

## For Immediate Release



**From** Sen. Joyce Waddell <joyce.waddell@ncleg.net>  
**To** <sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org>  
**Reply-To** <anita.bennett@ncleg.gov>  
**Date** 2022-02-16 08:20



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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Monday, February 14, 2022  
Volume 6

**CONTACT: Sen. Joyce Waddell**  
(919) 733-5650  
[Joyce.Waddell@ncleg.net](mailto:Joyce.Waddell@ncleg.net)  
<https://joycewaddell4nc.com/>



## Greetings:

*We are awaiting the new redistricting maps. When the NC Supreme Court struck the current maps down, it created an opportunity for a more fair democratic vote. Stay tuned for the updated maps. I will be sure to provide the information as soon as it is available.*

*Joyce Waddell*

## School Accountability

Lawmakers were told on Monday that North Carolina needs to overhaul how it evaluates schools and how it prepares students for success after graduation. A Committee on an Education System for North Carolina's Future is trying to reimagine how to fund and operate the state's K-12 public schools. The state superintendent told the committee that moving away from high stakes, one-and-done testing should be part of the change, and that the tests that we give at

the end of the year are not good tests.

The state's public schools get an A through F performance grade each year that is largely based on student scores on state tests. State lawmakers waived the school performance grades for the past two school years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The accountability system fails to give a complete or accurate picture of school success, and instead of just test scores, schools should be evaluated on things such as chronic absenteeism, parental surveys and how well students are being prepared for success in the workforce. It has been reported that 2022 "The Year of the Workforce" with schools needing to do a better job of providing businesses with the workers they need.

If we invest in education and provide skill-based courses we can educate our youth and prepare them for the workforce at the same time.

## **Child Safety Report**

Fewer high school students feel good about themselves and more feel alone, sad or hopeless in their lives, according to the North Carolina Child Fatality Task Force's annual report. The 2021 report includes data from 2019. It showed that 60% of high school students said they strongly agree or agree that they feel good about themselves, down from 80% in 2011. The percentage of students who agree or strongly agree that they feel alone in their lives grew from 19% in 2011 to more than 30% in 2019. Likewise, the percentage of students who feel sad or hopeless rose from 28% to 36% over the time period.

In 2019, 19% of high school students considered suicide in the last 12 months with 10% reporting they had attempted suicide — percentages largely consistent with findings throughout the decade. For LGBTQ+ high school students, those numbers were 44% (seriously considered suicide) and 22% (attempted suicide). The figures came from the NC High School Youth Risk Behavior Study and were included in the report. Thirty-six North Carolina children (ages 1 to 17) died by suicide in 2019, a figure largely in line with previous years. The report indicated that the "mental health picture has continued to worsen during the pandemic," which hit the U.S. in March 2020 and has disrupted three school years. "School professionals presenting to the CFTF emphasized that the need for more mental health supports in schools has for years been critical, and that the impacts of the pandemic, which are expected to be present long after the pandemic itself subsides, are creating an even greater and more urgent need,"

the report said.

The North Carolina Child Fatality Task Force is a legislative study committee and has 36 members.

With COVID having ravaged our state, creating a safe environment for our students to grow-up in is imperative. Mental health has been a concern for all in the community, but especially so for the students.

## New Maps

There were public hearings before the map-drawing process began, and live streaming of the computer terminals in the map-drawing room late last year. Some complained that the public did not get a chance to weigh in on the completed maps for U.S. House, state House and state Senate.

The court's Democratic majority indicated that mean-median difference analysis, efficiency gap analysis, close-votes, close seats analysis and partisan symmetry analysis may be useful in addressing whether the mapmaker adhered to traditional neutral districting criteria.

The Senate has not yet finalized its schedule or plans for redrawing the maps.

*I know there has been many concerns with our health community, education community and our business community, I will continue to fight for the rights of North Carolinians. I believe North Carolinians deserve a healthy, well-educated, state by which we live and work. My fight for those rights are a part of my responsibility as a North Carolina Senator. I would like to thank my constituents for their support.*

###

Sen. Joyce Waddell, District 40 | 1113 Legislative Building, Raleigh, NC 27601

[Unsubscribe sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org](mailto:sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by [joyce.waddell@ncleg.net](mailto:joyce.waddell@ncleg.net) powered by



Try email marketing for free today!