

WIN-E-MAC SCHOOL DISTRICT

Aaron Cook, Superintendent

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Win-E-Mac Families –

You may be wondering the reason behind the increased number of early outs this school year. When the 2024-25 school calendar was approved last spring, these early out days were added to accommodate the professional development requirements associated with the READ Act. The first of these additional early outs is tomorrow, Tuesday September 10, and they will be every other Tuesday until January 14th. On these days, school will be dismissed at 1:20pm. A full copy of the school calendar can be found on the school website wemschools.org/calendar.

Minnesota Reading to Ensure Academic Development Act, known as the READ Act, was passed and signed into law by Governor Tim Walz on May 24, 2023. The goal of this legislation is to have every Minnesota child reading at or above grade level every year, beginning in kindergarten, and to support multilingual learners and students receiving special education services in achieving their individualized reading goals in order to meet grade level proficiency. The READ Act replaced Read Well by Third Grade (RWBTG) and went into effect as of July 1, 2023.

Beginning July 1, 2024, each school district and charter school is required to provide teachers and instructional support staff with responsibility for teaching reading with training on evidence-based reading instruction that is approved by the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE). Win-E-Mac staff will be fulfilling this requirement by having our elementary and special ed staff participate in **CAREIALL: Advancing Language and Literacy – Center for Applied Research and Educational Improvement** (CAREI University of Minnesota). MDE will be releasing approved professional development trainings for middle school and language arts teachers later this year. If you are looking for any further information on the READ Act you can access the dedicated page on the MDE website here – <https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/READ/index.htm>

If you have any questions on the early outs, please reach out to acook@wemschools.org.

Sincerely,

Aaron Cook
Superintendent



ISD #2609