

# Calendar Flexibility- What Does It Really Mean?

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF CURRITUCK COUNTY SCHOOLS



You may have heard a lot of buzz lately about school districts across the state requesting calendar flexibility from the legislature. What exactly does calendar flexibility mean for a school district?

Under current state law, schools can start no earlier than the Monday closest to Aug. 26 and end no later than the Friday closest to June 11. The school calendar must have:

- a minimum of 185 days OR 1,025 hours of instruction.
- at least nine (9) teacher workdays.
- a minimum of ten (10) annual vacation leave days.
- the same or an equivalent number of legal holidays occurring within the school calendar as those designated by the State Personnel Commission for State employees.

With the new proposed calendar flexibility, school districts across the state would be able to adjust the start and end dates to the academic calendar to resemble the academic calendars of institutes of higher education. This could look like a start date in early August and an end date before Memorial Day in May.

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So let's take a look at some of the Pros and Cons of changing the start and end dates to the academic calendar:

## PROS

- Alignment to Community College Calendar for Dual Enrolled students
- Semester 1 is completed before Christmas Break allowing for a natural transition between semesters
- Testing at the high schools is completed before the Holiday Break = no two week lapse in classes right before testing
- Students and Staff will be available to apply & start summer jobs earlier
- All Currituck Schools would have the same start and end dates

## CONS

- Makes for a short summer the first year of transition
- Staff and Student summer employment may be impacted
- A New Calendar = Change which can be uncomfortable for some

The Currituck County Board of Education did adopt a resolution in January 2019 in support of Calendar Flexibility for school districts across the state of North Carolina.