

MISSOURI STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AGENDA ITEM:		May 2020	
CONSIDERATION OF SCHOOL CALENDAR EXEMPTION			
STATUTORY AUTHORITY:			
Sections 161.092 and 171.031, RSMo		<input type="checkbox"/> Consent Item	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Item
		<input type="checkbox"/> Report Item	
PRIORITY AREAS			
Success-Ready Students & Workforce Development			
Safe & Healthy Schools			
SUMMARY			
<p>Section 171.031.2, RSMo, provides: “Each local school district may set its opening date each year, which date shall be no earlier than fourteen calendar days prior to the first Monday in September.” This year that date is August 24, 2020.</p> <p>On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic. Governor Parson declared a State of Emergency in Missouri on March 13, 2020. By March 19, 2020, all school buildings in the state of Missouri were closed. On April 9, 2020, Governor Parson ordered all school buildings to remain closed for the academic year. Instruction has continued throughout this time and many schools are going to be holding Summer School; however, schools have expressed a desire to start the fall session earlier this year in light of the pandemic.</p> <p>Section 171.031.6, RSMo, gives the State Board of Education the authority to grant an exemption from Section 171.031.2, RSMo, regarding the opening date, if a school district can demonstrate highly unusual and extenuating circumstances justifying such an exemption. The exemption is valid for one academic year.</p> <p>The Department is requesting that the State Board of Education grant an exemption under Section 171.031.2, RSMo, regarding the 2020-21 school year start date for any local school district that applies to the Commissioner of Education with assurances that local input has been considered and that the exemption will be used to better serve students.</p>			
PRESENTER			
Margie Vandeven, Commissioner of Education, will participate in the presentation and discussion of this agenda item.			
RECOMMENDATION			
The Department recommends that the State Board of Education grant an exemption to the opening start date for the 2020-21 school year for any local school district that applies to the Commissioner of Education with assurances that local input has been considered and that the exemption will be used to better serve students.			