

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

February 3, 2022

Dear Gov. Hochul:

The past two years have not been easy and we thank you for your efforts to lead New Yorkers through the pandemic. We are writing to enlist your support to help schools statewide regain a much-needed sense of normalcy.

As superintendents who have guided Monroe County school districts during this challenging time, we understand why the state has required certain measures. However, we believe it is time to prepare for the next phase of a return to life as our students once knew it.

Children have endured unbelievable challenges during the past two years. From school closure to hybrid and remote learning, from physical distancing to masking, they have adapted at every turn. Now, it is imperative that we develop a plan to move forward. We have worked hard to keep our schools safe and believe we can do that as infection rates continue to drop and requirements are reduced.

We are asking the state to develop an exit strategy. The masking mandate is being reviewed by the courts and a decision is expected next month. No matter the outcome, schools must have a plan in place to move forward. Many families worry that masking rules and other mitigation strategies are here for good. They need reassurance that these measures will expire.

As superintendents, we know the importance of listening to different voices, and we appreciate your willingness to hear our concerns. We respectfully request that you and the New York State Department of Health promptly create an exit strategy for masking and other mitigation strategies. Our communities anxiously await your response.

Sincerely,



Lawrence Bo Wright
President, Monroe County Council of School Superintendents

BOCES 1

DANIEL WHITE

BOCES 2

JO ANNE ANTONACCI

BRIGHTON

KEVIN MCGOWAN, Ed.D.

BROCKPORT

SEAN BRUNO

CHURCHVILLE-CHILI

LORI OROLOGIO, Ed.D.

EAST HIGH SCHOOL

SHAUN NELMS, Ed.D.

EAST IRONDEQUOIT

MARY GROW

EAST ROCHESTER

JAMES HAUGH

FAIRPORT

BRETT PROVENZANO

GATES CHILI

CHRISTOPHER DAILEY

GREECE

KATHLEEN GRAUPMAN

HILTON

CASEY KOSIOREK, Ed.D.

HOLLEY

BRIAN BARTALO

HONEOYE FALLS-LIMA

GENE MANCUSO

KENDALL

NICHOLAS PICARDO

PENFIELD

THOMAS PUTNAM, Ed.D.

PITTSFORD

MICHAEL PERO

ROCHESTER CITY

LESLI MYERS-SMALL, Ed.D.

RUSH-HENRIETTA

BO WRIGHT

SPENCERPORT

KRISTIN SWANN

WEBSTER

BRIAN NEENAN

WEST IRONDEQUOIT

AARON JOHNSON, Ed.D.

WHEATLAND-CHILI

LYNDA QUICK, Esq.