



The ABCs of a Flexible School Calendar

La Crescent-Hokah Public Schools is investigating the possibility of submitting an application for a flexible school calendar. This is required by the Minnesota Department of Education for any school districts which wish to start the school year prior to Labor Day. We believe that the opportunity to start our school year will better support our district and have a positive impact on the following:

A – Academics

- Better align the calendar year with the school year. Currently, we have a lengthy break shortly before the end of the semester. Transitioning to an earlier start would allow winter break to be the end of the semester. This would allow students and staff to have a true break during that time and a fresh start when they come back.
- Maximizing our instructional window. Once the weather gets warm in the Spring and all of the end of year assessments are completed, motivation to learn often decreases.
- Allow for an additional two weeks of instructional time prior to state and national testing windows such as MCA and ACT tests.

B – Better Supports for the Community

- Many community services, such as the pool, start to shut down in mid-August. This is largely due to college students who are working there going back to school. This leaves families without these supports for the last few weeks of summer. Starting earlier would minimize this issue.
- Closer alignment with the activities schedule for the fall season. Starting earlier eases transportation needs for families who have non-drivers and are participating in fall sports.
- More natural breaks during the school year. Every year Spring break which will allow families a time to take a trip without students missing school, winter break without having work required, and more transition time for students/staff from one semester to the next.

C – Collaboration Opportunities

- More closely aligns with post-secondary institutions in terms of the semester break. This will enhance our ability to get student teachers, field experience, and overall collaboration with colleges for unique opportunities.