

*Building a
Foundation for
Lifelong
Learning*

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF CECIL COUNTY

GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER EDUCATION LEADERSHIP CENTER
201 BOOTH STREET • ELKTON, MD 21921

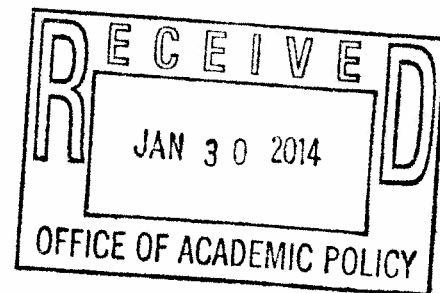
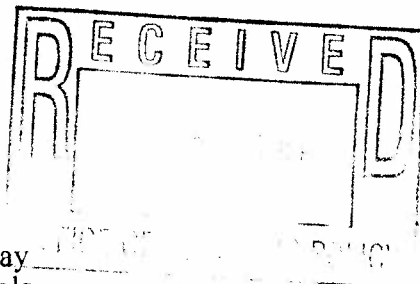
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D'Ette W. Devine, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Dawn K. Branch
President, Board of Education

January 28, 2014

Mr. William Cappe, Co-Chair
Task Force to Study a Post-Labor Day
Start Date of Maryland Public Schools
Maryland State Department of Education
200 West Baltimore Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201



Dear Task Force Members:

On behalf of the Board of Education of Cecil County, I appreciate the opportunity to express our position on the possibility of a state law requiring all school systems to commence each school year after Labor Day. Our Board is **OPPOSED** to any legislation that would remove school calendar decision making from local boards of education. The local school system calendar is best determined after thorough discussion and review by the constituents of each local jurisdiction.

We believe the 180-day school year averaging 6.5 hours of attendance for students each day is the minimum amount of time needed to meet the expectations and requirements to ensure our children are properly prepared for success in the twenty-first century. The future of public education in our county, state, and nation must address this issue so that students will have opportunities to seek enhancements to their learning and receive supports to ensure mastery of necessary knowledge and skill.

Local schools systems and governments must partner with the State to address the unique geographic and cultural needs that distinguish our access to resources while all preparing for the same desired outcome – high school graduates prepared to perform and live successfully in this rapidly changing global society.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide you with our position.

Sincerely,

Dawn K. Branch
President
Cecil County Board of Education

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cc: Dr. D'Ette W. Devine – Superintendent, Cecil County Public Schools
Cecil County Board of Education Members