

Good afternoon and thank you for inviting me to testify and to participate today. For the record, my name is Carl Ladd, Executive Director of the NH School Administrators Association. I have been in public education for over 25 years as a school board member, teacher, building administrator, and superintendent in both NH and MA. Prior to that I served in the US Army and worked in retail management for 10 years – so I bring a variety of experiences to my current work.

As you have no doubt already determined, school calendars tend to be a very complex issue, as they affect many aspects of school life, including academics, athletics, budgets, buildings, transportation, summer employment of both staff and students, childcare for parents, and collective bargaining agreements, just to name a few.

While my testimony could be quite lengthy, I wish to focus primarily on three areas for your consideration: **Workforce & Tourism, Educational Issues, and Local Control**. Part of my testimony will reflect the responses from the state's superintendents to a recent survey regarding this issue. It is important to note as we begin this discussion that 84% of the school districts in the state currently open before Labor Day – 16% open after Labor Day.

Workforce & Tourism

- Seems to be more of a college workforce issue than high school – perhaps institutes of higher learning should be included in this conversation, many of which start before Labor Day
 - The reality is that in many communities, when college students return to school, the childcare work force drastically decreases. If school starts after Labor Day in those communities, parents are left without childcare options for most of August.
- Much of our tourism dollars comes from out of state – we have no control over whether MA, CT, VT, ME, or other states start their school years before or after Labor Day. Even

in MA when I was a superintendent, in a highly regulated educational bureaucracy, local communities were able to determine their own school calendars based on what was best for their communities and families. Some began before Labor Day and some after.

- There has been an understanding for at least 20 years in one North Country regional district that district schools will not open until after Labor Day to honor the business community's feeling that it would impact the tourism in their communities. In the town next to them, when the decision was made to open school before Labor Day, those same businesses were quite happy because that meant that those students were available earlier in the season – it was a benefit for their tourism-related businesses. Both were local decisions based on student and economic needs affirmed by their individual communities.
- Business leaders approached one large South West regional School Board last April / May expressing concern about the school year going late into June due to snow cancellations (even with use of SIX blizzard bag days during the winter). A late start after Labor Day would have exacerbated this situation and moved the last day further toward the end of June. Their School Board conducted a survey about changing the school calendar. Based on feedback from 632 parents and staff, the Board decided not to change the school calendar and continue with current practice.
- Most school districts that begin before Labor Day also provide the Friday before Labor Day as a day off from school – allowing for students who want to work the opportunity to do so, and for families who are able to travel to do so if that is their choice.
- We asked the superintendents if they had been approached by any businesses regarding the Labor Day issue, either this year or in the past few years. 87% of the respondents said that they had not been approached. Of the 13% that had approached them, 50% (5 responses) requested that school open after Labor Day, 20% (2 responses) requested that they

maintain their current calendar of opening before Labor Day, and 30% (3 responses) said they had no opinion – that it was up to the school board.

Educational Issues

Many educational leaders, classroom teachers, and parents have voiced that the adherence to an outdated agrarian calendar system of schooling is not worth losing the academic gains students can make by having fewer long-term time gaps in learning time.

With the added pressure of a mid-June ending to the school year, we are concerned about the impact of a longer summer on our struggling learners, as well as those identified with special education needs. Whatever solution emerges from this process, we have to keep the needs of all students in mind.

- Our children rely on the structure of our schools. We already lose precious time over the summer. Research shows that, on average, it may take up to six weeks for students to re-learn and re-engage with what was learned the prior year. Our families also rely on us for our breakfast and lunch programs and for before and after school programs. Local community schools are an integral part of their communities, supporting children and families.
- Days at the end of August are more productive in getting school started than days at the end of June in keeping students on task. As there is no talk of providing additional resources to local communities to address HVAC issues that already exist in many older buildings, quality of learning should be considered as well as compliance with a calendar.
- Advanced Placement course examinations are given at predetermined times nationally, and post-Labor Day start dates put NH students at a disadvantage with their peers from other states, especially when compared to CA, FL, TX, which all start weeks before NH does.
- Students enrolled in Dual Enrollment and Running Start college and university courses need to coincide with the

college/university calendar and, as noted earlier, many of which are in session prior to Labor Day

- Many districts have noted that there are currently higher rates of absenteeism when the calendar is extended into June due to parents' scheduled vacations as well as summer camp commitments, etc, that parents make for their children
 - Many families plan their summers around the historical patterns of vacation periods including parental vacations at their work places. Many districts plan for the re-entry of students (especially younger students) in the fall that goes extremely well with a three-day week in August, a four-day week following Labor Day, then a full five-day week. Ultimately this is about teaching and learning.
- With the history of weather-related cancellations in NH, often "encouraged" by the DOT, DOE, and NHDHSEM (NH Dept. of Homeland Security & Emergency Management) many districts would be challenged to complete the educational commitments to students and families in the current fiscal year.
 - Beginning after Labor Day could potentially push the boundaries of school budgets as the fiscal year runs July 1 - June 30. For the calendar years in which Labor Day begins late (in 2020 September 6; 2021 September 5) that would mean a final school day of late June (22 – 25) without any makeup days for inclement weather. That means if there were more than 6 snow days (not an unusual occurrence in some regions of the state), districts would run into the following fiscal year and incur expenses that were not budgeted.
 - This is a major problem for schools on a 180-day calendar and some cannot switch to hours as they have tuition agreements indicating they will deliver 180 days of instruction. One district noted that one day less than 180 would cost their taxpayers \$65K in lost revenue.

Local Decision Making

Many school districts have surveyed their parents and communities over the years. Local decisions are never made in a vacuum. These are local decisions made by parents and staff with community input based upon what is best for the students

- Districts that are deciding to start before and after Labor Day always have both business and education concerns in mind depending upon the community and the local business needs and summer employment opportunities - but most importantly the needs of the students and their families
- In many multi-district SAUs, the calendars for each district are adopted as the result of the establishment of a calendar committee in each district. The adopted calendar is influenced by the recommendations of parents and staff – again never made in a vacuum. Sometime calendars are not even the same within one SAU – with each district making its own determinations.
- Some schools have a philosophy of following 180 days, others do hours – both are allowed by regulation. Some of the schools have shorter days than others, so students attend more days to get the hours in. This is based on a number of factors to include bus schedules and bus/driver numbers, parental preference, before and after school programming, etc. Many multi-district SAUs have to coordinate each district's calendar and school times in order to maximize cost effectiveness and efficiencies for transportation, educational and co-curricular programming, and breakfast/lunch programs
- Business leaders approached one large South West regional School Board last April about the school year going late into June due to snow cancellations (even with use of SIX blizzard bag days during the winter). A later start after Labor Day would have exacerbated this situation and moved the last day towards the end of June. The School Board conducted a survey about changing school calendar. Based on feedback from 632 parents and staff, the Board

decided not to change the school calendar and continue with current practice.

- Many school boards and parents are much more interested in shortening the calendar in June. Families are much more ready to come to school on late fall than to stay late in June. The challenge after Labor Day is the lengthening of the year on the other end. The past two years have had an extensive amount of snow days, again many “encouraged” by the conference calls from the State.
- Local control is critical as the issues are local ...for example the Hopkinton and Lancaster Fairs happen Labor Day weekend...many schools whose students are part of an agricultural tradition provide opportunities for students to participate
- In addition, there are inherent challenges associated with differences in calendars across school districts that share a regional CTE Center. It is sometimes difficult to coordinate start and end dates across districts, which sometimes means that students are only receiving approximately 120 days of CTE instructional time over the course of a school year. Local communities have made those determinations.
 - There is also the issue with the discrepancy in the February and April vacation weeks. Many districts align with MA dates, others don't, which can make it difficult for families where there are teachers and students in different districts.
 - If the state wants to look at school calendars, then it should examine all aspects of the calendar it wishes to mandate. Either the state should provide a calendar all districts must follow (which would raise considerably more challenges) or leave it a local decision.
- The length of summer is referenced in many teacher collective bargaining agreements.

- Many school calendars are influenced by CBAs. Many CBAs are typically multi-year agreements and many contain language relative to starting times, length of school day, and length of school year. Local School Boards are responsible for the governance of the School District and therefore, it should be in their hands
- Unless the Legislature is willing to make school calendars a restricted item for collective bargaining, and nullify all current CBAs, then this would remain a locally determined decision ratified by voters and part of a binding agreement. And, if that were to happen, many (if not all) CBAs would have to be opened and re-negotiated, which could have a significant cost impact upon local districts.

Regardless of the underlying focus of this commission, the emphasis should be placed on what is best educationally and academically for the students, families and communities of NH.

When asked whether the decision to set the school calendar should be made at the local level by individual school districts and their elected school board, 97% of superintendents responded yes – 3% had no opinion. Of those superintendents that have had a recent conversation with their school boards regarding this study commission (roughly 31%), the vast majority of them wanted to maintain their current start date and felt that this should remain a local decision.

I would like to close by reminding you that 84% of the school districts in NH currently open BEFORE Labor Day. To change that arbitrarily to a start date after Labor Day would nullify local community decisions in 84% of the communities across the state.

Ultimately, because each region of the state is quite different, and each community within each region is quite different, and because each school calendar affects so many aspects of school and community life, and because the overwhelming majority of school districts have already had this debate and made their choice, the decision of whether to start school before or after

Labor Day should best be left to the local communities, their elected officials, educators, and parents.

Thank you for your time this afternoon and for your service on this commission.

School Start Time 2018

Q1 Please identify your SAU number

Answered: 62 Skipped: 0

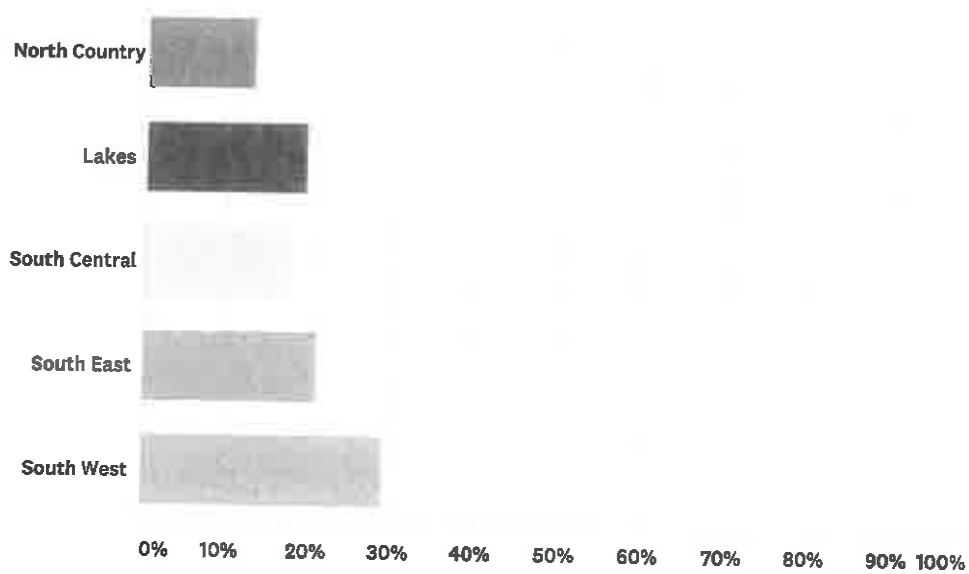
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2	82	10/31/2018 11:27 AM
3	27	10/30/2018 9:58 PM
4	33	10/30/2018 9:31 AM
5	29	10/29/2018 4:10 PM
6	17	10/29/2018 4:04 PM
7	77	10/29/2018 3:53 PM
8	62	10/29/2018 2:41 PM
9	81	10/29/2018 12:59 PM
10	26	10/29/2018 12:51 PM
11	45	10/29/2018 11:34 AM
12	35	10/29/2018 11:22 AM
13	6	10/29/2018 11:20 AM
14	103	10/29/2018 11:00 AM
15	21	10/29/2018 10:50 AM
16	62	10/29/2018 10:44 AM
17	44	10/29/2018 9:40 AM
18	1	10/29/2018 9:35 AM
19	75	10/29/2018 9:30 AM
20	9	10/29/2018 9:28 AM
21	32	10/29/2018 9:24 AM
22	49	10/29/2018 9:05 AM
23	41	10/29/2018 8:50 AM
24	93	10/29/2018 8:47 AM
25	63	10/29/2018 8:39 AM
26	74	10/29/2018 8:36 AM
27	12	10/29/2018 8:31 AM
28	5	10/29/2018 8:24 AM
29	101	10/29/2018 8:04 AM
30	4	10/29/2018 8:01 AM
31	89	10/29/2018 7:57 AM
32	85	10/29/2018 7:57 AM
33	87	10/29/2018 7:55 AM
34	80	10/29/2018 7:32 AM
35	59	10/29/2018 7:20 AM

School Start Time 2018

36	20	10/29/2018 7:13 AM
37	8	10/29/2018 5:46 AM
38	65	10/28/2018 8:29 PM
39	73	10/28/2018 8:02 PM
40	84	10/28/2018 7:12 PM
41	67	10/28/2018 4:54 PM
42	14	10/28/2018 2:10 PM
43	16	10/28/2018 1:14 PM
44	99	10/28/2018 1:06 PM
45	66	10/28/2018 12:28 PM
46	55	10/28/2018 12:10 PM
47	58	10/28/2018 11:36 AM
48	30	10/28/2018 11:16 AM
49	31	10/28/2018 11:13 AM
50	88	10/28/2018 10:52 AM
51	41	10/28/2018 10:19 AM
52	2	10/28/2018 9:44 AM
53	86	10/28/2018 9:15 AM
54	16	10/28/2018 9:00 AM
55	67	10/28/2018 8:55 AM
56	23	10/28/2018 8:41 AM
57	25	10/28/2018 8:35 AM
58	54	10/28/2018 8:17 AM
59	15	10/28/2018 8:16 AM
60	36	10/28/2018 7:50 AM
61	11	10/28/2018 7:47 AM
62	39	10/28/2018 7:11 AM

Q2 Please identify your region

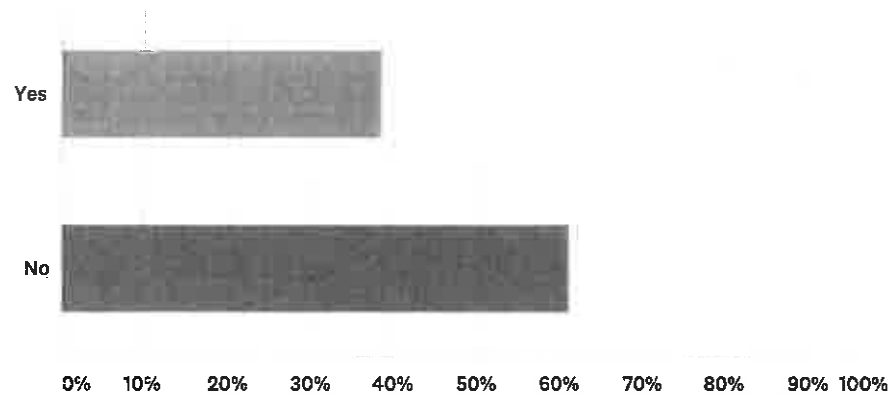
Answered: 62 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
North Country	12.90% 8
Lakes	19.35% 12
South Central	17.74% 11
South East	20.97% 13
South West	29.03% 18
TOTAL	62

Q3 Do you have a multi-district SAU?

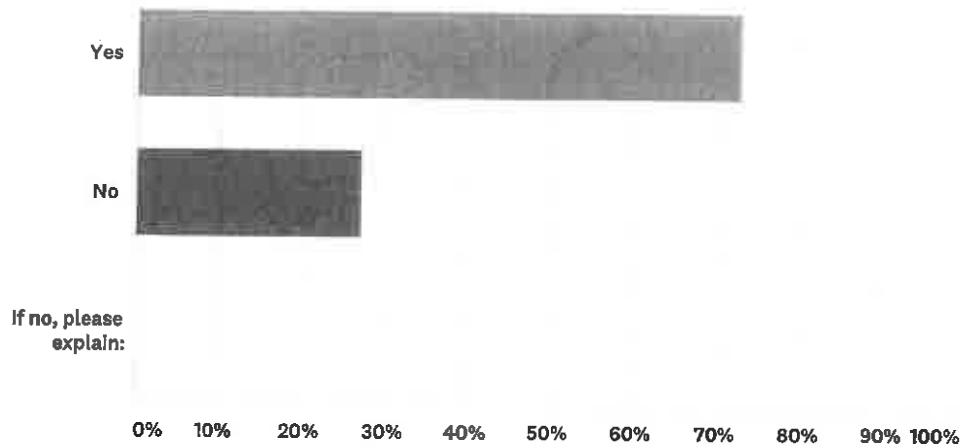
Answered: 62 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	38.71%	24
No	61.29%	38
TOTAL		62

Q4 If yes, do all of your districts follow the same calendar?

Answered: 33 Skipped: 29



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	72.73%	24
No	27.27%	9
If no, please explain:	0.00%	0
TOTAL		33

#	IF NO, PLEASE EXPLAIN:	DATE
	There are no responses.	

School Start Time 2018

Q5 If you answered NO to Question 4, please explain below:

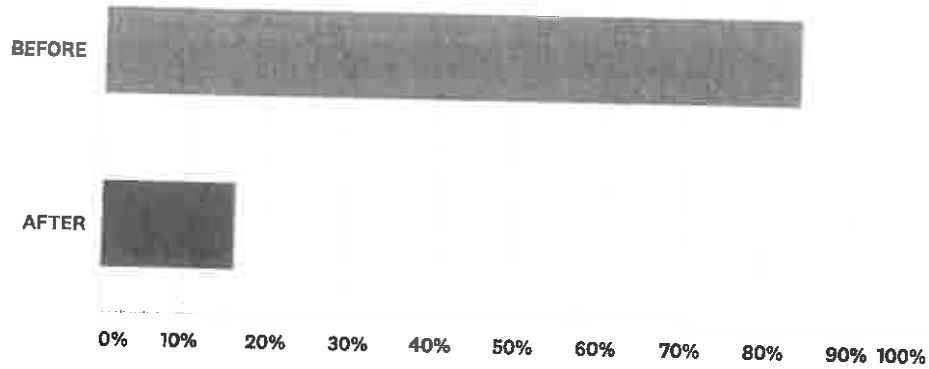
Answered: 17 Skipped: 45

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Each of our districts have time honored traditions that the individual boards are not interested in changing. We have tried several times to align our calendars but were unsuccessful.	10/31/2018 1:35 PM
2	start date and end date are the same for all 7 districts	10/29/2018 4:13 PM
3	Only one district	10/29/2018 3:53 PM
4	Two districts in SAU 6. Unity begins before Labor Day, Claremont begins after Labor Day. Not all of the PD days, etc. align either. There is not an SAU calendar, only individual district calendars.	10/29/2018 11:20 AM
5	Some schools have a philosophy of following 180 days, others do hours. Some of the schools have shorter days than others, so students attend more days to get the hours in. This is based on a number of factors to include bus schedules and bus/driver numbers, etc. We have six schools and also coordinate with SST.	10/29/2018 10:50 AM
6	There are minor differences because of CBA differences that effect the beginning of school	10/29/2018 9:40 AM
7	n/a	10/29/2018 9:30 AM
8	NA	10/29/2018 8:50 AM
9	We tuition our middle and high school students to SAU 40 and we have different days off throughout the year	10/29/2018 7:57 AM
10	we have an area agreement with Gilmanton and we collaborate on the calendar. It is very similar early releases may be different.	10/28/2018 8:02 PM
11	n/a	10/28/2018 11:13 AM
12	N/a	10/28/2018 10:19 AM
13	Ashland is K - 8 and for high school attends Plymouth Regional High School. The Ashland Elementary School calendar mostly aligns with SAU 48, which is the SAU for PRHS. There are some exceptions with early release days.	10/28/2018 9:44 AM
14	N/A	10/28/2018 9:01 AM
15	We have roughly the same calendars with some districts having more pd days in their CBA and other districts close for voting in the schools, etc.	10/28/2018 8:42 AM
16	N/A	10/28/2018 8:35 AM
17	Calendars vary re: holidays (Presidents Day, the day before Thanksgiving)	10/28/2018 8:17 AM

School Start Time 2018

Q6 Does your SAU calendar currently begin school BEFORE or AFTER Labor Day

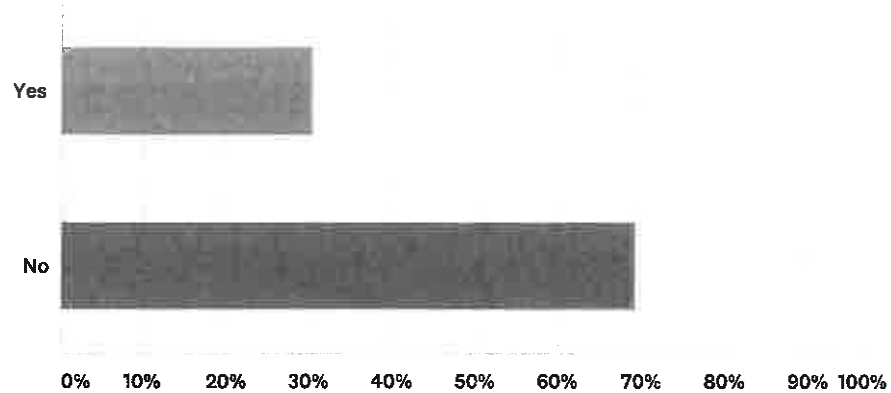
Answered: 62 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
BEFORE	83.87%	52
AFTER	16.13%	10
TOTAL		62

Q7 Has your School Board discussed this issue since the Governor formed his study commission on Labor Day weekend?

Answered: 62 Skipped: 0

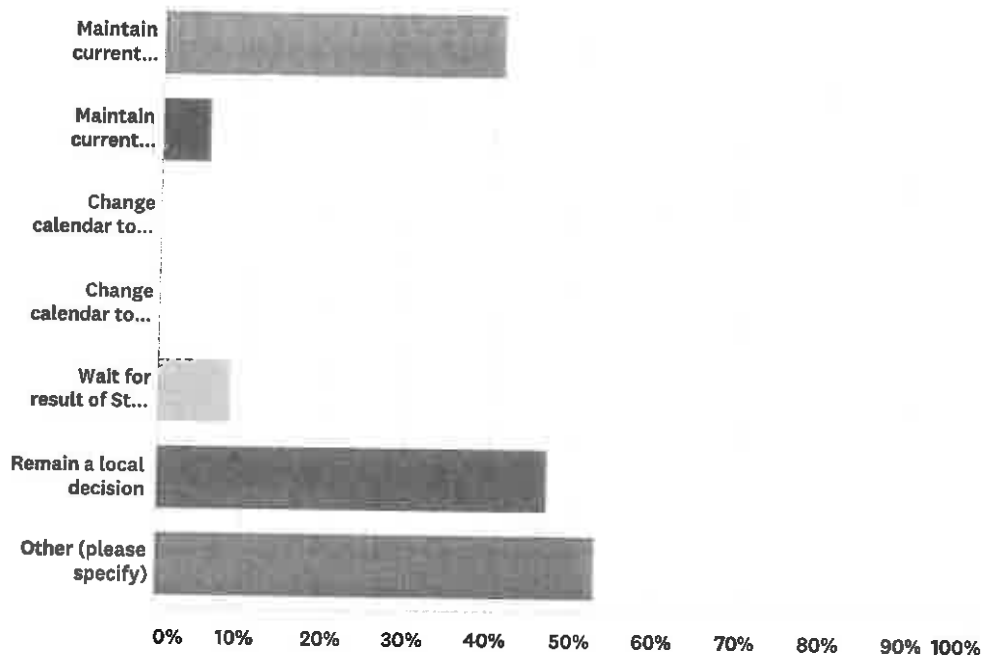


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	30.65%	19
No	69.35%	43
TOTAL		62

School Start Time 2018

Q8 If YES, what was the outcome (please check all that apply):

Answered: 34 Skipped: 28



ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Maintain current position of opening BEFORE Labor Day		41.18%	14
Maintain current position of opening AFTER Labor Day		5.88%	2
Change calendar to open BEFORE Labor Day		0.00%	0
Change calendar to open AFTER Labor Day		0.00%	0
Wait for result of Study Commission recommendation		8.82%	3
Remain a local decision		47.06%	16
Other (please specify)		52.94%	18
Total Respondents: 34			

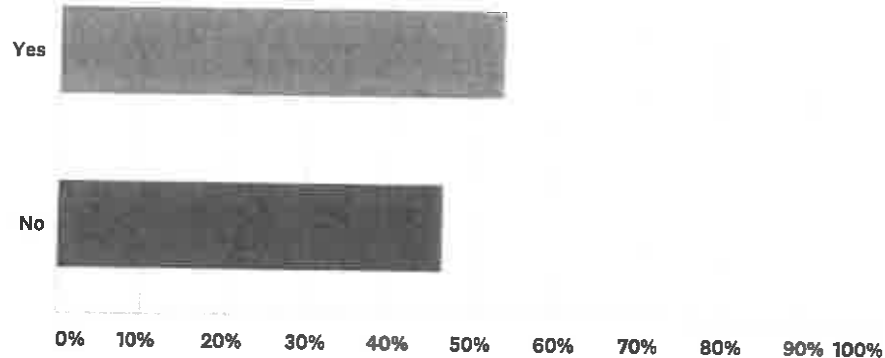
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Our current CBA limits us depending on the date of Labor Day: "Students shall begin school after Labor day when it falls on 9/1, 2 or 3 and before Labor Day when it falls on 9/4, 5, 6, or 7." We are trying to negotiate a change to allow us to always start before Labor Day, but the NEA is opposed. They claim it will shorten their summer vacation.	10/30/2018 9:59 PM
2	We have not yet developed our calendar for next year. While we are not opposed to starting after Labor Day, the reality is that students will simply have to go to school longer in June. Therefore, it is unclear how a later start will 'save summer'. Most importantly, we do not believe that the State should tell local Districts what their school calendars should look like.	10/30/2018 9:31 AM

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3	In the fall of 2017, we received feedback from nearly 1500 stakeholders asking them when they wanted the school year to start. Roughly 51% indicated they wanted school to start prior to Labor Day, 46% indicated after Labor Day and 2% had no preference. As a result, we have decided to keep the start of school prior to Labor Day. This was further supported by teachers indicating that starting on the Wednesday before Labor Day would allow for a smoother transition from summer as students would ease into school routines in a 3 day, 4 day and 5 day week to begin the new school year.	10/29/2018 4:13 PM
4	We haven't discussed this but I would recommend to them to start prior to Labor Day!	10/29/2018 3:53 PM
5	We have built our calendar and are in the process of Board approval. We start the third week in August in order to accommodate and coordinate our days.	10/29/2018 10:50 AM
6	n/a	10/29/2018 9:30 AM
7	It has not been officially discussed, but we believe that the state should leave stuff like this to the local board to decide.	10/29/2018 7:21 AM
8	Our Board had a bit of conversation about how the Governor should focus on supporting our schools by increasing adequacy and reinstating building aid.	10/29/2018 5:46 AM
9	we have had a brief conversation. In November I am taking a proposed calendar to the board for approval. I am suggesting a start date before labor day, not sure of the reaction I will get. We go to Laconia for career and technical education and Laconia has already approved a calendar that starts after the holiday.	10/28/2018 8:04 PM
10	Our board is much more interested in shortening the calendar in June. We have staff five days before Labor Day and students three days before and open with a 3, 4 and then a five day week and we really like that configuration. Families are much more ready to come to school on late fall than to stay late in June.	10/28/2018 4:54 PM
11	Generally speaking the parents of Epping would be fine either way. The Board prefers an after Labor Day start.	10/28/2018 2:10 PM
12	n/a	10/28/2018 11:13 AM
13	Board did not take an official stand. Comments were to keep the calendar as it is. We have students who attend Hartford Area Tech Center, and that program begins a few days before we do. The teacher's contract has a start date of August 25th.	10/28/2018 10:52 AM
14	N/a	10/28/2018 10:19 AM
15	It was not a concern when this year's calendar was presented. We have not brought forward next year's calendar at this stage nor has it been discussed.	10/28/2018 9:44 AM
16	Our board is discussing how to give families a guaranteed end date for school while being able to accommodate for snow days. This year we are officially using hours for accountability, but do have 6/7 or 6/14 as firm end dates. We will only make up 5 snow days.	10/28/2018 8:35 AM
17	Not discussed	10/28/2018 8:17 AM
18	We are part of region 3 CTE and our after Labor Day start conflicts with the Region	10/28/2018 7:50 AM

Q9 If NO, is this an item that you plan to discuss with your Board(s)?

Answered: 43 Skipped: 19



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	53.49%	23
No	46.51%	20
TOTAL		43

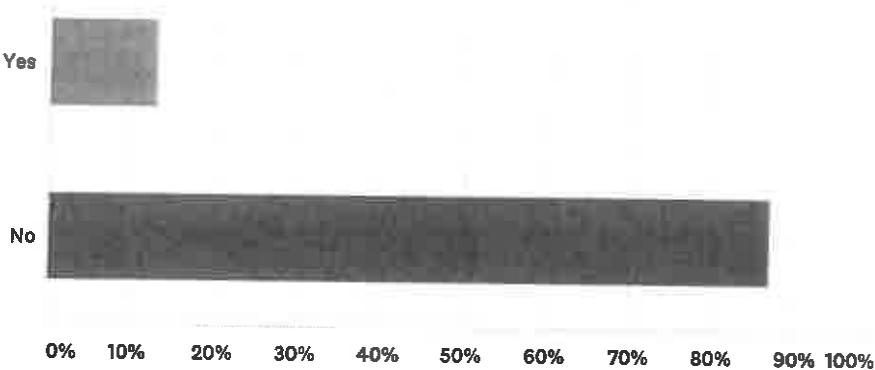
#	PLEASE EXPLAIN:	DATE
1	We will be presenting a draft calendar soon but have not specifically discussed this issue.	10/31/2018 1:35 PM
2	I believe that our Board will want to go on record as saying that setting the local school calendar should be a local issue, not a mandate from the state.	10/31/2018 11:27 AM
3	When we go to set the calendar, we will discuss it. This is a local contrul matter!	10/29/2018 3:53 PM
4	There is not a plan currently, but it may come to the surface soon once people begin speaking about it in the State	10/29/2018 12:59 PM
5	We are not planning on discussing the topic unless we are asked to address the topic.	10/29/2018 12:51 PM
6	Possibly in Unity.	10/29/2018 11:20 AM
7	I will pt it on the Agenda for 11/14.	10/29/2018 11:00 AM
8	We will explain how we follow the Hartford Votech schedule for our school calendar and how they start before Labor Day.	10/29/2018 10:44 AM
9	At our November meeting -- 11/13/18	10/29/2018 9:30 AM
10	This has been discussed in previous years. The boards have left the calendar up to administration.	10/29/2018 9:28 AM
11	We have started before Labor Day for quite a long time. In the years that I have been here, the idea of starting before has never been raised when the calendar is discussed and voted on by the Board.	10/29/2018 8:54 AM
12	I will be recommending a similar calendar as the last few years.	10/29/2018 8:50 AM
13	We will discuss it as a part of our regular calendar review and approval process after the new year.	10/29/2018 8:32 AM
14	We tuition our high school students to Rochester and attempt to closely follow the Rochester calendar. If we don't, we incur extra busing costs and parents who have some of their children in school and some home. While our Board has not discussed this, I object to making a decision based on what is good for the economy. Days at the end of August are more productive in getting school started then days at the end of June in keeping students on task. This should be a local control decision, not made at the State level.	10/29/2018 8:04 AM

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15	We will discuss this as we present the calendar for 19-20 to the board- typically in December.	10/29/2018 8:01 AM
16	The school calendar is viewed as an issue/decision best made at the local/school district level- not through DOE or the Governor's office.	10/29/2018 7:55 AM
17	please see above	10/28/2018 8:04 PM
18	Yes but related to the overall calendar	10/28/2018 2:11 PM
19	A draft of the school calendar will be presented in December. The labor issue is discussed every year.	10/28/2018 12:29 PM
20	We start either before or after Labor Day depending on when Labor Day falls.	10/28/2018 11:16 AM
21	Current post-Labor Day start was to accommodate construction	10/28/2018 11:14 AM
22	See above	10/28/2018 10:52 AM
23	Calendar input is always requested of staff prior to presenting it to the School Board. My thought at this stage, which could change, is to present two calendars to families one with our traditional format prior to Labor Day and one after Labor Day and get a sense of their thinking. The prior to Labor Day Start has allowed for a scaffolded start 3 days, 4 days, and then 5 days. Some parents unsolicited have expressed they like that. The challenge after Labor Day is the lengthening of the year on the other end. The past two years have had an extensive amount of snow days, many "encouraged" by the conference calls from the State.	10/28/2018 9:44 AM
24	Yes. For information purposes only. Per our CBA school starts the Wednesday before Labor Day. However, in the last two school years the Friday before Labor Day is a non-school day.	10/28/2018 9:16 AM
25	Our boards have consistently supported a pre-Labor Day start and confirmed that support when the Governor first spoke of the issue over two years ago.	10/28/2018 9:01 AM
26	As this issue continues to get publicity, I suspect that it will become an agenda for the board to discuss.	10/28/2018 8:36 AM
27	The calendars for each district were adopted as the result of the establishment of a calendar committee in each district. The adopted calendar is influenced by the recommendations of parents and staff	10/28/2018 8:17 AM
28	The impact it will have in the overall calendar. The District has to coordinate with surrounding districts due to CTE and other districts using the District's high school.	10/28/2018 7:49 AM

Q10 Have you or your Board been approached by any community business expressing an opinion on this issue?

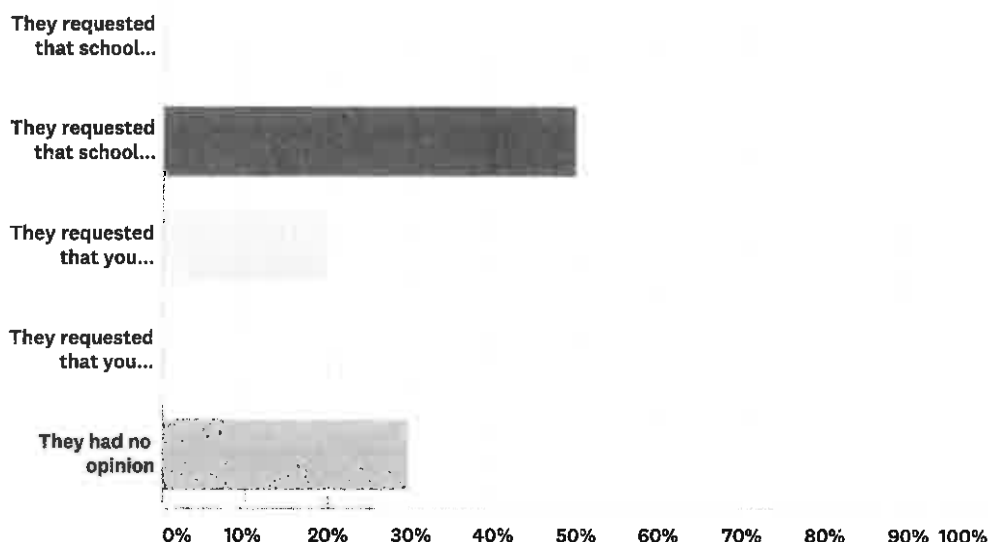
Answered: 62 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Yes		12.90%	8
No		87.10%	54
TOTAL			62

Q11 If you answered YES to Question 9:

Answered: 10 Skipped: 52



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
They requested that school open BEFORE Labor Day	0.00%	0
They requested that school open AFTER Labor Day	50.00%	5
They requested that you maintain your current calendar of opening BEFORE Labor Day	20.00%	2
They requested that you maintain your current calendar of opening AFTER Labor Day	0.00%	0
They had no opinion	30.00%	3
TOTAL		10

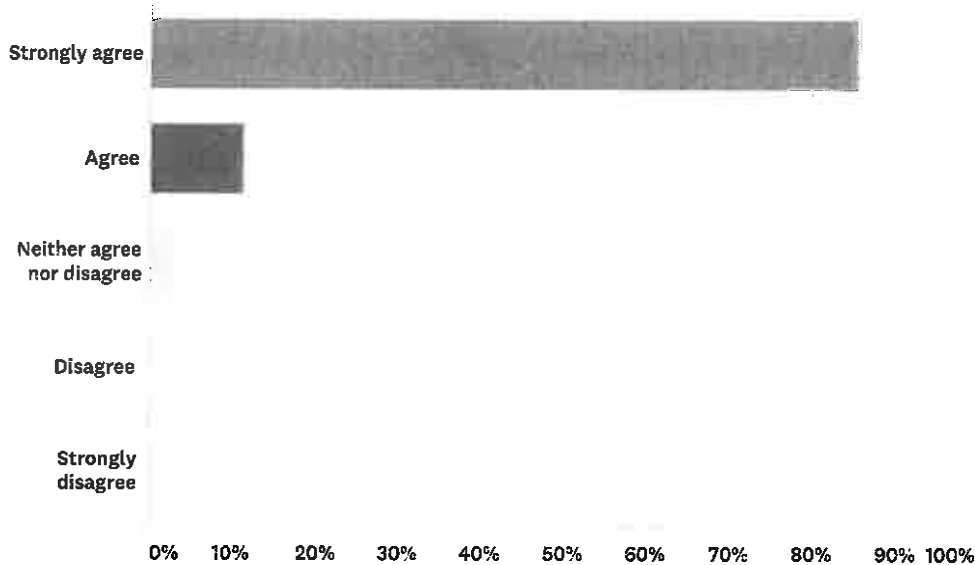
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	n/a	10/29/2018 9:30 AM
2	We have done multiple surveys of students, parent/guardians, and community. No clear opinion one way or another. The survey has been given several times and depending on when the survey is given changes the results. If given in late June, results show starting prior to Labor Day is favorable.	10/29/2018 9:28 AM
3	There has been an understanding for at least 20 years that district schools will not open until after labor day to honor the business community's feeling that it would impact the tourism in town.	10/29/2018 9:05 AM
4	NA	10/29/2018 8:50 AM
5	There have been some businesses in the lakes region that have expressed their need to have workers to stay open later in the season. I believe they need college students but that is my opinion.	10/28/2018 8:04 PM
6	It was only one person based on a survey we sent out to families and businesses. He said that it would be helpful for us to start after Labor Day.	10/28/2018 11:16 AM
7	n/a	10/28/2018 11:14 AM
8	N/a	10/28/2018 10:19 AM
9	i am not aware of anyone being approached.	10/28/2018 9:44 AM

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10	N/A	10/28/2018 9:01 AM
11	To my knowledge, only parents have expressed interest in this issue - not businesses.	10/28/2018 8:36 AM
12	not approached	10/28/2018 8:17 AM
13	Santa's Village and Lancaster Fair officials strongly want after Labor Day	10/28/2018 7:50 AM

Q12 NHSA has maintained the position that any decision related to school calendars should be made at the LOCAL level by individual school districts and their elected School Boards. Do you agree with this position?

Answered: 62 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	85.48%	53
Agree	11.29%	7
Neither agree nor disagree	3.23%	2
Disagree	0.00%	0
Strongly disagree	0.00%	0
TOTAL		62

#	IF YOU DISAGREE, PLEASE EXPLAIN BELOW:	DATE
1	The only comment that I would make is that the issue with the statewide calendars is the discrepancy in the February and April calendars. It makes it difficult for families where there are teachers and kids in different districts. Additionally, Sports schedules, particularly in the spring are challenging.	10/29/2018 3:53 PM
2	The only challenge is when working in regions for CTE centers and not having all schools on the same calendar.	10/29/2018 11:20 AM
3	It should remain a local decision.	10/29/2018 8:41 AM
4	see #9	10/29/2018 8:04 AM
5	Sometimes I see the challenge in the CTE Centers as there is so much local control that our CTE Centers have about 120 days when they can expect all students, from all districts. That becomes pretty disruptive to those programs. I also tire of it being part of the teachers' CBA - one more thing to negotiate and struggle with is not necessarily a good thing in our district.	10/29/2018 5:46 AM
6	thank you	10/28/2018 8:04 PM

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7	If the state wants to set a total statewide calendar that would be different, but to just constrain one date is not going to help at all.	10/28/2018 4:54 PM
8	There are inherent challenges associated with differences in calendars across school districts that share a regional CTE Center. However, the state should not be able to pick and choose which aspects of the calendar they want to control. Either they should provide a calendar we all must follow or leave it a local decision.	10/28/2018 11:16 AM
9	n/a	10/28/2018 11:14 AM
10	This is my personal opinion. Calendars are influenced by CBAs. Local School Boards are responsible for the governance of the School District and therefore, it should be in their hands.	10/28/2018 9:44 AM
11	N/A	10/28/2018 8:36 AM

Q13 Please add any additional comments that you feel we should consider as we provide testimony to the Save Our Summer Study Commission:

Answered: 33 Skipped: 29

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Thank you for asking for our input!	10/31/2018 11:27 AM
2	We feel it is important to emphasize 2 key points: The NHIAA starts practices as early as 8/10, therefore ending summer vacation for many of our families and coaches. Further, a 90 degree day at the start of the year is less impactful on learning than the same weather at the end of the year.	10/30/2018 9:59 PM
3	Discussions will continue but we feel strongly that this should be a local decision.	10/30/2018 9:31 AM
4	Beginning after Labor Day could really push the boundaries of school budgets as our fiscal year runs July 1 - June 30. Our 2019-2020 calendar would run us to June 22 without any makeup days for inclement weather. That means if we had more than 6 snow days, we would run into the following fiscal year and incur expenses that were not budgeted. Major problem for schools on an 180 day calendar and we can't switch to hours as we have tuition agreements indicating we will deliver 180 days of instruction. One day less than 180 would run us \$65K in lost revenue.	10/29/2018 4:13 PM
5	Frankly, I think the Governor is looking to take care of himself and his business. Why not have year round schools so we don't need to worry about the summer loss of learning? Just saying Bill Lander	10/29/2018 3:53 PM
6	A board member stated that he prefers school starting before labor day since the students are already involved with athletics and are required to be a school. If school is extended further into June the families must stay around town waiting for school to end before leaving for vacation.	10/29/2018 11:22 AM
7	We found that in hiring new/young teachers, they prefer to have the extended time in the summer with the post Labor Day start in order to complete their summer work obligations. Many work at summer camps and other opportunities that do not finish until later in August. We have had improved attendance from both students and staff from starting after Labor Day. We have done this for three years now. We count our school year by hours and still dismiss in early/mid June.	10/29/2018 11:20 AM
8	This situation does not apply to our very rural schools and especially not at the K-12 level.	10/29/2018 11:00 AM
9	The adherence to an out-dated calendar system of schooling (the agrarian model) is not worth losing the gains students can make by having fewer long-term time gaps in learning time.	10/29/2018 9:30 AM
10	I will send a copy of our most recent calendar survey given. Keep the State out of developing the school calendar.	10/29/2018 9:28 AM
11	Many families plan their summers around the historical patterns of vacation periods including parental vacations at their work places. Our reentry for our younger students goes extremely well with a three day week in august, a four day week in the beginning of September and then a full five day week.	10/29/2018 9:24 AM
12	Nothing that you haven't already mentioned.	10/29/2018 9:05 AM
13	It appears to me that the membership on the Commission is 'stacked' in favor of the Governor's preference, with commerce taking a more important seat at the table than education. While the needs of our business community are important, I would argue that the needs of our students and their families are more so. The reality is that in some communities, when college students return to school, the child care work force drastically decreases. If school starts after Labor Day in those communities, parents are left without child care options for most of August. Local control currently exists, and it is effective as is. If a community has a thriving tourist industry and that community decides that they want to start school later, they can. If a community sees the need to start school before Labor Day, they can. There is no need or justification for a mandate such as this.	10/29/2018 8:54 AM
14	Our calendar is governed by our CBA.	10/29/2018 8:50 AM

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15	The decision about schools and their calendars should be made about educational considerations, not the considerations of the business world. In any of the conversations, has the Governor ever asked, "What is best for kids?" Since they can't vote, it appears that their voice and their needs are not considered.	10/29/2018 8:41 AM
16	As mentioned, the decisions to create the school calendar should rest at the local level and is part of the local control that is part of NH.	10/29/2018 8:38 AM
17	With the added pressure of a mid-June ending to the school year, we are concerned about the impact of a longer summer on our struggling learners, as well as those identified with special education needs. Whatever solution emerges from this process, we have to keep the needs of all students in mind.	10/29/2018 8:32 AM
18	Thanks for asking.	10/29/2018 7:55 AM
19	I think many of us who begin before labor day also offer Friday as a day off - our students are back in on Tues, Weds, Thurs, the week before labor day. It's about teaching and learning - we're all about it.	10/29/2018 5:46 AM
20	Business leaders approached School Board last April/May about the school year going late into June due to snow cancellations (even with use of SIX blizzard bag days during the winter). A late start after Labor Day would have exacerbated this situation and moved the last day towards the end of June. School Board conducted a survey about changing school calendar. Based on feedback from 632 parents and staff, the Board decided not to change the school calendar and continue with current practice.	10/28/2018 8:34 PM
21	thank you	10/28/2018 8:04 PM
22	We have to fit the days in somewhere and starting after Labor Day is not my boards top priority. The effect on fall sports would also be very tough. We are presently finishing seasons in darkness and snow. If sports are not shifted, then the fall start date is moot anyway.	10/28/2018 4:54 PM
23	none	10/28/2018 2:11 PM
24	Local control is critical as the issues are local ...for example - the Hopkinton Fair happens labor day weekend...and the length of summer is referenced in the teacher collective bargaining agreement.	10/28/2018 12:29 PM
25	Our school calendars are approved two years in advance.	10/28/2018 12:10 PM
26	Some years, labor comes late and if you add in snow days, an after-labor day start could push the last day of school to the end of June, beginning of July	10/28/2018 11:36 AM
27	Our children rely on the structure of our schools. We already lose precious time over the summer. Research shows that on average, it takes up through October for students to re-learn what was learned the prior year. Our families also rely on us for our breakfast and lunch programs and for our after school programs. We are an integral part of the community, supporting children and families.	10/28/2018 10:52 AM
28	Before Labor Day start is critical in order to get through AP course material.	10/28/2018 10:19 AM
29	N/A	10/28/2018 9:01 AM
30	We can go either way. If students start after LD, we'll do our pd at the end of August. We have followed a VT schedule for vacations and some pd days because of our relationship with our CTE partner in VT.	10/28/2018 8:42 AM
31	N/A	10/28/2018 8:36 AM
32	none	10/28/2018 8:18 AM
33	Should remain a local decision!.	10/28/2018 7:49 AM

