

**DRAFTS – THIS LETTER WAS NEVER FINALIZED/SENT**

November XX, 2017

(I always assumed that this would go to the State Board, but Mark sent this one to the Superintendent)

Dr. Karen Salmon  
State Superintendent  
Maryland State Department of Education  
200 West Baltimore Street  
Baltimore, MD 21201-2595

Dear Dr. Salmon:

I am requesting your permission for a waiver to allow the Howard County Public School System open schools for students on Presidents' Day, February 19, 2018. The Annotated Code of Maryland 7-103 (c)(1)(iv) designates Presidents' Day as a public school holiday.

The current Howard County Public School System calendar has Presidents' Day as one of the five required inclement weather make up days. If schools needed to be closed due to inclement weather in December or early to mid-January it is our intent to make the request to you to open schools on February 19. With that in mind, we feel it would better serve our community to have the information earlier. This would allow families to plan for their children being in school on that day. In addition, if it turns out that there are not any inclement weather make up days needed, we believe our students would be better served by the extra day of school in February instead of June.

If this request was granted, the final regularly scheduled day of school for the Howard County Public Schools would be Wednesday, June 13, 2018 with Thursday, June 14 and Friday, June 15 being inclement weather make up days.

I am requesting that you grant the Howard County Public School System a waiver to open schools on Presidents' Day, February 19, 2018. Should you have any questions or desire further information, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Martirano, Ed.D.  
Interim Superintendent

MJM/kc

cc: Board of Education  
Mark C. Blom, Esquire  
Frank Eastham  
Anissa Brown Dennis

November XX, 2017

Dr. Karen Salmon  
State Superintendent  
Maryland State Department of Education  
200 West Baltimore Street  
Baltimore, MD 21201-2595

Dear Dr. Salmon:

I am requesting a waiver to allow the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) open schools for students on Presidents' Day, February 19, 2018.

The current HCPSS calendar has Presidents' Day listed as one of the five required inclement weather makeup days and the last day of school for HCPSS is scheduled for June 14, with June 15 listed as another possible makeup day. It was the school system's intent to request the waiver if schools closed due to inclement weather prior to mid-January. However, considering that June 15 will be at the end of the school year and falls on a religious holiday, a makeup day on this date would provide little value to our instructional program as all exams and end of school activities would have to still occur on June 14. Historical data suggests that it is likely that we could need all of our inclement weather makeup days – HCPSS has had eight or more inclement weather related closings in three of the last four years.

After reviewing these factors, we believe that our students would be better served if an instructional day was added on February 19 even if makeup days are not needed. If this waiver is granted, HCPSS will use February 19 as an instructional day, make June 13 the last day of school for students and add June 14 to the calendar as a possible makeup day. This will help us ensure equitable delivery of instruction and provide families some predictability as they plan their summers and make plans for President's Day weekend.

Should you have any questions or desire further information, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Martirano, Ed.D.  
Interim Superintendent

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Mark C. Blom, Esquire  
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