

## STATE SCHOOL START DATE LAWS

### STATES ENJOYING A SCHOOL START DATE LAW

State	Law as stated on books	Comments
<b>WISCONSIN</b>	Academic instruction may start any time after September 1.	
<b>NORTH CAROLINA</b>	Academic instruction may start any time after September 1. Law allows waivers for earlier starts based on past bad weather days.	
<b>MICHIGAN</b>	Academic instruction may start any time after Labor Day.	
<b>TEXAS</b>	Academic instruction may not begin until the 4 <sup>th</sup> week of August. (Law passed 2006)	
<b>VIRGINIA</b>	Academic instruction may begin after Labor Day. Law also includes a provision that allows school districts to seek a waiver to begin earlier if they meet a certain number of bad weather days in previous years.	
<b>ARKANSAS</b>	Law requires school start dates no earlier than August 19 and no later than August 26. If August 18 falls on a Monday school may begin on that date. Labor Day must be observed as a Holiday.	Last year a bill to abolish the school start date law flew through the House and almost made it out of the Senate. A coalition has been formed to not only fight to keep a school start date law, but push it back to post-Labor Day.
<b>SOUTH CAROLINA</b>	Law passed prohibits school from beginning before the 3 <sup>rd</sup> week in August. (Law passed 2006)	
<b>FLORIDA</b>	Academic instruction may not begin earlier than 14 days prior to Labor Day. (Law passed 2006)	
<b>IOWA</b>	Law states: "The school year shall begin on the first day of July and each regularly established elementary and secondary school shall begin no sooner than a day during the calendar week in which the first day of September falls but no later than the first Monday in December. However, if the first day of September falls on a Sunday, school may begin on a day during the calendar week which immediately precedes the first day of September. School shall continue for at least one hundred eighty days, except as provided in subsection 3, and may be maintained during the entire calendar year.	While laws are on the books, school start date waivers are granted as common practice.  A group of legislators attempted to give the law strength during the 2007 session, but attempts failed, but with solid debate.
<b>WEST VIRGINIA</b>	The law states "the instructional term shall commence no earlier than August 26 and shall terminate no later than June 28."	
<b>MINNESOTA</b>	Academic instruction may start any time after Labor Day.	

## STATES WORKING TOWARDS A SCHOOL START DATE LAW

<b>ALABAMA</b>	SaveAlabamaSummers.org is working to establish a school start date law prohibiting public K-12 from beginning instruction before August 21. The group is working with many bill sponsors and is using the No Child Left Behind Act as their premise; focusing on the reporting requirements.	
<b>TENNESSEE</b>	SaveTennesseeSummers.org is working to establish a 4 <sup>th</sup> Monday in August or later school start date.	
<b>KENTUCKY</b>	SaveKentuckySummers.org is working to establish a school start date of post-Labor Day. The group is using the No Child Left Behind Act as their premise; focusing on the reporting requirements as well as the benefit to families, students and teachers.	
<b>MAINE</b>	The Inn Keepers Association and various tourism groups are working on a school start date law that will stop the gradual “creep” of the school year. Currently, the majority of schools are beginning the last week in August. The group is also using the No Child Left Behind Act as leverage, but at this time focusing on the impact to travel and tourism and the dislike of families and teachers.	
<b>ARKANSAS</b>	Although the state currently has a school start date law it has been constantly under assault.	
<b>PENNSYLVANIA</b>	From a traditional post-Labor Day school start date Pennsylvania schools have begun a few days earlier each year. Using the impact on travel and tourism on the economy, the travel association is working towards a post-Labor Day school start date. The state is also currently non-compliant with the reporting requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act and we are also using this as a way to pass legislation.	
<b>GEORGIA</b>	Georgians Need Summers is working towards legislation that would start the school year September 1. In reality, the group would like a school start	

	date of the 4 <sup>th</sup> Monday in August. This group is trying to pair the school start date issue with offering teachers a \$250 tax credit to offset school supplies purchased each year out of their pocket.	
--	--	--