

## For Immediate Release



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**From the Office of Sen. Joyce Waddell, NC Senate**  
Mecklenburg County

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Greetings:

*A three-judge panel has decided to uphold the GOPs redistricting maps. The panel made its decision on Tuesday. I will continue to be on watch for any additional changes regarding redistricting and whether this fight will continue.*

*Joyce Waddell*

## Blood Shortage

The American Red Cross in the Greater Carolinas Region is experiencing nearly a 70% decrease in the number of donors signing up to give blood amid a national blood shortage the organization is facing. It has been reported that there is a shortage of blood donors exists in the Charlotte area and two other metropolitan cities. It appears that there is steady amount of blood drive hosts, but there are not enough people coming to donate blood.

The American Red Cross is facing its worst blood shortage in more

than a decade, the organization said in a statement. The news coincides with January being National Blood Donor Month. The dangerously low blood supply levels is posing a concerning risk to patient care and forcing doctors to make difficult decisions about who receives blood transfusions, and who will need to wait until more products become available.

I urge any of my constituents to consider donating blood. It is important for our already stretched-thin medical community. They are already struggling because of COVID, our hospitals do not need an additional issue to be concerned about.

## **Principal Training**

Leaders of a new accelerator program for assistant principals in North Carolina want to train 100 new principals each year for “high-needs schools.” The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction announced the AP Accelerator Program on Wednesday. The program will start with 20-25 assistant principals in the first year, providing them with training and mentoring while they continue to work. Those assistant principals must be on track to take over as principals at high-needs schools in the next year. The program is meant to provide more preparation for potential principals. Schools hire more principals each year than there are principal-trained people available to take the jobs, according to DPI.

The program is funded by a \$93,000 grant from the Belk Foundation, will consider applicants next month and begin in March. Preference will be given to “high performing” assistant principals nominated by their superintendent and in line to take over a high-needs school, according to DPI.

A high-needs school generally, according to DPI, is a school that has a “high” percentage of students coming from low-income families, has more teaching vacancies than three-quarters of other school districts, a “high” percentage of teachers teaching outside of their field or who lack certification, or is not consistently meeting growth expectations.

## **COVID-19 Tests**

With the huge surge of the Omicron variant comes an unprecedented demand for COVID-19 testing, leading to long lines at testing sites and a shortage of at-home tests. To help, North Carolina has contracted

with two more testing vendors in the hope of leading to easier access to testing. The state will now have 12 vendors to cover hundreds of testing sites across the state. Officials with the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services announced Tuesday they have started shipping hundreds of thousands of tests and more are on the way. With the surge, the NCDHHS has ordered an additional 700,000 professional and at-home rapid test kits, bringing the total on their way to the state to more than 1 million, health officials said. The priority is to schools, health departments, long-term care centers and free clinics. They have also delivered more than 250,000 swabs to these sites. State health leaders are encouraging sites like these to implement self-swabbing when possible.

*Our school system is having a hard time staffing our classrooms because of the number of teachers out because of COVID, if you are in between jobs and would like to assist CMS, please contact your local school or the CMS Board of Education to get information.*

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