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## MEMORANDUM

**JB**

**From:** Jonathan T. Brice, Ed. D., Superintendent

**To:** BWRSD Staff, Students, Families and Community

**CC:** BWRSD School Committee Members and School Committee Attorney

**Date:** July 19, 2021

**RE:** BWRSD 2021-2022 Opening & Closing of School Change of Date

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Schools are places where all children and staff must feel supported and included. The discussion about the opening of the 2021-2022 school year and whether or not school should be closed for Rosh Hashanah highlights the importance of cultural diversity. We must ensure that our school calendar meets the RIDE requirements but also supports the varied religious and culturally significant dates that our community recognizes. These significant dates should be reviewed each year for their relevance and practical considerations. It is important that for this year Rosh Hashanah be observed just as Good Friday is observed. My original calendar had the first day of school beginning on September 8th, 2021, and this recommendation should have been accepted.

As Superintendent, I am issuing the directive that the Bristol Warren Regional School District's calendar be adjusted so that the first full day of school for all students and staff is September 8, 2021, and the last day is June 17, 2022. This decision does not resolve the broader issue of why some religious holidays are observed while others are not. It is my hope that next year consideration will be given to making sure that the calendar represents the practical and cultural observances for our community.