



William R. Hite, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

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Greetings Teachers,

I would like to update you on where we stand with the Maryland School Assessment (MSA) and the school calendar for the rest of the year.

Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) and other districts asked the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) for an extension of the MSA testing period as a result of the loss of instructional days we suffered due to the blizzards we've experienced this winter. Unfortunately, we learned Tuesday that the Maryland State Board of Education did not approve our request due to federal deadlines and a tight scoring schedule for the MSA.

Although we did not receive the extension, I am confident that your diligence and dedication to educating our students throughout the school year will shine through when our students take the MSA next month.

PGCPS will apply for a waiver of five of the nine instructional days lost from the winter blizzards, after the Maryland State Board of Education voted Tuesday to set a limited waiver process for Maryland school system calendars.

With the approval of the five-day waiver, PGCPS would then implement the inclement weather calendar and extend the school year by four days. The last day for students would then be June 16 and the last day for teachers would be June 17. The MSA and Spring Break schedule would then continue as planned. Our goal will be to protect the schedule for Spring Break, which runs from March 29 through April 5 (including Easter holidays).

Over the next several weeks, we are asking parents to partner with us as we gear up for the MSA by reading with their students at home, and talking to them about vocabulary and the author's intended meaning in the text. And for mathematics, we are asking parents to sit down with their children and review concepts taught throughout the year, and apply math to the real world. For example, students can calculate the area of a carpet in a room.

And before the day of each test, parents are asked to ensure their children get a good night's sleep and arrive at school on time.

Finally, we are asking teachers to help parents with this task by giving students purposeful work in the classroom and sending assignments home that are related to the competencies that will be covered on the MSA.

As always, I thank you for the great work that you do in our schools each day to ensure that our children achieve at the highest possible level here in Prince George's County Public Schools.

Sincerely,

William R. Hite, Jr., Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools