

For Immediate Release



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From the Office of Sen. Joyce Waddell, NC Senate
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Greetings:

At the General Assembly
For the Week

A Joint Legislative Economic Development and Global Engagement Oversight Committee meeting was held in Raleigh last week at the General Assembly. The committee meeting was held to discuss the many economic development projects throughout North Carolina.

Joyce Waddell

Threat Assessment

A proactive approach to enhancing school safety is gaining momentum in North Carolina as a response to growing concerns about student well-being in the face of increasing incidents of mass shootings and rising youth suicide rates. By March, every public school in North Carolina will be required to establish a threat assessment team comprised of school- or district-level staff members responsible for addressing concerns related to student behavior and determining appropriate actions.

Experts suggest that these teams have the potential to save lives by ensuring that schools have well-defined and consistent procedures for addressing a wide range of concerns, including violence and mental health challenges.

North Carolina joins a small group of states that have enacted laws mandating the formation of threat assessment teams, reflecting the urgent need to address student safety.

The North Carolina Center for Safer Schools is actively developing guidance to assist schools in implementing these threat assessment teams. The guidance will include best practices for evaluating threats, intervening appropriately, and involving the parents of the individuals under assessment, as mandated by the new law.

It is indeed a positive step that North Carolina is taking measures to enhance school safety by implementing threat assessment teams in public schools, and I am happy to promote this safety step. The safety and well-being of students should always be a top priority, and such initiatives can help address concerns related to violence, self-harm, and mental health challenges.

I believe that while education should ideally focus solely on learning and personal growth, ensuring the physical and emotional safety of students is an essential foundation for effective education. By proactively addressing these concerns through threat assessment teams and guidance, North Carolina is taking a step toward creating a safer and more conducive learning environment for its students. Ultimately, the goal is to provide both academic and emotional support to students so that they can thrive without the fear of safety issues hindering their educational experience.

Vaccines

The respiratory viruses that are being passed around are continuously increasing. This is why I have promoted vaccines and safety the past months. I hope as you move about the community you consider safe and healthy habits.



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