



**Office of the Superintendent**

401 McIntire Road Charlottesville, Virginia 22902-4596

Phone: (434) 296-5826 Fax: (434) 296-5805

[www.k12albemarle.org](http://www.k12albemarle.org)

January 24, 2008

Delegate Watkins Abbitt, Jr.  
General Assembly Building  
P.O. Box 406  
Richmond, VA 23218

**Re: Support of HB 255, School Calendar; local school boards responsible for setting**

Dear Delegate Abbitt:

On behalf of the Albemarle County School Division, I write to support House Bill 255, which makes local school boards responsible for setting the school calendar and determining the opening of the school year eliminating the post-Labor Day requirement.

Eliminating the post-Labor Day requirement would be appropriate considering over half of the school divisions in the state, 71 school divisions, were granted a waiver to open prior to Labor Day this year. In previous years, the number of school closings in Albemarle County due to inclement weather has played a significant role in the decision to start school before Labor Day. Although we have not missed a significantly high number of days in the last 4 or 5 years, we participate in a number of shared regional education programs with surrounding school divisions that have missed a significant number of days.

Albemarle County works to develop a calendar that not only allows for adequate instructional time, but also allows adequate time for the professional development of teachers and administrators.

I ask that you join me in supporting House Bill 255. Please contact me if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

Dr. Pamela R. Moran  
Superintendent  
Albemarle County Public Schools

Brian A. Wheeler  
Chairman  
Albemarle County School Board

