



Nancy S. Grasmick
State Superintendent of Schools

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TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Nancy S. Grasmick *Nancy*

DATE: April 26, 2011

SUBJECT: Request from a Local School System for a Calendar Modification

PURPOSE:

- 1) To consider the request made by Dr. Edward W. Shirley, Superintendent, Caroline County Public Schools, to waive the last day of school for Caroline County students, which falls on Monday, June 13, 2011.
- 2) To provide the authorization to the State Superintendent of Schools to approve additional requests from local school superintendents that may be made for the remainder of the school year to waive the last day of school, if the final day needed to complete the 180-day schedule falls on a Monday.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

By letter dated April 8, 2011, the Superintendent for the Caroline County Public School system requested a waiver of one (1) school day, Monday, June 13, 2011. Caroline County built four (4) days into their school calendar for inclement weather and has only used three (3) days. They will reduce their school calendar by one (1) day, making the last day of school Monday, June 13, 2011. Dr. Shirley states that approval this request will enable the school system to save funds, especially in transportation costs.

In accordance with COMAR 13A.02.01.04(C)(2)(a), the State Board of Education may waive the final day needed to complete the 180-day schedule if that day falls on a Monday.

ACTION:

Requesting approval of the request made by the Superintendent of Caroline County Public Schools to waive one (1) day of student attendance, Monday, June 13, 2011, in accordance with COMAR 13A.02.01.04(C)(2)(a).

Requesting the State Board of Education provide the State Superintendent of Schools with the authorization to approve additional requests from local school superintendents to waive the final day to complete the 180-day schedule if that day falls on a Monday.

NSG:bc



Caroline County Public Schools

204 Franklin Street
Denton, Maryland 21629



EDWARD W. SHIRLEY, Ed.D.
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

April 20, 2011

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Dr. Nancy S. Grasmick
State Superintendent of Schools
Maryland State Department of Education
200 West Baltimore Street
Baltimore, MD 21201

Dear Dr. Grasmick:

The purpose of this letter is to request that the Caroline County Public Schools be provided a waiver for the 180-day 2010-2011 school year.

The background to this request is that our Board of Education typically approves a calendar calling for 184 school days, or four additional days for weather emergencies. Once the winter ends, we subtract the "snow days" to determine the actual last day. This calendar identified Tuesday, June 14 as the last day of schools for students. As we had three weather emergency days during 2010-2011, the last day now becomes a half-day on Monday, June 13.

After a lengthy discussion at two separate meetings, the Board of Education voted on April 19 to request authorization to make the last day Friday, June 10. By doing so, our school year becomes 179 days. This seems like a logical move in that returning students for a half day on Monday has little educational advantage. In addition, it has the side benefit of saving approximately \$11,000 in fuel costs. That is not an enormous savings but within the confines of our current budget, every dollar saved becomes critical.

Thank you for your support of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed Shirley".

Edward W. Shirley, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

EWS/vwf