



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

TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.

DATE: May 27, 2020

SUBJECT: Ratification of Extended School Closure Decision for the Remainder of the 2019-2020 Academic School Year

PURPOSE:

To ratify the decision made by Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D., State Superintendent of Schools, on May 6, 2020 to extend the closure of Maryland public schools for the remainder of the 2019-2020 academic school year.

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. On May 6, 2020, Dr. Salmon announced the closure of schools for the remainder of the 2019-2020 academic school year. Dr. Salmon consulted with members of the State Board, the Maryland Health Department, and health experts advising Governor Hogan, prior to announcing the decisions.

ACTION:

Request that the State Board vote to ratify the State Superintendent's May 6, 2020 decision to close schools for the remainder of the 2019-2020 academic school year, to control and prevent the spread of COVID-19.