

From: [Roger Schulman](#)
To: [StateBoard, SDE](#)
Subject: Your part in keeping our children safe - FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
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Dear Members of the State Board of Education:

Fairfield CT Superintendant Mike Cummings this past week announced that he is seeking a \$10 million budget increase for schools in the Fairfield district, a bump of more than five percent. At the same time, he said that spending related to the pandemic would decrease — and would not including funding for the district's Covid-related Remote Learning Academy, which would presumably be dismantled. Bewilderingly, Mr. Cummings also said, "We're taking the advice of experts that say to us that September, October, we may still find ourselves wearing masks and engaging in other mitigation strategies."

I hope you see the contradiction in these statements as plainly as I and my family do.

In fact, the worst days of the Covid-19 pandemic are ahead of us, not behind us. Time and again, we here in Connecticut have taken our eye off the prize of permanently pushing back the coronavirus tidal wave through consistent safety measures. We're about to do it again.

Even if children who are victimized by the virus don't display symptoms as severe as adults — which is not always the case — they are carriers. They contract the virus and bring it home. The disease spreads, and more people die, not mentioning the increased costs of acute care. If my child, who is at high risk, has no remote alternative paid for by my taxes, what do I do?

I'm not alone. Over and over, we have watched education and health officials fall prey to the pressure placed on them by residents and especially businesses who insist that there's very little wrong. I think by now we all know all too well this kind of magical thinking can lead to unneeded death and destruction. The education officials here in Fairfield, are particularly vulnerable to this pressure. Watch Mr. Cummings struggle to make a case for lowering our guard during any public board meeting. Read what the Fairfield First Selectwoman has to say about the pandemic. I don't know why these officials adopt irresponsible positions. Frankly, I don't care.

Inaction on the part of the state board — inaction on your part — is tantamount to putting our residents at unnecessary risk and actually making the overall problem worse. Please turn your attention to the dangerous situation in Fairfield now, before the creep of denial overtakes the educational system here completely, and spins the vicious cycle ever faster. Less consistent education, more inconsistent health measures, more infections... more deaths.

Sincerely,

Roger Schulman
Fairfield resident