

*Post-Tribune (Indiana)*  
*September 4, 2008*

*Staff Report*

An Indiana lawmaker said Wednesday he plans to file a bill in the upcoming session of the General Assembly to push back the public school start date to Sept. 1.

Most of Indiana's schools start in mid-August.

"Cities, counties and states around the nation are opting to go back to starting in September ... to help tourism around the state, allow kids to keep jobs longer and give families more time to spend together during the summer," said state Rep. Don Lehe, R-Brookston.

Lehe said Michigan passed a law in 2005 mandating schools not start until after Labor Day to help its tourism industry.

He said the start date can be later now with ISTEP Plus moving to the spring.

"Think of all the money we are spending to keep 192 school corporations air conditioned and functioning for those two weeks in August when it's upwards of 80 and 90 degrees," Lehe said.