



A weekly newsletter on North Carolina General Assembly news relevant to the North Carolina tourism industry

NC Military Memorial Day Destinations



As the country pauses on Monday to honor soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to the United States, this e-newsletter is listing memorial sites in North Carolina:

New Bern National Cemetery,
1711 National Ave., New Bern

Lejeune Memorial Gardens, 109
Montford Landing Road,
Jacksonville

NC Vietnam Veterans Memorial
Park, I-85 near mile marker 100,
Thomasville

Wayne County Veterans
Memorial, 224 E. Walnut St.,
Goldsboro

Garner Veterans Memorial, 921
Buffaloe Road, Garner

Veterans Freedom Park, 1517 N.
Harrison Ave., Cary

Western Carolina State Veterans
Cemetery, 962 Old US Hwy 70,
Black Mountain

Beirut Memorial, 911 Lejeune
Blvd., Jacksonville

[Click for more destinations.](#)

NC School Board Defies State Law

The following article was excerpted from a Wilmington Star News article published on May 24. [Click to read the entire article.](#)

In early March, the Rutherford County Board of Education knowingly voted to do something unlawful. Citing “the need to make the best decision for student success,” board members of the 7,300-student rural district east of Asheville approved a 2022-2023 calendar that they acknowledged, “was outside school calendar law constraints.” What made this calendar illegal? It’s how early the Western North Carolina district wanted to return students from summer break.

Under state law, districts may not begin lessons before the Monday nearest August 26th and end lessons after the Friday nearest June 11th. The law was passed with the backing of the tourism industry which lobbied to preserve core summer weeks for family travel and teenage employment.

“When school is out. When school goes back. Every decision I make for the hotel is based upon those calendars,” said Tom Ullring, general manager of the Courtyard by Marriot in Carolina Beach, who supports the calendar law.

Most districts try legal ways to get students back into classrooms sooner. Many years, members of the North Carolina General Assembly will propose scores of local calendar flexibility bills at the behest of school districts. In 2021 alone, 17 calendar flexibility bills were filed in the General Assembly, including for Alamance-Burlington, Lexington City, Durham, and Wake. But none passed. With districts stymied in the General Assembly, more North Carolina school districts have pushed the envelope, legally speaking, to get students back earlier.

The calendar law exempts year-round schools, and in 2019, a handful of North Carolina districts argued all their schools were “year-round” operations because they offered optional summer school programs. Then last year, the Mooresville Graded School District, located 30 miles north of Charlotte, returned students on August 2, sparking a critical response from the state. Allison Schafer, General Counsel for the State Board of Education, sent an email to the MGSD attorney urging compliance, saying “we are a nation built on the rule of law.”

“It is of serious concern to the State Board of Education and almost certainly of concern to members of the General Assembly when one of our school districts defies the law, as we believe your school district has done in this case,” Schafer wrote.

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