

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2019

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HOUSE BILL 207

Short Title: School Calendar Flex/Weather/Certain Counties. (Local)

Sponsors: Representatives Dobson and Russell (Primary Sponsors).

For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.

Referred to: Education - K-12, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

February 28, 2019

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO PROVIDE SCHOOL CALENDAR FLEXIBILITY TO CERTAIN COUNTIES
3 FOR EXTRAORDINARY CONDITIONS.

4 Whereas, the mountain counties of Ashe, Avery, Mitchell, and Watauga face severe
5 weather conditions each year that are distinct from the weather conditions elsewhere in the State;
6 and

7 Whereas, these severe weather conditions in mountain counties necessitate more
8 school closure days than in other counties; and

9 Whereas, the Boards of Education and County Commissioners of Ashe and Watauga
10 counties have adopted resolutions in support of a more flexible school calendar, and other
11 affected systems support it; Now, therefore,
12 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

13 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 115C-84.2(d) reads as rewritten:

14 "(d) Opening and Closing Dates. – Local boards of education shall determine the dates of
15 opening and closing the public schools under subdivision (a)(1) of this section. Except for
16 year-round ~~schools, schools, and as otherwise specified in this section,~~ the opening date for
17 students shall be no earlier than the Monday closest to August 26, and the closing date for
18 students shall be no later than the Friday closest to June 11. On a showing of good cause, the
19 State Board of Education may waive the requirement that the opening date for students be no
20 earlier than the Monday closest to August 26 and may allow the local board of education to set
21 an earlier opening date no earlier than the Monday closest to August 19, as provided in this
22 subsection, to the extent that school calendars are able to provide sufficient days to accommodate
23 anticipated makeup days due to school closings. A local board may revise the scheduled closing
24 date if necessary in order to comply with the minimum requirements for instructional days or
25 instructional time. For purposes of this subsection, the term "good cause" means that schools in
26 any local school administrative unit in a county have been closed at least eight days per year
27 during any four of the last 10 years because of severe weather conditions, energy shortages,
28 power failures, or other emergency situations. On a showing of good cause, the State Board may
29 allow an earlier opening date as follows:

30 (1) If schools have been closed eight days per year during any four of the last 10
31 years, the opening date shall be no earlier than the Monday closest to August
32 19.

33 (2) If schools have been closed 13 days per year during any four of the last 10
34 years, the opening date shall be no earlier than the Monday closest to August
35 12.



1 (3) If schools have been closed 17 days per year during any four of the last 10
2 years, the opening date shall be no earlier than the Monday closest to August
3 7.

4 The required opening and closing dates under this subsection shall not apply to any school
5 that a local board designated as having a modified calendar for the 2003-2004 school year or to
6 any school that was part of a planned program in the 2003-2004 school year for a system of
7 modified calendar schools, so long as the school operates under a modified calendar."

8 **SECTION 2.** This act applies only to Ashe County Schools, Avery County Schools,
9 Mitchell County Schools, and Watauga County Schools.

10 **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies beginning with
11 the 2019-2020 school year.