



**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 28, 2020  
**SUBJECT:** Ratification of Extended School Closure Decisions from March 27, 2020 through May 15, 2020

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**PURPOSE:**

To ratify the decisions made by Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D., State Superintendent of Schools, on March 25, 2020 and April 17, 2020 to extend the closure of Maryland public schools from March 27, 2020 to May 15, 2020.

**BACKGROUND:**

Governor Larry Hogan declared a state of emergency and catastrophic health emergency on March 5, 2020, to control and prevent the spread of COVID-19 within the State. On March 12, 2020, Karen B. Salmon, State Superintendent of Schools, Ph.D., directed public schools in Maryland to be closed from March 16, 2020 through March 27, 2020 to reduce the threat to human health caused by transmission of COVID-19 in Maryland, and to protect and save lives. Subsequently, Dr. Salmon made the decision to extend school closures on two occasions through May 15, 2020. Dr. Salmon consulted with members of the State Board prior to announcing the decisions.

**ACTION:**

Request that the State Board vote to ratify the State Superintendent's March 25, 2020 and April 17, 2020 orders to close schools from March 27 through May 15, 2020, to control and prevent the spread of COVID-19.