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  
Board President