

## The Fort Mill School District (FMSD) Fully Supports S.1014.

### *Here's why . . .*

- **CALENDAR SHIFT ISSUES**  
Our Gregorian calendar creates unusual swings from year-to-year, causing the third Monday in August to be as early as the 15<sup>th</sup> (i.e.: 2016-2017) and as late as the 21<sup>st</sup> (2017-2018). Having the ability to start the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of August provides stability between these reoccurring shifts.
- **FIRST SEMESTER EXAM FLEXIBILITY**  
Since S.1014 provides calendar shift balance, SC school districts will have greater flexibility in scheduling high school exams prior to the Christmas break, which is similar to a collegiate schedule. Parents strongly support and prefer this approach.
- **BLOCK SCHEDULING**  
High school level courses are taught on a block schedule, with teachers preferring uninterrupted instructional time. Exams prior to break supports their efforts.
- **DUAL CREDIT COURSE ALIGNMENT**  
Since many students take dual credit courses at college/tech schools, S.1014 will better assist in the alignment of those schedules.
- **180 INSTRUCTIONAL DAYS - BALANCE**  
Current legislation encourages uneven instructional semesters (i.e. 85/95 versus 90/90), which detracts from equitable student access to the curriculum.
- **SEMESTER TRANSITION**  
S.1014 further supports a clean break in semesters for our younger students and their teachers. New Year = New Beginning.
- **SUMMER VACATION FLEXIBILITY**  
Allows students to complete the school year prior to Memorial Day, which provides greater flexibility for family summer vacations.
- **EARLY GRADUATION**  
S.1014 provides additional flexibility for those students who choose to graduate early and start college at the beginning of the spring term.