



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION



March 7, 2022

Dear Superintendents and Private/Independent School Administrators:

Pursuant to Special Act 22-1, on February 23, 2022, the Commissioner of the Department of Public Health (DPH) issued "Conditions and Environments Requiring Universal Masking for the Prevention of COVID-19 on and after February 28, 2022," which establishes the right of both local and regional boards of education and non-public schools to determine their respective masking policies. The DPH order ended the state mask mandate in schools and provided that masks are to be worn in school only if a local or regional school district or a non-public school makes masking a requirement.

In light of the February 23, 2022, DPH directive, and in accordance with my authority under Section 1(c)(2) of Special Act 22-1, I hereby rescind and void as of February 28, 2022, any and all orders, directives, or other guidance mandating masks in public schools, including but not necessarily limited to those issued by and through the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) pursuant to:

- Section 1 of Executive Order 9; and
- Section 1(f) of Executive Order 13A

And section(s) pertaining to mask mandates outlined in:

- The CSDE's September 4, 2020, *Adapt, Advance, Achieve: Connecticut's Plan to Learn and Grow Together (AAA)*;
- The CSDE's August 19, 2021, *Adapt, Advance, Achieve: Connecticut's Plan to Learn and Grow Together – Fall 2021*; and
- The CSDE's August 31, 2020, Addendum 11 to AAA.

Therefore, as of February 28, 2022, the state mask mandate for schools ended and masking is required in schools only if local and regional school districts require it. In making their decisions, school districts are encouraged to consult with their local health authorities and consider input from all stakeholders, including staff, parents, guardians, and community members as outlined in the guidance that was issued by DPH in collaboration with the CSDE on February 18, 2022.

As always, thank you for all that you do every day to keep our school communities safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Charlene M. Russell-Tucker".

Charlene M. Russell-Tucker
Commissioner of Education