

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2017

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SENATE BILL 321

Short Title: School Calendar Flexibility/PED Report. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Foushee, Robinson, Smith-Ingram (Primary Sponsors); Bryant, Lowe, and Waddell.

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate

March 22, 2017

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FLEXIBILITY TO SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL
3 DISTRICTS IDENTIFIED AS LOW-PERFORMING, AS RECOMMENDED BY A
4 PROGRAM EVALUATION DIVISION REPORT.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 115C-84.2 is amended by adding two new subsections to read:

7 "(d1) Modified Calendar for Low-Performing Entities. – Notwithstanding subsection (d)
8 of this section, local boards of education shall determine the dates of opening and closing the
9 public schools under subdivision (a)(1) of this section, as follows:

10 (1) If any school in the local school administrative unit was identified as
11 low-performing by the State Board of Education in the previous school year,
12 for that school. The local board shall thereafter determine the dates of
13 opening and closing for that school, regardless of whether the school is
14 identified as low-performing in subsequent school years, if that school
15 receives a school performance grade of D or F. If in three subsequent,
16 consecutive school years that school is not identified as low-performing and
17 receives a school performance grade of C or higher, the local board shall
18 determine the dates of opening and closing for that school in the following
19 year pursuant to subsection (d) of this section only.

20 (2) If the local school administrative unit was identified as low-performing by
21 the State Board of Education in the previous school year, for all public
22 schools in that administrative unit. If in three subsequent, consecutive school
23 years that local school administrative unit is not identified as
24 low-performing, the local board shall determine the dates of opening and
25 closing the public schools in the following year, subject to subdivision (1) of
26 this subsection, pursuant to subsection (d) of this section.

27 (d2) Study Modified Calendar. – The Department of Public Instruction shall study
28 whether the modified calendar has an effect on student performance. As a part of its study, the
29 Department shall consider all of the following:

30 (1) The information submitted by the school improvement team pursuant to
31 G.S. 115C-105.27(b1).

32 (2) The information used to calculate school performance pursuant to Part 1B of
33 Article 8 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes.

34 Using this information, the Department shall compare low-performing schools following
35 the traditional calendar under G.S. 115C-84.2(d) to low-performing schools following the



1 modified calendar under G.S. 115C-84.2(d1). The Department shall report the results of its
2 study to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee by March 15, 2019, and by
3 March 15 of each year thereafter."

4 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 115C-105.27 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

5 "(b1) Modified Calendar. – If a local board of education adopts a modified calendar
6 pursuant to G.S. 115C-84.2(d1), the school improvement team for each school operating under
7 a modified calendar shall include the following information in its school improvement plan:

8 (1) An outline of the goals to be achieved by operating under a modified school
9 calendar.

10 (2) An explanation of how operating under a modified school calendar will
11 facilitate accomplishing its goals and increase student achievement.

12 (3) A description of the modified school calendar, including the start date, end
13 date, and scheduled breaks throughout the year.

14 (4) A proposal for targeted learning interventions for students during scheduled
15 breaks or an explanation of why targeted learning interventions are not
16 offered.

17 (5) A description of how the school will measure student and parent satisfaction
18 with the modified calendar to determine how it is affecting families."

19 **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies beginning with
20 the 2017-2018 school year.