



THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF DORCHESTER COUNTY

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January 31, 2014

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Mr. William Cappe
Maryland State Department of Education
200 West Baltimore Street
Baltimore, MD 21201

Dear Mr. Cappe:

The Board of Education and Superintendent of Dorchester County Public Schools ask that you respect the concept of local autonomy with regard to decisions concerning the establishment of the annual school calendar. Our school system maintains a standing calendar committee comprised of representatives from various stakeholder groups that take national, state, and local variables into consideration prior to making the best recommendation for our school district.

In recent years, the specific recommendation of that group has been to begin the school year prior to Labor Day. Besides being the strong local preference of parents, students, and community members, our educators cite weather related impacts, ongoing professional development and training needs, state and local testing windows/mandates, extracurricular programs, and other pedagogical considerations.

Our district has made significant progress in recent years towards our mission that each student become college and career ready. Please allow us the prerogative of making critically important calendar decisions so that we may maintain this positive momentum.

Sincerely,

Philip L. Bramble, Jr.
President

Henry V. Wagner, Jr., Ed.D.
Superintendent