

**Resolution Supporting Local Control of School Calendars
2017**

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, administration, and operation with which local boards of education have been vested; and

WHEREAS, state law has arrogated local control by imposing a one-size-fits-all decree on how school calendars are to be set; and

WHEREAS, by arrogating local control, the current calendar law has led to the calendar for high schools, community colleges and universities being out of alignment by approximately two weeks, causing scheduling problems as college courses now begin before high school students complete January final exams; and

WHEREAS, the current school calendar law has created a situation where fall semester cannot be completed before the winter break, forcing exams to be administered after the break, and meaning that students get no break without assessments/assignments pending; and

WHEREAS, our great nation, the United States of America, prudently looks to our great traditional public schools as the foundation for economic success and maintaining a competitive lead over other nations of the world; and

WHEREAS, the competitive edge that makes America unique among other nations includes the support for our traditional public schools' efforts in designing a calendar that best prepares our students to be the next generation of leaders for our nation; and

WHEREAS, it is well documented through multiple studies that children experience learning loss during the summer months when they are away from the classroom and not engaging in educational activities, a phenomenon known as summer learning loss and which has a disproportionate impact on low-income children; and

WHEREAS, long 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, the schedule for fall athletics has not changed to coincide with the state-mandated school calendar, meaning that most schools have played two football games before school even begins; and

WHEREAS, restoring local control of school calendars will allow local boards of education to best meet the unique educational needs and school calendar preferences of the children and families within their communities while allowing for innovative experimental approaches to dealing with summer learning loss;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Transylvania County Board of Education supports the efforts in the North Carolina House of Representatives for local school calendar control and requests that local control over school calendars be returned to the local boards of education.

ADOPTED this the 20th day of February 2017.

Chairman

Secretary