

**Senate File 205 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 205  
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO SSB 1036)

**A BILL FOR**

- 1 An Act modifying the earliest possible start date of the  
2 school calendar for school districts and accredited nonpublic  
3 schools.  
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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1 Section 1. Section 279.10, subsection 1, Code 2025, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 1. The school year for each school district and accredited  
4 nonpublic school shall begin on July 1 and the school calendar  
5 shall begin no sooner than ~~August 23~~ the Monday immediately  
6 preceding the last Monday in August and no later than the first  
7 Monday in December. The school calendar shall include not less  
8 than one hundred eighty days or one thousand eighty hours of  
9 instruction during the calendar year, of which not more than five  
10 days or thirty hours of instruction may be delivered primarily  
11 over the internet except as otherwise provided in section 256.43  
12 or in rules adopted by the state board of education pursuant  
13 to section 256.7, subsection 32. The board of directors of a  
14 school district and the authorities in charge of an accredited  
15 nonpublic school shall determine the school start date for the  
16 school calendar in accordance with this subsection and shall  
17 set the number of days or hours of required attendance for  
18 the school year as provided in section 299.1, subsection 2,  
19 but the board of directors of a school district shall hold a  
20 public hearing on any proposed school calendar prior to adopting  
21 the school calendar. If the board of directors of a district  
22 or the authorities in charge of an accredited nonpublic school  
23 extends the school calendar because inclement weather caused the  
24 school district or accredited nonpublic school to temporarily  
25 close during the regular school calendar, the school district  
26 or accredited nonpublic school may excuse a graduating senior  
27 who has met district or school requirements for graduation  
28 from attendance during the extended school calendar. A school  
29 corporation may begin employment of personnel for in-service  
30 training and development purposes before the date to begin  
31 elementary and secondary school.

32 EXPLANATION

33 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
34 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

35 This bill modifies the earliest possible start date of the

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1 school calendar for school districts and accredited nonpublic  
2 schools. Current law provides that the school calendar for  
3 school districts and accredited nonpublic schools shall begin  
4 no sooner than August 23. The bill modifies this provision to  
5 provide that the school calendar shall, instead, begin no sooner  
6 than the Monday immediately preceding the last Monday in August.

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