

School Calendar for the 2023 – 2024 School Year

Legal Considerations

Iowa Code §§ 279.10, School year — beginning date — exemption, places the school calendar in the sole authority of the board of directors of a school district. It further states that the board must hold a public hearing on any proposed school calendar prior to adopting it. Also stated in the law, the “school calendar shall begin no sooner than August 23” and include “not less than one hundred eighty days or one thousand eighty hours of instruction during the calendar year.”

Review of Research

Research on school calendars is limited. The latest research simply says that students learn and retain better if they have breaks between their instructional terms. This may suggest some days off for students between each quarter.

Background

Each year, it is the responsibility of the school board to approve a school calendar for the next year. The superintendent holds the responsibility to make recommendations to the board for calendar adoption. School board policy 601.1, School Calendar, reads in part, “It is the responsibility of the superintendent to develop the school calendar for recommendation, approval, and adoption by the board annually.”

Recommended Action

I recommend the board only discuss the calendar at this time. Final action is currently scheduled for Thursday, February 23, and will be preceded by a public hearing.