



Central Regional School District

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August 16, 2021

Honorable Phil Murphy
225 West State Street
P.O. Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Governor Murphy,

Please accept this correspondence on behalf of the Central Regional Board of Education, our many stakeholders, and most importantly the students of the Central Regional School District. This is a follow up to our letter to you dated May 19, 2021. This letter is to inform you of our opposition to Executive Order 251, dated August 6, 2021.

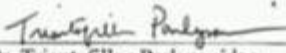
Again, for your understanding, the Central Regional School District is made up of one middle school and one high school. We employ over 350 people and we are responsible for the education and safety of over 2,500 students.

The Central Regional Board of Education takes issue with Executive Order 251, as it comes directly after the district-wide Pandemic Response Team made a decision to have the 2021-2022 school year as mask optional. Your blanket orders do not reflect what is in the best interest of the students and staff of the Central Regional School District and additionally, infringes on home-rule. In your new executive order, you cite "The CDC now recommends universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors in K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status." This is a recommendation, provided to offer guidance to state employers and families. The district Pandemic Response Team used this guidance to make their final recommendation for the school year. You go on to list several exemptions to the executive order, such as, "When wearing a face mask creates an unsafe condition in which to operate equipment or execute a task." We as a Board have had some parents tell us how masks are negatively affecting their children's psychological and emotional well-being, as well as making it harder for them to learn and concentrate. Parents have expressed concerns over masking students for six hours per day.

We on the Central Regional Board of Education, along with our community stakeholders, respectfully call on you as the Governor, to immediately rescind Executive Order 251. The Board of Education should have the ability to decide if masks need to be optional or mandatory. We, as local community members, understand the needs of our district, Trenton does not.

Respectfully,


Mr. Louis Laminaro, President


Dr. Triantafillos Parlapanides