

WADE KACH
Legislative District 5B
Baltimore County

Health and Government Operations
Joint Audit Committee
Rules and Executive
Nominations Committee
Joint Committee on Legislative Ethics
Protocol Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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S. Dallas Dance, PhD
Superintendent
Baltimore County Public Schools
6901 Charles Street
Towson, Maryland 21204

April 7, 2014

Dear Dr. Dance,


Upon review of the correspondence between you, Hereford High School Principal Andrew Last and representatives of Hereford Works!, the parent group empowered to advocate for the retention of the indisputably successful 4x4 semester block schedule, we are deeply troubled by the ostensibly arbitrary and specious grounds upon which the decision to jettison the proven block schedule was made.

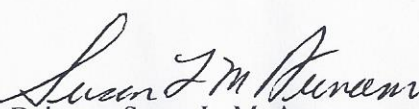
Predicated on inflated mobility rates and a one-size-fits-all approach, your decision to implement a non-semesterized, eight-class period schedule imperils opportunities for both highly functioning and special needs students alike. The 4x4 semester block schedule, a pillar of the nationally recognized academic success of Hereford High School for over two decades, permits the very type of intensive learning environment that has propelled Hereford into the top 500 among the 21,000 schools rated by *US News*—to say nothing of its even more astounding top 250 rank for STEM. To be sure, your decision to discard Hereford's current schedule will inhibit students from rapid advancement in a variety of courses, including foreign languages.

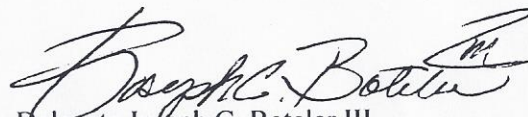
Though you initially cited student mobility as the chief reason for this change, we understand that you have since conceded to parents from Hereford that the five percent mobility rate upon which you relied on for this decision was, in fact, lower than one percent. Relying on a mobility rate that includes codes for death, pregnancy, jail, transfers during the summer and transfers out of BCPS, is plainly inappropriate for a rural area of the County comprising some 200 miles and only one high school.

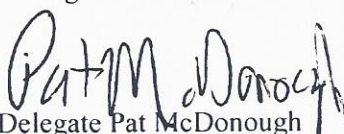
We note that the existing 4x4 semester block schedule already comports with the aims of your schedule shift. Hereford teachers currently teach six classes and students earn eight credits each year. Indeed, your proposal disrupts a widely recognized learning environment with no demonstrable benefit to the Schools System at large. Accordingly, we implore you to reconsider your decision and leave Hereford's current schedule in place going forward.

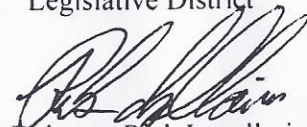
Sincerely,

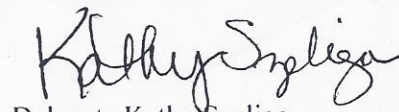

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