

TOURISM works

Save Iowa Summers for All of Us

- Current Iowa law requires schools to start after Labor Day, but **more than 90% of Iowa's 351 school districts request a waiver from this requirement**, without proving that an early start date positively impacts the education the students receive. It's also been stated by the Department of Education that they do not even review these waivers.
- **Locally schools dismissed early as many as 15 times this past August** – disrupting learning on all levels. Also working parents have to leave work to pick up their children, find childcare for them or stay home from work during these times, creating an additional hardship on businesses.
- Starting school earlier each year – some the second week in August – creates a financial burden on many businesses that depend on travel for an income and many times depend on teenage labor. **For every day that school starts early, the businesses in Okoboji lose over \$1 million per day in revenue.**
- An early school start date creates a financial burden for every community that operates a city pool, aquatic center or other recreational attraction. When school starts, attendance stops at these facilities and revenue for cities stops as well, creating an additional burden on all taxpayers to support these amenities. **On average a community loses between \$30,000 - \$35,000 a year on their pool.**
- **Millions in state sales tax revenue are lost each day school starts early – including the local option sales tax for schools.** Across the state schools continue to struggle to find additional revenue. **Waterloo receives \$204,765 annually in local option school tax from their lodging facilities alone to help support their schools.**
- **Our state appears to be closed for business when out-of-state travelers come to visit after the second week in August**, causing lost revenue to the state, as well as attractions and businesses.
- Iowa has spent millions of dollars investing in Vision Iowa and CAT projects. **These projects will continue to drain property taxpayers if they are not allowed a reasonable season to generate funding to pay for themselves.**
- **In 2010 travel generated enough state and local sales tax revenue to pay the salaries of one third of all Iowa elementary and middle school teachers.**

**Tourism does not compete with education –
it helps pay for it.**