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

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Shawn Bartley                                                     Gail H. Bates

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Charles R. Dashiell, Jr.                                           Susan Jackson Getty

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Vermelle Greene                                                Rose Maria Li

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Joan Mele-McCarthy                                             Lori Morrow

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Rachel McCusker                                              Warner Sumpter

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Holly Wilcox                                                      Jason Wu