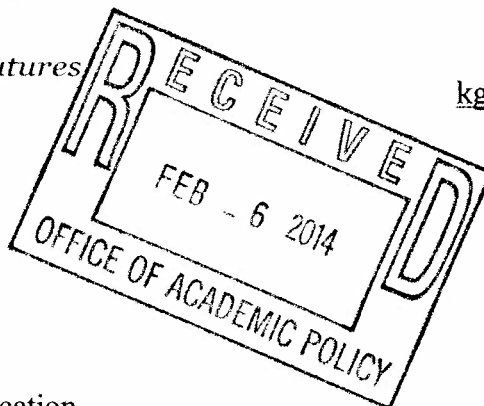


P.O. Box 1029
Easton, MD 21601
Phone: (410) 822-0330

Kelly L. Griffith
Interim Superintendent
kgriffith@tcps.k12.md.us



January 31, 2014

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


Dear Mr. Cappe,

The Talbot County Board of Education strongly supports local autonomy in establishing and recommending the school calendar. We have a calendar committee made up from a wide range of constituent groups that take national, state and local variables into consideration prior to making the best recommendation for our district.

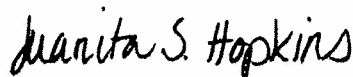
Currently we have transitioned to the common core state standards and adopted the new state assessments. These will require on-going professional development and include a variety of testing mandates for graduation. All of these dates will need to be considered when developing the school calendar for our local community.

Whether school begins before or after Labor Day, this decision should be made in the best interest of students, staff, and our local community by the local school board. We appreciate your support.

Sincerely,



Kelly L. Griffith
Interim Superintendent



Juanita S. Hopkins, Esq.
Board President