

NC State Fair Tickets on Sale



The North Carolina State Fair is approaching quickly and it is a great time to start planning your trip and save some money.

Advance sales for tickets, wristbands for rides and ride tickets began August 15.

Advance sales will run through Oct. 12 and are \$10 for adults and \$5 for youth ages 6-12. Unlimited ride wristbands are \$30 each and can be purchased online.

"Advance sale tickets are the best prices you will see all year for the State Fair," said Kent Yelverton, State Fair manager. "Prices increase once the Fair begins, so buy your tickets now especially if you're bringing a big group."

For more information on the 2023 NC State Fair, visit <https://www.ncstatefair.org/2023/index.htm>

NCTIA's Back to School Edition

With most school systems starting school the last week in August, NCTIA has spent time talking to reporters (and legislators) about the importance of the 2004 summer calendar law and the positive effect it's had on tourism, particularly in coastal and mountain destinations.

However, there are a handful of school systems that have brazenly made the decision to break this state law, which is not only a threat to the vibrancy of the North Carolina tourism industry, but is also a poor example to the students these school systems educate and prepare to be future upstanding citizens.

In this edition of the NCTIA e-newsletter, we are providing two newspaper clippings from the Charlotte Observer and Raleigh News & Observer featuring NCTIA's media work on this issue.

Overview of Summer Calendar Law

Senate leader Phil Berger, an Eden Republican, told the Observer "at this point, the Senate position is that the calendar law is the calendar law. And the Senate is not interested in doing one-offs, which is, in many respects, what we've seen from the House. So I don't know that there's anything that is going to change as far as that's concerned." Berger also says, "It's workable for the school systems."

"Districts are saying yes, we know it's against the law, but lawmakers didn't include penalties in the law," said Vince Chelena, of the North Carolina Travel Industry Association. "So districts are saying, 'What's to keep us from breaking the law?' It's a horrible message."

Read more at: <https://www.newsobserver.com/news/local/education/article277586023.html#storylink=cpy>

Why Charters, Private Schools Are Exempt

Brian Lewis is a veteran lobbyist at the North Carolina General Assembly for the North Carolina Travel Industry Association and the calendar law. He says there's a reason for that. "At the time when the calendar law was passed, there weren't a lot of charter schools," said Lewis, who hosts the podcast Do Politics Better. "It's not like what we have today. They were just not part of the discussion."

Read more at: <https://www.newsobserver.com/news/local/education/article277803893.html#storylink=cpy>