2020-2021 Proposed Holiday Waiver and CPS Calendar for Elementary and High Schools Amendment

Background

On June 16, 2020, Governor JB Pritzker signed SB 1863 and HB 2238 into law to provide vote by mail (VBM) applications to all recent voters in Illinois. The legislation also expands early voting hours at permanent polling places, improves the signature verification process and **makes the November 3, 2020 election day a state holiday.**

Illinois Law on Holidays

• Illinois School Code mandates twelve legal school holidays. Veterans Day is a mandated holiday.

• A school board is authorized to grant holiday waivers after proper notice and public comment. An ISBE application is not required.

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Calendar Recommendation

To comply with the law while ensuring that students do not lose instructional time we propose:

- Amending the school calendar to add the Election Day State holiday for November 3, 2020 per the new state law (10 ILCS 5/2B-10).

- In addition, the district will also use November 3, 2020 as the observance of Veterans Day.

- The district will encourage honoring veterans on both the November 3, 2020 holiday and on November 11, 2020 with a moment of silence and instructional activities focused on veterans on this student attendance day.

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Illinois Law on Holidays

- The Board has approved a holiday waiver for Columbus Day, Pulaski Day and Lincoln's Birthday. The CEO is recommending that the Board expand this approval to now to include a holiday waiver for Veterans Day.

- The holiday waiver would allow the district the flexibility to plan a school calendar by:
    - Converting Veterans Day into a day of student attendance.
    - Recognizing Veterans through instructional activities and a moment of silence on November 11, 2020.

- The waiver may be used to plan future school calendars until the Board amends or revokes its authority.

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Summary

Date	Original Classification	New Classification
November 3, 2020	Student Attendance	Holiday
November 11, 2020	Holiday	Student Attendance