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Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall holds a news conference in Saskatoon, Wednesday, October 5, 2011.

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## Saskatchewan Party campaign promise to start school year late draws fire

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The Saskatchewan School Boards Association is expressing disappointment for not being consulted about an election promise by the Saskatchewan Party to start the school year after Labour Day.

Party Leader Brad Wall says if re-elected Nov. 7, kindergarten to Grade 12 students would not start classes until after the September long weekend to avoid messing up family vacations and the tourism industry.

Sandi Urban-Hall, president of the association, says starting classes after Labour Day means boards would have to make up for the lost days later in the school year.

She also says the needs of students must take precedence over the needs of tourism.

Ray Morrison, chairman of the Saskatoon School Board, says having full-day kindergarten would be of greater benefit than changing the school calendar.

School boards will still have the option to bring teachers back before Labour Day to prepare for classes and to have professional development days.

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