

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 Queen Anne’s County Public Schools for a Calendar Modification

Purpose

To consider the waiver request to open schools on Presidents’ Day as inclement weather make-up days for Queen Anne’s 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

Queen Anne’s County Public Schools were closed from January 6, 2025, through January 10, 2025, due to inclement weather. Queen Anne’s County Public Schools have identified five (5) inclement weather recovery days in their 2024-2025 School Calendar. The five (5) inclement weather recovery days are January 20, 2025, February 17, 2025, and June 11, 2025, through June 13, 2025. The request submitted by Queen Anne’s County Public Schools on January 16, 2025, ask for a waiver to open schools on February 17, 2025, Presidents’ Day, as an inclement weather recovery day.

Action

Request that the Maryland State Board of Education approve the waiver to open schools on February 17, 2025, Presidents’ Day, for Queen Anne’s County Public Schools for the 2024-2025 school year.

Attachments

Waiver Request from Queen Anne’s County Public Schools



January 16, 2025

By Email: carey.wright@maryland.gov

Carey M. Wright, Ed.D.

State Superintendent of Schools

Maryland State Department of Education

200 West Baltimore Street

Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Dear Dr. Wright:

I am writing to request a conditional waiver to use Monday, February 17, 2025 (Presidents' Day) as an inclement weather make-up day. Queen Anne's County Public Schools (QACPS) built two holiday inclement weather contingency days into our [board approved calendar](#) (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day & President's Day). This calendar was submitted to and approved by MSDE. QACPS also embedded three additional days at the end of the school year for potential weather related make-up days.

As of today, QACPS has used five (5) inclement weather days, as we were closed for instruction January 6-10, 2025. We are now required to make-up two (2) days of instruction to meet the mandatory requirements. Your approval of our request to use Monday, February 17, 2025 (President's Day) as a day of instruction would help prevent the need for additional school days to be added to the end of the school year calendar. We must also be proactive, as we anticipate future inclement weather within the state of Maryland before winter concludes. QACPS will continue to work with stakeholders and assess the best strategy moving forward to meet the required days of instruction as mandated by MSDE.

Your consideration of this request is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions or need additional information, I can be reached at patricia.saelens@qacps.org.

Very truly yours.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Patricia Saelens", is positioned above the typed name.

Dr. Patricia Saelens, Superintendent
Queen Anne's County Public Schools

cc: Teresa Dantzler, Ombudsman, MSDE
QACPS Board of Education Members
QACPS Executive Team