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|---|--------------------------|-------------------|--|
| MISSOURI STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AGENDA ITEM: | | March 2020 | |
| CONSIDERATION OF A SCHOOL CALENDAR APPEAL | | | |
| STATUTORY AUTHORITY: | <input type="checkbox"/> | Consent Item | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Item |
| Sections 161.092 and 171.031, RSMo | | | <input type="checkbox"/> Report Item |
| PRIORITY AREAS | | | |
| Success-Ready Students & Workforce Development | | | |
| Safe & Healthy Schools | | | |
| SUMMARY | | | |
| <p>On February 5, 2020, Dr. Kelvin Adams, Superintendent, St. Louis Public Schools, submitted a request to exempt the school district from Section 171.031, RSMo, that requires a school district to set its opening date no earlier than 14 days prior to the first Monday in September. This statute also gives the State Board of Education the authority to grant an exemption related to the opening date if a school district can demonstrate highly unusual and extenuating circumstances justifying such an exemption.</p> <p>Dr. Adams is requesting an exemption relative to the 2020-2021 school year start date for St. Louis Public Schools. This request is attached for your review.</p> | | | |
| PRESENTERS | | | |
| Margie Vandeven, Commissioner of Education, will assist in the presentation and discussion of this agenda item. | | | |
| RECOMMENDATION | | | |
| The Department recommends that the State Board of Education deny the request by St. Louis Public Schools for an exemption to the opening start date for the 2020-2021 school year. | | | |



Kelvin R. Adams, PhD
Superintendent of Schools
Saint Louis Public Schools

February 5, 2020

Missouri State Board of Education
 P.O. Box 480
 Jefferson City MO 65102-0480

Dear Members of the Board:

As superintendent of one of the largest school districts in Missouri, I am writing to request relief for our families from the school calendar restrictions specified in House Bills 161 & 401 and relief from the penalties described therein.

The law specifies that public schools start no earlier than "14 days before the first Monday in September," a two-week delay from the traditional start date at Saint Louis Public Schools (SLPS). It is our understanding that while public school districts start dates have been pushed back, charter schools are not restricted under the law and they are able to remain flexible on their start dates. This inconsistency will create a hardship for families and constitutes "highly unusual and extenuating circumstances."

Saint Louis Public School District families depend on starting school in mid-August. It is not uncommon for a family to have children attend both charter schools and SLPS. In the past, we have worked with charters to ensure our calendars align. Starting schools on two different dates will cause an unnecessary hardship for families. Furthermore, the two-week delay will decrease the time students and teachers have to prepare for MAP testing in a District that recently regained full accreditation. It is important to the success of the District and the families it serves to maintain this momentum.

It is also important that the District remains stable in our start dates because parents plan around the school calendar; any delays on our part could cause them to elect other education options. This will lead to excessive absences and have a negative impact on the District's overall 2020-2021 enrollment.

There is a natural trend of students who leave the District for charter schools annually (see chart). The misalignment of school calendars is critical and urgent beyond measure, as it will increase this trend by 50 percent, resulting in a \$4.1M impact the District cannot absorb.

We implore the Missouri State Board of Education at their next meeting to consider our request for an exemption from this new legislation.

Finally, Saint Louis Public Schools is a 100 percent free and reduced lunch District. Many of our families lack stability in employment, housing, childcare, and healthcare. A change in school start

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dates may sound insignificant to some, but for others, such a change can result in personal hardships and impede educational progress.

I thank you for your consideration and ask for an expedient response of this request.

Sincerely,



Kelvin R. Adams, Ph.D.
Superintendent
Saint Louis Public Schools

cc: Missouri State Board of Education
Charles W. Shields, President
Kimberly Bailey, Member
Carol Hallquist, Member
Mary Schrag, Member

Dr. O. Victor Lenz, Jr., Vice President
Donald Claycomb, Member
Peter F. Herschend, Member
Pamela Westbrook-Hodge, Member

Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Dr. Margie Vandeven, Commissioner

Dr. Roger Dorson, Deputy Commissioner



2020-21 CALENDAR ANALYSIS

February 4, 2020



WITHDRAWAL COMPARISONS



| | 2016-17 | 2017-18 | 2018-19 |
|---|---------|---------|---------|
| To Charters | 317 | 561 | 711 |
| Withdrawal August/September | 305 | 502 | 607 |
| Percent Withdrawal within first 34 days of school | 96.2% | 89.5% | 85.4% |

ENROLLMENT COMPARISONS

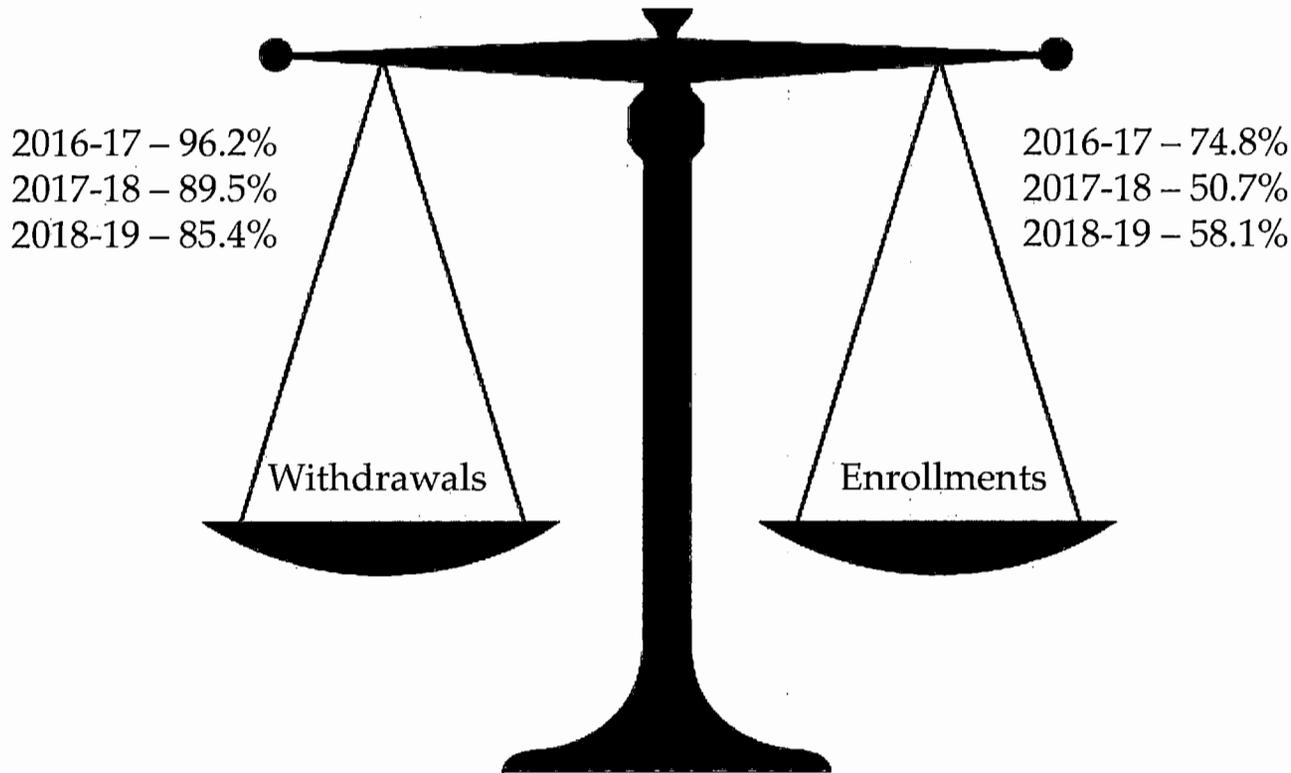


| | 2016-17* | 2017-18 | 2018-19 |
|---|----------|---------|---------|
| From Charters | 212 | 150 | 148 |
| Enrollments August/September | 158 | 76 | 86 |
| Percent Enrollment within first 34 days of school | 74.8% | 50.67% | 58.11% |

*includes Charters Schools who closed prior to the start of 2016-17

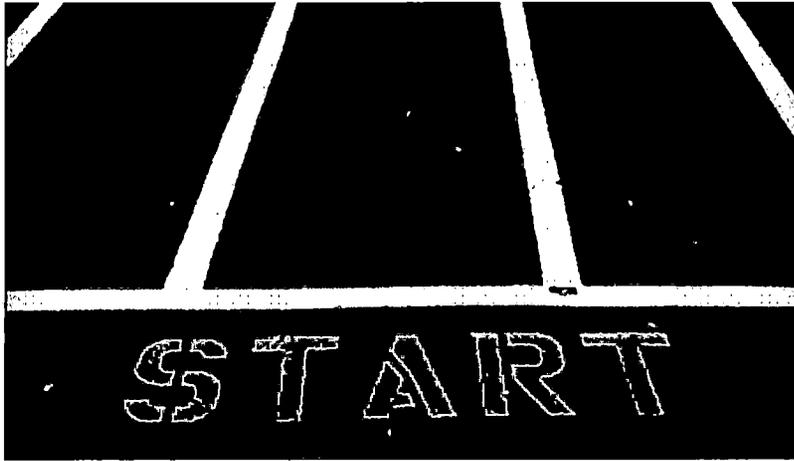


DATA COMPARISONS



All of these numbers are with Calendar Start Date Equal

IMPACT



Impact is similar to a runner allowed to start 387 minutes x 10 days ahead of the others

FINANCIAL IMPACT



| | |
|--|--------------|
| Charter Amount per WADA | \$ 9,265 |
| | |
| SLPS Transfer to Charter Trend | 900 |
| Additional Impact of Calendar Misalignment (50%) | 450 |
| Financial Impact of Entire Year Due to Calendar Misalignment | \$ 4,169,250 |