



CEDAR SPRINGS PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education

204 E Muskegon Street
Cedar Springs, MI 49319
(616) 696-1204
schoolboard@csredhawks.org

May 24, 2021

The Honorable Gretchen Whitmer
Governor of Michigan
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Elizabeth Hertel, Director
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)
333 S. Grand Ave
P.O. Box 30195
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Dear Governor Whitmer, and Director Hertel:

We have heard from many people in our community regarding the state-level emergency health orders we have implemented in the past 14 months. People have expressed both support and opposition to the steps we have taken as a district to follow the orders as issued. Families of over 200 of our students have opted to implement alternative solutions to providing their children with an education this year due to the face mask requirement alone based on survey data we have collected. These mandates have removed the ability for our parents to have a voice in helping us determine the nature of their children's educational experiences. We are requesting that you return the ability to make decisions in the best interest of our students to us at the local level.

We take our duty to support our students seriously. The safety and wellbeing of our students are always our top priorities. Information gleaned from ongoing relationships with state and local health departments and regional medical experts are always at the core of our decision-making process. Members of the Board always consider factual information and the perspectives of our constituents before making decisions. By working together, we have demonstrated our staff and students can safely be in the classroom, engage in extracurricular activities, and compete in sports.

As elected officials, and with fewer mandates from the MDHHS, we will continue to make locally-informed decisions related to mitigation protocols. Our practices will be rooted in emerging science and recommendations from regional health experts based on local data regarding COVID 19. Over the last fourteen months, we observed statewide MDHHS mandates causing more significant harm to our students from an academic, emotional, and social perspective than medical benefit based on our local data.

We appreciate your consideration of our request to empower us to make the decisions we were elected to make for our students. As a community, we look forward to continuing our healthy partnerships with regional experts to provide meaningful experiences that best support the students' academic, emotional, and social needs in Cedar Springs. Thank you for your leadership and commitment to serving our state during these trying times.

Sincerely,

Cedar Springs Board of Education
204 E. Muskegon Street
Cedar Springs, MI 49319