

APPROVE APPLICATION FOR SCHOOL CODE MODIFICATION**THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS:**

That the Chicago Board of Education (the "Board") approve the application for a modification from state requirements set out in 105 ILCS 5/24-2, regarding legal school holidays. Upon approval of this Board Report, the application described below will be forwarded to the Illinois State Board of Education ("ISBE") for approval.

PUBLIC HEARING AND NOTICES:

A Public Hearing on the modification application will be held on August 22, 2007, before the Board, in accordance with Section 2-3.25g of the Illinois School Code. The hearing will be recorded and a copy of the report summarizing the hearing will be available for review shortly. Notice was published in a Chicago newspaper and provided to Chicago state legislators and collective bargaining agents as required by Section 2-3.25g of the Illinois School Code.

DESCRIPTION OF MODIFICATION APPLICATION:

The requested modification, if approved by ISBE, will allow the Board to authorize certain schools to modify their school calendar as it relates to the following legal school holidays; Abraham Lincoln's Birthday, Casimir Pulaski Day, and Columbus Day. With the modification, the Board could permit schools to hold classes, hold parent-teacher conferences, or conduct a teacher in-service or a teacher institute on these legal school holidays in exchange for the designation of an equivalent number of alternate non-attendance days during the school year.

If such modification is approved by ISBE, any school wishing to be authorized by the Board to host school or school-related activities on any of the above listed school holidays must submit this request and a revised school calendar to the Board for approval. In lieu of closing the school for the day, the affected schools would be required to appropriately commemorate the holiday by, for instance, offering educational activities focused on the meaning of these holidays or inviting relevant organizations to address the students.

This modification is being sought to allow Autonomous Management and Performance Schools (AMPS) and other schools designated by the Board the flexibility to make calendar changes that may be less disruptive to the instructional program for students, more observant of the meaning of the holidays, more convenient for parents and more conducive to staff development. It is anticipated that by modifying the school calendar student academic achievement will be enhanced, and that parents, teachers and administrators will benefit from a more convenient schedule.

AUTHORIZATION: Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to execute the modification application described above and submit it to ISBE in accordance with Section 2-3.25g of the Illinois School Code.

Approved for Consideration:



Barbara Eason-Watkins
Chief Education Officer

Within Appropriation:



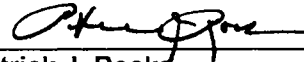
Pedro Martinez
Chief Financial Officer

Respectfully Submitted:



Arne Duncan
Chief Executive Officer

Approved as to Legal Form:



Patrick J. Rocks
General Counsel