

Commencement of School Term

2001 Wisconsin Act 16 eliminated the provision which allowed a school district to commence its school term before September 1 in any year that it held a public hearing and adopted a resolution to do so. Act 16 allows a school district to commence its school term before September 1 if the school board makes a request (including the reason) to the Department of Public Instruction (DPI). The department may only grant a request if it determines that there are extraordinary reasons for granting it. DPI was required to promulgate administrative rules to implement and administer this provision. Please [click here](#) to see those rules.

Wis. Stat. sec. 118.045 Commencement of school term.

- (1) Except as provided in subs. (2) and (3), beginning in the year 2000, no public school may commence the school term until September 1.
- (2) Subsection (1) does not prohibit a school board from doing any of the following:
 - (a) Holding athletic contests or practices before September 1.
 - (b) Scheduling in-service days or work days before September 1.
 - (c) Holding school year-round.
- (3) A school board may commence the school term before September 1 in any school year if the school board requests the department to allow it to commence the school term before September 1 and the school board includes reasons with its request. The department may grant a request only if it determines that there are extraordinary reasons for granting it. The department shall promulgate rules to implement and administer this subsection.