



Minnewaska Area Schools

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MINNEWASKA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT ADOPTS FLEXIBLE LEARNING YEAR CALENDAR FOR 2021-2022

GLENWOOD, MINN - A Flexible Learning Year model has been adopted for the Minnewaska Area School District (MAS) for 2021-2022. School begins on Monday, August 30, prior to Labor Day, and ends on May 27, 2022, prior to Memorial Day.

In a letter dated May 4, 2021, the Minnesota Department of Education approved the district's application for the Flexible Learning Year. The Board of Education initially approved the calendar and application on [March 15, 2021](#). The approval was reviewed at the [board meeting on May 17, 2021](#). Implementing a flexible learning year calendar allows MAS to shift five instructional days to the beginning of the school year. This flexible learning year maximizes taxpayer dollars and school district resources by infusing additional educational time prior to state and national assessments. This will result in overall academic improvement and achievement, leveraging the district's position as a leader in education..

"The expectation of the Department of Education is that MAS will closely review student outcomes with this calendar shift," says MAS Superintendent Chip Rankin. "We believe this shift will positively impact our student achievement and we look forward to analyzing this data next year."

Preference among staff, students and community members to end the instructional school year prior to Memorial Day was also a factor in this decision.

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