

Stoughton Area School District

Administrative and Educational Services Center

320 North Street
Stoughton, WI 53589-1733
(608) 877-5000

February 9, 2017

Dear State Legislators,

On behalf of the Board of Education for the Stoughton Area School District, we would like to pledge our support for local control of the school start date and ask you to sign on to the school start date mandate repeal bill (LRB 1378) co-authored by Representative Jim Ott (R-Mequon) and Senator Alberta Darling (R-River Hills).

We believe that each school district in the State of Wisconsin should have the power to choose the school start date that is best for their community, students and families for many reasons:

- 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 exams;
- Local control over the start date will allow the district to better meet the needs of its student to have breaks throughout the school to align with best practices for student learning, to decrease the rate of illnesses/absences and to increase time spent with family over the holidays;
- Local control over the start date will allow the district to better align its school calendar with the co-curricular schedule for students that begins in early August;
- Local control over the start date will allow the district to compete with charter and voucher school districts that have the flexibility to start prior to September 1 and still receive public funding from the State of Wisconsin.

Thank you for your consideration and please contact us if you have further questions regarding this legislation.

Sincerely,



Scott Dirks, President
Stoughton Area School District Board of Education

