



Public Schools of North Carolina  
State Board of Education  
Department of Public Instruction

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# Report to the North Carolina General Assembly

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## School Calendar Pilot

Appropriations Act of 2011;  
SL 2011-145, section 7.17

School Calendar Pilot Program

**Date Due: March 15, 2012**

Report # 58

DPI Chronological Schedule, 2011-2012

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## **Appropriations Act of 2011 SL 2011-145**

### **School Calendar Pilot Program**

**SECTION 7.17(a)** The State Board of Education shall establish a school calendar pilot program in the Wilkes County Schools, the Montgomery County Schools, and the Stanly County Schools. The purpose of the pilot program is to determine whether and to what extent a local school administrative unit can save money during this extreme fiscal crisis by consolidating the school calendar. Notwithstanding G.S. 115C-84.2(a)(1), the school calendar for the 2011-2012 calendar year for the pilot school systems shall include a minimum of 185 days or 1,025 hours of instruction covering at least nine calendar months.

If the local board of education in a pilot school system adds instructional hours to previously scheduled days under this section, the local school administrative unit is deemed to have a minimum of 185 days of instruction, and teachers employed for a 10-month term are deemed to have been employed for the days being made up and shall be compensated as if they had worked the days being made up.

### **Reporting Requirement**

The State Board of Education shall report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee by March 15, 2012, on the administration of the pilot program, cost savings realized by it, and its impact on student achievement.

### **Source Data Used for the Report**

Financial and student data submitted from the Wilkes County Public Schools and student accountability data.

### **History**

In fiscal year 2009-10, Appropriations Bill (SL 2009-451) included a special provision that permitted Wilkes County to have either 180 days or 1,000 instructional hours in their school calendar. Fiscal year 2011-12 is the third year that Wilkes County Board of Education has implemented a calendar under this provision.

In 2011-12, Stanly County Schools and Montgomery County Schools were also included in the special provision; however neither of these local education agencies implemented the flexibility in 2011-12.

In addition to the special provision for the calendar pilot, Section 7.29 of the 2011 Appropriations Bill increased the required number of instructional days to 185 and 1,025 hours. Wilkes County applied for and received a waiver from the State Board of Education for 25 instructional hours, thereby requiring a minimum of 1,000 instructional hours.

### Administration of the Pilot Program

Wilkes County Board of Education reduced the number of instructional days to 162 and added 45 minutes to each instructional day, thereby meeting the minimum of 1,000 instructional hours.

For elementary and middle schools, the first day of school is August 16<sup>th</sup> and the last day is May 21<sup>th</sup>. For the high schools, the first day is August 16<sup>th</sup> and the last day is May 23<sup>rd</sup>. See below for information on remediation days after the last day of school.

See attachment A for the full pilot calendar, a summary of which is outlined below:

	<b>Per 115C-84.2<sup>(1)</sup></b>		<b>Pilot</b>		<b>Difference</b>	
	Total	Workdays	Total	Workdays	Total	Workdays
Instructional	180	180	162	162	(18)	(18)
Holidays	10		10		-	
Annual Leave	10		10		-	
Work Days	15	15	13	13	(2)	(2)
Remediation			4	4	4	4
	<b>215</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>(16)</b>	<b>(16)</b>

(1) Assumes that a waiver for 5 instructional days were granted and replaced with 5 work days.

The Wilkes County Schools 2011-12 calendar included 18 “no days”. The teachers and instructional support personnel continue to be paid on a 215 day calendar, but “no days” are built in to the calendar as days paid but not worked, in effect holidays.

“No days” are used to make up missed instructional days due to inclement weather.

Wilkes County Schools built in to the calendar 4 remediation days for targeted instruction to select students. In high school, two days are added after the first semester End of Course test (December 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>), and two days are added after the second semester End of Course Test (May 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>). Elementary/Middle Schools have all four remediation days added to the end of the school year after the first administration of the End of Grade test. Students scoring a level III or IV do not attend the remediation days and the time is focused only on students who have not met at least a level III on the appropriate state test. Transportation is provided to the selected students for these days.

### Effect on Personnel

All teachers, instructional support (including occupational therapists and physical therapists) are subject to the pilot calendar.

Teacher assistant employment was reduced 20.5 days (10%).

Cafeteria worker employment was reduced by 18 days.

Custodian and clerical positions were not affected.

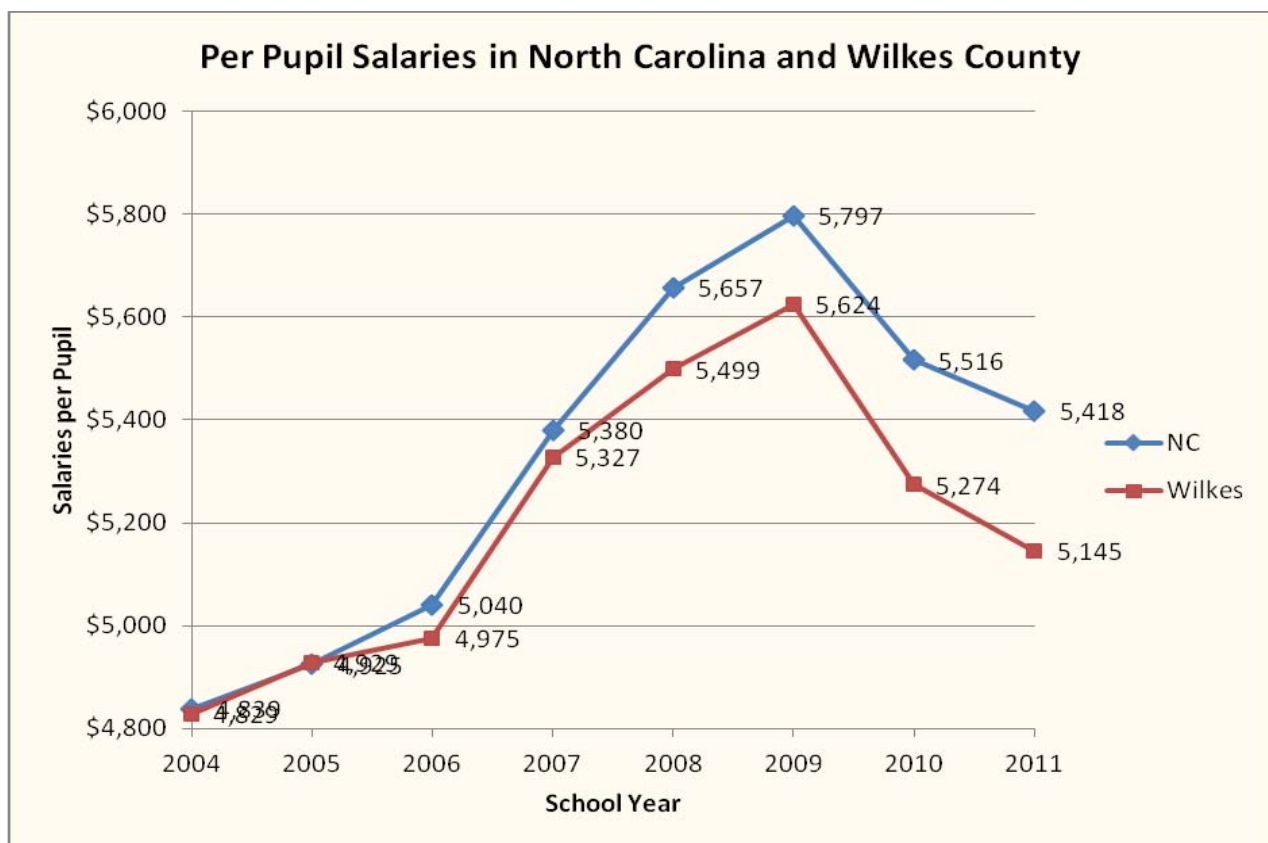
12 month positions were not affected.

### Cost Savings 2010 and 2011

### Teachers and Instructional Support

The previous report provided a thorough analysis of the savings produced by the shortened calendar in the fiscal year 2009 – 2010. Being the first year in which the reduced calendar was implemented it was possible, albeit difficult, to identify and separate the savings related to the new calendar from the budget reductions which occurred to all North Carolina local education agencies.

As additional budget reductions were implemented in fiscal year 2010 -2011 and with a changing student population, it becomes unfeasible to accurately differentiate between the cost savings resulted from the pilot calendar and other budget reduction. The cost savings were estimated by comparing the evolution of per pupil spending in Wilkes County Schools with the data for the whole North Carolina Public Schools System, see the chart below.



The pattern for Wilkes County is quite similar with that for North Carolina as the budget reductions interrupted the ascending trends from the years 2004 to 2009.

The next table compares the actual figures from 2010 and 2011 with the statistically inferred values under the scenario that the 2004 -2009 trends were to continue.

	<b>Wilkes</b>		<b>North Carolina</b>	
<b>School Year</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>
Inferred	5,801	5,973	6,006	6,215
Actual	5,274	5,145	5,516	5,418
Difference	527	828	490	797
Percentage	9.08%	13.87%	8.15%	12.82%

The differences between the percentages from North Carolina and Wilkes County are attributable to the implementation of the shortened calendar. The estimated cost savings are listed in the table below:

	<b>Wilkes</b>	
<b>School Year</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>
Total Salaries	\$51,959,905	\$50,804,121
<b>Savings (Percent)</b>	<b>0.93%</b>	<b>1.04%</b>
Savings (\$)	\$483,310	\$530,827

In both 2010 and 2011 the salaries savings resulted from the implementation of the Pilot Calendar are minimal.

The number of sick days taken by teachers in 2009, 2010, and 2011 were 5,725, 6,058, and 6,246, respectively. It appears that the numbers of sick days taken by teachers increased in the last two years by 9%.

## **Transportation**

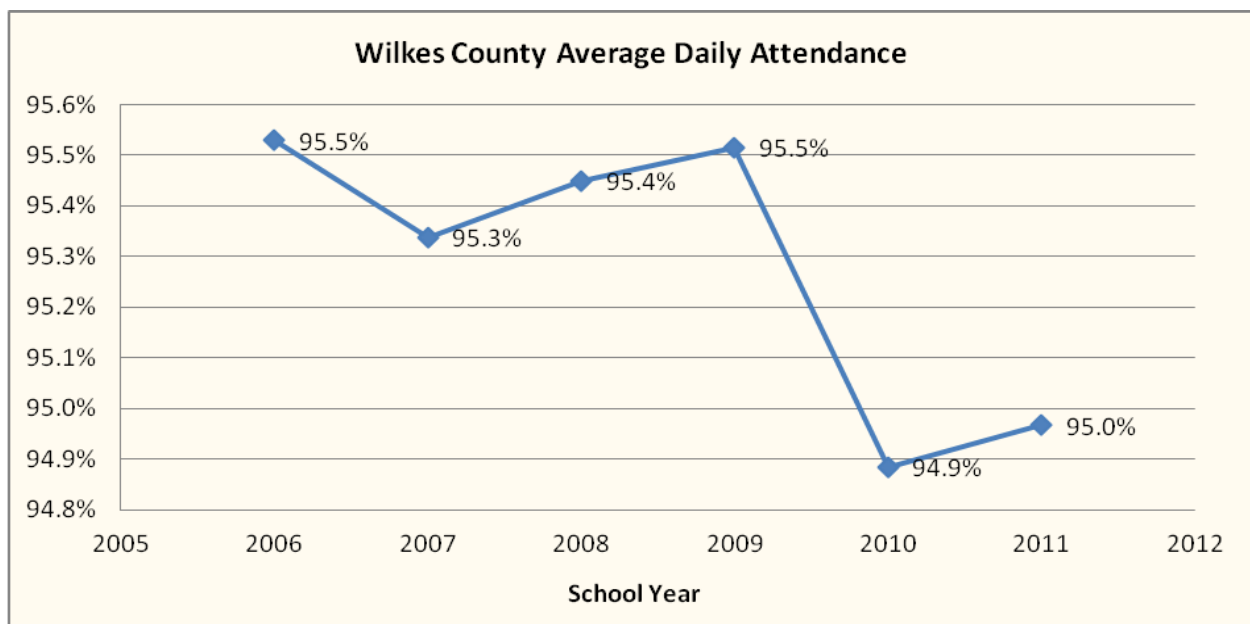
Reducing the number of instructional days resulted in cost savings for transportation. As calculated in prior year analysis, 66% of transportation costs are associated with variable costs, for example driver salary and fuel. The remaining 34% are associated with fixed costs and will be incurred regardless of the number of days the buses run. Fixed costs include cost of the buses, insurance, maintenance etc.

In FY 2011, the total transportation cost for Wilkes County was \$2,741,071 out of which \$1,809,107 represents variable costs. Per instructional day, the variable cost was \$11,167 and providing student transportation for an additional 18 days will have required \$201,012. *The \$201,012 cost savings for transportation in FY 2011 represent a 7% savings from the total cost of transportation.*

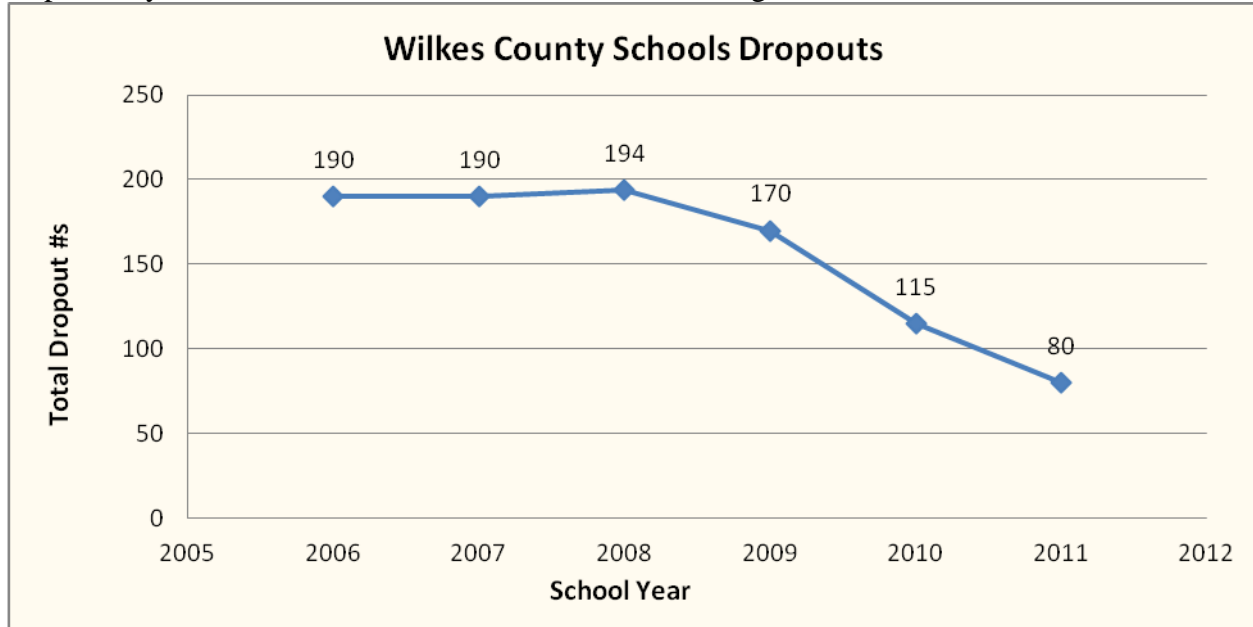
## Student Achievement

General Note on the following data and tables presented. Student achievement and behavior is affected by many different factors both inside and outside of the school. The following illustrates various performance indicators in Wilkes County Schools before and after the calendar change. The analysis does not isolate the effect of the calendar on these performance indicators.

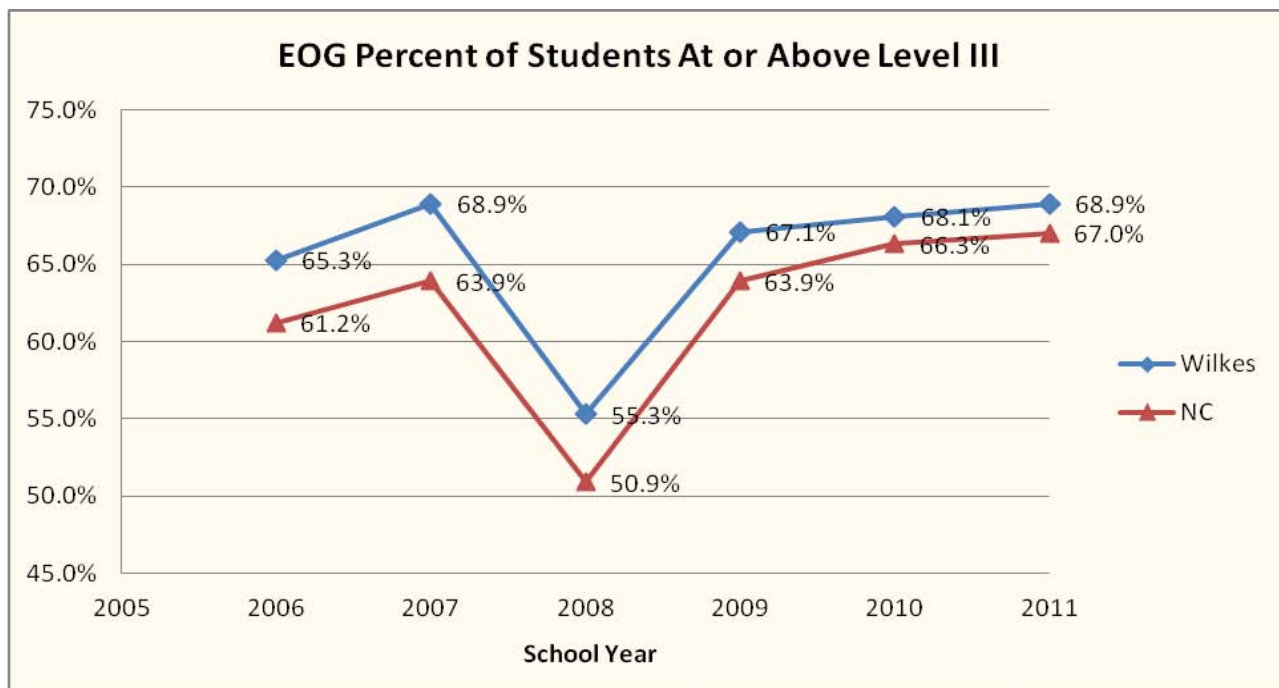
Student Attendance: The average daily attendance as a ratio of average daily membership in 2009, 2010, and 2011 were 95.5%, 94.9%, and 95.0%, respectively. This resulted in Wilkes County Schools moving from 25<sup>th</sup> in the State to 48<sup>th</sup> in the State. The chart below shows the average daily attendance in Wilkes County for the last six years.



Reported dropouts significantly decreased to 115 and 80 in the school years 2010 and 2011 respectively and the rate is now lower than the State average.



Student Performance: In the last six years Wilkes County School's percentage of students at level III and above on EOGs was better than the State average (see chart below). After 2009, Wilkes County's performance advantage decreased from 4.2% (the average of the four prior years) to 1.85%.

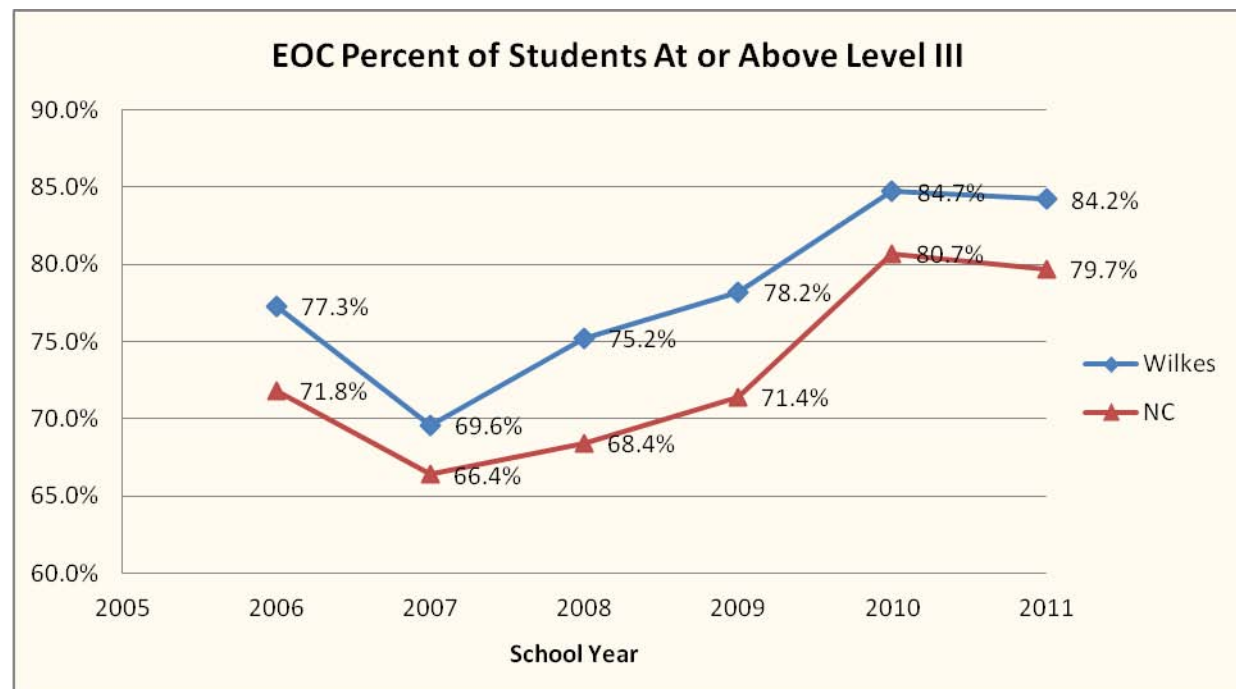




In 2008, Wilkes County Schools was 4.4% higher than the State average in EOGs, in 2011 Wilkes is only 1.9% higher than the State average.

Year	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Difference Wilkes vs NC	4.1%	5.0%	4.4%	3.2%	1.8%	1.9%

Wilkes County's performance on EOCs follows a similar pattern. In the last six years, Wilkes County's percentage of students at level III and above on EOCs was better than the State average (see chart below). After 2009, Wilkes County's performance advantage decreased from 5.6% (the average of the four prior years) to 4.25%.



School Year	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Difference Wilkes vs NC	5.5%	3.2%	6.8%	6.8%	4.0%	4.5%

# School Calendar 2011-2012 HYBRID REMEDIATION Elementary/Middle

February 21, 2011  
 613 Cherry Street  
 North Wilkesboro, NC 28659  
 (336) 667-1121  
<http://www.wilkes.k12.nc.us>

## July

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
					3	4
					5	6
					7	8
					9	10
					11	12
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					15	16
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					19	20
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					23	24
					25	26
					27	28
					29	30
					31	

## August

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					21	22
					23	24
					25	26
					27	28
					29	30
					31	

## September

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## October

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					29	30
					31	

## November

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					21	22
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					27	28
					29	30

## December

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					31	

## January

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## February

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					27	28
					29	

## March

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					27	28
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					31	

## April

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					21	22
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					25	26
					27	28
					29	30

## May

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					15	16
					17	18
					19	20
					21	22
					23	24
					25	26
					27	28
					29	30

## June

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					11	12
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					15	16
					17	18
					19	20
					21	22
					23	24
					25	26
					27	28
					29	30

### Calendar Key

- Optional Workday
- Holiday
- Required Workday
- Annual Leave
- No Day
- Beginning/Ending of Quarters
- Remediation /Retest for students retaking the EOG
- Required Prof. Development

August 8	No Day
August 9	Optional Workday
August 10-11	Required Prof. Development
August 12 & 15	Required Workday
August 16	First Grading Period Begins
September 5	Labor Day Holiday
September 6	Required Prof. Development
October 12	First Grading Period Ends
October 13	Optional Workday
October 14	No Day
October 17	Second Grading Period Begins
November 11	Veteran's Day Holiday
November 21-23	No Day
November 24 -25	Thanksgiving Holiday
December 20	Second Grading Period Ends
December 21-22	No Day
December 23, 28-30	Annual Leave
Dec. 26-27 Jan. 2	Christmas/New Year's Holiday
January 3	No Day
January 4	Optional Workday
January 5	Third Grading Period Begins
January 16	Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
January 17	No Day
January 18	Required Prof. Development
February 17 & 20	No Day
February 21	Required Prof Development
March 8	Third Grading Period Ends
March 9	Optional Workday
March 12-13	No Day
March 14	Required Prof. Development
March 15	Fourth Grading Period Begins
April 6, 9-13	Easter Holiday / Annual Leave
May 8	No Day
May 21	Fourth Grading Period Ends
May 22-25	Remediation
May 28	Memorial Day Holiday
May 29	Optional Workday
May 30	Annual Leave
May 31 June 1	No Day



## July

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

## August

S	M	T	W	T	F	S

## September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S

## October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S

## November

S	M	T	W	T	F	S

## December

S	M	T	W	T	F	S

## January

S	M	T	W	T	F	S

## February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S

## March

S	M	T	W	T	F	S

## April

S	M	T	W	T	F	S

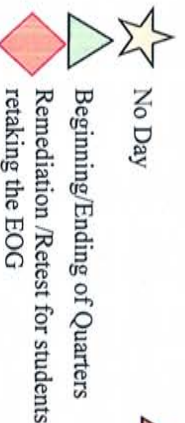
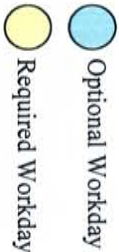
## May

S	M	T	W	T	F	S

## June

S	M	T	W	T	F	S

### Calendar Key



August 8-9	No Day
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May 8	No Day
May 23	Fourth Grading Period Ends
May 24-25	Remediation
May 28	Memorial Day Holiday
May 29	Optional Workday
May 30 May 31-June 1	Annual Leave / No Day