendar and five (5) business days designated beyond June 15th. The designated three (3) built-in recovery dates, as prioritized in order of use, include Presidents’ Day (February 18th) and the first two spring break days (April 15th and April 16th). The five (5) days inclement weather recovery dates beyond June 15th are June 17th through June 21st.

City Schools is obligated to balance the needs of our students, families, and staff while lending serious consideration for maximizing instructional time; optimizing professional learning; and any implications for families’ pre-planned activities.

An approved Presidents’ Day opening provides an opportunity to make a calendar modification and recover instructional time prior to spring break, which is invaluable and beneficial for students and staff. Utilizing this holiday would increase families’ awareness and presumably be less disruptive to pre-planned travel and other activities.

Respectfully, City Schools requests the State Board of Education’s approval to open schools on Presidents’ Day, February 18, 2019 in accordance with Education Article §7-103, Annotated Code of Maryland., given the above rationale.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Enclosed you will find materials from City Schools' May 22, 2018 public board meeting.

Sincerely,



Sonja Brookins Santelises, Ed.D.
Chief Executive Officer

CC: Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners
Members, Senior Cabinet

BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Agenda Item Details

Meeting	May 22, 2018 - Public Board Meeting
Category	8. Consent Agenda- Vote
Subject	8.05 SY 2018-2019 School Calendar: Update
Type	Action (Consent)
Recommended Action	Adopt the updated professional development days and the snow recovery plan.

This presentation will request a vote on the updated professional development days and the snow recovery plan. A vote on the half-day early release proposal will take place at the June 12th Board meeting.

[SY 2018-2019 School Calendar Update UPDATED 05.22.18.pdf \(981 KB\)](#)

Our adopted rules of Parliamentary Procedure, Robert's Rules, provide for a consent agenda listing several items for approval of the Board by a single motion. Most of the items listed under the consent agenda have gone through Board subcommittee review and recommendation. Documentation concerning these items has been provided to all Board members and the public in advance to assure an extensive and thorough review. Items may be removed from the consent agenda at the request of any board member.

Motion & Voting

to approve items as presented.

Motion by Michelle Harris Bondima, second by Johnette A Richardson.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Muriel Berkeley, Cheryl Casciani - Chair, Linda Chinnia, Andrew Frank, Martha James-Hassan, Peter Kannam - Vice Chair, Michelle Harris Bondima, Johnette A Richardson

Not Present at Vote: Ronald S McFadden