

**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  
Brian Haley  
Criste Freymond  
Jason Price

**Superintendent:** Kerry Callahan

August 3, 2021

Dr. Mark Ghaly  
Secretary, State of California Health and Human Services Agency

Dr. Naomi Bardach  
Safe Schools for All Team Lead  
California Department of Public Health

Dr. Tomás Aragón  
Director, California State Public Health Officer

California Department of Public Health  
PO Box 997377  
MS 0500  
Sacramento, CA 95899-7377

**Re: Facial Covering Protocols  
Western Placer Unified School District Re-Opening Plan**

Dear Drs. Ghaly, Bardach and Aragón:

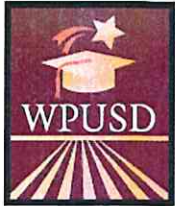
We write to you on behalf of the Western Placer Unified School District (“District”) Board of Trustees and Administration. We urge you to reconsider the COVID 19 facial covering protocols addressed in the California Department of Public Health July 12, 2021, COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California, 2021-2022 School Year (“July 12 Guidance”). More specifically, the District requests that it be granted the authority to develop and implement its own COVID 19 facial covering protocols.

The District serves students in grades Kindergarten through Twelfth-Grade. Historically, we have been granted broad discretion to act in the best interest of all of our students. That being said, we have been unable to do so for the 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 school years. In fact, for the first time in our tenure at the District, we had to make decisions based upon the liability of the District rather than the best interest of our students. Our focus must return to our students.

The first day of instruction for the 2021/2022 school year is August 19, 2021. We are diligently planning our students’ full-time return to school, and we are working as hard as we can to make the return as normal as possible.

The District appreciates the difficult position that the Department of Public Health (“CDPH”) finds itself in now, as well as, throughout the past year and a half. The District has diligently followed the California Department of Public Health Guidelines the last two school years and





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deferred to your medical/scientific expertise. The July 12 Guidance, however, is not wholly based in science. Under these circumstances, we ask that you allow the District, and its educational experts, to determine what is best for our students' education.

It is impossible for the state to account for the unique challenges that every school district throughout the state of California faces. In an attempt to do so, the July 12 Guidance deprives the District of the opportunity to implement a re-opening plan that meets the needs of our students and accounts for our County's current COVID-19 case rates.

We respectfully, request that you lift/revise the July 12 Guidance and allow us to work as a District to develop and implement our re-opening plan, including COVID-19 facial covering protocols, that are suitable for the student population and the community that we serve. We can assure you that our decisions will always be made with the safety of our students, staff, and community at the forefront.

Sincerely,

Kris Wyatt  
Board President, Western Placer Unified School District

Damian Armitage  
Board Vice President, Western Placer Unified School District

Criste Freymond  
Board Member, Western Placer Unified School District

Jason Price  
Board Member, Western Placer Unified School District

Kerry Callahan  
Superintendent, Western Placer Unified School District

