

From: [DeLaurentis Family](#)
To: [StateBoard, SDE](#)
Subject: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - UNMASK OUR CHILDREN
Date: Thursday, May 27, 2021 1:01:48 PM

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi CTBOE,

I am writing to you as a parent of a child entering Kindergarten this Fall. It's a bittersweet time as we send her off into the big world of elementary school. Yesterday, our Superintendent Mike Cummings shared a Safe Return Plan and with that, a survey for parents to share their reaction/thoughts/comments on the Plan. Per his updated email today, he heard "loud and clear that many are unhappy at the thought of students and staff having to wear masks in the fall." He continued to say that they are following your guidance as of May 20, 2021 "All people (vaccinated or unvaccinated) need to wear a mask when they are inside a school building (pre-K-12) or childcare facility" and that he is "hopeful that come September the guidance will be updated".

Many parents are making their decisions now based on the environment the children will have in the Fall. Many are not comfortable sending their children to school where they are learning communication and language skills with their faces covered. How are they to make a decision at the very last minute? I, for one, did provide my opinion that I do think we need to lift the mask requirement now. There is no scientific evidence proving masks prevent transmission/infection in younger children, in fact, I have asked for it and have yet to receive anything from anyone. Below are several recent articles to support my case.

[CT Post Article on Increase in Child Psych Cases Post Pandemic](#)
[AIER Article on Masking Children](#)
[NJ School Board Pleads With Gov to Lift Mask Mandates for Children](#)
[NY Rescinds Mask Mandates for Children](#)

How can we require masks and plexiglass in a classroom setting, which is essential, but not in a bar or restaurant!? The plexi glass needs to go and masks should be optional/personal choice at this point.

I urge you to abandon this new directive *today* and remove the mask mandate *immediately*.

Sincerely,
Jennifer DeLaurentis
Fairfield, CT