

## New Calendar puts Focus on Student Success

*All Learning. All Growing.* This statement is more than the tagline on our logo, it's part of the district culture. Students are not the only ones learning in our buildings. On early release days, our staff is also learning to improve their teaching skills.

For two years, district staff and the Green Bay Education Association (GBEA) have been working together to find ways to improve student achievement within the district. They have studied successful districts/schools around the country and what they do to help students learn in school. Many of these districts and schools use late start days built in to the school day for professional learning based on student needs. The committee felt that this method, known as professional learning communities, had the most significant impact on student achievement. For the 2009-2010 school year, the district has scheduled seven late start days for establishing these professional learning communities.

How does it work? In August before school starts, teachers and principals spend a day reviewing their school's data and set their plans for the rest of the school year. For the 2009-2010 school year the focus will be on math and literacy.

The seven late start days will allow staff to continue to work as a team, review the effectiveness of what they are doing, make adjustments, and exchange ideas and strategies throughout the school year. **Students arrive one hour later than usual on late start days.**

### 2009-2010 Late Start Days

- September 30
- November 4
- January 6
- February 6
- March 3
- April 7
- May 5

Busing and the breakfast program will all be scheduled for an hour later. Three minutes have been added to the school day so that the district still meets Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction requirements. Late starts are not unusual in the area – Brillion, De Pere, Howard-Suamico, and Pulaski all offer late starts, or a combination of late starts and early releases.

For more information about late starts, please visit our website at [www.greenbay.k12.wi.us](http://www.greenbay.k12.wi.us), or call Rod Bohm at 920.391.2400 or email [rbohm@greenbay.k12.wi.us](mailto:rbohm@greenbay.k12.wi.us)

# Late Starts Q & A

## ***When do late starts begin?***

The one-hour late starts will begin during the 2009-2010 school year. The first late start will be on Wednesday, September 30.

## ***How many late starts will there be?***

There are seven (7) late start days, almost all on the first Wednesday of the month:

- September 30
- November 4
- January 6
- February 3
- March 3
- April 7
- May 5

## ***Why is the district adding more time out of the classroom?***

Late starts have been added to create what are called *Professional Learning Communities* or PLCs. The district is dedicated to the success of 100 percent of our students. The district feels that current practices are not improving students' reading and math abilities towards proficiency quickly enough. In a PLC, school staff are continuously monitoring student data and making adjustments as a team in how they teach children. This is a practice used by successful school districts across the country.

## ***Why is the district adding late starts and not early releases?***

Studies have shown that late-starts that are part of the school day and are job-embedded (take place during the workday) are more effective for teacher learning than early-releases. Better team learning leads to improved student achievement in reading and math. As students succeed, they will be more engaged in school, which leads to less absenteeism.

Also, both late starts and early releases impact families differently. With the variety of work schedules in the community, families who've struggled with early releases may have an easier time with late starts.

## ***Won't the additional late starts take away from classroom time?***

There is also no loss of instructional time, as the district is required to meet a certain number of minutes and days of instruction as set by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

## ***What will teachers be doing during that hour?***

In August, teachers will meet with their principals and go over student data and set school goals. The seven days will be used to work on meeting the school's goals through teamwork and discussion relevant to student learning needs. This continuous work will help increase student learning in reading and math.

## ***I cannot make arrangements and have to drop my child off at the school because I have to be at work. Who's going to watch my child?***

Each school will be addressing this issue individually. More information will be released to parents as solutions are determined.

## ***What about the breakfast program?***

The breakfast program will be in effect on these days, just an hour later.

## ***Who else uses late starts?***

Several districts in the area use late starts or a combination of late starts and early releases during the school year. These include: Brillion, De Pere, Howard-Suamico, and Pulaski.