

For Immediate Release



From Sen. Joyce Waddell <joyce.waddell@ncleg.net>
To <sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org>
Reply-To <anita.bennett@ncleg.gov>
Date 2022-09-05 10:01



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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, September 05, 2022
Volume 37

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



Greetings:

Session has begun and we are having committee meetings. The Education Committee is scheduled to meet on Tuesday to discuss changes and projects at various schools throughout the state.

Joyce Waddell

Teaching Vacancies

North Carolina public schools started a new school year on Monday with thousands of unfilled teaching positions and thousands of other classrooms taught by people who are not fully licensed. There is a shortage of teachers for the state's school districts heading into the first day of classes, according to the North Carolina School Superintendents' Association.

It has been reported that the shortage would be even worse if not for schools filling classrooms with teachers who have not completed their licensure requirements.

Because of the number of vacancies for teachers, bus drivers, cafeteria workers and other school positions they are forced to do more. This increases the risk of burnout and further turnover from what has been called the "Great Resignation." The latest statewide resignation numbers will not be released until later this year or early next year. School districts say they have seen an increase in resignations and turnover.

Last school year saw schools across North Carolina and the nation grapple with staffing challenges. The numbers are worse this year, with a survey by the N.C. School Superintendents' Association showing a 27% increase in reported vacancies compared to this same time period last year. N. C. Superintendents estimated their school districts had over 11,000 vacant positions, including:

- Classified staff: 4,364
- K-12 teachers: 3,619
- Bus drivers: 1,342
- Exceptional children's teachers: 850

Schools hired 3,618 additional "residency license" teachers this year, an 86% increase from last year. Previously called lateral entry, this option is for people who were not education majors in college but who now want to complete the requirements to become a licensed teacher. Lateral-entry teachers have much higher turnover rates than teachers who go through traditional preparation programs.

Historically, school districts have relied on the state's colleges and universities to provide them with many of their teachers. But the UNC System has seen a 43% drop since the spring 2010 semester in the number of undergraduate education majors. Some have blamed the problem on issues such as low pay and political attacks accusing teachers of trying to indoctrinate students.

The pipeline issue is impacting the number of applicants that school districts are seeing when they try to fill vacancies. Schools in North Carolina are competing with other states for teachers. A billboard along Interstate 440 in Raleigh advertises how Richmond Public Schools is offering \$10,000 in hiring incentives to teachers who relocate to Virginia.

Public education supporters say that the staffing shortages could be lessened if the state took steps such as substantially higher pay raises and restoring full retiree health benefits for newly hired workers. The school year is starting just days before the N.C. Supreme Court will hear arguments about whether it should order the state to transfer an additional \$785 million to fund public education as part of the Leandro lawsuit.

The new state budget also has an average 4.2% raise for teachers and a new starting salary of \$37,000. State lawmakers are also providing \$170 million this year to help school districts supplement the pay of teachers.

Not very long ago the community held the profession of education in high esteem. How did we get to this place and what do we as a community need to do to get back to that place? The education of our children is very important if we want to be able to compete globally. We must do all we can to bring more respect to the profession.

Fighting for all children to receive a sound education is very important and I am in this for the long haul.

School Grade Interview

Senator Waddell discusses at a televising interview how NC schools are graded, the grading system and the school schedules.



Electric Rates

Higher fuel costs and new renewable energy programs are pushing up rates for Duke Energy customers in most of western and central North Carolina. Residential rates will increase 9.5% on Sept. 1 at Duke Energy Carolinas, which includes Charlotte, Durham, Winston-Salem and Greensboro. That is \$10.10 a month for a typical customer using 1,000-kilowatt hours of electricity, pushing the typical bill to \$116.33, according to the utility company.

If approved, rates there would rise 9.8% on Dec. 1. Regulators also are considering an energy efficiency adjustment for Duke Energy Progress that would reduce rates by 0.6% on Jan. 1. By law, there is no markup on fuel cost all rate changes are overseen by the North Carolina Utilities Commission.

I am happy to hear about any possible reductions in our living expenses. This can place more dollars in our pockets, and we can use that to help with other rising costs.

Second Ward National Alumni Annual Meeting

Senator Waddell discusses the importance of legacy and fundraising for the Second Ward museum and scholarships.



Senator Waddell is working tirelessly for Senate District 40, but she cannot do this alone. Many of her precincts have changed which makes the election much more competitive. In November she will have an opponent running against her. Can she count on your help to continue working for the district?

CLICK HERE TO

**DONATE \$25; \$50; \$100; \$250
OTHER AMOUNT \$_____**

During the school year, many students are involved in unnecessary accidents from distracted drivers. Please pay attention and try not to text or talk while driving.

###

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 powered by

