



February 10, 2021

Hon. Roy Cooper
North Carolina Office of the Governor
20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-0301

Re: Request for Higher Priority for Teacher Vaccinations for COVID-19

Dear Governor Cooper:

I am writing on behalf of our Cumberland County Board of Education. Our Board has authorized a phased return to in-person instruction beginning March 15, 2021. Our plan scrupulously adheres to CDC guidance and that of StrongSchoolsNC, Public Health Toolkit (K-12). Nevertheless, as in many other communities across our state, Cumberland County educators continue to express great concern for their health and safety and that of their students as they prepare to return to their classrooms. The race to vaccinate key demographic and professional groups ahead of the new COVID strains only heightens the sense of urgency we feel to see that our educators are vaccinated as soon as possible.

According to public sourcing, 24 other states plus the District of Columbia have provided some form of vaccination priority for public school teachers based on their profession. Of the states that have not, North Carolina registered in the second-highest category for infections per 100,000 citizens last week - only Texas and South Carolina were in the highest category above our state.

On behalf of our Board of Education and our 6,000 Premier Professionals in the Cumberland County Schools, we respectfully request that you employ all of the powers of your office to speed up the current statewide vaccination priority for all K-12 public education staff, and especially for our classroom teachers, teaching assistants, and student support staff. Cumberland County Schools stands ready to support the operation of vaccination clinics throughout our community, and we have already partnered with Cape Fear Valley Health System to operate mass vaccination clinics at E.E. Smith High School.

Our Commitment: Every Student
Collaborative • Competitive • Successful

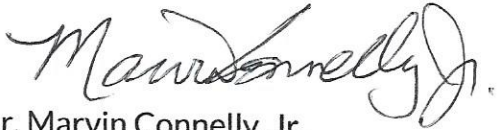
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Fully Accredited School System

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Thank you for your continued leadership during this unprecedented global pandemic, and for your unwavering support for North Carolina public education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marvin Connelly, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Dr. Marvin Connelly, Jr.
Superintendent, Cumberland County Board of Education

CC: Mrs. Alicia Chisolm, Chair
Mr. Greg West, Vice- Chair
Ms. Deanna Jones, Board Member
Mr. Charles McKellar, Board Member
Ms. Judy Musgrave, Board Member
Ms. Carrie Sutton, Board Member
Ms. Donna Vann, Board Member
Mr. Nathan Warfel, Board Member
Ms. Susan Williams, Board Member