



Lillian M. Lowery, Ed.D.  
State Superintendent of Schools

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**TO:** Members of the State Board of Education  
**FROM:** Lillian M. Lowery, Ed.D. *Lowery*  
**DATE:** April 28, 2015  
**SUBJECT:** Requests from Local School Systems for Calendar Modifications

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**PURPOSE:**

- 1) To consider the request made by Dr. Renee A. Foose, Superintendent, Howard County Public Schools, to waive the last day of school for students in her school system which falls on Monday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>; and
- 2) To consider the request made by Dr. Karen M. Couch, Superintendent, Kent County Public Schools to waive the last day of school for students in her school system which falls on Monday, June 15<sup>th</sup>.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

By letter dated March 20, 2015, the Superintendent for the Howard County Public School system requests a waiver of one day, Monday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Howard County Public Schools have been closed due to inclement weather a total of eight days this year. After using five planned inclement weather days, the Howard County Board of Education extended the school year by adding two days providing 179 days of instruction for students. Howard County Public Schools would like to waive Monday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, which is needed for the 180<sup>th</sup> day.

By letter dated March 10, 2015, the Superintendent for the Kent County Public School system requests a waiver of one day, Monday, June 15<sup>th</sup>. Kent County Public Schools have been closed due to inclement weather a total of seven days this year. After using five planned inclement weather days, Kent County opened school for students on Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, therefore making up six of the seven days missed. They request a waiver for the last day of school, Monday, June 15<sup>th</sup>.

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 Howard County Public Schools to waive one day of student attendance, Monday, June 22, 2015; and the request made by the Superintendent of Kent County Public Schools to waive one day of student attendance, Monday, June 15, 2015, in accordance with COMAR 13A.02.01.04(C)(2)(a).

Attachments



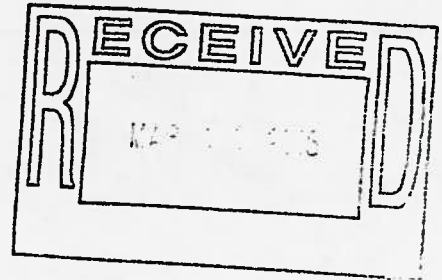


# Kent County Board of Education

*Growing a Community of Leaders*

*Dr. Karen M. Couch  
Office of the Superintendent*

March 10, 2015



VIA FACSIMILE (410)-333-6033 & U.S. MAIL

Dr. Lillian Lowery  
State Superintendent of Schools  
Maryland Department of Education  
200 West Baltimore Street  
Baltimore, MD 21201-2595

Dear Dr. Lowery,

On behalf of the Kent County Board of Education, I am submitting a formal request to waive one (1) inclement weather day for the 2014-15 SY. This year, Kent County has utilized seven (7) days for weather related events with five (5) inclement weather days already built into our instructional calendar. Kent County has already taken proactive steps to recoup one instructional day by requesting your approval to open schools on Easter Monday.

The last day for students with the five makeup instructional days is Friday, June 12, 2015. We understand the value of instructional days however, requiring students to return to school the following Monday seems impractical for our families. I am requesting a quick reply in order to facilitate a communication blitz enabling families to adjust their plans accordingly. In closing, I respectfully request that Kent County Public Schools be granted a waiver for one (1) inclement weather day. Thank you in advance for your timely consideration of our request.

Respectfully,

Dr. Karen M. Couch  
Superintendent of Schools

HOWARD COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

March 20, 2015

Lillian M. Lowery, Ed.D.  
State Superintendent of Schools  
Maryland State Department of Education  
200 W. Baltimore Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Dear Dr. Lowery,

I am formally requesting a waiver of one instructional day missed this school year due to severe inclement weather.

To date, the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) has closed for a total of eight inclement weather days. The 2014-2015 HCPSS Academic Calendar included five days planned for inclement weather beyond the originally scheduled last day on Wednesday, June 10, 2015. Using all five planned inclement weather days extends the school year to Wednesday, June 17, 2015. On March 12, 2015 the Howard County Board of Education approved extending the school year by two additional days through Friday, June 19, 2015. This covers 179 instructional days, with Monday June 22, 2015 needed for the 180<sup>th</sup> day.

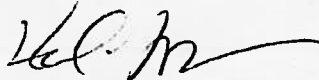
Howard County is seeking a waiver for Monday, June 22, 2015. Per COMAR 13A.02.01.04 C.2.a, the final day needed to complete the 180-day schedule may be waived if that day falls on a Monday. Per COMAR 13A.02.01.04 C.1, Howard County has demonstrated that five inclement weather days were planned in the 2014-2015 calendar, and the HCPSS calendar has been modified to extend the year by seven days beyond the original scheduled closing date.

Furthermore, Howard County school openings were delayed by two hours on eight additional days. The HCPSS calendar planned for 1,182 hours of instruction at the high school level. The eight delayed openings produced a four hour deficit of high school instructional hours. On March 12, 2015, the Howard County Board of Education approved calendar modifications that result in four additional hours of high school instruction, thus meeting the 1,170 standard for high school hours.

We are seeking a waiver of one instructional day on Monday, June 22, 2015 due to severe inclement weather, and request the last student day to be Friday, June 19, 2015.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Renee A. Foose, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

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