

# INSTRUCTIONS ON SCHOOL CALENDAR FLEXIBILITY PACKET

The following pages include:

- 1) A draft resolution for calendar flexibility
- 2) Language for a draft bill providing complete local flexibility
- 3) Language for a draft bill authorizing a school start date no earlier than August 10
- 4) Suggestions on what to do with 1, 2, and 3 above

## **DRAFT RESOLUTION**

The Calendar Flexibility draft resolution (see page 3) is for your local board of education to adopt in December or early next year. There are **two WHEREAS clauses highlighted in red** – this is to help tailor the resolution to your school district. Be sure to **delete the clauses in red if they are not applicable to your LEA**. Otherwise, fill in the blanks with the correct information or feel free to modify the language to accurately reflect your district.

The resolution requests your county commissioners to adopt a resolution in support of local calendar flexibility. Please have your board chair discuss the resolution with the chair of your county commission before you take it up. **If your county commissioners will not pass a resolution supporting calendar flexibility, delete the last line of the resolution which states, “THEREFORE, be it resolved that the \_\_\_\_\_ Board of Education requests that the \_\_\_\_\_ Board of County Commissioners pass a resolution in support of calendar flexibility.”** If you delete that last sentence because your county commission does not support the issue, switch the last WHEREAS clause to the THEREFORE clause, “THEREFORE, be it resolved \_\_\_\_\_ Board of Education requests the North Carolina General Assembly to restore local control of school calendars to best meet the calendar preferences of the families, educators, and businesses in our community while allowing for innovative experimental approaches to improve student achievement.”

### **Once you pass a resolution:**

- **Please send a copy of the resolution to the county commission (if you included that clause)**
- **Please send a copy of the resolution to your 2019 legislative delegation (the General Assembly website, [www.ncleg.net](http://www.ncleg.net), has a list of the winning candidates on the left side of the main page)**
- **Please consider issuing a press release about your passage of the resolution**
- **Please send a copy of your adopted resolution to Richard Bostic at [rbostic@ncsba.org](mailto:rbostic@ncsba.org)**

**PROPOSED BILL PROVIDING COMPLETE LOCAL FLEXIBILITY**

In discussions with your legislator(s)/delegation, we encourage your board to share this draft legislation (see page 5) with them requesting that they file a local bill during the 2019 legislative session. The bill does not set any restrictions for start or end dates.

**PROPOSED BILL ALLOWING A SCHOOL START DATE NO EARLIER THAN AUGUST 10**

If you find there is not support for complete local calendar authority, there is a draft bill (see page 6) which authorizes a school start date no earlier than August 10.

Ideally, there is a local calendar bill filed in every legislative district in both the Senate and House.

## **RESOLUTION SUPPORTING LOCAL CONTROL OF SCHOOL CALENDARS**

WHEREAS, the North Carolina General Statutes give local boards of education powers of supervision and control of local school systems; and

WHEREAS, local control over establishing school calendars is an integral component of school system supervision and administrative powers with which local boards of education have been vested; and

WHEREAS, in 2004 the North Carolina General Assembly seized control of setting school calendars and imposed a one-size-fits-all mandate on how school calendars are to be set; and

WHEREAS, the current one-size-fits-all school calendar start date is no earlier than the Monday closest to August 26 and the end date is no later than the Friday closest to June 11; and

WHEREAS, the State mandated late August start date means high schools do not complete the first semester until mid to late January; and

WHEREAS, the current law essentially requires high school students to take first semester exams after the winter break, which negatively impacts test scores, according to students and educators; and

WHEREAS, the second semester for high schools starts two to three weeks later than community colleges and universities; and

WHEREAS, superintendents report that the calendar misalignment makes it nearly impossible for high school students or recent winter graduates to take courses at a nearby community college or university during the second semester; and

WHEREAS, exams for Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate classes are given on the same day nationwide, and the current calendar law shortens the amount of time North Carolina's students have to learn the material before test day; and

WHEREAS, it is well-documented through multiple studies that children will experience a phenomenon known as summer learning loss, which has a disproportionate impact on low-income children; and

WHEREAS, long summer breaks can also negatively impact child nutrition, as low-income children who have access to regular meals at school through the free and reduced priced meal program may not have access to regular meals at home; and

WHEREAS, with little flexibility built in to the calendar, scheduling make-up days is extremely challenging; and

WHEREAS, major hurricanes and severe winter snow storms have caused \_\_\_\_\_ city/county schools to miss \_\_\_ school days over the past three years; and

WHEREAS, \_\_\_\_\_ city/county schools was only able to make up \_\_\_\_\_ missed days over the past three years

WHEREAS, fall sports and band begin August 1, schedules for extracurriculars have not changed to coincide with the State-mandated school calendar; and

WHEREAS, local boards of education are best equipped to understand the balancing act of meeting the community's needs and maximizing student success; and

WHEREAS, restoring local control of school calendars will allow local boards of education to best meet the calendar preferences of the families, educators, and businesses in our community while allowing for innovative experimental approaches to improve student achievement.

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the \_\_\_\_\_ Board of Education requests that the \_\_\_\_\_ Board of County Commissioners pass a resolution in support of calendar flexibility.

Adopted by the \_\_\_\_\_ Board of Education this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019.

**[Note: Ask your legislative delegation to file this local bill for full calendar flexibility]**

**PROPOSED BILL – AUTHORIZING LOCAL BOARDS OF EDUCATION TO SET SCHOOL CALENDARS**

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 115C-84.2(d) reads as rewritten:

~~"(d) Opening and Closing Dates. – Local boards of education shall determine the dates of opening and closing the public schools under subdivision (a)(1) of this section. Except for year-round schools, the opening date for students shall be no earlier than the Monday closest to August 26, and the closing date for students shall be no later than the Friday closest to June 11. On a showing of good cause, the State Board of Education may waive the requirement that the opening date for students be no earlier than the Monday closest to August 26 and may allow the local board of education to set an opening date no earlier than the Monday closest to August 19, to the extent that school calendars are able to provide sufficient days to accommodate anticipated makeup days due to school closings. A local board may revise the scheduled closing date if necessary in order to comply with the minimum requirements for instructional days or instructional time. For purposes of this subsection, the term "good cause" means that schools in any local school administrative unit in a county have been closed eight days per year during any four of the last 10 years because of severe weather conditions, energy shortages, power failures, or other emergency situations.~~

~~The required opening and closing dates under this subsection shall not apply to any school that a local board designated as having a modified calendar for the 2003-2004 school year or to any school that was part of a planned program in the 2003-2004 school year for a system of modified calendar schools, so long as the school operates under a modified calendar."~~

SECTION 2. This act applies only to \_\_\_\_\_ Schools.

SECTION 3. This act is effective when it becomes law and applies beginning with the 2019-2020 (2020-2021) school year.

**[Note: If your legislative delegation declines to file the first bill, then ask them to file this bill for an August 10 start date]**

**PROPOSED BILL – PROVIDING CALENDAR FLEXIBILITY WITH A  
START DATE NO EARLIER THAN AUGUST 10**

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 115C-84.2(d) reads as rewritten:

~~"(d) Opening and Closing Dates. – Local boards of education shall determine the dates of opening and closing the public schools under subdivision (a)(1) of this section. Except for year-round schools, the opening date for students shall be no earlier than the Monday closest to August 26, 10, and the closing date for students shall be no later than the Friday closest to June 11. On a showing of good cause, the State Board of Education may waive the requirement that the opening date for students be no earlier than the Monday closest to August 26 and may allow the local board of education to set an opening date no earlier than the Monday closest to August 19, to the extent that school calendars are able to provide sufficient days to accommodate anticipated makeup days due to school closings. A local board may revise the scheduled closing date if necessary in order to comply with the minimum requirements for instructional days or instructional time. For purposes of this subsection, the term "good cause" means that schools in any local school administrative unit in a county have been closed eight days per year during any four of the last 10 years because of severe weather conditions, energy shortages, power failures, or other emergency situations. Regardless of the opening date selected for students, all first semester examinations may be given before winter break.~~

The required opening and closing dates under this subsection shall not apply to any school that a local board designated as having a modified calendar for the 2003-2004 school year or to any school that was part of a planned program in the 2003-2004 school year for a system of modified calendar schools, so long as the school operates under a modified calendar."

SECTION 2. This act applies only to \_\_\_\_\_ Schools.

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