

A Resolution of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners SUPPORTING LOCAL CONTROL OF SCHOOL CALENDARS

WHEREAS, the Chatham County Board of Education and the North Carolina School Boards Association have made it a legislative priority for school boards to have more control over their school calendars; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina General Assembly took control of school calendars in 2004 when they mandated a statewide calendar for all, regardless of local circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the current state-mandated August starting date means high school students are taking first semester exams well after the winter break, which has had a documented negative impact on test scores; and

WHEREAS, the second semester for high schools starts two to three weeks later than community colleges and universities, which can deter high school students from enrolling in second semester higher education classes; and

WHEREAS, the current calendar law shortens the amount of time North Carolina's students have to prepare for exams qualifying them for Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate classes; and

WHEREAS, the long summer breaks in the current state-mandated calendar means that more students will experience "summer learning loss", which disproportionately affects low- income children; and

WHEREAS, we also know that longer summer breaks mean that some low-income children who depend on the free and reduced priced meal program could go without a good meal for a longer period; and

WHEREAS, the inflexibility of the mandated calendar makes it hard to reschedule numerous weather delays and closings; and

WHEREAS, local boards of education are best equipped to understand the balancing act of meeting the community's needs and maximizing student success;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Chatham County Board of Commissioners joins with the Chatham County Board of Education in urging the General Assembly to restore local control of school calendars, which will allow local boards of education to best meet the calendar preferences of the families, educators, and businesses in our community while allowing for innovative experimental approaches to improve student achievement.

Adopted by the Chatham County Board of Commissioner on the 18th Day of February of 2019.

Mike Dasher, Chairman
Chatham County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Lindsay K. Ray, NCCCC, Clerk to the Board
Chatham County Board of Commissioners