



**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 22, 2019

**SUBJECT:** Request from the Dorchester County Public Schools for a Calendar Modification – Addendum # 1

---

**PURPOSE:**

To consider the conditional waiver request to open school on Presidents' Day as an inclement weather make-up day for Dorchester County Public Schools for the 2018-2019 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:**

Dorchester County Public Schools were closed on December 10, 2018. The request submitted by Dorchester County Public Schools on December 17, 2018 asks for a conditional waiver to use February 18, 2019, Presidents' Day, as a snow make-up day, if needed. Dorchester County Public Schools has used one of the five snow days built into its School Calendar and has scheduled June 13, 2019 as the last day of the school year. Dorchester County Public Schools only intends to open schools on February 18, 2019, Presidents' Day, if they exhaust the four remaining inclement weather recovery days.

**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 Dorchester County Public Schools, if needed, for the 2018-2019 school year.

Attachment: Waiver Request from Dorchester County Public Schools.



*Every Child a Success*

Diana L. Mitchell, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

# THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF DORCHESTER COUNTY

700 Glasgow Street  
Cambridge, Maryland 21613  
410-228-4747 ~ 410-228-1847 Fax  
[www.dcps.k12.md.us](http://www.dcps.k12.md.us)

## BOARD MEMBERS

Glenn L. Bramble  
*President*

Philip W. Rice  
*Vice President*

Sheri R. Hubbard

LeOtha Hull

Laura H. Layton

December 17, 2018

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

Dear Dr. Salmon:

I am writing to request a conditional waiver to use Monday, February 18, 2019, Presidents' Day, as a snow make-up day, **if needed**. Presently, we have used one of the five snow days we have built into our school calendar. The Dorchester County Board of Education did approve this conditional waiver during the December 15, 2018 Open Board Meeting.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please contact me at 410-228-4747, ext. 1001, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Diana L. Mitchell, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

c: Board Members



**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 22, 2019  
**SUBJECT:** Request from the Garrett 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 Garrett County Public Schools for the 2018-2019 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:**

Garrett County Public Schools were closed on November 15, 16, and 28, 2018. Garrett County Public Schools has identified ten (10) inclement weather recovery days in their 2018-2019 School Calendar. The two (2) inclement weather recovery days prior to June 15 are Presidents' Day, February 18 and April 22, 2019. The remaining eight (8) inclement weather recovery days are May 31 through June 11, 2019. The request submitted by Garrett County Public Schools on December 13, 2018 asks for a waiver to use February 18, 2019, Presidents' Day, as a snow make-up day. The waiver has been requested to allow Garrett County Public Schools the opportunity to make a calendar modification and recover instructional time prior to state assessments.

Members of the Maryland State Board of Education

January 22, 2019

Page Two

**ACTION:**

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

Attachment: Waiver Request from Garrett County Public Schools.



**Members of the Board of Education**

Mr. Matthew A. Paugh, President  
Dr. Nathan M. Sorber, Vice-President  
Mrs. Monica L. Rinker, Associate Member  
Mrs. Charlotte A. Sebold, Associate Member  
Mr. M. Thomas Woods, Associate Member  
Ms. Katherine J. Catulle, Student Board Member

*Superintendent of Schools*  
Ms. Barbara L. Baker

40 South Second Street • Oakland, Maryland 21550  
Telephone: 301-334-8900 • <http://www.garrettcountryschools.org>

December 12, 2018

Dr. Karen Salmon  
Maryland State Department of Education  
200 West Baltimore Street  
Baltimore, MD 21201

Dear Dr. Salmon,

On February 13, 2018, Garrett County Public Schools approved an academic calendar for school year 2018-19. As required, the academic calendar meets the 180-day requirement for student attendance as defined in Education Article 7-103, Annotated Code of Maryland. In addition, the Maryland State Board of Education approved our waiver of the post Labor Day start for school year 2018-19 at their February 27, 2018 meeting. Garrett County Public Schools qualified under section 3b. of the Maryland State Department of Education Waiver Application for Compelling Justification: Emergency School Closing.

The academic calendar includes 2 built-in recovery dates as prioritized in order of use, February 18, 2019 (Presidents' Day) and April 22, 2019. The eight (8) days for inclement weather recovery dates beyond are May 31, 2019 through June 11, 2019.

An approved Presidents' Day opening provides an opportunity to make a calendar modification and recover instruction time prior to state assessments, which is invaluable and beneficial for our students and teachers. To date, students attending Garrett County Public Schools have already missed three (3) school days due to inclement weather.

On behalf of the Garrett County Board of Education, I am respectfully requesting your consideration to open schools on Monday, February 18, 2019. Your consideration of this request is appreciated. Thank you for your continued efforts on behalf of the students attending Maryland Public Schools.

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Barbara L. Baker  
Superintendent

cc: Garrett County Board of Education

Enclosure: GCPS 2018-2019 Calendar  
Inclement Weather Recovery Plan Form



## Inclement Weather Recovery Plan

School System Garrett County Public Schools

Date(s) of Closure 11/15/18; 11/16/18; 11/28/18

### Inclement Weather Recovery Plan:

Using existing scheduled inclement weather days in calendar.

5/31/19 and 6/1/19. Please see the attached document *GCPS Weather Related School Delays, Early Dismissals and Closings for 2018-2019 School Year.*

Extending school year past June 15. If so, please indicate date(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Converting scheduled day(s) off into an instructional day. If so, please indicate date(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Waiver request to open school on a holiday. If so, please indicate date(s) We would like to request a conditional waiver to use February 18, 2019 (President's Day) a make-up day.

Waiver request of the 180-day student instructional requirement.

Other: GCPS was approved to begin school prior to Labor Day. August 27, 2018 was the first day for students in GCPS.

Please submit form to Teresa Dantzler, Ombudsman, within ten days of reopening at: [teresa.dantzler1@maryland.gov](mailto:teresa.dantzler1@maryland.gov).



## 2018-2019 Calendar At A Glance

### AUGUST

TBD New Teacher Orientation  
TBD Administrators & Supervisors Retreat  
21 Teacher Workday  
22-24 Staff Development/Professional Days  
27 First Student Day (Three-hour early dismissal for students)

### SEPTEMBER

3 Labor Day (Schools Closed)  
18 Staff Development (Three-hour early dismissal for students)

### OCTOBER

11 Staff Development (Three-hour early dismissal for students)  
12 Autumn Glory (Schools Closed)

### NOVEMBER

5 Parent/Teacher Conferences (Schools Closed)  
6 Election Day (Schools Closed)  
21 Three-hour early dismissal for students  
22-23 Thanksgiving Break (Schools Closed)

### DECEMBER

5 Staff Development (Three-hour early dismissal for students)  
21 Three-hour early dismissal for students  
24-31 Winter Break (Schools Closed)

### JANUARY

1 Winter Break (Schools Closed)  
2 Schools Reopen  
9 Staff Development (Three-hour early dismissal for students)  
17 Professional Day (Three-hour early dismissal for students)  
The 91st day of the school year will "float" in the event of inclement weather. If school is delayed/closed on this day, the make-up day will be the next full day.  
21 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (Schools Closed)

### FEBRUARY

15 Staff Development (Three-hour early dismissal for students)  
18 President's Day (Schools Closed)\*

### MARCH

14 Staff Development (Three-hour early dismissal for students)  
29 Parent/Teacher Conferences (Schools Closed)

### APRIL

19 Good Friday (Schools Closed)  
22 Easter Monday (Schools Closed)\*  
30 Staff Development (Three-hour early dismissal for students)

### MAY

27 Memorial Day (Schools Closed)  
29 Three-hour early dismissal for students  
30 Last Day of School (Three-hour early dismissal for students)  
31 Professional Day (Last day for teachers)

### JUNE

1 High School Graduation

**Make Up Days** (Make-up days are tentative and will be determined by the Board of Education.)

\*Reminder: Potential inclement weather makeup dates are marked with numbered snowflakes throughout the school year. These dates are used in numerical order, beginning with February 18, 2019. Inclement weather days/emergency system wide closings cannot be predicted. It is recommended that vacations not be scheduled until after June 15 to avoid scheduling conflicts.\*

Feb 18 Apr 22 May 31 June 3 June 4 June 5 June 6 June 7 June 10 June 11





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

**TO:** Members of the State Board of Education  
**FROM:** Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D. *KBS/ops*  
**DATE:** January 22, 2019  
**SUBJECT:** Calendar Modifications – Addendum # 2

---

**PURPOSE:**

To grant authority to the State Superintendent of Schools to approve requests received from local school systems to open school on February 18, 2019, Presidents’ Day, as a snow make-up day, if needed, for the 2018-2019 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 18, 2019, 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 18, 2019, Presidents’ Day, as a snow make-up day, if needed, for the 2018-2019 school year.