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TO: Members of the State Board of Education
FROM: Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.
DATE: March 20, 2018
SUBJECT: Request from the SEED School of Maryland for Calendar Modifications

PURPOSE:

To consider the conditional waiver request to use State holidays as inclement weather make-up days for the SEED School of Maryland for the 2017-2018 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.

The conditions for granting a waiver of the 180-day school year requirement are specified in Code of Maryland Regulation (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 includes 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:

The SEED School of Maryland was closed January 9, 17, February 7, March 2 and 7, 2018. The request from the SEED School of Maryland asks for a conditional waiver to use April 2, 2018, the Monday after Easter, and May 28, 2018, Memorial Day, as snow make-up days, if needed. The SEED School of Maryland has used the four days built into its School Calendar, will convert a professional development day on April 27, 2018 into an instructional day and has scheduled June 15, 2018 as the last day of the school year.

ACTION:

It is requested that the Maryland State Board of Education approve the conditional waiver to open school on April 2, 2018, the Monday after Easter, and May 28, 2018, Memorial Day, for the SEED School of Maryland, if needed, for the 2017-2018 school year.

Attachment: Waiver Request from the SEED School of Maryland.



The SEED School of Maryland

March 19, 2018

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

Dear Dr. Salmon:

The SEED School of School (SEED) is a boarding school that provides educational services for students in grades 6 through 12. SEED is a boarding school that provides transportation for our students from all across the state of Maryland. The transportation need limits how quickly we could transport students back to school during inclement weather conditions. SEED was closed for five (5) days thus far this school year. Below is a chart listing the days we closed.

| <u>Days Closed</u> | <u>Reason</u> | <u>Notes</u> |
|--------------------------|-------------------|---|
| January 9 th | Inclement Weather | 1 Day Covered By Emerg. Days |
| January 17 th | Inclement Weather | 1 Day Covered By Emerg. Days |
| February 7 th | Inclement Weather | 1 Day Covered By Emerg. Days |
| March 2 nd | Inclement Weather | 1 Day Covered By Emerg. Days |
| March 7 th | Inclement Weather | 1 Day Covered by Professional Development Day on 4/27 |
| Total | Inclement Weather | 5 Days Total |

As noted above, we have used all four (4) of the inclement weather days built into the school year calendar and modified the calendar to use a scheduled PD day as a school day. On behalf of SEED, and in



The SEED School of Maryland

accordance with Education Article 7-103, Annotated Code of Maryland, I respectfully request approval to use Monday, April 2, 2018 (Monday after Easter) and Monday, May 28, 2018 (Memorial Day) as school days if needed. Considering that inclement weather or an emergency closing could occur, these days would be utilized as make-up days should it be necessary to close school for additional days as we progress through the year.

It is our hope that this request is granted. Not receiving approval would have a tremendous impact on the entire school community. Unfortunately, we do not have any other possible dates available on the school calendar to cover any missed days due to inclement weather or a school emergency. Our top priority is to educate and prepare our students for college and beyond. Granting this request will assist with helping SEED achieve this goal. Thank you for your consideration. If you have questions or concerns, please contact me at 410-843-9477.

Sincerely,

Jon Tucker

Jon Tucker
Head of School