Dear MCPS Community,

It's that time of year again when we develop the school calendar for the following school year. Since last year, school districts across Maryland have been discussing how best to design their school calendars given the new time constraints placed on the length of the school year. The current 2017–2018 school year is the first school year operating under these new rules, which are that school cannot start before Labor Day and must end before June 15.

We have been meeting with focus groups of parents, staff, and other stakeholder groups these past several weeks, and we welcome your feedback on how best to design the 2018-2019 school calendar. Next year, we will have even fewer days to work with than in years past to accommodate our instructional traditions, such as having 184 instructional days, and our non-instructional traditions, such as a full week for Spring Break. As we design next year's calendar, we start with several requirements from the State:

- September 4–June 14: the permissible time frame for instruction
- 180: the minimum number of instructional days required
- 15: the number of State mandated days that schools must be closed
- 3: the number of snow make-up days required at the end of the year (before June 14)

Once the calendar accounts for these State required elements, a total of six days remain that can be programmed for other, non-required educational or operational priorities, such as Spring Break or instructional days above the state minimum of 180. How to allocate these days among our multiple calendar priorities is our challenge.

For a more detailed explanation of the calendar, as well as to see various examples of how the calendar could be developed, please visit our school calendar webpage. If you would like to offer comment on the calendar, please do so using the drop box provided on the calendar webpage. Thank you for your continued support.

Montgomery County Public Schools