

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2019**

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HOUSE BILL 78

Short Title: Academic Alignment/Certain School Systems. (Local)

Sponsors: Representatives Horn, Rogers, Fraley, and Arp (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 14, 2019

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO ALLOW CERTAIN LOCAL BOARDS OF EDUCATION TO ALIGN THEIR
3 SCHOOL CALENDARS WITH LOCAL COMMUNITY COLLEGES.

4 Whereas, the State-mandated, late-August start date creates barriers to dual
5 enrollment by putting high schools out of alignment with community colleges, which typically
6 begin the first semester earlier in August and begin the second semester two or three weeks before
7 high school students complete the fall semester; and

8 Whereas, academic alignment would benefit all students in local school
9 administrative units who are enrolled in classes through a local community college by allowing
10 them to align their fall and spring semesters with the fall and spring semesters of the local
11 community colleges; and

12 Whereas, academic alignment would allow local school administrative units to work
13 with local community colleges to meet workforce development needs more effectively by
14 helping high school and college students develop the skills necessary for business and industry;
15 Now, therefore,

16 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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

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

32 Notwithstanding the required opening date under this subsection, a local board of education
33 may schedule the school opening date for any school in the local school administrative unit to no
34 earlier than the opening date of a community college serving the county in which the school unit
35 is located, in whole or in part.



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

5 **SECTION 2.** This act applies only to Cleveland County Schools, Iredell-Statesville
6 Schools, Rutherford County Schools, and Union County Public Schools.

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