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◀ Messages



August 16, 2021

Governor Phil Murphy
% New Jersey Office of Governor P.O. Box 001
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Dear Governor Murphy,

We write to you on behalf of the Berkeley Township School District Board of Education to respectfully ask that you rescind Executive Order 251 in time for the start of the 2021-2022 school year and allow school districts to self-determine whether and when to wear masks at school. We understand that Executive Order 251 has the force and effect of law, and we will abide by its mandate. Nevertheless, we have been entrusted with the primary responsibility to determine a reopening plan suitable for our community.

We believe we are at a point when the state policy regarding students and staff wearing masks at school- both indoors and outdoors- could be responsibly re-evaluated. We support a consideration for masks to be left to the the local school district administration, as long as data continues to trend in a positive direction. As we are familiar with our community, our buildings, and what has been effective in limiting the spread, the State should resume its policy of deference to local officials to do what is right for their schools.

As a result of Executive Order 251, local authority has been diminished. Therefore, we urge you to rescind Executive Order 251 and resume a policy that allows the local communities to determine what is appropriate for them.

Thank you, Governor Murphy, for your consideration of this request, and for your leadership throughout these trying times.

