



Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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July 29, 2014

TO: Representative Jim Ott
Room 317 North, State Capitol

FROM: Christa Pugh, Fiscal Analyst

SUBJECT: Wisconsin Pupils Participating in Advanced Placement Exams By District Compared to Total High School Enrollment

At your request, I am providing information relating to the number of Wisconsin pupils participating in Advanced Placement (AP) exams in each school district compared to the district's total high school enrollment.

In 2012-13, a total of 33,727 Wisconsin pupils took AP exams in 331 public school districts. Because many pupils take more than one exam, these pupils represent a total of 56,270 exams administered in Wisconsin in that year. The attachment shows the total number of pupils in grades 9 through 12, the number of pupils who took one or more AP exams, the number of exams administered, and the percentage of high school pupils who took one or more exam in each Wisconsin school district within which pupils took exams in 2012-13. Only high school enrollment is given because the majority of pupils who participate in AP exams are in grades 9 through 12. However, a small number of younger pupils also participate. In 2012-13, 33,688 pupils in high school or a combined elementary and secondary school took AP exams, while 27 pupils in elementary school, middle school, or junior high school took exams. Grade levels for the remaining 12 pupils are not known. Considering only districts in which at least one pupil participated in an AP exam, 13.3% of enrolled high school pupils participated in AP exams. When all districts in the state are included, 12.7% of enrolled high school pupils took at least one AP exam.

I hope this information is helpful. Please contact me if you have any additional questions.

CP/sas
Attachment

ATTACHMENT

AP Pupils and Exams by School District Within Which Pupils Took Exams, 2012-13

<u>District</u>	<u>District Enrollment (Grades 9-12)</u>	<u>Number of Pupils Tested</u>	<u>Number of Exams</u>	<u>% of Pupils Participating in AP Exams</u>
Abbotsford	355	1	1	0.3%
Adams-Friendship Area	500	33	47	6.6
Albany	107	3	3	2.8
Algoma	302	10	17	3.3
Alma	87	2	2	2.3
Alma Center	194	4	7	2.1
Almond-Bancroft	226	2	2	0.9
Altoona	455	48	80	10.5
Amery	528	19	27	3.6
Antigo Unified	837	73	97	8.7
Appleton Area	4,530	711	1,311	15.7
Arcadia	347	23	23	6.6
Argyle	167	8	8	4.8
Arrowhead UHS	2,275	657	1,268	28.9
Ashland	715	33	52	4.6
Ashwaubenon	1,032	163	201	15.8
Athens	210	8	21	3.8
Auburndale	432	30	35	6.9
Augusta	217	1	1	0.5
Baldwin-Woodville Area	434	63	93	14.5
Bangor	293	1	1	0.3
Baraboo	985	149	262	15.1
Barneveld	207	16	17	7.7
Barron Area	380	15	19	3.9
Beaver Dam Unified	1,045	154	229	14.7
Belleville	260	34	53	13.1
Belmont Community	142	4	4	2.8
Beloit	1,952	202	267	10.3
Beloit Turner	440	70	118	15.9
Big Foot UHS	542	28	56	5.2
Birchwood	110	3	3	2.7
Black Hawk	116	5	6	4.3
Black River Falls	518	56	75	10.8
Blair-Taylor	262	12	12	4.6
Bloomer	350	24	29	6.9

<u>District</u>	<u>District Enrollment (Grades 9-12)</u>	<u>Number of Pupils Tested</u>	<u>Number of Exams</u>	<u>% of Pupils Participating in AP Exams</u>
Bonduel	301	27	28	9.0%
Boscobel Area	241	1	1	0.4
Boyceville Community	344	10	33	2.9
Brillion	319	34	45	10.7
Brodhead	321	13	13	4.0
Brown Deer	562	94	166	16.7
Burlington Area	1,201	135	223	11.2
Cadott Community	243	11	18	4.5
Cambridge	278	23	44	8.3
Campbellsport	470	45	57	9.6
Cassville	109	2	2	1.8
Cedar Grove-Belgium Area	319	13	18	4.1
Cedarburg	1,150	425	691	37.0
Central/Westosha UHS	1,133	227	366	20.0
Chequamegon	266	13	13	4.9
Chetek-Weyerhaeuser Area	295	22	31	7.5
Chilton	378	51	101	13.5
Chippewa Falls Area Unified	1,413	181	284	12.8
Clear Lake	163	14	21	8.6
Clinton Community	382	20	32	5.2
Clintonville	467	46	63	9.9
Cochrane-Fountain City	291	22	23	7.6
Colby	285	25	35	8.8
Coleman	218	1	1	0.5
Columbus	379	59	90	15.6
Crivitz	215	23	29	10.7
Cuba City	246	21	38	8.5
Cudahy	742	73	113	9.8
Cumberland	311	28	32	9.0
D C Everest Area	1,426	383	608	26.9
Darlington Community	231	18	24	7.8
De Forest Area	967	139	219	14.4
De Pere	1,324	240	333	18.1
Deerfield Community	234	20	28	8.5
Delavan-Darien	770	91	187	11.8
Denmark	495	13	14	2.6
Dodgeland	434	7	7	1.6
Dodgeville	412	52	69	12.6
Durand	452	80	141	17.7
East Troy Community	521	59	110	11.3

<u>District</u>	<u>District Enrollment (Grades 9-12)</u>	<u>Number of Pupils Tested</u>	<u>Number of Exams</u>	<u>% of Pupils Participating in AP Exams</u>
Eau Claire Area	3,201	507	958	15.8%
Edgerton	539	57	74	10.6
Eleva-Strum	258	16	22	6.2
Elk Mound Area	329	16	16	4.9
Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah	140	12	12	8.6
Elkhorn Area	882	132	246	15.0
Ellsworth Community	510	87	118	17.1
Elmbrook	2,628	772	1,542	29.4
Evansville Community	500	49	94	9.8
Fall Creek	277	22	31	7.9
Fall River	281	7	11	2.5
Fennimore Community	320	38	52	11.9
Florence County	143	2	2	1.4
Fond du Lac	2,008	239	483	11.9
Fort Atkinson	1,000	168	221	16.8
Franklin Public	1,497	369	608	24.6
Frederic	237	3	5	1.3
Freedom Area	525	57	90	10.9
Galesville-Ettrick-Trempealeau	423	42	45	9.9
Germantown	1,427	335	643	23.5
Gibraltar Area	204	63	121	30.9
Gillett	211	1	1	0.5
Gilman	165	4	4	2.4
Gilmanton	52	1	1	1.9
Glenwood City	193	21	22	10.9
Grafton	779	193	435	24.8
Grantsburg	296	30	31	10.1
Green Bay Area Public	5,657	705	1,182	12.5
Greendale	925	230	392	24.9
Greenfield	1,321	224	340	17.0
Greenwood	188	6	7	3.2
Hamilton	1,405	289	435	20.6
Hartford UHS	1,443	297	509	20.6
Hayward Community	564	59	79	10.5
Highland	73	5	8	6.8
Hilbert	173	20	31	11.6
Hillsboro	269	18	26	6.7
Holmen	1,077	144	215	13.4
Horicon	255	18	24	7.1
Hortonville Area	1,068	166	266	15.5

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Howards Grove	284	35	40	12.3%
Howard-Suamico	1,746	281	477	16.1
Hudson	1,697	426	787	25.1
Hurley	298	9	13	3.0
Hustisford	206	4	4	1.9
Independence	125	3	5	2.4
Iowa-Grant	236	15	25	6.4
Ithaca	103	3	3	2.9
Janesville	3,276	405	651	12.4
Jefferson	580	92	193	15.9
Johnson Creek	308	10	13	3.2
Juda	91	4	4	4.4
Kaukauna Area	1,100	68	93	6.2
Kenosha	6,902	741	1,229	10.7
Kettle Moraine	1,490	396	641	26.6
Kewaskum	596	70	110	11.7
Kewaunee	322	41	53	12.7
Kickapoo Area	252	12	20	4.8
Kiel Area	444	18	22	4.1
Kimberly Area	1,401	373	576	26.6
Kohler	161	24	39	14.9
La Crosse	1,979	342	569	17.3
La Farge	83	16	20	19.3
Ladysmith	321	34	53	10.6
Lake Geneva-Genoa City UHS	1,473	231	424	15.7
Lake Mills Area	407	31	34	7.6
Lakeland UHS	766	85	121	11.1
Lancaster Community	297	33	57	11.1
Laona	108	3	4	2.8
Lena	96	1	1	1.0
Little Chute Area	515	17	17	3.3
Lodi	534	84	127	15.7
Lomira	346	40	61	11.6
Luck	195	18	31	9.2
Luxemburg-Casco	602	56	83	9.3
Madison Metropolitan	7,393	843	1,542	11.4
Manawa	319	11	13	3.4
Manitowoc	1,214	105	148	8.6
Marathon City	265	15	19	5.7
Marinette	624	29	29	4.6

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Marion	232	2	2	0.9%
Markesan	232	5	9	2.2
Marshall	390	29	39	7.4
Marshfield Unified	1,213	449	1,072	37.0
Mauston	483	19	25	3.9
Mayville	425	28	38	6.6
McFarland	702	117	194	16.7
Medford Area Public	625	81	123	13.0
Melrose-Mindoro	208	1	2	0.5
Menasha Joint	978	87	128	8.9
Menomonee Falls	1,513	235	365	15.5
Menomonie Area	999	96	129	9.6
Mequon-Thiensville	1,336	362	815	27.1
Mercer	36	3	3	8.3
Merrill Area	1,025	74	107	7.2
Middleton-Cross Plains Area	2,025	530	897	26.2
Milton	992	178	332	17.9
Milwaukee	15,560	1,319	1,958	8.5
Mineral Point Unified	222	18	22	8.1
Mishicot	286	17	24	5.9
Mondovi	302	30	51	9.9
Monona Grove	945	181	349	19.2
Monroe	916	85	112	9.3
Montello	341	8	10	2.3
Monticello	108	2	3	1.9
Mosinee	671	33	50	4.9
Mount Horeb Area	713	156	232	21.9
Mukwonago	1,610	360	574	22.4
Muskego-Norway	1,692	381	603	22.5
Necedah Area	409	8	8	2.0
Neenah Joint	2,027	350	639	17.3
Neillsville	474	2	2	0.4
Nekoosa	417	23	25	5.5
New Berlin	2,398	559	1,080	23.3
New Glarus	264	34	43	12.9
New Holstein	342	37	64	10.8
New London	781	69	111	8.8
New Richmond	867	123	184	14.2
Niagara	217	1	1	0.5
Nicolet UHS	1,100	304	717	27.6

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North Crawford	146	17	29	11.6%
Northern Ozaukee	221	44	53	19.9
Northland Pines	495	38	46	7.7
Northwood	129	2	3	1.6
Oak Creek-Franklin Joint	1,996	364	631	18.2
Oakfield	210	22	26	10.5
Oconomowoc Area	1,450	236	306	16.3
Oconto Falls Public	567	34	44	6.0
Oconto Unified	297	16	27	5.4
Omro	375	9	9	2.4
Onalaska	866	96	159	11.1
Oostburg	326	5	5	1.5
Oregon	1,097	178	283	16.2
Osceola	545	76	123	13.9
Oshkosh Area	2,940	310	348	10.5
Osseo-Fairchild	258	26	26	10.1
Palmyra-Eagle Area	332	36	50	10.8
Pardeeville Area	254	25	49	9.8
Parkview	294	22	41	7.5
Pecatonica Area	217	17	25	7.8
Pepin Area	109	12	13	11.0
Peshigo	574	45	48	7.8
Pewaukee	755	157	291	20.8
Phelps	30	3	3	10.0
Phillips	283	20	34	7.1
Pittsville	202	22	37	10.9
Platteville	440	68	104	15.5
Plymouth Joint	795	39	43	4.9
Port Edwards	149	10	13	6.7
Port Washington-Saukville	851	172	294	20.2
Portage Community	845	70	111	8.3
Poynette	336	13	19	3.9
Prairie du Chien Area	364	104	189	28.6
Prairie Farm Public	99	3	3	3.0
Prentice	141	8	10	5.7
Prescott	356	32	41	9.0
Princeton	127	4	4	3.1
Pulaski Community	1,139	178	219	15.6
Racine Unified	5,856	376	641	6.4
Randolph	170	13	18	7.6

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Random Lake	310	46	71	14.8%
Raymond #14	N.A.	1	3	N.A.
Reedsburg	856	122	197	14.3
Reedsville	216	10	11	4.6
Rhineland	912	113	178	12.4
Rib Lake	151	6	6	4.0
Rice Lake Area	767	34	52	4.4
Richland	407	29	37	7.1
Ripon Area	585	62	84	10.6
River Falls	988	135	185	13.7
River Ridge	154	8	9	5.2
River Valley	450	69	109	15.3
Riverdale	214	4	5	1.9
Rosendale-Brandon	320	60	95	18.8
Rosholt	199	34	44	17.1
Royall	160	12	12	7.5
Saint Croix Central	395	51	64	12.9
Saint Croix Falls	347	34	47	9.8
Saint Francis	579	50	62	8.6
Sauk Prairie	834	116	178	13.9
Seneca	74	5	5	6.8
Sevastopol	141	17	34	12.1
Seymour Community	711	12	12	1.7
Shawano	846	12	15	1.4
Sheboygan Area	3,120	207	353	6.6
Sheboygan Falls	539	40	44	7.4
Shell Lake	280	15	16	5.4
Shiocton	211	9	14	4.3
Shorewood	689	131	282	19.0
Shullsburg	83	4	5	4.8
Siren	199	16	23	8.0
Slinger	938	154	205	16.4
Somerset	453	23	29	5.1
South Milwaukee	1,135	140	237	12.3
South Shore	73	2	3	2.7
Southern Door County	389	23	37	5.9
Southwestern Wisconsin	190	7	9	3.7
Sparta Area	758	9	9	1.2
Spencer	391	8	8	2.0
Spooner Area	392	8	19	2.0

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Spring Valley	199	23	34	11.6%
Stanley-Boyd Area	271	22	24	8.1
Stevens Point Area Public	1,696	377	604	22.2
Stoughton Area	1,056	139	245	13.2
Stratford	481	3	3	0.6
Sturgeon Bay	393	41	67	10.4
Sun Prairie Area	1,536	435	795	28.3
Superior	1,424	252	331	17.7
Suring Public	135	5	5	3.7
Three Lakes	261	1	1	0.4
Tomah Area	919	54	94	5.9
Tomahawk	463	44	54	9.5
Tomorrow River	281	19	21	6.8
Tri-County Area	212	16	19	7.5
Turtle Lake	127	11	13	8.7
Two Rivers Public	534	19	35	3.6
Union Grove UHS	971	92	143	9.5
Unity	292	23	36	7.9
Valders Area	346	11	14	3.2
Verona Area	1,546	366	645	23.7
Viroqua Area	371	34	60	9.2
Washburn	170	11	12	6.5
Waterford UHS	1,065	211	327	19.8
Waterloo	275	24	39	8.7
Watertown Unified	1,252	201	301	16.1
Waukesha	4,794	840	1,579	17.5
Waunakee Community	1,163	225	447	19.3
Waupaca	722	42	50	5.8
Waupun	594	45	71	7.6
Wausau	2,595	203	392	7.8
Wausaukee	155	5	5	3.2
Wautoma Area	411	14	21	3.4
Wauwatosa	2,205	464	725	21.0
Webster	223	19	27	8.5
West Allis-West Milwaukee	3,151	497	811	15.8
West Bend	2,311	569	1,079	24.6
West De Pere	839	138	172	16.4
West Salem	539	3	3	0.6
Westby Area	309	27	28	8.7
Westfield	344	37	65	10.8

<u>District</u>	<u>District Enrollment (Grades 9-12)</u>	<u>Number of Pupils Tested</u>	<u>Number of Exams</u>	<u>% of Pupils Participating in AP Exams</u>
Weyauwega-Fremont	288	26	45	9.0%
Whitefish Bay	995	283	601	28.4
Whitehall	245	22	23	9.0
Whitewater Unified	581	61	114	10.5
Whitnall	821	133	221	16.2
Wild Rose	311	7	13	2.3
Williams Bay	145	36	68	24.8
Wilmot UHS	1,101	129	201	11.7
Winneconne Community	485	41	68	8.5
Winter	83	5	5	6.0
Wisconsin Dells	529	35	42	6.6
Wisconsin Heights	225	38	54	16.9
Wisconsin Rapids	1,285	162	278	12.6
Wittenberg-Birnamwood	394	32	41	8.1
Wonewoc-Union Center	107	4	8	3.7
Wrightstown Community	461	77	118	16.7
Veritas High (9-12 Charter)	241	36	46	14.9
Milwaukee Academy of Science (K-12 Charter)	<u>195</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>	4.1
Total	252,749	33,727	56,270	13.3%

Date: November 5, 2015

To: Members, Assembly Committee on Education

From: Dee Pettack, Legislative Liaison, Department of Public Instruction

RE: Statement on AB 144

Current Law

Beginning in the year 2000, state law requires that no public school may commence a school term until September 1 of any year; with the exception of public schools whose term runs year-round.

State law also allows a school board to commence the school term prior to September 1 in any school year, if (1) the school board requests the Department of Public Instruction to allow it to commence the school term before September 1; and (2) the school board demonstrates extraordinary reasons for this request. The Department has promulgated rules that define extraordinary reasons, as follows:

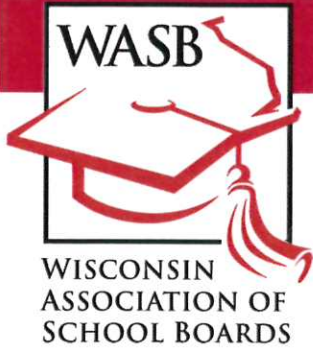
- major construction projects that cause the school term to be altered and necessitate an earlier start date for the entire district;
- closure of school due to forces of nature, code violations, or environmental orders;
- excessive costs associated with the transportation of pupils who attend private schools that start prior to September;
- participation by a high school in the International Baccalaureate (IB) program with more than 75 percent of the 11th and 12th grade pupils enrolled in the high school also being enrolled in one or more of the courses that are offered under the IB program.

Assembly Bill 144

This bill allows school districts in which more than 20 percent of students at any school took at least one Advanced Placement (AP) exam to request a waiver from the September 1 start date mandate. Using 2013-14 figures, the Department estimates that 54 schools would be eligible to waive the September 1 start date under the proposed bill.

The proposed exemption to the school start requirement would apply to entire districts where 20 percent of students took an AP exam; it is not limited to a particular school that meets the 20 percent threshold. Consequently, as long one high school in the school district has a 21 percent participation rate in AP exams, the entire district would be able to waive the school start requirement for all its schools.

AB 144 creates an exemption similar to IB program, but the thresholds are vastly different. In order to apply for a school start date exemption under current law, the IB program must have more than 75 percent of its students participating while the proposed bill would allow for a school start date exemption at a much lower level of participation—over 20 percent. It is important to note that most IB programs tend to be school-wide programs with high overall student participation in a particular school. Higher numbers of Wisconsin students participate in AP classes statewide and participation varies greatly from school to school.



122 W. Washington Avenue, Madison, WI 53703
Phone: 608-257-2622 · Fax: 608-257-8386

John H. Ashley, Executive Director

TO: Members, Assembly Committee on Education
FROM: Chris Kulow, Government Relations Specialist
RE: Assembly Bill 144, commencement of fall classes in public schools
DATE: November 5, 2015

The Wisconsin Association of School Boards (WASB) supports Assembly Bill 144 which creates an exception to the general prohibition against a public school beginning the school term before September 1 for a school board of a district in which more than 20 percent of the high school students took at least one advanced placement (AP) exam, which would be similar to current exemptions for International Baccalaureate (IB) programming.

Currently the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) allows high schools in the IB program with more than 75% of the 11th and 12th grade pupils enrolled in the high school also being enrolled in one or more of the courses that are offered under the IB program, to start before September 1.

DPI estimates that if the provisions of Assembly Bill 144 were in place today, 54 schools would be eligible to waive the September 1 start date requirement using 2013-14 figures. Further, the Department's Legal Services team interprets that this particular exemption to the school start mandate would apply to entire districts where 20 percent of students took an AP exam and is not limited to a particular school that meets the 20 percent threshold.

Last January, at the state education convention, the WASB Delegate Assembly passed a resolution supporting similar start date flexibility for schools with a significant percentage of AP participation as is currently provided schools with IB programming. Part of that resolution expressed support for allowing all schools within such a district to start prior to September 1, especially if the school district operates one schedule of busses for transporting all K-12 students. It is our understanding that the bill, as drafted, would provide such flexibility.

The WASB supports this bill and all efforts to give school boards more flexibility and authority over the school calendar. Further, the WASB supports all local school boards having sole authority to establish the school calendar.

The WASB feels this legislation is a good start at giving some districts the flexibility that we believe all districts should have and we support this bill becoming law.

Green Bay Packers Training Camp



Visitors:

90,000-100,000

Economic Impact

\$9,000,000-\$10,000,000

Green Bay Packers Training Camp, September 1, 2015





formerly the
Wisconsin Innkeepers Association

Serving the lodging
industry for more than
100 years

November 5, 2015

To: Members of the Assembly Committee on Education
Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair
From: John Chastan, 2015 Chairman of the Board
RE: **Opposition to AB 144 School Start Date Exception**

On behalf of the over 700 lodging properties in our membership located in your districts and around the state, we respectfully ask for you to oppose AB 144, a bill that will open the door to expanded exceptions to the current school start date of no earlier than September 1 for K-12 public schools.

Wisconsin's lodging industry generates over \$90 million each year just in state sales tax alone. This money is used to subsidize many critical state expenditures, such as education subsidies. When our industry and other tourism industries do well, state sales tax revenues stay high and even grow, providing a strong foundation of revenue for the state budget.

Summer in Wisconsin is the primary season for all sizes of lodging properties and tourism businesses to generate the revenue to sustain them in the less busy seasons for tourism. The season is already short due to our northern climate, and the time for families to enjoy a vacation together is already limited. With over 50% of the travelers in Wisconsin being Wisconsin residents, the expansion of exceptions to the September 1 School Start requirement would not go without a cost to our industry, which in turn impacts state sales tax revenues.

With the recent legislation that already enables a school district to choose the number of days of school each year, as well as what specific hours of the school day, when to fit in days off during the school year that the district wishes, and the ending date, there is considerable local flexibility in scheduling that should provide school officials with sufficient tools to accommodate any special exam preparations time, and address other needs.

There is currently a process in place that allows the DPI to grant an individual waiver if a district can demonstrate and document sufficient need. Providing an automatic exception as suggested in this bill, is not necessary between the recently expanded scheduling flexibility already provided, and the current waiver process.

Once again, we respectfully ask you to vote against this exception to an important requirement to the tourism economy in our state. Thank-you.

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Wisconsin

Memorandum

TO: Members of the Assembly Committee on Education
FROM: Bill G. Smith, State Director
DATE: November 5, 2015
RE: Assembly Bill 144
School Start Date Legislation

Although surveys by NFIB/Wisconsin show strong support among small business owners *for a post Labor Day start*, NFIB/Wisconsin supports current law as a compromise position between interested stakeholders, which prohibits public schools from starting the school year before September 1st.

The fall start date is important to our small business dominated tourism industry because it saves a significant share of the tourism season.

Tourism is a vitally important industry, dominated by small business, and very often drives the economies of hundreds of local communities throughout our state.

The September 1st date allows Wisconsin to promote a longer tourism season, which generates tax revenue, extends the season for earnings, and keeps revenue flowing to small tourism-related businesses. In addition, families should have the opportunity to vacation together, and the warm late August weather is an ideal time for family vacations in Wisconsin.

While we recognize Assembly Bill 144 does not completely repeal current law, it does create an exception that would seriously undermine the requirements and intent of current law.

Therefore, we respectfully urge members of the Committee to support the thousands of small businesses who rely on a vibrant tourism season by **opposing passage of Assembly Bill 144**.

Thank you for your consideration.



WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION
OF CONVENTION
& VISITORS BUREAUS

Memorandum

November 5, 2015

To: Members of the Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Education
From: Julia Hertel, Executive Director
RE: Opposition to AB 144

Current law allows K-12 public schools to start the school year anytime from September 1st on. The proposed legislation will waive this requirement for school districts that have 20 percent or more of their high school students taking advanced placement tests. **Please do not support this proposed legislation.**

The September 1 school start date is beneficial to Wisconsin's economy and families, and it does not have a negative effect on the education of our students.

In 2014, visitors spent \$3.65 billion between July and September, \$783 million more than they did between April and June. Removing the September 1 school start date would clearly lead to less revenue for Wisconsin businesses and less tax revenue for Wisconsin state government during this peak season.

Surveys have shown that the majority of Wisconsin parents support the September 1 school start date. It is a reality of modern family life that the last two weeks of August may present the one-and-only opportunity for families to spend quality time together during a planned-for getaway.

There is no proven need for this legislation. According to the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, Wisconsin students consistently outperform their national counterparts on advanced placement (AP) tests and the number of students taking AP classes and the tests continues to grow. Local school boards and districts already have flexibility to set their school calendar; selecting holiday breaks, staff development days and making up snow and cold days. Some school districts in Wisconsin manage to finish in early June while others finish in mid-June, demonstrating the flexibility each district has.

Please oppose this legislation.

Thank you for your consideration. For further information, contact: Julia Hertel, WACVB Executive Director, jhertel@escapetowisconsin.com or call (608) 837-6693.

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Representative Jeremy Thiesfeldt
Chair of the Assembly Committee on Education
Room 16 West
State Capitol
PO Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Thiesfeldt,

My name is Dr. Robert Kobylski, and I have the pleasure of serving as the Superintendent of the Nicolet High School District, located in Southeast Wisconsin. I am writing this correspondence as an advocate for Assembly Bill 144. Please know that I deeply appreciate the opportunity to present my district's perspective to the Committee on Education.

The proposed legislation, as currently written, eliminates a longstanding competitive disadvantage for the many college minded students at Nicolet, as well as other students in similarly situated school districts. As a direct result of the September 1 restriction on the start of the school term, Wisconsin Advanced Placement students are, on average, two-weeks behind their national peers when it comes to preparation for the intensely rigorous battery of AP tests held on nationally established dates each spring.

While to many, a September 1 school term start may appear to be a rather innocuous constraint, the reality is that two weeks of lost instructional preparation for an AP test can have a demonstrable effect on student AP score outcomes, given the depth and breath of content knowledge and skills measured by the individual AP tests. It has been my experience as an educator, in both Illinois and Wisconsin, that poor student performance on an AP test is not necessarily due to a lack of mastery of the material covered, rather substandard performance on an AP test is often directly attributable to not having the time to cover all the required material.

The current two-week instructional lag experienced by Wisconsin AP students, and the subsequent negative effect on student AP scores, has significant personal implications for our students. It is widely known that selective colleges have made enrollment in AP courses, and success on the associated AP tests, virtual requirements for admission. As such, the competitive disadvantage in college admission processes for Wisconsin students becomes more poignant.

Additionally, an AP score will determine whether a student receives college credit or advanced standing upon matriculation to particular colleges or universities. Students entering post-secondary institutions with credits under their belt have fewer courses to take and, ultimately, a smaller tuition bill. This is a significant matter to many parents and

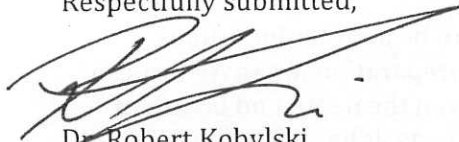
students who are looking to better manage the highly publicized, and very real, issue of college tuition debt. Some of our Nicolet grads enter university systems with second semester freshman or sophomore standing. Successful scores on AP tests allow for this benefit. This benefit could accrue to many more students, as an extra two weeks of instruction should lead to higher test scores.

Allow me to conclude my comments with a few specific items and observations for your consideration:

- Student enrollment at Nicolet during the 2014-2015 school year was 1096 students, and we administered 745 AP tests to 320 students during the fall 2015 AP testing period.
- 55% of Nicolet students take at least 1 AP course prior to graduation.
- 30% of Nicolet graduating seniors will have taken between 3-5 AP courses.
- Over 40% of Nicolet students are involved in fall extracurricular/sports, all of which start practice in early to mid August, i.e., a significant percentage of students are already on campus in August.
- Students who pass the AP Physics "B" test will receive eight (8) credits from UW-Madison.
- Two of the highest performing school districts in Illinois, New Trier Township High School (Wilmette, IL) and Adlai E. Stevenson High School (Lincolnshire, IL) began the 2015-2016 school year on August 19th and August 20th respectively.
- An August 15, 2016 school term start date would allow us to end the school year earlier on June 2, 2017, rather than June 16. The summer vacation period remains constant; the time is just shifted.

I appreciate your time and attention to this important topic. If I can be of help in your future deliberations, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,



Dr. Robert Kobylski
Superintendent
Nicolet High School District



Members

Association of Wisconsin Tourism Attractions
Chet Gerlach

Wisconsin Association of Convention & Visitors Bureaus
Julia Hertel

Wisconsin Dells Visitor & Convention Bureau
Romy Snyder

Wisconsin Hotel & Lodging Association
Trisha Pugal

Wisconsin Restaurant Association
Pete Hanson

Tavern League of Wisconsin
Pete Madland

Associate Members

American Automobile Association
Nick Jarmusz

Arts Wisconsin
Anne Katz

Golf Course Owners of Wisconsin
Steve Stumbras

National Federation of Independent Business - Wisconsin
Bill Smith

Outdoor Advertising Association of Wisconsin
Kathi Kilgore

Wisconsin Association of Campground Owners
Lori Severson

Wisconsin ATV/UTV Association
Randy Harden

Wisconsin Bed and Breakfast Association
Kerry Thiel

Wisconsin Petroleum Marketers & Convenience Store Association
Doug Parrott

TFW Supports Wisconsin's September 1 School Start Date Law

A consistent school start date has always been, and remains, in the best interest of:

- Tax revenues being returned to the state
 - Overall economic development and sustainable economic growth
 - Quality of life for families
 - The hospitality reputation of the state
-
- Surveys have demonstrated that the majority of parents support the September 1 school start date.
 - In 2014, visitors spent \$3.65 billion between July and September, \$783 million more than they did between April and June. Removing the September 1 school start date would clearly lead to less revenue for Wisconsin businesses during this peak season and less income for employees.
 - Families want to vacation together and the good weather and warm water makes mid-late August an ideal time for family vacations in Wisconsin. It is a reality of modern family life that the last two weeks of August may present the one-and-only opportunity for families to spend quality time together during a planned-for getaway.
 - Local school boards and districts have flexibility to set their school calendar; selecting holiday breaks, staff development days and making up snow and cold days. Some school districts in Wisconsin manage to finish in early June while others finish in mid-June which demonstrates the flexibility each district has.
 - Minnesota and Michigan, two major competitors to Wisconsin, have a state law requiring schools to start after Labor Day.
 - The labor pool also relies on income from these last weeks of August. In many cases, these employees are students who will use that income toward their post-high school education.

The Federation of Wisconsin Hospitality/Tourism/Recreation Groups

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School District of Menomonee Falls

MENOMONEE FALLS, WISCONSIN 53051

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(262) 255-8440 FAX (262) 255-8461

November 4, 2015

RE: Written Testimony School Start Date Hearing

Dear Legislators,

Thank you for considering the policy change to the mandated school start date of September 1st.

The School District of Menomonee Falls School Board and Leadership Team strongly support allowing local school boards to establish a school calendar that starts prior to September 1st of each year.

Our district does meet the threshold of 20% student participation in Advanced Placement coursework. Advanced Placement requires students to begin testing on nationally mandated dates beginning in early May. States across the nation begin school in August affording their students typically three weeks of additional instructional time prior to the start of the testing window. Advanced Placement performance is a direct link to college coursework placement and earning college credit. Our students, and all students in Wisconsin, are compromised by the current state statute.

We believe the decisions impacting the school start date are best made by local school boards. Local school boards are best positioned to know the needs of their students academically, the preferences of their parent population, and the needs of their local business community for student assistance in the summer workforce.

We strongly support the change in this state law and would encourage you to consider the change for all schools.

Sincerely,

Patricia Greco, Ph.D.
Superintendent School District of Menomonee Falls