



# SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SHIOCTON

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## 2023 - 2024 School Start Date Waiver Request: Statement of Need

The School District of Shiocton is requesting a one-year waiver to the statutory school start date (September 1) for the 2023 - 2024 school year. The revised start date would be Monday, August 28, 2023. The District makes this request in order to meet the following needs:

**Professional Development:** The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic continue to impact our learners in ever-changing ways. This year, some of our most significant behaviors and involved students are in Grades 2 and 3; these are the children that would have been in Kindergarten and Gr 1 when we were shut down due to the pandemic. Too, we are seeing a growing number of students in Kindergarten and even 4K displaying significantly disruptive behaviors. In response to these needs, we utilized ESSER III funds to support the addition of a Behavior Interventionist this year to support our staff in implementing *Zones of Regulation* and *Conscious Discipline*, as well as modifying the learning environments and instruction based upon the findings from the student's Functional Behavior Assessment (FBA). In addition, the Behavior Interventionist works closely with each student, implementing strategies and actions to assist them with their behaviors, including triggers, actions, and reactions, as identified through the FBA and observations.

As a result of our increased number of students demonstrating significant behaviors that disrupt the learning environment, our staff will continue to need ongoing professional development opportunities scheduled throughout the school year that focus on implementing the tenants of *Conscious Discipline* (<https://consciousdiscipline.com/>) in conjunction with the *Zones of Regulation* social emotional framework (<https://zonesofregulation.com/index.html>). Data from the 2021-2022 school year and the first quarter of the 2022-2023 school year indicates that staff are seeing positive changes through the initial implementation. However, additional training and time are needed for a full and universal implementation across the grade levels.

**Summer School:** With over 25% of our student population annually participating in courses offered, we believe a robust summer school program continues to be of great benefit to our learners. The courses taught seek to provide the 3 E's: to enrich and enhance students' knowledge and skills, while providing them new opportunities for exploration. To accomplish this, we regularly schedule our summer school courses to run Monday through Friday over a four-week period in June. Much like last summer, we continue to see a growing need for students to remain in the school setting, learning and collaborating while also having direct access to two (2) complimentary meals each day. In order to provide a four-week summer school program, we will need to end our school year on Friday, May 31, 2024.

**Limited Days:** Working backwards from June 2, 2023 and with the constraint of a September 1 start date, our school calendar would limit the number of student contact days to 176, which is three fewer days than our preferred length of the school year. Further, this time frame would limit our professional development days during the months of student contact when our learning can be readily applied. This limited time frame would force at least half of our professional development days to be completed well before the school year begins. The concentration of professional development days at the beginning of the school year is in direct conflict with what our educators and support staff need: *regular and on-going professional development throughout the school year* that provides them the opportunity to learn, implement, reflect, and change over and over again with continued professional development guiding their instruction.

Yours in Education,  
*Mrs. Schweitzer*  
Nichole J. Schweitzer  
District Administrator

*"Where Excellence is Expected"*

*The Shiocton School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, age, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability.*