



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

Report to the North Carolina General Assembly

School Calendar Pilot Program

Appropriations Act of 2012;
SL 2012-142, section 7.40

Date Due: March 06, 2013

Report # 28

DPI Chronological Schedule, 2012-2013

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Appropriations Act of 2012 SL 2012-142

School Calendar Pilot Program

SECTION 7.40 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 2012-2013 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, 2013, 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 2012-13 is the fourth 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 have implemented the flexibility.

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 all schools, the first day of school is August 9th and the last day is May 21th. In prior years, the calendar had built in remediation days, but these days were removed as there is no retesting in the current school year.

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

	Per 115C-84.2 ⁽¹⁾		Pilot		Difference	
	Total	Workdays	Total	Workdays	Total	Workdays
Instructional	180	180	161	161	(19)	(19)
Holidays	11		11		-	
Annual Leave	10		10		-	
Work Days	14	15	16	16	2	1
Remediation ⁽²⁾			0	0	-	
	215	195	198	177	(17)	(18)

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

(2) The 4 remediation days were removed from the calendar. In 2011-12, Wilkes County Schools built in to the calendar 4 remediation days for targeted instruction to select students. In high school, two days were added after the first and second semester End of Course test. Elementary/Middle Schools had 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 did not attend the remediation days and the time was focused only on students who have not met at least a level III on the appropriate state test. Transportation was provided to the selected students for these days.

The Wilkes County Schools 2012-13 calendar included 16 “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” may be used to make up missed instructional days due to inclement weather.

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 19 days.

Custodian and clerical positions were not affected.

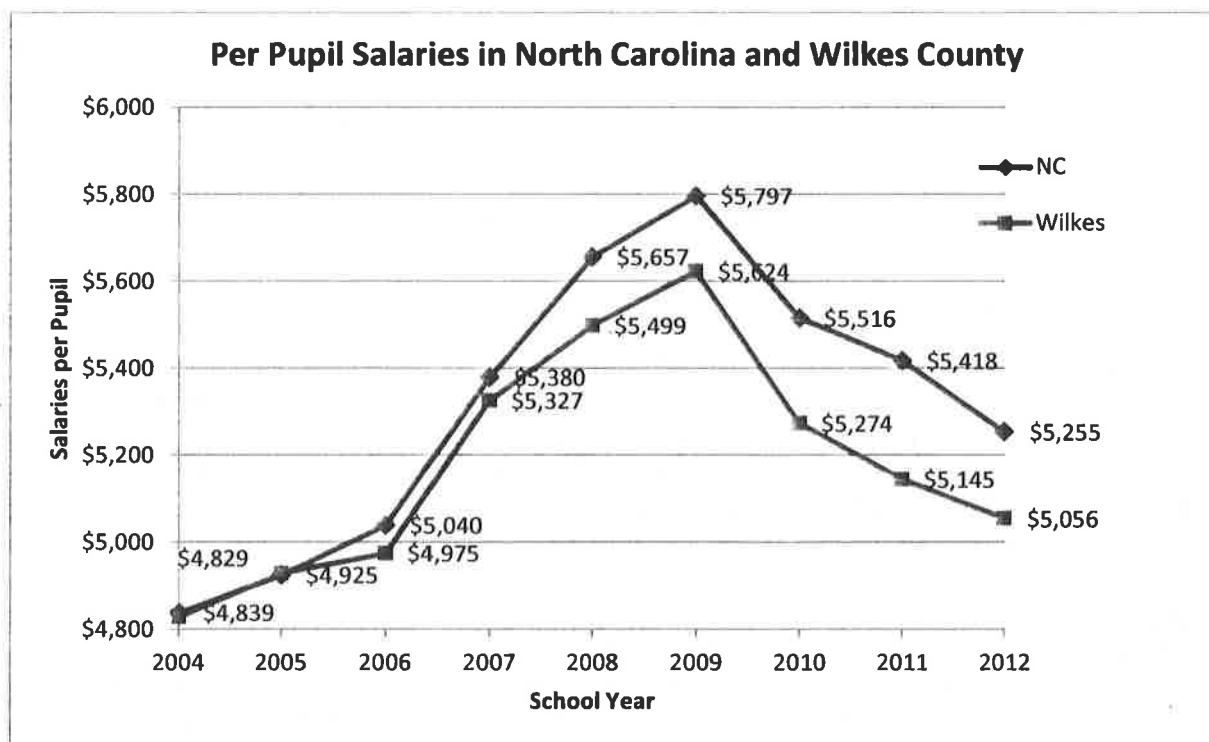
12 month positions were not affected.

Cost Savings 2010, 2011 and 2012

Teachers and Instructional Support

Prior year reports have provided a thorough analysis of the savings produced by the shortened calendar in that fiscal year. The longer the pilot is implemented the more difficult it is to attribute changes to the change in the calendar, especially considering the budget cuts incurred.

As additional budget reductions were implemented and with a changing student population it become unfeasible to exactly differentiate between the cost savings resulted from the pilot schedule and the general budget reduction. We estimate the cost savings 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. In the next table we compare the actual figures from 2010, 2011 and 2012 with the statistically inferred values from regression on the per pupil salaries from previous years.

	Wilkes			North Carolina		
School Year	2010	2011	2012	2010	2011	2012
Inferred	\$5,801	\$5,973	\$5,788	\$6,006	\$6,215	\$6,092
Actual	\$5,274	\$5,145	\$5,056	\$5,516	\$5,418	\$5,255
Difference	\$527	\$828	\$733	\$490	\$797	\$837
Percentage	9.08%	13.87%	12.66%	8.15%	12.82%	13.74%

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:

	Wilkes		
School Year	2010	2011	2012
Total Salaries	\$51,959,905	\$50,804,121	\$49,604,549
Savings (Percent)	0.93%	1.04%	-1.08%
Savings (\$)	\$483,310	\$530,827	No Savings

The estimates show that in the years 2010 and 2011 the salaries savings resulted from the implementation of the Pilot Calendar are minimal and last year there were no identifiable savings. In 2012, the value of per pupil salary in Wilkes County decreases less than in North Carolina, a fact which may not be related with the Pilot Program. The actual differences between per pupil salaries in Wilkes County and North Carolina in 2010, 2011, and 2012 were \$242, \$277, and \$199 respectively, see the chart above.

Substitute costs

The number of sick days taken by teachers in 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012 were 5,725, 6,058, 6,246, and 6,662 respectively. A 16% increase in the number of sick days and during this same period there was a decrease of 50 teachers or 7.5%. This increase in sick days has an added cost of approximately \$120,000 and will impact student performance.

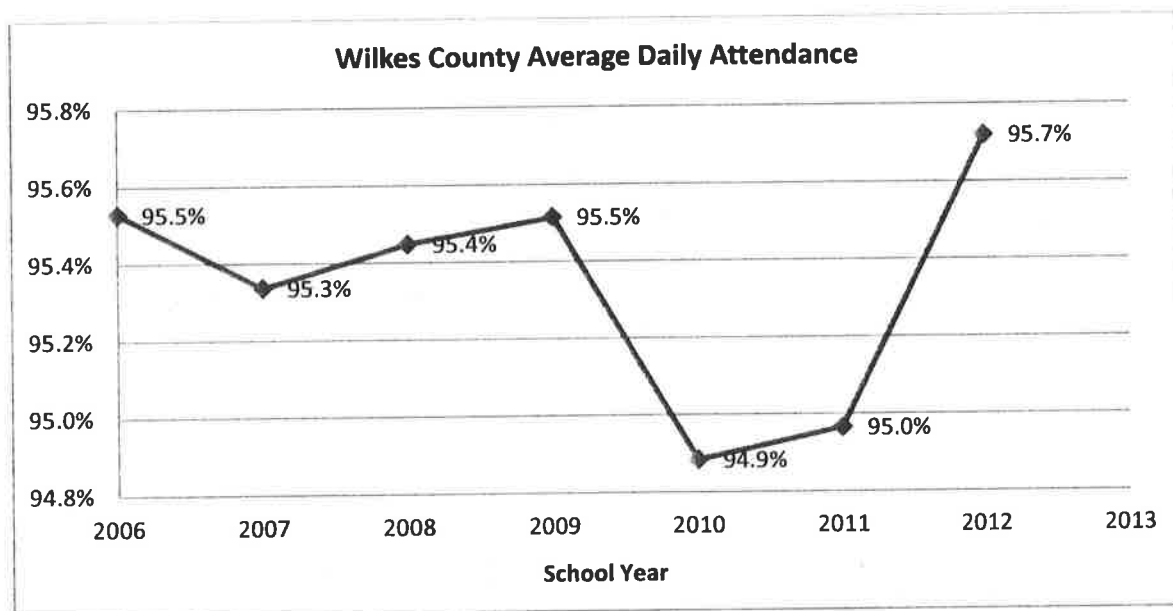
Transportation

Reducing the number of instructional days resulted in cost savings for transportation. As calculated in the previous reports, 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.

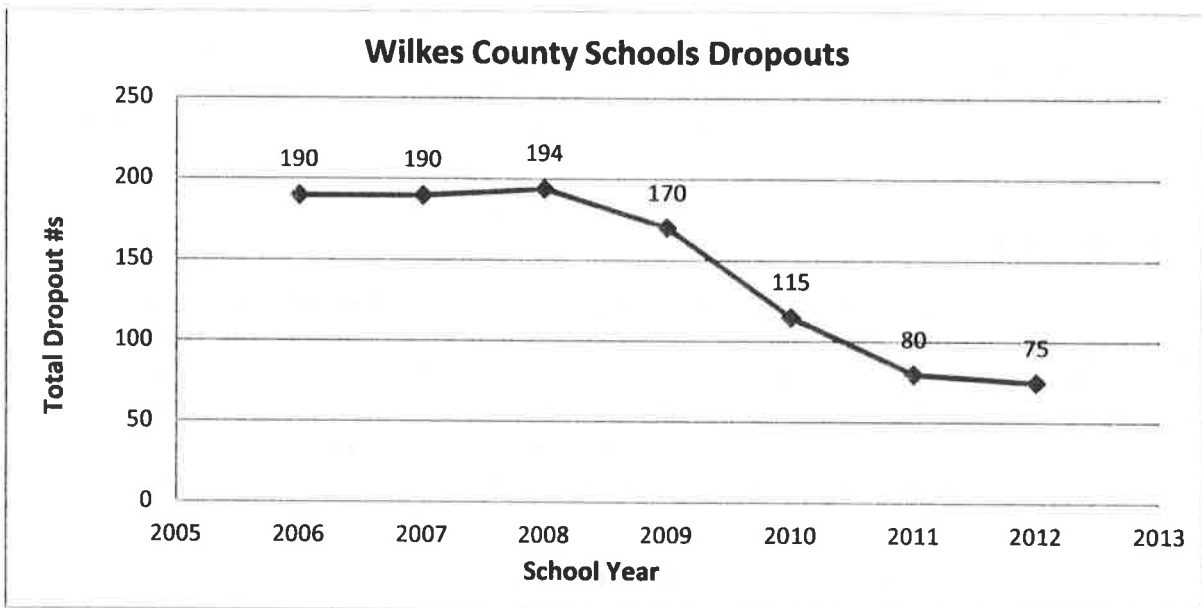
In FY 2012 the total state transportation cost for Wilkes County was \$2,715,238 out of which \$1,792,057 represents variable costs. Per instructional day, the variable cost was \$11,062 and providing student transportation for an additional 18 days will have required \$199,117. The \$199,117 cost savings for transportation in FY 2012 represent a 7% savings from the total cost of transportation.

Student Achievement

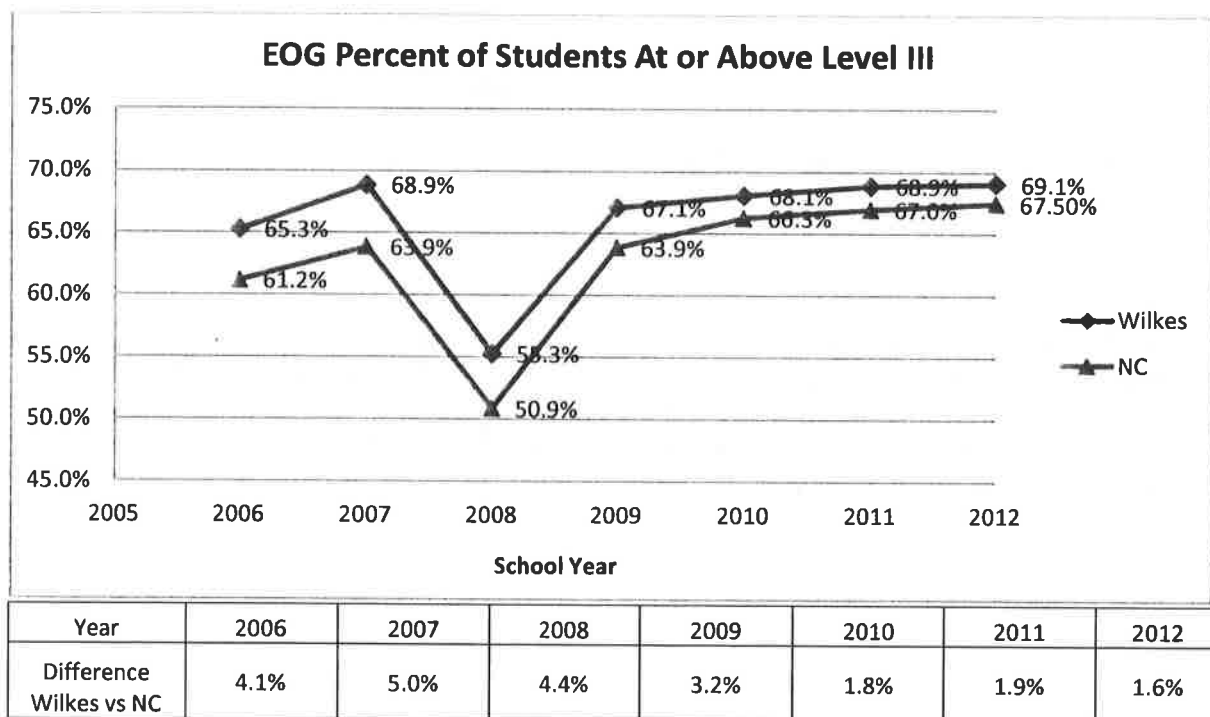
Student Attendance: The average daily attendance as a ratio of average daily membership in 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012 were 95.5%, 94.9%, 95.0%, and 95.7% respectively. This resulted in Wilkes County moving from 25th in the State to 45th, then to 48th in the State, and then to 27. The chart below shows the average daily attendance in Wilkes County for the last seven years. It appears that the Pilot Calendar had an adverse effect on the average daily attendance in the years 2010 and 2011, but the attendance rate returned back to a normal level for Wilkes Co in 2012.



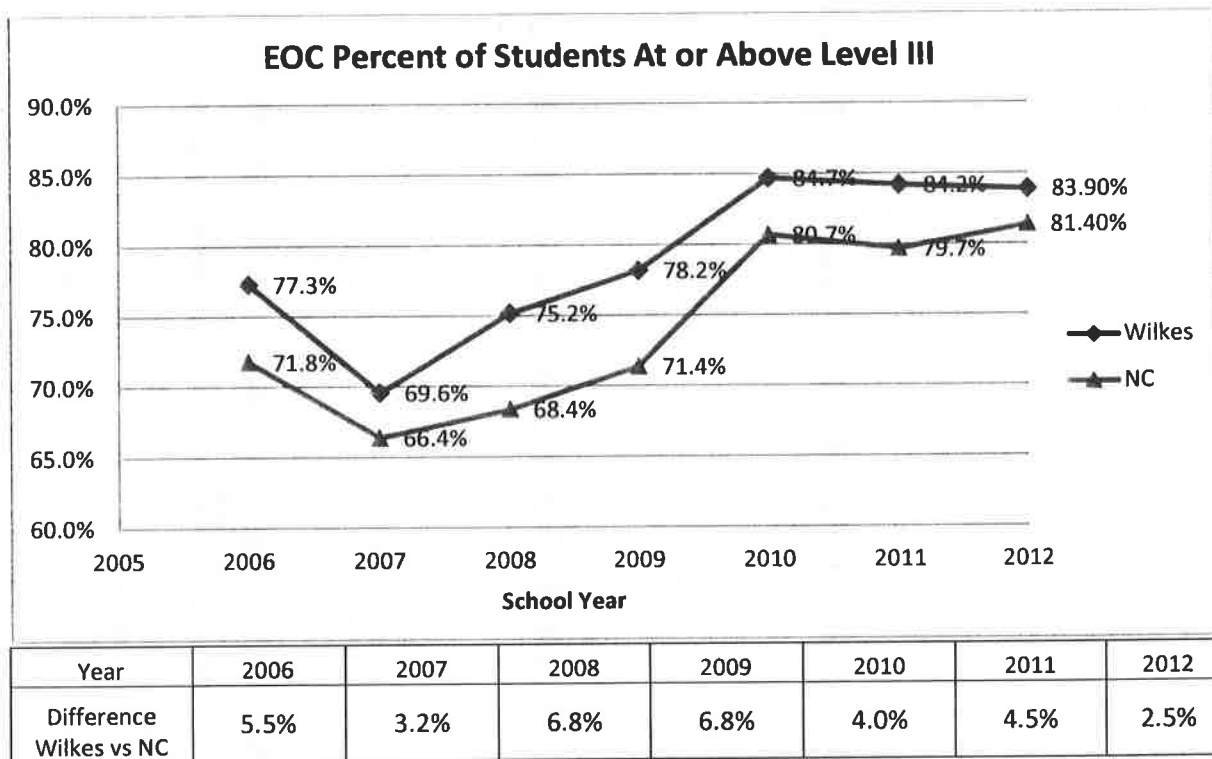
Reported dropouts decreased to 115, 80 and 75 in the school years 2010, 2011, and 2012 respectively and the rate is now lower than the State average. There are many factors that impact the dropout rate, especially the economy and the availability of jobs. Therefore, we cannot affirm that the decrease is due only to the calendar change, but it had a beneficial effect on Wilkes County total dropout numbers, see chart below.



Student Performance: In the last seven years Wilkes County's percentage of students at level III and above on EOGs was better than the State average (see chart below). After the implementation of the Pilot Calendar Wilkes County's performance advantage decreased from 4.2% (the average of the four prior years) to 1.80%.



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). But, after the implementation of the Pilot Calendar Wilkes County's performance advantage decreased from 5.6% (the average of the four prior years) to 3.67%.



**Wilkes
County
Schools**

School Calendar 2012-2013 HYBRID All Schools

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

July

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

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

September

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

October

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

November

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

December

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

January

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

February

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

March

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

April

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

May

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

June

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

Calendar Key

- ☒ Optional Workday
- ☐ Required Workday
- ☒ Holiday
- ☐ Annual Leave
- ☒ No Day
- ☐ Beginning/Ending of Quarters
- ☒ Required Prof. Development

**This calendar does not have remediation days because there is no retesting this year.

August 1-3/7-8	Optional / Required Workday
August 6	Required Prof. Development
August 9	First Grading Period Begins
August 31	No Day
September 3	Labor Day Holiday
September 4	Required Prof. Development
October 5	First Grading Period Ends
October 8-9	No Day
October 10	Optional Workday
October 11	Second Grading Period Begins
November 5	No Day
November 6	Required Prof. Development
November 12	Veteran's Day Holiday
November 19-20	No Day
November 21	Annual Leave
November 22-23	Thanksgiving Holiday
December 19	Second Grading Period Ends
December 20	Optional Workday
December 21, 27-28 & 31	Annual Leave
December 24-26 Jan 1	Christmas/New Year's Holiday
January 2	Optional Workday
January 3	Third Grading Period Begins
January 18	No Day
January 21	Marin Luther King Holiday
February 15 & 18	No Day
February 19	Required Prof. Development
March 12	Third Grading Period Ends
March 13	Required Prof. Development
March 14	Optional Workday
March 15	No Day
March 18	Fourth Grading Period Begins
March 29	Easter Holiday
April 1-2	No Day
April 15-19	Annual Leave
May 6-7, 24 & 28	No Day
May 21	Fourth Grading Period Ends
May 22-23	Required/Optional Workday
May 27	Memorial Day Holiday