



**441 Page Street • P.O. Box 427**  
**Troy, North Carolina 27371-0427**  
**PHONE: (910) 576-6511 • FAX: (910) 576-2044**

---

## **RESOLUTION SUPPORTING LOCAL CONTROL OF SCHOOL CALENDARS**

WHEREAS, the North Carolina General Statutes give local boards of education powers of supervision and control of local school systems; and

WHEREAS, local control over establishing school calendars is an integral component of school system supervision and administrative powers with which local boards of education have been vested; and

WHEREAS, in 2004 the North Carolina General Assembly seized control of setting school calendars and imposed a one-size-fits-all mandate on how school calendars are to be set; and

WHEREAS, the current one-size-fits-all school calendar start date is no earlier than the Monday closest to August 26 and the end date is no later than the Friday closest to June 11; and

WHEREAS, the State mandated late August start date means high schools do not complete the first semester until mid to late January; and

WHEREAS, the current law essentially requires high school students to take first semester exams after the winter break, which negatively impacts test scores, according to students and educators; and

WHEREAS, the second semester for high schools starts two to three weeks later than community colleges and universities; and

WHEREAS, it is well-documented through multiple studies that children will experience a phenomenon known as summer learning loss, which has a disproportionate impact on low-income children; and

WHEREAS, long summer breaks can also negatively impact child nutrition, as low-income children who have access to regular meals at school through the free and reduced priced meal program may not have access to regular meals at home; and

WHEREAS, with little flexibility built in to the calendar, scheduling make-up days is extremely challenging; and

WHEREAS, major hurricanes and severe winter snow storms have caused Montgomery County Schools to miss five school days in 2018-2019 to date; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County Schools had to waive one of these days to make the calendar fit (and have resorted to waiving additional days in calendars past) and missed valuable instruction time; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County Schools have had to hold school sessions on Saturday (two such days in this calendar year and two others in previous years) in order to meet instructional requirements; and

WHEREAS, the aligned academic programs between Montgomery County Schools and Montgomery Community College often lead to the College's schedule requiring adjustment due to weather events, and thus impacting their ability to operate effectively (what we affectionately refer to as "hijacking the college's calendar") in the absence of high school students in college classes; and

WHEREAS, local boards of education are best equipped to understand the balancing act of meeting the community's needs and maximizing student success; and

WHEREAS, restoring local control of school calendars will allow local boards of education to best meet the calendar preferences of the families, educators, and businesses in our community while allowing for innovative experimental approaches to improve student achievement; and

WHEREAS, the County of Montgomery has invested an amount projected to be in excess of **70 MILLION DOLLARS** for the improvement of educational facilities and programs; and

WHEREAS, this investment can only be maximized with a calendar that truly aligns between the Montgomery County Schools and Montgomery Community College.

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Montgomery County Board of Education requests that the General Assembly return calendar control to local educational agencies, and that the Board of County Commissioners and Board of Trustees of Montgomery Community College adopt a similar resolution in support of calendar flexibility, to also be shared with the General Assembly.

Adopted by the Montgomery County Board of Education this 7<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2019.

---

Steve DeBerry, Chairman – MCS Board of Education

---

Dale Ellis, Ed. D, Secretary