

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2021

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HOUSE BILL 111

Short Title: School Calendar Flexibility/WSFCS. (Local)

Sponsors: Representatives Zenger, Lambeth, A. Baker, and Terry (Primary Sponsors).
For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.

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

February 19, 2021

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FLEXIBILITY TO WINSTON-SALEM/FORSYTH
3 COUNTY SCHOOLS IN ADOPTING THE SCHOOL CALENDAR.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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

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

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

24 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 115C-174.12(a)(4) reads as rewritten:

25 "(4) All annual assessments of student achievement adopted by the State Board of
26 Education pursuant to G.S. 115C-174.11(c)(1) and (3) and all final exams for
27 courses shall be administered within the final 10 instructional days of the
28 school year for year-long courses and within the final five instructional days
29 of the semester for semester courses. Exceptions shall be permitted to
30 accommodate a student's individualized education program and section 504
31 (29 U.S.C. § 794) plans and for the administration of final exams for courses
32 with national or international curricula required to be held at designated times.
33 A local board of education that has implemented a school calendar that



1 concludes the fall semester prior to December 31 shall be permitted to
2 administer assessments prior to the conclusion of that semester."

3 **SECTION 3.** This act applies only to Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools.

4 **SECTION 4.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies beginning with
5 the 2021-2022 school year.