



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

TO: Members of the State Board of Education
FROM: Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.
DATE: April 28, 2020
SUBJECT: Request from the Calvert County Public Schools for a Calendar Modification-
Addendum #1

PURPOSE:

To consider the waiver request to open school on Primary Election Day as a school closure make-up day for the 2019-2020 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.

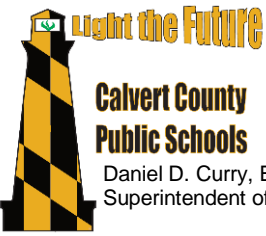
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The closure of schools starting on March 16, 2020 to slow the spread of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) in school communities around the State creates challenges for local school systems to meet the 180-day school year statutory requirement. While school systems deliberate the best ways to make up lost instructional time, some may want to consider opening schools on holidays. The request submitted by Calvert County Public Schools on April 23, 2020 asks for a waiver to use June 2, 2020, Primary Election Day, as a school closure-make-up day.

ACTION:

It is being requested that the Maryland State Board of Education approve the waiver to open school on June 2, 2020, Primary Election Day, as a school closure make-up day for the 2019-2020 school year.

Attachment: Waiver Request from Calvert County Public Schools.



**Calvert County
Public Schools**

Daniel D. Curry, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

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April 23, 2020

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

Dear Dr. Salmon:

At our Board of Education meeting today, I received approval to request a 5-day waiver of the 180-day student attendance requirement due to the mandated closure of Maryland Schools effective March 16 through March 27, 2020. We previously reported making up 2 days on April 8 and 9.

In an effort to maintain the continuity of learning, Calvert County Public Schools is continuing to:

- offer digital online instruction to all students through our learning plan,
- be in contact with our students through phone calls, virtual meetings and sometimes face-to-door communications, and
- meet the needs of our diverse learners.

Our Continuity of Learning Plan will be submitted to Dr. Williamson for her review and approval.

I would also like to request the approval to use June 2, 2020, the rescheduled date for the Primary Election, as an instructional day. Since Governor Hogan has issued a proclamation that our Primary Election will primarily be a "vote by mail" election, the use of our school buildings will not be needed. Therefore, whether or not we are back in our buildings on June 2, we would not have to close schools for that reason.

Lastly, the Board of Education today upon my recommendation approved an additional two (2) instructional days be added to the end of our calendar. With the previously added days of April 8 and 9, 2020, this will satisfy the five (5) make-up days required.

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Daniel D. Curry, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

William J. Phalen, Sr, President • Inez N. Claggett, Vice President
Dawn C. Balinski • Pamela L. Cousins • Tracy H. McGuire • Abigail H. Setzfand, Student Member



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

TO: Members of the State Board of Education
FROM: Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.
DATE: April 28, 2020
SUBJECT: Request from the Talbot County Public Schools for a Calendar Modification

PURPOSE:

To consider the waiver request to open school on Memorial Day as a school closure make-up day for the 2019-2020 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:

The closure of schools starting on March 16, 2020 to slow the spread of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) in school communities around the State creates challenges for local school systems to meet the 180-day school year statutory requirement. While school systems deliberate the best ways to make up lost instructional time, some may want to consider opening schools on holidays. The request submitted by Talbot County Public Schools on April 20, 2020 asks for a waiver to use May 25, 2020, Memorial Day, as a school closure-make-up day.

ACTION:

It is being requested that the Maryland State Board of Education approve the waiver to open school on May 25, 2020, Memorial Day, as a school closure make-up day for the 2019-2020 school year.

Attachment: Waiver Request from Talbot County Public Schools.

April 15, 2020

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

Dear Dr. Salmon:

At this time I would like to request that Talbot County Public Schools be granted a waiver for five (5) school days due to the COVID-19 closure this school year, as well as a waiver to attend school on Memorial Day, May 25, 2020, if needed.

Talbot County Public Schools' students have missed ten days of school due to the pandemic. Although, please understand work was posted or sent home with students on March 13, 2020.

The last day for students was originally scheduled to be Friday, June 12th, with four snow days built in. If we were granted these waivers the 2019-2020 school calendar would remain the same and the last day of school for students would remain June 12, 2020.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Juanita S. Hopkins, Esquire
President, Talbot County
Board of Education



Kelly L. Griffith, Ed.D.
Superintendent