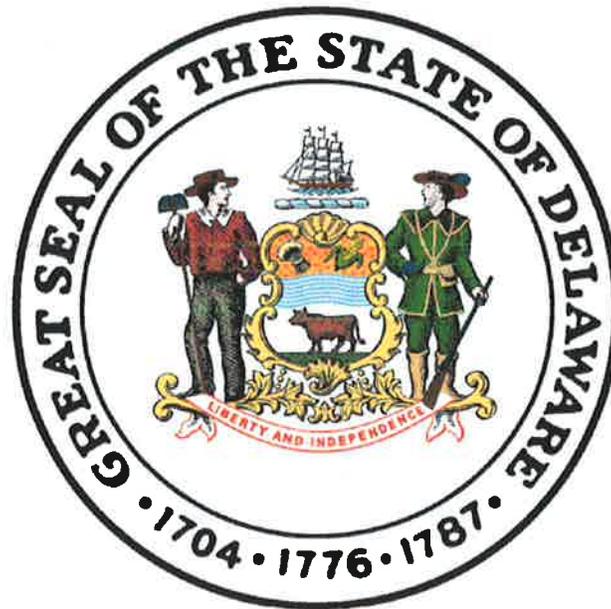


Senate Concurrent Resolution #20: School Start Task Force

Recommendation to the 147th General Assembly
June 20, 2014

Linda Parkowski, Chair



*A report of findings and recommendations
regarding the advisability
of starting the school year after Labor Day*

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Task Force Members

Task Force representation was specified by Senate Concurrent Resolution #22, specifying that it include (1) two members of the Senate; (2) two members of the House of Representatives; (3) one designee of the Secretary of Education; (4) four representatives of local school districts in the State, one each from Wilmington, New Castle County, Kent County and Sussex County, two of whom shall be teachers; (5) one representative of the Delaware Charter Schools Network; (6) one representative of the Delaware State Education Association; (7) four representatives of businesses impacted by summer tourism; and (8) one representative of the Delaware Tourism Office.

Members included:

Member	Organization
Linda Parkowski (chair)	Director, Delaware Tourism Office
Senator Gerald Hocker	State Senate
Senator David Sokola	State Senate
Rep. Ronald E. Gray	House of Representatives
Rep. Stephen T. Smyk	House of Representatives
Karen Field Rogers	Associate Secretary, Department of Education
Glenn Byrum	Grotto Pizza
Susan E. Francis	Executive Director, Delaware School Boards Association
Adele L. Jones	Sussex Central High School/DSEA Board member
Phyllis R. Kohel	Superintendent, Milford School District
Paul Kuhns	Entrepreneur
Allen F. Lathbury, Jr., Ed.D.	Superintendent, Sussex Tech District
Dorothy A. Linn, Ed.D.	Superintendent, Colonial School District
Keith Martin	Co-Owner, Hotel Rehoboth
G.Scott Reihm	Executive Director, Del. Association of School Administrators
Ronald L. Steen	Owner, Steen's Beach Service
Mervin B. Daugherty	Superintendent, Red Clay Consolidated School District
Kendall A. Massett	Delaware Charter Schools Network

Executive Summary and recommendation

1) Purpose of Process and Overview

The Task Force was created to study the advisability of mandating that all Delaware public school districts start their school year after Labor Day (i.e., the first Monday in September), based on a concern that starting the school year before that day was having a continuing negative impact on the many small businesses in the Delaware beach resort areas that rely on the tourism trade, and thus also having a negative impact on the state's economy.

The Senate Resolution creating the Task Force said it should seek a solution to this issue that does not affect the mandated total number of school days for schoolchildren, but which also provides for the economic benefit of the state. Task Force members were charged with focusing on three specific areas of concern:

- The educational system, including the academic calendar, planning, administration, and facilities use;
- The economy; and
- Summer tourism

Because many students are compelled under the school-year schedule that is currently in place at most districts to quit their resort-area jobs before the traditional "end" of the summer season (i.e., Labor Day), businesses say they are left with a workforce that is insufficient to meet consumer demand, resulting in lost revenue and leaving visitors with a vacation experience that is lacking in key respects. In addition, the resolution asserts that

starting the school year prior to Labor Day negatively impacts families in general by limiting their chances to vacation together during the height of the summer season (i.e., late August).

On the other hand, many schools in Delaware are deeply committed to the concept of “local control,” the belief that scheduling decisions and other important components of the educational process are best decided by those closest to the students, e.g., educators, parents and the affected community. There is also a feeling among school administrators, educators and parents that a mandatory start could disrupt schedules that have already been adjusted to accommodate each district’s particular testing and training requirements.

The Task Force met five times between Dec. 12, 2013 and May 21, 2014, and supplemented its discussions with presentations and other information from states that have implemented or at least considered a post Labor Day start. The school calendars of surrounding states were also reviewed. The creation of a study to assess the economic impact of various school year start dates was requested from the state Office of the Controller General, but that office was unable to accommodate. Public comment was accommodated and submitted to the record at each meeting, and members were provided position statements (both in support and opposition), as well as surveys from Task Force members’ constituent groups and other relevant organizations statewide.

Guest speakers who have familiarity with the issue in other states were also asked to present information to the Task Force, including:

- David Reel, who represents the Maryland Hotel & Lodging Association and attends meetings of a similar Task Force in Maryland (which recently voted in favor of post Labor Day starts).
- Kristian Harvard, who represents the Virginia Hospitality & Travel Association (VHTA) as the Director of Government Affairs (post Labor Day starts have been

successfully implemented in Virginia, with waivers available for districts to “opt out” of a late start).

Related studies on the issue (included in Appendix) were also circulated among members, including:

- “Economic Impact of a Post Labor Day Start Date for Maryland Public Schools” prepared by the Maryland Comptroller
- Four studies from the Virginia Hospitality & Travel Association (VHTA)
- “Pre-Labor Day School Start Dates Negatively Affect Family Travel”
- “Economic Contribution of Virginia’s Travel and Tourism Industry”
- “The Economic Consequences of Shortening the High Tourism Season”
- “Tourism Generates Instant Revenue for Virginia”
- “Promote the High Tourism Season”

2) *Task Force Discussions*

The discussion of the issues revolved around several primary areas of concern, both “pro” and “con” the concept of a post Labor Day start:

“Pro”

- Early school start is hurting business revenue, and thus impacting tourism, which is the fourth largest private employer in the state, attracting 7.3 million visitors, employing 38,810, and adding \$2.2 billion to the state GDP (2012 data).
- Tourism revenue is also crucial to keeping taxes low. Without tourism, each Delaware household would pay \$1,301 more in taxes to maintain current levels of state and local taxes (2012 data).
- Steps that raise revenue and reduce personal taxes are needed for the state’s economy, and are even more crucial when that economy is still recovering from a recession.

- Early school start is “taking jobs” from American students and leaving them to be filled by foreign nationals.
- A post Labor Day start system has been implemented in Virginia without negative impact on students.
- In Delaware, the Cape Henlopen and Indian River school districts (which comprise the beach area) already start the school year after Labor Day, and report no negative educational impact.
- By improving the economy through a post Labor Day start, Delaware would also be helping to ensure adequate funding for the education system.
- In Delaware Districts where a post Labor Day start is already in effect (Cape Henlopen, Indian River), the system works well.
- If a district has valid concerns that a post Labor Day start would be an undue burden, a waiver system can be established.

“Con”

- In a time of increasing federal mandates to schools, additional external demands are not in the best interests of schools or students.
- School districts function better and are able to tailor services to students’ needs when control is left in local hands. Mandating the start of the school year would further undermine efforts to ensure this local control – and flexibility – is strong.
- Educators told the Task Force that adding days to end of calendar would make it more difficult to maximize the attention and attendance of students.
- School schedules can be busy and complex in today’s climate, and must factor in snow days, professional development training, and state testing. Those schedules are easier to manage when the school year starts before Labor Day.
- Students could potentially have insufficient days to prepare for state testing under a schedule that starts after Labor Day.
- New Castle County school districts now coordinate calendars based on common needs and concerns. A statewide mandate could work against this more broadly localized type of cooperation.
- Parents will likely be opposed to a change.

- High school students are a small portion of the tourism workforce. Changing the school start date would do nothing to remedy the loss of college students who leave in mid-August.
- Schools are concerned about attendance dropping off at the end of the school year.
- Late starts would mean fewer school days prior to state testing.

3) *Other States' Experiences*

The experiences of schools in other states that had considered a post Labor Day start were considered:

- The neighboring state of Maryland has also created a task force to study a post-Labor Day start date. The Maryland Comptroller claims that a post-Labor Day start date would generate \$4 million in additional revenue for state and local governments at no cost.
- The state of Virginia, where a post Labor Day start has been adopted, has documented the benefits to their state and local economies.

4) *External Input*

Surveys and letters of interested constituent parties were also included in the Task Force's considerations:

- The Delaware Association of Visiting Teachers and Sussex County Interagency Council for Children and Families provided that they are in favor of school starting after Labor Day.
- The district superintendent for Cape Henlopen is in favor of schools developing their own calendar.
- The Indian River School District Superintendent told the task force that late starts are crucial for keeping the local economy strong from mid-August through Labor Day.
- The Delaware Association of School Board Administrators elicited responses from 164 out of 428 members. 39 percent were in favor of late school start.

- The Delaware Chief School Officers Association recommended allowing schools to decide the start date.
- Charter Schools of Delaware recommended allowing schools to decide the start date.
- The Delaware School Boards Association recommended allowing schools to decide the start date.

Input from guest speakers also was considered:

- Speaker David Reel told the Task Force that in Maryland:
 - Work Groups are strongly divided on the issue, with the tourism industry supporting a post Labor Day start, and school superintendents against. Schools are also concerned about potential impact on state test scores.
 - Reel also noted that in neighboring Virginia there has been no impact on the test scores since late school start was implemented. Reel also told the Task Force that changing the date will bring more money into the state, which has the potential for boosting school funding.
- Speaker Harvard told the Task Force that in Virginia:
 - There are currently 4 types of waivers to allow schools to start before Labor Day. These are handled on a case-by-case basis.
 - Virginia has not seen any impact on education performance for the students starting after Labor Day.
 - A positive economic impact has occurred with 210,000 jobs supported by tourism dollars.
 - In 2010 the Defined Start Study was completed that reflected a \$369 million economic impact loss if the legislation was repealed.
 - Virginia has also been able to shift general funds to teacher salaries and education with support for 13,000 teachers and the ability to save schools money.
 - Virginia has seen a 37% energy savings with starting school after Labor Day.
 - Virginia's school year is 180 days and it is up to each school to decide on their school calendar starting after Labor Day.
 - Post Labor Day starts in Virginia still raise concerns about "local control" being lost by administrators.

(B) Recommendations

In keeping with its mandate, the Task Force examined potential impacts on each of the three areas of concern (i.e., educational system, economy and summer tourism), with the majority of members concluding that a post Labor Day start would be minimally disruptive to the educational system, while potentially delivering substantial economic benefits to many Delawareans. The Task Force voted by a majority of one to recommend to the General Assembly that public schools in Delaware start the school year after Labor Day, and that the only waivers offered are to school districts that can show hardship or to those that are open year-round. None of the representatives from public education institutions voted for the mandatory post Labor Day start date.

APPENDIX A



SPONSOR: Sen. Hocker & Rep. Schwartzkopf
Sens. Bonini, Cloutier, Lavelle, Lawson, Lopez,
Pettyjohn, Simpson; Rep. Briggs King, Dukes, Gray,
Kenton, Longhurst, Outten, Paradee, Peterman, Ramone,
D. Short, Smyk, Wilson

DELAWARE STATE SENATE
147th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 22

CREATING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE ADVISABILITY OF STARTING EACH SCHOOL YEAR AFTER LABOR DAY.

1 WHEREAS, Delaware boasts nationally renowned vacation destinations like Dewey Beach, Rehoboth Beach, and
2 Bethany Beach; and

3 WHEREAS, The Delaware tourism industry is the 3rd largest private employer in the state, employing 39,300
4 people; and

5 WHEREAS, 7.2 million visitors came to Delaware in 2011 generating \$437 million in state and local government
6 taxes and fees; and

7 WHEREAS, During these tough economic times especially, we need to be doing all that we can to support the
8 tourism sector and find ways to foster even more growth; and

9 WHEREAS, Cutting summer short has a negative impact on small businesses that rely on the tourist trade; and

10 WHEREAS, Without tourism in Delaware, each Delaware household would pay \$1309 more in taxes to maintain
11 current levels of state and local taxes; and

12 WHEREAS, Our neighboring state of Maryland has passed legislation to create a task force to study a post-Labor
13 Day start date for Maryland Public Schools; and

14 WHEREAS, The Maryland Comptroller claims that a post-Labor Day start date would generate \$4 million in
15 additional revenue for state and local governments at no cost; and

16 WHEREAS, Other states that have adopted this policy, including Virginia, have documented the benefits to their
17 state and local economies; and

18 WHEREAS, The chance for families to spend precious time together and to build lifelong memories during that
19 final, end-of-summer vacation has been lost by the decision to begin school before Labor Day; and

20 WHEREAS, There should be a solution to keep the mandated number of days while providing considerable
21 economic benefit to the state.

22 NOW, THEREFORE:

23 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the 147th General Assembly of the State of Delaware, the House concurring
24 therein, that a Task Force be created to study the advisability of starting each school year after Labor Day.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force shall consist of the following members:

- 26 (1) two members of the Senate, appointed by the President Pro Tem of the Senate;
27 (2) two members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House;
28 (3) the Secretary of the Department of Education or the Secretary's designee; and
29 (4) the following members, to be appointed by the Governor one of whom shall be designated as the Chair of
30 the Task Force:

- 31 (i) four representatives of local school districts in the State one each from Wilmington, New Castle
32 County, Kent County and Sussex County; two of whom shall be teachers;
33 (ii) one representative of the Delaware Charter Schools Network;
34 (iii) one representative of the Delaware State Education Association;
35 (iv) four representatives of businesses impacted by summer tourism;
36 (v) one representative of the Delaware Tourism Office;

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education shall provide staff for the Task Force.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force study shall focus on the following areas:

- 39 (1) the education system, including the academic calendar, planning, administration, and facilities use;
40 (2) the economy; and
41 (3) summer tourism.

42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that on or before January 14, 2014, the Task Force shall report its findings and
43 recommendations to the General Assembly and the Governor.

SYNOPSIS

This Concurrent Resolution creates a Task Force to study the advisability of starting each school year after Labor Day.

AUTHOR: Sen. Hocker

APPENDIX B

BERNARD J. BRADY
SECRETARY OF THE SENATE



Room S-135
Home: (302) 655-0551
Office: (302) 744-4129
Fax: (302) 739-7718

SENATE
STATE OF DELAWARE
LEGISLATIVE HALL
DOVER, DELAWARE 19903

**I, BERNARD J. BRADY, SECRETARY OF THE DELAWARE STATE SENATE,
DO HEREBY CERTIFY THE ATTACHED IS A TRUE AND EXACT COPY OF:**

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 44

**PASSED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
THE 147th GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE SECOND OF APRIL, 2014.**


BERNARD J. BRADY
SECRETARY OF THE SENATE



SPONSOR: Sen. Hocker & Rep. Schwartzkopf
Sens. Bonini, Cloutier, Lavelle, Lawson, Lopez,
Pettyjohn, Simpson; Reps. Briggs King, Dukes, Gray,
Kenton, Longhurst, Outten, Paradee, Peterman, Ramone,
D. Short, Smyk, Wilson

DELAWARE STATE SENATE
147th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 44

EXTENDING THE REPORTING DATE OF THE TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE ADVISABILITY OF STARTING
EACH SCHOOL YEAR AFTER LABOR DAY.

1 WHEREAS, a Task Force to study the advisability of starting each school year after Labor Day was created by
2 SCR 22 of the 147th General Assembly of the State of Delaware; and

3 WHEREAS, the Task Force has worked diligently on its directives since its inception; and

4 WHEREAS, the Task Force needs additional time to complete its study and recommendations and prepare a final
5 report for submission to the General Assembly and the Governor.

6 NOW, THEREFORE:

7 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the 147th General Assembly of the State of Delaware, the House concurring
8 therein, that the reporting date of the Task Force to study the advisability of starting each school year after Labor Day is
9 hereby extended to September 30, 2014.

SYNOPSIS

This resolution extends the reporting date of the Task Force to study the advisability of starting each school year
after Labor Day to September 30, 2014.

AUTHOR: Sen. Hocker

APPENDIX C

Task Force Members

Task Force representation was specified by Senate Concurrent Resolution #22, specifying that it include (1) two members of the Senate; (2) two members of the House of Representatives; (3) one designee of the Secretary of Education; (4) four representatives of local school districts in the State, one each from Wilmington, New Castle County, Kent County and Sussex County, two of whom shall be teachers; (5) one representative of the Delaware Charter Schools Network; (6) one representative of the Delaware State Education Association; (7) four representatives of businesses impacted by summer tourism; and (8) one representative of the Delaware Tourism Office.

Members included:

Member	Organization
Linda Parkowski (chair)	Director, Delaware Tourism Office
Senator Gerald Hocker	State Senate
Senator David Sokola	State Senate
Rep. Ronald E. Gray	House of Representatives
Rep. Stephen T. Smyk	House of Representatives
Karen Field Rogers	Associate Secretary, Department of Education
Glenn Byrum	Grotto Pizza
Susan E. Francis	Executive Director, Delaware School Boards Association
Adele L. Jones	Sussex Central High School/DSEA Board member
Phyllis R. Kohel	Superintendent, Milford School District
Paul Kuhns	Entrepreneur
Allen F. Lathbury, Jr., Ed.D.	Superintendent, Sussex Tech District
Dorothy A. Linn, Ed.D.	Superintendent, Colonial School District
Keith Martin	Co-Owner, Hotel Rehoboth
G.Scott Reihm Administrators	Executive Director, Del. Association of School
Ronald L. Steen	Owner, Steen's Beach Service
Mervin B. Daugherty	Superintendent, Red Clay Consolidated School District
Kendall A. Massett	Delaware Charter Schools Network

APPENDIX D

**Task Force to Study the Advisability of Starting the School Year After Labor Day
Thursday, December 12, 2013 (9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.)
DEDO Large Conference Room
Dover, Delaware
MINUTES**

Attendance:

Glenn Byrum, Grotto Pizza
Mervin Daugherty, Red Clay Consolidated School
Karen Field Rogers, Department of Education
Susan Francis, Delaware School Boards Association
Bryan Gordon, Aide to Senator Sokola
Senator Gerald Hocker
Adele Jones, Sussex Central High School/DSEA board member
Phyllis Kohel, Milford School District
Paul Kuhns,
Allen F. Lathbury, Jr., Ed.D., Sussex Tech District Office
Dorothy A. Linn, Ed.D., Colonial School District
Keith Martin, Hotel Rehoboth
Kendall Massett, Delaware Charter School Network
Linda Parkowski, Delaware Tourism Office
Ronald Pierce, Delaware School Boards Association
G. Scott Reihm, Delaware Association of School Administrators
Ronald Steen, Steen's Beach Service

The meeting of the Task Force was called to order by Chairperson Linda Parkowski at 9:33 a.m.

Introductions

Introductions were made by each member

Senate Concurrent Resolution #22

Senator Hocker explained the need for the resolution and how Delaware's summer seasons are shrinking and we only have two major sources of income for the state-Agriculture and Tourism. Senator Hocker also noted how school starting prior to Labor Day is causing an economic hardship to Delaware.

Senator Hocker did advise the group that he represents the resort areas and had asked for only one member to be appointed to the board-Ron Steen-who can speak for small businesses and is a former educator. The other members selected as per the resolution.

Charge of the Task Force

Linda Parkowski explained the responsibilities of the Task Force, to study the impact of late school start on:

- The education system-academic calendar, planning, administration & facilities use
- The economy
- Summer tourism

Additional Information Needed

Group discussed what additional information is needed before a recommendation can be made to the General Assembly and Governor.

The list was agreed upon as follows:

1. Controller General Study
2. Worker Study-how many Delaware high school students in workforce as well as total overall high school workforce
3. Speaker from Virginia, which has already adopted school starting after Labor Day and one from Maryland who is currently studying this topic
4. Copies of other surrounding states (NJ and PA) academic calendars
5. Each member of the board will survey their respective organizations to ascertain their input regarding school starting after Labor Day

Path Forward Discussion

- Group agreed to meet once a month until May 2014
- Task Force due date for report will need to be amended from January 2014 to a later date
- Secure speakers from Virginia and Maryland

Public Comment

None

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Task Force to Study the Advisability of Starting the School Year After Labor Day
Wednesday, February 6, 2014 (9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.)
DEDO Large Conference Room
Dover, Delaware
MINUTES

Attendance:

Margaret M. Dean, House of Representatives for Rep. Gray & Sen. Hocker
Karen Field Rogers, Department of Education
Allen F. Lathbury, Jr., Ed.D., Sussex Tech District Office
Kendall Massett, Delaware Charter School Network
Linda Parkowski, Delaware Tourism Office
Ronald Pierce, Delaware School Boards Association
Eric Ruth, Delaware Tourism Office
Representative Stephen Smyk

The meeting of the Task Force was called to order by Chairperson Linda Parkowski at 9:30 a.m.

Approval of 12/12/13 Meeting Minutes

A quorum was not in attendance minutes to be approved at the February 26, 2014 meeting

Reports from Task Force Members

Surveys were submitted via email by:

- Adele Jones representing DSEA Executive Board, DE Association of Visiting Teachers and Sussex County Interagency Council for Children and Families provided that they are all in favor of school starting after Labor Day. Adele also polled the district superintendent for Cape Henlopen who is in favor of schools developing their own calendar. The district superintendent for Indian River is in favor of starting after Labor Day since that is what the local community needs.
- Glenn Byrum representing Grotto Pizza, submitted that their executive board is totally in favor of late school start. They have seen a significant drop in business since the calendar was changed. Labor Day used to rank 2 of 3 for the major summer holiday weekends and is now a distant 3rd.
- Scott Reihm representing DE Association of School Board Administrators provided that 164/428 members responded and 39% were in favor of late school start.

Surveys were submitted at the meeting by:

- A.J. Lathbury representing the Chief School Officers Association
- Kendall Massett representing the Charter Schools of Delaware
- Ronald Pierce representing DE School Boards Association

All of the above organizations are in favor of allowing schools to decide the start date.

Karen Field Rogers submitted via email after the meeting her findings of Eastern Shore school district start dates.

An updated list will be distributed with the minutes to all Task Force members.

Linda Parkowski reported that speakers from Maryland and Virginia have been secured for the next two meetings. Linda is also trying to ascertain whether Sen. Hocker introduced a resolution to extend the due date of the report to January 13, 2015.

Path Forward Discussion

Margaret Dean to make contact with Controller General regarding study or possibility of hiring an outside organization to perform economic impact study.

Public Comment

Eleanor La Prade, Delaware State News was in attendance.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

Task Force to Study the Advisability of Starting the School Year After Labor Day
Wednesday, February 26, 2014 (9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.)
DEDO Large Conference Room
Dover, Delaware
MINUTES

Attendance:

Glenn Byrum, Grotto Pizza Inc.
Mervin Daugherty, Red Clay School District
Karen Field Rogers, Department of Education
Susan Francis, Delaware School Boards Association
Representative Ron Gray
Senator Gerald Hocker
Adele Jones, DSEA
Phyllis Kohel, Milford School District
Allen F. Lathbury, Jr., Ed.D., Sussex Tech District Office
Dorothy Linn, Colonial School District
Linda Parkowski, Delaware Tourism Office
Ronald Pierce, Delaware School Boards Association
G. Scott Reihm, DASA
Eric Ruth, Delaware Tourism Office
Representative Stephen Smyk

The meeting of the Task Force was called to order by Chairperson Linda Parkowski at 9:40 a.m.

Approval of 12/12/13 and 2/6/14 Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes from the last two meeting was made and approved by Senator Hocker, seconded by Karen Field Rogers and approved by all.

Guest Speaker

- Linda Parkowski introduced the guest speaker via conference call, David Reel, to the board. David represents the Maryland Hotel & Lodging Association and attends the Maryland Task Force meetings.
- David Reel provided the group with 2 documents--the Economic Impact of a Post Labor Day Start Date for Maryland Public Schools prepared by the Maryland Comptroller and a press release regarding Worcester County's decision to start school after Labor Day.
- The Maryland Task Force's report is not due until June 30, 2014 and would not be considered by the legislature until next year.
- Work groups in Maryland are strongly divided--tourism industry for after Labor Day start and school superintendents against. School superintendents feel it should be a school decision not the state. Schools are concerned about potential impact on state test scores.
- There was group discussion on Delaware educators concerns about having enough time with students for testing and the potential for a condensed or adjusted school calendar. David Reel mentioned that those in favor of late school start do not want to bring harm to the students. Maryland would keep the same number of attendance days and end later in June. Delaware discussion centered more on not adding additional days in June.
- Maryland's comptroller report was produced independent of the Task Force.

- In reference to Worcester County's decision to start school after Labor Day, David Reel stated that they were not lobbied and made the decision of their own.
- David also mentioned that historically in Virginia there has been no impact on the test scores since late school start was implemented. Also, changing the date will bring more money into the state which has the potential for more school funding.
- Maryland is also working on a survey to see how parents of school children feel about after Labor Day start.
- The Delaware Task Force is charged with studying the following areas:
 - The education system, including the academic calendar, planning, administration and facilities use
 - The economy
 - Summer tourism

Delaware Task Force Discussion

- Senator Hocker reported extension has been filed and report will be due the 1st Tuesday in January 2015.
- Mervin Daugherty to work on inviting a PTA official to a meeting.
- Educators stated adding days to end of calendar is tough to keep attention and attendance of students.
- Delaware Comptroller is unable to provide a study of the economic impact.

Path Forward Discussion

- Ideas to obtain additional information such as a News Journal poll or a state PTA poll.
- How productive are days prior to Labor Day for students? Need baseline testing to check productivity.
- Review Delaware school calendars.

Public Comment

Eleanor La Prada, Delaware State News was in attendance.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

**Task Force to Study the Advisability of Starting the School Year After Labor
Day
Thursday, April 17, 2014 (11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.)
DEDO Large Conference Room
Dover, Delaware
MINUTES**

Attendance:

Glenn Byrum, Grotto Pizza Inc.
Susan Francis, Delaware School Boards Association
Senator Gerald Hocker
Terri Hodges, Delaware PTA
Adele Jones, DSEA
Phyllis Kohel, Milford School District
Paul Kuhns, Deli Days Food Service
Keith Martin, Hotel Rehoboth
Linda Parkowski, Delaware Tourism Office
Ronald Pierce, Delaware School Boards Association
Eric Ruth, Delaware Tourism Office
Representative Stephen Smyk

The meeting of the Task Force was called to order by Chairperson Linda Parkowski at 11:08 a.m.

Approval of 2/26/14 Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting was made and approved by Paul Kuhns, seconded and approved by all.

Guest Speaker

- Linda Parkowski introduced the guest speaker via conference call, Kristian Harvard, to the board. Kristian represents the Virginia Hospitality & Travel Association (VHTA) as the Director of Government Affairs.
- The group was provided with documents from the VHTA—Pre-Labor Day School Start Dates Negatively Affect Family Travel, Economic Contribution of Virginia's Travel and Tourism Industry and the Economic Consequences of Shortening the High Tourism Season, Tourism Generates Instant Revenue for Virginia and Promote the High Tourism Season.
- Kristian discussed the history of the legislation in Virginia which was first introduced in 1987 and which eventually led to all Virginia public schools being mandated to start after Labor Day.

- There are currently 4 types of waivers in Virginia to allow schools to start before Labor Day and are handled on a case by case basis. The waiver legislation is included in this email.
- Virginia has not seen any impact on education performance for the students by starting after Labor Day.
- A positive economic impact has occurred with 210,000 jobs supported by tourism dollars.
- In 2010 the Defined Start Study was completed that reflected a \$369 million economic impact loss if the legislation was repealed.
- Virginia has also been able to shift general funds to teacher salaries and education with support for 13,000 teachers and the ability to save schools money.
- Virginia has seen a 37% energy savings with starting school after Labor Day.
- Virginia's school year is 180 days and it is up to each school to decide on their school calendar starting after Labor Day.

Delaware Task Force Discussion

- Phyllis Kohel, Milford School District pointed out that Delaware requires 1060 hours vs. Virginia's 990 hours of school time.
- Glenn Byrum, Grotto Pizza, commented that Virginia has been studying this for 20 years with little negative impact on education. He questioned if there has been any negative feedback in Virginia. Kristian stated that the pushback has been on the issue of local autonomy and the argument on student success. They developed research to prove that there has been no impact on student performance. Also, travel and vacation planning are negatively impacted when school starts before Labor Day.
- Adele Jones, DSEA, asked for more information on waiver system in Virginia and what is VAEA's position. Kristian stated VAEA also was for local control.
- Senator Hocker sees no negative impact on starting school after Labor Day. Schools in his districts have proven that it can be done. He also pointed out that education is a very large part of the state budget and that any increase in economic activity will be beneficial to school districts. Education system is 1/3 of state budget and will be in trouble if we cannot create more jobs. Senator Hocker also stated that we are in the highest cost per student and the lowest tier in test score results; we need to get more 'bang for our buck'.
- Phyllis Kohel clarified that there is a 10.7 day difference between Delaware and Virginia
- Senator Hocker questioned if funds are used effectively while revenue is decreasing; Phyllis agreed since Milford has already lost \$1.9 million and school referendums are hard to get passed.
- Linda Parkowski reminded the group that education is only 1 of 3 tasks they are charged to report on.
 - The 3 tasks are:
 1. The education system, including the academic calendar, planning, administration and facilities use
 2. The economy
 3. Summer tourism

- Glenn inquired about local control and if schools start at the same time they can then develop their own calendars to meet the days needed. The answer was yes.
- Senator Hocker reported that the due date of the task force recommendation has changed and is September 30th; it has passed the Senate and currently in the House.

Path Forward Discussion

- Information need on Virginia school waivers; 30% of schools get waivers
- Open discussion at next meeting on your organizations position in order to deliver report to the Legislature by end of June

Public Comment

Terri Hodges, Delaware PTA pointed out that the focus should be on student based decision making. Also, since Delaware is a Common Core state a 30-40% decrease in student proficiency is expected. There is also expected to be an impact on test scores due to Common Core testing date changes which may be further enhanced if the school start date changes. PTA's membership is divided on this issue but will vote with their majority. Kristian responded that parents and students have been very positive about starting after Labor Day and how this allows for family bonding and spending time together on vacations. Terri inquired about economic impact and calendar difference. Kristian responded that the calendar difference starting before or after Labor Day is only 8 days. It is easy to be creative in working the 8 days back into the calendar. In Delaware the difference would be approximately 10 days. Terri also inquired if there are real dollar amounts of what has been funneled back into education, Kristian did not have an exact figure but education in Virginia is a high priority.

Terri later inquired of the group if New Castle students get jobs in Sussex. Paul Kuhns responded that yes they do get students from all over the state and that many families have properties in Sussex. Senator Hocker also pointed out that it affects school employees also as they get hired at the summer locations.

Mike Hanlon, retired educator and grandparent, inquired about data availability for increased jobs for students if there is a post labor day start as well as any changes to sports mandated start dates.

Ron Pierce, retired education and DSBA board member, noted that he experienced both school starting in the late 90's before and after Labor Day and that he could not see a difference in the students and that they would fidget at the end of the school year no matter when it is. He also does not see the temperature as an issue. Costs for utilities and education are always increasing so anything that we can do to improve the economic impact to help the students is a positive.

Sean Carlson, WDDE was in attendance.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 12:26 p.m.

Task Force to Study the Advisability of Starting the School Year After Labor Day
Thursday, May 21, 2014 (9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.)
DEDO Large Conference Room
Dover, Delaware
MINUTES

Attendance:

Glenn Byrum, Grotto Pizza
Mervin Daugherty, Red Clay Consolidated School
Karen Field Rogers, Department of Education
Susan Francis, Delaware School Boards Association
Rep. Ronald Gray
Sen. Gerald Hocker
Adele Jones, Sussex Central High School/DSEA board member
Phyllis Kohel, Milford School District
Paul Kuhns, entrepreneur
Allen F. Lathbury, Jr., Ed.D., Sussex Tech District Office (via phone)
Keith Martin, Hotel Rehoboth
Kendall Massett, Delaware Charter School Network
Linda Parkowski, Delaware Tourism Office
Rep Stephen T. Smyk

Absent:

Dorothy A. Linn, Ed.D., Colonial School District
G. Scott Reihm, Delaware Association of School Administrators
Ronald Steen, Steen's Beach Service

The meeting of the Task Force was called to order by Chairperson Linda Parkowski at 9:33 a.m.

Motion made by Rep. Smyk to approve minutes of 4/17/14 meeting. Seconded by Sen. Hocker.
Approved unanimously.

Chairperson Parkowski reminded members that Task Force had agreed at the prior meeting to work toward a recommendation and a vote at this meeting, while keeping in mind the need to consider the effects on education, the economy and tourism. She referred members to written comments submitted by Delaware PTA, then opened meeting for discussion.

Rep. Smyk noted the importance of generating tourism revenue, and noted that in districts where late start was in effect (Cape, Indian River), it works very well.

Mr. Kuhns said that local students are crucial to the success of his five restaurants. In addition to being beneficial for resort communities, late start would preserve local jobs now taken by foreign

students. In the districts where it is in place, it works very well. There are not sufficient educational incentives to force schools to start before Labor Day.

Mr. Lathbury noted proven viability (Cape, Indian River) of starting post Labor Day, and raised the importance of keeping tourism dollars in the country instead of going to foreign students. He would like to see more data on potential impact of a later start.

Ms. Rogers said the Dept. of Education wants decision left with districts, due to difficult schedules, need for flexibility. Parents also face scheduling complexities, and it's important to consider the impact it would have on them.

Ms. Kohel agrees that districts need flexibility to choose their own start date, and says the majority of superintendents agree. Staffers prefer pre-Labor Day start, in part because of testing and snow days.

Mr. Daugherty said the school chiefs and the DSEA voted in favor of the issue not being decided by the state or the legislature. New Castle County district now work together to coordinate calendars, and current system works best.

Ms. Francis noted her understanding as a parent and business owner of the economic challenges of a pre-Labor Day start, but said the DSBA believes local districts should have the power to decide schedules. In some states with late starts (e.g., Virginia), many already are calling for return to local control. If late starts are implemented, districts must have a waiver option. A late-start law without waivers (as suggested in Maryland) is not acceptable. Federal education mandates already burden local districts, which don't need more mandates.

Mr. Byrum believes late start would be good for state. He notes that Virginia studied issue for two years and approved late starts – Virginia's time and effort should be considered. If local control is an issue, a waiver exception could be included.

Ms. Jones notes that executive board of DSEA hasn't voted on the issue yet – of those who have voiced an opinion, it's a 2-2 split, so she is torn on how to vote. Her experience in past as Sussex County educator found late starts to be helpful.

Mr. Gray said he has letter of support from Indian River Superintendent Susan Bunting in support of late start. Late starts are crucial for Indian River, and to keep the work force needed to keeps economy strong from mid-August through Labor Day. Late start would strengthen economy, raise tax revenue.

Sen. Hocker disagreed with letter sent by Delaware PTA, saying two districts currently using late start do not feel ill educational effects. He noted that waivers will work only if district has a legitimate hardship. He noted that last four weeks of August are most critical time for beach revenue, and reminded members that impact is felt not just in beach districts, but entire state economy, at a time when dollars are short. He reminded members that revenue supports school

programs – PTA’s claims that late starts are “not in best interest of students” fail to consider that budget shortfalls could potentially be even worse for students.

Chair Parkowski cautioned members that PTA’s letter was a compilation of comments from their members, not an official position statement from PTA leadership.

Ms. Francis noted that schools must cope with the demands of professional development training, and cautioned that schedules must now accommodate March testing. Sen. Hocker countered that training seems to not have improved educational results, and that testing is not working. More revenue is a solution, he said.

Mr. Daugherty noted that colleges play more of a role than public schools in late-season beach employment issues, which are partially a result of universities changing their schedules. He sees the concerns of beach businesses, but it’s not all public education’s fault. Waiver system has a flaw – all 14 districts will likely seek it, so it must be in an acceptable form. Task Force must also be ready for parental concerns over its actions.

Ms. Massett noted that the many underserved children in schools would be better served by local districts deciding what’s best for them. There are other ways of addressing revenue concerns.

Sen. Hocker noted that tourism is #2 economic driver, and reminded members that state revenue is shrinking. Rep Smyk noted that society benefits when economy is robust enough to support education.

Mr. Byrum disputed notion that this is a local control issue – the local districts are free to adjust scheduled within the school year – all this does is mandate when school year starts.

Ms. Massett warned of “mutiny” from parents if Christmas Break and other breaks were adjusted because of this. “Mandates” from government are hurting public schools.

Mr. Daugherty asked about the Task Force’s next step. Sen. Hocker responded that the Task Force’s recommendation will go to Legislature. Ms. Parkowski responded that the Task Force is mandated to have its recommendation done by September, but that members have agreed to have it completed by the end of June. The earliest its recommendations could be implemented is the 2016-2017 school year.

Members noted that the potential elements of a waiver system would be important to the overall recommendation.

Sen. Hocker made a motion that the Task Force recommend to the General Assembly that public schools in Delaware start the school year after Labor Day, and the only waivers offered are to the school districts that can show a hardship or those that are open year-round. Seconded by Mr. Kuhns.

The roll call was taken:

Glenn Byrum, Grotto Pizza	Yea
Mervin Daugherty, Red Clay Consolidated School	Nay
Karen Field Rogers, Department of Education	Nay
Susan Francis, Delaware School Boards Association	Nay
Senator Gerald Hocker	Yea
Ronald Gray, state representative	Yea
Adele Jones, Sussex Central High School/DSEA board member	Abstain
Phyllis Kohel, Milford School District	Nay
Paul Kuhns, entrepreneur	Yea
Allen F. Lathbury, Jr., Ed.D., Sussex Tech District Office	Nay
Dorothy A. Linn, Ed.D., Colonial School District	Absent
Keith Martin, Hotel Rehoboth	Yea
Kendall Massett, Delaware Charter School Network	Nay
Linda Parkowski, Delaware Tourism Office	Yea
G. Scott Reihm, Del. Association of School Administrators (by email)	Nay
Ronald Steen, Steen's Beach Service (by proxy through Sen. Hocker)	Yea
Rep Stephen T. Smyk	Yea

Ms. Massett asked if minority would be able to write a dissent. Chair Parkowski said they could.

Rep. Smyk noted that Task Force would need to meet to determine language of recommendation. Chair Parkowski stated that the draft language for the recommendation would be circulated by email to Task Force members.

Public Comment

Mr. Ronald Pierce, Delaware School Boards Association, noted that as a retired educator, start of year doesn't make much difference from an educational perspective. His associates on DSBA believe local control should be retained.

Mr. Mike Hanlon, retired educator, said a pre Labor Day start hurts family schedules. Also, the change in the University of Delaware summer schedule made it near impossible for any educator at any level to attend the free courses. The university changed summer school starting date in the 90's from the end of June to one week after graduation of its students. The loss of free courses to educators was a reason for districts to want to begin the school year before Labor Day. Task Force would benefit from more research/data on economic impact before considering waivers.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 10:51 a.m.

APPENDIX E

Promote the High Tourism Season—ALL the way through the Labor Day Holiday!

A group of interested stakeholders retained the Decide Smart Team to produce the *Economic Contribution of Virginia's Travel and Tourism Industry and the Economic Consequences of Shortening the High Tourism Season*. The study examines the effect of shortening the high tourism season on Virginia's Travel and Tourism Industry.

- Would travelers shorten vacations?
- Would travelers change their vacation plans altogether?
- How would this affect the economy?

In addition to taking a look at the effect on the economy, the study includes results of a survey completed this past Labor Day Holiday. Adults traveling with children were asked to answer a series of question about their vacation plans, including their school start preference.

Key Findings:

- Domestic travel-generated employees in Virginia earned more than **\$4.4 billion in payroll income** during 2008.
- Domestic travel spending in Virginia directly generated more than **\$2.5 billion in tax revenue** for federal, state and local governments in 2008.
- The **total economic contribution** of Virginia's Tourism Industry is over **\$30.1 billion** per year, supporting **289,300 jobs** and providing **\$7.9 billion in wages and benefits**.

Type of Impact	Direct Contribution	Additional Contribution	Total Contribution
Employment Impact	210,600	78,700	289,300
Labor Income (wages plus an estimate of benefits received)	\$4.400B	\$3.520B	\$7.920B
Economic Impact	\$19.221B	\$10.919B	\$30.140B

Source: DecideSmart estimates developed using estimates from the U.S. Travel Association and IMPLANPro™.

- It is estimated that uniformly shortening the tourism season **would forgo tourist spending by \$274 million** a year.
- The **total economic consequence** of shortening the tourism season in Virginia would be more than **\$369 million**, including more than **\$104 million in wages and benefits**. (Please reverse for full explanation.)
- **64% of adults** prefer starting school after the Labor Day Holiday.

**Table 2. Estimated Loss of Tourism Spending by Virginia Residents
If School Start Dates are in August, rather than September**

Category	Value
Estimated population of VA, 2009	7,882,600
76.6 % of VA residents are age 18+	6,038,100
37 % of VA residents age 18+ took Summer vacations in VA	2,234,100
27% of VA residents taking VA Summer vacations indicated they would forgo one additional vacation in VA	603,200
13% of VA residents taking Summer vacations indicated they would not have extended a Summer vacation by an average of 1.5 days	290,400
Average per trip spending	\$307.80
Average party size	1.9
Average nights stayed by VA residents traveling	1.5
Average spending per night	\$205.20
Average spending per person	\$162.00
Tourist spending <u>lost</u> in VA as VA residents forgo a new vacation, due to schools starting in August	- \$185,665,800
Tourist spending <u>lost</u> in VA from VA residents who do not extend their in-state trips, due to schools starting in August	- \$89,394,600
<u>Total loss</u> of tourist spending in Virginia, due to schools starting in August	- \$275,060,400



Tourism Generates Instant Revenue for Virginia

Tourism is one of Virginia's most powerful industries. It provides instant revenue for the state. Tourism generates billions of dollars in tax revenue and supports hundreds of thousands of jobs for Virginians.

In 2011 Virginia's tourism industry:

- Generated \$20.4 billion in revenue
- Supported 207,000 jobs
- Provided \$2.6 billion in state and local taxes
 - Without the jobs generated by domestic travel, Virginia's 2011 unemployment rate of 6.2% would have been 4.8 percentage point higher, or the equivalent of 11.1% of the labor force.

Economic Consequences of Shortening Virginia's Tourism Season

- The total economic contribution of Virginia's Tourism Industry is over \$30.1 billion per year, supporting 289,300 jobs and providing \$7.9 billion in wages and benefits.
- The total economic consequence of shortening the tourism season in Virginia would be more than \$369 million, including more than \$104 million in wages and benefits.
- The Economic Contribution of the Virginia Travel and Tourism Industry and Economic Consequence of Shortening the High Tourism was conducted by the Decide Smart Team: Dr. Bill Boshier, Dr. Bob Holsworth, Lane Ramsey

High Tourism Season Supports Virginia's Public Education

- It is estimated that uniformly shortening the tourism season would *forgo tourist spending by \$275 million a year.*
- Shortening the high tourism industry would jeopardize \$21 million in state and local taxes that *support public education and other core services!*
- Shortening the high tourism season would *jeopardize* generated revenues supporting:
 - The public education of approximately 1,250 Virginia students;
 - The salaries of more than 300 teachers; and
 - Support for textbooks, incentive programs for teachers, and hard-to-staff districts.

Economic Contribution of Virginia's Travel and Tourism Industry and the Economic Consequences of Shortening the High Tourism Season

Decide Smart

November 2010

Executive Summary

Decide Smart released the *Economic Contribution of Virginia's Travel and Tourism Industry and the Economic Consequences of Shortening the High Tourism Season* November 2010. The study examines the economic consequences of repealing (or changing) Virginia's post-Labor Day school start date and therefore shortening the high tourism season.

Key Findings:

- Domestic travel-generated employees in Virginia earned more than **\$4.4 billion in payroll income** during 2008.
- Domestic travel spending in Virginia directly generated more than **\$2.5 billion in tax revenue** for federal, state and local governments in 2008.
- The **total economic contribution** of Virginia's Tourism Industry is over **\$30.1 billion** per year, supporting **289,300 jobs** and providing **\$7.9 billion in wages and benefits**.
- The **total economic consequence of shortening the tourism season in Virginia** would be more than **\$369 million**, including more than **\$104 million in wages and benefits**.

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<u>Total loss</u> of tourist spending in Virginia, due to schools starting in August	- \$275,060,400



Pre-Labor Day School Start Dates Negatively Affect Family Travel

A recent 2012 study conducted by the University of Minnesota Tourism Center examined how travel patterns among households with school-aged children change when school starts before Labor Day. The results, released July 2012, provide missing data for policy makers as they consider ending the mandate that school districts start after Labor Day. The study utilized 5 states in its research, with Minnesota and Virginia being the two control groups.

The study finds that:

- Family trips of two or more nights away from home **decreased by 50%** in August or September when school starts were moved to before Labor Day.
- Family overnight travel throughout the season—from May through September—**decreased by 30%** when school starts were moved to before Labor Day.
- Of the families that will re-schedule their family vacation to accommodate early school openings, only one in five families actually do.

“All in all, if Minnesota were to switch to a pre-Labor Day start, the number of families taking a trip in any given summer month would drop by one third, and one in five households with a preference for late summer travel would re-schedule it for earlier in the summer. Better knowledge about the potential impact can be weighed against all interests in this issue as school districts and policy makers at the state level weigh options.”

Data for the study was drawn from the American Time Use Survey (ATUS), a national study sponsored by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. The survey is designed to describe how Americans use time on a daily basis. While past studies have asked hypothetical questions about travel, the Tourism Center study examined actual travel behavior of families in five states.

This study compared ATUS data about travel in Minnesota, Virginia, Michigan, Iowa, and Wisconsin as they transitioned in and out of school calendar or policy changes. Steps were taken to assure that the behavior change was attributed to school start times, rather than other conditions. For example, the study found that families without children who were from similar demographic and economic groups showed no difference in travel when school starts date changed.

“Policy makers considering school start dates are weighing important matters for the public good,” says Ingrid Schneider, Director of the University of Minnesota Tourism Center. “Everyone wants strong educational outcomes, and the tourism industry wants to remain a successful economic force. We wanted to bring objective and comparative data to this issue.”

To view the report, visit www.extension.umn.edu/go/1117.

STATEMENT BY THE MARYLAND HOTEL & LODGING ASSOCIATION, GARRETT COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, MARYLAND TOURISM COUNCIL, MARYLAND FARM BUREAU, GREATER OCEAN CITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, OCEAN CITY HOTEL - MOTEL - RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION, MARYLAND CAMPGROUNDS ASSOCIATION, WORCESTER COUNTY TOURISM AND SIX FLAGS AMERICA ON THE WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION DECISION TO MOVE THE START DATE FOR THE NEXT SCHOOL YEAR UNTIL AFTER LABOR DAY

For Immediate Release

**CONTACT:
David Reel
410.974.4472
443.924.1593
dreel@mdassn.com**

Annapolis MD -- The Maryland Hotel & Lodging Association, Garrett County Chamber of Commerce, Maryland Tourism Council, Maryland Farm Bureau, Greater Ocean City Chamber of Commerce, Ocean City Hotel - Motel - Restaurant Association, Maryland Campgrounds Association, Worcester County Tourism and Six Flags America commends the Worcester County Board of Education on their recent decision to move the start date for the next school year until after Labor Day.

The Board's decision reflects a keen understanding of the facts that relatively minor adjustments to public school calendars are feasible and can be made with an expectation there will not be negative impacts on the academic performance of public school students or the public schools they attend.

Public school students and public schools in Virginia who follow a state law on a post Labor Day School start consistently have some of the highest performance standards in the nation.

57% of the public schools in Virginia who were recognized with the 2012 Virginia Index of Performance Awards were schools where the school year started after Labor Day.

64% of the public schools in Virginia who received the 2012 Board of Education Excellence Awards began their school year after Labor Day.

66% of the public schools in Virginia who received the 2012 Virginia Governor's Award for Educational Excellence began the school year after Labor Day.

Award winning Maryland public schools and their award winning students can be expected to realize the same results with a post Labor Day school start.

A post Labor Day school start for Maryland public schools would also have a significant positive impact on the local and state economy as reported in a recent study issued by the State Comptroller.

As the State Task Force on Post Labor School Start for Maryland Public Schools continues their deliberations on if a relatively minor adjustment to the current school calendars is doable and is also good for public schools, public school students and local governments who need funds for public education and other essential public services, the available data and the recent decision by the Worcester County Board of Education indicate the conclusion is a resounding yes.

Wallace-Himmler, Janet (DEDO)

From: Parkowski, Linda (DEDO)
Sent: Wednesday, June 04, 2014 11:23 AM
To: Wallace-Himmler, Janet (DEDO)
Subject: FW: Post Labor Day school start article

From: David Reel [mailto:dreel@mdassn.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 04, 2014 11:06 AM
To: Parkowski, Linda (DEDO)
Subject: Post Labor Day school start article

Starting school later could generate an extra \$7.7 million for Maryland's coffers

By Crystal Hill
The Washington Times
Tuesday, June 3, 2014

Maryland officials, contemplating millions of dollars lost each year in vacation tourism revenue, are joining other states in reconsidering school start dates that have crept earlier into the summer in recent years.

Comptroller Peter V.R. Franchot has called for a post-Labor Day start to classes, saying his studies show an extra week of summer vacation could generate \$74.3 million from tourism and put an additional \$7.7 million in state coffers.

"The tourist industries in the state are quite diverse, and there would be increased economic activity that would be pulled back into the school system," said Mr. Franchot, a Democrat. "The study we did showed a direct increase in economic activity when vacations were being taken after August, and our report did not even include the indirect economic benefits."

The conclusion comes after a decades-long creep away from the traditional agrarian calendar in which academicians considered the benefits of year-round schooling. Now debates similar to that in Maryland are playing out around the country, with legislatures caught between the economic interests of their states and the educational needs of their students.

In Maryland, a task force was assembled last year to study the implications of a post-Labor Day starting date for public schools. The task force voted 11-4 in favor of a later starting date and recommended to Gov. Martin O'Malley that the state implement a law that will mandate the later start.

Mr. Franchot's report looked at three of Maryland's major tourist destinations — Ocean City, Baltimore and Deep Creek Lake — and concluded that each would increase substantially in economic profit. The comptroller also says that an extended break will give students more time to spend with their families and prevent businesses from losing their temporary workers — often high school students — before the summer ends.

"I believe that it would improve the quality of life of parents and families with young children, and I think it's a mistake, a well-intentioned one, to start school earlier because kids benefit from having a full summer," Mr. Franchot said.

Passing such a law would make Maryland one of just a few states to require a later start. Many states give their districts flexible options in when to start and finish, contingent upon meeting a 180-day requirement.

The Worcester County Board of Education recently decided to push back its start date to Sept. 2 for the 2014-2015 year despite its superintendent's objections. Mr. Franchot sees Worcester's decision as emblematic of where the state is headed.

The tourism industry has been one of the driving forces behind September starting dates in places like Michigan and Virginia, where the law requires schools to start after Labor Day unless they obtain a waiver from the state. The laws are lobbied for and championed by tourism officials and business owners who benefit from August earnings.

In Virginia, legislation is introduced virtually every year to reconsider what is called the "King's Dominion law," named for the state's popular theme park. Gov. Terry McAuliffe, a Democrat, supports the later start to school, citing the impact tourism has on the economy.

More schools in Michigan, however, have been requesting waivers to start in mid-August, with some teachers advocating the year-round schedule.

Other states, like Pennsylvania, have most of their schools starting before Labor Day with very few exceptions. In nearly every post-Labor Day dispute, the discussion remains fixed on the economic gains instead of student learning.

Before the Maryland task force came to a vote, local superintendents sent letters to the state Department of Education expressing strong opposition against any legislation that would threaten their district's autonomy. The letters stated the importance of each district exercising its own judgment according to its diverse needs and the interest of its students.

Mary Jo Richmond, a Frederick County educator and a member of the Maryland State Education Association who sat on the task force, said starting after Labor Day will harm professional development for teachers and students. Ms. Richmond, one of the four members who voted against the recommendation, sees the value in more money for the state but isn't convinced that it will be good for schools.

"We just have to look at ways to make sure there is really economic benefit and make sure that schools are on the receiving economic end," Ms. Richmond said. "There's no report that says that schools will benefit."

Research isn't clear about whether a post-Labor Day start affects students academically. Dave Marcotte, a professor at the University of Maryland-Baltimore County, said summer learning loss and inadequate preparation for standardized testing are major factors.

"With the state testing schedule, schools that start early have an advantage," Mr. Marcotte said. "In the state of Wisconsin, schools started moving their start dates up in order to do better on standardized tests. The state had to restrict the early start dates because the schools were creeping up into early August."

While summer learning loss has had little impact on students from middle- and upper-income families, Mr. Marcotte said lower-income children suffer the most from long gaps between school years. If the summer is longer than 10 weeks, wealthier children from families with higher educated parents are rarely affected, Mr. Marcotte said, but lower income students tend to lose the educational gains made during the year.

But Tina Bruno, executive director of the Coalition for a Traditional School Year, which lobbies for later start dates, said starting later in the year curbs high cooling costs that are often most expensive in August.

"The money that is spent simply on cooling costs could fund summer programs," Ms. Bruno said.

"August is one of the hottest months of the year. When Texas schools decided to start later in the year they saved millions of dollars [in utility costs]. That's funding summer reading packets and other resources for students."

Whether the task force's recommendation will result in new legislation being passed is yet to be determined. The bill would need to pass the state legislature and be signed into law by the governor.

Mr. Franchot said he respects the arguments for district autonomy, but thinks the benefits far outweigh the costs.

"Local control is important to me, but I think the state should put its foot down and say, 'Let summer be summer,' " he said.

Economic Impact of a Post Labor Day Start Date for Maryland Public Schools



Peter Franchot

Prepared by the Bureau of Revenue Estimates
August 14, 2013

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- II. School Calendar Impact**
- III. Direct Economic Impact**
 - Tourism Impact
 - Local Family Recreational Activities Impact
- IV. Conclusion**
- V. Appendix: Methodology**

Executive Summary

A decision to extend the traditional summer vacation beyond the Labor Day holiday for all public county school systems in Maryland would have a positive net economic and revenue impact for businesses and governments across the state. It would defer the start of the new academic year by six to 14 days for school year 2013-2014, depending upon the jurisdiction. In so doing, it would mitigate, for many Maryland families, the natural scheduling constraints that are created by the placement of the Labor Day holiday – the longtime, traditional capstone to the summer tourist season – within the confines of the public school calendar. While Labor Day weekend in Maryland is more commonly associated with family trips to resort destinations such as Ocean City and Deep Creek Lake, and for good reason, the aforementioned time window also coincides with other major events occurring throughout the state. They include, but are not limited to, the Maryland State Fair in Timonium, the Grand Prix of Baltimore and four weeknight home dates at Oriole Park at Camden Yards.

By eliminating such constraints, an estimated 8.5% of the 514,680 affected families--those with school age children--would take either a new day trip or a new overnight trip to one of Maryland's three top destinations (Baltimore City, Deep Creek Lake, or Ocean City). Another 5.2% would take a new out-of-state day or overnight trip, and the remaining families would devote at least one additional day to "family-fun activity" within their own jurisdiction. The net effect for Maryland is an additional \$74.3 million in direct economic activity, including \$3.7 million in new wages and a separate \$7.7 million in state and local revenue. It should also be expressly noted that this estimate only includes the direct economic and tax impacts. Incorporating the indirect and induced activity would result in a significant upward revision of the total impact.

Table 1
New Direct Economic Activity
(Dollars in Millions)

Destination/Category	New Day Trips	New Overnight Trips	Total New Trips	New Economic Activity	New Tax Revenue
Baltimore City	17,670	2,962	20,632	\$16.1	\$1.9
Deep Creek Lake	195	1,795	1,990	\$2.5	\$0.3
Ocean City	11,552	9,449	21,001	\$14.9	\$2.2
Subtotal	29,417	14,206	43,623	\$33.5	\$4.4
Out-of-State	12,777	13,926	26,703	(\$3.5)	(\$0.3)
Baseline In-State Activity				(\$7.8)	(\$0.6)
Net Direct Tourism Impact				\$22.2	\$3.5
Local Family Recreational Impact				\$52.1	\$4.1
TOTAL DIRECT IMPACT				\$74.3	\$7.7

Note 1: Details may not sum to totals due to rounding
Note 2: New Economic Activity includes new wages

School Calendar Impact

Currently, all Maryland school districts begin the school year earlier than Labor Day. While the majority of Maryland's twenty-four school districts begin one week prior to Labor Day, some begin even earlier. After weighing the number of additional school days by affected households, Maryland school districts would average an additional 8.7 days of summer vacation if the next school year began on September 3, the day after Labor Day. Table 2, below, shows the 2013-2014 school starting dates and the additional number of summer vacation days if school started the day after Labor Day in each jurisdiction. Under Maryland law, schools are required to be open for at least 180 actual school days and a minimum of 1,080 school hours. In order to adhere to the statute, this report assumes additional summer vacation days added to an individual school district would be accounted for during each school district's current school year calendar. Thus, the school calendar change would allow for an expansion in the number of summer vacation days, as opposed to a shift from one part of the summer to another.

Table 2
Additional Summer Vacation Days Resulting from Post-Labor Day Start Date for the 2013-2014 School Year

Jurisdiction	Start Date	Additional Summer Vacation Days	Jurisdiction	Start Date	Additional Summer Vacation Days
Allegany County	26-Aug	7	Harford County	26-Aug	7
Anne Arundel County	26-Aug	7	Howard County	26-Aug	7
Baltimore City	26-Aug	7	Kent County	26-Aug	6
Baltimore County	26-Aug	7	Montgomery County	26-Aug	7
Calvert County	20-Aug	13	Prince George's County	19-Aug	14
Caroline County	26-Aug	7	Queen Anne's County	26-Aug	7
Carroll County	26-Aug	7	Somerset Count	26-Aug	6
Cecil County	22-Aug	11	St. Mary's County	21-Aug	12
Charles County	26-Aug	7	Talbot County	27-Aug	6
Dorchester County	26-Aug	7	Washington County	21-Aug	12
Frederick County	19-Aug	14	Wicomico County	26-Aug	7
Garrett County	26-Aug	7	Worcester County	26-Aug	6

Note : Kent, Somerset and Worcester County are scheduled off the Friday prior to Labor Day

Direct Economic Impact

The mandate of a post-Labor Day school starting date for the 2013-2014 school year would result in \$74.3 million in new direct economic activity and approximately \$7.7 million in new state and local government revenues. More detail about the composition of the impact is shown in Table 3: net economic activity, exclusive of new wages, would increase by \$70.6 million, state revenue would increase by \$5.2 million, local government revenue would increase by \$2.4 million, and \$3.7 million in new wages would be realized. State and local revenues include personal and corporate income taxes, sales taxes, accommodations taxes, admissions and amusement taxes, as well as certain fees.

Table 3
Direct Economic Activity and Revenue Generated from Post-Labor Day Start Date

Economic Activity	\$70,610,232
New Wages	\$3,690,375
State Government Revenue	\$5,231,045
Local Government Revenue	\$2,437,092

The increase in economic activity stems from two components: tourism and family recreational activities. The tourism component accounts for new day and overnight trips to Ocean City, Deep Creek Lake, Baltimore City and out-of-state. Accounting for \$22.2 million in economic activity, the tourism impact represents 30% of the total new economic activity. Further details regarding the impact for each destination are provided later in this section.

Family recreational spending accounts for the remaining impact. Family recreational activities include close-to-home activities such as going to the movies, enjoying a dinner out, hosting a BBQ, attending the Maryland State Fair, attending a baseball game at Oriole Park at Camden Yards or at one of the state's multiple minor-league venues and a myriad of other, similar activities. This impact is estimated at over \$52.1 million, or approximately 70% of new economic activity.

Tourism Impact

While Maryland boasts many tourism destinations, Ocean City, Deep Creek Lake and Baltimore City are the State of Maryland's largest tourism centers and the focus for this component of the study. Using several multi-attribute models which incorporate factors such as income, geography and existing tourism statistics (more detail in methodology section), this report estimates the economic impact that a post-Labor Day starting date for the upcoming school year would have on these three tourism destinations. The aggregate economic activity of these three destinations would account for the vast majority of the in-state tourism impact of a starting date change for the 2013-2014 school year.

Table 4
In-State Tourism Impact from Post-Labor Day Start Date

Day Trips	29,417
Overnight Trips	14,206
Economic Activity	\$31,761,505
New Wages	\$1,747,938

Ocean City

As Maryland's top family destination, Ocean City visitors experience a classic beach vacation. Families can enjoy over ten miles of beach, where fishing and water sports are bountiful. With just under three miles of boardwalk, families can play at arcades, shop at boutiques, ride amusement rides and dine at restaurants. Additionally, Ocean City boasts several world class golf courses. Lastly, the extension of summer vacation would allow more visitors to enjoy Ocean City's Labor Day Weekend Arts and Crafts Festival.

A post-Labor Day school starting date would produce over 21,000 new trips to Ocean City. As shown in Table 5, Ocean City's economic activity would increase by nearly \$15 million, accounting for 20.1% of the total new economic activity. Due to this increase in economic activity, over \$930,000 in new wages would be generated. Ocean City would see a significant amount of new wages because of its large number of seasonal employees. This wage increase is not necessarily correlated with new jobs because it is likely that seasonal employment would be extended to accommodate the longer summer vacation period.

Table 5
Ocean City Tourism Impact from Post-Labor Day Start Date

Day Trips	11,552
Overnight Trips	9,449
Economic Activity	\$14,000,577
New Wages	\$936,875

Table 7
Deep Creek Lake Tourism Impact from Post-Labor Day Start Date

Day Trips	195
Overnight Trips	1,795
Economic Activity	\$2,318,242
New Wages	\$155,392

Out of State and Baseline In State Offsets

Although the change to a post-Labor Day school starting date would have a gross positive direct economic impact of over \$33.5 million for the tourist destinations, approximately \$11.3 million in economic activity must be subtracted to account for resident spending that would occur out of state due to a new vacation and for spending that would have occurred in the absence of the in-state trips. We estimate that 26,703 Maryland families would travel outside of the state as a result of the longer summer vacation--13,926 for an overnight trip and 12,777 for a day trip. The loss of the economic activity for those residents totals \$3.5 million. A larger impact stems from the in state substitution effect: the \$7.8 million in foregone spending that would have occurred had the residents not taken an in-state day or overnight trip. For both instances, the counteracting spending is related to daily spending for items that would not be purchased in the wake of a new trip, generally non-durable types of expenditures. The \$11.3 million lost is more than offset by the tourism and non-tourism related gains, making every jurisdiction a net positive.

Local Family Recreational Activities Impact

While a significant impact would be felt within the tourism destinations, the larger and broader effect is attributable to families engaging in at-home activities which they could not have otherwise enjoyed, or family recreational activities. We assume families that do not take a significant day or overnight trip would each introduce one new family recreational activity per week of additional summer vacation time. Examples of such activities include a trip to the movie theater, a dinner out, hosting a BBQ, attending the Maryland State Fair or a myriad of other such activities.

Table 8, below, highlights an economic non-tourism benefit of over \$52 million across all regions of Maryland, accounting for roughly 70% of the new economic activity. Therefore, extending the summer season by a weighted average of 8.7 days would result in a net increase in economic activity across all jurisdictions in Maryland.

Table 8
Regional Economic Non-tourism Activity
Region¹ Net Economic Activity

Eastern MD	\$	2,800,451
Capitol MD	\$	23,538,741
Central MD	\$	19,210,458
Southern MD	\$	5,275,183
Western MD	\$	1,231,703
Total	\$	52,056,536

Conclusion

The extension of the traditional summer vacation beyond the Labor Day holiday for all public county school systems in Maryland would have a substantial positive impact on both the state and local governments' economies. This extension would generate \$74.3 million in new direct economic activity, including \$3.7 million in additional wages, and boost state and local government revenues by \$7.7 million. Perhaps most importantly, every jurisdiction in the state stands to gain an economic benefit from this change.

Additionally, it must be stressed that the actual impact of a change to a post-Labor Day school start date is likely to be higher than the estimates in this report. Our model does not take into account any multiplier effect from the direct increase in economic activity, for this reason alone, the estimate's risk is entirely to the upside. Also, for any given year, the date on which Labor Day falls would alter the number of days in which summer vacations would be impacted. For this estimate, the 2013-2014 school year served as the basis, with Labor Day falling on the second day of the month; in any given year Labor Day could be on the first or the seventh, leaving room, more often than not, for more available summer vacation days and more economic activity. Overall, it is likely that the increase in economic activity estimated by the model is conservative and the actual economic impact would be higher.

¹Eastern MD: Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's, Talbot, Caroline, Dorchester, Wicomico, Worcester, Somerset; Central MD: Harford, Carroll, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Howard, Anne Arundel; Southern MD: St. Mary's, Charles, Calvert; Capitol MD: Frederick, Montgomery, Prince George's; Western MD: Garrett, Allegany, Washington

Appendix: Methodology

The number of families affected by the proposed school year calendar change was calculated using US Bureau of the Census data and student data from the National Center for Education Statistics. Affected families by jurisdiction served as the basis for each of the models, allowing the introduction of varying income levels and geographical attributes. After determining the number of families impacted, assumptions were made to determine the number of families taking a new summer vacation as a result of the additional summer vacation days. Although most families did not take another summer vacation, it was assumed that their average spending habits would be altered by the newly available summer vacation time.

Several multi-attribute models incorporating income, geography and preference (based on visitor information) were developed to determine the destination for new summer vacations. Destinations included in the models were Baltimore City, Deep Creek Lake, Ocean City and out-of-state. The out-of-state factor was assumed to be directly related to income and preference. Income was weighed higher because, on average, travel expenses are greater when traveling out of state. Both a day trip model and an overnight model were developed. The day-trip model weighed both income and geography equally, while the overnight model weighed income more heavily.

Data was collected on tourism spending in Baltimore City, Deep Creek Lake and Ocean City. The data, collected from Maryland's Department of Business and Economic Development, the City of Ocean City's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), Garrett County Chamber of Commerce and Visit Baltimore, allowed assumptions to be made regarding average spending per family in each destination.

Using data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, United States Annual Consumer Expenditure database, we calculated an average spending at home basis for family-fun activities (entertainment, food away from home, etc.). This allowed for a new variable to be calculated for marginal spending on family-fun activities. For the tourism offsetting expenditures, similar data was used. The model estimated that every region in Maryland would benefit from a net increase in economic activity due to the change in the school calendar.

The actual impact of a change to a post Labor Day school start date is likely to differ from the estimates in this report. The model does not take into account any multiplier effect from the direct increase in economic activity. Additionally, for any given year, the date on which Labor Day falls would alter the number of days in which summer vacations would be impacted. Overall, it is likely that the increase in economic activity estimated by the model is conservative and the actual economic impact may be higher.

Do families vacation more in the summer when school starts after Labor Day?

A STUDY COMPARING ACTUAL TRAVEL PATTERNS IN FIVE STATES

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Community interests often collide when it comes to school start dates. Stakeholders interested in educational outcomes, family leisure time, and economic development each make cases about the effects of school start dates. Most debate on the issue settles on whether schools should start before or after Labor Day.

States have struggled to accommodate these competing interests, instituting post-Labor Day start mandates, repealing and reinstituting those mandates, or creating mandates but monitoring waivers.

Arguments against pre-Labor Day starts assert that families travel less when school starts earlier. However, to date no empirical evidence documents the actual number of trips that families take in both circumstances.

This study provides information about actual travel pattern differences using data on family leisure travel available from the American Time Use Survey (ATUS) – a national study sponsored by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and conducted by the US Census Bureau. The ATUS is the nation’s largest effort to document how those in the U.S. spend their time. Because it is impossible to create a random treatment and control group to learn about travel patterns (school schedules cannot be randomized), ATUS data is a useful substitute. This study uses a quasi-experimental method that taps ATUS data in five states that have a mandate regulating when schools start, and examines differences in family travel across each of five years from 2005 to 2010. Due to state mandates and the variation in the date Labor Day lands each year, some states start school before Labor Day in some years and after in others. This variation creates an opportunity to compare family travel under each situation.

The study also takes the opportunity to compare the travel of families with children to that of others in the same state and calendar

year to verify whether families constrained by pre-Labor Day starts act differently than families that are not.

This study finds that:

(a) the 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 month of August or September by 50%.

(b) The likelihood of reporting such a trip in any month between (and including) May and September is 30% higher as a result of schools starting after Labor Day. This may reflect families planning ahead when they know that they won’t have the opportunity to travel in late summer. The overall effect on the number of trips still remains substantial.

(c) This effect is completely absent in families without children that have statistically identical demographic (e.g. race, ethnicity, age, overall household size, urban status, etc.) and economic (e.g. income, education, home ownership, etc.) characteristics and live in the same states in the same calendar year.



DO FAMILIES VACATION MORE IN THE SUMMER WHEN SCHOOL STARTS AFTER LABOR DAY?

Schools in the U.S. have traditionally started their academic year after Labor Day. During the 1940s and 50s, starting school in August was impractical because of high temperatures so it became natural to start school in September after Labor Day (Good, 2011). Recently, an increasing number of districts in the U.S. have been starting in mid or even early August (e.g. Denver, Colorado and Cleveland, Ohio among others). In fact, according to a survey from Market Data Retrieval, 75 percent of students in the U.S. head back before Labor Day week (Good News Magazine 2011).

School district incentives to start school early may have become stronger in recent years due to the increasing importance of standardized test scores since the No Child Left Behind Act was passed in 2001. As a result, there is now a perennial debate about whether state government should regulate when school starts. School districts cite a number of reasons to start early, including a need for flexibility for teacher training and the need for instructional time to prepare students for mandatory standardized test dates (including both state assessments and college prep tests such as SAT and ACT (personal communication, 2012).

Proponents of a mandatory post-Labor Day start argue that longer school years negatively affect family time¹ and the tourism economy, noting that post-Labor Day starts lead to more family summer vacation time and more predictable annual demand patterns.

In response, some states have given school start dates considerable policy attention. As of the summer of 2012, 12 states regulated school starts or enacted mandates that require schools to begin after Labor Day for at least

¹ e.g. "Texans for a traditional school year", "Summer is for Families (Arizona)"

part of the past decade. Most states with mandates implemented them after 2000 and some states have repealed existing mandates (e.g. West Virginia). Groups in other states (e.g. Minnesota, Virginia) have made attempts to repeal an existing mandate with no success.



From the perspective of the tourism industry, school year start date is a public policy "bottom line" issue for several reasons. First, the hospitality industry has made significant investments in infrastructure to supply summer tourism opportunities to families who are a willing market for these opportunities. School schedules can constrain that economic activity, creating an inefficient distortion in this particular market.

Second, the hospitality and tourism industry is characterized by substantial fixed and semi-fixed costs, relative to their variable costs (e.g. Harris, 1995). Tourism industry leaders contend that having a predictable yearly schedule such as the one created by a mandated post-Labor Day start improves their efficiency. There are obvious fixed costs in buildings and infrastructure, and the industry faces high constraints in hiring and negotiating with suppliers, especially when resorts are not located near heavily populated areas. Many resorts have to contract labor seasonally and

provide room and board for workers. Unpredictable schedules make it more difficult for remote establishments to plan their use of labor and perishables (mostly food), inducing additional risk and reducing efficiency in the hospitality industry (personal communication, 2012). These barriers to efficiency are likely to affect not only the profits of many small to medium size businesses, but may also reduce consumer welfare if shifts result in higher prices or lower quality of service.

These are all valid arguments for the position that a consistent and predictable post-Labor Day school year start may generate social and economic gains. However, each of these arguments rests on one premise – that families travel more when school starts after Labor Day.

Current State Policies and School Start Dates

Several states have mandates that do not allow schools to start classes before Labor Day. Minnesota has such a mandate, although several attempts have been made to repeal it. Recent proposals include a Minnesota House committee bill that would give schools the discretion to start classes before Labor Day (Collins, 2009). Individual schools have sometimes obtained waivers from the Minnesota mandate (e.g. Southwest Minnesota districts starting in 2010). Similarly, Virginia and Michigan mandate a post Labor Day start. In Virginia, several unsuccessful attempts have been made to repeal the law (known as The King's Dominion Mandate). The most recent attempt in 2012 failed (Huffington Post, 2012). Virginia also issues waivers from the mandate to school districts, mostly to compensate for days lost due to inclement weather conditions. Michigan signed a law to mandate post-Labor Day starts in 2005, and implemented it in the 2006-2007 school year. It was a provision sought mainly by tourism interests and the agricultural industry (The Associated Press, 2009).

Iowa has had a mandate requiring that schools start no earlier than the Monday of the week that includes September 1. However, the

State grants exceptions rather generously. Most districts get a waiver from the Department of Education to start in mid-August (Gazette, 2012). All that is required for districts in Iowa to receive the exemption is a school board vote before July 1 on the school year for which the waiver is requested. Waivers, however, have to be issued every year so the mandate may still present a barrier for districts not willing to go through administrative hurdles. In April of 2012, a bill passed in the Iowa Senate that, if passed by the house, will remove the waiver process and set a school start date of no earlier than the fourth Monday in August (Noble, 2012). The earliest start date allowed by the mandate (absent any waivers) will in most years be before Labor Day, but when Labor Day is very early in September the mandate would require a post Labor Day start.

Wisconsin requires that schools start no earlier than September 1 and issues very few waivers from the mandate. The actual start date in Wisconsin can vary between September 1 and 5 when September 1 falls on a weekend. In years when the Labor Day weekend happens to be early in September the overwhelming majority of schools in Wisconsin start after Labor Day, while in years when Labor Day is towards the end of the first week in September Wisconsin school start before Labor Day.



Several other states also mandate start dates. For example, since the early 2000s, North Carolina has required that schools start no

earlier than August 25. Arkansas requires that schools start no earlier than August 19 (18 if it is a Monday). West Virginia mandated a starting date of no earlier than August 26, until the mandate was repealed in June 2010 (Corio, 2010).

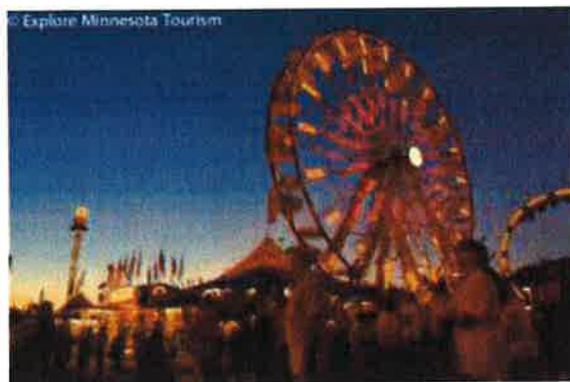
States that have made relatively recent changes in school start date policy include Texas, South Carolina, Florida and Alabama. Texas had a mandate requiring that schools start no earlier than the third Monday of August (implemented in the 1990s) but it allowed many waivers. In 2006, new legislation was enacted to set the earliest possible starting date on the fourth Monday of August and restricted the reasons under which waivers could be issued. South Carolina adopted legislation requiring that schools start no earlier than the third Monday of August beginning in the 2007-2008 school year. Florida enacted a mandate that sets 14 days before Labor Day as the earliest possible starting point for the school year beginning with the 2007-2008 school year. Finally, Alabama implemented a mandate requiring that schools start no sooner than August 20 beginning in the 2012-2013 school year.

Testing the Assumption

The premise that families travel more with post-Labor Day starts is difficult to test, and the authors found no studies that tested the assumption rigorously. The inherent difficulty in providing a reliable estimate of how the traditional school schedule affects families rests in the lack of experimental data. If families could be randomly assigned to school schedules, their travels could be compared reliably. In reality, school schedules are affected by district or state level policies that may, in part, reflect the travel preferences of their constituents. This makes it difficult to estimate the causal effect of school schedules on travel.

A few studies have attempted to quantify the effects that a post Labor Day

school start would have on travel, and subsequently on the hospitality and tourism industry (e.g. TrippUmbach, 2006). However, these studies rely on hypothetical questions to families that do not live in areas with a pre-Labor Day school schedule asking what effect a post Labor Day start *might have* on their travel should it be implemented. Hypothetical questions may suffer from a number of well-documented biases (Murphy and Stevens, 2004). A second drawback in these studies rests in the fact that some studies only cover the period surrounding the Labor Day week. This study timing does not account for the possibility that families can take more trips earlier in the summer if the week before Labor Day is not available to them.



Study Data

To better test the premise that pre-Labor Day starts affect family travel, this study used data from the 2005-2010 rounds of the American Time Use Survey (ATUS). The ATUS data is a strong fit for this study because respondents provide information on household travels, demographic and economic characteristics and state of residence. The ATUS is the most substantial effort to collect time diary data on U.S. households, with over 125,000 interviews conducted over its life span (2001-2010). ATUS interviewers collect data via telephone calls. The questionnaire is intended

to collect information on how and with whom respondents spent their days.

In 2005, a “trips” supplement was added to the ATUS that asked respondents whether they had been away from home for two nights or more over the month preceding the ATUS interview.² The trips supplement is equipped for studying the effects of a post Labor Day mandate on leisure travel for several reasons. First, monthly data are available, making it possible to examine travel behavior near Labor Day as well as for broader time periods. Second, even though detailed travel data were not collected, the purpose for the reported trip(s) was, making it possible to isolate leisure trips. Third, ATUS is administered to respondents who are already sampled in the Current Population Survey (CPS) which is the primary source of labor force statistics in the United States. The study took advantage of available data on family size and composition, demographic information, location of residence (state and MSA), economic circumstances and human capital that are available from the CPS about ATUS respondents. This assures that reliable demographic information is available so that similar families can be compared, as well as to discover if travel patterns of otherwise similar families with and without children respond to school start dates differently.

This study used data from all households that were interviewed at some point between June and October (therefore, asking whether any trips were taken between May and September) and that were located in states with either a mandate to always start school after

² This supplement (ATUS-Trips) was not primarily intended to collect detailed information on travel, but to adjust the regular ATUS interviews for bias. The ATUS conducts the survey by calling people at their residence. Because individuals/households involved in more travel are far less likely to be available at home for interviews, the ATUS would under-represent frequent travelers. Data from ATUS-Trips are used to adjust for such bias.

Labor Day, or another mandate that could potentially cause a Post Labor day start in some years. These states include Minnesota, Virginia, Michigan, Iowa and Wisconsin.

YEAR	POST-LABOR DAY STARTS	PRE-LABOR DAY STARTS
2005	MN, VA	MI, IA, WI
2006	MN, VA, MI	IA, WI
2007	MN, VA, MI, WI	IA
2008	MN, VA, MI, WI, IA	---
2009	MN, VA, MI	IA, WI
2010	MN, VA, MI	IA, WI

Years and states studied

Data on each state’s policy were collected from various formal (government) and public media publications (Table 1). Additionally, data on actual school starts by county for several states were collected from their respective departments of education.

Descriptive statistics on study variables as well as sample sizes are presented in table 2.

Methods

First, the earliest date that each state’s policy would allow schools to start in each year between 2005 and 2010 was determined based on the policy language. For example, Minnesota and Virginia always start after Labor Day, so they are assumed to have started on September 6 in 2005, September 5 in 2006, September 4 in 2007, etc. As noted, in 2005, Michigan had no mandate, but joined the same schedule as Minnesota and Virginia starting with the 2006-07 school year.

A thorough search was then conducted to obtain data on actual school starts by district in each state for each year to verify that actual starts were complying with the implied start dates of the policy. The overwhelming majority of districts (with the exception of waived districts in Iowa, Virginia, Minnesota and very

few in Wisconsin) did appear to comply with the policy. Further, policies typically set earliest start dates possible but rarely regulate the latest start date. This implies that districts may choose to start later than the policy date. If a substantial number of districts did so, the policy would be non-binding and the effect of treatment weakened. The authors verified that most districts, while compliant, do start on the earliest date allowed or very close to it.

The impact of a pre-Labor Day start was then examined in a multivariate regression framework. The basic challenge that this evaluation tackles can be viewed as one of estimating household travels in “two hypothetical parallel universes” – one where all schools start after Labor Day and one where they start before. Theoretically, the interest lies in the differences between travel patterns of each individual family under a post Labor Day start, relative to what they themselves would have done if their district did not start after Labor Day. The problem is that only one of these conditions is empirically observable for each household -- either their behavior under a post Labor Day or a pre Labor Day start (depending on the state and year). It is not possible to observe the same household in both the actual and counterfactual scenario.

This study defines parents facing a pre-Labor Day start as “the treatment group”, while the control group is drawn from parents facing a post-Labor Day school start.³ Ideally, these treatment and control groups would differ from each other *only* by the fact that they were exposed to a different school start schedule, and should be otherwise statistically identical. Of course, true randomization (of households into school regimes) can produce such treatment and control groups because the two groups would be statistically identical by virtue of randomization.

³ The group of parents labeled as “the treatment” as opposed to “the control” is somewhat arbitrary in this setting. Assigning the pre-Labor Day start parents as the “treatment” and post as “the control” was favored because most households in the data are persistently in post Labor-Day settings, while some switch between settings by year. Assigning the larger steady group as the control maximizes statistical power.

Absent the ability to conduct such an experiment, empirical methods are adopted that mimic this scenario as closely as possible. The concern of policy evaluation with non-experimental data is that there may be factors that are correlated with the adoption of a certain policy, such as a school start mandate, that are also independently correlated with the outcome of interest (i.e. travel in this case).

The study addressed this by holding constant anything that is unique about each state, and anything that is unique about each year in the analysis. And so, there was a 2008 and 2009 control, and these capture the average effect that 2008 conditions and 2009 conditions had on all families. (e.g., economic downturns) Then the model isolates changes in travel behavior that can be uniquely attributed to instances when families are exposed to pre-Labor Day or post-Labor Day starts – either because the rule changed (for example, in Michigan) or because the earliest possible start date happened to be before or after Labor Day that year.

The model examines differences within states by year. In years when Wisconsin goes from a post Labor Day start to another post Labor Day Start, it is expected to behave exactly like Minnesota because Minnesota always goes from post-Labor Day to other post Labor Day starts; while in years when Wisconsin transitions from a post-Labor Day to a pre-Labor Day start, its growth in travel should fall short of that in Minnesota. The model checks all such possible transitions across states and years and finds meaningful comparisons.

Finally, the survey has data on both households with children and those without. School start dates are expected to have their primary effect on households with children; households without school-aged children should largely remain unaffected.⁴ Therefore,

⁴ Theoretically, the possibility for “spillover” effects exists, but it is suspected to be highly unlikely. These effects could be positive, if families without children make vacation plans jointly with families with children (e.g. Grandparents). Alternatively, vacationing may become more pleasant to households without children after school starts due to congestion.

the study estimates the same specifications as above only for households with no children. This approach adds confidence because it identifies the effect based on data from within the same state and year. The approach has been referred to as a “placebo test” (Tuddle & Beaty 2012), a “difference in differences in differences” or “triple diffs” (Angrist & Pishke 2008).

If respondents report they took any trips for leisure, their case is set equal to one. If they do not, they are set as a zero. Attention was first restricted to the two months around Labor Day (August and September) then expanded to interviews that were collected in the months of May to September. Models appropriate for binary outcomes (logistic regressions) were used. Standard errors are clustered at the state level.

Results

Among households interviewed in the months of August or September, 21 percent reported at least one trip of two nights or more in duration, while among households interviewed in the months of May to September, 24 percent reported at least one trip of two nights or more in duration in the month (Table 2).

Table 3 presents estimates of the effect of pre-Labor Day start on travel during the month of August or September for households with children. Model 1 presents a cross-sectional model with only year-fixed effects held constant; model 2 adds state fixed effects, model 3 only uses individual controls (no state fixed effects) and model 4 adds both controls and fixed effects. Marginal effects associated with logistic regressions are presented so that each estimate can be interpreted as a percentage point change from the population mean.

All four models show a negative and statistically significant impact of an early start on the incidence of trips taken in the months of August or September (row one of the tables). The estimates are very robust to the

specification used and range from 10 to 13 percentage points. This marks between a 50 and 60 percent reduction in travel likelihood relative to the sample average.

Results on the incidence of a trip for those interviewed between May and September are presented in table 4. These estimates are important because they fully take into account trips that may have been scheduled earlier in the summer because of prior knowledge of the calendar. If households are able to shift time around with ease, it is entirely possible for all trips that were foregone in August or September (documented in table 3) to have been taken early in the summer.

Indeed, estimates imply that there was some substitution from late summer to early summer in early start state-years. The estimated effect is still negative and statistically significant, but smaller in size (between 6.7 and 8.0 percentage points). This marks nearly a 30-33% reduction in travel likelihood from the sample average.

Tables 5 and 6 repeat the exercise for households with no children. The association between an early start and travel in families with no kids is zero, further validating the impact of the school start on travel among families with children.

CONCLUSIONS

This study used ATUS (American Time Use Survey) data from five states with mandates that require schools to start after Labor Day in at least some years, along with secondary data also from the American Time Use Survey, to estimate the effect that a post Labor Day school start has on household leisure travel. This is the first study to compare actual family travel when their children’s schools started before Labor Day to that of similar families whose children’s school started after Labor Day. Variation in when schools started came either as a result of policy changes or because Labor Day coincided with different dates during each year in the study period, therefore this variation was quasi-random.

Among households interviewed in the months of August or September, 21 percent reported at least one trip, while among households interviewed in the months of May to September, 24 percent reported at least one trip in the month of the interview. The study presents strong evidence of a 10 percentage point treatment effect (equal to 50% of the sample mean) of a post Labor day start for travels taken during the months of August or September. In other words, families whose children's school started after Labor Day were 10 percentage points more likely to take a trip during the interview month than were other observationally identical families.

For Minnesota, this implies that if a mandate requiring schools to start after Labor Day were waived and districts chose to start before Labor Day, the share of households taking a leisure trip during the months of August or September would likely be cut in half. But not all of these trips would be cancelled; some would be transferred to earlier in the summer. The estimated effect of a pre-Labor Day start on the monthly probability of taking a trip for families with children interviewed in any month between and including May-September is smaller, at about 7-8 percentage points (amounting to nearly 30 percent of the sample mean).

All in all, if Minnesota were to switch to a pre-Labor Day start, the number of families taking a trip in any given summer month would drop by one third, and one in five households⁵ with a preference for late summer travel would re-schedule it for earlier in the summer. Better knowledge about the potential impact can be weighed against all interests in this issue as school districts and policy makers at the state level weigh options.

⁵ The effect on August and-September travel is 50% (1 in 2 families). The effect on the overall summer is 30% (one in three families). The difference (20%) indicates that one in five households re-scheduled their trips.

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TABLES

Table 1. Post Labor Day Starts by State and Year

Year	Post Labor Day Start	
	Yes	No
2005	MN, VA,	MI, IA, WI,
2006	MN, VA, MI	IA, WI
2007	MN, VA, MI, WI	IA
2008	MN, VA, MI, WI, IA	---
2009	MN, VA, MI	IA, WI
2010	MN, VA, MI	IA, WI

Table 2. Descriptive Statistics

Variable	August-September				May-September			
	No Kids		Kids		No Kids		Kids	
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
Share reporting trips Before Labor Day	0.22	0.41	0.21	0.41	0.24	0.43	0.24	0.43
Metro not central	0.36	0.48	0.44	0.50	0.36	0.48	0.41	0.49
Metro other	0.21	0.41	0.19	0.40	0.20	0.40	0.21	0.41
Non Metro	0.22	0.42	0.21	0.41	0.24	0.42	0.23	0.42
Hispanic	0.04	0.20	0.06	0.24	0.04	0.19	0.05	0.23
African American	0.12	0.33	0.08	0.27	0.13	0.34	0.08	0.27
Other Non-White	0.03	0.17	0.06	0.24	0.03	0.16	0.05	0.23
Household Size	1.68	0.82	3.98	1.10	1.67	0.78	3.99	1.14
# of children			1.89	0.93			1.90	0.95
Age Youngest Kid			7.63	5.31			7.58	5.31
Age (Respondent)	55.62	17.48	37.45	11.29	55.40	17.47	37.12	11.37
Family Income	2.85	1.56	2.89	1.34	2.86	1.62	2.89	1.33
Years of education	13.66	2.79	13.92	2.92	13.54	2.78	13.82	2.94
Family Business Owns Home	0.15	0.36	0.18	0.39	0.13	0.34	0.19	0.39
	0.76	0.43	0.82	0.38	0.73	0.44	0.83	0.38
N	757		770.00		1961		1928	

Table 3. Effect of Pre-Labor Day Start on August-September Travel (Households with Children)

VARIABLES	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Before Labor Day	-0.103*** (0.030)	-0.129** (0.066)	-0.101*** (0.029)	-0.131** (0.064)
Metro not central			0.037 (0.026)	0.032 (0.029)
Metro other			0.041 (0.036)	0.041 (0.039)
Non Metro			0.013 (0.050)	0.011 (0.060)
Hispanic			-0.086 (0.062)	-0.098 (0.081)
African American			-0.028 (0.048)	-0.037 (0.054)
Other Non-White			-0.131*** (0.049)	-0.147** (0.063)
Household Size			-0.041 (0.041)	-0.047 (0.049)
Number children under 18			0.037 (0.051)	0.043 (0.053)
Age Youngest Kid			0.008*** (0.002)	0.009*** (0.003)
Age (Respondent)			-0.005*** (0.001)	-0.006** (0.003)
Ln Family Income			-0.009 (0.006)	-0.011 (0.009)
Years of education			0.022*** (0.006)	0.025* (0.013)
Family Business			0.084*** (0.027)	0.097*** (0.027)
Owns Home			0.037 (0.053)	0.041 (0.058)
Year Fixed Effects	x	x	x	x
State Fixed Effects		x		x
Observations	757	757	757	757

Marginal effects of logistic regressions presented; Standard errors in parentheses (clustered at State level); *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1.

Table 4. Effect of Pre-Labor Day Start on May-September Travel (Households with Children)

VARIABLES	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Before Labor Day	-0.070*	-0.076**	-0.067*	-0.081**
	(0.038)	(0.035)	(0.035)	(0.038)
Metro not central			0.015	0.023
			(0.031)	(0.030)
Metro other			0.041	0.039
			(0.032)	(0.030)
Non Metro			0.101***	0.102***
			(0.033)	(0.036)
Hispanic			-0.151*	-0.152*
			(0.084)	(0.090)
African American			-0.020	-0.009
			(0.043)	(0.040)
Other Non-White			0.077***	0.077***
			(0.012)	(0.012)
Household Size			-0.014	-0.013
			(0.023)	(0.021)
Number children under 18			0.013	0.012
			(0.034)	(0.031)
Age Youngest Kid			0.007**	0.007**
			(0.003)	(0.003)
Age (Respondent)			0.005***	0.005***
			(0.001)	(0.002)
Ln Family Income			-0.001	0.000
			(0.009)	(0.009)
Years of education			0.016**	0.016**
			(0.006)	(0.008)
Family Business			0.079***	0.074***
			(0.027)	(0.028)
Owens Home			0.072	0.071
			(0.047)	(0.048)
Year Fixed Effects	x	x	x	x
State Fixed Effects		x		x
Observations	1,928	1,928	1,928	1,928

Marginal effects of logistic regressions presented; Standard errors in parentheses (clustered at State level); *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1.

Table 5. Effect of Pre-Labor Day Start on August-September Travel (Households without Children)

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Before Labor Day	0.002 (0.015)	0.001 (0.040)	-0.012 (0.014)	0.006 (0.037)
Metro not central			-0.073 (0.055)	-0.078 (0.054)
Metro other			-0.004 (0.040)	-0.011 (0.045)
Non Metro			-0.017 (0.022)	-0.028 (0.026)
Hispanic			-0.119 (0.096)	-0.129 (0.110)
African American			-0.110** (0.051)	-0.116* (0.061)
Other Non-White			-0.072 (0.082)	-0.072 (0.087)
Household Size			0.030** (0.012)	0.032** (0.016)
Age (Respondent)			-0.002 (0.001)	-0.002 (0.002)
Ln Family Income			0.004 (0.012)	0.004 (0.013)
Years of education			0.023* (0.012)	0.023 (0.018)
Family Business			-0.115** (0.054)	-0.118* (0.068)
Owns Home			0.000 (0.057)	0.000 (0.058)
Year Fixed Effects	x	x	x	x
State Fixed Effects		x		x
Observations	770	770	770	770

Marginal effects of logistic regressions presented; Standard errors in parentheses (clustered at State level); *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1.

Table 6. Effect of Pre-Labor Day Start on May-September Travel (Households without Children)

VARIABLES	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Before Labor Day	-0.004 (0.020)	0.015 (0.025)	0.024 (0.023)	0.030 (0.023)
Metro not central			-0.032 (0.024)	-0.020 (0.025)
Metro other			-0.003 (0.043)	0.016 (0.040)
Non Metro			-0.061*** (0.023)	-0.026 (0.016)
Hispanic			-0.109*** (0.033)	-0.078** (0.035)
African American			-0.092*** (0.022)	-0.073*** (0.022)
Other Non-White			-0.036 (0.044)	-0.035 (0.036)
Household Size			0.016 (0.013)	0.021 (0.016)
Age (Respondent)			-0.003 (0.002)	-0.002 (0.002)
Ln Family Income				-0.001 (0.007)
Years of education				0.020 (0.014)
Family Business				-0.041 (0.030)
Owns Home				0.007 (0.012)
Year Fixed Effects	x	x	x	x
State Fixed Effects		x		x
Observations	1,961	1,961	1,961	1,961

Marginal effects of logistic regressions presented; Standard errors in parentheses (clustered at State level); *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1.

APPENDIX F



Delaware Department of Education
Composite School District Calendars
2013 — 2014 School Year

Code:

C = Conference Day
ED = Early Dismissal
FPD = First Pupil Day
H = Holiday
LPD = Last Pupil Day
LTD = Last Teacher Day

LA = Late Arrival
NS = No School
NTD = New Teacher Staff Development
O = Orientation
PD = Professional Development
WC = Weather Contingency Days

August 2013

School District	1	2	5	6	7	8	9	12	13	14	15	16	19	20	21	22	23	26	27	28	29	30	
Appoquinimink									NTD	NTD	NTD		PD	PD	PD	PD	NS	FPD K-9	FPD PK & 10-12				H
Brandywine															PD	PD	PD	FPD 1-5, 6, 9 & 12	FPD All				H
Caesar Rodney																PD	PD	FPD					H
Cape Henlopen															NTD	NTD			PD		PD		
Capital									NTD	NTD	NTD		PD	PD	PD	FPD							NS
Christina										NTD	NTD		PD	PD	PD			FPD 1-6, 9 ALL	FPD ALL				NS
Colonial													NTD	PD	PD	NTD	NTD	FPD PK-9	FPD 10-12				NS
Delmar														PD		FPD 5 & 9	FPD ALL						NS
Indian River													NTD	NTD	NTD	NTD							
Lake Forest													PD	PD	PD	PD	FPD 4, 6 & 9; ED	FPD All					NS
Laurel														PD	PD		FPD 9	FPD 1-8, 10-12	FPD PK-K				H
Milford												NTD	NTD	NTD	PD	PD	PD	FPD					NS
NCC Vo-Tech														PD	PD	PD	NS	FPD					NS
POLYTECH														PD	PD	FPD; ED							NS
Red Clay													PD	PD	PD	PD		FPD BK-9	FPD All				NS
Seaford									NTD	NTD	NTD	NTD	NTD	PD	PD	PD	PD	FPD K-5, 6 & 9	FPD 7, 8, 10-12				NS
Smyrna													PD	PD	PD	PD	PD	FPD					NS
Sussex Tech														PD	FPD	FPD	PD						NS
Woodbridge								NTD		NTD		NTD	PD	PD	PD	PD	PD	FPD 1-9	FPD 10-12, PK & K				PD

November 2013

School District	1	4	5	6	7	8	11	12	13	14	15	18	19	20	21	22	25	26	27	28	29
Appoquinimink							H										NS PK-8; C	NS NS; PK- 8; C	NS; PD	H	H
Brandywine		NS 6- 12;					H											NS PK-5	NS; PD	H	H
Caesar Rodney	NS; PD						H			ED K- 8									H	H	H
Cape Henlopen							H												H	H	H
Capital	ED						H	PD; C K-8	ED K- 8; C										NS	H	H
Christina							H										NS; C	NS; C	NS	H	H
Colonial	PD						H										NS NS PK-5; C	NS NS PK- 6- 12	H	H	H
Delmar							H												H	H	H
Indian River						NS; PD	H												NS	H	H
Lake Forest	NS; PD						H										NS; C	NS; PD	H	H	H
Laurel				LA 2- 12			H							LA 2- 12					H	H	H
Milford				LA 8- 12			H							LA 8- 12					H	H	H
NCC Vo-Tech							H												H	H	H
Polytech							H										PD	PD	H	H	H
Red Clay							H												NS; PD	H	H
Seaford							H	NS; C	NS; PD										H	H	H
Smyrna							H										PD K-8; C	PD K-8; C	H	H	H
Sussex Tech							H												H	H	H
Woodbridge						PD	H												PD	H	H

January 2014

School District	1	2	3	6	7	8	9	10	13	14	15	16	17	20	21	22	23	24	27	28	29	30	31	
Appoquinimink	H												NS 9-12; PD	H										
Brandywine	H													H	ED 9-12	ED 9-12	ED 9-12	ED 9-12; NS 6-8						
Caesar Rodney	H													H					NS; PD					
Cape Henlopen	H	H	H										NS; PD	H										
Capital	H													H				ED						
Christina	H									ED 9-12	ED 9-12	ED 9-12	ED 9-12	H										
Colonial	H												ED 9-12	H				PD				NS C	NS C	NS C
Delmar	H	NS	NS; PD											H										NS; PD
Indian River	H													H										
Lake Forest	H													H	NS; PD									
Laurel	H	H	H			LA 2-12							NS; PD	H	NS							LA 2-12		
Milford	H					LA 8-12					LA 8-12			H	PD							LA 8-12		
NCC Vo-Tech	H													H	PD									
Polytech	H											ED	ED	H										
Red Clay	H								ED 9-12	ED 9-12	ED 9-12	ED 9-12	NS; PD	H										
Seaford	H	H	H											H	NS; PD									
Smyrna	H								½ PD 9-12	½ PD 9-12	½ PD 9-12	½ PD 9-12	PD 9-12	H										
Sussex Tech	H	H	H											H										
Woodbridge	H													H				PD						

April 2014

School District	1	2	3	4	7	8	9	10	11	14	15	16	17	18	21	22	23	24	25	28	29	30	
Appoquinimink														H	H	H	H	H	H	H			
Brandywine													C; NS PK-5	H	H	H	H	H	H	H			
Caesar Rodney									ED K-8					H	H	H	H	H	H	H			
Cape Henlopen														H	H	H	H	H	H	H			
Capital														H	H	H	H	H	H	H			
Christina														H	H	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS			
Colonial														H	H	H	H	H	H	H			
Delmar														H	H	H	H	H	H	H			
Indian River									NS; PD					H	H	H	H	H	H	H			
Lake Forest														H	H	H	H	H	H	H			
Laurel		LA 2-12												H	H	H	H	H	H	H			LA 2-12
Milford		LA 8-12												H	H	H	H	H	H	H			LA 8-12
NCC Vo-Tech														H	H	H	H	H	H	H			
Polytech														H	H	H	H	H	H	H			
Red Clay														H	H	H	H	H	H	H			
Seaford														H	H	H	H	H	H	H			
Smyrna														H	H	H	H	H	H	H			
Sussex Tech														H	H	H	H	H	H	H			
Woodbridge									PD					H	H	H	H	H	H	H			

May 2014

School District	1	2	5	6	7	8	9	12	13	14	15	16	19	20	21	22	23	26	27	28	29	30
Appoquinimink																	NS	H				
Brandywine																		H	NS PK -5			
Caesar Rodney																		H				
Cape Henlopen																	NS; PD	H	ED seniors	ED seniors	ED	
Capital							ED K- 4											H				
Christina																	NS	H				
Colonial																	ED; PD	H				
Delmar																		H				
Indian River																		H				
Lake Forest																		H				
Laurel						LA 2- 12				LA 2- 12							NS	H				
Milford						LA 8- 12				LA 8- 12							PD	H				
NCC Vo-Tech																		H				
Polytech																		H				
Red Clay								ED Elem; C										H				
Seaford										NS; PD								H				
Smyrna																		H				
Sussex Tech																	PD	H				
Woodbridge																		H	PD			LPD

APPENDIX G

SOUTHERN DELAWARE TOURISM
THE CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU FOR SUSSEX COUNTY, DELAWARE

State Representative Ronald Gray
38th Representational District of Delaware

April 21, 2014

Dear Representative Gray,

On behalf of Southern Delaware Tourism, The Convention and Visitors Bureau for Sussex County Delaware, I would like to thank you for creating Delaware Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 22 and serving on the task force that is currently examining a later public school year start in Delaware . This decision has a major impact on the local economy in Sussex County.

As you are well aware of, tourism is Sussex County's primary economic engine (along with agriculture), generating \$1.2 billion in annual gross domestic product. The month of August has traditionally been the strongest month for county tourism sales. However, sales during the last week of August (preceding Labor Day) have been slowly eroding away due to (1) lower volumes of visitors due to public schools starting that week and (2) a limited number of seasonal workforce (who are returning to school) supporting the industry.

Whereas imposing a post Labor Day school start would not completely solve both of the challenges listed above, it would greatly contribute to a more robust local economy during the last week of tourism's busiest (summer) season in Sussex County. We are also encouraged by the state of Maryland's efforts focused on starting its public schools after Labor Day. Many families with school-aged children from both Delaware and Maryland vacation in Southern Delaware each summer. Northern Delaware and Maryland (along with Pennsylvania and New Jersey) are leading drive-from tourism markets for Sussex County. Recently, Maryland Comptroller Peter Franchot argued that allowing schools to open after Labor Day would provide a late-summer boost to the state's economy worth \$74 million in direct activity, including \$3.7 million in new wages and \$7 million to state and local governments. We feel that Delaware can proportionately stimulate its own economy by adopting a similar measure. Any economic stimulus is much needed as Delaware's tourism economy continues to recapture pre-recession output. Please contact me should you have any questions or need any additional information to support this measure.

Sincerely,



Scott Thomas
Executive Director
Southern Delaware Tourism



9 East Loockerman St., Dover, DE 19901 (302) 734-4935

April 16, 2014

Linda Parkowski
Chair of Task Force
Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 22

Position of the Delaware Hotel and Lodging Association

Due the positive impact on sales of hotel guest rooms and related services, the Delaware Hotel and Lodging Association (DH&LA) supports Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 22 that would move the beginning of Delaware schools to a date after the Labor Day holiday. This would insure greater availability of hotel workers to support that exceptionally strong business period, providing more income to our workers, owners and tax revenues for impacted governments.

Perry Patel
Chairman of the Board
Delaware Hotel and Lodging Association

Wallace-Himmeler, Janet (DEDO)

From: Parkowski, Linda (DEDO)
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2014 8:39 AM
To: Wallace-Himmeler, Janet (DEDO)
Subject: FW: Return to School After Labor Day Bill

From: Hocker, Gerald (LegHall)
Sent: Monday, May 12, 2014 11:13 PM
To: Parkowski, Linda (DEDO)
Subject: FW: Return to School After Labor Day Bill

For the record
Gerald

From: Cole, Kimberly [KCole@msd.k12.de.us]
Sent: Monday, May 12, 2014 2:19 PM
To: Hocker, Gerald (LegHall)
Subject: Return to School After Labor Day Bill

Hello Senator Hocker,

I am a school nurse with the Milford Central Academy. I am so very, very happy you introduced this bill. My family always vacations in August, as we celebrate our wedding anniversary as well. ...and we DO have to cut our vacations short because I am expected back in school...even before our children return. In addition, both of our girls are in high school and they both work summer jobs. Their employer would very much like them to work through Labor Day!! In addition, my daughter's friends have summer jobs, mostly in the food service industry....or they are lifeguards. The public and hotels pools do not want to close until after Labor Day weekend...and they need their lifeguards!! I worked at Beebe Medical Center for 20 years in the Emergency Department. Labor Day weekend was our busiest weekend. The month of August and right up until Labor Day is jammed packed with vacationers, this would indeed mean lots of revenue for the state!!! Respectfully Submitted....Kimberly Cole, BSN. RN

Wallace-Himmler, Janet (DEDO)

From: Parkowski, Linda (DEDO)
Sent: Wednesday, April 16, 2014 8:18 AM
To: Wallace-Himmler, Janet (DEDO)
Subject: FW: Task Force for Late School Start

From: William Sullivan [<mailto:billsull@udel.edu>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 15, 2014 12:18 PM
To: Parkowski, Linda (DEDO)
Cc: Jennifer Zerby
Subject: Re: Task Force for Late School Start

The Seaboard Hotels group supports this resolution. Due to the importance of tourism to the state and the local impact here at the beach this can make a difference when the true summer season is extended in relation to school opening dates being after Labor Day. We currently consider our prime summer season to be over around the middle of August with the current school start dates. Additionally this will help us maintain our needed student employees later in the season.

Alex Moore
President
Seaboard Hotels

Wallace-Himmler, Janet (DEDO)

From: Parkowski, Linda (DEDO)
Sent: Wednesday, April 16, 2014 8:15 AM
To: Wallace-Himmler, Janet (DEDO)
Subject: FW: Task Force for Late School Start

From: Jennifer Zerby [<mailto:jzerby@boardwalkplaza.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 15, 2014 5:44 PM
To: Parkowski, Linda (DEDO); 'William Sullivan'
Subject: RE: Task Force for Late School Start

TO: Linda Parkowski, Director of Tourism, State of Delaware
William Sullivan, Delaware Hotel and Lodging Association

RE: Task Force for Late School Start

Dear Linda and Bill,

On behalf of the Boardwalk Plaza Hotel and Victoria's Restaurant, we'd like to voice our full support of the legislative resolution to mandate Delaware schools to start after Labor Day.

The enactment of this resolution would be beneficial to our tourism-related businesses by helping to push the end of the summer season through the end of August. Not only would it provide extra time for our in-state visitors prior to the start of the school year, it would also allow us to retain our seasonal student employees for a few additional weeks.

Schools going back into session prior to Labor Day has indeed shortened our summer season, and we encourage bringing Delaware's schools into alignment with our neighboring states to extend it.

Jennifer & Jeff Zerby
Boardwalk Plaza Hotel & Victoria's Restaurant

Comments/Concerns/Questions from DPTA board members regarding late start to the school year

The current school schedules are built entirely around administrative convenience, and not the interests of children and families, or even teachers. I am looking at Red Clays schedule as an example.

<http://www.redclayschools.com/pages/RedClay/AboutUs/Calendars>

From a parent engagement perspective, for the majority of families having 1/2 days for parent conferences and other purposes is antiquated given the employment schedules and so many families where all parents work. If we want all family members engaged, a variety of times needs to be available with weekday time slots being a minority of the conference times.

In service days are often scattered. We also have some holidays which because of their positioning in the week and that the majority of parents have to work those days make little sense from families perspectives. as examples of this are Election Day and Veterans day. Additionally both of these would be excellent opportunities to focus on the meaning and purpose of the day in school rather than our children mostly just seeing it as another odd day off.

As __ indicated often there are only a very small number of school days before Labor Day with the Friday before not being a school day, so **10 days is lost of summer for 2 or 3 days of school.** I think Thanksgiving week is a similar situation.

I know for many families, both those who do not have significant multigenerational family supports, for whom sporadic daycare is a serious financial burned and for families with children with disabilities and special health care needs having 1/2 days and full days off scattered throughout the year makes no sense and is a major burden, and as I have said appear to be based on administrative convenience.

Also for children at risk, and especially many children with disabilities, the discontinuity and variability of this schedule is disruptive to the educational process. For many of our children a single day off is of little value since it allow little opportunity to plan meaningful extracurricular activities, which can provide great value over the summer and other more substantial breaks

My thoughts are that the current task force is too narrow in its focus and not looking at the primary issue, is the schedule best for our children.

There is also the option of extending the school day by a small increment.

Obviously our teachers need to be engaged in this discussion, since they also have a focus on the best interests of our children and their families, would likely be closer to the parents perspective than the administrative perspective, and with the prospect of longer summers and major vacations would likely embrace the review.

As part of my work in looking at a Charter school model, it is actually quite easy to have school start after Labor day and End before Memorial day.

I am also one who believes we should have short, say 8 days offered at variable times of summer academies available to our students, to reduce summer loss and to support parents in their summer education activities for their children.

Although Delaware has many many great schools, we cannot overlook those children who do consistently regress during the summer. Even if it is only 3 extra days, it allows students the extra time to acclimate to their new classes before the real learning begins. This is essential in any transition plan, and extending summer would diminish this step, causing further stress on not only students, but also teachers. Therefore the school year should remain the same. I have a few friends whose children attend that school, and each parent I have spoken to loves the year round instruction. How would this be applied this school or equivalent programs in Delaware?

Thank you for sharing these findings. Here are my thoughts.

-Although they say they do not hire Delaware Students I know plenty that get summer jobs at the beach.

-They refer to adverse effect on assessments but do not mention a week less of learning with AP courses. So many high schools are encouraging their students to take APs. If the start of school is after Labor Day this could be a real concern. There is absolutely no local control over when APs are given. As a matter of fact many teachers are concerned with all the snow days this year that they cannot get all the material covered.

- I believe that the later the students get out the less learning will occur. As we all know the last weeks before school ends there is a lot of goofing off.

-Although I support PD days I am not sure that they should occur later in a calendar year if they do not occur in the week before Labor Day. No matter if teachers are returning to school before Labor Day this too can effect their families staying at the beach.

-Many states are actually moving to year round calendars due to forgotten learning so if that is the case, I believe there are a couple of schools that do this, then it is a mute point because the kids would be in school during the summer anyway.

I place a vote to keep the calendar as it is, to start the Monday before Labor Day.

I don't agree with starting school after Labor Day, if anything we should be advocating for school year round!

If our schools go back to the schools starting after Labor Day then our schools will go later in June & if we have bad winters like we experienced this winter, we could go through the entire month of June. I

would hate for the entire month to be a "complete waste" with teachers struggling to get their students to actually sit still...that would not even be them even learning for the entire month! This does happen!

I totally understand what the business owners are saying & it does make sense, but if you go down the beach & poll the workers, they are DE students. Growing up, my DE friends got jobs down the beach every summer so for them to say that they don't hire DE students, they aren't telling the entire truth!

My older son is begging for a year round school calendar!!! He wishes that they school district would go to year round! He said that they would waste so much less time. Truthfully, they would get the exact amount of time off, just spread out more. Teachers would waste so much less time having to repeat what they taught. The entire (almost 1st quarter) is teaching what they taught the previous school year. Wouldn't it be nice to not have to do this? I know a couple neighboring states have gone to year round school. I know NC has been successful with it. Parents LOVE it & students like it too. I truthfully don't know how that even gets going & changed?

There are a lot of reasons why we should **NOT start after Labor Day**. No one ever considers what goes on in high schools when making these decisions.

1. First of all, the reasoning for student jobs is incorrect. If the school year is extended further into June, the high school students will have very little opportunity to secure jobs. Since the college population finishes in May, the summer jobs will be scooped up by the college students leaving little open to high school students.
2. **Secondly, Advanced Placement exams are offered during the first two weeks in May. These exams are nationwide and the dates do not change. Therefore, by moving back the school year starting time by a week or two, severe educational time will be lost in the classroom. These are courses that are imperative to students for college credit.**
3. How will we save energy? Not in any way. The schools have a difficult time maintaining air conditioning and heating anyway. SO air conditioning at this point in time is not even turned on in the classrooms and everyone is suffering as it is.

Given the information available from previous meeting minutes, the scope & nature of the task force and the lack of diverse & parent representation on this task force, I cannot support this proposal in its current form. This is obviously a decision being driven by economics – not the best interest of the students – and does not appear to have any evidence based research or raw data to support any of the contentions made in regards to stimulating the local economy, cost-savings for school districts or the impact to the current school schedule. This is clearly a very poorly thought out proposal, with no meaningful analysis of the long term impact to education in the state of Delaware. I am also concerned that there was an attempt to make a correlation between outcomes in the Commonwealth of Virginia to “anticipated” outcomes in the state of Delaware. If this has been so successful in VA, why weren't they able to provide data on the % of revenue increase based on the extended summer - - and exactly how much of that goes back to education? Is it a significant amount? Is the revenue increase significant? This proposal is based on the premise that if school starts after Labor Day, more people will take vacations and go to the beach – but has anyone considered the low income inner city families in New Castle. What about the low income families in West Rehoboth or Seaford? Are they also going on vacations to the

beach? At a time when we are facing mounting concerns from students, educators and parents regarding the new assessments and standards, lack of prep time and decreasing performance, I would think we should be advocating for a longer school year – not a longer summer. The best way to support our business community is to provide students with the education and skills they need to succeed in the workplace so they can give back to the community all year long – not just for a summer job. That type of preparation takes place in a school not on the beach!

I vote not to support this proposal. I would like to see more studies and data specific to Delaware in regards to educational and economic impact before I can consider this with any level of fidelity. I also think it is completely irrelevant that some school districts in Sussex County currently start after the Labor Day holiday.

Wallace-Himmler, Janet (DEDO)

From: Parkowski, Linda (DEDO)
Sent: Wednesday, May 14, 2014 8:32 AM
To: Wallace-Himmler, Janet (DEDO)
Subject: FW: Statement for the Task Force Meeting

From: Gray, Ronald (LegHall)
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2014 10:41 PM
To: Parkowski, Linda (DEDO)
Cc: Hocker, Gerald (LegHall)
Subject: FW: Statement for the Task Force Meeting

Linda,
Here is a response from the Indian School District superintendent concerning starting school after Labor Day.
Thanks
Ron

From: Susan Bunting [sbunting@irsd.k12.de.us]
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2014 9:29 PM
To: Gray, Ronald (LegHall)
Subject: Statement for the Task Force Meeting

The Indian River School District is strongly in favor of beginning the new academic year *after* the Labor Day holiday in the summer months. In addition, many of our teachers and staff members earn extra income by working at beach area businesses of their workers during one of the busiest times of the summer. We have worked closely with resort and school calendar. We realize this puts us in a unique position when compared to other Delaware school districts. t

Susan Bunting, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Indian River School District

Wallace-Himmler, Janet (DEDO)

From: Parkowski, Linda (DEDO)
Sent: Monday, April 21, 2014 8:38 AM
To: Wallace-Himmler, Janet (DEDO)
Subject: FW: Resolution No. 22

From: Paul Kuhns [mailto:pkuhns@comcast.net]
Sent: Friday, April 18, 2014 1:49 PM
To: Parkowski, Linda (DEDO)
Subject: Fwd: Resolution No. 22

This e-mail came to me today.

Regards,

Paul

Begin forwarded message:

From: Kristie Maravalli <Kristie@Bethany-Fenwick.org>
Subject: Resolution No. 22
Date: April 18, 2014 at 12:21:28 PM EDT
To: "pkuhns@comcast.net" <pkuhns@comcast.net>

Paul-

The Bethany-Fenwick Area Chamber of Commerce would like to thank you for creating Delaware Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 22 and serving on the task force that is currently examining a later public start of the school year in the state of Delaware. This decision has a major impact on the local economy here in the Quiet Resorts as well as the entire Sussex County.

Tourism in Sussex County is a primary economic engine generating \$1.2 billion in annual gross domestic product according to Southern Delaware Tourism. Within our service area, our businesses have a consensus of an 11-week season extending from mid-June through the Labor Day holiday. However, each year, our businesses have seen a gradual decrease in sales due to the smaller volume of visitors during the last two weeks of August. In addition, with a limited number of seasonal employees during this time frame, businesses cannot operate at full capacity. Lastly, owners and operators will have the opportunity to hire more local students rather than relying on the J-1 visa students.

With a post Labor Day start of school, this action will positively impact our business community during the final weeks of the summer season. I often hear the phrase "This is when we make our money" from our businesses regarding this 11-week time frame. We would also support the state of Maryland's efforts focused on starting its public schools after Labor Day. Many families with school-aged children from both Delaware and Maryland vacation in Southern Delaware each summer. Northern Delaware and Maryland (along with Pennsylvania and New Jersey) are leading drive-from tourism markets for the Quiet Resorts region and Sussex County. Starting each school year after Labor Day is a major component in stimulating our tourism economy.

On behalf of our members and the entire Quiet Resorts Business Community, the Bethany-Fenwick Area Chamber, fully supports Delaware Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 22.

Please contact me should you have any questions or would like to be connected to any of our members who are directly affected by this measure. Thank you for your service to our community.

Sincerely,

Kristie Maravalli

Kristie Maravalli | Executive Director



Bethany-Fenwick Area Chamber of Commerce
36913 Coastal Hwy. | Fenwick Island, DE 19944
p. 302-539-2100 x 115 | f. 302-539-9434 | facebook

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Wallace-Himmler, Janet (DEDO)

From: Parkowski, Linda (DEDO)
Sent: Monday, April 21, 2014 8:38 AM
To: Wallace-Himmler, Janet (DEDO)
Subject: FW: Delaware Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 22
Attachments: image001.jpg

From: Byrum, Glenn [mailto:gbyrum@grotopizza.com]
Sent: Friday, April 18, 2014 12:31 PM
To: Parkowski, Linda (DEDO)
Subject: Fwd: Delaware Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 22

Linda,

Below is a letter to me from Bethany/Fenwick Island area Chamber of Commerce. Figured you would want to share with the group.

Thank you,
Glenn

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Kristie Maravalli <Kristie@Bethany-Fenwick.org>
Date: April 18, 2014 at 12:19:18 PM EDT
To: "gbyrum@grotopizza.com" <gbyrum@grotopizza.com>
Subject: Delaware Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 22

Glenn-

The Bethany-Fenwick Area Chamber of Commerce would like to thank you for creating Delaware Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 22 and serving on the task force that is currently examining a later public start of the school year in the state of Delaware. This decision has a major impact on the local economy here in the Quiet Resorts as well as the entire Sussex County.

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and Maryland (along with Pennsylvania and New Jersey) are leading drive-from tourism markets for the Quiet Resorts region and Sussex County. Starting each school year after Labor Day is a major component in stimulating our tourism economy.

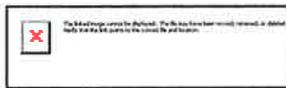
On behalf of our members and the entire Quiet Resorts Business Community, the Bethany-Fenwick Area Chamber, fully supports Delaware Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 22.

Please contact me should you have any questions or would like to be connected to any of our members who are directly affected by this measure. Thank you for your service to our community.

Sincerely,

Kristie Maravalli

[Kristie Maravalli](#) | Executive Director



Bethany-Fenwick Area Chamber of Commerce
36913 Coastal Hwy. | Fenwick Island, DE 19944
p. 302-539-2100 x 115 | f. 302-539-9434 | facebook

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Wallace-Himmler, Janet (DEDO)

From: Parkowski, Linda (DEDO)
Sent: Wednesday, April 16, 2014 3:19 PM
To: Wallace-Himmler, Janet (DEDO)
Subject: FW:

From: Monica Anderson [<mailto:Monica.Anderson@Hilton.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 16, 2014 12:36 PM
To: Parkowski, Linda (DEDO); Bill Sullivan
Subject:

Axia Management, who represents 7 hotels in Delaware, is in full support of the mandate to require schools to start after Labor Day.

Please let me know if there is anything I can do to help.

Sincerely,

Monica Anderson
General Manager
Home 2 Suites
222 S. DuPont Highway
Dover, DE 19901
(302)674-3300

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