

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2019**

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**SENATE BILL 91\***

Short Title: Permit Lincoln Co Schools & Com College Align. (Local)

Sponsors: Senator T. Alexander (Primary Sponsor).

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate

February 20, 2019

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT TO PERMIT THE LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION TO ALIGN ITS  
SCHOOL CALENDAR WITH THAT OF GASTON COLLEGE.

Whereas, alignment of the local school administrative unit and community college calendars benefits high school students by enhancing their ability to do the following:

- (1) Participate in the Career and College Promise Program to earn free college credit through dual enrollment.
- (2) Satisfy Career and Technical Education pathway requirements through dual enrollment.
- (3) Enhance job training skills necessary to become more effective and efficient workers.
- (4) Receive opportunities for on-the-job training and experience through internships.
- (5) Receive job-specific paid training and education, leading to permanent job placement through apprenticeships.
- (6) Complete high school in less than four years to begin full-time college coursework or join the workforce early.
- (7) Achieve higher test scores by completing fall semester exams prior to winter break.
- (8) Gain additional instructional time for Advanced Placement exam preparation; and

Whereas, alignment of the local school administrative unit and community college calendars better provides high school teachers instructional continuity by allowing fall semester exams prior to winter break and allows high school teachers to collaborate with community college educators to better prepare high school students for postsecondary education; and

Whereas, alignment of the local school administrative unit and community college calendars allows high school teachers and college instructors to work together to promote student success in transitioning from high school to college; Now, therefore,

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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

"(d) Opening and Closing Dates. – Local boards of education shall determine the dates of opening and closing the public schools under subdivision (a)(1) of this section. Except for year-round schools, the opening date for students shall be no earlier than the Monday closest to August 26, and the closing date for students shall be no later than the Friday closest to June 11. On a showing of good cause, the State Board of Education may waive the requirement that the opening date for students be no earlier than the Monday closest to August 26 and may allow the



1 local board of education to set an opening date no earlier than the Monday closest to August 19,  
2 to the extent that school calendars are able to provide sufficient days to accommodate anticipated  
3 makeup days due to school closings. A local board may revise the scheduled closing date if  
4 necessary in order to comply with the minimum requirements for instructional days or  
5 instructional time. For purposes of this subsection, the term "good cause" means that schools in  
6 any local school administrative unit in a county have been closed eight days per year during any  
7 four of the last 10 years because of severe weather conditions, energy shortages, power failures,  
8 or other emergency situations.

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

13 Notwithstanding the required opening and closing dates under this subsection, a local board  
14 of education may align the calendar of schools in the local school administrative unit with the  
15 calendar of a community college serving the city or county in which the unit is located."

16 **SECTION 2.** This act applies only to Lincoln County Schools.

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