



Lillian M. Lowery, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Schools

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March 26, 2014

Dr. Joshua P. Starr
Superintendent
Montgomery County Public Schools
850 Hungerford Drive
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Dr. Starr:

Thank you for your letters of March 18, 2014 and March 25, 2014 in which you request a waiver of the 180-day school year requirement due to the inclement weather in your area. Specifically, you have amended your original request from a waiver of four days to a waiver of five days. You indicate that although you have included four inclement weather days in your school calendar, your system has been closed for ten days.

On March 25, 2014, the State Board of Education gave me the authority to grant a waiver of up to five days for school systems closed due to severe weather and approve requests for adjustments in local school calendars. Out of great concern for the lost time for students this school year, local school systems are required to demonstrate their effort to provide additional instruction for students by opening on previously scheduled school holidays, other days identified in the school calendar, and by extending the school year. These conditions are set forth in regulation, COMAR 13A.02.01.04 (C), and I assured the State Board that I would review each waiver request in light of these expectations.

I note that in the school calendar provided to the Maryland State Department of Education, your school system has developed a school contingency calendar for this school year, which would extend your calendar by up to nine days should your system be disrupted by emergencies and school closures. The student calendar has been extended by one day, making the last day of school June 13, 2014.

Your request does not demonstrate an effort to modify the school calendar to make up for lost instructional time. Therefore, I must deny your request. As you deem appropriate, you may resubmit your request in light of the expectations cited above.

I appreciate your continued focus on instruction as we deal with the consequences of the severe winter weather that we have experienced.

Sincerely,

Lillian M. Lowery, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Schools
LML/BC

CaseID30148