


---

**TO:** Members of the State Board of Education

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

**DATE:** January 28, 2025

**SUBJECT:** Request from Garrett County Public Schools for a Calendar Modification

---

### **Purpose**

To consider the waiver request to open schools on Presidents' Day and the Monday after Easter, as inclement weather make-up days for Garrett County Public Schools 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**

Garrett County Public Schools were closed on November 22, 2024, and December 5, 2024, due to inclement weather. Garrett County Public Schools have identified three (3) inclement weather recovery days in their 2024-2025 School Calendar. The three (3) inclement weather recovery days are January 20, 2025, February 17, 2025, and April 21, 2025. The request submitted by Garrett County Public Schools on December 11, 2024, ask for a waiver to open schools on February 17, 2025, Presidents' Day, and April 21, 2025, the Monday after Easter, as inclement weather recovery days. The proposed instructional days will provide critical opportunities for students and teachers to recover lost instructional time ahead of state and national assessments.

### **Action**

Request that the Maryland State Board of Education approve the waiver to open schools on February 17, 2025, Presidents' Day, and April 21, 2025, the Monday after Easter, for Garrett County Public Schools for the 2024-2025 school year.

### **Attachments**

Waiver Request from Garrett County Public Schools



**Members of the Board of Education**

Mr. M. Thomas Woods, President  
Mr. Rodney B. Glotfelty, Vice President  
Ms. Sadie M. Liller, Associate Member  
Mr. Donald B. Morin, Associate Member  
Mr. Jason E. VanSickle, Associate Member  
Ms. Cadence G. Natividad, Student Board Member

770 Dennett Road • Oakland, Maryland 21550  
Telephone: 301.334.8900 • <https://www.acps.net/>

Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Brenda E. McCartney

December 11, 2024

Dr. Carey Wright, State Superintendent  
Maryland State Department of Education  
200 West Baltimore Street  
Baltimore, MD 21201

Dear Dr. Wright,

On behalf of the Garrett County Board of Education and in accordance with Education Article 7-103, Annotated Code of Maryland, I respectfully request a waiver to allow Garrett County Public Schools to be open for instruction on the following holidays during the 2024-2025 academic year:

- Monday, February 17, 2025 (President's Day)
- Monday, April 21, 2025 (Easter Monday)

At the December 10, 2024, Garrett County Board of Education meeting, the Board approved seeking this waiver to utilize these days as instructional make-up days since the system closed on November 22, 2024 and December 5, 2024 due to inclement weather. This adjustment aligns with the requirements of Section 7-103(a) of the Annotated Code of Maryland, which mandates a minimum of 180 school days and 1,080 school hours during a 10-month period, and with COMAR 13A.03.02.12(A), which specifies 1,170 school hours for Maryland public high schools.

These proposed instructional days will provide critical opportunities for students and teachers to recover lost instructional time, particularly ahead of state and national assessments, including Advanced Placement (AP) exams. Adjusting the calendar in this way ensures that students receive the robust educational experience they deserve. In accordance with Section 7-103(b)(4) of the Annotated Code of Maryland, which grants the State Board authority to open schools on holidays, we respectfully request your approval of this waiver. This adjustment will enable Garrett County Public Schools to meet both the instructional time requirements and the needs of our students and teachers.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued efforts on behalf of Maryland's public school students.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda E. McCartney, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

cc: Garrett County Board of Education Members  
Dr. Jane Wildesen, Director of Human Resources