



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

## More Districts Breaking Law

Stanly County Schools adopted an illegal calendar on October 4 that requires students to start school on August 9, 2023 and teachers to report to work on August 2.

Stanley County is the latest in a string of announcements from North Carolina school districts (Cabarrus, Gaston, Iredell and Rutherford) that are disregarding the state's school calendar law.

The Henderson County Board of Education is likely to break the law as well after they voted 6-1 this week to direct their superintendent to oversee the creation of a 2023-2024 calendar with a start date of August 14.

The Moore County School Board made a similar move Tuesday when they unanimously approved a motion to illegally change the school calendar in 2023.

NCTIA Executive Director Vince Chelena said he anticipates more school districts to join the outlaw districts, including Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools.

"We are hearing from angry parents and teachers, discussing their legal options, and we are optimistic their voices will be heard by legislators and our legal system," said Chelena.

## Cabarrus Parents Oppose Illegal Calendar

*The following article (with video) was published by WSOC-TV on October 9.*

Parents are responding to a major calendar change for one of the biggest school districts in the Channel 9 coverage area.



Students in Cabarrus County will be returning earlier next fall, which means a shorter summer break for both them and teachers. They are not thrilled about sending their kids back to school sooner.

The parents are also concerned that students will not have enough time to unplug during their new summer break.

Last month, the school board unanimously voted to start classes in early August of next year, ending the 2023 summer break sooner. Monford said the new schedule will do her family a disservice with her two children attending schools in the district.

"It doesn't give them time to refresh and recharge honestly," Monford said. "It doesn't give the teachers a chance to refresh and recharge."

Starting in the 2023-2024 school year, classes will end on May 23. Students will return on Aug. 9 instead of Aug. 28. For the summer of 2023, the school year still ends on June 8, which leaves the district with a shorter summer break.

Parent Demond Alexander suggests a new start date starting on Aug. 9. "As a parent, I wish they should go after Labor Day, which makes more sense," Alexander said.

His daughter, Kendall Alexander, who attends Harold E. Winkler Middle School, said students need to take time to unplug and focus on their mental health during the summer break. "Some people's mental health might not be the best," she said.

Monford said the new summer break will cut into summer travel plans. "It will be a big adjustment. Summertime is really our time to travel," Monford said. "I don't think that luxury would be afforded to us. If we are having to go back so quickly."

While the vote is final, Monford hopes the district will reevaluate its decision.

*[Click to read the entire article \(with video\) published by WSOC-TV on October 9.](#)*