

TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Carey M. Wright, Ed.D., Interim State Superintendent of Schools 

DATE: January 23, 2024

SUBJECT: Request from Queen Anne’s County Public Schools for a Calendar Modification

Purpose

To consider the conditional waiver request to open school on Presidents’ Day as an inclement weather make-up day, if needed, for Queen Anne’s County Public Schools for the 2023-2024 school year.

Background

Education Article §7-103 requires schools to be open for student attendance for 180 days and closed on the following public school holidays: Thanksgiving Day and the day after; Christmas Eve and from then through January 1; Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; Presidents’ Day; the Friday before Easter and from then through the Monday after Easter; Memorial Day; and primary and general election days. Subsection (b) (iv) provides the State Board with the authority to permit schools to open on holidays if normal school attendance is prevented because of natural disaster, civil disaster, or severe weather conditions.

Executive Summary

Queen Anne’s County Public Schools was closed on January 10, 2024. The request submitted by Queen Anne’s County Public Schools on January 10, 2024, asks for a conditional waiver to use February 19, 2024, Presidents’ Day as an inclement weather make-up day, if needed. Queen Anne’s County Public Schools has two additional days built into its School Calendar and has identified Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, and Presidents’ Day as contingent make-up days.

Action

It is being requested that the Maryland State Board of Education approve the conditional waiver to open school on February 19, 2024, Presidents’ Day, if needed, for Queen Anne’s County Public Schools for the 2023-2024 school year.

Attachments

Waiver Request from Queen Anne’s County Public Schools.



QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Where Our Future Begins

January 10, 2024

Carey M. Wright, Ed.D.
Interim State Superintendent of Schools
Maryland State Department of Education
200 West Baltimore Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Dear Dr. Wright:

I am writing to request a conditional waiver to use Monday, February 19, 2024, Presidents' Day as an inclement weather make-up day. Queen Anne's County Public Schools (QACPS) built two holiday inclement weather contingency days into our board approved calendar (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day & President's Day) that was submitted to MSDE, and have two additional days embedded at the end of the school year for potential weather related make-up days.

QACPS used an inclement weather day today, January 10, 2024. We are not certain what the remaining weeks of winter may bring. Utilizing February 19, 2024 as a regular school day will allow us to retain our two inclement weather days in the event of future inclement weather this season.

Your consideration is appreciated. If you have any questions or need additional information, I can be reached at patricia.saelens@qacps.org.

Very truly yours.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patricia Saelens".

Dr. Patricia Saelens, Superintendent
Queen Anne's County Public Schools

cc: Teresa Dantzler, Ombudsman, MSDE
Helen Bennett, QACPS Board President
QACPS Executive Team