

17 School Districts to Break Calendar Law

The story below was excerpted from a WRAL article published on August 2. [Click to read the entire article.](#)

North Carolina law states most traditional public schools can't start the school year until the last week of August.

This year, the official date is Aug. 28. Most school districts are waiting until then, but an increasing number throughout the state are disregarding the law to start earlier.

The school calendar law dates back to 2004, when a group called Save our Summers teamed up with the state's tourism industry to ask lawmakers to ban school officials from starting the school year any earlier than the last week of August. They said earlier start dates were cutting into family vacation time and hurting vacation rentals on the coast.

(This year) Randolph, Rowan and Stanly counties will start Aug. 9; Clay and Surry counties start Aug. 10; Avery, Henderson, Iredell, Lee, Polk and Rutherford counties start on Aug. 14; and Cleveland, Gaston, Jackson, Lincoln and Yadkin counties start on Aug. 16.

[Click to read the entire WRAL article.](#)

Budget Talks Resume, Progress Made

As the NCTIA e-newsletter dropped last Friday, two important Tweets were released from the offices of [Senate President Pro Tem Phil Berger \(R-Rockingham/Guilford\)](#) and [Speaker Tim Moore \(R-Cleveland/Rutherford\)](#) at exactly 4:15PM.

Sen. Berger's Tweet

read: "Legislative leaders have made significant progress on the state budget this week.

[@NCHouseSpeaker](#) and I have agreed to a tax package

and resolved other key differences. We will begin the process of negotiating other aspects of the budget in the coming days. #ncga #ncpol"



Speaker Moore's Tweet read: "Significant progress has been made on the budget this week. We're looking forward to passing a full budget for North Carolina in mid-August. #ncpol #ncga"

NCTIA lobbyists immediately started communicating with General Assembly leaders and staff and were told that a final budget is likely to be on the Senate and House floors in late August or early September, which could wrap up session in late September.

The hold up on the budget has been primarily three contentious issues: two competing tax packages, investment in an economic development program called NC Innovation, and casinos.

"It appears budget writers found compromise on taxes and the economic development program, and they've put the casinos issues on hold for right now," said NCTIA lobbyist Brian Lewis. "It's not to say the expansion of casinos in North Carolina on non-reservations is dead this session, or that's its even dead in the budget. It's just not in the budget this week."

Speaker Moore told reporters in July that the General Assembly was considering casinos in Anson, Nash, Robeson, and Rockingham Counties.

"Casinos would be a game changer for tourism in these mostly rural counties and would have a ripple effect throughout local and regional economies," said NCTIA Executive Director Vince Chelena. "Hotels, restaurants, and local attractions would benefit greatly and we encourage legislators to continue talks on this job creating endeavor for North Carolina workers and small businesses."