

## **PUBLIC NOTICE OF HEARING**

### **Pre-Labor Day Start Waiver**

Section 1284b of the Revised School Code (MCL 380.1284b) prohibits public schools from scheduling instruction on or before Labor Day. However, the legislation also provides the State Superintendent with sole authority to issue a waiver from this requirement if it is determined that the school or program is a bona fide year-round school or program established for educational purposes.

When a Labor Day waiver is requested, Section 160 of the State School Aid Act (MCL 388.1760) requires the district to conduct a joint public hearing at a location within the district or intermediate school district. A joint public hearing must take place before the Labor Day waiver can be approved. The local school board is not required to attend the hearing; however, a representative of the district must be available to address any questions, concerns, or public comment.

There will be a Public Hearing for the purpose of application for a Pre-Labor Day Start Waiver to the Michigan Department of Education on behalf of the following school districts: Burt Township Schools, Gwinn Community Schools, Ishpeming Public Schools, Marquette Area Public Schools, Munising Public Schools, Negaunee Public Schools, NICE Community School, North Star Academy, Republic-Michigamme School, Superior Central School and Marquette-Alger RESA

Date & Time of Meeting: February 11, 2022

Place of Meeting: MARESA 321 E. Ohio St, Marquette, Michigan 49855 at 10:00 AM

---

Labor Day Waiver Public Hearing  
February 11, 2022

Participants: Marquette - Alger Superintendents, Brian Sarvello, Shelly Johnson, & Chad Urchike (via teleconference)

- Section 160 of the State School Aid Act (MCL 388.1760) requires the district to conduct a joint public hearing with the Department at a location within the district or intermediate school district. A joint public hearing must take place before the Labor Day waiver can be approved. The local school board is not required to attend the hearing; however, a representative from the LEA must be present to address any public comments or questions.
- Chad Urchike, MDE, will provide a short explanation of the hearing process
  - Presentation from applicant
  - Questions from State
  - Public Comment
- LEA reps provide a summary of reason for application
  - Main Reasons: Early Middle College and Dual Enrollment
    - As student numbers in EMC continue to increase, it makes sense to coincide with the NMU calendar
  - Also applying to increase instruction hours on the front end of the year to balance weather cancellations and potential disruptions based on public health status
- Brian Sarvello will provide a summary of EMC and the relationship with NMU
  - Unique partnership with a 4 year college while most other programs work with community colleges
  - Currently there are three academies (Health Sciences, Professional Trades, Cybersecurity) and each academy is capped at 75 students per year.
- If the K-8 schools in our RESA wanted to apply for a waiver, it would have to be under the Alternate Program Criterion application.
  - Offered to all students
  - Free of charge to all students
  - Shorten the summer break to six weeks or less
    - For example, if their summer break is 11 weeks, the summer program would have to be at least 5 weeks long
      - The ISD could also offer programs throughout the summer
  - These applications would be submitted by the K-8s separately
- **The waiver will apply for a 3 year period beginning in 22-23 for all K-12 districts within Marquette-Alger RESA.**
- A confirmation email will be sent out by Chad Urchike once approved.