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Northland Pines School District

1800 Pleasure Island Road • Eagle River, WI 54521
Phone: 715-479-6487 • Fax: 715-479-7633
www.npsd.k12.wi.us

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Mike Richie, District Administrator
Margo Smith, C.P.A., Business Manager



December 21, 2016

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
Tony Evers, State Superintendent
125 S. Webster Street
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Tony:

The Northland Pines School District is requesting to start the 2017-18 school year prior to September 1st. As indicated in Wis. Stat. 118.045, Commencement of School Term, a school board may commence the school term before September 1st in any school year if the school board requests the Department to allow it to commence the school term before September 1st and the school board includes reasons with its request. Furthermore, it goes on to state the Department may grant the request only if it determines there are extraordinary reasons for granting it.

The Northland Pines School District is requesting to start the 2017-18 school year on Monday, August 28, 2017. I strongly believe our reasons that we have enclosed are considered extraordinary reasons for the Northland Pines School District.

In addition, enclosed is a school board approved Resolution requesting the start date of August 28, 2017. This Resolution was approved unanimously 6-0 by the Northland Pines School Board members on Monday, December 19, 2016.

I encourage you to approve this request as each school district in the state of Wisconsin has its own set of extraordinary circumstances. You must realize that one size does not fit all and every district is unique and has its own set of circumstances. It would be in the best interest of our students, educational system and community if the Northland Pines School District was allowed to begin the new school year on August 28, 2017.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Richie". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Michael Richie
District Administrator

Cc: Northland Pines Board of Education
Northland Pines administration

School Board Resolution on School Start Date Change

WHEREAS the State of Wisconsin by state statute has indicated that public school districts in the State of Wisconsin cannot start school before September 1 pursuant to *Wis. Stat. sec. 118.045 Commencement of school term*; and

WHEREAS the school board may commence a school term prior to September 1st if it submits a written request to the Department of Public Instruction asking for an earlier start date listing the extraordinary reasons for the earlier start date request; and

WHEREAS local control over the start date would allow for additional days of instruction for students prior to state and local assessments, and preparation for the ACT and Advanced Placement; and

WHEREAS local control over the start date will allow Northland Pines School District to align its school calendar with post-secondary institutions to better meet the needs of our students; and

WHEREAS local control over the start date will allow Northland Pines School District staff to participate in professional development college coursework for license renewal as K12 schedules become more aligned with post-secondary schedules; and

WHEREAS local control over the start date will allow the Northland Pines School District to adjust its calendar to allow for non-instructional days the week of deer hunting/Thanksgiving in order to address student safety of children not being out at bus stops during the rifle/gun season during legal shooting hours and in addition to address, to prevent the extremely high student absentee rate during this week of school due to the culture of the hunting season in the northwoods being a strong family tradition, and to prevent ending the school year in the 3rd week of June; and

WHEREAS local control over the start date will allow the Northland Pines School District to better align its school calendar with the co-curricular schedule for students that begins in early August; and

WHEREAS tourism has changed to where most tourists leave Wisconsin because regionally in other states public schools start in early to mid-August; and

WHEREAS charter and voucher school districts have the flexibility to start prior to September 1st and still receive public funding from the State of Wisconsin.

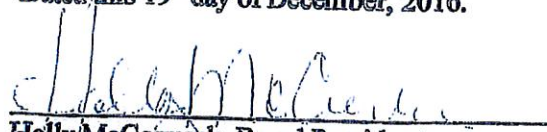
WHEREAS the State Superintendent is recommending in his 2017-19 Biennial Budget to allow the Milwaukee Public School District to be provided an exception to this provision in the state law *to allow the district to maximize learning opportunities*; therefore, this opportunity should be granted for all school districts in the State of Wisconsin.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Northland Pines School District is officially requesting approval to commence the school term for the 2017-18 school year on August 28, 2017, and establish local control in determining the school calendar.

BE IT RESOLVED FURTHER that the Northland Pines School District will be better able to educate its school children because of this flexibility as greater outcomes are anticipated academically as well as preventing absenteeism and for the safety of students.

BE IT RESOLVED FURTHER that on December 19, 2016, the Northland Pines School District passed this Resolution in order to establish local control for the school calendar by a 6-0 vote.

Dated this 19th day of December, 2016.


Holly McCormack, Board President


Jim Mulleady, Board Clerk


Dr. Michael Richie, District Administrator

1 ***Resolution 17-03: Commencement of the School Term***
2

3 **Create:** The WASB supports legislation to allow PreK-8 school districts to begin their school
4 term before September 1.
5

6 **Rationale:** School districts have supported, without success, attempts to repeal the school start date
7 mandate law (s. 118.045, Stats.) since that law was enacted in 1999. Over the years, one argument
8 that the tourism industry has used to justify its support for the current mandate law is that starting
9 school prior to September 1 deprives that industry of seasonal workers needed to meet demand.

10 However, students in PreK-8 districts are not typically part of the teenage workforce that is employed
11 in the summer tourism industry. As a result, the impact of making this change on tourism and the
12 tourism workforce would be small, given the small number of PreK-8 districts (46) in the state.
13

14 An existing WASB resolution—Resolution 1.22 *Authority to Establish the School Calendar*—calls for
15 repealing the existing start date statute. This proposed resolution would amend the existing statute to
16 create a limited exception without affecting existing Resolution 1.22.
17

The Northland Pines School District supports Resolution 17-03 *Commencement of the School Term* that would allow PreK8 school districts to begin the school year prior to September 1st. We agree with the argument that PreK through 8th grade students are not part of the teenage workforce and by allowing PreK through 8th grade districts to start the school year earlier, it will not have a negative impact on the tourism workforce in Wisconsin.

The Northland Pines School District would also like to go on record encouraging a **total repeal** of the School Start Date Law. All school districts' Boards' of Education should be able to have **local control** and the ability to make the decision on when to start the school year based on what's best for their community and school district.

A total repeal of the current School Start Date law would not only be good for the Milwaukee public school district as indicated by State Superintendent Tony Evers; and PreK8 school districts as indicated by Resolution 17-03, but more importantly a complete repeal of the School Start Date law would benefit **ALL** students and school districts in the state of Wisconsin. WASB needs to support and work diligently for all school boards to obtain local control when it comes to the start date of the school year.



January 5, 2017

Dr. Michael Richie
District Administrator
Northland Pines School District
1800 Pleasure Island Road
Eagle River, WI 54521

Dear Dr. Richie:

This is in response to your recent correspondence which seeks exemption from the school start date law to allow the 2017-18 school year to commence before September 1 for the Clinton Community School District. Wis. Stat. sec. 118.045 Commencement of School Term prohibits school boards from commencing the school term until September 1.

Rules issued by the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to implement this statute are found in Chapter PI 27 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code. The department's approval authority is limited under section PI 27.03(5) to "extraordinary reasons" as defined under the administrative code. Five specific "extraordinary reasons" are identified in the administrative code for granting a request to start the school term prior to September 1 (http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/pi/27).

The department appreciates your efforts to create a school calendar with a school start date that reflects the needs in your local community. Whereas your proposal has merit from an educational standpoint, your proposed calendar may also have many positives that would enhance the school year for your students, and we are indeed interested in supporting innovative solutions to improve student learning and create enrichment opportunities for students; however, the circumstances under which the request is made do not fall within the "extraordinary reasons" as defined in the administrative code. On this basis, we do not have the authority to approve this waiver request. We have had other waiver requests of this nature and were not able to approve them. In order to approve these requests, a change in state law would be necessary.

Thank you for providing an excellent education for the students in the Northland Pines School District. We wish you well for your 2016-17 school year.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Vail, Director
Content and Learning Team

RJV:bk

c: Mike Thompson, Deputy State Superintendent
Holly McCormack, School Board President

Chapter PI 27

COMMENCEMENT OF SCHOOL TERM

PI 27.01 Applicability and purpose.
PI 27.02 Definitions.

PI 27.03 Commencement of school term.
PI 27.04 Reporting requirements.

Note: Chapter PI 27 was created as an emergency rule effective March 13, 2002.

PI 27.01 Applicability and purpose. This chapter establishes procedures for school boards to use in requesting that a school term commence prior to September 1 as provided for under s. 118.045, Stats. This chapter also establishes criteria used in determining whether an extraordinary reason exists for granting such a request.

History: CR 01-130; cr. Register April 2002 No. 556, eff. 5-1-02.

PI 27.02 Definitions. In this chapter:

(1) "Department" means the Wisconsin department of public instruction.

(2) "Forces of nature" means an event that is outside the control of the school board and could not be avoided by exercise of due care.

(2m) "International baccalaureate program" means a pre-university course of study authorized by a high school's registration with the international baccalaureate organization, a non-profit educational organization founded in 1968 and operating out of Geneva, Switzerland, that includes a standardized curriculum and a mandatory standardized examination schedule, as required by that sponsoring organization.

(3) "School board" has the meaning defined in s. 115.001 (7), Stats.

(4) "School term" means the time commencing with the first school day and ending with the last school day that the schools of a school district are in operation for attendance of pupils in a school year, other than for the operation of summer classes.

History: CR 01-130; cr. Register April 2002 No. 556, eff. 5-1-02; CR 03-112; cr. (2m) Register July 2004 No. 583, eff. 8-1-04.

PI 27.03 Commencement of school term. (1) Except as specified under subs. (2) and (3), beginning in the 2002-2003 school year, no public school may commence a school term until September 1.

(2) The provisions in this chapter do not prohibit a school board from doing any of the following:

(a) Holding athletic contests or practices before September 1.

(b) Scheduling in-service days or work days before September 1.

(c) Offering specialized programming for pupils before September 1. Specialized programming allows pupils to engage in specific activities such as gifted and talented classes, remedial education, migrant programs, or the youth option program. In addition, new learning strategies to address a school in need of improvement under s. 115.38 (4), Stats., may be considered specialized programming. While this provision allows certain activities for targeted groups of pupils to begin before September 1, it does not allow the school board to officially begin its school term before September 1.

(d) Holding school year-round.

(3) (a) A school board may commence a school term prior to September 1, 2002, if it submits a written request to the department under sub. (4) asking for an earlier school start date, and such request is granted by the department. The request shall be sub-

mitted at the earliest possible time prior to the beginning of the school term.

(b) 1. A school board may commence a school term prior to September 1 in subsequent years if it submits a written request to the department under sub. (4) asking for an earlier school start date, and such request is granted by the department. The request shall be submitted annually by January 1 prior to the beginning of the school term.

2. If an extraordinary event occurs after the January 1 deadline, the school board shall submit the written request under this paragraph at the earliest possible time prior to the beginning of the school term.

(4) The request under sub. (3) shall be adopted as a written resolution by the school board at a school board meeting that complies with the open meetings law under ss. 19.83 and 19.84, Stats. The request and resolution shall include all of the following:

(a) The reasons and any other relevant facts relating to the request for an earlier school start date.

(b) When an extraordinary event took place or a chronology of events leading to the request.

(5) The department may grant a request only if it determines that there are extraordinary reasons for granting the request. Extraordinary reasons include any of the following:

(a) Calendars for the 2002-2003 or 2003-2004 school year that were ratified by both parties prior to September 1, 2001. This provision applies to union high school districts and the school districts operating only elementary grades whose territory is included in the union high school district when one of these districts has a ratified calendar for the 2002-2003 or 2003-2004 school year.

(b) Major construction projects that cause the school term to be altered and necessitate an earlier start date for the entire district.

(c) Closure of school due to forces of nature, code violations, or environmental orders.

(d) Excessive costs associated with the transportation of pupils who attend private schools that start prior to September 1. If an earlier start date is requested under this paragraph, the school board shall provide sufficient documentation to establish that it has made a good faith effort to work with the private school to coordinate a school start date on or after September 1.

(e) Participation by a high school in the international baccalaureate program with more than 75% of the 11th and 12th grade pupils enrolled in the high school also being enrolled in one or more of the courses that are offered under the international baccalaureate program, if all of the following conditions are met:

1. The pupils in the school district are given the option of enrolling in another high school in the school district that is not subject to a request for an early start date.

2. The request applies only to the high school that is participating in the international baccalaureate program and not to any other elementary, middle, junior high, or high schools operated by the school district.

(6) (a) The department shall make its determination in writing as to whether an extraordinary reason exists and shall notify the school board of its determination. The determination shall be



December 20, 2016

Dear State Legislators, School Boards and School Administrators,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Eagle River Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center, I would like to share our support for local control of the school start date and that each school board in the State of Wisconsin should have the power to choose what date is best for their district/community to start the school year each year.

The Board of Directors of the Eagle River Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center voted unanimously in an 8 to 0 vote to support local control of the school start date.

Sincerely,

Kimberly L. Emerson

Executive Director

EAGLE RIVER AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND VISITORS CENTER
201 N. RAILROAD ST. • PO BOX 1917 • EAGLE RIVER, WI 54821
800-388-6318 • (718) 478-6400 • FAX: (718) 478-1960
WWW.EAGLERIVER.ORG • INFO@EAGLERIVER.ORG



Three Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce & Welcome Center, Inc.
1704 Superior Street, P.O. Box 268, Three Lakes, Wisconsin 54562
715-546-3344 • 800-972-6103
web: www.threelakes.com • email: vacation@threelakes.com

January 3, 2017

Dear State Legislators, School Board and School Administrators,

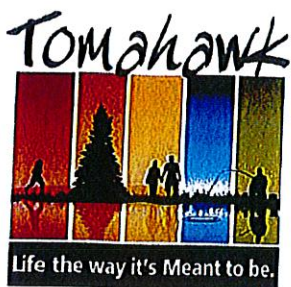
On the behalf of the Three Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and Information Bureau, we would like to express our support for local control of the school start date. In addition, that each School Board in the state of Wisconsin should have the power to choose what date is best for their particular district/community to start the school year each year.

Respectfully,



Skip Brunswick

Executive Director



Tomahawk Regional Chamber of Commerce

208 North 4th Street, Post Office Box 412, Tomahawk WI 54487

www.gototomahawk.com

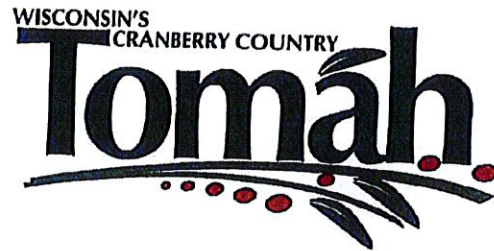
December 21, 2016

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Tomahawk Regional Chamber of Commerce we pledge our support for local control of the school calendars to be created at the discretion of our local school board.

We support the schools right to choose in the State of Wisconsin the date the works best for each district to begin their school year.

Jessica Witte

Executive Director



January 5, 2017

I am writing on behalf of the Greater Tomah Area Chamber of Commerce and the Tomah Convention and Visitor's Bureau to support our local school district. As we know, Wisconsin is a very diverse state. What works for one community, does not necessarily work for another. We see this in tourism, agriculture and economic development. Because of our unique and diverse business and economic climate, schools should be able to control their yearly calendars at the local level. This will better help support businesses and the residents of our communities.

I thank you for your assistance in helping to grow Wisconsin's tourism and economy through embracing each community's unique needs.

Sincerely,

Tina M. Thompson

President/CEO
Greater Tomah Area Chamber of Commerce
Tomah Convention and Visitor's Bureau



Merrill

Area

Chamber

of Commerce & Information Center

705 North Center Avenue • Merrill, WI 54452 • 715-536-9474 • Fax 715-539-2043 • Toll Free 877-907-2757 • www.merrillchamber.org

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Lighthouse Storage

Chairman Elect 2017
Shelly Mondeik
North Central Technical College

Vice Chair
Jeff Schneider
Sierra Pacific

Finance Officer
Noel Bushor
Courtide Furniture

Immediate Past Chairman
Tonia Speener
Clark Dietz

CEO & Corporate Secretary
Debbe Kinsey

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Dawn Bishop
Council Grounds State Park

Barb Haslemann
Dave's County Market

Marty Heyne
Church Mutual Insurance

Dennis Krueger
Lincoln Wood Products

Zach Kubichek
Sacemill Brewing Company

Nancy Kwiesielewicz
Ministry Good Samaritan Health Care

Kent Reinhardt
Wisconsin Public Service

Brian Richards
Richard Mamer CPA

Kurt Rust
Lincoln Community Bank

Tim Schreiber
Foto News & Merrill Courier

Ex-Officio's

Mayor William Bialecki
City of Merrill

Dave Johnson
City of Merrill Administrator

January 3, 2017

Dear State Legislators:

On behalf of the Merrill Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, I would like to share our support for the Merrill Area School District and the Merrill School Board in making local decisions regarding the local school calendars.

We support the schools right to choose in the State of Wisconsin the date that works best for each district to begin their school year as long as they are fulfilling the total number of school days set forth by the state legislature.

I urge you to allow localized control by each school district for their future calendar decisions.

Sincerely,

Debbe Kinsey
Chief Executive Officer



Members....working together since 1911

ATHENS AREA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

ATHENS, WISCONSIN

"Working Together For a Better Community"

(715)257-7531 or (715)257-7173

January 4 , 2017

On behalf of the board of directors of the Athens Area Development Corporation we pledge our support for local control of the school calendar start date to be in the control of the local school boards . Local school boards know what's best for their particular school system and community.



Randy Decker

President

On Wisconsin !!!



January 12, 2017

Re: Letter of Support

The Rice Lake Area Chamber of Commerce is a private, voluntary, not-for-profit membership organization of businesses and professional persons dedicated to improving the economic and community environment of the Rice Lake area and fostering the development of quality business growth and prosperity.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Rice Lake Chamber of Commerce, I would like to share our support for local control of the school start date. Our Board of Directors believes that each school board in the state of Wisconsin should have the power to choose what date is best for their district/community to start school each year.

The Board of Directors of the Rice Lake Chamber of Commerce voted unanimously to support local control of the school start date.

In attendance: Chris Fitzgerald, Chris Olsen, Mark O'Brien, Kathy Kadlec, Jackie Molden, Mike Britton, Megan Bachman, Phil Fader.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Hiram".

Karen Hiram

Executive Director, Rice Lake Chamber of Commerce



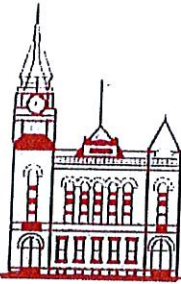
Hurley Area Chamber of Commerce
316 Silver Street
Hurley, WI 54534
715-561-4334
www.hurleywi.com

January 6, 2017

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Hurley Area Chamber of Commerce we pledge our support for local control of the school calendars to be created at the discretion of our local school board.

We support the schools right to choose in the State of Wisconsin the date that works best for each district to begin their school year.

Rita Franzol, Director
Hurley Area Chamber of Commerce



CITY OF INDEPENDENCE

23688 ADAMS STREET • P.O. BOX 189
INDEPENDENCE, WI 54747
TEL. 715-985-3055 • FAX 715-985-2530

January 9, 2017

Dear State Legislators, School Boards and School Administration,

On behalf of the City of Independence, I would like to express our support for local control of the school calendar; including school start date.

We support that every school board in the State of Wisconsin be granted the power to choose the school start date that works best for their district and community needs.

Sincerely,

Mayor Robert Baecker
City of Independence, WI



January 16, 2017

Dear State Legislators:

On behalf of the Marathon Area Business Association Board of Directors, we would like to share our support for the Marathon School District and the Marathon School Board in making local decisions regarding the local school calendars.

We believe each school board in the State of Wisconsin should have the right to choose the date that works best for their district to begin their school year, as long as they are fulfilling the total number of school days/minutes set forth by the state legislature.

We urge you to allow localized control by each school district for their future calendar decisions.

Sincerely

Keith Paul,
President

Ryan Kreager
VP/Secretary

Brian Guntz
Treasurer



Baldwin-Woodville Area School District

Educating our Future Leaders

January 24, 2017

Dear State Legislators,

On behalf of the School Board of the Baldwin-Woodville Area School District we would like to pledge our support for local control of the school start date. We believe that each school board in the State of Wisconsin should have the power to choose the date that is best for their community, students and families.

The Baldwin-Woodville Area School District Board voted unanimously in a 4 to 0 vote on January 16, 2017 to support local control of the school start date.

Sincerely,

Jeff Campbell
School Board President

Superintendent's Office
550 Highway 12
Baldwin, WI 54002

Phone: (715) 684-3411
Fax: (715) 684-3168

BW High School
1000 13th Avenue
Baldwin, WI 54002

Phone: (715) 684-3321
Fax: (715) 684-5160

Viking Middle School
500 Southside Drive
Woodville, WI 54028

Phone: (715) 698-2456
Fax: (715) 698-3315

Greenfield Elementary
1160 14th Avenue
Baldwin, WI 54002

Phone: (715) 684-3334
Fax: (715) 684-5109



BALDWIN-WOODVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & VISITORS BUREAU

PO Box 142, Baldwin, WI 54002

715.688.2221

January 16, 2017

Dear State Legislators,

On behalf of the Baldwin-Woodville Chamber of Commerce we pledge our support to the Baldwin-Woodville Area School District's Board of Education and their control to create a school calendar. We believe that each school board in the State of Wisconsin should have the power to choose the date that is best for their community.

Sincerely,

Ryma Lindquist
Chamber President

Baldwin-Woodville Area Chamber of Commerce



237 Broad Street North
Prescott, WI 54021-1703
www.prescottwi.com

Area Chamber of Commerce

715-262-3284
FAX 715-262-5943
email:info@prescottwi.com

January 18, 2017

Dear State Legislators and School Administrators,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Prescott Area Chamber of Commerce, I would like to pledge our support for control of the school calendars, which includes the school year start date, being placed in the discretion our local school board. Our Board of Directors voted unanimously to support this pledge as we trust that our local school board and leaders are best suited to know and honor the local traditions and culture of our community. Furthermore, the local school board is present in the community and can best assess the wishes of its constituents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Philip A. Helgeson". The signature is stylized with several horizontal strokes and a long, sweeping underline.

Philip A. Helgeson
President

School Calendar DPI Waiver Rationale

Wisconsin is one of the few states which has a law that established a school start date. Wisconsin Act 16 eliminated the provision which allowed school districts to commence its school term before September 1 in any year that it held a public hearing and adopted a resolution to do so. Act 16 allows a school district to commence its school term before September 1 if the school board makes a request (including the reason) to the Department of Public Instruction (DPI). The department may only grant a request if it determines that there are extraordinary reasons for granting it. DPI was also required to develop administrative rules to implement and administer this provision.

The Northland Pines School District has developed three calendars for the 2017-18 school year. One calendar follows the current law with the official start date scheduled for September 5th. September 1 falls on a Friday in 2017 and the administration determined it was not a good idea to start school on a Friday of Labor weekend; therefore, the first day of school would be Tuesday, September 5. The second calendar developed would require an approved waiver from DPI and school would start for students on August 21, 2017. The third calendar also would require a waiver and school would start for students on August 28, 2017.

The current law is not what is best for students and education. I have outlined below rationale and extraordinary reasons why the legislature needs to address this issue and change our current school start date law to allow all school districts in Wisconsin to start a school year **determined by their locally elected School Board.**

The Northland Pines School District Board of Education is officially requesting a waiver from DPI to start school on August 28, 2017 for the following sixteen Extraordinary Reasons.

1. 7-12 Grade Structure Transition:

Beginning with the 2017-18 school year we are changing our grade structure by moving our 7th and 8th grade students from our middle school into our high school building to create a 7-12 grade structure. We would like the first day of school in the 7-12 building to only be grades 7, 8 and 9 for a transitional and mentoring day. If we don't start school until September 5th that means our 10th, 11th and 12th grade students would not start the school year until Wednesday, September 6th. By providing the waiver, our 10th, 11th and 12th grade students would be able to start school on August 29th.

2. Increase of 6 days of Instruction for students prior to participating in any Advanced Placement or ACT testing:

By starting school on Monday, August 28, our students taking AP tests, and ACT tests would have 6 more instructional days to prepare, study and receive classroom instruction prior to taking those tests (compared to if school starts September 1st under current law).

3. Increase of 5 or 6 days of Instruction for students prior to participating in any mandated testing:

By starting school on Monday, August 28, our students taking state mandated tests would have 5 or 6 more instructional days to prepare, study and receive classroom instruction prior to taking those tests/assessments (compared to if school starts September 1st under current law).

4. Student Motivation Level:

By starting school on Monday, August 28, students are ready to return to school and they would then finish the year on June 1st rather than June 6th. Students will be more engaged starting in August and ending in the beginning of June versus starting in September and ending on June 6th. It is very difficult for students to focus on school work and the school day once we hit the month of June; the later into June school goes (factoring in our snow days) it gets even more difficult for students to focus on school.

5. Post-Secondary Technical College Schedule Alignment:

We are trying to encourage students to participate in youth options, course options and dual credit classes through Nicolet Technical College; therefore, our calendar needs to be more in line with the Nicolet College calendar. Nicolet College will start classes on August 28, 2017. In fact, 14 of the 16 technical colleges in Wisconsin start their fall term prior to September 1st. If we have a student athlete take a youth options class at Nicolet College with the way our current school calendar is set up, they will start their college classes at least a week before our school district classes begin and they may miss practices, as they will be attending their youth option class. This is because many high school athletic practices are held during the day in the summer before school starts; once the school year starts practices are held after school. If our calendars were aligned, students could attend their Nicolet College classes during the day and then go to their high school practice after school.

Many teachers also take college courses for professional development; many of these classes begin the first week of June. Most school districts are still in session the first week of June, thus eliminating the chance for many teachers to take advantage of professional development and/or license renewal credits.

6. Co-curricular Schedule:

The co-curricular schedule makes it impossible for families to take vacations in August. Following is the beginning of our 2017-18 co-curricular schedule (prior to September 1):

	First Day of Practice	Game/Contests Before September 5th	Games/Contests Before August 28th	Games/Contests Before August 21st
Cross Country	August 14	2	1	0
Soccer	August 14	6	4	0
Volleyball	August 14	3	3	0
Football	August 1	3 Var & 3 JV	2 Var & 2 JV	1 Var & 1 JV

7. Illinois schools start in mid-August:

Many of the tourists that visit the Eagle River area where the Northland Pines School District is located are from Illinois. The vast majority of public schools in the state of Illinois start in mid-August and are done in late May, so the tourist argument to start school after September 1st is not a valid point.

8. Students can take full time summer jobs beginning May 26th:

If we were to start the school year on August 28th, students that work in the summer could begin **full time employment** on June 1st, giving them an extra week of work before they start college. In addition, by ending the school year earlier, students would have more options to find employment and those who wanted to work two or more different jobs in the summer would have that option available and more choices to review for job opportunities.

9. Deer Season Absentee Rate:

Each school district has its unique circumstances when it comes to the school calendar and events that influence those decisions. In our district, and in many others across the state, one of those events happens to be deer season. We really have two options regarding our school calendar and deer season.

- Have school on Monday and Tuesday of that week and take Wednesday, Thursday (Thanksgiving Day) and Friday off. If we choose this option, we will have two to three hundred students absent from school and this is due to our area's culture and tradition of family deer hunting. This makes it very difficult for our teachers to deliver instruction with so many students absent.
- Our second option is to take the entire week off. We have utilized both options in the past, pending what day of the week that September 1 falls on (and what day in September we start school). Taking that entire week off is the best option for the Northland Pines School District. Since September 1 falls on the Friday of Labor Day weekend for the 2017-18 school year, we are forced to start school on Tuesday, September 5; therefore, we will only take Monday and Tuesday off during the week of deer season and we know we will have **between 200 and 300 students absent**. This is bad for our students and bad for our teachers in delivering instruction! This start date law is bad for education and does not take into account local control!

10. Local Control:

The example above in #9 is just **one** example of why local control is so important. Each school district in the state of Wisconsin needs the authority to start the school year on the date which best suits that school district and community. This is done in most states. Locally elected school board members need to determine when their school year should start and end...**not our legislators in Madison!** Whether a school district wants to start the school year in August, September 1 or after Labor Day that should be a **local** decision. We need to do what is best for education, our students and our communities. That is local control.

11. Charter and Voucher Schools:

Currently, independent charter schools and private voucher schools receive over three hundred million dollars of taxpayer money and can start school prior to September 1st.

12. State Superintendent 2017-18 and 2018-19 Biennial Budget Proposal:

The following paragraph is taken word for word from page 7 from State Superintendent Tony Evers Biennial Budget Proposal...*The Department requests a change to current law under s. 118.045, Wis. Stats., which prohibits school districts from commencing the school term prior to September 1. The Department requests that MPS be provided an exception to this provision in state law, to allow the district to maximize learning opportunities.*

Our State Superintendent and the Department of Public Instruction recognizes that starting school prior to September 1st is good for students and good for learning.

The Northland Pines School District's view is that **all school districts in the state of Wisconsin should have the same learning opportunities.**

13. Agricultural Regions of the state:

In the regions of the state where agriculture is a vital industry, if each school board had local control to establish a calendar by starting school mid-August and ending late May, this would allow family run farms and/or farms who employ students, to have more help available during the busy spring planting and fieldwork season.

14. Wisconsin Dells workforce:

The majority of the workforce in the Dells and other similar tourist areas is from eastern Europe. The workforce in the Dells returns to their native country at the conclusion of the tourist season. Not many local students are employed by the amusement parks in the Dells area anymore once they begin their high school sports/activity schedule in early August; thus, the tourism argument should not be used as an excuse to prevent the start of school in Wisconsin.

15. Inclement Weather/School Delays/Cancellations:

Starting school on September 1st or after in Wisconsin may cause us to go to school even later into June due to inclement weather. The delays and adverse weather/road conditions and the amount of time rural schools have to devote to 2 hour delays and closings has a big impact on the school calendar, particularly related to rural schools where busses must travel down many miles of back roads for our students (in our case the Northland Pines School District is 487 square miles). If we were allowed to start in August, even considering snow days, the school year would still end in late May or early June.

16. June tourism:

If the majority of the school districts in the state of Wisconsin started school any time after August 20th, the school year would end at the end of May or very first part of June therefore allowing more families to take vacations the first part of June as soon as the school year ends and this may help tourism in the early summer months and have a positive impact on businesses as students will not have conflicts with sports or activities in June versus August.

Following is my testimony which I delivered before the Senate at the Capitol on April 2, 2009

Testimony on Repeal of September 1st Start Date Law SENATE BILL 109

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak regarding Senate Bill 109. My name is Mike Richie, District Administrator for the Northland Pines School District. I would like to go on record as does the Northland Pines School Board to repeal the September 1st Start Date law. The Northland Pines School District is located in the Eagle River area in northern Wisconsin, Vilas County, and is considered a high tourist area.

Vilas County is the home of the World's largest inland chain of 28 lakes and has the world's highest concentration of inland freshwater lakes, including over 1,300 lakes and 73 rivers and streams, great for fishing and leisure activities. There are over 500,000 acres of public forest lands open for hiking, biking, hunting, scenic driving or wildlife watching adventure. Eagle River is also billed as the Snowmobile Capital of the World.

I would like to emphasize the following points as our rationale for repealing the start date law:

- I, along with my school board, strongly believe school districts should have the authority and local control as to setting their school calendars. We believe that every district is unique and although it may work better for some districts to start on or after September 1st, it may work better for some districts to start before September 1st. Again, the school board would like to emphasize local control for this decision.
- The intent of this law was good when it was implemented seven years ago with the thought that it would boost our economy, specifically with tourism dollars in late August, if all schools were forced to start on September 1st or after. Four of my seven board members own businesses related to the tourism industry; they along with the other three board members are **strongly** in favor of repealing this law. The four board members specifically involved in the tourism industry include an owner of a real estate company, the owner of a lakefront property resort, the owner of a sport marine which specifically deals with the selling and renting of boats, wave runners and snowmobiles, and the owner of a specialty meat shop. The consensus of these individuals since the beginning of the September 1st start date law is that they have **lost** revenues during the first two weeks of June because most Wisconsin schools are still in session the first two weeks of June. They have not seen any change or increase in revenues or tourists coming to our area in late August since the September 1st start date was enacted. This law has actually hurt specific tourism businesses in Vilas County because of a decline of tourists in early June as children are still in school.
- Owners of lakefront properties report that our lakes are more attractive in early June versus late August because the water levels are normally higher and they look better as compared to late August when the weeds and algae set in to many of our lakes.
- By the second week of August, all high school activities in Wisconsin have started. This includes but is not limited to football, soccer, cross country, golf, band, as well as other activities. Due to these student activities, families are **not** taking family vacations after the second week in August. The WIAA has not adjusted any of their sports schedules to accommodate the September 1st start date. This has made it very difficult on many families across the state. Due to the fact that we can't start school until September 1st, we have two football games before we even start school.

- Looking back at the last seven years, we have normally had our last day of school at the end of the second week in June; however, as we incur snow days the possibility exists to push the school year into the third week of June.
- Looking at what is best for students educationally, they are much more motivated and eager to learn in the middle to the end of August versus the beginning and middle of June. The instructional days in the month of June are not good for students academically and it is very difficult for the teachers to hold students' attention span. I believe that education and learning suffer drastically with this law because we are forced to attempt to educate our students well into June.
- Another issue with the September 1st start date is due to late ending of school it causes many conflicts including but not limited to summer student college visits, youth camps, jobs for students, and teachers trying to take continuing education courses.

In closing, I would like to emphasize again that the Northland Pines School District Board of Education and District Administrator unanimously support the repealing of the September 1st start date law and we would like to see local control on the School Calendar. Please remember this is coming from a school district that is in an area considered to be a major tourism destination. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify in front of you today.

Northland Pines School District 2017-2018 Calendar

Proposal One:
December 6, 2016

AUGUST

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

4 Inservice days for all staff

SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
					1	2
3	LD	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

19 P, 1 Holiday

OCTOBER

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

21 P, 1 IS

NOVEMBER

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

18 P, 1 Holiday

DECEMBER

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

16 P

JANUARY

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

22 P

FEBRUARY

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

19 P, 1 IS

MARCH

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

17 P

APRIL

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
EA	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

21 P

MAY

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

22 P, 1 Holiday

JUNE

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

4 P, 1 IS

PUPIL CONTACT 179
INSERVICE 7

P/T CONFERENCE 1
HOLIDAYS 3 (LD, TH, MD)

QUARTERS: 43 45 44 46
SEMESTER: 88 91

Quarter end
Yellow = First & Last Day of School
Orange = Teacher In-service Days
Green = New Staff In-service
Holidays & Recess Days
P/T Conferences Nov. 9th 4-7 pm
P/T Conf. Nov. 10 7:30 a.m.-12 pm

ALL ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
ARE ON TRIMESTERS
END OF TRIMESTERS:
December 1 (59 days)
March 6 (60 days)
June 6 (60 days)

Student Day: 8:20 a.m. to 3:25 p.m.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION
Sunday, June 3, 2018 - 1:00 p.m.
High School Field House

**Northland Pines School District
2017-2018 Calendar**

**Proposal Two:
December 6, 2016**

AUGUST

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

3 IS + 1 Floating Inservice for all
4 P

SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
					1	2
3	LD	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

20 P, 1 Holiday

OCTOBER

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

21 P, 1 IS

NOVEMBER

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

16 P, 1 Holiday

DECEMBER

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	CH	26	27	28	29	30
31						

16 P, 1 Holiday

JANUARY

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

22 P

FEBRUARY

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

19 P, 1 IS

MARCH

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

17 P

APRIL

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
EA	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

21 P

MAY

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	MD	29	30	31		

22 P

JUNE

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

1 P

PUPIL CONTACT 179
INSERVICE 6
Building Inservice 2 (4-7 pm)
P/T CONFERENCE 1
HOLIDAYS 3 (LD, TH, CH)

QUARTERS: 45 45 45 44
SEMESTER: 90 89

Student Day: 8:20 a.m. to 3:25 p.m.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION
Sunday, May 20, 2018 at 1:00 p.m.
High School Field House

Quarter end
Yellow = First & Last Day of School
Orange = Teacher In-service Days
Green = New Staff In-service
Holidays & Recess Days
P/T Conf. Thurs. Nov. 2nd 4-7 pm
P/T Conf. Friday Nov. 3rd 7:30-12 pm

ALL ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
ARE ON TRIMESTERS
END OF TRIMESTERS:
November 28 (59 days)
March 1 (60 days)
June 1 (60 days)



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School Start Date Survey for Parents/Guardians

Q1

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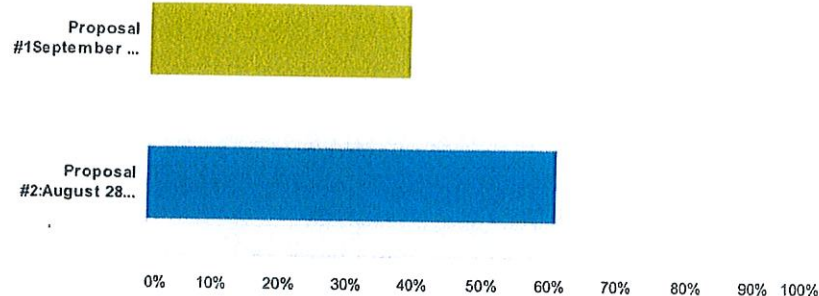
Which school calendar option should we implement for the 2017-18 school year?

Answered: 347 Skipped: 3

350 responses

20 days (1/3/2017 - now)

1 view



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Answer Choices

Responses

Proposal #1: September 5th First day of school for students October 6th In-service no school November 10th Parent teacher conferences no school November 22nd-24th Thanksgiving break no school December 25th-29th Christmas break no school January 1st New Year's Day no school January 2nd School Resumes February 9th In-service no school March 26th-30th Spring break no school May 28th Memorial Day no school June 3rd High School Graduation June 6th Last day of school for students

39.19%
136

Proposal #2: August 28th First day of school for students September 4th Labor Day no school September 5th School Resumes October 6th In-service no school November 3rd Parent teacher conferences no school November 20th-24th Thanksgiving break no school December 25th-29th Christmas break no school January 1st New Year's Day no school January 2nd School Resumes February 9th In-service no school March 26th-30th Spring break no school May 20th High School Graduation May 28th Memorial Day no school June 1st Last day of school for students and staff

60.81%
211

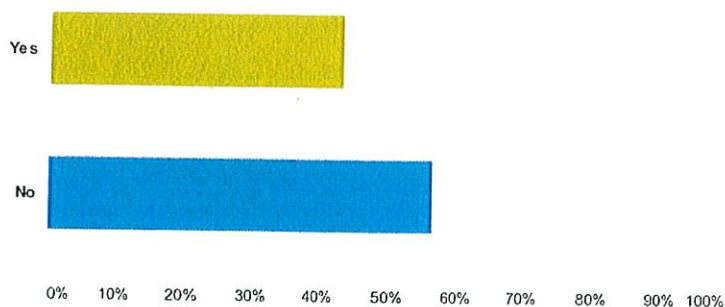
Total

347

Q2

Does your family take any vacation after mid-August?

Answered: 348 Skipped: 2



Answer Choices

Responses

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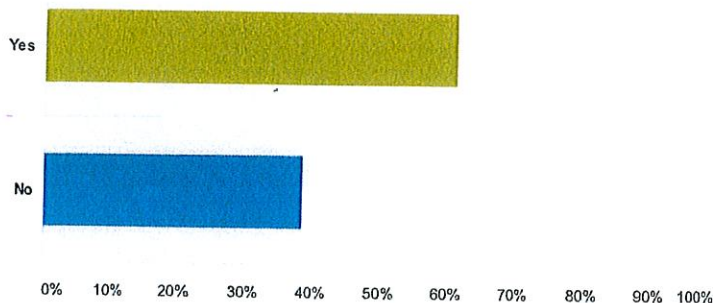
School Start Date Survey for Businesses

Q1

[Embed](#)[G+ Share](#)[Share](#)

If the Northland Pines School District could start school legally in August vs. September 1st (current state law), would you support starting the school year for the 2017-18 school year on Monday, August 28, 2017, and ending the school year on Friday, June 1, 2018? Note: Graduation would take place on Sunday, May 20th, which would be the weekend BEFORE Memorial Day Weekend.

Answered: 83 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices

Responses

Yes

61.45%

51

No

38.55%

32

Total

83

83 responses

20 days (1/3/2017 - now)

1 view

Need insights?

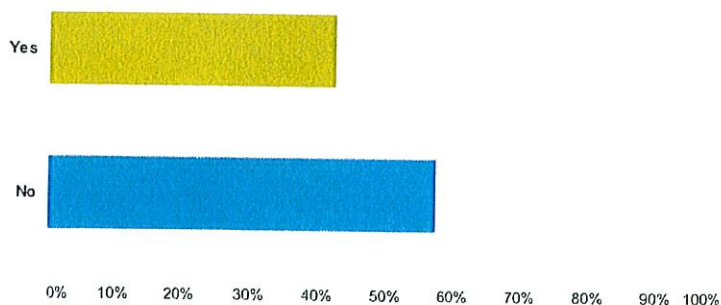
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Q2

Does your family take any vacation after mid-August?

Answered: 80 Skipped: 3



Answer Choices

Yes

Responses

42.50%

34

No

57.50%

46

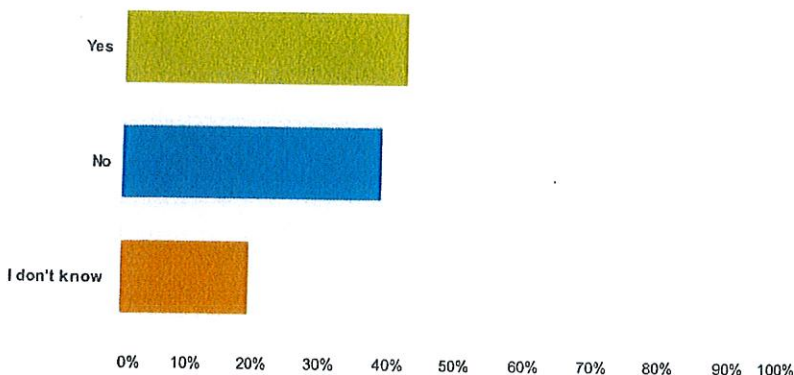
Total

80

Q3

Do you think the current start date law
(mandating that school must start on or
after September 1st) positively impacts
tourism in the Eagle River Area?

Answered: 83 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices

Yes

Responses

42.17%

35

No

38.55%

32

I don't know

19.28%

16

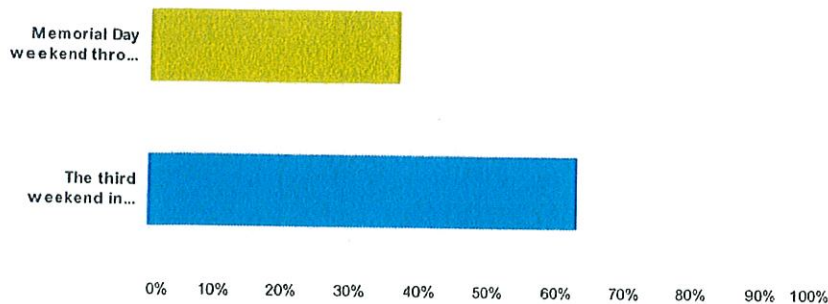
Total

83

Q4

When is your business more profitable?

Answered: 73 Skipped: 10



Answer Choices

Memorial Day weekend through the second weekend in June

Responses

36.99%

27

The third weekend in August through Labor Day weekend

63.01%

44

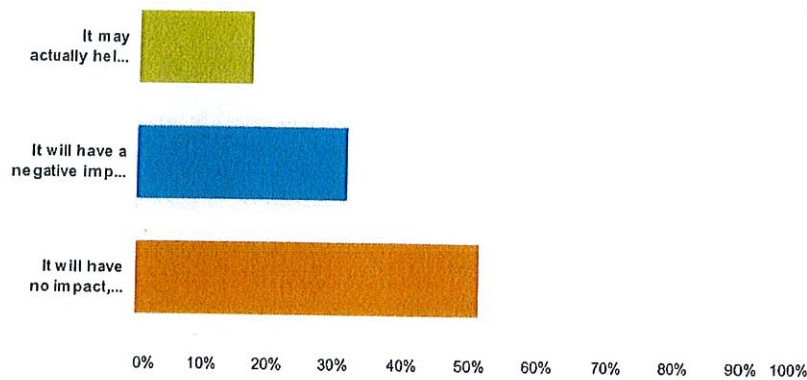
Total

70

Q5

If the Northland Pines School District has school from August 28, 2017, through June 1, 2018, rather than September 1, 2017 (by current law which is the Friday prior to Labor Day Weekend) through June 6, 2018, what statement most accurately describes the impact this will have on your business?

Answered: 82 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices

Responses

It may actually help my business if school started on August 28th and the school year ended on June 1

17.07%

14

It will have a negative impact on my business if school started on August 28th and the school year ended on June 1

31.71%

26

It will have no impact, positive or negative, and it really does not matter if school starts in August or September 1st or the school year ends on June 1 or June 6.

51.22%

42

Total

82

Q6

Please add any additional comments that you would like to share regarding the school calendar and the September 1st start date law.

Answered: 38 Skipped: 45

Staff

School Start Date Survey

Tweet Share

Question Summaries

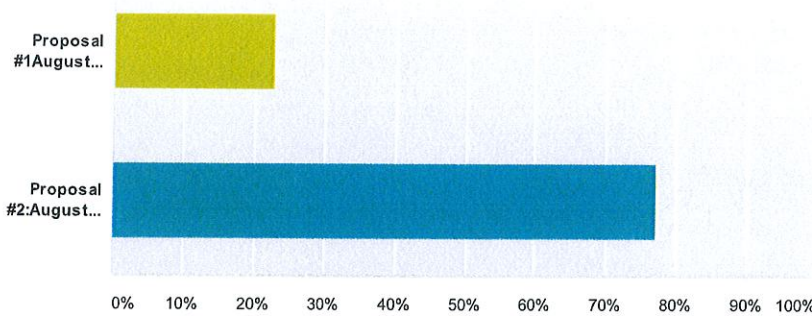
Data Trends

Individual Responses

Q1

Which school calendar option should we implement for the 2017-18 school year?

Answered: 172 Skipped: 4



176 responses

43 days (12/13/2016 - now)

7 views

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