



Erie-Niagara School Superintendents Association

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February 1, 2022

The Honorable Kathleen Hochul
Governor of New York
New York State Capitol Building
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Hochul,

Since September of 2020, students, staff and families have faithfully followed and implemented a constantly changing mosaic of COVID-19 mitigation strategies designed to ensure that schools are safe places for learning and work. Due to these efforts, schools have been the safest place for a child, and for our school employees, regardless of the rate of community transmission or the variant that circulates.

This past fall, our organization added our voices to others around the state and wrote to you to ask that you direct the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) to officially and functionally support Test To Stay. We also asked you to close the chapter on open ended COVID-19 related mandates and restrictions established by NYSDOH.

Since that time, Test To Stay was given full NYSDOH support in late November, and was introduced in Erie and Niagara Counties in January. TTS has helped us keep healthy students in school rather than subjecting them to quarantine, which is critical to the academic progress and social-emotional health of our young people. Also, the currently enforced universal masking order for schools has a scheduled end date of February 21, 2022. Providing advance notice of this critical off-ramp will give students, their families, and our staff time to prepare for a post-crisis period of time when we have the opportunity to exercise discretion about mask use in schools on our own behalf.

While school aged populations have experienced the mildest health-related symptoms associated with COVID-19, they have also suffered the most under the weight of COVID-related restrictions and requirements. Your recognition of the need to move schools from the emergency phase of COVID-19 to a time when the presence of the virus no longer completely disrupts the school experience is both refreshing and essential.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Cornell

E-NSSA President

Dr. Brian Graham

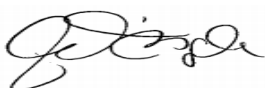
First Vice-President

Jon MacSwan

Second Vice-President



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Joseph D'Angelo, Maryvale UFSD



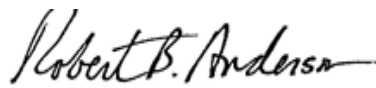
Anthony J. Panella, Amherst CSD



Dr. Sean Croft, Starpoint CSD



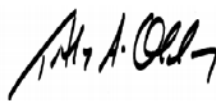
Adam Stoltman, Alden CSD



Dr. Robert Anderson, Gowanda CSD



Dr. Darren Brown-Hall, Williamsville CSD



Dr. Timothy Oldenburg, Tonawanda



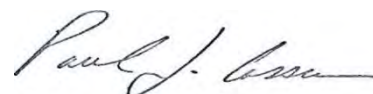
Douglas Scofield, Iroquois CSD



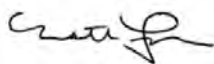
Dr. Michael Vallely, Lancaster CSD



Michael Ginestre, Sweet Home CSD



Paul Casseri, Lewiston-Porter CSD



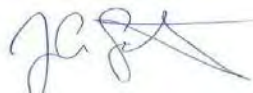
Matt Frahm, Ed.D, Clarence CSD



Mark Laurrie, Niagara Falls



Timothy P. Carter, Wilson CSD



Jeff Sortisio, Eden CSD



Gregory Woytila, North Tonawanda



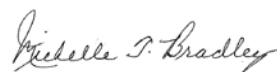
Michael Baumann, Newfane CSD



Brian Russ, East Aurora UFSD



Sabatino Cimato, Ken-Ton



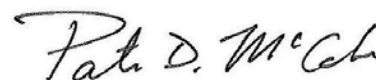
Michelle Bradley, Lockport City



James Bialasik, Springville-GI



Scott Taylor, North Collins CSD



Patrick McCabe, Akron CSD



Dr. Hank Stopinski, Roy-Hart CSD



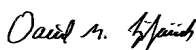
Steven Wright, Cheektowaga Central



Jacob Reimer, Barker CSD



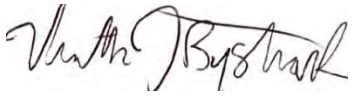
Christopher Swiatek, Frontier CSD



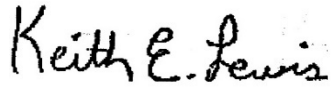
Daniel Ljiljanich, Niagara Wheatfield



Andrea Galenski, Cheektowaga-Sloan



Matthew Bystrak, West Seneca CSD




Keith Lewis, Lackawanna City



David Lilleck, Orchard Park CSD



Eric Lawton, Holland CSD



Daniel Pacos, Lake Shore CSD