



MEDIA STATEMENT

For Immediate Release: April 24, 2026

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education and Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS) issue the following statement:

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education called an emergency meeting on Friday, April 24, to discuss modifications to the traditional school calendar for Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools.

The Board of Education unanimously approved Friday, May 1, as a teacher workday. Based on the number of staff absences already reported, the district determined that it would not be able to safely and effectively support classroom operations across the system that day. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools remains in alignment with state-required instructional hours, as additional time had already been built into the academic calendar. Even with this adjustment, CMS will remain above the state's required instructional time.

We are aware that many educators across North Carolina plan to participate in a statewide day of advocacy in Raleigh focused on public education. As a result, we anticipate a high number of staff absences across the district, along with a limited number of substitute teachers to provide coverage.

To ensure we can prioritize student safety and maintain appropriate supervision in our schools, we are proactively adjusting the schedule.

This day of advocacy also comes at a critical time.

- North Carolina ranks 50th in the nation for per-pupil spending and 42nd in starting base teacher pay. Because of these rankings, the Board of Education has advocated for higher teacher pay and basic funds for our students on [its legislative advocacy agenda](#).
- North Carolina is the only state that has not passed a budget – leaving teachers underpaid and classrooms underresourced.

- The North Carolina Supreme Court recently issued its decision in the landmark case, *Leandro v. State of North Carolina*, stating that, legally, North Carolina does not have to fund a basic education. It is up to the legislature.
- The legislature has not passed a raise for teachers – the number one factor in student success – since 2023-24.

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education and Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools know that teachers want to live in the communities they serve and to continue doing what they love: teaching children. We want the same for the sake of our staff and our students.

We shared this information with families in advance so they have time to make any necessary arrangements.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools.

For more information, please email media@cms.k12.nc.us.

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