

## WESTERN PLACER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

600 Sixth St, Suite 400, Lincoln CA 95648  
Ph: (916) 645-6350 • Fax: (916) 645-6356

**Board of Trustees:** Kris Wyatt  
Damian Armitage  
Criste Freymond  
Jason Price  
April Nitsos

**Superintendent:** Kerry Callahan

October 25, 2021

Governor Gavin Newsom  
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: COVID-19 Vaccination Mandate for Schools

Dear Governor Newsom:

The Western Placer Unified School District (WPUSD) Board of Trustees adamantly opposes your recent vaccination mandate for all staff and students attending California public K-12 schools in-person. As a result, On October 19, 2021, we adopted Resolution 21/22.11, supporting local decision-making authority and requesting elimination of or modifications to the Governor's vaccination mandate. The resolution is enclosed.

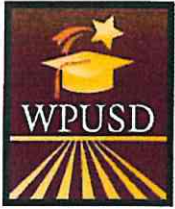
The California Constitution entrusts local school districts and their elected officials to provide schools that meet the needs of all students in a fair and equitable manner. Our Board knows that schools are essential to child and adolescent development and well-being. For most students, this can only be recognized in a safe, emotionally supportive, in-person school environment. The proposed COVID-19 vaccination mandate will likely exclude many students from in-person instruction. When absence occurs, there is a negative impact on the continuity in learning for all students.

COVID-19 does not warrant a state of emergency for our children as it has for our elderly and immunocompromised community. What does warrant a state of emergency is your vaccination mandate as it will have a dire impact on our young people if they are denied their right to a free and appropriate (in-person) education. We all know that, by and large, students who participate in home school or independent study programs do not perform as well academically as students who participate in traditional, in-person educational programs. Students need to be in school! Excluding unvaccinated students from in-person learning would be more detrimental to the overall population of young people than contracting COVID-19 would be.

On behalf of our community, we urge you to reconsider the impact of the proposed vaccination mandate on all students and staff in K-12 public schools, including the anticipated interruption to in-person attendance at school for many students whose parents elect not to vaccinate them, whether due to sincerely held religious or personal beliefs, or because children have natural immunity due to prior COVID-19 exposure.

We invite you to learn from our parents, our students and our community members about their concerns. To that end, we would like to host a Town Hall with you and your staff as well as with our local officials and their staff at your earliest convenience. This Town Hall would provide an opportunity for you and local officials to hear from our community about parental choice in public education and what it means to provide for a safe and emotionally supportive school





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environment. We urge you to accept our invitation so that we can work together to ensure a safe school environment that prioritizes access to in-person education for all students.

Sincerely,

Kris Wyatt  
Board President, Western Placer Unified School District

Damian Armitage  
Vice President, Western Placer Unified School District

Criste Freymond  
Board Clerk, Western Placer Unified School District

April Nitsos  
Board Member, Western Placer Unified School District

Jason Price  
Board Member, Western Placer Unified School District

Kerry Callahan  
Superintendent, Western Placer Unified School District

cc: Assemblyman Kevin Kiley, 6<sup>th</sup> Assembly District  
8799 Auburn-Folsom Road, Suite A  
Granite Bay, CA 95746

Senator Brian Dahle, 1<sup>st</sup> Senate District  
11310 McCourtney Road, Unit E2/E3  
Grass Valley, CA 95949

Supervisor Robert Weygandt, Placer County Board of Supervisors - District 2  
175 Fulweiler Ave  
Auburn, CA 95603

Mayor Alyssa Silhi, City of Lincoln - District 2  
600 Sixth Street  
Lincoln, CA 95648

