

## 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 “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 (which needs to be updated), 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 adopt Draft C of the calendar.