

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the _____ Board of Education is responsible for providing a local system of public education; and

WHEREAS, local boards of education currently have the ability to establish school calendars and do so after considering the needs of parents, teachers, students, and communities ; and

WHEREAS, in addition to Tennessee, 35 other states around the country allow local school boards to set school calendars; and

WHEREAS, there are 136 school districts in Tennessee, and each has its own unique needs and circumstances that must be evaluated in developing an academic calendar; and

WHEREAS, there is a movement in the Tennessee General Assembly to postpone the start dates for schools until the fourth Monday in August; and

WHEREAS, proponents of this movement point to the costs of utilities and the potential influx of revenue through tourism as reasons for the legislation; and

WHEREAS, as with every decision, school board members must consider the best interests of students and the advancement of student achievement above these and other factors; and

WHEREAS, a mandatory start date of the fourth Monday in August would greatly hinder a school system's ability to ensure a sufficient number of days of instruction for students prior to the administration of state mandated examinations; and

WHEREAS, a mandatory start date of the fourth Monday in August would require local school boards to reduce or eliminate breaks throughout the year, including but not limited to fall break, spring break, and Christmas break; and

WHEREAS, a later start date would almost certainly postpone the end dates for schools and not result in additional days for summer vacation between academic years; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE _____ BOARD OF EDUCATION AS FOLLOWS:

The _____ Board of Education opposes any legislation or other similar effort to alter or impair a local board of education's ability to establish an academic calendar as it works best for its students, teachers, parents, and community.