



MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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MARYLAND

March 13, 2014

Dr. Lillian M. Lowery
State Superintendent of Schools
Maryland State Department of Education
200 West Baltimore Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201



Dear Dr. Lowery:

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) is requesting a waiver of 4 days from the 180-day school year requirement for the 2013–2014 school year as a result of the serious weather conditions we experienced this year. The emergency situations in Montgomery County resulted in MCPS schools being closed for a total of nine days this school year.

The Montgomery County Board of Education's adopted calendar for the current school year, which is scheduled to end on Thursday, June 12, 2014, includes 184 days of instruction. There are 4 days built into the calendar beyond the required 180 days to address the loss of days due to weather or other emergency conditions. In most years, the additional four days are adequate to compensate for the loss of instructional days for emergency closings. In addition to the 184 scheduled days of instruction, we will extend the school year by 1 day, and the school year would now end on Friday, June 13, 2014.

Our elementary schools are scheduled for 1,137.5 hours each year, our middle schools are scheduled for 1,229.5 hours, and our high schools are scheduled for 1,234.5 hours. The number of scheduled hours for instruction exceeds the state requirement of 1,080 hours for elementary and middle schools and 1,170 hours for high schools. If this waiver of four days is approved, we still will meet the number of hours required by the state.

Based on the serious emergency situations resulting from the major snowstorms experienced this year, the fact that our school calendar included 4 days beyond the 180 days required and would be extended by 1 additional day to June 13, 2014, and that the number of hours would be adequate to meet the state requirements, I request this waiver of 4 days be approved.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Joshua P. Starr, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

JPS:Ish

Copy to:

Members of the Board of Education
Executive Staff

Mrs. Cuttitta
Dr. Mugge

Mr. Prouty

Office of the Superintendent of Schools