

Adrian Public Schools
Public Hearing:
Pre-Labor Day Start

Adrian High School – Room B100

October 30, 2019

Pre-Labor Day Start: A Brief History

Quick Facts

- Michigan is 1 of 3 states that requires schools to start after Labor Day.
- Prior to 2006, most schools started prior to Labor Day.
- Prior to 2006, local school districts had the opportunity to create calendars with employee groups and communities that worked best for them.
- The law requiring post-Labor Day start actually was part of a tourism push, not education based.

Since 2006

- Michigan has allowed waivers in 1 of 3 areas for pre-Labor Day starts:
 1. [Calendar aligns with College/University through Middle College \(Adrian Option\)](#)
 2. Length of Summer Break (Year Round or less than 6 weeks)
 3. Alternate Program (Provide options that create programs in the summer for all kids to optionally attend that creates a less than 6 week vacation if students participated)
- Schools are required to have the Friday off before Labor Day if the waiver is granted
- Additional AC has been added to buildings across the district. Two 2-story buildings offline.

2016 Lenawee ISD County Wide Survey

Survey of County Residents

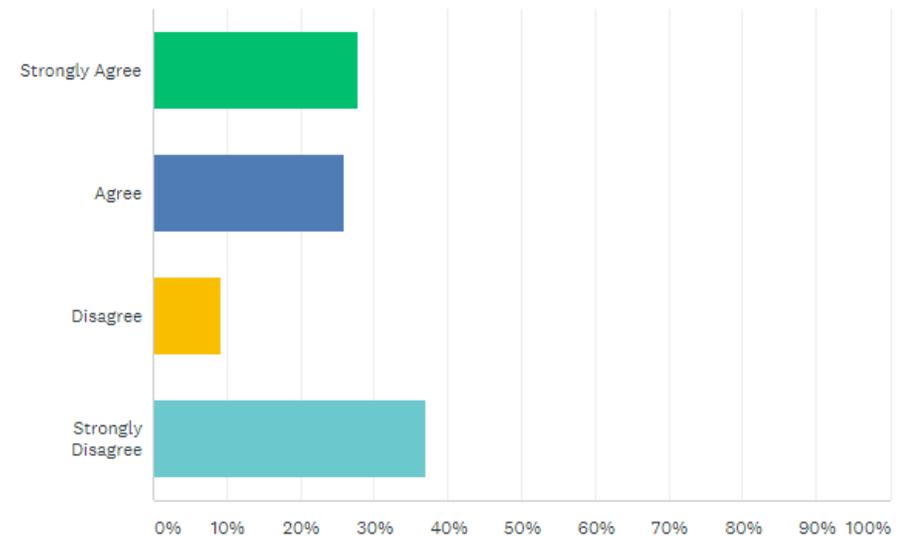
County Total Support or Strongly Support was 60.85% (2296 Responses)

Adrian Total Support or Strong Support was 53.77 (296 Responses)

Based on only 53.77%, APS did not advance the possibility of a waiver at that time

If it were possible, would you support school starting approximately two weeks before pre-labor day?

Answered: 292 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Strongly Agree	27.74% 81
Agree	26.03% 76
Disagree	9.25% 27
Strongly Disagree	36.99% 108
TOTAL	292

What's changed since 2016

Factors to Consider

- State Superintendents more open to issuing waivers to local school districts
- Increased emphasis on Dual Enrollment and Middle College from our parents and students here at APS
- Re-emergence of county-wide interest in pre-Labor Day start
- Shift in starting from 2 weeks before to 1 week before Labor Day
- Urgency created with 09/08/2020 and 09/07/2021 post-Labor Day start possibility
- Earlier end date in June possible

September 2020							<	>
S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
30	31	1	2	3	4	5		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26		
27	28	29	30	1	2	3		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10		

Factors going into this decision

Start Dates for Dual Enrolled/Middle College Students:

Adrian College (3%)	08/24/2020	08/23/2021	08/23/2022
Siena Heights (59%)	08/31/2020	08/30/2021	08/29/2022
Jackson College (38%)	08/31/2020	08/30/2021	08/29/2022
Possible APS	08/31/2020	08/30/2021	08/29/2022

1 Week pre-Labor Day

Other factors going into this decision

- Marching Band – Starts 2 weeks before Labor Day
 - 82 Students
- AHS Athletics – Starts 3 weeks before Labor Day
 - 185 Students in Fall Sports
- SMS Athletics – Starts Monday before Labor Day
 - 133 Students in Fall Sports

2019 Adrian District Wide Survey

Survey of Adrian Community

Responses from October 2019 survey:
470 Participants

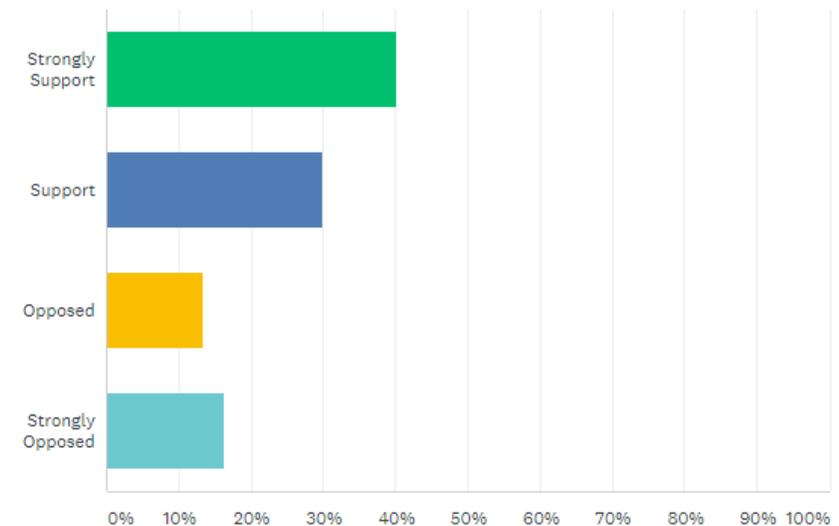
2020 Adrian total Support or Strong Support was 70.24% (328 Responses)*

2021 Adrian total Support or Strong Support was 70.09% (328 Responses)*

*Different % due to individuals skipping the question

For the 2020-21 School Year, Would you support having school start on August 31st and end around June 4th?

Answered: 467 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Strongly Support	40.26% 188
Support	29.98% 140
Opposed	13.49% 63
Strongly Opposed	16.27% 76
TOTAL	467

2019 Adrian District Wide Survey

Survey of Adrian Community

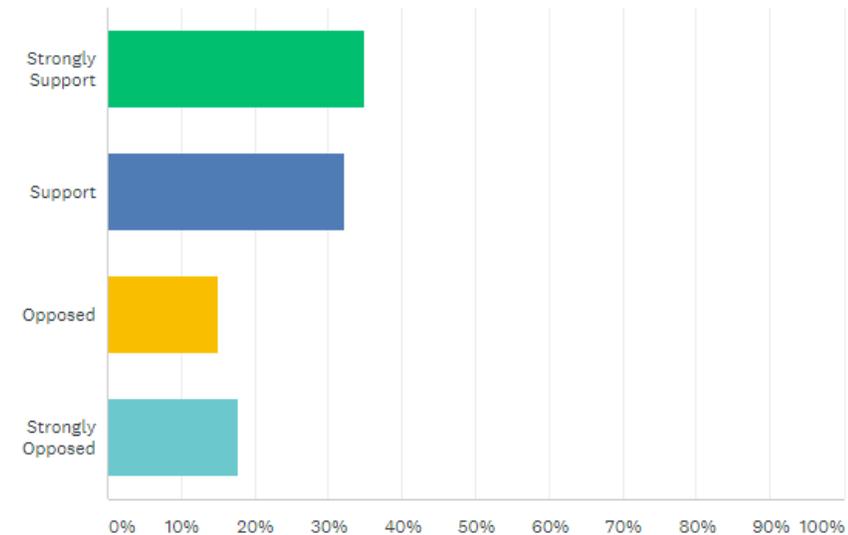
Responses from October 2019 survey:
470 Responses

Support or Strong Support only drops
from 70% to 67.17% when removing
the scenario of a late Labor Day

Still significant support for 1 week pre-
Labor Day start as compared to a 2
week pre-Labor Day start from 2016
(53.77%).

In general, Do you support starting school before Labor Day?

Answered: 463 Skipped: 7



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Strongly Support	34.99% 162
Support	32.18% 149
Opposed	15.12% 70
Strongly Opposed	17.71% 82
TOTAL	463

Feedback Provided in Comments

173 Comments (36.80%)

Word Frequency

- AC or Air Conditioning 28
- Trips/Travel 12
- Vacation 16
- Heat/Hot/Warm 39
- All Year/Year Round 15

General Themes:

- It used to be this way
- Concerns over vacations
- Buildings do not have AC
- Too hot or warm
- Support for one week before, but not two
- Support as long as earlier out in June

Sample Comments

Put AC in the schools and I am sure more parents may consider it.

Personally, we need to start going to school all year.

August is warmer than June.

August is more ideal for family trips.

For late starts I agree, for early Labor Days I support after Labor Day.

I prefer to start after Labor Day, but have no problem starting before Labor Day.

Strongly agree with the reasoning of students who Dual Enroll and athletic schedules.

When I was younger this is the way it was done.

The Buildings are too hot.

I feel a week early is not a big deal.

As a SHU employee it aligns with my work schedule.

Good transition to go 4 days, 4 days, then a whole week.

Waiver to MDE would seek...

a pre-Labor Day Start by one week as an option for the next three years. 2020-21, 2021-2022, 2022-23.

to align school start with College and University start to help enhance Dual Enrollment and Middle College options for students.



APS goals of the waiver...

is to better align to college and university calendars for 2020-21, 2021-2022, 2022-23.

is to increase the number of students involved in Dual Enrollment and Middle College.

is to provide students with earned college credits before high school graduation.

will be measured through earned college credits and growth of enrollment in Dual Enrollment or Middle College.



If approved, next steps would be:

Review survey and public hearing comments and feedback.

Administrative recommendation to actually move forward or not.

Board of Education Approval to move forward or not.

If Board of Education votes to move forward, Board sets first day of school for 2020, 2021, and 2022.

Administration investigates and implements possible solutions to concerns raised from public comments.

Administration and Adrian Education Association negotiate remaining aspects of calendar.

If approved, next steps would be:

Investigate the addition of AC and cooling options to address the feedback provided through bond and capital projects funds.

Communicate with parents and community to help with planning.

Public Comment

3 Minute Maximum Per Speaker

Thank You

The hope would be to have a recommendation to the Board of Education prior to the end of the December, one way or another, so families can confirm vacations, the start of the school year and the District to incorporate feedback if there is a shift.