



HOUSE BILL 396: Address Pandemic Learning Loss/Select Systems.

2021-2022 General Assembly

Committee:	House Education - K-12. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	April 13, 2021
Introduced by:	Rep. K. Baker	Prepared by:	Drupti Chauhan
Analysis of:	PCS to First Edition H396-CSRQ-11		Committee Counsel

OVERVIEW: House Bill 396 would Kannapolis City Schools and Cabarrus County Schools to open no earlier than August 10. The Proposed Committee Substitute (PCS) for HB 396 would clarify the ability of local boards of education to administer assessments and final exams before the conclusion of fall semesters ending prior to December 31.

CURRENT LAW: G.S. 115C-84.2 provides that, with certain exceptions, the opening date for students in a school calendar must be no earlier than the Monday closest to August 26, and the closing date for students must be no later than the Friday closest to June 11.

All annual assessments of student achievement adopted by the State Board of Education and all final exams for courses must be administered within the final 10 instructional days of the school year for year-long courses and within the final five instructional days of the semester for semester courses (G.S. 115-174(a)(4)). Exceptions consist of accommodating a student's individualized education program and section 504 (29 U.S.C. § 794) plans and administering final exams for courses with national or international curricula that must be held at designated times.

BILL ANALYSIS: The PCS for HB 396 would allow Kannapolis City Schools and Cabarrus County Schools to open no earlier August 10 each year. The PCS would remove the authority of the State Board of Education to waive the general opening date requirement for good cause since the school system could open as early as August 10. The PCS also clarifies the ability of the school systems to administer assessments and final exams before the conclusion of fall semesters ending prior to December 31.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act would be effective when it becomes law and apply beginning with the 2021-2022 school year.

Jeffrey Hudson
Director



H 3 9 6 - S M R Q - 4 2 C S R Q - 1 1 - V - 3

Legislative Analysis
Division
919-733-2578