



Erie-Niagara School Superintendents Association

355 Harlem Road, West Seneca, NY 14224
Phone (716) 821-7167 FAX: 821-7296

February 1, 2022

The Honorable Kathleen Hochul
Governor of New York
New York State Capitol Building
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Hochul,

Since September of 2020, students, staff and families have faithfully followed and implemented a constantly changing mosaic of COVID-19 mitigation strategies designed to ensure that schools are safe places for learning and work. Due to these efforts, schools have been the safest place for a child, and for our school employees, regardless of the rate of community transmission or the variant that circulates.

This past fall, our organization added our voices to others around the state and wrote to you to ask that you direct the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) to officially and functionally support Test To Stay. We also asked you to close the chapter on open ended COVID-19 related mandates and restrictions established by NYSDOH.

Since that time, Test To Stay was given full NYSDOH support in late November, and was introduced in Erie and Niagara Counties in January. TTS has helped us keep healthy students in school rather than subjecting them to quarantine, which is critical to the academic progress and social-emotional health of our young people. Also, the currently enforced universal masking order for schools has a scheduled end date of February 21, 2022. Providing advance notice of this critical off-ramp will give students, their families, and our staff time to prepare for a post-crisis period of time when we have the opportunity to exercise discretion about mask use in schools on our own behalf.

While school aged populations have experienced the mildest health-related symptoms associated with COVID-19, they have also suffered the most under the weight of COVID-related restrictions and requirements. Your recognition of the need to move schools from the emergency phase of COVID-19 to a time when the presence of the virus no longer completely disrupts the school experience is both refreshing and essential.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Cornell

Handwritten signature of Michael R. Cornell in blue ink.

E-NSSA President

Dr. Brian Graham

Handwritten signature of Dr. Brian Graham in blue ink.

First Vice-President

Jon MacSwan

Handwritten signature of Jon MacSwan in blue ink.

Second Vice-President

Handwritten signature of Dr. Jeffrey Rabey in blue ink.

Dr. Jeffrey Rabey, Depew UFSD

Handwritten signature of Joseph D'Angelo in blue ink.

Joseph D'Angelo, Maryvale UFSD

Handwritten signature of Anthony J. Panella in blue ink.

Anthony J. Panella, Amherst CSD

Dr. Sean Croft, Starpoint CSD

Adam Stoltman, Alden CSD

Dr. Robert Anderson, Gowanda CSD

Dr. Darren Brown-Hall, Williamsville CSD

Dr. Timothy Oldenburg, Tonawanda

Douglas Scofield, Iroquois CSD

Dr. Michael Valley, Lancaster CSD

Michael Ginestre, Sweet Home CSD

Paul Casseri, Lewiston-Porter CSD

Matt Frahm, Ed.D, Clarence CSD

Mark Laurrie, Niagara Falls

Timothy P. Carter, Wilson CSD

Jeff Sortisio, Eden CSD

Gregory Woytila, North Tonawanda

Michael Baumann, Newfane CSD

Brian Russ, East Aurora UFSD

Sabatino Cimato, Ken-Ton

Michelle Bradley, Lockport City

James Bialasik, Springville-GI

Scott Taylor, North Collins CSD

Patrick McCabe, Akron CSD

Dr. Hank Stopinski, Roy-Hart CSD

Steven Wright, Cheektowaga Central

Jacob Reimer, Barker CSD

Christopher Swiatek, Frontier CSD

Daniel Ljiljanich, Niagara Wheatfield

Andrea Galenski, Cheektowaga-Sloan

Matthew Bystrak, West Seneca CSD

Keith Lewis, Lackawanna City

David Lilleck, Orchard Park CSD

Eric Lawton, Holland CSD

Daniel Pacos, Lake Shore CSD