



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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Report on School Start and End Dates  
*Session Law 2019-165 Section 4.(b)*

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**Date Due:** - September 1, 2019

Report #

DPI Chronological Schedule

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# **Report to Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee**

## **S.L 2019-165 Section 4(b) and G.S. 115C-84.2 as amended**

### **Executive Summary**

#### **A. Legislated Requirement:**

As part of the reporting requirements under the Uniform Education Reporting System pursuant to G.S. 115C-12(18), annually each local board of education shall report to the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the State Board of Education on the start and end dates of the instructional calendar for students for the next academic year. The local board of education shall report this information for each school under the control of that board and shall identify the statutory exception authorizing an earlier start date for all schools that start earlier than the Monday closest to August 26.

Local boards of education shall submit the report with the information for the 2019-20 school year by August 1, 2019. The State Board of Education shall report the information submitted by the local boards of education to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee by September 1, 2019. The bill was not signed in to law until July 26, therefore, an extension was requested and received to submit the report by September 15, 2019.

For years after 2019-20, the local boards of education shall report annually by April 1 to the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the State Board of Education. The State Board of Education shall report no later than June 15 to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee

#### **B. Exemptions and Waivers**

##### **Exempt**

Per law, the following entities are exempt from all parts of the calendar law, except for the requirement of a minimum 185 instructional days or 1,025 hours of instructional hours, and are not required to report on the start and end dates per S.L. 2019-165 Section 4(b). As such, these entities are not included in the report.

- Charter schools
- Lab Schools
- Innovative School Districts
- Regional Schools
- Renewal School District – Rowan Salisbury Schools

The following public schools within a local education agency (LEA) are exempt from the start and end dates in G.S. 115C-84.2(d)

- Year-round schools (G.S.115C-84.2(d))
- Schools with a modified calendar implemented or planned in 2003-04 (G.S.115C-84.2(d))
- Restart Schools (G.S.115C-105.37B(2))
- Cooperative Innovative High Schools (G.S.115C-238.53(d))

## **Waivers**

All schools within an LEA with a State Board of Education waiver for good cause may have the earliest instructional day no earlier than the Monday closest to August 19<sup>th</sup>. Good cause means schools within an LEA located in a county that closed for at least eight instructional days in four of the last 10 years due to severe weather conditions, energy shortages, power failures or other emergency situations. For the 2019-20 school year, the following LEAs received waivers from the start date:

Alleghany County  
Ashe County  
Avery County  
Buncombe County  
Asheville City in Buncombe County  
Clay County  
Graham County  
Haywood County  
Jackson County  
Lexington City in Davidson County  
Madison County  
Mitchell County  
Swain County  
Transylvania County  
Watauga County  
Yadkin County  
Yancey County

## **C. Findings**

As reflected in the table below, thirteen LEAs report systemwide instructional calendars for the 2019-2020 school year that begin before the earliest date set in law. Three LEAs report having an individual school that has a start date before the earliest date set in law.

Along with the required information to fulfill the reporting requirements of S.L 2019-165, some of these LEAs communicated to NCDPI additional information in support of the instructional calendars local officials approved for implementation this school year. Some districts reported that their efforts to design a calendar that best met the interests of children and parents in their district were initiated in a manner consistent with the flexible concept of “year-round school.” Though circumstances differed somewhat from district to district, these LEAs’ messages to NCDPI are summarized as follows:

- District leaders developed the school calendar to meet the various academic needs of all students through enrichment, remediation, extension and dual enrollment.
- Districts developed and established student-friendly calendars in collaboration with students, parents, business partners, community members and local community college. Frequently, this work involved leveraging resources from private business or charitable organizations to provide extended opportunities to students. For

example, several districts planned summer intercessions for remediation and enrichment using local funds and charitable resources.

- Aligning the district's calendar with the local community college calendar facilitates dual enrollment and maximizes the learning opportunities for all students.

Additionally, facilities arrangements within a school district can create unique circumstances for calendar implementation. For example, multiple LEAs report that they have traditional schools that share a campus with a cooperative innovative high school and that these traditional schools utilize the same start date as the cooperative innovative schools, who use the same start date as the local community college. According to these districts, aligning the calendars of the traditional school and cooperative innovative school that share a campus provides efficiencies and cost savings with shared services and staff. The districts report that if the traditional school were required to start later, the estimated additional costs to accommodate a later start date would be significant, including, for example, two additional weeks of employment for all shared school staff and two weeks of additional transportation expenses. Further, two start dates on the schools' shared campus would make professional development more difficult to schedule and negatively impact the maintenance, repair, and cleaning of the building.

#### Extended Calendar

Guilford County Schools has 4 schools that have 197 scheduled instructional days required for all students. This extended instructional calendar requires the start and end dates to be beyond the legislated dates.

Allen Jay Elementary  
Brooks Global Elementary  
Johnson Street Global Studies  
Washington Elementary

**D. Data Collection:** The start and end dates for each school were extracted from PowerSchool student information system and sent to the LEAs to review and certify the statutory references.

All LEAs complied with the reporting requirement.