

RESOLUTION
of the
NEW HANOVER COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
SUPPORTING LOCAL CONTROL OF SCHOOL CALENDAR
2023-01

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, 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 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 or have unequal semesters; and

WHEREAS, the current law essentially requires high school students to take first semester exams after the winter break or shortened the first semester by as much as 20 instructional days, which both negatively impacts 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 the 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, fall sports and band begin August 1, schedules for extracurriculars 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 understanding 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 unique educational needs and school 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 New Hanover County Board of Education requests that the North Carolina General Assembly restore local control of school to best meet the unique educational needs and school calendar preferences of the families, educators, military, and businesses in our community while allowing for innovative, experimental approaches to improve student achievement.

Adopted this, the tenth day of January, Two Thousand Twenty-three.

NEW HANOVER COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

By: *Pete C. Wildeboer*

Pete Wildeboer, Chairman
Board of Education

ATTEST:

By: *Charles Foust*
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Dr. Charles Foust, Superintendent
Secretary to the Board of Education

