



2019 Issue Brief

Support Minnesota's Limitation of Schools Starting Classes Prior to Labor Day

Position:

We recognize the need for a quality school system, however we support maintaining Minnesota's prohibition of school districts starting classes prior to Labor Day.

Background:

We support Minnesota's traditional summer and believe Minnesota can still maintain and develop strong academic standards without jeopardizing Minnesota traditions such as the State Fair, trips to local resorts and visits to community attractions. The current law lengthens the tourism season which benefits local units of government in the form of taxes collected, benefits tourism businesses by extending their opportunities for sales and school districts which receive local property taxes.

Supporting Facts:

A 2012 study by the Center of Tourism at the University of Minnesota found the following:

- Post Labor Day school start increases the likelihood that families report at least one trip of two or more nights away from home in the months of August or September by 50%.
- The likelihood of reporting such a trip in any month between May and September is 30% higher because of schools starting after Labor Day.

Many state-wide industries depend upon employees that are available due to the current state law. Those industries include tourism, agriculture, 4-H, State Fair, landscaping and farming. The current law also helps students by extending their opportunities earn money for college or to supplement a family's income.

Minnesota Tourism contributes \$15 billion in annual gross sales, nearly \$41 million per day, supports 265,000 full and part-time leisure and hospitality jobs paying \$5.4 billion in wages in communities across the state. Minnesota Tourism represents 11% of all private sector employment in Minnesota. Tourism spending creates jobs, drives spending and has a positive return-on-investment.