

GMID a Success at Charlotte Speedway



Sen. Todd Johnson (R-Union/Cabarrus) was the first featured speaker at [Global Meetings Industry Day](#) on Thursday at the Charlotte Motor Speedway.

Sen. Johnson was joined on stage by NCTIA lobbyist Brian Lewis and they provided attendees with conversation on the effect public policy has on tourism, including business travel, conferences, and conventions.

“Senator Johnson chairs the Senate Commerce Committee and just about any legislation promoting travel and tourism goes through his committee,” said NCTIA Executive Director Vince Chelena. “We enjoyed his insight on such topics as transportation, infrastructure, workforce, and tax policy.”

Other GMID sessions included: *Airlines and the Economic Impact of Group Travel*; *AI Revolution: Elevating Events with Smart Strategies for Planners and Suppliers*; and a *Planner and Supplier Panel*.

Media Covers Carteret Schools Calendar Lawsuit

The following article was excerpted by a [News & Observer article](#) written by Keung Hui and published on April 11. [Click to read the entire article.](#)

Three longtime business owners – Atlantic Beach Surf Shop, Marsh’s Surf Shop and Sanitary Fish Market & Restaurant – are trying to block a popular North Carolina tourism area from shortening the summer season by starting school in mid August. Atlantic Beach Surf Shop and Marsh’s Surf Shop are owned by parents of students in the school system.

The lawsuit, filed earlier this month in state court, accuses the Carteret County school system of violating North Carolina’s school calendar law by starting classes next school year on Aug. 13.

“These businesses rely on the School Calendar Law in planning, staffing and running their businesses,” according to the lawsuit filed April 5 in Carteret County Superior Court. “The loss of revenue that would occur to the Businesses from a shortening of the summer season would be significant.”

“We deeply regret that three businesses and some of their family members have challenged our 2024-25 calendar in court,” according to a statement from Carteret County Superintendent Richard Paylor. “We do know our calendar has significant support among businesses and families in our community.”

State lawmakers have regulated school calendars for 20 years, since the tourism industry raised concerns about classes starting earlier in August. The state’s traditional public schools can’t open sooner than the Monday closest to Aug. 26 or close later than the Friday closest to June 11.

The calendar law doesn’t apply to other public schools, such as year-round schools, early college high schools and charter schools. Efforts to modify the law have failed, resulting in at least 16 school districts choosing to not follow the calendar law.

In December, the Carteret County school board unanimously approved a 2024-25 school year calendar that would run from Aug. 13 to May 22.

The district says the schedule will make it easier for high school students to take classes at community colleges because both calendars will be aligned. The district also says it will improve academic achievement by allowing high school students to take fall semester exams before winter break.

Other news coverage of the lawsuit against Carteret County Schools’ illegal decision to defy the state calendar law, includes [WITN](#), [Carolina Coast Online](#), and [Queen City News](#).