

Save Iowa Summers...Enforce the current school start date by eliminating the waiver process.

Myths

Local business profits and jobs are not as important as educating our children.

Snow days require start dates to be moved to early August.

Local districts know what is best and don't need interference from the legislature.

Test scores show higher student achievement if testing occurs prior to Christmas break.

There can be no flexibility regarding staff development in the school calendar year.

There is no difference between school sessions in June as compared to August.

Myth Busters

Without jobs, there are no families, without families, there are no schools. **The tourism industry does not compete with vital programs, it helps pay for them.** In 2008, tourism in Iowa generated \$6.4 billion in tourism related expenditures and \$394 million in tax revenue helping to support education and social welfare programs.

Iowa has not experienced the same number of snow days since 1972. A knee-jerk reaction to this situation is not a responsible solution and will hurt Iowa businesses and families.

According to a study by David P. Sims, Brigham Young University, Accountability tests to assess the relative performance of schools may produce flawed results without uniform school start dates. (Economics of Education Review, Volume 27, Issue 1).

We have been unable to locate a study showing higher student achievement in Iowa based on early school start dates.

The 2009 ACT composite score ranking by state shows Iowa scores right between Minnesota and Wisconsin and both states start school after Labor Day. Minnesota ranks 3/10ths of a percent ahead of Iowa and Wisconsin 1/10th of a percent behind. Both states also have a higher percentage of students taking the ACT test. (MN 68%, WI 67% and IA 59%)

We need now, more than ever, to seek creative alternatives to what we have done in the past. Implementing staff development alternatives, that take snow days and early outs into consideration, will improve learning opportunities for our children and save more summer days for Iowa families.

An early school start date pushes football and band practices even earlier in the month of August so that students promoting their school districts through extra curricular activities must make an even greater sacrifice of their summer vacation.

August school starts increase the likelihood of increased utility costs for air conditioning.



The Travel Federation of Iowa (TFI) is a statewide, grassroots organization whose mission is to advance the Iowa Tourism industry. For more information visit:

www.TravelFederationOfIowa.org

The 2010 Priorities were obtained from a survey completed by Iowa Tourism Professionals.

1) Build the Tourism Budget, 2) Save our Summers, 3) Fund our Attractions