



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

TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.

DATE: January 28, 2020

SUBJECT: Calendar Modifications – Granting Authority to the State Superintendent

PURPOSE:

To grant authority to the State Superintendent of Schools to approve requests received from local school systems to open school on February 17, 2020, Presidents’ Day, as an inclement weather make-up day, if needed, for the 2019-2020 school year.

BACKGROUND/HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:

Education Article §7-103 requires schools to be open for student attendance for 180 days and closed on the following public school holidays: Thanksgiving Day and the day after; Christmas Eve and from then through January 1; Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; Presidents’ Day; the Friday before Easter and from then through the Monday after Easter; Memorial Day; and primary and general election days. Subsection (b) (iv) provides the State Board the authority to permit schools to open on holidays if normal school attendance is prevented because of natural disaster, civil disaster, or severe weather conditions.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Weather conditions in January and February can be unpredictable. Granting authority to the State Superintendent of Schools to approve requests received from local school systems to open school on February 17, 2020, Presidents’ Day, will provide local school systems the flexibility to make calendar modifications and recover instructional time, if needed.

ACTION:

It is being requested that the Maryland State Board of Education grant authority to the State Superintendent of Schools to approve requests received from local school systems to open school on February 17, 2020, Presidents’ Day, as an inclement weather make-up day, if needed, for the 2019-2020 school year.



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

TO: Members of the State Board of Education
FROM: Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.
DATE: January 28, 2020
SUBJECT: Request from Baltimore County Public Schools for a Calendar Modification

PURPOSE:

To consider the waiver request to open school on Presidents' Day as an inclement weather make-up day for Baltimore County Public Schools for the 2019-2020 school year.

BACKGROUND/HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:

Education Article §7-103 requires schools to be open for student attendance for 180 days and closed on the following public school holidays: Thanksgiving Day and the day after; Christmas Eve and from then through January 1; Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; Presidents' Day; the Friday before Easter and from then through the Monday after Easter; Memorial Day; and primary and general election days. Subsection (b) (iv) provides the State Board the authority to permit schools to open on holidays if normal school attendance is prevented because of natural disaster, civil disaster, or severe weather conditions.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Baltimore County Public Schools were closed on December 16, 2019 due to inclement weather. The request submitted by Baltimore County Public Schools on December 20, 2019 asks for a waiver to use February 17, 2020, Presidents' Day, as an inclement weather make-up day. Baltimore County Public Schools has identified three (3) inclement weather make-up days in their 2019-2020 School Calendar and Presidents' Day is the first listed.

ACTION:

It is being requested that the Maryland State Board of Education approve the waiver to open school on February 17, 2020, Presidents' Day, for Baltimore County Public Schools, for the 2019-2020 school year.

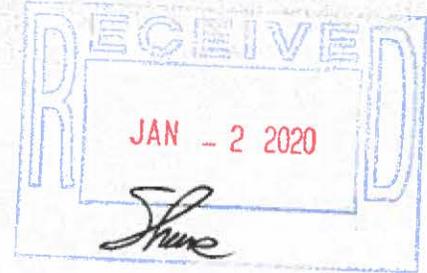
Attachment: Waiver Request from Baltimore County Public Schools.

BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Darryl L. Williams, Ed.D. ♦ Superintendent ♦ 6901 North Charles Street ♦ Towson, MD ♦ 21204

December 20, 2019

Dr. Karen B. Salmon
State Superintendent of Schools
Maryland State Department of Education
200 West Baltimore Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201-2595



RE: Waiver Request for Opening Schools on February 17, 2020

Dear Dr. Salmon:

On behalf of Baltimore County Public Schools, I respectfully request a waiver for all schools and offices to be open on Presidents' Day, Monday, February 17, 2020. Presidents' Day will be used as the make-up day for the school system's inclement weather closure on Monday, December 16, 2019.

If additional information is needed to review this request, your staff may contact George M. Duque, manager, Department of Staff Relations and Employee Performance Management at 443-809-2095.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darryl L. Williams".

Darryl L. Williams, Ed.D
Superintendent

dlw/gmd/drp

c: Maria Lowry, Acting Chief Human Resources Officer
George M. Duque, Manager, Staff Relations and Employee Performance Management