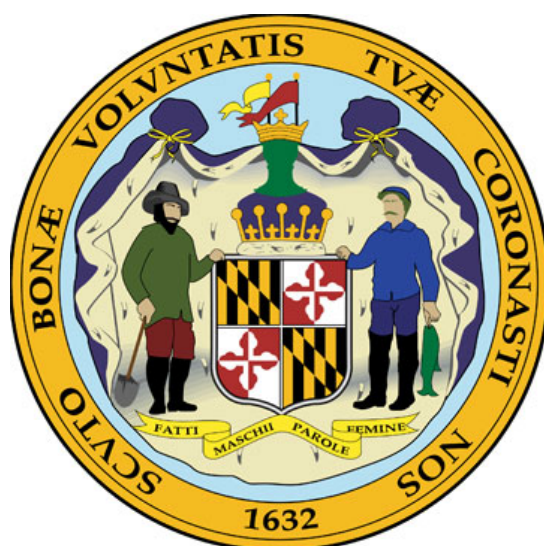


# Task Force to Study a Post-Labor Day Start Date for Maryland Public Schools

## Appendix XIII



June 2014

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

**Materials of Interest  
April 23, 2014 Meeting**

## **Charts, Historical Information Regarding School System Closures**

Chart 1: 2008-2009 Public Schools Opening and Closings

Chart 2: Closures for storm flooding November 2009

Chart 3: Closures for Blizzards of December 2009 and February 2010

Chart 4: 2010-2011 School Closings Due to Inclement Weather

Chart 5: Closures for Hurricane Irene August 2011

Chart 6: Closures for Hurricane Sandy October 2012

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

### **“Poll to Gauge Opinion on Post-Labor Day School Start,” The Dispatch March 20, 2014**

Article reports that at the March Tourism Commission meeting that the Greater Ocean City Chamber of Commerce Executive Director indicated that an initiative is underway to conduct an opinion poll to see what Marylanders think about a Post-Labor Day start date. It was reported that David Reel with the Maryland Hotel and Lodging Association put out a bid to receive proposals to conduct the survey. It is anticipated to cost approximately 20,000.00 and hopes to survey at least 1000 Marylanders.

# SCHOOL YEAR 2008-2009

## MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLIC SCHOOL OPENINGS AND CLOSINGS

Revised for Inauguration changes 01/09/2009

SCHOOL SYSTEM	FIRST DAY	WINTER BREAK	SPRING BREAK	OTHER CLOSINGS AND HOLIDAYS	INAUGURATION CHANGE ONLY	LAST DAY
Allegany	Aug 25	Dec 24-Jan 2	Apr 10-13	9/1, 10/1, 11/3, 11/4, 1/19, 2/4, 2/16, 5/25		June 2
Anne Arundel	Aug 25**	Dec 24-Jan 2	Apr 9-13	9/1, 9/30, 10/9, 11/4, 11/24, 11/25, 1/19, 1/27, 1/28, 2/16, 5/25	No change 12/2/08	June 12
Baltimore City	Aug 25	Dec 24-Jan 2	Apr 6-13	9/1, 10/16, 10/17, 11/4, 11/14, 1/19, 1/20, 1/29, 1/30, 2/16, 4/14, 5/25	Add 1/20, add 1 day	June 10
Baltimore	Aug 25	Dec 24-Jan 2	Apr 6-13	9/1, 9/29, 9/30, 10/9, 11/3, 11/4, 1/19, 1/26, 2/16, 5/25		June 18
Calvert	Aug 20	Dec 22-Jan 2	Apr 6-13	9/1, 9/12, 9/26, 11/4, 11/10, 1/19, 1/20, 2/16, 4/27, 5/25	Add 1/20, delete 2/13	June 16
Caroline	Aug 25	Dec 22-Jan 2	Apr 9-13	9/1, 9/15, 11/4, 11/10, 12/8, 1/19, 1/26, 2/16, 5/25		June 12
Carroll	Aug 26	Dec 24-Jan 2	Apr 9-13	9/1, 9/29, 10/17, 11/4, 11/24, 11/25, 1/19, 1/26, 2/16, 2/17, 5/25		June 16
Cecil	Aug 25	Dec 24-Jan 2	Apr 9-14	9/1, 11/3, 11/4, 11/5, 12/22, 12/23, 1/19, 1/23, 1/26, 2/16, 5/1, 5/25		June 10
Charles	Aug 25	Dec 22-Jan 2	Apr 6-13	9/1, 9/12, 11/4, 11/11, 1/19, 1/20, (1/23), 2/16, 3/4, 5/25	Add 1/20, delete 1/23	June 17
Dorchester	Aug 25+	Dec 22-Jan 2	Apr 10-13	9/1, 9/26, 10/1, 10/20, 11/4, 12/9, 1/19, 1/23, 2/16, 3/4, 5/25		June 16
Frederick	Aug 25	Dec 24-Jan 2	Apr 8-13	9/1, 9/19, 9/30, 10/9, 11/3, 11/4, 1/19, 1/20, 1/21, 2/16, 3/27, 5/25	Already off	June 17
Garrett	Aug 26	Dec 24-Jan 2	Apr 10-13	9/1, 10/9, 10/10, 11/4, 1/19, 2/16, 5/25		June 1
Harford	Aug 25	Dec 24-Jan 2	Apr 8-13	9/1, 9/30, 10/9, 10/31, 11/3, 11/4, 1/19, 1/26, 1/27, 2/16, 4/6, 4/7, 5/25		June 10
Howard	Aug 25	Dec 22-Jan 2	Apr 6-13	9/1, 9/30, 10/9, 11/3, 11/4, 11/26, 1/19, 1/26, 2/16, 2/27, 4/23, 5/15, 5/25		June 16
Kent	Aug 25#	Dec 22-Jan 2	Apr 9-14	8/29, 9/1, 10/16, 1/19, 1/26, 2/13, 2/16, 4/8, 5/25		June 16
Montgomery	Aug 26	Dec 24-Jan 2	Apr 6-9	9/1, 9/30, 10/9, 11/3, 11/4, 1/19, 1/20, 1/26, 2/16, 3/30, 4/10, 4/13, 5/25	Add 1/20 (183 days)	June 16
Prince George's	Aug 25	Dec 22-31	Apr 6-9	9/1, 9/26, 10/9, 10/31, 11/4, 11/11, 1/1, 1/2, 1/19, 1/20, 1/30, 2/16, 4/10, 4/13, 4/17, 5/25	Add 1/20 (181 days)	June 17
Queen Anne's	Aug 25++	Dec 22-Jan 2	Apr 6-13	9/1, 10/16, 11/4, 1/19, 1/22, 1/23, 2/16, 5/25		June 17
St. Mary's	Aug 20	Dec 22-Jan 2	Apr 6-9	9/1, 9/19, 10/13, 11/4, 11/11, 11/26, (1/16), 1/19, 1/20, 2/16, 4/10, 4/13, 5/1, 5/25	Add 1/20, delete 1/16	June 16
Somerset	Aug 25	Dec 22-Jan 2	Apr 9-13	8/29, 9/1, 10/20, 11/4, 11/26, 1/19, 1/26, 2/13, 2/16, 4/8, 5/25		June 12
Talbot	Aug 25	Dec 22-Jan 2	Apr 9-13	9/1, 10/16, 11/13, 11/14, 1/19, 1/23, 2/16, 3/5, 3/6, 5/25		June 9
Washington	Aug 20	Dec 24-Jan 2	Apr 9-13	9/1, 11/3, 11/4, 12/1, 1/19, 1/20, 2/16, 4/3, 5/25	Already off	June 10
Wicomico	Aug 25*	Dec 22-31	Apr 8-13	9/1, 10/20, 11/4, 1/1, 1/2, 1/19, 1/26, 1/27, 2/16, 3/2, 5/4, 5/25		June 10
Worcester	Sept 2	Dec 22-Jan 2	Apr 10-13	11/3, 11/4, 1/19, 1/29, 1/30, 2/16, 4/9, 5/25		June 17

Save:SchoolOpeningsClosingsList2008-2009

\*WI Grades K-6 & 9 Aug 25, all grades Aug 26

\*\*AA Grades 1-5, 6 & 9 Aug 25, all grades Aug 26

+DOR Grades 1-5, 6 & 9 Aug 25, all grades Aug 26

++ QA Grades 1-9 Aug 25, August 26 grades 10-12

# KENT Grades k-9 Aug 25, Aug 26 all students

**School closings reported due to storm related flooding-November 12-13, 2009**

<b>School System</b>	<b>November 12, 2009</b>	<b>November 13, 2009</b>
<b>Allegany</b>		
<b>Anne Arundel</b>	<b>No school closings</b>	<b>No school closings</b>
<b>Baltimore City</b>	<b>No school closings</b>	<b>No school closings</b>
<b>Baltimore County</b>	<b>No school closings</b>	<b>No school closings</b>
<b>Calvert</b>	<b>No school closings</b>	<b>No school closings</b>
<b>Caroline</b>	<b>No school closings</b>	
<b>Carrroll</b>	<b>No school closings</b>	<b>No school closings</b>
<b>Cecil</b>	<b>No school closings</b>	<b>No school closings</b>
<b>Charles</b>	<b>No school closings</b>	<b>No school closings</b>
<b>Dorchester</b>	<b>S. Dorchester (Prek-8) closed early at 10 am</b>	<b>S. Dorchester (Prek-8) closed; children who live in the affected area are excused from Cambridge-S. Dorchester HS-school is open for all others.</b>
<b>Frederick</b>	<b>No school closings</b>	<b>No school closings</b>
<b>Garrett</b>		
<b>Harford</b>	<b>No school closings</b>	<b>No school closings</b>
<b>Howard</b>	<b>No school closings</b>	<b>No school closings</b>
<b>Kent</b>		
<b>Montgomery</b>		
<b>Prince George's</b>	<b>No school closings</b>	
<b>Queen Anne's</b>	<b>No school closings</b>	
<b>St. Mary's</b>	<b>No closings-cancelled after school and evening activities</b>	<b>Schools open 2 hours late</b>
<b>Somerset</b>		<b>#Ewell E/S on Smith Island closed. School boat bus not operating.</b>
<b>Talbot</b>	<b>No school closings</b>	<b>No school closings</b>
<b>Washington</b>	<b>No school closings</b>	<b>No school closings</b>
<b>Wicomico</b>		
<b>Worcester</b>	<b>No school closings</b>	<b>Schools closed today</b>
<b># Change for Somerset 11/13</b>		

**SCHOOL SYSTEM CLOSURES**  
**December 21-23, 2009 and February 8-16, 2010**  
**\*Opened On President's Day (2/25)**  
**\*\* Opened on Prof. Development Day**

School System	Dec 21, 2009	Dec 22, 2009	Dec 23, 2009	Feb 8	Feb 9	Feb 10	Feb 11	Feb 12	Feb 16	Emergency days in calendar	# days closed 08/09 - 2/19/10
Allegany	Closed	2 hour delay	Open	Closed	Closed	Prof dev	Closed	Closed	Prof dev	8 days added to end	8
Anne Arundel	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	4 days included in cal.	10
Baltimore City	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	5 days added to end	9
Baltimore	Closed	Closed	2 hr. delay	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	7 days included in cal.	8
Calvert	Closed	Closed	Winter Break	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	2 hour	5 days included in cal.	9
Caroline	Winter Break	Winter Break	Winter Break	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Prof dev	4 days included in cal.	8
Carroll	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Prof dev	5 days included in cal.	8
Cecil	Closed	Closed	Winter Break	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	2 hour	7 days included to end	8
Charles	Winter Break	Winter Break	Winter Break	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	2 hour	4 days included in cal.	7
Dorchester	Winter Break	Winter Break	Winter Break	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	1 hour	5 days include in cal.	9
Frederick	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	5 days included in cal.	12
Gaithersburg	Open	Open	Open	2 hr. delay	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	5 days included in cal.	14
Harford	Closed	Closed	2 hour delay	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	4 days added to end /2 days identified in cal.	8
Howard	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	5 days added to end	8
Kent	Closed	Closed	Winter Break	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	5 days included in cal.	8
Montgomery	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	2 hour	4 days included in cal.	9
Prince George's	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Prof dev	Closed	Will add 5 days if nec.	9
Queen Anne's	Winter Break	Winter Break	Winter Break	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	90 min	4 days added to end	7
St. Mary's	Closed	Closed	Winter Break	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	1 hour	5 days added to end **OPEN 2/15 **2/16	10
Somerset	Winter Break	Winter Break	Winter Break	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	1 hour	5 days included in cal. Other days identified	7
Talbot	Winter Break	Winter Break	Winter Break	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Open	3 days included in cal. Days added to end *OPEN 2/15	8
Washington	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	2 hour	8 days included in cal.	8
Wicomico	Closed	Closed	Winter Break	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	2 hour	5 days added to end	11
Worcester	2 hrs delay	Open	Winter Break	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	2 hour	3 days included in cal.	9

2010-2011 School Closings Due to Inclement Weather

School System	January 26, 2011	January 27, 2011	January 28, 2011	February 1, 2011
Allegany	Closed	Closed	Open	Closed
Anne Arundel	Closed	Closed	2 hour delay	2 hour delay
Baltimore City	Closed	Closed	Closed	2 hour delay
Baltimore County	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Calvert	Open	Closed	Open	Open
Caroline	2 hour delay	Closed	Open	2 hour delay
Carroll	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Cecil	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Charles	Open	Closed	2 hour delay	Open
Dorchester	Open	Closed	Open	2 hour delay
Frederick	Closed	Closed	2 hour delay	Closed
Garrett	Closed	Closed	Open	Closed (per MEMA)
Harford	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Howard	Closed	Closed	2 hour delay	2 hour delay
Kent	Closed	Closed	1 hour delay	Closed (changed)
Montgomery	Closed	Closed	Closed	2 hour delay
Prince George's	Closed	Closed	2 hour delay	Open
Queen Anne's	Professional Dev.	Closed	90 minute delay	Closed (changed)
St. Mary's	Open	Closed	Open	Open
Somerset	Open	1 hour delay	Open	Open
Talbot	Closed	Closed	Open	2 hour delay
Washington	Closed	Closed	2 hour delay	Closed
Wicomico	Open	2 hour delay	Open	Open
Worcester	Open	1 hour delay	Professional day	Open

School System	February 22, 2011			
Allegany	Closed			
Anne Arundel	Closed			
Baltimore City	Closed			
Baltimore County	Closed			
Calvert	2 hours late			
Caroline	Closed			
Carroll	Closed			
Cecil	Closed			
Charles	2 hour delay			
Dorchester	2 hour delay			
Frederick	Closed			
Garrett	2 hour delay			
Harford	Closed			
Howard	Closed			
Kent	Closed			
Montgomery	2 hour delay			
Prince George's	Closed			
Queen Anne's	Closed-Prof. Dev.			
St. Mary's	2 hour delay			
Somerset	1 hour delay			
Talbot	Closed			
Washington	Closed			
Wicomico	2 hour delay			
Worcester	2 hour delay			

**School System Closures \_\_\_\_\_ Hurricane Irene**

School System	Opening date	August 29, 2011	August 30, 2011	August 31, 2011	September 1, 2011
Allegany	8/24	Open	Open	Open	Open
Anne Arundel	8/23	Closed	Closed	Open-15 schools closed	Open-7 schools closed
Baltimore City	8/29	Closed	Closed	Open-20 schools closed	Open-9 schools closed
Baltimore County	8/29	Closed	Closed	Open-19 schools closed	Open-18 schools closed
Calvert	8/24	Closed	Closed	Closed	Open
Caroline	8/24	Open	Open-1 school closed	Open	Open
Carroll	8/30	Open on 8/30	Open-2 schools closed	Open	Open
Cecil	8/24	Closed	Open	Open	Open
Charles	8/29	Closed	Open	Open	Open
Dorchester	8/22	Open	Open	Open	Open
Frederick	8/29	Open	Open	Open	Open
Garrett	8/24	Open	Open	Open	Open
Harford	8/29	Closed	Closed	Open-11 schools closed	Open
Howard	8/29	Closed	Open-10 schools closed	Open-1 school closed	Open
Kent	8/29	Closed	Open	Open	Open
Montgomery	8/29	Open-6 closed	Open	Open	Open
Prince George's	8/22	Closed	Open	Open-1 school closed	Open-1 school closed
Queen Anne's	8/29	Closed	Open	Open	Open
St. Mary's	8/24	Closed	Closed	Closed	Open
Somerset	8/22	Closed	Open	Open	Open
Talbot	8/23	Closed	Open	Open	Open
Washington	8/24	Open	Open	Open	Open
Wicomico	8/29	Open	Open	Open	Open
Worcester	8/29	Closed	Open	Open	Open

Hurricane Sandy    October, 2012  
Openings and Closings

School System	Emergency days	Oct. 29	Oct. 30	Oct. 31	Nov. 1	Nov 2
Allegany	7 days at end of calendar	Closed	Closed	Closed	Open	Open
Anne Arundel	4 days built in calendar	Closed	Closed	2 hr. delay Some schools closed	Open Some schools closed	Open
Baltimore City	5 days at end of calendar	Closed	Closed	Closed	Open	Open
Baltimore	7 days in calendar	Closed	Closed	Open some schools closed	Open 1 school closed	Open
Calvert	5 days in calendar	Closed	Closed	Open	Open	Open
Caroline	4 days in calendar	Closed	Closed	2 hr. delay	Open	Open
Carroll	5 days in calendar	Closed	Closed	Open	Open	Open
Cecil	4 days in calendar	Closed	Closed	Open	Open	Open
Charles	4 days in calendar	Closed	Closed	Open	Open	Open
Dorchester	5 days at end of calendar	Closed	Closed	closed	1 hr. delay	Open
Frederick	5 days in calendar	Closed	Closed	2 hr. delay 2 schools closed	Open 1 school closed	Open
Garrett	8 days in calendar	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Harford	8 days in calendar	Closed	Closed	Closed	Open	<b>Holiday</b>
Howard	5 days in calendar	Closed	Closed	Open 1 school closed	Open	Open
Kent	5 days in calendar	Closed	Closed	1 hr. delay	Open	Open
Montgomery	4 days in calendar	Closed	Closed	Open	Open	Open
Prince George's	4 days at end of calendar	<b>Holiday</b>	Closed	Open 2 schools closed	Open 1 school closed	Open
Queen Anne's	5 days in calendar	Closed	Closed	90 min. delay	Open	Open
St. Mary's	5 days at end of calendar	Closed	Closed	Open	Open	Open
Somerset	3 days in calendar	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Talbot	Days added to end of cal.	Closed	Closed	90 min delay	Open	Open
Washington	8 days in calendar	Closed	Closed	2 hr. delay	Open	Open
Wicomico	5 days in calendar	Closed	Closed	2 hr. delay	Open	Open
Worcester	3 days in calendar	Closed	Closed	Closed	Open	Open





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# The Dispatch

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## Poll To Gauge Opinion On Post-Labor Day School Start

Posted on **03/20/2014** by **DispatchAdmin**

OCEAN CITY – Although legislation to mandate Maryland public schools start after Labor Day has been tabled for this year, efforts remain underway to gauge the public sentiment on the matter.

At last week's Tourism Commission meeting, Greater Ocean City Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Melanie Pursel acknowledged the task force studying a post-labor day start date for Maryland public schools will not have its report complete in time for the legislature to review this year, but an initiative is being forwarded to conduct an opinion poll to see what Marylanders think about the proposal.

"It is really exciting," Pursel said. "It will be a valid and reliable opinion poll working with a company that is reputable, so David Reel with Maryland Hotel and Lodging Association put out a bid to receive proposals ... and what they are looking at is polling a considerable size, about 1,000 Marylanders on how they feel about it because that has been the big push back — what does the general population think, what do teachers think, what do parents think, what do Marylanders think."

According to Pursel, it will cost around \$20,000 to conduct a poll questioning Maryland residents' opinion on whether public schools should be mandated to start after Labor Day.

"It is very, very important that we get it done ... we feel confident it is going to come out with a favorable report but we never know," she said.

### Featured Stories



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BERLIN — Local authorities remain on the scene this afternoon investigating a suspected "murder-suicide" on Williams Street in Berlin. The Berlin Police Department received an initial call this morning at 8 for a shooting. The Worcester County Bureau of Investigation (WCBI) responded to the scene at 603 Williams Street as well as the Md. State Police Homicide Unit. Worcester County ...

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OCEAN CITY – A fresh

spark may come to the 4th of July fireworks show downtown this summer as the new Caroline Street Comfort Station opens an opportunity to test out a “pyromusical” display. The Recreation and Parks Department’s Special Events division has been working to bring new and exciting events to Ocean City as well as modernizing current events, ...

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 Urrp #lru#DJK

Eighteen students in Worcester Technical High School’s Biomedical Science and Pre-Engineering programs recently conducted a community partnership project involving redesigning a new emergency department waiting room for AGH. Some of the students are pictured above presenting the concept to AGH officials earlier this month.



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Last month, the Worcester County Board of Education voted to return to a post-Labor Day start of Sept. 2, 2014 making Worcester County Public Schools (WCPS) the only school system in Maryland to start classes after Labor Day.

The debate over when the school year should begin has raged in Worcester since it became the last school system to begin classes before Labor Day back in the 2009-2010 school year.

Opponents have argued that the early start hurts resort businesses since they lose their student workers before the end of the busy summer season as well as the fact families cut short their vacation seasons. Proponents have countered that the extra time is needed to prepare for exams and that an earlier last day is better for students and parents.

The Board of Education’s stance is differs from Superintendent of Schools Dr. Jerry Wilson, who, along with every other superintendent in Maryland, favors continuing with the pre-Labor Day start date.

Wilson defended his stance earlier in February in a meeting with the Ocean City Economic Development Committee (EDC), noting that parent surveys have shown support for longer holiday breaks and an earlier last day of school, both of which necessitate a pre-Labor Day start.

But Board of Education President Rothermel was adamant in his belief that Worcester should break with the rest of the state. He acknowledged that parental surveys don’t display an overwhelming demand for a later starting school year but felt not everyone was voicing their opinion.

The most recent school calendar survey received 73 parental comments supporting classes beginning post-Labor Day. Those comments represent about 5 percent of the 1,448 survey returns for 2014. Of the calendars proposed for parents to review, none of those created by the school system included a post-Labor Day school start. However, there was space left for comments allowing parents to write about any topic they wanted.

This article was written by [DispatchAdmin](#), [Joanne Shriner](#). Bookmark the [permalink](#).

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