



March 11, 2025

The Honorable Senator Steve Cwodzinski, Chair  
Senate Education Policy Committee  
Minnesota Senate Building  
Room 1200  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Opposition of SF1336 – Authorizing School Start Dates Before Labor Day

Chair Cwodzinski and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express strong opposition to Senate File 1336, which would authorize school start dates before Labor Day. Hospitality Minnesota recognizes traditional summer and strongly opposes legislation that would repeal the post-Labor Day school start law. Schools in Minnesota have traditionally commenced their academic year after Labor Day. In recent years, some school districts have made a push to start early to mid-August in the name of preparation for mandatory standardized tests. We are strong supporters of the quality education system in Minnesota; we also believe that the post-Labor Day school start and positive educational outcomes are fully compatible.

A three-year "trial" period, which allowed 27 districts in southwest Minnesota to start two weeks before Labor Day, failed to show any improvements in test scores. Citing no improvements in student academic outcomes and minimal cost savings, Minneapolis Public Schools announced in November 2018 the return to resuming classes after Labor Day.

Many statewide industries value the employees that are available because of the current school start law. Such industries include tourism, canning, 4-H, the State Fair, landscaping, retail, and farming. The current law is also a great benefit to students, giving many young people extra opportunities to earn money that is needed for college or to help supplement their family income.

Nearly every school district benefits from tourism businesses, which pay property taxes. A negative impact on these businesses may have serious consequences on school district budgets. The post-Labor Day start law dramatically impacts Minnesota's economy. Without question, this legislation would harm tourism and hospitality businesses statewide.

Thank you for your consideration of our important hospitality and tourism businesses.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Angie Whitcomb', is written over a light blue circular background.

Angie Whitcomb  
President & CEO  
Hospitality Minnesota