

Illinois State Board of Education
Division of Regulatory Support and Wellness
April 2019
School Activities on Specific Legal School Holidays

P. A. 96-640 amended Section 24-2 of the Illinois School Code to allow school activities to occur and be coded in the Public School Calendar on 5 legal school holidays (Martin Luther King (third Monday in January), Abraham Lincoln (February 12), Casimir Pulaski (first Monday in March), Christopher Columbus (second Monday in October), and Veterans' day (November 11)). This action may occur provided that:

- 1) the person or persons honored by the holiday are recognized through instructional activities conducted on that day or, if the day is not used for student attendance, on the first school day preceding or following that day; and
- 2) the entity that chooses to exercise this authority first holds a public hearing about the proposal. The entity shall provide notice preceding the public hearing to both educators and parents. The notice shall set forth the time, date and place of the hearing, describe the proposal, and indicate that the entity will take testimony from educators and parents about the proposal.

Provided these requirements are met the entity has the flexibility to use the day as a holiday or school activities as described in the proposal. If school activities are conducted on the legal school holiday, the entity codes the public school calendar as appropriate for the activities.

If you have additional questions regarding the Public School Calendar that are not addressed please contact the Division of Regulatory Support and Wellness at (217) 782-5270.