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**TO:** Members of the State Board of Education

**FROM:** Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.

**DATE:** January 30, 2018

**SUBJECT:** Request from Local School Systems for Calendar Modifications- Addendum

#### **PURPOSE:**

To consider the conditional waiver request to use State holidays as inclement weather make-up days for Dorchester County Public Schools, Saint Mary's County Public Schools, and Wicomico County Public Schools for the 2017-2018 school year. Also to consider the request to waive two days of student attendance for Wicomico County Public Schools 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

Members of the Maryland State Board of Education January 30, 2018 Page Two

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:**

- 1. Dorchester County Public Schools were closed on January 4, 5, 8, and 9, 2018. The request submitted by Dorchester County Public Schools on January 19, 2018 asks for a conditional waiver to use February 19, 2018, Presidents' Day, as a snow make-up day, if needed. Dorchester County Public Schools has used four of the five snow days built into its School Calendar and has scheduled June 14, 2018 as the last day of the school year.
- 2. Saint Mary's County Public Schools were closed on January 4, 5, and 9, 2018. The request submitted by Saint Mary's County Public Schools on January 9, 2018 asks for a conditional waiver to use February19, 2018, Presidents' Day and April 2, 2018, the Monday after Easter as snow make-up days, if needed. Saint Mary's County Public Schools has used the three snow days in its School Calendar and has scheduled June 15, 2018 as the last day of the school year. Presidents' Day and the Monday after Easter were approved by the local board as potential make-up days.
- 3. Wicomico County Public Schools were closed on January 4, 5, 8, 9, and 10, 2018. The request submitted by Wicomico County Public Schools on January 19, 2018 asks for a two-day waiver of the 180-day instructional day requirement and a conditional waiver to use February 19, 2018, Presidents' Day as a snow make-up day, if needed. Wicomico County Public Schools has used the three snow days in its School Calendar by extending the scheduled June 12, 2018 to June 15, 2018 as the last day of the school year.

#### **ACTION:**

- 1. It is being requested that the Maryland State Board of Education approve the conditional waiver to open school on February 19, 2018, Presidents' Day for Dorchester County Public Schools, if needed for the 2017-2018 school year.
- 2. It is requested that the Maryland State Board of Education approve the conditional waiver to open school on February 19, 2018, Presidents' Day and April 2, 2018, the Monday after Easter for Saint Mary's County Public Schools, if needed for the 2017-2018 school year.
- 3. It is being requested that the Maryland State Board of Education approve the conditional waiver to open schools on February 19, 2018, Presidents' Day for Wicomico County Public Schools as a snow make-up day, if needed and the two-day waiver of the 180-day instructional day requirement for the 2017-2018 school year.

Attachment: Waiver Requests from Dorchester, Saint Mary's and Wicomico Counties Public Schools.



### 2017-201 School Systems Calendar Modifications

					Requested	Requested Waiver
		# of Inclement		Requested Conditional	Conditional Opening	of the 180-day
	# of Days Closed to	Weather Days in	Scheduled Year End	Opening on Presidents'	on Monday after	Instructional
School System	Date	Calendar	Date	Day	Easter	Requirement
Dorchester County Public						
Schools	4	5	14-Jun-18	Yes	No	No
St. Mary's County Public						
Schools	3	5	15-Jun-18	Yes	Yes	No
Wicomico County Public						
Schools	5	3	12-Jun-18	Yes	No	Yes



# 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 **BOARD MEMBERS** 

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January 19, 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 February 19, 2018, Presidents' Day, as a snow make-up day, if needed. Presently, we have used four of the five days snow days we have built into our School Calendar. The Dorchester County Board of Education did approve this conditional waiver during the January 18, 2018 Open Board Meeting.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please contact me at 410-228-4747, ext. 100l, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Diana L. Mitchell, Ed.D.

Superintendent

c: Board Members



Phone: 301-475-5511 ext. 32178; Fax: 301-475-4270

# St. Mary's County Public Schools Central Administration

Office of the Superintendent 23160 Moakley Street, Suite 109 Leonardtown, Maryland 20650

> Mr. J. Scott Smith Superintendent

January 9, 2018

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



Dear Dr. Salmon:

On behalf of the Board of Education of St. Mary's County, and in accordance with Education Article §7-103, Annotated Code of Maryland, I respectfully request that you grant a waiver for St. Mary's County Public Schools (SMCPS) to be open if necessary on Monday, February 19, 2018 (President's Day), and Monday, April 2, 2018 (the Monday after Easter). Considering that we are likely to experience additional inclement weather days, these days would be utilized as make-up days should it be necessary to close schools for additional days as we progress through this school year.

To date, SMCPS has used three (3) of its inclement weather days in this year's calendar. The school system's approved calendar (attached) has included five (5) total inclement weather dates: three (3) at the end of the school year (June 12-14); and two (2) additional days identified in our published calendar as possible make up days (February 19 and April 2). Typically, St. Mary's County experiences more severe weather in late January and early February, and it is rare for us to have this many closings in early January.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please contact me at 301-475-5511, x32178 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

J. Scott Smith, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools

cc: Board of Education

# St. Mary's County Public Schools System Operational Calendar 2017-2018

Boxed days indicate students are not in school, Circled days indicate early dismissal.

Circled days indicate early dismissal.  Month	Event Date	Event Description			
July 2017	July 4	Holiday - Independence Day - All Schools and Offices Closed			
August 2017  S M T W T F S	August 2	11-Month Employees Report New Teachers' Orientation Professional Day - All Teachers Report/Classroom Preparation Professional Day - Staff Development Professional Day - Staff Development Professional Day - Teachers on Duty/Open Houses			
September 2017  S M T W T F S  1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	September 1  September 5  September 19  September 22	Professional Day - Collaborative Planning/Professional Responsibilities Holiday - Labor Day - All Schools and Offices Closed Schools Open for Students Southern Maryland College Fair Professional Day - No School for Students - Staff Development - Professional Responsibilities			
October 2017  S M T W T F S  1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	October 5  October 9  October 17  October 20	Two Hour Early Dismissal – No School for Head Start and Pre- Kindergarten Students – End of Interim Period – Professional Responsibilities/Collaborative Planning – Head Start and PreKindergarten Parent Involvement Activities Columbus Day – No School for Students – Parent/Guardian Conference Day (Elementary/Middle/High) Interim Distribution (Elementary Grades 3-5/Middle/High) Two Hour Early Dismissal – No School for Head Start and Pre- Kindergarten Students – Professional Responsibilities/ Collaborative Planning – Head Start and PreKindergarten Parent Involvement Activities			
November 2017  S M T W T F S  1 2 3 4  5 6 7 8 9 10 11  12 13 14 15 16 17 18  19 20 21 22 23 24 25  26 27 28 29 30	November 9  November 10  November 21  November 22  November 23-24	Two Hour Early Dismissal - No School for Head Start and Pre- Kindergarten Students - End of 1st Marking Period (46 days) - Professional Responsibilities - Head Start and PreKindergarten Parent Involvement Activities Holiday - Veterans Day - All Schools and Offices Closed Report Card Distribution Recess - No School for Students and 10 & 11 Month Employees Holiday - Thanksgiving - All Schools and Offices Closed			
December 2017  S M T W T F S  1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	December 25  December 26-29	Two Hour Early Dismissal - No School for Head Start and PreKindergarten Students - End of Interim Period - Staff Collaborative Planning - Professional Responsibilities - Head Start and PreKindergarten Parent Involvement Activities Holiday - Winter Break - All Schools and Offices Closed Winter Break - No School for Students and 10-11 Month Employees			
January 2018  S M T W T F S  1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	January 1	Holiday - Winter Break - All Schools and Offices Closed Schools Reopen - Students in School Interim Distribution (Elementary Grades 3-5/Middle/High) Holiday - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - All Schools and Offices Closed Two Hour Early Dismissal - No School for Head Start and PreKindergarten Students - End of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Marking Period (45 days) and 1 <sup>st</sup> Semester (91 days) - Professional Responsibilities - Head Start and PreKindergarten Parent Involvement Activities			

Month	Event Date	Event Description
February 2018  S M T W T F S  1 2 3  4 5 6 7 8 9 10  11 12 13 14 15 16 17  18 19 20 21 22 23 24  25 26 27 28	February 6 February 19	Report Card Distribution Holiday - Presidents' Day - All Schools and Offices Closed (Possible Make-Up Day)
March 2018  S M T W T F S  4 5 6 7 8 9 10  11 12 13 14 15 16 17  18 19 20 21 22 23 24  25 26 27 28 29 30 31	March 13	Two Hour Early Dismissal - No School for Head Start and PreKindergarten Students - End of Interim Period - Professional Responsibilities/Collaborative Planning - Head Start and PreKindergarten Parent Involvement Activities Interim Distribution (Elementary Grades 3-5/Middle/High) Two Hour Early Dismissal - No School for Head Start and PreKindergarten Students- Professional Responsibilities - Head Start and PreKindergarten Parent Involvement Activities Spring Break - No School for Students and 10 & 11 Month Employees Holiday - All Schools and Offices Closed
April 2018  S M T W T F S  1 2 3 4 5 6 7  8 9 10 11 12 13 14  15 16 17 18 19 20 21  22 23 24 25 26 27 28  29 30	April 2	Holiday - All Schools and Offices Closed (Possible Make-Up Day) Two Hour Early Dismissal – No School for Head Start and PreKindergarten Students – End of 3rd Marking Period (48 Days) Professional Responsibilities – Head Start and PreKindergarten Parent Involvement Activities Report Card Distribution
May 2018  S M T W F F S  1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	May 11	End of Interim Period Interim Distribution (Elementary Grades 3-5/Middle/High) Holiday - Memorial Day - All Schools and Offices Closed Commencement - Chopticon High School Commencement - Leonardtown High School
June 2018  S M T W T F S  1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	June 1	Commencement – Great Mills High School Last Day for Head Start and PreKindergarten Students Two Hour Early Dismissal - No School for Head Start and PreKindergarten Students - Last Day for Students Grades K-12 - End of 4th Marking Period (44 days) and 2nd Semester (92 days) - Professional Responsibilities (including 3 inclement weather make-up days) Professional Days/Professional Responsibilities for Teachers Last Day for Teachers - Professional Responsibilities Last Day for 11-Month Employees (including 3 inclement weather make-up days)

#### Calendar Notes

Appropriate Exercises

Appropriate exercises will be held in the schools for the following days: Patriot Day; Constitution Day; Washington's Birthday; Lincoln's Birthday; Veterans Day; Columbus Day; Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday; Arbor Day; Flag Day; and any other day of national significance.

Extended School Year Services
Pursuant to Education Article 8-402, Annotated Code of Maryland, extended school year services will be provided to students with disabilities who are determined through the Individualized Education Program process to need specific special education services beyond the 180 school days.

Inclement Weather and Emergency School Closing Alternatives
Inclement weather and emergency school closing make-up alternatives include three days at the end of the year and other days noted as possible make-up days in the calendar. Holidays, spring break, or days added at the end of the school year will be considered if additional days are needed. The number of days for students will be a minimum of 180 and the number of days for teachers will be 190 duty days. The number of duty days for 11-month employees is 212. School buildings and offices may be closed on some professional days to permit all employees to participate. Notice will be given.

# Chesapeake Public Charter School System Operational Calendar 2017-2018

Boxed days indicate students are not in school, Circled days indicate early dismissal.

Circled days indicate early dismissal.  Month	Event Date	Event Description			
July 2017	July 4	Holiday - Independence Day - All Schools and Offices Closed			
	July 31	11-Month Employees Report & New Teacher Orientation			
August 2017  S M T W T F S  1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	August 1-2	New Teachers' Orientation Professional Day - All Teachers Report Professional Day - Classroom Preparation Professional Day - Staff Development Professional Day - Teachers on Duty Schools Open for Students			
September 2017  S M T W T F S  1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	September 1 & 5 September 4 September 13 September 22	Recess - No School for Students and 10 Month Employees Holiday - Labor Day - All Schools and Offices Closed Two Hour Early Dismissal - Staff Collaborative Planning Fair Day - Parent/Guardian Conference Day - No School for Students			
October 2017  S M T W T F S  1 2 3 4 5 6 7  8 9 10 11 12 13 14  15 16 17 18 19 20 21  22 23 24 25 26 27 28  29 30 31	October 6	End Quintet #1 (39 Days) Columbus Day - No School for Students - Parent/Guardian Conference Day Recess - No School for Students and 10 Month Employees			
November 2017  S M T W T F S  5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	November 8 November 10 November 22 November 23-24	Two Hour Early Dismissal - Staff Collaborative Planning Holiday - Veterans Day - All Schools and Offices Closed Recess - No School for Students and 10 & 11 Month Employees Holiday - Thanksgiving - All Schools and Offices Closed			
December 2017  S M T W T F S  3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	December 13  December 19  December 20-21  December 22  December 25  December 26-30	Two Hour Early Dismissal - Staff Collaborative Planning End Quintet #2 (43 Days) - End Semester 1 Winter Recess - No School for Students - Professional Responsibilities - Narrative Writing Winter Recess - No School for Students and 10 & 11Month Employees Holiday - Christmas Day- All Schools and Offices Closed Winter Recess - No School for Students and 10 & 11Month Employees			
January 2018  S M T W T F S  1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	January 1 January 2 January 10 January 15 January 15	Holiday – New Year's Day - All Schools and Offices Closed Schools Reopen – Students in School Two Hour Early Dismissal - Staff Collaborative Planning Holiday-Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - All Schools and Offices Closed Report Card Distribution			

Month	Event Date	Event Description
February 2018  S M T W T F S  4 5 6 7 8 9 10  11 12 13 14 15 16 17  18 19 20 21 22 23 24  25 26 27 28	February 7 February 15-16 February 19 February 28	Two Hour Early Dismissal - Staff Collaborative Planning February Recess - No School for Students and 10 & 11 Month Employees Holiday - Presidents' Day - All Schools and Offices Closed (Possible Make-Up Day) End Quintet # 3 (38 days)
March 2018  S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	March 7	Two Hour Early Dismissal - Staff Collaborative Planning Spring Break - No School for Students and 10 & 11 Month Employees Holiday - All Schools and Offices Closed
April 2018  S M T W T F S  1 2 3 4 5 6 7  8 9 10 11 12 13 14  15 16 17 18 19 20 21  22 23 24 25 26 27 28  29 30	April 2	Holiday - All Schools and Offices Closed ( <i>Possible Make-Up Day</i> )  Two Hour Early Dismissal - Staff Collaborative Planning End Quintet #4 (36 days)
May 2018  S M T W T F S  1 2 3 4 5  6 7 8 9 10 11 12  13 14 15 16 17 18 19  20 21 22 23 24 25 26  27 28 29 30 31	May 9 May 22-23 May 24-25 May 28	Two Hour Early Dismissal - Staff Collaborative Planning Two Hour Early Dismissal -Narrative Report Card Preparation May Recess - No School for Students and 10 & 11 Month Employees Holiday - Memorial Day - All Schools and Offices Closed
June 2018  S M T W T F S  3 4 5 6 7 8 9  10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	June 6 & 7  June 8  June 11  June 12  June 29	Two Hour Early Dismissal - Professional Responsibilities Two Hour Early Dismissal - Last Day for Students-Professional Responsibilities for Teachers; End Quintet #5 (27 Days) (including 3 inclement weather make-up days) Teachers Report - Vertical Articulation Last Day for Teachers - Professional Responsibilities Last Day for 11-Month Employees (including 3 inclement weather make-up days)

#### Calendar Notes

Appropriate Exercises

Appropriate exercises will be held in the schools for the following days: Patriot Day; Constitution Day; Washington's Birthday; Lincoln's Birthday; Veterans Day; Columbus Day, Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday, Arbor Day, Flag Day, and any other day of national significance.

Extended School Year Services

Pursuant to Education Article 8-402, Annotated Code of Maryland, extended school year services will be provided to students with disabilities who are determined through the Individualized Education Program process to need specific special education services beyond the 180 school days. Inclement Weather and Emergency School Closing Alternatives

Inclement weather and emergency school closing make-up alternatives include three days at the end of the year and other days noted as possible make-up days in the

calendar. Holidays, spring break, or days added at the end of the school year will be considered if additional days are needed. The number of days for students will be a minimum of 180 and the number of days for teachers will be 190 duty days. The number of duty days for 11-month employees is 212. School buildings and offices may be closed on some professional days to permit all employees to participate. Notice will be given.

## BOARD OF EDUCATION OF WICOMICO COUNTY



DONNA C. HANLIN, Ed.D.
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

P.O. BOX 1538 2424 NORTHGATE DRIVE SALISBURY, MD 21802-1538

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January 19, 2018

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

Dear Dr. Salmon,

Pursuant to Section §7-103 of the Education Article, I am writing to request that the State Board of Education grant an adjustment to the length of the 2017-2018 school year for Wicomico County Public Schools (WCPS), and grant a conditional waiver to open schools on Presidents' Day.

The first request to adjust the length of the school year is made based upon severe weather conditions experienced in early January on the lower Eastern Shore of Maryland. Conditions caused by Winter Storm Grayson resulted in the unusual closure of our schools for five consecutive school days. Conditions were so severe on the Lower Shore that the Governor declared a State of Emergency for Somerset, Worcester, and Wicomico counties for Thursday, January 4<sup>th</sup> and Friday, January 5<sup>th</sup>. Wicomico County and the City of Salisbury also had a State of Emergency on those two days and through the weekend. With 15+ inches of snow, high winds, and single-digit temperatures, our schools were not able to reopen until Thursday, January 11<sup>th</sup> due to road and walkway conditions throughout our county. Based upon this State of Emergency, I am requesting that two school days be waived from the required 180-day school year for students.

WCPS built three snow days into the 2017-2018 school calendar, which we will use, taking us up to the mandatory end of the school year, June 15, 2018. In the event of additional weather requiring the closure of school, the Wicomico County Board of Education has approved further adjustment to our school calendar, converting a future professional day to a school day for students. Should a second day of closure be required in Wicomico County, I am requesting a conditional waiver from the State Board of Education to open schools to students on Presidents' Day. I am seeking this conditional waiver now recognizing that the State Board meets on January 30, 2018, and then not again until after Presidents' Day.

Thank you very much for considering this request. Please contact me for further clarification if needed.

Respectfully,

Donna C. Hanlin, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools



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**TO:** Members of the State Board of Education

**FROM:** Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.

**DATE:** January 30, 2018

**SUBJECT:** Request from Local School Systems for Calendar Modifications- Addendum

#### **PURPOSE:**

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

Members of the Maryland State Board of Education January 30, 2018 Page Two

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:**

Talbot County Public Schools were closed on January 4, 5, 8, and 9, 2018. The request submitted by Talbot County Public Schools on January 18, 2018 asks for a conditional waiver to use February 19, 2018, Presidents' Day, as a snow make-up day, if needed. Talbot County Public Schools has used the four snow days built into its School Calendar and has scheduled June 13, 2018 as the last day of the school year.

#### **ACTION:**

It is being requested that the Maryland State Board of Education approve the conditional waiver to open school on February 19, 2018, Presidents' Day for Talbot County Public Schools, if needed for the 2017-2018 school year.

Attachment: Waiver Request form Talbot County Public Schools.



### 2017-2018 School Systems Calendar Modifications

Revised 1/22/18

					Requested	Requested Waiver
		# of Inclement		Requested Conditional	Conditional Opening	of the 180-day
	# of Days Closed to	Weather Days in	Scheduled Year End	Opening on Presidents'	on Monday after	Instructional
School System	Date	Calendar	Date	Day	Easter	Requirement
Dorchester County Public						
Schools	4	5	14-Jun-18	Yes	No	No
St. Mary's County Public						
Schools	3	5	15-Jun-18	Yes	Yes	No
Talbot County Public Schools	4	4	13-Jun-18	Yes	No	No
Wicomico County Public						
Schools	5	3	12-Jun-18	Yes	No	Yes



**Talbot County Education Center** 12 Magnolia St Easton, MD 21601

Phone (410) 822.0330 Fax (410) 820.4260

www.talbotschools.org

January 18, 2018

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

Dr. Salmon:

As of January 17, 2018 Talbot County Public Schools has used all four inclement weather days built into the 2017-2018 school calendar. Schools were closed on January 4, 5, 8, and 9. It is extremely rare that TCPS uses all of our planned inclement weather days in the first semester of the school year. Due to the severe weather conditions we have already experienced, Talbot County Public Schools is requesting an adjustment to its 2017-2018 school calendar allowing schools to be open on Presidents' Day, February 19, 2018, if we incur another school closing due to inclement weather between now and February 16, 2018.

Talbot County Public Schools has demonstrated a concerted effort to comply with the requirements of Section 7-103 of the Education Article, Annotated Code of Maryland by building in four emergency closing dates in our approved calendar. In addition, at the January 18, 2018 meeting, the TCPS Board of Education approved amending the calendar to make Friday, January 26, 2018, a half day for students instead of the originally planned no school for students day for transition.

Thank you for considering our conditional waiver request to use February 19, 2018, as a school day in the event that we experience additional school closings due to inclement weather.

Sincerely,

Kelly L. Griffith, Ed.D.

Superintendent

JAN 5 5 5018

Susie Hayward
Vice President, Board of Education



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**TO:** Members of the State Board of Education

**FROM:** Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.

**DATE:** January 30, 2018

**SUBJECT:** Request from Local School Systems for Calendar Modifications- Addendum #2

#### **PURPOSE:**

- 1. To consider the conditional waiver request to open school on Presidents' Day as an inclement weather make-up day for Caroline County Public Schools for the 2017-2018 school year.
- 2. To request that the State Board grant authority to the State Superintendent of Schools to approve additional requests from local school superintendents to open schools on Presidents' Day.

#### **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:

Members of the Maryland State Board of Education January 30, 2018 Page Two

- 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:**

Caroline County Public Schools were closed on January 4, 5, 8, and 9, 2018. The request submitted by Caroline County Public Schools on January 24, 2018 asks for a conditional waiver to use February 19, 2018, Presidents' Day, as a snow make-up day, if needed. Caroline County Public Schools has used all four snow days built into its School Calendar and has scheduled June 15, 2018 as the last day of the school year.

The Maryland State Department of Education anticipates additional school systems may request to open schools on Presidents' Day, February 19, 2018, in the event of severe winter weather over the next three weeks. As the State Board does not meet again until February 27, 2018, it is requested that the Maryland State Board of Education grant authority to the State Superintendent of Schools to approve additional requests from local school superintendents to open school on Presidents' Day.

#### **ACTION:**

- 1. It is being requested that the Maryland State Board of Education approve the conditional waiver to open school on February 19, 2018, Presidents' Day for Caroline County Public Schools, if needed for the 2017-2018 school year.
- 2. It is requested that the Maryland State Board of Education grant authority to the State Superintendent of Schools to approve additional requests from local school superintendents to open school on Presidents' Day.

Attachment: Waiver Request from Caroline County Public Schools.



### 2017-2018 School Systems Calendar Modifications

Revised 1/25/18

					Requested	Requested Waiver
		# of Inclement		Requested Conditional	Conditional Opening	of the 180-day
	# of Days Closed to	Weather Days in	Scheduled Year End	Opening on Presidents'	on Monday after	Instructional
School System	Date	Calendar	Date	Day	Easter	Requirement
Caroline County Public Schools	4	4	15-Jun-18	Yes	No	No
Dorchester County Public						
Schools	4	5	14-Jun-18	Yes	No	No
St. Mary's County Public						
Schools	3	5	15-Jun-18	Yes	Yes	No
Talbot County Public Schools	4	4	13-Jun-18	Yes	No	No
Wicomico County Public						
Schools	5	3	12-Jun-18	Yes	No	Yes



Patricia W. Saelens, Ed.D.
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Caroline County Public Schools 204 Franklin Street Denton, Maryland 21629 Phone: (410) 479-1460

Fax: (410) 479-0108

January 24, 2018

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

Dear Dr. Salmon:

The purpose of this letter is to request that Caroline County Public Schools be granted an option of having students attend school on Presidents' Day, February 19, 2018 in the event that schools are closed due to inclement weather anytime between February 1 through 16, 2018.

Currently, Caroline County Public Schools were closed four (4) days (January 4, 5, 8, and 9, 2018) for snow. The 2017-2018 school calendar has four (4) inclement weather days built into the calendar. Any inclement weather days beyond four (4) can not be added to the end of the year due to the Governor's Executive Order to end on or before June 15, 2018; for this reason using Presidents' Day would remedy this concern.

Thank you in advance for your favorable consideration of this request. Please contact me if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Patricia W. Saelens, Ed.D. Superintendent of Schools

cc: Caroline County Board of Education Members

Milton Nagel, Assistant Superintendent for Administration



Monica Bias -MSDE- <monica.bias@maryland.gov>

### Caroline County Public Schools 2017-2018 Calendar Adjustment

VIVIAN FISHER <fisher.vivian@ccpsstaff.org> To: Monica Bias -MSDE- <monica.bias@maryland.gov> Thu, Jan 25, 2018 at 2:31 PM

Monica,

Happy New Year! I hope all is going well on your end. Attached is a letter from Dr. Patty Saelens, Superintendent, Caroline County Public Schools, requesting Dr. Salmon's approval of having the option of having students attend school on Presidents' Day, February 19, 2018, in the event that schools are closed due to inclement weather anytime between February 1 - 16, 2018.

I'm putting the original letter in US mail this afternoon. In the meantime, will you forward or print out the attached letter and give to it to Dr. Salmon.

Thank you!

Vivian

--- Forwarded message ---

From: <copier@ccpsstaff.org> Date: 2018-01-25 14:07 GMT-05:00

Subject: Attached Image

To: Vivian Fisher <fisher.vivian@ccpsstaff.org>

Vivian Fisher Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent of Schools and Board Caroline County Public Schools 204 Franklin Street Denton, MD 21629 410-479-3250 fisher.vivian@ccpsstaff.org

Sent with Mailtrack

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JAN 25 2018