



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

More Cities Adopt Social Districts

The article below was excerpted from a News & Observer article published on October 24. [Click to read the entire article.](#)

Two Wake County towns are the newest to consider creating social districts in their downtown areas for the public consumption of alcohol.

Fuquay-Varina and Wake Forest announced the proposed districts Friday. They would let people buy alcohol to go in participating businesses and drink it while walking through the designated zone.

State law otherwise forbids drinking on public sidewalks and streets.

On October 17, the Durham City Council voted unanimously for an open-container-friendly downtown district starting in December. Downtown Durham Inc., an economic nonprofit for the city, has been working since March to get the ordinance passed.

The vote came two months after the Raleigh City Council officially launched its social district in August with more than 70 participating businesses downtown. Greensboro, Kannapolis and Monroe have also launched districts.

Charlotte-Meck Schools to Follow Law in 2023

[The following article was published by WFAE 90.7 on October 24. Click to read \(and listen\) to the entire story.](#)

Leaders of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools are backing down from talk of defying the state's controversial school calendar law this year.

The district is currently [polling the community](#) on two options for the 2023-24 school calendar. Both of them bring students back on Aug. 28, as required by the state's school calendar law.

Normally that would be no surprise. But when schools opened this year, Interim Superintendent Hugh Hattabaugh told reporters the school board had instructed him to look at following the Central Piedmont Community College calendar, which starts Aug. 14, for the coming year.

Hattabaugh noted that the decision would fall to the board. Chair Elyse Dashew, who was in the audience at the news conference, didn't contradict him. She had recently tweeted her support for the Gaston County school board's decision approving an Aug. 17 start date that defied the state law.

Charles Jeter, director of policy and government affairs for the CMS board, now says any move to synchronize with the Central Piedmont calendar would likely come no earlier than 2024.

Gaston, Cleveland and Rutherford counties opened early this year, despite a state calendar law driven largely by the tourism industry that requires a late-August opening for most districts. In September the Cabarrus County school board voted to join them in August 2023.

The current law does not specify penalties for disregarding the mandate, and many legislators of both parties have called for giving districts flexibility.

(NCTIA lobbyists are in talks with legislators interested in putting legal accountability in the 2004 summer calendar law.)

[Click to read \(and listen\) the entire WFAE 90.7 article published on October 24.](#)

NC Tourism Leadership Conference Registration

[Register today](#) for the NCTIA NC Tourism Leadership Conference on November 16-17 at the Charlotte Convention Center.

A room block is being held at the Westin Charlotte with a room rate of \$229 a night if booked before November 2, 2022. You can book your room [using this link.](#)