



Nancy S. Grasmick
State Superintendent of Schools

200 West Baltimore Street • Baltimore, MD 21201 • 410-767-0100 • 410-333-6442 TTY/TDD

TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Nancy S. Grasmick *Nancy*

DATE: January 25, 2011

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

PURPOSE:

- 1) To consider the request made by Dr. Wendell D. Teets, Superintendent, Garrett County Public Schools, to open schools on Easter Monday, April 25, 2011. Dr. Teets has indicated that Garrett County students have missed four (4) days of school already due to inclement weather.
- 2) To request that the State Board grant 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 open schools on holidays.

BACKGROUND:

State law requires that schools be open for student attendance 180 actual days and 1,080 hours in a 10-month period. (The high school is defined as 1,170 hours.) In 1995, Section 7-103 of the Education Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, was amended to include that "if normal school attendance is prevented because of conditions described in subsection (b) of this section (natural disaster, civil disaster or severe weather conditions), schools shall be open for at least 1,080 school hours during a ten-month period in each school year." Schools are not normally allowed to be open on holidays to meet these requirements. Section 7-103 however, specifies the procedure and conditions under which the State Board may grant waivers to the 180-day requirement. Subsection (b) (iv) provides the State Board with the authority to grant permission to local boards of education to open schools on holidays because of closures related to severe weather conditions.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

By letter dated December 15, 2010, Dr. Teets requests permission to open schools on Monday, April 25, 2011 (Easter Monday) to respond to anticipated school closures



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in response to severe weather conditions. Dr. Teets indicated that last year Garrett County had a record 265 inches of snow and he feels this winter is starting the same way.

Garrett County schools have been closed due to inclement weather on December 6 -7, 2010 and December 13-14, 2010. Their school calendar has make-up days built into the calendar. The potential make-up days are listed as Monday, April 18, 2011; Tuesday, April 19, 2011; Wednesday, April 20, 2011; Thursday, April 21, 2011; Monday, April 25, 2011 (if approved); and Friday, June 3, 2011. If additional days are needed, Garrett County will add days to the end of the school year as necessary.

ACTION:

I am recommending approval of the request made by the Superintendent of Garrett County Public Schools to open schools on Monday, April 25, 2011 as needed due to school closures because of severe weather conditions.

I am also requesting that the State Board of Education grant me the authority to approve additional requests from local school superintendents this school year to open schools on holidays if needed due to school closures that are a result of severe weather conditions.

NSG:bc

Attachment



BOARD OF EDUCATION OF GARRETT COUNTY

40 South Second Street
Oakland, Maryland 21550

Wendell Teets, Ed. D., Superintendent

(301) 334-8900
(301) 895-3163
fax: (301) 334-7621
<http://www.ga.k12.md.us/>

December 15, 2010

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

Dear Dr. ^{Nancy} Grasmick:

I am requesting, by the State Board of Education, to permit Garrett County Schools to convert Easter Monday, April 25, 2011, to an instructional day. We have currently missed four days due to heavy snow to date. We struggled through a record 265 inches of snow last year and this winter seems to be starting the same way.

If I can be of additional assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your consideration as we strive to provide a quality and timely education for our students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wendell Teets".

Wendell Teets, Ed. D.

wdt/ab

cc: Keith Harvey, Director of Human Resources



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