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February Newsletter

Senator Joyce Waddell [waddelljla@ncleg.net]

Sent: Monday, February 24, 2020 2:10 PM

To: Steve Johnston

Senator Joyce Waddell
 NC Senate
 1113 Legislative Building
 16 West Jones Street
 Raleigh, NC 27601-2808

*Serving District 40 and
 Mecklenburg County*



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- Joint Legislative Commission on Energy Policy
- Pensions and Retirement and Aging



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The Waddell Bulletin



Vol 5.Ed.4 No.1 February 2020

Dear Friends:

More than two decades after a landmark state Supreme Court ruling, NC moves a step closer to assuring every child access to a “sound, basic education.”

A North Carolina judge seemed to agree with an independent consultant’s report that says North Carolina needs to spend \$8 billion over the next eight years to meet its constitutional obligation to provide a “sound, basic education.”

That is one takeaway after Superior Court Judge David Lee signed a consent order Tuesday in which defendants and plaintiffs in the long-running Leandro case agreed to work “expeditiously and without delay” to create and implement a plan.

In 2004, the state Supreme Court held that the state’s efforts to provide a sound basic education to poor children were inadequate. The court did not prescribe specific solutions; that was left up to legislators and education leaders.

“The order gives the parties in the case 60 days to present a plan to address seven components in the WestEd report, including:

- *A system of teacher development and recruitment that ensures each classroom is staffed with a high-quality teacher who is supported with*

early and ongoing professional learning and provided competitive pay.

• A system of principal development and recruitment that ensures each school is led by a high-quality principal who is supported with early and ongoing professional learning and provided competitive pay.

• A finance system that provides adequate, equitable and predictable funding to school districts and, importantly, adequate resources to address the needs of all North Carolina schools and students, especially at-risk students as defined by the Leandro decisions.

• A system of early education that provides access to high-quality prekindergarten and other early childhood learning opportunities to ensure that all students at-risk of educational failure, regardless of where they live in the State, enter kindergarten on track for school success." Superior Court Judge David Lee writes.

The order comes ahead of this year's elections, where control at the General Assembly are at stake. The Majority legislative leaders have criticized the WestEd report while the minority lawmakers have used it to argue the state isn't doing enough on education.

Session News

The Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee reconvened on Tuesday, February 4, 2020 to discuss potential changes and improvements to the state's Educator Preparation Programs (EPPs), which are designed to prepare undergraduate and graduate students to become licensed teachers.

There are more than 50 such programs in North Carolina. Most are located on the campuses of private and state-funded colleges and universities. North Carolina depends on them to supply K-12 schools with highly qualified, well-prepared teachers, one key element of the WestEd report.

At Tuesday's meeting, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (DPI) officials provided the Oversight Committee with updates on the state's EPPs. They reported that a new "dashboard" is scheduled to come online in April that will include accountability measures for identifying effective and ineffective programs. The dashboard, which was previously housed at

UNC, will provide such information as how many students applied to EPPs, how many were admitted, passing rates on licensure exams and other such data points. The information will also be disaggregated by race/ethnicity and sex.

The committee also discussed Tuesday if the state's switch from "lateral entry" to a residency model to bring nontraditional teaching candidates into the profession. The residency model allows eligible candidates to begin teaching while completing North Carolina licensure requirements. To be eligible, a person must hold a bachelor's degree and have earned a 2.7 cumulative GPA among other requirements. The residency license must be renewed every year.

Under the lateral entry mode, eligible candidates had up to three years to complete an EPP. The state stopped granting lateral entry licenses in June of 2019. So far, there are 895 teachers working under residency licenses. The state still has 4,678 teachers with lateral entry licenses that were granted before June 2019.

"Caution must be exercised as we continue to review changes in license requirements and we must be certain that changes are in the best interest of keeping good teachers in the classroom" said Senator Joyce Waddell.

Senate Pages



The [Senate Page Applications](#) for the 2020 Session of the General Assembly are now available.

This program offers young men and women the opportunity to learn about and participate in the legislative process of our state. It is a week-long experience that allows high school students between the ages of 15 (or 14 if already in the 9th

grade) and 18, to observe firsthand how our laws are made. It provides them the unique privilege of working on the Senate Chamber floor in the midst of legislative action.

Senate Pages are important to the operation of the General Assembly as they assist the members and staff of the Senate during the legislative session. They participate in daily sessions, committee meetings, and perform other duties including, but not limited to, delivering messages and materials within the legislative complex, answering phones in senators' offices, and passing out documents or running errands in the Senate Chamber during daily sessions.

Please contact Senate office for applications.

Phone: 919.733.5650 email: waddelljla@ncleg.net

Page appointments are available beginning through June 24 2019.

Serving You



Senator Waddell at the Mecklenburg Medical Society annual banquet, great information was shared.



Senator Waddell greets First Lady Cooper at the Mecklenburg County Democratic Women's Monthly meeting.



Retired educators received legislative updates from Senator Waddell at their monthly meeting.



Senator Waddell was the guest speaker at the Palmetto High School Alumni Annual Scholarship Banquet.

***I cannot achieve anything without the support of my constituents.
Thank you very much for your continued support!***

Senator Joyce Waddell | 1113 Legislative Building, Raleigh, NC 27601

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