



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

2021-2022 General Assembly

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<b>Committee:</b>	House Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	<b>Date:</b>	April 28, 2021
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Rep. K. Baker	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Drupti Chauhan
<b>Analysis of:</b>	Second Edition		Committee Counsel

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**OVERVIEW:** *House Bill 396 would Kannapolis City Schools and Cabarrus County Schools to open no earlier than August 10.*

**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:** HB 396 would allow Kannapolis City Schools and Cabarrus County Schools to open no earlier August 10 each year. The bill 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 bill 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.

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