

LONGWOOD CENTRAL SCHOOLS

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December 19, 2022

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

Dear Governor Hochul,

We write to you today on behalf of the Longwood Central School District and community to ask for your continued support for all of our students, staff, and families.

In March of this year, you ended the universal masking mandate for our students across the State noting that this was a, "huge step forward for our kids and communities." As the governing body of this great school community, we could not have agreed more as together we began the road to recovery, focusing on rebuilding and reconnecting to overcome all that was lost over the course of the Covid-19 pandemic.

As we prepared to begin this school year we were pleased to hear your acknowledgment of the challenges, both academically and emotionally, that our students and school communities have been faced with, and that, "there's no replacement for in-classroom learning."

The lifting of restrictions and commitment to keeping our students in school has resulted in a healthy and productive start to the school year with our students making steady progress and our school community celebrating a renewed sense of community and pride as we work together to overcome the gaps created by the pandemic.

The current guidance, policies, and practices which have empowered our students and their families to make their own decisions with regards to the appropriate health precautions and medical decisions for their families have proven to be effective.

Any changes that would place our families in a position to have to make difficult decisions about their child's education would be a step in the wrong direction and interfere with our collective goal of keeping our children in the classroom where they belong.

We ask that the Governor's Office continue with the commitment to ensure that our students stay in school without restrictions in order to ensure that our students continue to make progress and reconnect with their teachers, coaches, mentors and peers in a time where we know that they need it most.

The overall physical and mental health and well-being of our students, teachers, staff, and community remains our top priority and, as always, we are committed to keeping our children safe and in school, and look forward to the opportunity to continue to work collaboratively toward common sense solutions that best support our local school community.

Respectfully,



Lance Lohman, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Longwood Central School District



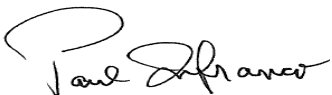
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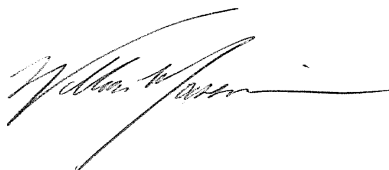
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