



**Kevin M. Maxwell, Ph.D.**  
*Chief Executive Officer*

February 7, 2014

Mr. William Cappe  
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:

As Chief Executive Officer of the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest school system in the state of Maryland, Prince George's County Public Schools, I would like to express my position on seeking a state law requiring all school systems to commence school after Labor Day.

I am strongly OPPOSED to any legislation that would diminish our Board's ability to have local autonomy to create a school calendar that meets the needs of our parents, students, staff, and community members. We receive input from a wide range of constituent groups in the creation of our school calendar which takes into consideration national, state and local variables when making recommendations to our school board. These considerations are academic related (i.e., dates of Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate examinations); centered around professional growth experiences for our staff; extracurricular experiences; and even preferences from our parents, students, and community members. Moreover, any earlier start permits an earlier ending, giving our students an advantage over those in the District of Columbia and Virginia as they seek summer employment opportunities.

Seeking a state law requiring all local educational agencies to conform to the same schedule would not be conducive to the diverse needs of the twenty-four (24) districts in the state of Maryland. This year's inclement weather has shown, again, why districts need maximum flexibility. I am encouraging you to take into consideration the plea of each superintendent in Maryland and the State Superintendent of Schools not to move forward with a recommendation that would mandate a post-Labor Day start.

If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin M. Maxwell", is placed below the word "Sincerely,".

Kevin M. Maxwell, Ph.D.  
Chief Executive Officer