

**School District of Rhinelander
Board of Education Resolution**

School Start Date Change

WHEREAS Wisconsin Statutes §118.045, Commencement of School Term, states “...no public school may commence the school term until September 1”; and,

WHEREAS, Wisconsin Statutes §118.045 Subsection (1) does not prohibit a school board from holding school year-round; and

WHEREAS, a school board may commence the school term prior to September 1 in any school year if the school board requests the Department of Public Instruction to allow it to do so; and

WHEREAS, the Department may grant a request if it determines that there are extraordinary reasons for granting such request; and

WHEREAS, tourism in Northern Wisconsin has changed over the past several years, with high numbers of out-of-state tourists no longer in the area after early to mid-August; and

WHEREAS, charter and voucher school districts have the flexibility to start the school year prior to September 1 and still receive funding from the State of Wisconsin; and,

WHEREAS, in the 2017-2019 Biennial Budget, the State Superintendent has recommended that the Milwaukee Public School District be provided an exception to the September 1 start date in an effort to allow the school district to maximize learning opportunities for its students.

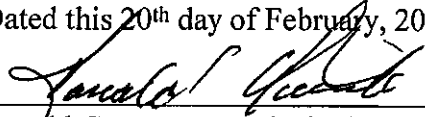
THEREFORE, the School District of Rhinelander respectfully requests that it be allowed local control over the school year calendar. This request is made for the following reasons:

- To ensure that School District of Rhinelander students are allowed the same maximum learning opportunities as all other students in the State of Wisconsin.
- To allow for additional days of instruction prior to students taking the required state and local assessments, and to allow students to prepare for the American College Testing (ACT) and Advanced Placement examination;
- To allow for the school year calendar to align with post-secondary institutions to better meet the educational needs of students, and to better facilitate youth options opportunities;
- To prevent ending the school year well into the month of June due to the scheduling of non-instructional days in the calendar to allow for professional development and the addition of days due to closing school for inclement weather and/or health/safety emergency issues;
- To better align the school year’s instructional days with the co-curricular schedule;

With local control over the school year calendar, the school district will be allowed the opportunity to offer increased instruction to its students, increased professional development opportunities to its staff, and provide additional days in the calendar that are necessary to address school closings due inclement weather and/or health/safety concerns.

BE IT RESOLVED that on Monday, February 20, 2017, the School District of Rhineland Board of Education passed this Resolution with a majority vote in an effort to obtain local control over future school year calendars.

Dated this 20th day of February, 2017



Ronald Counter, Board of Education President



Kelli T. Jacobi, Superintendent of Schools