



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

TO: Members of the State Board of Education
FROM: Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.
DATE: March 24, 2020
SUBJECT: Closure of Public Schools in Maryland

PURPOSE:

To ratify the decision made by Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D., State Superintendent of Schools, on March 12, 2020 to close Maryland public schools from March 16, 2020 to March 27, 2020.

BACKGROUND:

Governor Larry Hogan declared a state of emergency and catastrophic health emergency on March 5, 2020, to control and prevent the spread of COVID-19 within the State. On March 12, 2020, Karen B. Salmon, State Superintendent of Schools, Ph.D., directed public schools in Maryland to be closed from March 16, 2020 through March 27, 2020 to reduce the threat to human health caused by transmission of COVID-19 in Maryland, and to protect and save lives. Dr. Salmon consulted with State Board President Warner Sumpter and Vice President Jean Halle before announcing the decision.

ACTION:

Request that the State Board vote to ratify the State Superintendent's March 12, 2020 order to close schools from March 16 through March 27, 2020, to control and prevent the spread of COVID-19.