



# Somerset County Public Schools

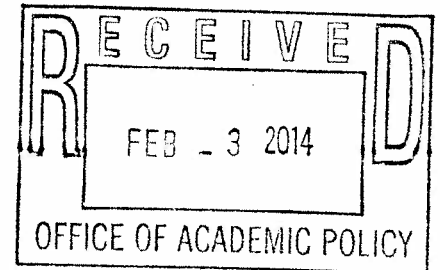
*Dr. John B. Gaddis*  
Interim Superintendent of Schools

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January 31, 2014

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



Dear Mr. Cappe:

It is critically important that local autonomy to establish and recommend the school system operational calendar for the subsequent school year remain intact. Somerset County Public Schools has a calendar committee with representatives from many stakeholder groups who consider various local factors when making the recommendation for our school community.

The school calendar committee is a functioning group of members that provides options (3) for the Board of Education's review. The committee reviews holidays, in-service days, community events and other factors that affect our local community. With each calendar, multiple variations occur as to start date, end date, length of vacation, placement of in-service days and end of term requirements.

This committee's work is vital to establishing a calendar that best reflects what we need for our school system. The needs here are very different from those in Western Maryland and those from even our neighbors to the west and north.

It is for that reason that I request, as does the Somerset County Board of Education, that the determination of the school calendar remain a local decision.

As always, if any questions arise, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

John B. Gaddis, Ed.D.  
Interim Superintendent of Schools