

# **Task Force to Study a Post-Labor Day Start Date for Maryland Public Schools**

**Materials of Interest  
March 24, 2014 Meeting**

## **Materials of Interest by Speaker Provided at the February 5, 2014 Meeting**

**Mr. Randy Mickens, Organizational Specialist, Lobbyist Maryland State Education Association**

### **“Economic Impact of the Publicly Funded K-12 Education on the Eastern Shore of Maryland in FY 2013” Business Economic and Community Outreach Network at Salisbury University**

This document provides a summary of the total economic impact of K-12 education on the Shore. Type I impacts are based on the income boost graduates receive as they improve their education and Type II impacts are based on the ability of the jurisdiction to attract and retain families with skilled and/or professional workers who are net wealth creators. Overall, the report indicates that the return on investment of the public school systems on the Eastern Shore of Maryland is approximately 95% with an annual impact of nearly 2.6 Billion and over 31,000 jobs supported.

## **Various Newspaper Articles Concerning Task Force to Study a Post-Labor Day Start Date for Maryland Public Schools**

### **“School Leader Explains to Tourism Officials Why He Opposes Change To Post-Labor Day Start,” the Dispatch, February 6, 2014**

Article reports that Dr. Jerry B. Wilson, Superintendent of Worcester County Public Schools was one (1) of twenty-four (24) superintendents that does not support a post-Labor-Day start date for public schools. Support for his position included the number of school related activities that start before Labor Day and that parents tend to prefer holidays breaks during the school year. He further reported that the school system surveys their parents every year and reports that the county’s parents are more satisfied now then they were in the past when the calendar started post-Labor Day. He further stated that weather is a contributing factor and that this year the school system was originally scheduled to end on June 12<sup>th</sup> but has been extended to June 18<sup>th</sup> to meet the calendar day requirements. In 2013 5% of parents commented on starting schools post-Labor Day and 55% of that 5% came from one school so it is not a county wide response. Proponents from the Ocean City’s Economic Development Committee (EDC) were dismayed by Dr. Wilson’s position and believed it is not, “only about an economic impact...it is about family and allowing extra time.” The EDC also asked that the superintendent have an open mind since, “Basically 58% of your budget is derived from Ocean City.”

### **“Worcester Oks Post-Labor Day Start To School; County Will Be Only One in Md.” The Dispatch, February 20, 2014**

The Worcester County Board of Education voted to start schools on September 2, 2014 which is post-Labor Day. This decision was in opposition to that of Superintendent of Schools Dr. Jerry Wilson’s position. Both sides acknowledge that parent surveys did not display an overwhelming desire to return to a post-Labor Day start. Those that voted for the change indicated that Worcester County Schools are different and that the early start hurts the summer tourism

season. By changing the start date to September 2<sup>nd</sup>, the end of the year will most likely shift from June 10<sup>th</sup> to June 16<sup>th</sup> extending the year by roughly a week. This article also indicated that most likely, “the statewide task force...will submit a report endorsing legislation for all school systems to start after the Labor Day holiday...”

### **Chart, December 2013 through March 2014 Inclement Weather Days**

This chart provides information for each LSS regarding the original closing date, the number of days built into their calendars for inclement weather, and the number of days each LSS has been closed in December, January, February, and March of this academic year.

### **Letters Received from Local School Systems and Local Boards of Education**

This packet includes all letters received from Local School Systems and Local Boards of Education expressing their position in regard to a post-Labor Day start for public schools. This packet represents the letter received after the February 5, 2014 meeting. Letters provided at the February meeting can be found on the MSDE website at [http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/taskforce/postlabordaystart/02052014\\_letters.html](http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/taskforce/postlabordaystart/02052014_letters.html).

### **Maryland Tourism Information from Visitmaryland.org**

#### **“Fiscal Year 2013 Tourism Development Annual Report,” Maryland Tourism Development Board and the Department of Business and Economic Development, 2013**

Task Force Member Hale Harrison provided a link to the Visit Maryland website and directed our attention to the report section, which includes the Tourism Development Annual Reports. The 2013 Annual Report provides relevant information regarding the impact of the travel and tourism industry on Maryland’s economy. Report provides a three-year prospective for three (3) distinct categories, tourism: a revenue generator, Office of Tourism Development performance measurements, and tourism sales tax revenues. The tourism sales and use tax codes are provided by county.