



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

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**TO:** Members of the State Board of Education  
**FROM:** Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.  
**DATE:** April 23, 2019  
**SUBJECT:** Request from the Howard County Public School System for a Calendar Modification

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**PURPOSE:**

To consider the request to waive one day of student attendance for the Howard County Public School System for the 2018-2019 school year.

**BACKGROUND/HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:**

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.

The conditions for granting a waiver of the 180-day school year requirement are specified in Code of Maryland Regulations (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 include 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 Howard County Public School System was closed five (5) days (November 15, 2018, January 14, 30, February 11 and 20, 2019) due to inclement weather. The request submitted by the Howard County Public School System on April 10, 2019 asks for a one-day waiver of the 180-day instructional requirement. The Howard County Public School System has used the four days built in its School Calendar and the last day of school, if the waiver is not granted, will be on Monday, June 24, 2019.

**ACTION:**

It is requested that the Maryland State Board of Education approve the request to waive one-day of the 180-day instructional requirement for the Howard County Public School System for the 2018-2019 school year.

Attachment: Waiver Request from the Howard County Public School System.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Michael J. Martirano, Ed.D., Superintendent



April 8, 2019

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



Dear Dr. Salmon,

On behalf of the Board of Education of Howard County, I am submitting a request to waive one day of student attendance for the 2018-2019 school year. This request is submitted under §7-103 of the Education Article and COMAR 13A.02.01.04.D(2)(a) because, if the waiver request is not granted, the final day needed to complete the 180 day schedule will fall on a Monday.

Although the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) instructional calendar included four inclement weather days, severe weather conditions prevented normal school attendance for five days. The school system's approved calendar (attached) includes four inclement weather dates at the end of the school year (June 18-21). Each of these four days are now scheduled as student attendance days, and students will receive 179 days of instruction through Friday, June 21, 2019. Extending the calendar by one day, in order to meet the 180 school day requirement, would end the school year on Monday, June 24, 2019. We anticipate high absenteeism if the last day of the school year is a Monday.

I respectfully request that the Board of Education of Howard County be granted a waiver for one student attendance day, ending the school year on Friday, June 21, 2019.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of our request. Please contact me should you have any questions at 410-313-6677.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Martirano".

Michael J. Martirano, Ed.D  
Superintendent

MJM/kc

cc: Board of Education of Howard County