

**\*\*\*SPAM\*\*\* For Immediate Release**



**From** Sen. Joyce Waddell <joyce.waddell@ncleg.net>  
**To** <sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org>  
**Reply-To** <anita.bennett@ncleg.gov>  
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From the Office of Sen. Joyce Waddell, NC Senate  
Mecklenburg County

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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



## Greetings:

*A Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations met on Wednesday to discuss how to continue helping those residents still displaced by past storms. The programs have been hindered greatly by supply chain shortages and shortages of contractors throughout the state.*

*Joyce Waddell*

## Test Scores

After a year in-person learning, we have seen some gains in reading and math for North Carolina's students, and although gains have been noted, a report released recently shows proficiency remains well below pre-pandemic levels.

While all districts opened schools last August, many also offered remote options for families that did not feel comfortable exposing their children to COVID-19, as a result absences spiked for students and staff during surges.

The state posted detailed breakdowns of results for state reading, math and science exams given in elementary and middle school, as well as high school graduation rates, ACT college readiness results and end-of-course scores for math, English and biology classes.

SAS, a Cary-based analytics company, uses that data to calculate whether schools met, exceeded or fell short of expected progress for their students, regardless of where those students started the school year. The growth measure is designed to give credit to schools that helped students make gains even if they arrived well below grade level — and to ensure that schools with high-performing students are helping them grow as well.

School performance grades are based on 80% proficiency on exams and 20% on growth. It's a formula that has drawn bipartisan criticism for putting too much weight on proficiency, which is linked to the advantages or disadvantages students bring from home. Top grades tend to go to low-poverty schools serving mostly white and Asian students, or diverse magnet and charter schools with programs that attract motivated students. Schools are rated low performing if they get a D or F, unless they exceed the growth target.

## **Central Piedmont Community College**

*Senator Waddell discusses the many services provided for the students of Central Piedmont Community College with the various attendees.*



## **Crime Commission**

The North Carolina Governor's Crime Commission met Thursday morning and spent a good portion of the meeting talking about one topic—protecting students and stopping potential violence inside of schools. Officials with the State Bureau of Investigation say following recent mass shootings their work has increased. It was stated by a member of the Behavioral Threat Assessment Unit, since the Uvalde school shooting, cases in NC schools have doubled.

One sheriff in a nearby county had been working on a report since 2018 detailing how to keep students safe in schools. Some recommendations from that report still need more time and focus, including the sheriff's idea to have a statewide inspection program for all schools.

## **Allenbrook School Supply Drive**

*During a school supply drive, Senator Waddell, The Governor, the US Secretary of Education, the principal, and some members of the Mecklenburg Delegation met to tour the school and support the supply drive.*



## Medicaid Challenges

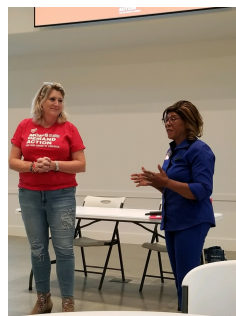
North Carolina's state Medicaid office is sending millions of dollars to organizations that help people with housing, domestic violence and other chronically stressful situations. By paying these agencies to help people on Medicaid with extreme life stressors, the state hopes it can help those same people avoid illness and in the process save money that would otherwise be spent on health care.

The project, called the Healthy Opportunities Pilot or HOP, began its three-phase rollout in March after years of planning. It started with services to reduce hunger, which many say are going pretty well. In May, the pilot began funding housing and transportation services. In June, the state planned to begin reimbursing organizations that deal with domestic violence.

Getting paid by reimbursements, rather than grants, is new for many of the participating organizations.

## Moms Demand Action

*Senator Waddell speaks at a Moms Demand Action Event to discuss funding and legislation.*



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?

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## Rebuild Charlotte



Senator Waddell, members of the Mecklenburg Delegation, and other elected officials met at Hidden Valley School to discuss the Rebuild program and the work it is doing in the community.





*The new booster shots for COVID are in full circulation throughout the state. If possible, consider getting a booster to ward off COVID. I can feel fall in the air, and am excited about the break of the weather.*

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

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