


TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Carey M. Wright, Ed.D., State Superintendent of Schools 

DATE: January 28, 2025

SUBJECT: Calendar Modifications – Granting Authority to the State Superintendent

Purpose

To grant authority to the State Superintendent of Schools to approve, upon request of a local board of education, flexibility for local school systems to be open for pupil attendance on February 17, 2025, Presidents’ Day, as an inclement weather make-up day, if needed, for the 2024-2025 school year.

Background

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

Weather conditions in January and February can be unpredictable. Granting authority to the State Superintendent of Schools to approve requests received from local school systems to open schools on February 17, 2025, Presidents’ Day, will provide local school systems the flexibility to make calendar modifications and recover instructional time, if needed.

Action

It is being requested that the Maryland State Board of Education grant the State Superintendent of Schools authority to approve, upon request of a local board of education, flexibility for local school systems to open for pupil attendance on February 17, 2025, Presidents’ Day, as an inclement weather make-up day, if needed, for the 2024-2025 school year.