

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

TO: Dr. Michael Riggle

FROM: Dr. Rosanne Williamson

RE: School Calendar Adjustments for ACT Testing

DATE: December 10, 2014

**Recommendation – Waiver of School Code Mandates:**

In order to administer the March 3 State-funded ACT under optimal testing conditions, the administration recommends having only juniors in attendance. The district must apply for a waiver to exempt other students from attending school and still count March 3 as a pupil attendance day. In keeping with School Code guidelines (105 ILCS 5/2-3.25g), the Board must conduct a public hearing for a waiver of such mandates within the School Code. To meet required timelines, a public hearing will be placed on the January 12, 2015 board agenda.

**Background:**

The only required State assessment test is the PARCC. The ACT test is no longer a required State assessment; therefore, Section 18-8.05 (F)(2)(i) of the Illinois School Code does not apply and a waiver must be filed with the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). We are working with ISBE to determine all procedures needed, but a public hearing is required.

**Notes:**

(105 ILCS 5/2-3.25g) (from Ch. 122, par. 2-3.25g)

Sec. 2-3.25g. Waiver or modification of mandates within the School Code and administrative rules and regulations.

(105 ILCS 5/18-8.05)

Sec. 18-8.05. Basis for apportionment of general State financial aid and supplemental general State aid to the common schools for the 1998-1999 and subsequent school years.

(F) Compilation of Average Daily Attendance.

(2) Days of attendance by pupils of less than 5 clock hours of school shall be subject to the following provisions in the compilation of Average Daily Attendance.

- (i) On the days when the assessment that includes a college and career ready determination is administered under subsection (c) of Section 2-3.64a-5 of this Code, the day of attendance for a pupil whose school day must be shortened to accommodate required testing procedures may be less than 5 clock hours and shall be counted towards the 176 days of actual pupil attendance required under Section 10-19 of this Code, provided that a sufficient number of minutes of school work in excess of 5 clock hours are first completed on other school days to compensate for the loss of school work on the examination days.

## **Recommendation – Revision to the 2014-2015 School Calendar :**

In keeping with school calendar guidelines, we are asking for a revision to the 2014-2015 calendar with change in a School Improvement Date from Tuesday, February 24<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>.

This adjustment is needed to allow for the administration of the State-funded ACT test on March 3 with only juniors in attendance. The Illinois State Board of Education just announced the availability of the ACT and administration date this past August. Please see the current School Improvement Dates below with noted change:

### ➤ 2014-2015 **School Improvement Days**

On these days teachers arrive at their normal time, participate in staff development activities, and students arrive later in the morning. All classes are held, but for a shorter period of time.

- Tuesday, September 16
- Wednesday, October 15
- Tuesday, October 28
- Tuesday, November 18
- Tuesday, December 16
- ~~Tuesday, February 24~~ Wednesday, February 18
- Thursday, March 19
- Tuesday, April 14