

RESOLUTION
OF THE
MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

21-01

TO RETURN STUDENTS TO IN-PERSON IN-SCHOOL INSTRUCTION FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR.

WHEREAS, Since March of 2020, beginning with the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the majority of public school students throughout the State have received their public school instruction by online instruction and not by in-person in-school instruction;

WHEREAS, research demonstrates significant numbers of students have suffered learning deficits during the extended on-line instruction;

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education is committed to educational equity for all students in Maryland;

WHEREAS, Black and Hispanic students, students with disabilities, and low-income students have fallen further behind other groups of students;

WHEREAS, drop-out rates have increased during the extended on-line instruction, particularly among Black, Hispanic and low-income students;

WHEREAS, students must recover learning loss;

WHEREAS, research shows students have suffered social-emotional loss, including: stress, anxiety, loneliness, and depression during the extended on-line instruction;

WHEREAS, research shows that in-person, in-school instruction improves learning outcomes and supports students' social and emotional wellbeing and welfare;

WHEREAS, hybrid schedules and concurrent teaching models have placed an increased burden on students, families, teachers, and school staff;

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education has general control and supervision over public schools under Title 2 of the Education Article, Annotated Code of Maryland;

WHEREAS, the State Board must exercise control and supervision over the public schools and educational interests of the State pursuant to Title 2 of the Education Article;

WHEREAS, Education Article §7-103 requires that each public school under the jurisdiction of a county board shall be open for pupil attendance for at least 180 actual school days and a minimum of 1,080 school hours during a 10-month period in each school year.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN IT BY THE LAWS OF MARYLAND,

**INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, TITLE 2 OF THE EDUCATION ARTICLE,
DOES HEREBY RESOLVE:**

- I. Beginning with the opening of schools for the 2021-2022 school year, local boards of education must permit all students to attend school for at least 180 actual school days and a minimum of 1,080 school hours during a 10-month period for in-person, in-school instruction, with the teacher in the classroom. Any deviation from this will need State Board approval.

- II. The State Superintendent of Schools is authorized to take actions under our jurisdiction, to the extent allowed by law that are necessary to carry out this Resolution.

ISSUED THIS ____ DAY OF _____ 2021.

Clarence C. Crawford, President

Jean Halle, Vice President

Shawn Bartley

Gail H. Bates

Charles R. Dashiell, Jr.

Susan Jackson Getty

Vermelle Greene

Rose Maria Li

Joan Mele-McCarthy

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