



River Forest
Public Schools

Administration Building

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River Forest, IL 60305

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MEMO

Date: 11/15/18

To: Dr. Ed Condon

From: Dr. Alison Hawley

RE: District 90 Public School Calendar 2019-2020

Each year, the District Calendar Committee meets to discuss calendar options for the following school year. The committee is comprised of teachers, support staff, parents, and administrators. The proposed calendar reflects the Illinois State requirements for student attendance, emergency days, parent teacher conferences, and professional development days.

This year, the parameters for creating the public school calendar have changed. The introduction of the Evidence-Based Funding for Student Success Act, passed on August 31, 2017, repealed statutory support of traditional elements of the public school calendar. There is no longer statutory authority to include Full Day Parent Teacher Conferences, Full Day Teacher In-Service Days, or Full Day School Improvement days, which previously required waivers.

Additionally, the previous definition of what constitutes an attendance day (a minimum of five hours) has been eliminated. School Districts now have the authority to define the attendance day, allowing for greater flexibility to tailor school calendars to support student needs, as opposed to responding to systems for compliance. However, school districts are required to have students attend for 176 days, an increase from 174. The District 90 calendar already reflects this new requirement.

The Illinois State Board of Education's (ISBE) legal staff is currently reviewing the impact of these changes, and will offer guidance for the types of days that will be allowable in the coming days. We will work with the administrative team, River Forest Education Association, and the Board of Education to develop the definition of an instructional day.

The D90 Calendar Committee has created an initial draft of the 2019-2020 Public School Calendar, and intends to provide the Board of Education with its recommendation at the December 17, 2018 business meeting.