# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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#### STATE OF MAINE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION 23 STATE HOUSE STATION AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0023

PAUL R. LEPAGE GOVERNOR

ANGELA R. FAHERTY, Ph.D. COMMISSIONER

To:

Senator Brian Langley, Senate Chair

Representative David Richardson, House Chair

Members, Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

From:

Angela Faherty, Ph.D., Commissioner

Date:

February 11, 2011

Re:

Working Group on Model Academic Year Calendars

Resolves 2009, chapter 154 directed the Commissioner of Education to establish a working group, consisting primarily of superintendents and Career and Technical Education (CTE) directors, to prepare draft model academic year calendars.

The Department, under the direction of former superintendent Stan Sawyer, convened a working group of 15 people, which met on September 23, October 29 and December 13, 2010. The following members served on the working group:

Superintendents	
Paul Andrade	Judith Harvey
James Boothby	Alan Hawkins
Darlene Burdin	Frank Keenan
Fern Desjardins	Barry McLaughlin
Fred Woodman (also CTE)	

CTE Directors		
Amy Bowles	Mike Howard	
Chris Downing	David Keaton	
Todd Fields	Rosie Schact	
Fred Woodman (also Supt)		

The working group developed 3 types of calendars: calendars starting before Labor Day; calendars starting after Labor Day; and one or more calendars to accommodate Harvest Season in Aroostook County.

Superintendents from the County, along with their CTE counterparts, developed 3 potential calendars, accommodating different starting dates and the timing of harvests.

PHONE: (207) 624-6600

FAX: (207) 624-6700

Several potential Non-Aroostook calendars were distributed to CTE Directors and to Superintendents, for discussion at their regional meetings in November and December. Taking into account comments from the field, the Working Group unanimously suggest the calendars attached as Model Common Academic Calendars for the 2011-12 School year.

The Working Group further recommends that CTE Directors, Superintendents and School Committee chairs meet annually to develop an area calendar that would be used unless an emergency occurred that would interfere with its use.

In the course of its work, the Working Group came to believe that a number of issues related to academic year calendars warrant additional review and research, including: interest in year-round school with quarterly breaks throughout the year; concern about early release days and events such as pep rallies that take time away from CTE Centers; a desire for more school days and more professional development time and funding; encouragement of regional professional development; and a review of the minimum number of hours that constitute a full day.

PLEASE NOTE: The Office of the Revisor of Statutes *cannot* perform research, provide legal advice, or interpret Maine law. For legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.

#### Resolve

124th Legislature Second Regular Session

> Chapter 154 H.P. 1100 - L.D. 1563

## Resolve, To Develop Model Academic Year Calendars

- Sec. 1 Model academic year calendars. Resolved: That the Commissioner of Education shall establish a working group of kindergarten-to-grade-12 school officials, primarily superintendents and career and technical education directors, to prepare draft model academic year calendars that account for regional differences within the State to be submitted to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters by February 1, 2011. The working group may seek input from other stakeholders as it determines appropriate and shall present recommendations to the Commissioner of Education as to how to present the model academic year calendars for statewide review; and be it further
- Sec. 2 Authorization to submit legislation. Resolved: That the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters is authorized to submit a bill to the First Regular Session of the 125th Legislature to implement the findings of the working group under section 1.

Non-Aroostook County - Student Start Date after Labor Day

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## School Holidays

September 5 – Labor Day
October 10 – Colum bus Day
November 11 – Veterans Day
November 23, 24 and 25 – Thanksgiving
December 25 – Christmas Day
January 1 – New Year's Day
January 16 – Martin Luther King, Jr, Day
February 20 – Presidents' Day
April 16 – Patriot's Day
May 28 – Memorial Day

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Assumption: Student Days - 175; Teacher Days - 05; Total - 180

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Professional Development Days

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Non-Aroostook County – Student Start Date before Labor Day

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#### **School Holidays**

September 5 – Labor Day
October 10 – Colum bus Day
November 11 – Veterans Day
November 23, 24 and 25 – Thanksgiving
December 25 – Christmas Day
January 1 – New Year's Day
January 16 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
February 20 – Presidents' Day
April 16 – Patriot's Day
May 28 – Memorial Day

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Assumption: Student Days – 175; Teacher Days – 05; Total - 180

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Professional Development Days

School Breaks

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## School Holidays

September 5 – Labor Day
September 19-October 7 – Harvest Break
October 10 – Colum bus Day
November 11 – Veterans Day
November 24 and 25 – Thanksglving
December 25 – Christmas Day
January 1 and 2 – New Year's Day
January 16 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
February 20 – Presidents' Day
April 16 – Patriot's Day
May 28 – Memorial Day

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Assumption: Student Days - 175; Teacher Days - 05; Total - 180

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APRIL 2012 - 16

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## **School Holidays**

September 5 - Labor Day October 10 - Colum bus Day November 11 – Veterans Day November 23, 24 and 25 – Thanksgiving December 25 – Christmas Day January 1 and 2 – New Year's Day January 16 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day February 20 - Presidents' Day April 16 - Patriot's Day May 28 - Memorial Day

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Assum	ntion:
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Student Days	176
Teacher Workshops	4
Total Days	180
ork Days:	

Actual Wo

	Student Days	Teacher Days	Total Days
Madawaska SD	176	6	182
AOS 95	175	6	181
MSAD 24	177	1	178
MSAD 33	178	4	182

Adjustments will be made to the Draft Calendar to accommodate individual CBAs, student days, and workshop days.

Uncommon Days for Tech Center: 5

Professional Development Days

**School Breaks** 

School Start and End Days