



EAST LYME PUBLIC SCHOOLS

P.O. Box 220 • East Lyme, Connecticut 06333 • (860) 739-3966 • Fax (860) 739-1215

Jeffrey R. Newton
Superintendent of Schools

Annaliese Spaziano
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*Director of
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*Director of Finance, Marketing,
and Growth Management*

February 9, 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The purpose of this letter is to update you on the Governor's recent announcement about mask wearing in our schools and the East Lyme Public Schools proposed district budget for the 2022-2023 school year.

Mask Wearing in Schools:

This past Monday afternoon, the Governor announced that masks will become optional across the State beginning February 28th, 2022. The decision will be left up to local school districts in mandating this mitigating measure. At this time, we are awaiting further guidance from DPH and CSDE regarding this news. As noted by the Governor, optional mask wearing would only be within school buildings. According to federal statute and regulations, the CDC previously issued an order entitled, "Requirements for Persons to Wear Masks While on Conveyances and at Transportation Hubs". This federal order remains in effect and masks would still be required on any school bus. Safety remains paramount, and we will continue to collaborate with DPH, LLHD and our Medical Advisor regarding mitigating measures. Any decisions regarding mask wearing will be made in collaboration with the Board of Education and everyone across the East Lyme School District. More information to follow once we have received updated guidance.

2022-2023 District Operating Budget:

Next year's school district operating budget was presented to the Board of Education on Monday, January 10, 2022. Since that initial presentation, the Board of Education has held additional deliberations and discussions. Currently, the proposed budget for 2022-2023 reflects a 4.59% increase over the current fiscal year. For a detailed look at the proposed budget and associated documents, go to the East Lyme Public Schools website for the [2022-2023 Budget Presentation](#).

A Board of Education 'Public Budget Hearing' will take place at East Lyme High School on Monday, February 28, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. Input from parents, students, staff, and the community are welcome via written communication to my office prior to noon on Monday, February 28, 2022, or through a public comment at the hearing. Directly following the public hearing, the Board of Education will hold its scheduled 'Special Board of Education Meeting' at 7:00 p.m. to discuss and vote on the adoption of the next year's budget.

East Lyme Public Schools will inspire, engage and educate each student to become a contributing citizen and a responsible, independent, and critical thinker.



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Following the 2022-2023 budget adoption, we will provide you with the dates for the town budget meetings and hearings. These meetings typically take place in March and April and a referendum in May on the overall town budget.

Thank you for your continuing support of our outstanding school district.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey R. Newton
Superintendent of Schools

JN:jc