

**McLean Citizens Association  
Resolution on Starting Date of School Year  
November 2, 2005**

WHEREAS, on February 2nd of this year the Board of Directors of the McLean Citizens Association passed a Resolution urging Virginia legislators to amend Code of Virginia 22.1-79.1 to grant local school boards the authority to determine start dates for the school year (please see attached Resolution below); and

WHEREAS, in the legislative session ended earlier this year the Virginia Legislators failed to amend the above mentioned 22.1-79.1;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Directors of the McLean Citizens Association that we again urge Virginia legislators to amend Code of Virginia 22.1-79.1 to grant local school boards the authority to determine start dates for the school year.

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WHEREAS, local governance of school districts is granted by the Commonwealth of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, local school boards, by their regular meetings and geographic situation are expedient methods for gathering community input, and are best positioned to make decisions on school calendars that meet the needs of their communities; and

WHEREAS, in Virginia, local school boards must set the school calendar so that the first day students are required to attend is after Labor Day, and the State Board of Education may waive this requirement only after showing good cause; and

WHEREAS, an earlier starting date, before Labor Day, could provide students with more instructional time before the Virginia SOL tests; and

WHEREAS, an earlier starting date, before Labor Day, would better align the school calendar with various U.S. wide standardized testing periods, such as, AP and IB exams;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Directors of the McLean Citizens Association that we urge Virginia legislators to amend Code of Virginia 22.1-79.1 to grant local school boards the authority to determine start dates for the school year.

Senate of Virginia -- Fairfax County Delegation

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