

RESOLUTION
of the
JOHNSTON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION
SUPPORTING LOCAL CONTROL OF SCHOOL CALENDARS
2022-2023

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

WHEREAS, control by the local board of education establishing school calendars is an important and integral part of school system supervision and administrative powers with which local boards of education, including the Johnston County Board of Education, have vested; and

WHEREAS, in 2004 the North Carolina General Assembly enacted statutory provisions and laws controlling the setting of school calendars in an arbitrary manner and enacted a “one-size-fits-all” mandate on how school calendars are to be set; and

WHEREAS, the state of North Carolina is one of only two states with a state law dictating both the start and end of the school year; and

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

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

WHEREAS, the current law essentially requires high school students to take first-semester exams after the winter break or have a shortened first semester by as much as 20 instructional days, which both negatively impact test scores, according to students and educators; and

WHEREAS, if the first semester is not shortened, 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, with little flexibility built into the calendar, scheduling make-up days is extremely challenging; and

WHEREAS, districts facing scheduling challenges due to inclement weather may shorten the number of days in the school year and increase the length of the school day, thereby negatively impacting learning as children reach a point at which they stop effectively absorbing the information they are being given; and

WHEREAS, major hurricanes, flooding, and severe winter storms have caused the Johnston County Public Schools to miss numerous school days in past years; and

WHEREAS, fall sports and band begin August 1, schedules for extracurricular programs have not changed to coincide with the State-mandated school calendar, thus most schools have played multiple athletic contests or participated in school-sponsored events before the school year even begins; and

WHEREAS, local boards of education are best equipped to understand the challenges associated with balancing 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 unique educational needs and school calendar preferences of the families, educators, and businesses in our community while allowing for innovative and research-based approaches to improve student achievement.

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Johnston County Board of Education requests that the North Carolina General Assembly restore local control of school calendars to best meet the unique educational needs and school calendar preferences of the families, educators, and businesses in our community while allowing for innovative and research-based approaches to improve student achievement.

Adopted by the Johnston County Board of Education this seventh day of February, Two Thousand Twenty-three.

JOHNSTON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

By: _____

Lyn Andrews, Chairperson
Board of Education