



EDENTON-CHOWAN SCHOOLS

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Edenton-Chowan Board of Education Resolution Supporting Local Control of School Calendars

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 administration powers with which local boards of education have been vested; and

WHEREAS, state law has limited local control by imposing a one-size-fits-all mandate on how school calendars are to be set; and

WHEREAS, by limiting local control, the current calendar law has led to the calendar for high schools, community colleges and universities being out of alignment by approximately two weeks, causing scheduling problems for students with college courses now beginning before high school students complete January final exams; and

WHEREAS, by limiting local control, the current calendar law has created a situation where the fall semester cannot be completed before the winter break, forcing exams to be administered after the break; and

WHEREAS, by limiting local control, the current calendar law has led to a decrease in the amount of instructional time students have prior to taking Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate tests; and

WHEREAS, the state calendar law strictly limits the number of days that can be scheduled as inclement weather days, increasing the likelihood of unpopular days like the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, spring break, and Saturdays being used as make-up days; and

WHEREAS, it is well-documented through multiple studies that children experience learning loss during the summer months when they are away from the classroom and not engaging in educational activities, a phenomenon which has a disproportionate impact on low-income children; and

WHEREAS, long summer breaks can also negatively impact child nutrition, as low-income children who have access to regular meals at school through the free and reduced priced meal program may not have access to regular meals at home; and

WHEREAS, restoring local control of school calendars will allow local boards of education to meet the unique educational needs and school calendar preferences of the children and families within their communities while allowing for innovative experimental approaches to dealing with summer learning loss.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Edenton-Chowan Board of Education requests that local control over school calendars be returned to local boards of education.

Adopted this 5th day of December 2017

Chairman

Secretary