



Sachem Central School District

Board of Education

July 15, 2021

Alex Piccirillo
President

Robert Scavo
Vice President

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Christopher J. Pellettieri, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

51 School Street
Lake Ronkonkoma,
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631.471.1331



#WeAreSachem

Dear Governor Cuomo
Senator Mattera
Senator Weik
Senator Boyle
Assemblyman DeStefano
Assemblyman Smith
Assemblyman Gandolfo
Assemblyman Fitzpatrick

County Executive Bellone
Legislator Caracappa
Legislator Calarco
Legislator Piccirillo
Legislator Kennedy
Supervisor Romaine
Supervisor Carpenter
Supervisor Wehrheim

With the 2021-22 school year officially begun and September's return to in-person instruction quickly approaching, we are writing today to implore that you take swift and decisive action on two important matters.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently updated their guidance on mask wearing in schools. In short, they announced that students and fully vaccinated individuals are no longer required to wear masks. Rather, masks are now optional and school districts/organizations should have the ability to develop their own protocols based on individual needs.

We as a school district appreciate this decision. First, it is an indicator that our country is moving in a positive direction with regard to the fight against COVID-19. Second, it affords schools the ability to make decisions based on local impact.

As the second largest district in New York State, we have worked tirelessly over the last school year to keep our students and staff safe. We complied with mandated COVID-19 protocols, doubled down on our health and safety measures, and successfully completed the year with all of our students learning together. This achievement did not come without its challenges, but we are proud of the strides we as a district made together.

As we look to the return to school in September, we ask that you to continue to provide us with updated guidance that allows masks to remain optional for all students K-12 and return local control over the implementation of such decisions to our school districts. This is no longer a one-size-fits-all situation; protocols should be adapted to meet the needs of local communities. Please afford all school districts that ability.

Lastly, we urge you to continue to keep the COVID-19 vaccination as an option for individuals, not a mandate or as a precursor to attend school. We believe that the decision to receive the vaccination should be individual and at the



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discretion of our families, with consultation from their health professionals. Again, the focus should be on local control.

We thank you in advance for your consideration and support on this matter, as we hope to work together to return to more routine daily operations and provide a sense of normalcy for our students, staff and community.

Sincerely,

Alex Piccirillo
President

On behalf of the entire Sachem Board of Education