



EMPOWERING ALL STUDENTS

Learners Today - Leaders Tomorrow

July 22, 2021

Cassie Buchman
Reporter-Northwest Herald
cbuchman@shawmedia.com

Re: Freedom of Information Request

Dear Ms. Buchman:

On Thursday, July 15, 2021, Crystal Lake School District No. 47 received a Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA") Request from you via email, in which you requested the following:

- copy of any and all written communication to District 47s administration and school board about face masks within the last three weeks (July 1-July 15, 2021.)
I am also requesting any communications the administration and school board sent in response. If your agency does not maintain these public records, please let me know who does and include the proper custodian's name and address

Please find the attached document which fulfills our obligation to your request.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 815-788-5000.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Clare F. Bourne
Freedom of Information Officer
Crystal Lake School District 47

300 Commerce Dr. Crystal Lake, IL 60014 815.788.5000

www.d47.org D47schools [crystallakesd47](https://twitter.com/crystallakesd47)

**CRYSTAL
LAKE**

Hinz, Kathy <khinz@d47.org>

Re: Masks

1 message

Scott C <[REDACTED]>
To: "Hinz, Kathy" <khinz@d47.org>

Tue, Jul 6, 2021 at 5:27 PM

Thank you! I look forward to advocating
I appreciate your compassion
Thank you

On Tue, Jul 6, 2021 at 8:01 AM Hinz, Kathy <khinz@d47.org> wrote:

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting me. Yes, I have been reading research since the beginning of the pandemic and meeting with the local health department weekly since last April. I appreciate you asking and for your interest and advocacy in supporting a healthy school environment for the students when they return in August. I would respectfully request that you advocate with me to the IDPH, ISBE, and Dr. Carmen Ayala (state superintendent) as they are the ones who will be determining the guidelines that schools will need to follow. I have been advocating, asking questions, and signing on to group letters from superintendents about the school guidelines for a while with no result as of today. Maybe if they hear from more people than just the superintendents they might listen and/or respond. I have included contact information below:

- Dr. Carmen Ayala, State Superintendent, statesup@isbe.net
- ISBE Board of Education - COVID19@isbe.net
- IDPH - Chicago Office 312-814-2793

Thank you for contacting me and I hope that you and your family are enjoying the summer break.

Kathy J Hinz, Ed. D.
Superintendent
(she/her/ella)



CORE Center
[300 Commerce Dr.](#)
[Crystal Lake, IL 60014](#)
815.788.5012
www.d47.org

“Empowering All Students: Learners Today – Leaders Tomorrow”

On Fri, Jul 2, 2021 at 11:34 AM Scott C <[REDACTED]> wrote:
Dr. Hinz

As a parent of a student at Wehde school, I'm wondering if you're reviewing the latest research on masks. Medical research is showing masks do not work and pose a serious health problems to people who where them The children see an increase in carbon dioxide intake within 3 minutes of wearing masks as well as strains of bacteria and strep attached to the masks which our kids are breathing in They are losing oxygen intake by about 7 % , this will lead to more bronchial infections Also the social environment to wearing masks causes increased anxiety among children and young adults I urge you to do your research and reverse the mask mandate for the health and well being of our most precious commodity
Respectfully
Scott Catino

--

Scott Catino

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Scott Catino



**CRYSTAL
LAKE**

Hinz, Kathy <khinz@d47.org>

Re: Board Meeting

1 message

Hinz, Kathy <khinz@d47.org>

Mon, Jul 12, 2021 at 7:07 AM

To: Kim Neilson [REDACTED]

Cc: Dean Neilson [REDACTED]

Bcc: Board Of Education <boe@d47.org>

Good morning,

I have blind copied the board of education on my email in order to keep them in the loop of communication while not violating the Open Meetings Act (OMA). Thank you for the phone conversation last week. I appreciate your willingness to draft a template and send it to the authorities on Friday. The guidance being released from the CDC on Friday and IDPH adopting it in its entirety later on Friday has provided us a great step forward in terms of planning for the 2021/22 school year. I was already in communication with the county health department over the weekend with my thoughts and questions given the guidance and look forward to my weekly meeting with them this week to get more clarification. I look forward to updating the staff and families shortly on more specifics about our opening. Again, thank you for your advocacy. I greatly appreciate it.

Kathy J Hinz, Ed. D.

Superintendent

(she/her/ella)



CORE Center

300 Commerce Dr.

Crystal Lake, IL 60014

815.788.5012

www.d47.org

“Empowering All Students: Learners Today – Leaders Tomorrow”

On Thu, Jul 8, 2021 at 6:36 PM Kim Neilson <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Please see corrected version with changed Roger Eddy and Amaal Tokars emails.

Thanks,

Kim

From: Kim Neilson <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Thursday, Jul 8, 2021 7:07 PM

To: kahty hinz <khinz@d47.org>; dbarton@d47.org <dbarton@d47.org>; jpowell@d47.org <jpowell@d47.org>; tmahaffy@d47.org <tmahaffy@d47.org>; cwadlington@d47.org <cwadlington@d47.org>; RFetzner@d47.org <RFetzner@d47.org>; BAlEs@d47.org <BAlEs@d47.org>; RPFarrell@d47.org <RPFarrell@d47.org>

Cc: Dean Neilson <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Re: Board Meeting

Thank you Dr. Hinz for your phone call this morning and follow up. I appreciate speaking with you and hearing your perspective. Per our conversation I have attached a drafted template for anyone who sees fit to send out. I was not sure

what from ISBE is sending threats so I have addressed what I thought might be all applicable parties to receive such a document. Let me know if you have any suggestions or recommendations for changes. I will share it with parents, community members and groups I am affiliated with for them to make appropriate changes and send off as well.

State Representative Adam Niemerg and State Senator Darren Bailey have been especially influential in addressing the Illinois Education System. I know Dr. Ezike was scheduled to meet this week with Mr. Niemerg, but was a no show. Senator Bailey has written into ISBE with no response. Attorney Thomas Devore offered a reminder video today that school district boards and superintendents continue to have the local control <https://www.facebook.com/thomas.devore.92/videos/1012824249254692/?d=n> I'm not sure if he's referring to the letter that District 47 was a part of; but hopefully helpful information to discuss with your attorneys none the less.

Best Regards,

Kim Neilson

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From: Kim Neilson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, July 8, 2021 10:22 AM
To: kahty hinz; dbarton@d47.org; jpowell@d47.org; tmahaffy@d47.org; cwadlington@d47.org; RFetzner@d47.org; BAles@d47.org; RPFarrell@d47.org
Cc: Dean Neilson
Subject: Re: Board Meeting

Dear Dr. Hinz and School Board Members-

I'm just following up to Dr. Hinz reply that a letter was sent to ISBE and any response you might have received influencing your decisions for the coming school year.

I'm aware of many superintendents doing the same; but still no reply from ISBE. My children have participated in their respective sports with no masks or mitigation and no Covid issues. My youngest indoors in ballet intensives five hours a day right next to peers, much less 3 feet away. They have had no masks since March at The Chicago School of Ballet.

The local districts have control regarding masks and restrictions. Until such time as HB2789 might become law vesting this authority with ISBE, the local districts still have it. If there is something from an insurance company or legal firm I would like to see it because there would be no way for students to determine where they caught a flu, Covid, pink eye or whatever.

Currently on the district website it states children will receive disciplinary action or be isolated in some way if they refuse to wear masks:

on Instruction



Parent / Student Expectations

Face masks



- Per IDPH and ISBE guidelines, students are expected to wear a face mask (two layers recommended) at all times,

including when on the school bus.

Exceptions include:

- Eating/drinking
- Outside with at least six feet of social distancing
- Students who arrive at school without a face covering/mask will be provided a disposable mask.
- Students who refuse to wear a face covering/mask will be moved to a remote learning classroom or will be subject to disciplinary action/consequences consistent with the Student Code of Conduct and Board Policy 7:190 - Student Behavior. This does not apply to students who have an approved medical exemption or accommodation. See the D47 student handbook for more information.

Lunch / Recess (elementary students only)

- Lunch/recess will be 50 minutes with students eating in the classroom (or another designated location or outside if weather allows). Students will be supervised by a lunch/playground supervisor.
- During lunch, students will remove their masks while eating. Surfaces will be wiped down after eating.

Masks will be required outside during recess unless

I do not want my children returning to school wearing masks. It's difficult for them to breathe; the bacteria on the masks; etc. You have all the power to make masks optional and I'm asking that we settle this so that so everyone can plan for the upcoming school year that we are weeks away from.

If you decide to require masks how will children that refuse to wear them be dealt with? My girls are good kids. They are rule followers and respectful students; but it does not make sense to continue masking our children and restricting their airways - on the bus, the playground, at lunch, in the classroom, or anywhere. Or making them wear shields or those plastic partitions on desks that fall off and distracting.

As a mother I cannot go back to asking my healthy children to wear masks or shield on their head, it's just wrong - morally, ethically, physically, emotionally, and educationally. I don't want them to be put in a position where they have to choose between breathing and following the rules out of fear for disciplinary action. They are concerned they will get put in "the blue padded room," by themselves.

Our children need time to process and manage their expectations for the school year. As a school social worker I anticipate many students who will have fears returning to school. Everyone needs time to process and prepare for what's to come; especially the kids. It's torture and trauma to keep them in limbo on this. If we need doctor notes or to help them mentally prepare to refuse wearing masks; children need time for that too and to prepare for those consequences in standing up for themselves.

Thank you for taking the time to listen and for your considerations in these difficult matters. I respect your decisions and the difficult position you all are in; that we all are in.

Sincerely,

Kim Neilson

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From: Kim Neilson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, June 23, 2021 11:46 AM
To: kahty hinz; dbarton@d47.org; jpowell@d47.org; tmahaffy@d47.org; cwaddington@d47.org; RFetzner@d47.org; BAles@d47.org; RPFarrell@d47.org
Subject: Board Meeting

Dear Dr. Hinz and District 47 Board Members-

Thank you for this week's Board Meeting and opportunity for the community to share our thoughts and concerns with all of you.

I am attaching a letter from LUDA Illinois Large Districts in hopes we can be a part of this initiative of getting back to normal and addressing ISBE. I see Dr. Rowe from Huntley and Barrington D220 listed; but did not see us as D47 part of this; which concerns me. Is this just from a lack of awareness?

Some school districts are working with Attorney Tom DeVore who explains that legally the guidance from ISBE and IDPH are not laws and districts are not required to follow this. He also addresses school funding threats and insurance concerns in this video he shared: <https://www.facebook.com/109187787596728/posts/295790072269831/?d=n>

While I understand the Board and Administration is under considerable pressure and we truly appreciate all you are doing for our students; I just ask that we consider what is in our children's best interest.

The working and academic conditions of wearing masks and other restrictions have taken a considerable toll on the educational, social and emotional academic environment. Schools are not a happy place to be under this oppression.

Thank you for your commitment and dedication to student learning and leadership for our community.

Kind Regards,

Kim Neilson
School Social Worker
Parent of [REDACTED]



Dr. John Burkey, Executive Director
515 W. Main Street, Barrington, IL 60010
ludaillinois.org

June 21, 2021

Dear Dr. Ayala,

As LUDA superintendents, we lead school districts that collectively educate over half a million students in Illinois. The last 15 months have been extremely challenging for everyone, and we are invigorated as we see our society beginning to return to a semblance of normal as our COVID spread rates continue to rapidly decline. Most of our districts have been able to offer a return to full in-person learning in the past few months under the current guidance. We have only been able to do so because many of our students continue to be remote. Thus, our schools have been implementing the current guidelines with an in-person attendance rate of approximately 70-80 percent.

We were encouraged in May to see your in-person learning resolution for the fall of 2021 as we want to have our students fully back in-person. Given this resolution, coupled with the move to Phase 5 statewide, we believed new guidance reflecting these changes would be quickly forthcoming. Unfortunately, to date, that has not happened. While new guidance was issued earlier this month, it did not reflect the reality of conditions needed to conduct full in-person learning or the provisions of the recent Illinois' Phase 5 designation.

While there are a number of concerns about current guidance related to implementation in the fall, we will focus on two primary points:

- Quarantining

The current guidelines, if not modified, will create significant issues in the fall. Our schools have had very few cases of documented COVID spread. There have been thousands of students quarantined this year and the in and out of in-person school has been very disruptive to our students' education. In most cases, when students were quarantined in the past year, our schools had remote learning options in place for them. With the return to full in-person learning next year, those remote options will not exist in the same way. In many cases, quarantined students will be taught with homebound instruction, which does not equate to the time and quality they received from remote instruction. When considering the cost/benefit of both health and education, we do not believe the current quarantining guidance is most appropriate for our students.

Large Unit District Association



Dr. John Burkey, Executive Director
515 W. Main Street, Barrington, IL 60010
ludaillinois.org



- Social Distancing

Under the 6-foot social distancing guidelines, it is impossible for most of our schools to operate at 100 percent capacity. Using 3-foot social distancing guidelines, full capacity is possible in most cases, but only with significant modifications. Those modifications include, but are not limited to, items such as different furniture (desks instead of tables), completely redesigned lunch procedures and new student bell schedules.

We request two action items from ISBE:

- We request that social distancing, quarantining, and masking guidelines in schools be consistent with health guidelines of Phase 5 as applied to other venues in Illinois. Through science we know that children are the least vulnerable population to COVID. Generally, we know that in normal circumstances, schools are the most controlled, supervised venue that kids attend. Schools should not have to operate under tighter restrictions than what has been deemed safe in other circumstances. If there are continued social distancing and quarantining guidelines in place, we ask that they be consistent among agencies and local health departments.
- We request that full guidance from ISBE for the fall be issued immediately. Unless there is a significant change in the spread of COVID over the next two months, there is nothing that will be known in two months that is not known today. If certain social distancing guidelines remain in place, and we have 100 percent of our students attending in person, our schools will have to make significant adjustments to the educational environment. The planning and expenditures to make those adjustments need to happen now. Conversely, we do not want to spend taxpayer dollars on mitigation purchases that will ultimately not be needed.

In summary, we understand and respect that the role of IDPH is to issue health guidance. While we have the utmost respect for IDPH, they do not have expertise in Pre-K-12 education or in the leadership of schools. We believe it is vital for ISBE to collaborate with IDPH, and other relevant state agencies, to create guidance that meets the safety needs of students and staff, and also allows for the highest quality education of our students as they return to full in-person learning.

Large Unit District Association



Dr. John Burkey, Executive Director
515 W. Main Street, Barrington, IL 60010
ludaillinois.org

Sincerely,

Dr. John Burkey,
LUDA

Dr. Douglas Wood,
Ball-Chatham #5

Dr. Ehren Jarrett,
Rockford #205

Dr. Sharon Desmoulin-Kherat,
Peoria #150

Dan Bridges,
Naperville #203

Dr. Lisa Hichens,
Batavia #101

Dr. Donn Mendoza,
Round Lake #116

Dr. Brian Harris,
Barrington #220

Dr. Genevra Walters,
Kankakee #111

Jennifer Gill,
Springfield #186

Dr. Jeff Schuler,
Wheaton-Warrenville #200

Steve Ptacek,
Jacksonville #117

Dr. John Sparlin,
Oswego #308

Dr. Paul Fregeau,
Decatur #61

Dr. Kelley Gallt,
Lake Zurich #95

Leigh Lewis,
Triad #2

Dr. Alicia Geddis,
Danville #118

Rachel Kinder,
Valley View #365U

Dr. Susan Zola,
Champaign #4

Dr. Julie Morris,
Harlem #122

Dr. Jeff Craig,
West Aurora #129

Dr. Kent Mutchler,
Geneva #304

Dr. Anna Alvarado,
Freeport #145

Dr. Corey Tafoya,
Harvard #50

John Asplund,
Galesburg #205

Dr. Keith Oates,
Marion #2

Dr. Ray Lechner,
DeKalb #428

Roy Webb,
Quincy #172

Dr. Lane Abrell,
Plainfield #202

Dr. Barry Reilly,
Bloomington #87

Dr. Tim Shimp,
Yorkville #115

Dr. Reginald Lawrence,
Rock Island #41

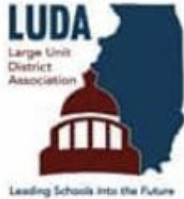
Dr. Scott Rowe,
Huntley #158

Dr. Rachel Savage,
Moline-Coal Valley #40

Dr. Adrian Talley,
Indian Prairie #204

Dr. Jason Pearson,
St. Charles #303

Large Unit District Association



Dr. John Burkey, Executive Director
515 W. Main Street, Barrington, IL 60010
ludaillinois.org

Dr. Todd Leden,
Kaneland #302

Dr. Jennifer Ivory-Tatum,
Urbana #116

Stephen Wilder,
Sycamore #427

Dr. Todd Stirn,
Burlington Central #301

Susan Harkin,
Algonquin #300

Kristie Baumgartner,
Alton #11

Dr. Scott Dearman,
Dunlap #323

Dr. Kristen Kendrick-Weikle,
McLean County #5

Dr. Michael Moan,
Woodstock #200

Large Unit District Association

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**CRYSTAL
LAKE**

Hinz, Kathy <khinz@d47.org>

Illinois School Districts Request from Community Members

1 message

Kim Neilson >

Thu, Jul 8, 2021 at 6:18 PM

To: "governor@illinois.gov" <governor@illinois.gov>, "ngozi.ezike@illinois.gov" <ngozi.ezike@illinois.gov>, "amaal.tokars@illinois.gov" <amaal.tokars@illinois.gov>, "justin.dewitt@illinois.gov" <justin.dewitt@illinois.gov>, "statesup@isbe.net" <statesup@isbe.net>, "dreisber@isbe.net" <dreisber@isbe.net>, "dleak@d168.org" <dleak@d168.org>, "bensonc@district65.net" <bensonc@district65.net>, "beddy@bright.net" <beddy@bright.net>, "dlett@litchfieldpanthers.org" <dlett@litchfieldpanthers.org>, "smorrison1@frontiernet.net" <smorrison1@frontiernet.net>
Cc: kahty hinz <khinz@d47.org>

Governor J.B. Pritzker
Office of the Governor
207 State House
Springfield, IL 62706
217-782-6830
governor@illinois.gov

Dr. Ngozi O. Ezike, National Policy Advisor and IDPH Director
ngozi.ezike@illinois.gov
1900 Polk Street
Chicago, IL 60612

Dr. Amaal V.E. Tokars, IDPH Deputy Director
amaal.tokars@illinois.gov
8S790 Dugan Rd.
Big Rock, IL 60511
Illinois Department of Public Health
630-556-3342

Justin DeWitt, IDPH Chief of Staff
justin.dewitt@illinois.gov
Illinois Department of Public Health
Office of the State Director
535 West Jefferson Street
Springfield, IL 62761

Dr. Carmen Ayala, State Superintendent of Education
Illinois State Board of Education
100 N. 1st Street
Springfield, IL 62777
217-782-2223
statesup@isbe.net

Illinois State Board of Education Members
Daren Reisberg dreisber@isbe.net
Dr. Donna S. Leak dleak@d168.org
Jamie Guzman
Dr. Christine Benson bensonc@district65.net
Roger Eddy beddy@bright.net
Dr. David R. Lett dlett@litchfieldpanthers.org
Susie Morrison smorrison1@frontiernet.net

Dear Illinois Representatives and Elected Officials ~

This is a complicated time in our education system and we are asking all of you to recognize the difficult position that school restrictions, mask mandates, and other guidelines are putting on schools, communities, families, but most importantly the children of Illinois. This is a time we need to come together for the children, not send threats of

withholding funding to school districts that do not follow “guidance” from ISBE because there is no authority for ISBE to do that under our current legal system since HB2789 has NOT passed. These school districts that are choosing not to follow ISBE Guidance are not breaking laws – they are doing what is in the best interest of the students in the communities that they serve.

As parents, school staff, and community members we trust that our local school boards make the best decisions for our students. Local districts should have control over mask mandates and restrictions, especially since we are not under any emergency orders. What ISBE has put out to schools is GUIDANCE – not law. The IDPH has no jurisdiction to dictate what happens in a school at this time. These administrative bodies and state agencies reporting to the governor need to STOP threatening school districts.

It is understood that both Dr. Ezike and Dr. Tokars advise and direct the Illinois Department of Public Health; but are employed by Governor J.B. Pritzker’s Office per WSPY FOIA documents received June 16, 2020 from IDPH attorney Lixa Reynolds. We are no longer under an emergency order that demands guidance for our schools and communities. Dr. Ezike and Dr. Tokars have an ethical and moral responsibility to clarify this to IDPH and ISBE as part of what has become this tyrannical hierarchy. There are 847 Illinois school districts and 100s are already saying masks are optional for next year and more districts are looking to follow this lead.

Dr. Fauci has indicated that face mask policies should be relaxed with Covid rates dropping as a result of immunity and vaccinations. People have to take precautions and judge their own individual risks rather than forcing restrictions and masks on healthy adults and children. On a broad basis these restrictions have been lifted; in Illinois and across our nation. The vaccines are over 90% effective; including to the different variants. If we want our communities to understand the importance of vaccines we have to end these restrictive policies; including mask requirements in schools.

Email communication between American Federation of Teachers Union Officials, CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky, and her top advisors reveal language suggestions from the Teachers Union that has compromised the science at the detriment of our children. According to the CDC, before the Teacher’s Unions got involved, there is little evidence that schools contribute meaningfully to increase community transmissions or that students are at risk of spreading Covid-19. It is time to let our children and our schools return to an assemblance of normalcy. **Our school superintendents, school boards, students, parents, staff and communities request your encouragement, support and blessings moving forward in navigating this difficult process in the wake of trauma all this has caused.**

There is nothing social about social distancing. It is developmentally inappropriate to expect our students to continue in this manner of measuring how far they are from one another or sharing toys before they have been disinfected. Especially when they do not have to do this in their sports endeavors like wrestling or at a ballet bar or at carnivals they’ve attended throughout the summer. Our teaching staff cannot patrol all aspects; nor should that be a learning priority. Over this past school year, under the restrictive conditions, children were returning home with masks full of bacteria that school staff were instructed to demand children keep on their faces restricting their airways. If a mask fell on the floor teachers were telling students to pick it up and put it back on their faces. If students or families refused to wear the masks at school they were subject to disciplinary or isolation measures like Remote Learning. How is this a conducive learning environment? Schools and school boards know this and are prepared to drop these restrictions; just as neighboring states have, but they should not have to do so under the brutal threat and stress from our state representatives of a loss in funding. While funding from the state and federal branch of government only amount to roughly 20% it is still a threat and stress our school administrative representatives do not need at this crucial time. Let them focus on what is important – the social, emotional and educational needs of our students. The medical and health needs can be the responsibility of parents and the conversations they have with their own practitioners. Enough is enough.

Sincerely,

Kim Neilson - Huntley District 158 School Social Worker and Parent of two elementary students in
[Crystal Lake School District 47](#)

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



**CRYSTAL
LAKE**

Hinz, Kathy <khinz@d47.org>

IDPH fully adopts CDC guidance for schools

1 message

Illinois State Board of Education <hello@isbe.net>

Fri, Jul 9, 2021 at 1:53 PM

Reply-To: covid19@isbe.net

To: khinz@d47.org

I am very happy to announce that the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) has fully adopted the updated guidance for schools issued today by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which is based on the latest scientific information about COVID-19.

Click [here](#) if you are having trouble viewing this message.



Illinois
State Board of Education
Office of the Superintendent

Dear Colleagues:

I am very happy to announce that the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) has fully adopted the [updated guidance for schools issued today by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#), which is based on the latest scientific information about COVID-19. All Illinois schools, both public and nonpublic, will use the CDC guidance released today to start the 2021-22 school year. You can read more in [IDPH's press release](#).

The CDC's guidance recognizes the fundamental importance of in-person learning for the wellbeing of students, families, and communities. These public health experts stress that all schools may not be able to implement all the public health strategies, like social distancing, perfectly, and that's okay. They urge you to prioritize full-time access to in-person learning for all students, while layering the public health requirements to the best of your ability.

With several variants of the virus circulating, it's more important than ever to get vaccinated and to promote and provide vaccination opportunities to your students and families. Vaccination remains the surest protection against getting sick and getting our loved ones sick.

Please review the CDC guidance thoroughly. I'll highlight two major changes here that I know educators and families have been eager to hear:

1. Requiring masks only for individuals who are not fully vaccinated.
2. Recommending at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms, but not if this would be a barrier to in-person learning.

Now that we have the public health requirements for this coming school year, I make the following declaration:

"Beginning with the 2021-22 school year, all schools must resume fully in-person learning for all student attendance days, provided that, pursuant to [105 ILCS 5/10-30](#) and [105 ILCS 5/34-18.66](#), remote instruction be made available for students who have not received a COVID-19 vaccine or who are not eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine, only while they are under quarantine consistent with guidance or requirements from a local public health department or the Illinois Department of Public Health."

We have no doubt that children learn best – and educators teach best – when they're physically present together, in the same space. We want to do everything we can to ensure that happens safely.

And finally, I want to say, again, thank you for the amazing work you've all done to get us to a place where we can fully re-open and re-connect in-person with our students.

Sincerely,



Dr. Carmen I. Ayala
State Superintendent of Education
Illinois State Board of Education

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The Illinois State Board of Education is the State Education Agency for Illinois. Our mission is to provide each and every child with safe and healthy learning conditions, great educators, and equitable opportunities by practicing data-informed stewardship of resources and policy development, all done in partnership with educators, families, and stakeholders.

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Hinz, Kathy <khinz@d47.org>

FW: [EXTERNAL] IDPH: Illinois Department of Public Health Adopts CDC COVID-19 Prevention School Guidance

1 message

Melissa Adamson <MHAdamson@mchenrycountyil.gov>

Fri, Jul 9, 2021 at 3:17 PM

To: Brian Coleman <brian.coleman@cary26.org>, Christine Conkling <conkling@riley18.org>, "Corey Tafoya - Harvard District 50 (ctafoya@cusd50.org)" <ctafoya@cusd50.org>, Dave Engelbrecht <engelbrechtd@mchs154.org>, Debbie Ehlenburg <dehlenburg@ah19.org>, "Dr. Daniel Johnson" <djohnson@johnsburg12.org>, "Dr. John Bute" <jbute@dist46.org>, "Dr. Kathy Hinz" <khinz@d47.org>, "Dr. R. Alan Hoffman" <ahoffman@d15.org>, "Dr. Ryan McTague" <mctagueryan@dist156.org>, "Dr. Scott Rowe" <srowe@district158.org>, "Dr. Sue Wings" <swings@hsd36.org>, "Dr. Tim Burns" <tburns@sedom.org>, "Dr. Tim Mahaffy" <mahaffyt@dist3.org>, "Dr. Tom Lind" <tlind@nsd2.com>, "Dr. Tom Lind" <tlind@rbchs.com>, Lea Damisch <ldamisch@marengo165.org>, Leslie Schermerhorn <LASchermerhorn@mchenrycountyil.gov>, Mike Freeman <MSFreeman@mchenrycountyil.gov>, "Mike Moan (mmoan@wcusd200.org)" <mmoan@wcusd200.org>, Steve Olson <solson@d155.org>
Cc: Susan Karras <slkarras@mchenrycountyil.gov>, Peter Austin <pbaustin@mchenrycountyil.gov>, David Christensen <DACHristensen@mchenrycountyil.gov>

In an update to the update, IDPH has announced it is fully adopting the CDC guidance (see attached).

Have a great one!

Melissa

Melissa H. Adamson, MPH

Public Health Administrator

McHenry County Department of Health

2200 N Seminary Ave | Woodstock, IL 60098

Tel: (815) 334-4575

Fax: (815) 334-4635

mhadamson@mchenrycountyil.gov

www.mcdh.info



From: SIREN <5652bc76-0005-3002-80c0-fceb55463ffe@notify2.mir3.com>

Sent: Friday, July 9, 2021 2:01 PM

To: Melissa Adamson <MHAdamson@mchenrycountyil.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] IDPH: Illinois Department of Public Health Adopts CDC COVID-19 Prevention School Guidance
Importance: High

Melissa Adamson,

SIREN NOTIFICATION

To: LHD Administrators, LHD ERCs, LHD PIOs, LHD CD / INEDSS Staff, LHD Nurses and Nurse Directors, LHD Laboratory Personnel, State of Illinois Hospital Administrators, Hospital Emergency Preparedness Staff, Hospital PIOs, Hospital Infectious Disease Practitioners, Hospital Nurses and Nurse Directors, Hospital Laboratory Personnel, Hospital Emergency Department Staff, Hospital EMS Staff, Hospital Pharmacists, IL Health and Hospital Association, RHCCs, FQHCs, IL Poison Control Center, State of Illinois Local EMAs, Illinois Coroners, IL Funeral Directors / Embalmers, Regional Superintendents, IL Oral Health Providers, IL Licensed Pharmacists, School & University Emergency Management / Health Care Staff, Daycare Facilities, American Red Cross Contacts, IL Dermatology Institute, HHS, IPHA, Blood Banks, and all other Public Health Partners

CC: IDPH Director, IDPH Assistant Director, IDPH Chief of Staff, IDPH Deputy Directors, IDPH COOP Leadership, IDPH PIOs, IDPH RHOs, IDPH CD Leads, IDPH OPR Leads, IDPH ERCs, IDPH REMSCs, IDPH Lab Director / Leads, IDPH Long Term Care Leads, IDPH Section Chiefs, IEMA Director / Staff, State of Illinois SEOC Liaisons, and ASPR

From: Illinois Department of Public Health PIO

Date: July 9, 2021

Subject: Illinois Department of Public Health Adopts CDC COVID-19 Prevention School Guidance

The document entitled, "July 9, 2021 IDPH News Release Updated School Guidance" is attached to the email version of this notification.

All attached documents are posted in the **SIREN Document Library** under *Documents > HAN Notifications > IDPH > COVID-19 (2019-nCoV)* and can be viewed by logging in to www.siren.illinois.gov.

For all general vaccination questions, please email: DPH.SICK@illinois.gov.

For all questions regarding I-CARE, please email: DPH.ICARE@illinois.gov.

To be added to the system, please visit <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/siren> for job-specific registration instructions.

*To be deleted or modified in the SIREN alerting/notification system, or if you have received this message in error, please contact the **IDPH HAN Team** at DPH.SIREN@illinois.gov for any questions or concerns.*

COVID-19 Resource Links:

- [IDPH - Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [IDPH - Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Vaccine](#)
- [IDPH - Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\): Press Releases / Briefings](#)
- [IDPH - Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\): Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Coronavirus COVID-19 Global Cases by Johns Hopkins CSSE](#)
- [CDC Homepage for Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [CDC Guidance for Healthcare Professionals](#)
- [CDC Guidance for Laboratories](#)

Thank you,
SIREN

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the County network. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

While mismatches between the actual SENDER field and the FROM field are common. It is also a common spoofing tactic. For additional reference, this email was actually sent from 0100017a8ca56d0c-4df4d78b-b68c-4572-be77-b3aab633bcce-000000@ses-east-1.notify2.mir3.com

If you have any questions about the legitimacy of this email, please call the helpdesk at extension 4828.



20210709_IDPH_News_Release_Updated_S.pdf
136K



**CRYSTAL
LAKE**

Hinz, Kathy <khinz@d47.org>

FW: IDPH fully adopts CDC guidance for schools

1 message

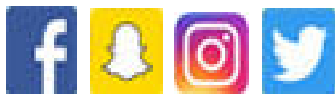
Tovar, Yvonne <[REDACTED]>
To: Kathy J Hinz <khinz@d47.org>

Fri, Jul 9, 2021 at 4:00 PM

FYI

Yvonne Tovar
UniServ Director IEA-NEA
Proud IEASO Member

Illinois Education Association -NEA
2250 Point Blvd., Suite 400
Elgin, IL 60123-7871
[\(847\) 428-7640](tel:(847)428-7640)



“We will lead not merely by the example of our power, but by the power of our example.”

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.

----- Original message -----

From: Illinois State Board of Education <hello@isbe.net>
Sent: Friday, July 9, 2021 1:53 PM
To: Rios, Sylvia <Sylvia.Rios@ieanea.org>
Subject: IDPH fully adopts CDC guidance for schools

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Illinois State Board of Education

Office of the Superintendent

Dear Colleagues:

I am very happy to announce that the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) has fully adopted the [updated guidance for schools issued today by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#), which is based on the latest scientific information about COVID-19. All Illinois schools, both public and nonpublic, will use the CDC guidance released today to start the 2021-22 school year. You can read more in [IDPH's press release](#).

The CDC's guidance recognizes the fundamental importance of in-person learning for the wellbeing of students, families, and communities. These public health experts stress that all schools may not be able to implement all the public health strategies, like social distancing, perfectly, and that's okay. They urge you to prioritize full-time access to in-person learning for all students, while layering the public health requirements to the best of your ability.

With several variants of the virus circulating, it's more important than ever to get vaccinated and to promote and provide vaccination opportunities to your students and families. Vaccination remains the surest protection against getting sick and getting our loved ones sick.

Please review the CDC guidance thoroughly. I'll highlight two major changes here that I know educators and families have been eager to hear:

1. Requiring masks only for individuals who are not fully vaccinated.
2. Recommending at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms, but not if this would be a barrier to in-person learning.

Now that we have the public health requirements for this coming school year, I make the following declaration:

"Beginning with the 2021-22 school year, all schools must resume fully in-person learning for all student attendance days, provided that, pursuant to [105 ILCS 5/10-30](#) and [105 ILCS 5/34-18.66](#), remote instruction be made available for students who have not received a COVID-19 vaccine or who are not eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine, only while they are under quarantine consistent with guidance or requirements from a local public health department or the Illinois Department of Public Health."

We have no doubt that children learn best – and educators teach best – when they're physically present together, in the same space. We want to do everything we can to ensure that happens safely.

And finally, I want to say, again, thank you for the amazing work you've all done to get us to a place where we can fully re-open and re-connect in-person with our students.

Sincerely,



Dr. Carmen I. Ayala
State Superintendent of Education
Illinois State Board of Education

Visit // isbe.net



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The Illinois State Board of Education is the State Education Agency for Illinois. Our mission is to provide each and every child with safe and healthy learning conditions, great educators, and equitable opportunities by practicing data-informed stewardship of resources and policy development, all done in partnership with educators, families, and stakeholders.

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**CRYSTAL
LAKE**

Hinz, Kathy <khinz@d47.org>

Is masking required in schools?

1 message

Illinois State Board of Education <hello@isbe.net>

Sat, Jul 10, 2021 at 2:39 PM

Reply-To: covid19@isbe.net

To: khinz@d47.org

The CDC guidance that Illinois has fully adopted for all K-12 public and nonpublic schools states: "Masks should be worn indoors by all individuals (age 2 and older) who are not fully vaccinated.

Click [here](#) if you are having trouble viewing this message.



Illinois
State Board of Education

Clarifying Mask Guidance

The Illinois Department of Public Health has fully adopted the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated guidance for schools released on July 9. View the [guidance](#) and the [press release](#).

Q: Is masking required in schools?

A: The CDC guidance that Illinois has fully adopted for all K-12 public and nonpublic schools states: "Masks should be worn indoors by all individuals (age 2 and older) who are not fully vaccinated. Consistent and correct mask use by people who are not fully vaccinated is especially important indoors and in crowded settings, when physical distancing cannot be maintained.

"The CDC continues to recommend masking and physical distancing as key prevention strategies. However, if school administrators decide to remove any of the prevention strategies for their school based on local conditions, they should remove them one at a time and monitor closely (with adequate testing through the school and/or community) for any increases in COVID-19 cases. Schools should communicate their strategies and any changes in plans to teachers, staff, and families, and directly to older students, using accessible materials and communication channels, in a language and at a literacy level that teachers, staff, students, and families understand.

"Schools should work with local public health officials to determine the prevention strategies needed in their area by monitoring levels of community transmission (i.e., low, moderate, substantial, or high) and local vaccine coverage, and use of screening testing to detect cases in K-12 schools ... A school in a community with substantial or high transmission, with a low teacher, staff, or student vaccination rate, and without a screening testing program should continue to require masks for people who are not fully vaccinated."

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The Illinois State Board of Education is the State Education Agency for Illinois. Our mission is to provide each and every child with safe and healthy learning conditions, great educators, and equitable opportunities by practicing data-informed stewardship of resources and policy development, all done in partnership with educators, families, and stakeholders.

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**CRYSTAL
LAKE**

Hinz, Kathy <khinz@d47.org>

Re: Update

1 message

Hinz, Kathy <khinz@d47.org>

Mon, Jul 12, 2021 at 7:17 AM

To: erin cannella [REDACTED]

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting me and for contacting the appropriate authorities and agencies on Friday. I know that many people have said and it is being repeated that each school district has the authority to follow or not follow ISBE and IDPH guidelines and mandates. Since the board meeting, it has been made clear to us by our insurance companies and attorneys that we do not have the choice to disregard the guidelines and mandates. If we were to do that, ISBE has the ability to revoke our recognition as a school district from the state, which would immediately stop our local, state, and federal funding, and any insurance coverage liability wise for anything that would happen as a result of us not following the guidelines and mandates.

That being said, the guidance being released from the CDC Friday morning and then IDPH adopting it in its entirety Friday afternoon, we have many answers regarding how we need to operate when we open in August. Additionally, that guidance seems to allow decisions to be made more at the local level, which would mean via our local health department. I have already sent my thoughts and feedback about the guidance to MCDH and I look forward to my weekly meeting with them to discuss and gain clarity on the reference to local decision making in the guidance. I will communicate out to our staff and families as soon as I have a greater understanding of the guidelines and intent for local decisions. Again, thank you for contacting me and for reaching out to the state authorities and agencies to help advocate with us. I hope that you will reach out in the future with any questions, concerns, and/or feedback.

Kathy J Hinz, Ed. D.

Superintendent

(she/her/ella)

**CORE Center**

300 Commerce Dr.

Crystal Lake, IL 60014

815.788.5012

www.d47.org***“Empowering All Students: Learners Today – Leaders Tomorrow”***On Fri, Jul 9, 2021 at 9:25 AM erin cannella <ecannella@sbcglobal.net> wrote:

Good morning Dr. Hinz,

Thank you for the update today. A few questions- Is the ISBE mask guidance a recommendation or an actual mandate? I believe the state's mandate is a recommendation. At the last board meeting you mentioned that it was unclear if ISBE had the legal authority to pull funding or recognition. Has it been determined that they do have this authority? Your email said that there would be significant hurdles if this was done. What would these hurdles be if ISBE did in fact pull 20% of the funding and recognition status?

I have contacted ISBE, McHenry County Health Dept and IDPH like you recommended and only received a generic response from ISBE. Please let me know if there is anything else that I can do, I would love to help the district in any way I can.

Thank you,

7/15/2021

Crystal Lake School District 47 Mail - Re: Update

Erin Lukasiewicz



Hinz, Kathy <khinz@d47.org>

Re: Parent Update - 7.9.21; Actualización para padres - 9.7.21

1 message

Nicky Strahl <[REDACTED]>
 To: Crystal Lake Elementary District 47 <dcbarr@d47.org>, Kathy Hinz <khinz@d47.org>
 Cc: Crystal Lake Elementary District 47 <communications@d47.org>

Wed, Jul 14, 2021 at 9:16 PM

Greetings Dr. Hinz and Ms. Barr,

As you may recall, I try my best to thank all those that I feel deserve it. Your staff (and the entirety of North Elementary) has always been amazing to me and my two kids. However, as much as I try to voice my gratitude to those deserving, I also try to convey my disagreement in a helpful manner. To this end, I wish to take a moment to let you know my concern with the letter submitted to Dr. Ayala.

I agree it would help if the schools were provided with more guidance and/or directions on how to accomplish the near impossible tasks that you all were faced with. Additionally, I agree that full in-school teaching is the best for at least my kids who are in the dual language. In your first bullet-point you mentioned isolation versus quarantine for close-contacted individuals. All of those points, I do agree with. However, in your second bullet point, I do not feel unvaccinated people in close proximity to each other is a wise idea without masks. While this year has been exceedingly difficult, it provided us with a nearly disease free year. The wearing of masks does help to prevent many communicable diseases (from the flu down to just a sniffle from the common cold virus). We have lived with unprecedented health this past year that is uncommon in my household. Granted, being a biologist, I also know that this disease prevention does not allow the body to develop antibodies associated with the various illnesses; but given the stark difference, I find the mask wearing to have been greatly beneficial.

Additionally, I do not feel masks prevent the kids from picking up and understanding non-verbal cues from their counterparts, as mentioned in your last bullet point in that letter. My children go to a deaf therapist for their social-emotional well being and to deal with the discrepancies between their divorced parent's households. The therapist and children both have been able to pick up on each other's body language VERY well in-person. I agree, this was not possible while the kids were online, hence the agreement to full in-person tutelage.

Therefore, if I may provide a suggestion and/or just my two cents: I believe it will be important for all those unvaccinated to continue to wear masks within indoor school settings. If teachers can bring students outside, then masks could be taken off if they can maintain some distance between each other (but that's usually not an issue when in an outdoor setting). In playground, recess, and other outdoor settings, I do not feel masks would again be needed, provided they can have some space (so that if someone does sneeze, they won't necessarily be sneezing on the child immediately next to them, the air will be able to diffuse any microbes). This really just leaves lunch (that I can think of). I do feel it is important to allow breaks in the day to provide all people involved (both the teachers and the students) a bit of a break, leg stretch, and just general change of scenery. To that end, I don't have a great answer/thought. My gut goes to social-distance for lunch, but I know you do not have the space for that (unless maybe the gym can be converted during lunch-hours?).

All that said, I am still happy that you continue to hear the parents' thoughts and concerns and I hope you do continue to keep the science of disease management in mind while we continue to navigate this reopening stage. While the majority of the adult population is vaccinated, the children still are not, and the delta variant is something that is still a concern. Along with the unknown reason as to why some people (including children) come down with the 'long-haul COVID' and many others do not. Thank you for all that you continue to do over your summer and I hope you continue to have a healthy productive one!

In hopeful solidarity,
 --Nicky Strahl--
 (Mother to G [REDACTED] and J [REDACTED] O [REDACTED] at North Dual Language Program)
 847.946.6691

On Fri, Jul 9, 2021 at 8:30 AM Crystal Lake Elementary District 47 <communications@d47.org> wrote:



EMPOWERING ALL STUDENTS
 Learners Today - Leaders Tomorrow

Dear parent or guardian:

We hope you are enjoying summer! With only six weeks to go before the first day of the new school year, I wanted to provide you with a brief update about COVID-19 and the start of the 2021-22 school year.

On June 25th, Governor JB Pritzker issued [Executive Order 2021-14](#) and a new disaster proclamation, which is in effect until July 24, 2021. This Executive Order requires school districts to continue to follow the mitigation measures currently in place. Since the June board meeting, I have received numerous emails from parents with questions and concerns so, with the help of my communications department, we've drafted some frequently asked questions

(FAQs) and responses below with the information we have to date. I hope you will find this helpful.

When are school superintendents expected to receive reopening guidance from the state?

On June 29th, State Superintendent Dr. Carmen Ayala informed superintendents that the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) anticipates that the Center for Disease Control (CDC) will issue guidance for schools soon, which will then allow the IDPH to release revised guidance for Illinois schools. According to Ayala, schools should *"plan for both looser CDC guidance and the potential that current mitigations will remain in place."* Local health officials have told us that guidance may not come from IDPH until the final week of July or the first week of August.

Who makes the ultimate decision about what full, in-person learning will look like in the fall?

School superintendents and their boards of education make decisions about school reopening but have to factor in the guidance provided by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), state and local health departments, and the CDC. We continue to await updated guidance from ISBE and the IDPH for the upcoming school year.

Why should children have to wear a mask at school when it's not required by local stores, restaurants, etc.?

We know that mask wearing in the community has been advertised by organizations and businesses as recommended for unvaccinated people now that the state has entered Phase 5. However, when we discuss this discrepancy with health officials they continue to tell us that mask wearing is still required for unvaccinated individuals indoors per the state guidance. Current school guidance requires mask wearing by both students and staff at school regardless of vaccination status. We realize this discrepancy in practice and are faced with additional logistical challenges as well if current mitigations remain in the fall. For more information about reopening challenges schools face, we invite you to read the [letter signed by Dr. Hinz and emailed to the state superintendent on July 6th](#).

Are superintendents voicing any concerns about the challenges associated with current mitigation strategies and a return to full, in-person learning in the fall?

Superintendents across the state, including those in McHenry County, have been advocating for clear and reasonable guidance for the 2021-22 school year. Since the pandemic began, Dr. Hinz has advocated for District 47 staff and families during weekly calls with the McHenry County Department of Health, periodic calls with the Illinois Department of Public Health, and the Illinois State Board of Education. Since the state of Illinois entered Phase 5 in June, she has signed letters to state officials drafted by school leaders and the Illinois Association of School Administrators. Recently she [drafted a communication](#) that was co-signed by many of the other superintendents in McHenry County making it a locally focused advocacy effort. This letter was emailed and mailed on July 6th to the state superintendent and many other decision-making bodies at the state level.

Do school districts have to follow the guidance issued by the health departments and ISBE?

As a state public school, we are required to follow the laws that govern public schools in the state of Illinois. Recently, Illinois public school districts that have opted not to follow the guidance issued by the Illinois State Board of Education and the IDPH were [contacted by ISBE](#). They were told that they were being immediately placed on "probationary" recognition status as a public school entity. They were informed that they needed to remedy their noncompliance with school code and the law or they would be moved to "Non Recognized" status. Losing your status as a public district/school means you are no longer eligible to receive any state or federal flow through funding. While we realize the majority of our funding is generated by local property taxes, [approximately 20% of our budget comes to us from state and federal funds](#). The combination of losing that funding and recognition status as a public district/school would be significant hurdles for us to overcome and still be able to operate for the 2021/22 and future school years.

Can school districts require students to get the vaccine once they are eligible to receive it?

Decisions regarding which vaccines are required for students that attend public schools are made at the state level. At the present time, the state has not added COVID-19 to the list of required vaccines. District 47 does not endorse action one way or the other by adults for themselves or for their children, and we place no judgment on a family's decision to vaccinate or not vaccinate. Additionally, school districts are not incentivized to get students vaccinated. We have, however, made an effort to communicate information about vaccination clinics in the area to our families and have made COVID testing readily available to our staff, students and their families for those interested.

Will remote learning continue to be offered in the fall?

No. Per the resolution passed by ISBE on May 19th, 2021, all teaching and learning will be in-person, full-day. Homebound instruction may be made available to a student who receives a medical exemption from a physician, which is approved by the district. Remote learning in the short-term may be provided to students who are not eligible for the vaccine **and** have been quarantined due to a possible exposure to COVID-19.

Whom can I direct questions and concerns to about current mitigations and future guidance for schools?

We appreciate our parents and community members' concerns for the overall health and well-being of their children and we welcome your feedback and concerns. We encourage those with opinions, concerns, and/or suggestions about the mitigation measures for 2021/22 to advocate alongside us to those directly responsible for establishing the guidelines schools will need to follow. See below for contact information for the state superintendent's office, ISBE, IDPH, and the Governor.

- Dr. Carmen Ayala, State Superintendent - email: statesup@isbe.net
- Illinois State Board of Education - email: COVID19@isbe.net; Twitter: @ISBENews; Facebook: @IllinoisStateBoardofEducation
- IDPH - Chicago office - phone: 312-814-2793; Facebook/Twitter: @IDPH
- Governor J.B. Pritzker - phone: 217-782-6831; [email voice an opinion form](#); Twitter: @GovernorPritzker & @JBPRitzker

The next District 47 board meeting will be held July 19, 2021. The meeting will be in-person at the CORE Center (300 Commerce Drive, CL). The agenda and my presentation to the board will be posted on our website and made available to the public on the Friday afternoon before the board meeting. I invite those of you who are interested to view the presentation before or after the meeting. For a link to my board presentation in June, please [click here](#).

Sincerely,



Dr. Kathy J. Hinz

Superintendent

Estimado padre o tutor:

¡Esperamos que estén disfrutando del verano! A sólo seis semanas del primer día del nuevo año escolar, quería proporcionarles una breve actualización sobre COVID-19 y el inicio del año escolar 2021-22.

El 25 de junio, el gobernador JB Pritzker emitió [Orden Ejecutiva 2021-14](#) y una nueva proclamación de catástrofe, que estará en vigor hasta el 24 de julio de 2021. Esta Orden Ejecutiva requiere que los distritos escolares continúen siguiendo las medidas de mitigación

actualmente en vigor. Desde la reunión de la junta directiva de junio, he recibido numerosos correos electrónicos de padres con preguntas y preocupaciones, por lo que, con la ayuda de mi departamento de comunicaciones, hemos redactado algunas preguntas frecuentes (FAQs) y las respuestas a continuación con la información que tenemos hasta la fecha. Espero que les resulte útil.

¿Cuándo se espera que los superintendentes escolares reciban las directrices de reapertura del estado?

El 29 de junio, la Dra. Carmen Ayala, Superintendente del Estado, informó a los superintendentes que el Departamento de Salud Pública de Illinois (IDPH) anticipa que el Centro de Control de Enfermedades (CDC) emitirá pronto una guía para las escuelas, lo que permitirá al IDPH publicar una guía revisada para las escuelas de Illinois. Según Ayala, las escuelas deben *"planificar tanto una orientación más flexible del CDC como la posibilidad de que las mitigaciones actuales sigan vigentes"*. Los funcionarios locales de salud nos han dicho que es posible que las directrices no lleguen del IDPH hasta la última semana de julio o la primera de agosto.

¿Quién toma la decisión final sobre cómo será el aprendizaje completo y presencial en otoño?

Los superintendentes escolares y sus juntas de educación toman decisiones sobre la reapertura de las escuelas, pero tienen que tener en cuenta la orientación proporcionada por la Junta de Educación del Estado de Illinois (ISBE), los departamentos de salud estatales y locales, y los Centros para el Control de Enfermedades (CDC). Seguimos esperando las orientaciones actualizadas de la ISBE y del Departamento de Salud de Illinois (IDPH) para el próximo año escolar.

¿Por qué los niños tienen que llevar una mascarilla en la escuela cuando no se exige en las tiendas locales, restaurantes, etc.?

Sabemos que las organizaciones y las empresas han anunciado que el uso de mascarillas en la comunidad se recomienda para las personas no vacunadas ahora que el estado ha entrado en la fase 5. Sin embargo, cuando discutimos esta discrepancia con los funcionarios de salud, siguen diciéndonos que el uso de la máscara sigue siendo obligatorio para las personas no vacunadas en el interior, según las directrices del estado. La orientación actual de la escuela requiere el uso de la máscara tanto para los estudiantes como para el personal en la escuela, independientemente del estado de vacunación. Nos damos cuenta de esta discrepancia en la práctica y nos enfrentamos a desafíos logísticos adicionales también si las mitigaciones actuales se mantienen en el otoño. Para obtener más información sobre los desafíos de la reapertura de las escuelas, le invitamos a leer la [carta firmada por la Dra. Hinz y enviada por correo electrónico al superintendente del estado el 6 de julio](#).

¿Los superintendentes manifiestan su preocupación por los retos asociados a las actuales estrategias de mitigación y la vuelta a la enseñanza presencial en otoño?

Los superintendentes de todo el estado, incluidos los del condado de McHenry, han estado abogando por una orientación clara y razonable para el año escolar 2021-22. Desde que comenzó la pandemia, la Dra. Hinz ha abogado por el personal y las familias del Distrito 47 durante las llamadas semanales con el Departamento de Salud del Condado de McHenry, las llamadas periódicas con el Departamento de Salud Pública de Illinois y la Junta de Educación del Estado de Illinois. Desde que el estado de Illinois entró en la Fase 5 en junio, ella ha firmado cartas a los funcionarios estatales redactadas por los líderes escolares y la Asociación de Administradores Escolares de Illinois. Recientemente redactó una comunicación que fue firmada por muchos de los otros superintendentes en el condado de McHenry haciendo un esfuerzo de defensa enfocado localmente. Esta carta fue enviada por correo electrónico y enviada por correo el 6 de julio al superintendente del estado y a muchos otros órganos de decisión a nivel estatal.

¿Tienen los distritos escolares que seguir las orientaciones emitidas por los departamentos de salud y la ISBE?

Como escuela pública estatal, estamos obligados a seguir las leyes que rigen las escuelas públicas en el estado de Illinois. Recientemente, los distritos escolares públicos de Illinois que han optado por no seguir la orientación emitida por la Junta de Educación del Estado de Illinois y el IDPH fueron [contactados por ISBE](#). Se les comunicó que se les iba a poner inmediatamente en situación de reconocimiento "a prueba" como entidad escolar pública. Se les informó de que debían remediar su incumplimiento del código escolar y de la ley o pasarían a la condición de "no reconocidos". Perder su estatus como distrito/escuela pública significa que ya no son elegibles para recibir ningún flujo de fondos estatales o federales. Aunque somos conscientes de que la mayor parte de nuestra financiación se genera con los impuestos locales sobre la propiedad, [aproximadamente el 20% de nuestro presupuesto proviene de fondos estatales y federales](#). La combinación de perder esa financiación y el estatus de reconocimiento como distrito/escuela pública sería un obstáculo importante para que pudiéramos superar y seguir operando para el curso 2021/22 y los futuros.

¿Pueden los distritos escolares exigir a los alumnos que se vacunen una vez que reúnan los requisitos para hacerlo?

Las decisiones con respecto a las vacunas que se requieren para los estudiantes que asisten a las escuelas públicas se hacen a nivel estatal. En este momento, el estado no ha añadido COVID-19 a la lista de vacunas requeridas. El Distrito 47 no respalda la acción de los adultos en un sentido u otro para sí mismos o para sus hijos, y no juzgamos la decisión de una familia de vacunarse o no vacunarse. Además, los distritos escolares no están incentivados para que los estudiantes se vacunen. Sin embargo, hemos hecho un esfuerzo por comunicar a nuestras familias información sobre las clínicas de vacunación de la zona y hemos puesto a disposición de nuestro personal, los alumnos y sus familias las pruebas COVID para los interesados.

¿Se seguirá ofreciendo la formación a distancia en otoño?

No. Según la resolución aprobada por la ISBE el 19 de mayo de 2021, toda la enseñanza y el aprendizaje serán presenciales y de jornada completa. La enseñanza en el hogar puede estar disponible para un estudiante que recibe una exención médica de un médico, que es aprobado por el distrito. La enseñanza a distancia a corto plazo puede ser proporcionada a los estudiantes que no son elegibles para la vacuna y han sido puestos en cuarentena debido a una posible exposición a COVID-19.

¿A quién puedo dirigir mis preguntas e inquietudes sobre las mitigaciones actuales y las futuras orientaciones para las escuelas?

Apreciamos la preocupación de nuestros padres y miembros de la comunidad por la salud y el bienestar general de sus hijos y agradecemos sus comentarios y preocupaciones. Alentamos a quienes tengan opiniones, preocupaciones y/o sugerencias sobre las medidas de mitigación para 2021/22 a que aboguen junto a nosotros ante los responsables directos de establecer las pautas que las escuelas deberán seguir. Vea a continuación la información de contacto de la oficina del superintendente del estado, ISBE y el IDPH.

- Dr. Carmen Ayala, State Superintendent - email: statesup@isbe.net
- Illinois State Board of Education - email: COVID19@isbe.net; Twitter: @ISBENews; Facebook: @IllinoisStateBoardofEducation
- IDPH - Chicago office - phone: 312-814-2793; Facebook/Twitter: @IDPH
- Governor J.B. Pritzker - phone: 217-782-6831; [email voice an opinion form](#); Twitter: @GovernorPritzker & @JBPritzker

La próxima reunión de la junta del Distrito 47 se celebrará el 19 de julio de 2021. La reunión será en persona en el Centro CORE (300 Commerce Drive, CL). El orden del día y mi presentación a la junta se publicarán en nuestro sitio web y se pondrán a disposición del público el viernes por la tarde antes de la reunión de la junta. Invito a los interesados a ver la presentación antes o después de la reunión. Para ver un enlace a mi presentación ante el consejo en junio, por favor [haga clic aquí](#).

Atentamente,



Dra. Kathy J. Hinz

Superintendente

Crystal Lake Elementary District 47 300 Commerce St. Crystal Lake, IL 60014
815.788.5000 www.d47.org  D47schools  [crystallakesd47](https://twitter.com/crystallakesd47)  [d47schools](https://www.instagram.com/d47schools)

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Crystal Lake Elementary District 47 | [300 Commerce Dr, Crystal Lake, IL 60014](#) | 815-788-5000

**CRYSTAL
LAKE**

Hinz, Kathy <khinz@d47.org>

Re: Region 4 Superintendents

1 message

Hinz, Kathy <khinz@d47.org>

Mon, Jul 12, 2021 at 7:25 AM

To: Kim Neilson <[REDACTED]>

I wanted you to know that I appreciate you reaching out to the superintendents that signed the letter to Dr. Ayala. The guidance references decisions being made more at the local level, which would mean via our local health department. I have already sent my thoughts and feedback about the guidance to MCDH and I look forward to my weekly meeting with them to discuss and gain clarity on the reference to local decision making in the guidance. I will communicate out to our staff and families as soon as I have a greater understanding of the guidelines and intent for local decisions. Again, thank you for contacting all of the superintendents on the letter and I hope that you will reach out in the future with any questions, concerns, and/or feedback.

Kathy J Hinz, Ed. D.*Superintendent
(she/her/ella)***CORE Center**

300 Commerce Dr.
Crystal Lake, IL 60014
815.788.5012
www.d47.org

"Empowering All Students: Learners Today – Leaders Tomorrow"

On Fri, Jul 9, 2021 at 12:47 PM Kim Neilson <[REDACTED]> wrote:

One last thing :)

CDC just released a statement that masks are optional for the schools to give LOCAL CONTROL to the school boards (which they've always had anyway). They do say that for vaccinated children and staff; HOWEVER, IDPH and ISBE have already stated, ON RECORD, that they will NOT use vaccination status as a determinant for mask wearing.

<https://www.facebook.com/NiemergforStateRep/videos/970305193744899/>

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Kim Neilson <[REDACTED]>**Sent:** Friday, July 9, 2021 11:32 AM**To:** kahty hinz; jbute@district46.org; ctafoya@cusd50.org; swings@hsd36.org; Tlind@rbchs.com; Sandy Ozimek; solson@d155.org; djohnson@johnsburg12.org; district26@cary26.org; MctagueRyan@dist156.org; EngelbrechtD@mchs154.org; telswick@ah19.org; jreitz@d15.org; ldamisch@marengo165.org; conkling@riley18.org**Subject:** Region 4 Superintendents

Kathy Hinz, Superintendent District 47
John Bute, Superintendent District 46
Corey Tafoya, Superintendent District 50
Susan Wings Superintendent District 36
Tom Lind, Superintendent Districts 2 and 157

Sandy Ozimek, Superintendent District 3
Steve Olson, Superintendent District 155
Dan Johnson, Superintendent District 12
Brian Coleman, Superintendent District 26
Ryan McTague, Superintendent District 156
Lea Damisch, Superintendent District 165
David Engelbrecht, Superintendent District 154
Christine Conkling, Superintendent District 18
Tiffany Elswick, Superintendent District 19
Josh Reitz, Superintendent District 15

Dear Superintendents~

As a McHenry County School Employee, School Social Worker of 18 years and mother of two daughters in District 47, I am in full appreciation of your recent [Region 4 ISBE Letter 7/6/21](#). I am grateful for my phone conversation with Dr. Hinz yesterday morning and fully support all of your efforts. At our last board meeting I expressed that we need bold leadership and I believe we have that from all of you.

At the recommendation of Dr. Hinz I formulated a letter that I have shared below and sent in to the addressees as well as the Chicago Tribune and with reporter, Ann Marie Miller, from Illinois Policy. I have shared it with parent groups and organizations that I am affiliated with including the newly formed Illinois Parents Union with 8.1K members, encouraging others to write in as well. I emailed a copy to education supporters Senator Darren Bailey and Illinois State Representative [Adam Niemerg](#) who introduced Illinois House Bill 4083 that "would immediately prohibit the State Board of Education, school districts and elementary and secondary schools from requiring the teachers, students or staff to wear a face mask due to Covid-19."

Illinois Attorney Thomas DeVore, fighting for school districts, made a statement today "A single bee is ignored, but when millions come together, even the bravest run in fear. The one thing the government fears is the day we stand together." I'm not anti-government, and I believe there are many more good government workers than bad ones, but it's time these good ones stand together, especially when it comes to supporting the children of Illinois, and doing what is right by them. [Attorney Thomas DeVore School District Video](#) helps explain the power I believe all of you have.

I understand your position and attempts to work "together" with ISBE. I understand their position in waiting for IDPH. What follows is the letter I submitted and did hear back from [Roger Eddy](#). If there is anything else I can do to help support your efforts please let me know. Comedian Michael Jr. reminds us all to **remember our "WHY"** in an exchange he had with a Music Teacher. I might not always know "what" or "how," but I know my "WHY" and that is for my own children as well as all of the children that we serve.

I stand with all of you.

Sincerely,

Kim Neilson

- *Parent of 2 Children in District 47*
- *Huntley District 158 School Social Worker*
- *Former Fox River Grove District Social Worker*
- *McHenry County Community Member*

Letter emailed 7/8/21:

Governor J.B. Pritzker
Office of the Governor
207 State House
Springfield, IL 62706
217-782-6830
governor@illinois.gov

Dr. Ngozi O. Ezike, National Policy Advisor and IDPH Director
1900 Polk Street
Chicago, IL 60612
ngozi.ezike@illinois.gov

Dr. Amaal V.E. Tokars, IDPH Deputy Director
8S790 Dugan Rd.
Big Rock, IL 60511
Illinois Department of Public Health
630-556-3342
amaal.tokars@illinois.gov

Justin DeWitt, IDPH Chief of Staff
Illinois Department of Public Health
Office of the State Director
535 West Jefferson Street
Springfield, IL 62761
justin.dewitt@illinois.gov

Dr. Carmen Ayala, State Superintendent of Education
Illinois State Board of Education
100 N. 1st Street
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217-782-2223
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Illinois State Board of Education Members
Daren Reisberg dreisber@isbe.net
Dr. Donna S. Leak dleak@d168.org
Jamie Guzman
Dr. Christine Benson bensonc@district65.net
Roger Eddy beddy@bright.net
Dr. David R. Lett dlett@litchfieldpanthers.org
Susie Morrison smorrison1@frontiernet.net

Dear Illinois Representatives and Elected Officials ~

This is a complicated time in our education system and we are asking all of you to recognize the difficult position that school restrictions, mask mandates, and other guidelines are putting on schools, communities, families, but most importantly the children of Illinois. This is a time we need to come together for the children, not send threats of withholding funding to school districts that do not follow "guidance" from ISBE because there is no authority for ISBE to do that under our current legal system since HB2789 has NOT passed. These school districts that are choosing not to follow ISBE Guidance are not breaking laws – they are doing what is in the best interest of the students in the communities that they serve.

As parents, school staff, and community members we trust that our local school boards make the best decisions for our students. Local districts should have control over mask mandates and restrictions, especially since we are not under any emergency orders. What ISBE has put out to schools is GUIDANCE – not law. The IDPH has no jurisdiction to dictate what happens in a school at this time. These administrative bodies and state agencies reporting to the governor need to STOP threatening school districts.

It is understood that both Dr. Ezike and Dr. Tokars advise and direct the Illinois Department of Public Health; but are employed by Governor J.B. Pritzker's Office per WSPY FOIA documents received June 16, 2020 from IDPH attorney Lixa Reynolds. We are no longer under an emergency order that demands guidance for our schools and communities. Dr. Ezike and Dr. Tokars have an ethical and moral responsibility to clarify this to IDPH and ISBE as part of what has become this tyrannical hierarchy. There are 847 Illinois school districts and 100s are already saying masks are optional for next year and more districts are looking to follow this lead.

Dr. Fauci has indicated that face mask policies should be relaxed with Covid rates dropping as a result of immunity and vaccinations. People have to take precautions and judge their own individual risks rather than forcing restrictions and masks on healthy adults and children. On a broad basis these restrictions have been lifted; in Illinois and across our nation. The vaccines are over 90% effective; including to the different variants. If we want our communities to understand the importance of vaccines we have to end these restrictive policies; including mask requirements in schools.

Email communication between American Federation of Teachers Union Officials, CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky, and her top advisors reveal language suggestions from the Teachers Union that has compromised the science at the detriment of our children. According to the CDC, before the Teacher's Unions got involved, there is little evidence that schools contribute meaningfully to increase community transmissions or that students are at risk of spreading Covid-19.

It is time to let our children and our schools return to an assemblance of normalcy. Our school superintendents, school boards, students, parents, staff and communities request your encouragement, support and blessings moving forward in navigating this difficult process in the wake of trauma all this has caused.

There is nothing social about social distancing. It is developmentally inappropriate to expect our students to continue in this manner of measuring how far they are from one another or sharing toys before they have been disinfected. Especially when they do not have to do this in their sports endeavors like wrestling or at a ballet bar or at carnivals they've attended throughout the summer. Our teaching staff cannot patrol all aspects; nor should that be a learning priority. Over this past school year, under the restrictive conditions, children were returning home with masks full of bacteria that school staff were instructed to demand children keep on their faces restricting their airways. If a mask fell on the floor teachers were telling students to pick it up and put it back on their faces. If students or families refused to wear the masks at school they were subject to disciplinary or isolation measures like Remote Learning. How is this a conducive learning environment? Schools and school boards know this and are prepared to drop these restrictions; just as neighboring states have, but they should not have to do so under the brutal threat and stress from our state representatives of a loss in funding. While funding from the state and federal branch of government only amount to roughly 20% it is still a threat and stress our school administrative representatives do not need at this crucial time. Let them focus on what is important – the social, emotional and educational needs of our students. The medical and health needs can be the responsibility of parents and the conversations they have with their own practitioners. Enough is enough.

Sincerely,

Kim Neilson - Huntley District 158 School Social Worker and Parent of two elementary students in
Crystal Lake School District 47
773-459-7061



**CRYSTAL
LAKE**

Hinz, Kathy <khinz@d47.org>

Re: Masking Requirements

1 message

Hinz, Kathy <khinz@d47.org>

Mon, Jul 12, 2021 at 3:28 PM

To: Adrienne Gulakowski [REDACTED]

Bcc: Board Of Education <boe@d47.org>

Good afternoon,

I have blind copied the board on this response in order to keep them in the loop of communication while not violating the Open Meetings Act (OMA). Thank you for contacting us regarding your concerns and feedback. The guidance was released from the CDC Friday morning and then IDPH adopting it in its entirety Friday afternoon. While we have many answers regarding how we need to operate when we open in August there are many questions that still exist. Additionally, the guidance seems to allow decisions to be made more at the local level, which would mean via our local health department. I have already sent my thoughts and feedback about the guidance to MCDH and I look forward to my weekly meeting with them to discuss and gain clarity on the reference to local decision making in the guidance. I will communicate out to our staff and families as soon as I have a greater understanding of the guidelines and intent for local decisions. Again, thank you for contacting us. I hope that you will reach out in the future with any questions, concerns, and/or feedback.

Kathy J Hinz, Ed. D.

Superintendent

(she/her/ella)



CORE Center

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“Empowering All Students: Learners Today – Leaders Tomorrow”

On Fri, Jul 9, 2021 at 9:40 AM Adrienne Gulakowski <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Dr. Hinz and the D47 School Board,

In response to Parent Update - 7.9.21, please allow me to direct you to the following IDPH link, <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/vaccinedata?county=McHenry>.

You will note that as of this email, only 48.22% of McHenry County is fully vaccinated vs COVID-19, and that number is buoyed by the large percentage of people over the age of 65 (who do not attend D47 schools) who are vaccinated.

There is no vaccine as of yet for those under 12. As a Pre-K through 8th grade district, only 2 of those grade levels are even partially eligible for vaccination. Those students will be mingling with unvaccinated younger peers in the middle school hallways.

- Are there plans to require proof of immunization from students and staff in school buildings? If not, then the idea of allowing vaccinated people to skip masks is a non-starter, since you won't know who can actually skip the mask requirement.
- Will you be verifying vaccination proof provided? Plenty of faked vaccine cards going around.
- Will you then be requiring schools/administrators/teachers to police the wearing of masks by the unvaccinated? Lists of the very small numbers of people who have provided the school/district with proof of vaccination will need to be available in every building and classroom, on a mask-exempt list. ALL staff will have to have zero tolerance for removal of masks by unvaccinated students AND staff.

- What will you do with students who refuse to comply? Will you immediately send them home?
- What if a staff member chooses not to comply? Will they be sent home immediately? Or simply reprimanded and allowed to continue their day?
- What will you do with students and staff who for *valid medical reasons***, cannot wear a mask in the buildings, but likewise are too young or otherwise ineligible for a vaccine? **This would require a verified and detailed Dr. note, not just a vague "Jane doesn't need to wear a mask at school" that could have been written by Uncle Carl.
- Is this yet another burden you wish to place on your teachers and staff?

If you have no policies in place to address the above points swiftly and decisively, then there is no way you can conscientiously permit vaccinated persons to forgo masks in schools. Quite frankly, people will lie and claim to be vaccinated, it's already being done in every business in the county, where 80%+ of shoppers are unmasked, despite the <50% vaccination rate. In addition, due to the unchecked spread of COVID in areas where there are even lower rates of vaccination, as well as the fact that everyone is traveling this summer, the spread of the Delta variant (and no doubt other variants as well) will cause additional problems this Fall.

Do NOT drop the masking requirement. The number of students/staff that would be allowed to go without would be minimal to begin with, and dropping the requirement puts too many others at risk, the majority of whom aren't even eligible for a vaccine at this time.

Thank you,
Adrienne Gulakowski

**CRYSTAL
LAKE**

Hinz, Kathy <khinz@d47.org>

Re: Just a quick note....

1 message

Hinz, Kathy <khinz@d47.org>

Mon, Jul 12, 2021 at 3:33 PM

To: Lauren Backe <laurenvbacke@gmail.com>

Cc: "Furlong, Monica" <mfurlong@d47.org>, Michelle Barrett <MBarrett@d47.org>, Matt Backe <matt.backe@gmail.com>

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting us regarding your concerns and feedback. The guidance was released from the CDC Friday morning and then IDPH adopting it in its entirety Friday afternoon. While we have many answers regarding how we need to operate when we open in August there are many questions that still exist. Additionally, the guidance seems to allow decisions to be made more at the local level, which would mean via our local health department. I have already sent my thoughts and feedback about the guidance to MCDH and I look forward to my weekly meeting with them to discuss and gain clarity on the reference to local decision making in the guidance. Homebound instruction is guided by a physician's script so both students being on homebound would actually be a question for your physician. Homeschooling can be done and/or returned from at any time so while we would be sorry if you decided to go that route we would completely respect your decision if that's where you land after we are able to finalize our plans. I will communicate out to our staff and families as soon as I have a greater understanding of the guidelines and intent for local decisions. Again, thank you for contacting us. I hope that you will reach out in the future with any questions, concerns, and/or feedback.

Kathy J Hinz, Ed. D.*Superintendent**(she/her/ella)***CORE Center**

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Crystal Lake, IL 60014

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www.d47.org***"Empowering All Students: Learners Today – Leaders Tomorrow"***

On Fri, Jul 9, 2021 at 10:18 AM Lauren Backe <laurenvbacke@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Dr. Hinz-

Thank you for your ongoing communication regarding COVID protocols and plans for the fall. We truly appreciate all the thought and hard work that you put into creating and implementing plans always- but especially in the past year and a half.

While I know that there are many unknowns, I was hoping to potentially get a little more clarification so that we can prepare our children for if they will be able to attend school in person in the fall and/or if we will need to begin the year with homeschool and if it will be possible to transition them from homeschool to in person mid-school year once my children are vaccinated.

If masks were required (which I do understand the heat component of masks- it does impact Everly- which is why she didn't attend the full time at Wehde each day) and some distancing was in place (ie. not sitting 10 kids to a side of a cafeteria table unmasked), we were truly hoping that our kiddos could attend school this fall. They love their schools and teachers. And we also agree with you- it's good for kids to see other kids and adults in person!

Here are my questions I'm hoping that you can answer for me. I'm happy to talk via phone too if that's easier than email. (847-513-2447).

1. I read **homebound school** may be an option for children with a medical exemption. **Would this apply to siblings too?** E [REDACTED] ([REDACTED] will have a medical exemption. [REDACTED] (4th grade- [REDACTED] - 9 years old) will not have a medical exemption, but the concern would be him bringing it home to Everyly until he is able to get the vaccine. Would [REDACTED] be able to be homebound as well until he's able to get a vaccine due to [REDACTED]'s being medically fragile and immunocompromised?

2. Is it possible for kids to **switch from homeschool back to the school district in the middle of a school year?** If masks are recommended and not required and [REDACTED]'s medical team does not feel that is safe for [REDACTED], could we homeschool the kids until they are both fully vaccinated and then re-enroll them? [REDACTED] is in the at risk program at Wehde and [REDACTED] has an IEP. I am hopeful that in the event that they would need to be homeschooled, that we could 1- let them go in person once they are fully vaccinated and 2- that their current IEP/supports could remain in place and we would not need to start over with all of the special education pieces. (Truth be told, I have no idea how homeschool works- I'm assuming we have to unenroll them and then re-enroll them?)

We look forward to hearing back from you.

Thank you for your time.

Kindly,
Matt and Lauren Backe
847-513-2447

Lauren Backe

On Thu, Apr 8, 2021 at 1:21 PM Hinz, Kathy <khinz@d47.org> wrote:

Good afternoon,

Your [REDACTED] is beautiful!!! Thank you so much for sharing your story and experience with us. The staff at ECE is special. They go above and beyond in everything that they do. I am so happy for you and your family and grateful that you have been able to experience in-person instruction this year. I also want to thank you for the positive email as you are correct that the positive feedback and stories for been few and far this year. Thank you! Have a great rest of the year!

Kathy J Hinz, Ed. D.
Superintendent
(she/her/ella)



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“Empowering All Students: Learners Today – Leaders Tomorrow”

On Thu, Apr 8, 2021 at 11:21 AM Lauren Backe <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Hi Mrs. Furlong and Dr. Hinz-

I just wanted to take a quick moment and share how grateful we are for your stuff at Wedhe- specifically Ms. Jessica and Ms. Susan.

When [REDACTED] was born, I asked the doctors and surgeons the same questions I had asked each surgeon and cardiologist we saw when we got her prenatal heart defect diagnosis. What is her life expectancy? Will she get to go to school? Will she get to run and jump and play with her peers? And their answers were always that "we hope so. We hope she will be strong enough to go to school and live to adulthood (18). But we will cross that bridge when we get there based on her immunocompromised status and the safety protocols the school has in place." More than 25% of babies like Everly do not see their first birthday. Unfortunately we have made many friends who's children have not made it to their first birthday and/or preschool.

My point in sharing all that was to thank you for making Monday ([REDACTED]'s first day) possible for her. Starting preschool had many things to consider in a year that there wasn't a pandemic and then SO many more this COVID year. We are very grateful for all the careful planning and strategic decision making that went into making both [REDACTED] (3rd grade at [REDACTED] - h [REDACTED] started in person in January) able to attend school, despite [REDACTED] being an immunocompromised child gearing up for her chest to be opened for a 5th time for her 4th open heart surgery.

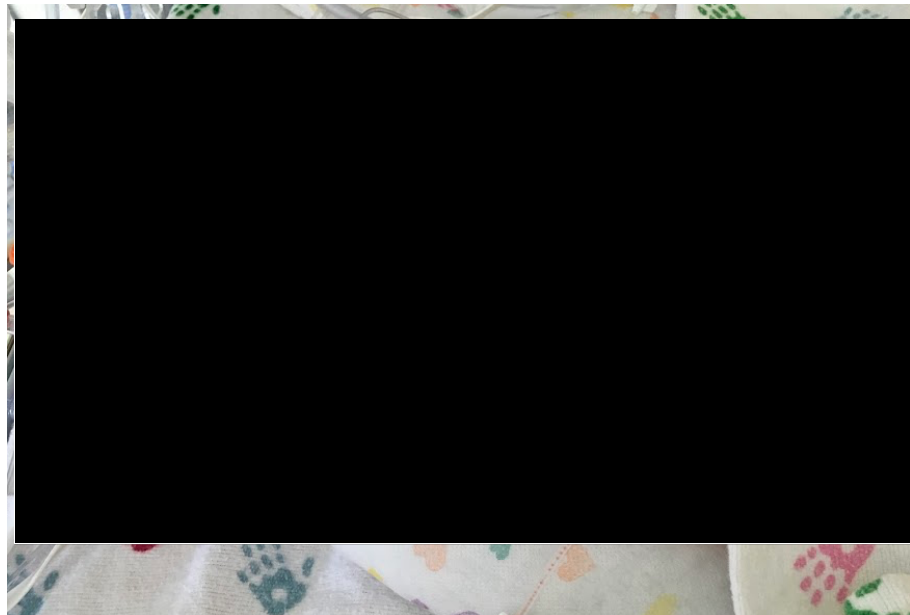
We are also especially thankful for the relationship that Jessica and Susan have worked to create with [REDACTED] over zoom. E [REDACTED]'s had very little social interaction. [REDACTED] was finally cleared to start to get out and enjoy the world and then COVID hit. We were nervous she may cry or be upset leaving us (which can be typical for a non-medically fragile child starting school) but she is thrilled to go. Today for example, she has been dressed for school since 9 asking when we can leave to go see her teachers. (I could go on and on about the communication, pictures, etc. that have been so wonderful - but I know you are all busy! ;)). On Monday after school she got in the car and said *"mom, me just can't believe it. me can't believe me get to go to school with Jessica. Real school. Outside (the house) school. Me so big. Me so proud of meself. Me doctors fixed me heart so I could go to school."*

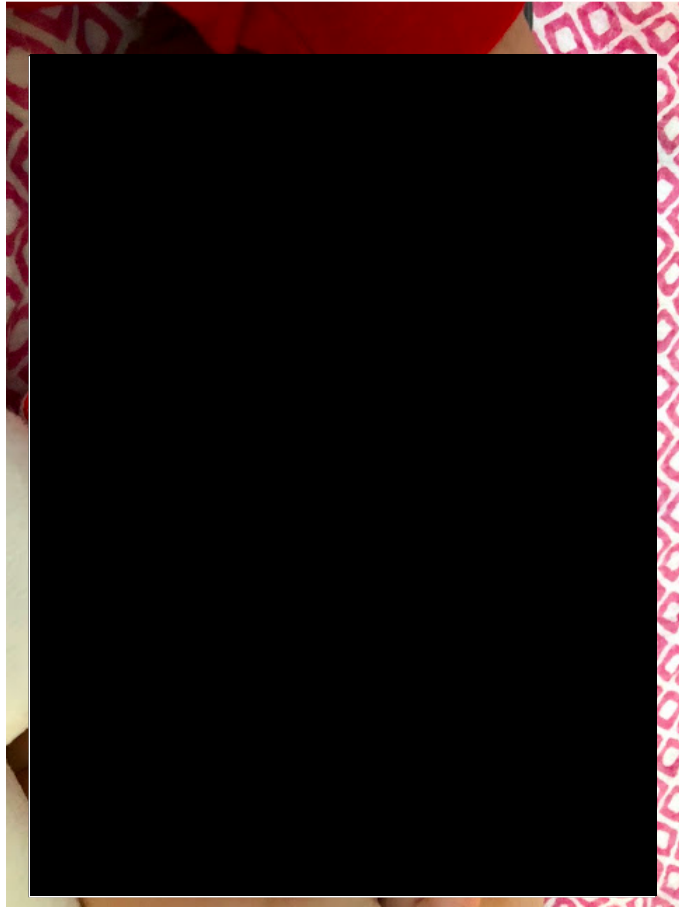
I know that this has not been an easy year and I'm sure that there are more not so nice emails that come through than people who take the time to share a positive note.... so I just wanted to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for everything.

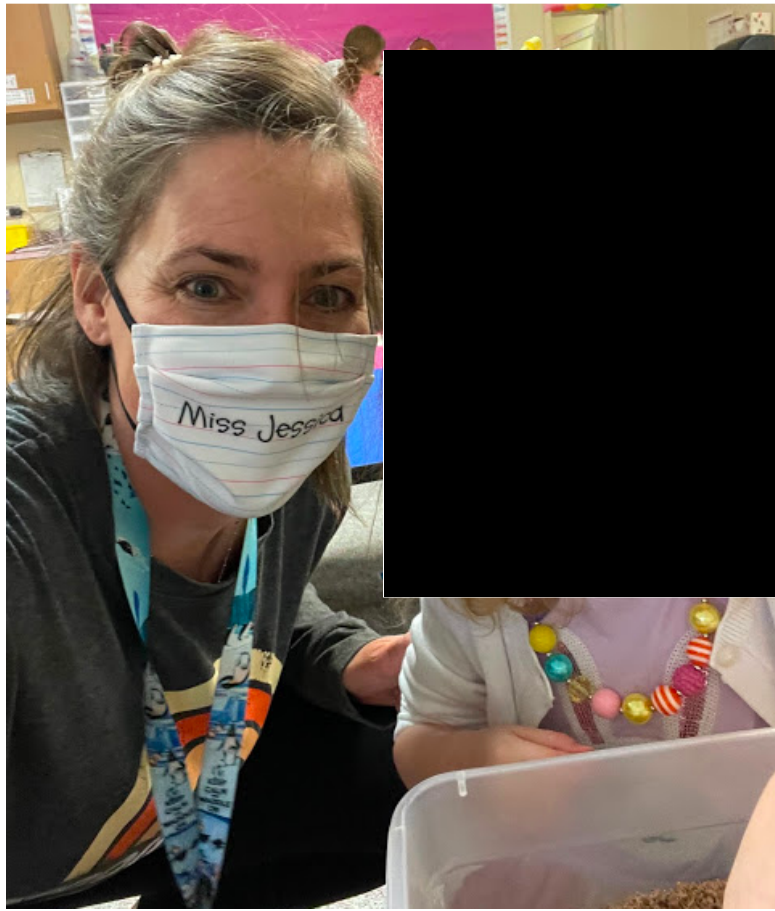
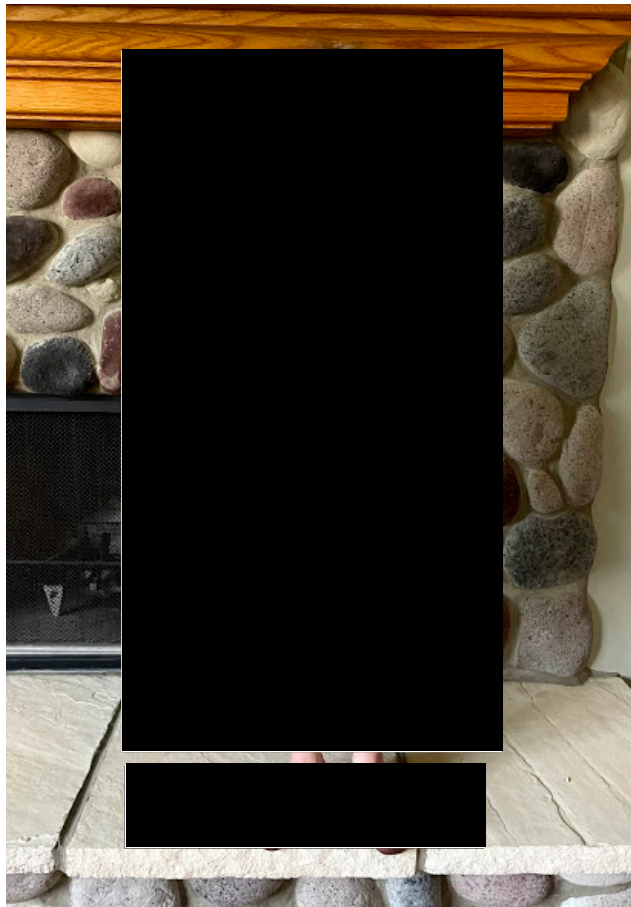
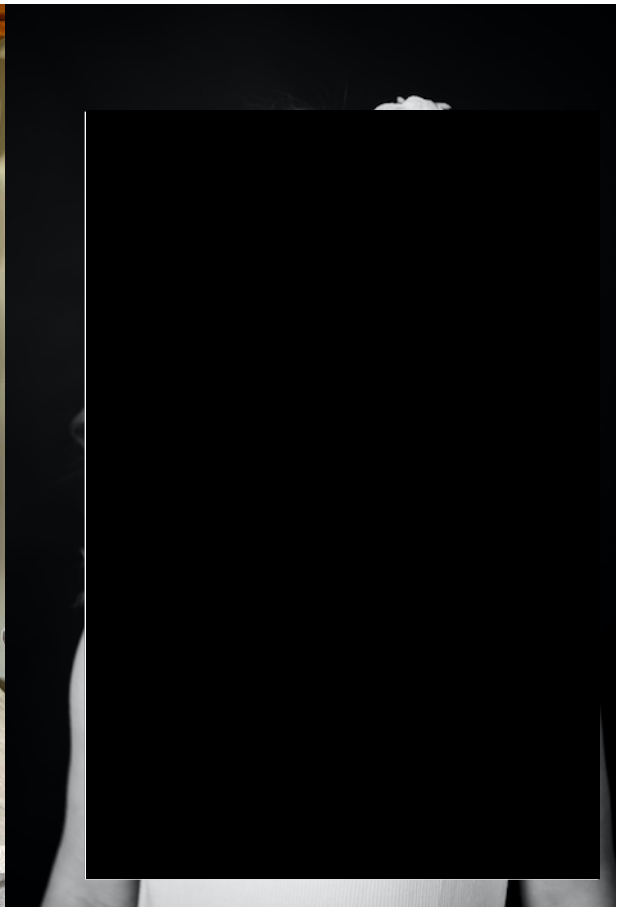
Thank you for your time.

Kindly,
Lauren

PS... A big shout out too to Mrs. Barrett and the North staff for their hard work in the parent car pick up line yesterday afternoon in the downpour!







Lauren Backe

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Hinz, Kathy <khinz@d47.org>

Re: Parent Update - 7.9.21; Actualización para padres - 9.7.21

1 message

Hinz, Kathy <khinz@d47.org>

Mon, Jul 12, 2021 at 3:35 PM

To: Steven Czeropski <[REDACTED]>

I appreciate that and I will. Thank you

Kathy J Hinz, Ed. D.
 Superintendent
 (she/her/ella)



CORE Center
 300 Commerce Dr.
 Crystal Lake, IL 60014
 815.788.5012
www.d47.org

“Empowering All Students: Learners Today – Leaders Tomorrow”

On Mon, Jul 12, 2021 at 11:18 AM Steven Czeropski <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Dr. Hinz,
 Thanks for reading my email and your response. Please keep me updated on these matters as things develop.

I'm happy to help out in whatever way I can!

Sincerely,
 Steve Czeropski

On Monday, July 12, 2021, 07:21:00 AM CDT, Hinz, Kathy <khinz@d47.org> wrote:

Good morning,
 Thank you for contacting me and for your support. With the guidance being released from the CDC Friday morning and then IDPH adopting it in its entirety Friday afternoon, we have many answers regarding how we need to operate when we open in August. Additionally, the guidance seems to allow decisions to be made more at the local level, which would mean via our local health department. I have already sent my thoughts and feedback about the guidance to MCDH and I look forward to my weekly meeting with them to discuss and gain clarity on the reference to local decision making in the guidance. I will communicate out to our staff and families as soon as I have a greater understanding of the guidelines and intent for local decisions. I will let you know if contacting the health department would help after I meet with them this week. Again, thank you for contacting me and I hope that you will reach out in the future with any questions, concerns, and/or feedback.

Kathy J Hinz, Ed. D.
 Superintendent
 (she/her/ella)



CORE Center
 300 Commerce Dr.
 Crystal Lake, IL 60014
 815.788.5012
www.d47.org

“Empowering All Students: Learners Today – Leaders Tomorrow”

On Fri, Jul 9, 2021 at 9:33 AM Steven Czeropski <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Dr. Hinz,
 Thanks for this informative email. Also thanks for emailing ISBE and IDPH! I can totally feel the frustration you must be facing after reading your email and your letter.

Would it help if I send them an email as well? I have TONS of articles about corona virus, specifically about

- * How masks don't really make a difference (Denmark study)
- * Virus is smaller than mask pores (so masks are really useless)

- * Masks, especially when worn for several hours, can cause serious health issues
- * Kids have basically a zero risk of dying from corona
- * There's no such thing as an asymptomatic person
- * There are already almost 7000 vaccine related deaths (CDC data, and real count is probably much higher), including some kids who had heart related issues

Please let me know how I can help! I'm very adamant about my children having a normal school year and for presenting the facts about corona that contradict the "Scare Narrative" that it's going to wipe us all out.

Sincerely,
Steve Czeropski

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Crystal Lake Elementary District 47 <communications@d47.org>
To: Crystal Lake Elementary District 47 Recipients <recipients@d47schools.parentlink.net>
Sent: Friday, July 9, 2021, 08:30:44 AM CDT
Subject: Parent Update - 7.9.21; Actualización para padres - 9.7.21



EMPOWERING ALL STUDENTS

Learners Today - Leaders Tomorrow

Dear parent or guardian:

We hope you are enjoying summer! With only six weeks to go before the first day of the new school year, I wanted to provide you with a brief update about COVID-19 and the start of the 2021-22 school year.

On June 25th, Governor JB Pritzker issued [Executive Order 2021-14](#) and a new disaster proclamation, which is in effect until July 24, 2021. This Executive Order requires school districts to continue to follow the mitigation measures currently in place. Since the June board meeting, I have received numerous emails from parents with questions and concerns so, with the help of my communications department, we've drafted some frequently asked questions (FAQs) and responses below with the information we have to date. I hope you will find this helpful.

When are school superintendents expected to receive reopening guidance from the state?

On June 29th, State Superintendent Dr. Carmen Ayala informed superintendents that the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) anticipates that the Center for Disease Control (CDC) will issue guidance for schools soon, which will then allow the IDPH to release revised guidance for Illinois schools. According to Ayala, schools should *"plan for both looser CDC guidance and the potential that current mitigations will remain in place."* Local health officials have told us that guidance may not come from IDPH until the final week of July or the first week of August.

Who makes the ultimate decision about what full, in-person learning will look like in the fall?

School superintendents and their boards of education make decisions about school reopening but have to factor in the guidance provided by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), state and local health departments, and the CDC. We continue to await updated guidance from ISBE and the IDPH for the upcoming school year.

Why should children have to wear a mask at school when it's not required by local stores, restaurants, etc.?

We know that mask wearing in the community has been advertised by organizations and businesses as recommended for unvaccinated people now that the state has entered Phase 5. However, when we discuss this discrepancy with health officials they continue to tell us that mask wearing is still required for unvaccinated individuals indoors per the state guidance. Current school guidance requires mask wearing by both students and staff at school regardless of vaccination status. We realize this discrepancy in practice and are faced with additional logistical challenges as well if current mitigations remain in the fall. For more information about reopening challenges schools face, we invite you to read the [letter signed by Dr. Hinz and emailed to the state superintendent on July 6th](#).

Are superintendents voicing any concerns about the challenges associated with current mitigation strategies and a return to full, in-person learning in the fall?

Superintendents across the state, including those in McHenry County, have been advocating for clear and reasonable guidance for the 2021-22 school year. Since the pandemic began, Dr. Hinz has advocated for District 47 staff and families during weekly calls with the McHenry County Department of Health, periodic calls with the Illinois Department of Public Health, and the Illinois State Board of Education. Since the state of Illinois entered Phase 5 in June, she has signed letters to state officials drafted by school leaders and the Illinois Association of School Administrators. Recently she [drafted a communication](#) that was co-signed by many of the other superintendents in McHenry County making it a locally focused advocacy effort. This letter was emailed and mailed on July 6th to the state superintendent and many other decision-making bodies at the state level.

Do school districts have to follow the guidance issued by the health departments and ISBE?

As a state public school, we are required to follow the laws that govern public schools in the state of Illinois. Recently, Illinois public school districts that have opted not to follow the guidance issued by the Illinois State Board of Education and the IDPH were [contacted by ISBE](#). They were told that they were being immediately placed on "probationary" recognition status as a public school entity. They were informed that they needed to remedy their noncompliance with school code and the law or they would be moved to "Non Recognized" status. Losing your status as a public district/school means you are no longer eligible to receive any state or federal flow through funding. While we realize the majority of our funding is generated by local property taxes, [approximately 20% of our budget comes to us from state and federal funds](#). The combination of losing that funding and recognition status as a public district/school would be significant hurdles for us to overcome and still be able to operate for the 2021/22 and future school years.

Can school districts require students to get the vaccine once they are eligible to receive it?

Decisions regarding which vaccines are required for students that attend public schools are made at the state level. At the present time, the state has not added COVID-19 to the list of required vaccines. District 47 does not endorse action one way or the other by adults for themselves or for their children, and we place no judgment on a family's decision to vaccinate or not vaccinate. Additionally, school districts are not incentivized to get students vaccinated. We have, however, made an effort to communicate information about vaccination clinics in the area to our families and have made COVID testing readily available to our staff, students and their families for those interested.

Will remote learning continue to be offered in the fall?

No. Per the resolution passed by ISBE on May 19th, 2021, all teaching and learning will be in-person, full-day. Homebound instruction may be made available to a student who receives a medical exemption from a physician, which is approved by the district. Remote learning in the short-term may be provided to students who are not eligible for the vaccine **and** have been quarantined due to a possible exposure to COVID-19.

Whom can I direct questions and concerns to about current mitigations and future guidance for schools?

We appreciate our parents and community members' concerns for the overall health and well-being of their children and we welcome your feedback and concerns. We encourage those with opinions, concerns, and/or suggestions about the mitigation measures for 2021/22 to advocate alongside us to those directly responsible for establishing the guidelines schools will need to follow. See below for contact information for the state superintendent's office, ISBE, IDPH, and the Governor.

- Dr. Carmen Ayala, State Superintendent - email: statesup@isbe.net
- Illinois State Board of Education - email: COVID19@isbe.net; Twitter: @ISBENews; Facebook: @IllinoisStateBoardofEducation
- IDPH - Chicago office - phone: 312-814-2793; Facebook/Twitter: @IDPH
- Governor J.B. Pritzker - phone: 217-782-6831; [email voice an opinion form](#); Twitter: @GovernorPritzker & @JBPritzker

The next District 47 board meeting will be held July 19, 2021. The meeting will be in-person at the CORE Center (300 Commerce Drive, CL). The agenda and my presentation to the board will be posted on our website and made available to the public on the Friday afternoon before the board meeting. I invite those of you who are interested to view the presentation before or after the meeting. For a link to my board presentation in June, please [click here](#).

Sincerely,



Dr. Kathy J. Hinz

Superintendent

Estimado padre o tutor:

¡Esperamos que estén disfrutando del verano! A sólo seis semanas del primer día del nuevo año escolar, quería proporcionarles una breve actualización sobre COVID-19 y el inicio del año escolar 2021-22.

El 25 de junio, el gobernador JB Pritzker emitió [Orden Ejecutiva 2021-14](#) y una nueva proclamación de catástrofe, que estará en vigor hasta el 24 de julio de 2021. Esta Orden Ejecutiva requiere que los distritos escolares continúen siguiendo las medidas de mitigación actualmente en vigor. Desde la reunión de la junta directiva de junio, he recibido numerosos correos electrónicos de padres con preguntas y preocupaciones, por lo que, con la ayuda de mi departamento de comunicaciones, hemos redactado algunas preguntas frecuentes (FAQs) y las respuestas a continuación con la información que tenemos hasta la fecha. Espero que les resulte útil.

¿Cuándo se espera que los superintendentes escolares reciban las directrices de reapertura del estado?

El 29 de junio, la Dra. Carmen Ayala, Superintendente del Estado, informó a los superintendentes que el Departamento de Salud Pública de Illinois (IDPH) anticipa que el Centro de Control de Enfermedades (CDC) emitirá pronto una guía para las escuelas, lo que permitirá al IDPH publicar una guía revisada para las escuelas de Illinois. Según Ayala, las escuelas deben *"planificar tanto una orientación más flexible del CDC como la posibilidad de que las mitigaciones actuales sigan vigentes"*. Los funcionarios locales de salud nos han dicho que es posible que las directrices no lleguen del IDPH hasta la última semana de julio o la primera de agosto.

¿Quién toma la decisión final sobre cómo será el aprendizaje completo y presencial en otoño?

Los superintendentes escolares y sus juntas de educación toman decisiones sobre la reapertura de las escuelas, pero tienen que tener en cuenta la orientación proporcionada por la Junta de Educación del Estado de Illinois (ISBE), los departamentos de salud estatales y

locales, y los Centros para el Control de Enfermedades (CDC). Seguimos esperando las orientaciones actualizadas de la ISBE y del Departamento de Salud de Illinois (IDPH) para el próximo año escolar.

¿Por qué los niños tienen que llevar una mascarilla en la escuela cuando no se exige en las tiendas locales, restaurantes, etc.?

Sabemos que las organizaciones y las empresas han anunciado que el uso de mascarillas en la comunidad se recomienda para las personas no vacunadas ahora que el estado ha entrado en la fase 5. Sin embargo, cuando discutimos esta discrepancia con los funcionarios de salud, siguen diciéndonos que el uso de la máscara sigue siendo obligatorio para las personas no vacunadas en el interior, según las directrices del estado. La orientación actual de la escuela requiere el uso de la máscara tanto para los estudiantes como para el personal en la escuela, independientemente del estado de vacunación. Nos damos cuenta de esta discrepancia en la práctica y nos enfrentamos a desafíos logísticos adicionales también si las mitigaciones actuales se mantienen en el otoño. Para obtener más información sobre los desafíos de la reapertura de las escuelas, le invitamos a leer la carta firmada por la Dra. Hinz y enviada por correo electrónico al superintendente del estado el 6 de julio.

¿Los superintendentes manifiestan su preocupación por los retos asociados a las actuales estrategias de mitigación y la vuelta a la enseñanza presencial en otoño?

Los superintendentes de todo el estado, incluidos los del condado de McHenry, han estado abogando por una orientación clara y razonable para el año escolar 2021-22. Desde que comenzó la pandemia, la Dra. Hinz ha abogado por el personal y las familias del Distrito 47 durante las llamadas semanales con el Departamento de Salud del Condado de McHenry, las llamadas periódicas con el Departamento de Salud Pública de Illinois y la Junta de Educación del Estado de Illinois. Desde que el estado de Illinois entró en la Fase 5 en junio, ella ha firmado cartas a los funcionarios estatales redactadas por los líderes escolares y la Asociación de Administradores Escolares de Illinois. Recientemente redactó una comunicación que fue firmada por muchos de los otros superintendentes en el condado de McHenry haciendo un esfuerzo de defensa enfocado localmente. Esta carta fue enviada por correo electrónico y enviada por correo el 6 de julio al superintendente del estado y a muchos otros órganos de decisión a nivel estatal.

¿Tienen los distritos escolares que seguir las orientaciones emitidas por los departamentos de salud y la ISBE?

Como escuela pública estatal, estamos obligados a seguir las leyes que rigen las escuelas públicas en el estado de Illinois. Recientemente, los distritos escolares públicos de Illinois que han optado por no seguir la orientación emitida por la Junta de Educación del Estado de Illinois y el IDPH fueron [contactados por ISBE](#). Se les comunicó que se les iba a poner inmediatamente en situación de reconocimiento "a prueba" como entidad escolar pública. Se les informó de que debían remediar su incumplimiento del código escolar y de la ley o pasarían a la condición de "no reconocidos". Perder su estatus como distrito/escuela pública significa que ya no son elegibles para recibir ningún flujo de fondos estatales o federales. Aunque somos conscientes de que la mayor parte de nuestra financiación se genera con los impuestos locales sobre la propiedad, [aproximadamente el 20% de nuestro presupuesto proviene de fondos estatales y federales](#). La combinación de perder esa financiación y el estatus de reconocimiento como distrito/escuela pública sería un obstáculo importante para que pudiéramos superar y seguir operando para el curso 2021/22 y los futuros.

¿Pueden los distritos escolares exigir a los alumnos que se vacunen una vez que reúnan los requisitos para hacerlo?

Las decisiones con respecto a las vacunas que se requieren para los estudiantes que asisten a las escuelas públicas se hacen a nivel estatal. En este momento, el estado no ha añadido COVID-19 a la lista de vacunas requeridas. El Distrito 47 no respalda la acción de los adultos en un sentido u otro para sí mismos o para sus hijos, y no juzgamos la decisión de una familia de vacunarse o no vacunarse. Además, los distritos escolares no están incentivados para que los estudiantes se vacunen. Sin embargo, hemos hecho un esfuerzo por comunicar a nuestras familias información sobre las clínicas de vacunación de la zona y hemos puesto a disposición de nuestro personal, los alumnos y sus familias las pruebas COVID para los interesados.

¿Se seguirá ofreciendo la formación a distancia en otoño?

No. Según la resolución aprobada por la ISBE el 19 de mayo de 2021, toda la enseñanza y el aprendizaje serán presenciales y de jornada completa. La enseñanza en el hogar puede estar disponible para un estudiante que recibe una exención médica de un médico, que es aprobado por el distrito. La enseñanza a distancia a corto plazo puede ser proporcionada a los estudiantes que no son elegibles para la vacuna y han sido puestos en cuarentena debido a una posible exposición a COVID-19.

¿A quién puedo dirigir mis preguntas e inquietudes sobre las mitigaciones actuales y las futuras orientaciones para las escuelas?

Apreciamos la preocupación de nuestros padres y miembros de la comunidad por la salud y el bienestar general de sus hijos y agradecemos sus comentarios y preocupaciones. Alentamos a quienes tengan opiniones, preocupaciones y/o sugerencias sobre las medidas de mitigación para 2021/22 a que aboguen junto a nosotros ante los responsables directos de establecer las pautas que las escuelas deberán seguir. Vea a continuación la información de contacto de la oficina del superintendente del estado, ISBE y el IDPH.

- Dr. Carmen Ayala, State Superintendent - email: statesup@isbe.net
- Illinois State Board of Education - email: COVID19@isbe.net; Twitter: @ISBENews; Facebook: @IllinoisStateBoardofEducation
- IDPH - Chicago office - phone: 312-814-2793; Facebook/Twitter: @IDPH
- Governor J.B. Pritzker - phone: 217-782-6831; [email voice an opinion form](#); Twitter: @GovernorPritzker & @JBPritzker

La próxima reunión de la junta del Distrito 47 se celebrará el 19 de julio de 2021. La reunión será en persona en el Centro CORE (300 Commerce Drive, CL). El orden del día y mi presentación a la junta se publicarán en nuestro sitio web y se pondrán a disposición del público el viernes por la tarde antes de la reunión de la junta. Invito a los interesados a ver la presentación antes o después de la reunión. Para ver un enlace a mi presentación ante el consejo en junio, por favor [haga clic aquí](#).

Atentamente,



Dra. Kathy J. Hinz

Superintendente

Crystal Lake Elementary District 47 300 Commerce St. Crystal Lake, IL 60014
815.788.5000 www.d47.org  D47schools  [crystallakesd47](https://twitter.com/crystallakesd47)  [d47schools](https://www.instagram.com/d47schools)

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**CRYSTAL
LAKE**

Hinz, Kathy <khinz@d47.org>

Re: request for information, for D47 July 19 board meeting

1 message

Hinz, Kathy <khinz@d47.org>

Mon, Jul 12, 2021 at 4:53 PM

To: Rebecca Helm [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

Bcc: Board Of Education <boe@d47.org>, "Barr, Denise" <dcbar@d47.org>

Good afternoon,

I have blind copied the board on my response to keep them in the loop of communication without violating the Open Meetings Act (OMA). Thank you for your email and feedback. The references that you requested are:

- [105 ILCS 5/2-3.25 - State Board of Education Powers and Duties](#)
- [23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.20 Operational Requirements](#)

Additionally, I have had conversations with our attorney and she has confirmed that the State has the authority to change or remove our recognition status. I appreciate you reaching out with your concerns.

Kathy J Hinz, Ed. D.

Superintendent

(she/her/ella)



CORE Center

300 Commerce Dr.

Crystal Lake, IL 60014

815.788.5012

www.d47.org

“Empowering All Students: Learners Today – Leaders Tomorrow”

On Mon, Jul 12, 2021 at 3:15 AM Rebecca Helm <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Thank you for your time and attention to these matters for the upcoming school year.

I know that many parents have shared, and will continue to share, irrefutable evidence for mask-optional school. Looking at the data proves this is true.

However, I would like to make 2 points regarding the letter sent to parents on Friday, July 9, 2021 at 8:30am.

Point 1 - Your letter said “school superintendents and their boards of education members make decisions”, and “factor in” “guidance” from IDPH and ISBE. I, as well as hundreds of other parents sharing information online, know that those are “guidance” only, not “mandates”, not “laws”. The IDPH has no authority to control what schools do. **It is clear from the most recent language, updated July 9, that you do have local control over what happens in your district.**

Point 2 - Also per your letter, you said “We are required to follow the “laws” that govern public schools”, and schools that do not “follow the ‘guidance’ issued by ISBE and IDPH” were “placed on ‘probationary’ recognition status”.

“They were informed they need to remedy their noncompliance with “school code” and the “law”

Your above statements are confusing and conflicting. The most recent information from IDPH and ISBE is “guidance”, not “school code”, not “law”.

Your letter had a link on the “contacted by ISBE” statement, which links to a [The Center Square](#) article dated June 28, 2021. It referenced Red Hill CUSD 10, but is before the most recent ISBE update as of Friday, July 9. Also per the link to the June 28 article, “Schools placed on probation have a maximum of one year” to correct anything needed.

Therefore, it seems that decisions, made now, in the best interest of all students, will not result in immediate cutting of funds, especially for this already-budgeted school year. However, you said it would affect this 2021-22 school year. Both D47 and D155 referenced D10. There are many who will be watching that CUSD10 intently, to see if it truly is the cautionary tale it is touted as.

I am requesting the specific documentation from ISBE, specific school code information, and Title 23 of the Administrative code stating the exact requirements of district 47, in order to remain in "recognized" status and any information related to that concern.

I look forward to your prompt response this week. I will see you at the board meeting on July 19.

Thank you-

Rebecca Helm

**CRYSTAL
LAKE**

Hinz, Kathy <khinz@d47.org>

Re: d47 policies inquiry

1 message

Hinz, Kathy <khinz@d47.org>

Tue, Jul 13, 2021 at 4:30 PM

To: Brian Stechly [REDACTED] >

Good afternoon,

Our board policies are all online on our [website](#). The board has not adopted any policies specific to mask-wearing or CRT.**Kathy J Hinz, Ed. D.***Superintendent**(she/her/ella)***CORE Center**

300 Commerce Dr.

Crystal Lake, IL 60014

815.788.5012

www.d47.org***“Empowering All Students: Learners Today – Leaders Tomorrow”***On Tue, Jul 13, 2021 at 10:46 AM Brian Stechly <bstechly@disk.com> wrote:

Hello,

My children attend school in your district and as the summer draws to an end I'm trying to understand/evaluate district policy and how it might affect my family. Can you please tell me where I can view the district's policy regarding: 1) mask wearing as being optional 2) CRT in the classroom

Thanks!

Brian Stechly

**CRYSTAL
LAKE**

Hinz, Kathy <khinz@d47.org>

Re: 2021-22

1 message

Hinz, Kathy <khinz@d47.org>

Wed, Jul 14, 2021 at 10:21 AM

To: Rebecca Helm <[REDACTED]>

Bcc: Board Of Education <boe@d47.org>

Good morning,

I have blind copied the board on my reply to keep them in the loop of communication while not violating the Open Meetings Act (OMA). Thank you for your thoughtful and comprehensive comments. I completely agree that the mental, emotional, and social stress being placed on students is important to consider and balance in our decision-making process. In my recent letter to Dr. Carmen Ayala and our elected state officials, I made that point exactly to them. Please know that I continue to meet with the local health department and will continue to advocate for the whole child and prioritizing all aspects of their learning environment and development. Thank you for the conversation and advocacy. I really appreciate it.

Kathy J Hinz, Ed. D.

Superintendent

(she/her/ella)

**CORE Center**

300 Commerce Dr.

Crystal Lake, IL 60014

815.788.5012

www.d47.org***“Empowering All Students: Learners Today – Leaders Tomorrow”***

On Tue, Jul 13, 2021 at 4:02 PM Rebecca Helm <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Thank you for your consideration of my previous email on Monday July 9, 2021.

I appreciate the school board and superintendent who are concerned about risks, liability, and student well-being on a variety of topics. Thank you for your tireless work that makes D47 a district of excellence.

The risk of liability for a virus is very low. It is extremely difficult to prove exactly when and where any virus was contracted. This is especially true when considering that almost all other activities and parts of our community are functioning at full capacity, with the vast majority of people not wearing masks. This would apply to students, teachers, and school staff.

However, the risk of liability for mental, emotional, and social damage-as a direct result of requiring students to attempt learning in masks-is high. This will be much easier to prove based on our children's mental, emotional, and social stress, and the activities they report happening in their classrooms and schools. As you are well-aware, elementary and middle school years are critical times of mental, emotional, and social development.

Again, thank you for your time and consideration-
Rebecca Helm

**CRYSTAL
LAKE**

Hinz, Kathy <khinz@d47.org>

Re: Update

1 message

Hinz, Kathy <khinz@d47.org>

Mon, Jul 12, 2021 at 6:03 PM

To: erin cannella <ecannella@sbcglobal.net>

Thank you - your interaction with the health department is disappointing and I hope that they have more information when we meet with them later this week.

Kathy J Hinz, Ed. D.*Superintendent**(she/her/ella)***CORE Center**

300 Commerce Dr.

Crystal Lake, IL 60014

815.788.5012

www.d47.org***“Empowering All Students: Learners Today – Leaders Tomorrow”***

On Mon, Jul 12, 2021 at 5:25 PM erin cannella <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Thank you very much. I did contact MCDH and was told that they have not made any decisions based on the information that came out on Friday and are awaiting clarification from IDPH. She seemed to not want to be in charge of making any decisions and seems to want guidance from the state. I hope they have some better information for you in time for your weekly meeting.

Thanks again,
Erin

On Monday, July 12, 2021, 07:18:05 AM CDT, Hinz, Kathy <khinz@d47.org> wrote:

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting me and for contacting the appropriate authorities and agencies on Friday. I know that many people have said and it is being repeated that each school district has the authority to follow or not follow ISBE and IDPH guidelines and mandates. Since the board meeting, it has been made clear to us by our insurance companies and attorneys that we do not have the choice to disregard the guidelines and mandates. If we were to do that, ISBE has the ability to revoke our recognition as a school district from the state, which would immediately stop our local, state, and federal funding, and any insurance coverage liability wise for anything that would happen as a result of us not following the guidelines and mandates.

That being said, the guidance being released from the CDC Friday morning and then IDPH adopting it in its entirety Friday afternoon, we have many answers regarding how we need to operate when we open in August. Additionally, that guidance seems to allow decisions to be made more at the local level, which would mean via our local health department. I have already sent my thoughts and feedback about the guidance to MCDH and I look forward to my weekly meeting with them to discuss and gain clarity on the reference to local decision making in the guidance. I will communicate out to our staff and families as soon as I have a greater understanding of the guidelines and intent for local decisions. Again, thank you for contacting me and for reaching out to the state authorities and agencies to help advocate with us. I hope that you will reach out in the future with any questions, concerns, and/or feedback.

Kathy J Hinz, Ed. D.
Superintendent
(she/her/ella)



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300 Commerce Dr.
Crystal Lake, IL 60014
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www.d47.org

“Empowering All Students: Learners Today – Leaders Tomorrow”

On Fri, Jul 9, 2021 at 9:25 AM erin cannella <[REDACTED]> wrote:
Good morning Dr. Hinz,

Thank you for the update today. A few questions- Is the ISBE mask guidance a recommendation or an actual mandate? I believe the state's mandate is a recommendation. At the last board meeting you mentioned that it was unclear if ISBE had the legal authority to pull funding or recognition. Has it been determined that they do have this authority? Your email said that there would be significant hurdles if this was done. What would these hurdles be if ISBE did in fact pull 20% of the funding and recognition status?

I have contacted ISBE, McHenry County Health Dept and IDPH like you recommended and only received a generic response from ISBE. Please let me know if there is anything else that I can do, I would love to help the district in any way I can.

Thank you,

Erin Lukasiewicz

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**CRYSTAL
LAKE**

Hinz, Kathy <khinz@d47.org>

Re: Board Meeting

1 message

Hinz, Kathy <khinz@d47.org>

Mon, Jul 12, 2021 at 3:38 PM

To: Kim Neilson <[REDACTED]>

Thank you so much for your advocacy - it means a lot. I look forward to my meeting with the health department this week now that the guidance has been released by the CDC and adopted by the IDPH.

Kathy J Hinz, Ed. D.
Superintendent
(she/her/ella)

**CORE Center**

300 Commerce Dr.
Crystal Lake, IL 60014
815.788.5012
www.d47.org

“Empowering All Students: Learners Today – Leaders Tomorrow”

On Mon, Jul 12, 2021 at 12:35 PM Kim Neilson <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Thank you Dr. Hinz-

I've reached out to hopefully the correct contacts for the health department as well, but feel free to forward my letter as you see fit

McHenry County Letter

I know your leadership continues to play a role in our county's advancement and I received very nice feedback from other superintendents following my contact with them. My girls ride horses and participate in horse shows in Marengo at Cross Winds Farm and apparently the horses there eat the hay from Superintendant Damisch - who knew lol.

I'm happy to see everyone coming together around this. Our children's lives depend on it. If you need any representation at your meeting with the county I know myself or I have a good friend and school psychologist colleague from D46 and know others who would attend to support you. Again thank you!

Sincerely,

Kim Neilson

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From: Hinz, Kathy <khinz@d47.org>
Sent: Monday, July 12, 2021 7:08 AM
To: Kim Neilson
Cc: Dean Neilson
Subject: Re: Board Meeting

Good morning,

I have blind copied the board of education on my email in order to keep them in the loop of communication while not violating the Open Meetings Act (OMA). Thank you for the phone conversation last week. I appreciate your willingness to draft a template and send it to the authorities on Friday. The guidance being released from the CDC on Friday and IDPH adopting it in its entirety later on Friday has provided us a great step forward in terms of planning for the 2021/22 school year. I was already in communication with the county health department over the weekend with my thoughts and questions given the guidance and look forward to my weekly meeting with them this week to get more clarification. I look forward to updating the staff and families shortly on more specifics about our opening. Again, thank you for your advocacy. I greatly appreciate it.

Kathy J Hinz, Ed. D.

*Superintendent
(she/her/ella)*



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Center**

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Crystal
Lake, IL 60014
815.788.5012
www.d47.org

***“Empowering
All Students: Learners Today – Leaders Tomorrow”***

On Thu, Jul 8, 2021 at 6:36 PM Kim Neilson <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Please see corrected version with changed Roger Eddy and Amaal Tokars emails.

Thanks,

Kim

From: Kim Neilson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, July 8, 2021 7:07 PM
To: kahty hinz <khinz@d47.org>; dbarton@d47.org <dbarton@d47.org>; jpowell@d47.org <jpowell@d47.org>; tmahaffy@d47.org <tmahaffy@d47.org>; cwadlington@d47.org <cwadlington@d47.org>; RFetzner@d47.org <RFetzner@d47.org>; BALes@d47.org <BALes@d47.org>; RPFarrell@d47.org <RPFarrell@d47.org>
Cc: Dean Neilson <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: Board Meeting

Thank you Dr. Hinz for your phone call this morning and follow up. I appreciate speaking with you and hearing your perspective. Per our conversation I have attached a drafted template for anyone who sees fit to send out. I was not sure what from ISBE is sending threats so I have addressed what I thought might be all applicable parties to receive such a document. Let me know if you have any suggestions or recommendations for changes. I will share it with parents, community members and groups I am affiliated with for them to make appropriate changes and send off as well.

State Representative Adam Niemerg and State Senator Darren Bailey have been especially influential in addressing the Illinois Education System. I know Dr. Ezike was scheduled to meet this week with Mr. Niemerg, but was a no

show. Senator Bailey has written into ISBE with no response. Attorney Thomas Devore offered a reminder video today that school district boards and superintendents continue to have the local control <https://www.facebook.com/thomas.devore.92/videos/1012824249254692/?d=n> I'm not sure if he's referring to the letter that District 47 was a part of; but hopefully helpful information to discuss with your attorneys none the less.

Best Regards,

Kim Neilson

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From: Kim Neilson [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, Jul 8, 2021 10:22 AM
To: kahty hinz; dbarton@d47.org; jpowell@d47.org; tmahaffy@d47.org; cwadlington@d47.org; RFetzner@d47.org; BAles@d47.org; RPFarrell@d47.org
Cc: Dean Neilson
Subject: Re: Board Meeting

Dear Dr. Hinz and School Board Members-

I'm just following up to Dr. Hinz reply that a letter was sent to ISBE and any response you might have received influencing your decisions for the coming school year.

I'm aware of many superintendents doing the same; but still no reply from ISBE. My children have participated in their respective sports with no masks or mitigation and no Covid issues. My youngest indoors in ballet intensives five hours a day right next to peers, much less 3 feet away. They have had no masks since March at The Chicago School of Ballet.

The local districts have control regarding masks and restrictions. Until such time as HB2789 might become law vesting this authority with ISBE, the local districts still have it. If there is something from an insurance company or legal firm I would like to see it because there would be no way for students to determine where they caught a flu, Covid, pink eye or whatever.

Currently on the district website it states children will receive disciplinary action or be isolated in some way if they refuse to wear masks:

on Instruction



Parent / Student Expectations

Face masks



- Per IDPH and ISBE guidelines, students are expected to wear a face mask (two layers recommended) at all times, including when on the school bus.

Exceptions include:

- Eating/drinking
- Outside with at least six feet of social distancing
- Students who arrive at school without a face covering/mask will be provided a disposable mask.
- Students who refuse to wear a face covering/mask will be moved to a remote learning classroom or will be subject to disciplinary action/consequences consistent with the Student Code of Conduct and Board Policy 7:190 - Student Behavior. This does not apply to students who have an approved medical exemption or accommodation. See the [D47 student handbook](#) for more information.

Lunch / Recess (elementary students only)

- Lunch/recess will be 50 minutes with students eating in the classroom (or another designated location or outside if weather allows). Students will be supervised by a lunch/playground supervisor.
- During lunch, students will remove their masks while eating. Surfaces will be wiped down after eating.
- Masks will be required outside during recess unless

I do not want my children returning to school wearing masks. It's difficult for them to breathe; the bacteria on the masks; etc. You have all the power to make masks optional and I'm asking that we settle this so that so everyone can plan for the upcoming school year that we are weeks away from.

If you decide to require masks how will children that refuse to wear them be dealt with? My girls are good kids. They are rule followers and respectful students; but it does not make sense to continue masking our children and restricting their airways - on the bus, the playground, at lunch, in the classroom, or anywhere. Or making them wear shields or those plastic partitions on desks that fall off and distracting.

As a mother I cannot go back to asking my healthy children to wear masks or shield on their head, it's just wrong - morally, ethically, physically, emotionally, and educationally. I don't want them to be put in a position where they have to choose between breathing and following the rules out of fear for disciplinary action. They are concerned they will get put in "the blue padded room," by themselves.

Our children need time to process and manage their expectations for the school year. As a school social worker I anticipate many students who will have fears returning to school. Everyone needs time to process and prepare for what's to come; especially the kids. It's torture and trauma to keep them in limbo on this. If we need doctor notes or to help them mentally prepare to refuse wearing masks; children need time for that too and to prepare for those consequences in standing up for themselves.

Thank you for taking the time to listen and for your considerations in these difficult matters. I respect your decisions and the difficult position you all are in; that we all are in.

Sincerely,

Kim Neilson

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From: Kim Neilson <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Wednesday, June 23, 2021 11:46 AM

To: kahty hinz; dbarton@d47.org; jpowell@d47.org; tmahaffy@d47.org; cwadlington@d47.org; RFetzner@d47.org; BAles@d47.org; RPFarrell@d47.org

Subject: Board Meeting

Dear Dr. Hinz and District 47 Board Members-

Thank you for this week's Board Meeting and opportunity for the community to share our thoughts and concerns with all of you.

I am attaching a letter from LUDA Illinois Large Districts in hopes we can be a part of this initiative of getting back to normal and addressing ISBE. I see Dr. Rowe from Huntley and Barrington D220 listed; but did not see us as D47 part of this; which concerns me. Is this just from a lack of awareness?

Some school districts are working with Attorney Tom DeVore who explains that legally the guidance from ISBE and IDPH are not laws and districts are not required to follow this. He also addresses school funding threats and insurance concerns in this video he shared: <https://www.facebook.com/109187787596728/posts/295790072269831/?d=n>

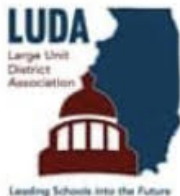
While I understand the Board and Administration is under considerable pressure and we truly appreciate all you are doing for our students; I just ask that we consider what is in our children's best interest.

The working and academic conditions of wearing masks and other restrictions have taken a considerable toll on the educational, social and emotional academic environment. Schools are not a happy place to be under this oppression.

Thank you for your commitment and dedication to student learning and leadership for our community.

Kind Regards,

Kim Neilson
School Social Worker
Parent of Nola and Marlo Neilson



Dr. John Burkey, Executive Director
515 W. Main Street, Barrington, IL 60010
ludaillinois.org

June 21, 2021

Dear Dr. Ayala,

As LUDA superintendents, we lead school districts that collectively educate over half a million students in Illinois. The last 15 months have been extremely challenging for everyone, and we are invigorated as we see our society beginning to return to a semblance of normal as our COVID spread rates continue to rapidly decline. Most of our districts have been able to offer a return to full in-person learning in the past few months under the current guidance. We have only been able to do so because many of our students continue to be remote. Thus, our schools have been implementing the current guidelines with an in-person attendance rate of approximately 70-80 percent.

We were encouraged in May to see your in-person learning resolution for the fall of 2021 as we want to have our students fully back in-person. Given this resolution, coupled with the move to Phase 5 statewide, we believed new guidance reflecting these changes would be quickly forthcoming. Unfortunately, to date, that has not happened. While new guidance was issued earlier this month, it did not reflect the reality of conditions needed to conduct full in-person learning or the provisions of the recent Illinois' Phase 5 designation.

While there are a number of concerns about current guidance related to implementation in the fall, we will focus on two primary points:

- Quarantining

The current guidelines, if not modified, will create significant issues in the fall. Our schools have had very few cases of documented COVID spread. There have been thousands of students quarantined this year and the in and out of in-person school has been very disruptive to our students' education. In most cases, when students were quarantined in the past year, our schools had remote learning options in place for them. With the return to full in-person learning next year, those remote options will not exist in the same way. In many cases, quarantined students will be taught with homebound instruction, which does not equate to the time and quality they received from remote instruction. When considering the cost/benefit of both health and education, we do not believe the current quarantining guidance is most appropriate for our students.

Large Unit District Association



Dr. John Burkey, Executive Director
515 W. Main Street, Barrington, IL 60010
ludaillinois.org



- Social Distancing

Under the 6-feet social distancing guidelines, it is impossible for most of our schools to operate at 100 percent capacity. Using 3-feet social distancing guidelines, full capacity is possible in most cases, but only with significant modifications. Those modifications include, but are not limited to, items such as different furniture (desks instead of tables), completely redesigned lunch procedures and new student bell schedules.

We request two action items from ISBE:

- We request that social distancing, quarantining, and masking guidelines in schools be consistent with health guidelines of Phase 5 as applied to other venues in Illinois. Through science we know that children are the least vulnerable population to COVID. Generally, we know that in normal circumstances, schools are the most controlled, supervised venue that kids attend. Schools should not have to operate under tighter restrictions than what has been deemed safe in other circumstances. If there are continued social distancing and quarantining guidelines in place, we ask that they be consistent among agencies and local health departments.
- We request that full guidance from ISBE for the fall be issued immediately. Unless there is a significant change in the spread of COVID over the next two months, there is nothing that will be known in two months that is not known today. If certain social distancing guidelines remain in place, and we have 100 percent of our students attending in person, our schools will have to make significant adjustments to the educational environment. The planning and expenditures to make those adjustments need to happen now. Conversely, we do not want to spend taxpayer dollars on mitigation purchases that will ultimately not be needed.

In summary, we understand and respect that the role of IDPH is to issue health guidance. While we have the utmost respect for IDPH, they do not have expertise in Pre-K-12 education or in the leadership of schools. We believe it is vital for ISBE to collaborate with IDPH, and other relevant state agencies, to create guidance that meets the safety needs of students and staff, and also allows for the highest quality education of our students as they return to full in-person learning.

Large Unit District Association



Dr. John Burkey, Executive Director
515 W. Main Street, Barrington, IL 60010
ludaillinois.org

Sincerely,

Dr. John Burkey,
LUDA

Dr. Douglas Wood,
Ball-Chatham #5

Dr. Ehren Jarrett,
Rockford #205

Dr. Sharon Desmoulin-Kherat,
Peoria #150

Dan Bridges,
Naperville #203

Dr. Lisa Hichens,
Batavia #101

Dr. Donn Mendoza,
Round Lake #116

Dr. Brian Harris,
Barrington #220

Dr. Genevra Walters,
Kankakee #111

Jennifer Gill,
Springfield #186

Dr. Jeff Schuler,
Wheaton-Warrenville #200

Steve Ptacek,
Jacksonville #117

Dr. John Sparlin,
Oswego #308

Dr. Paul Fregeau,
Decatur #61

Dr. Kelley Gallt,
Lake Zurich #95

Leigh Lewis,
Triad #2

Dr. Alicia Geddis,
Danville #118

Rachel Kinder,
Valley View #365U

Dr. Susan Zola,
Champaign #4

Dr. Julie Morris,
Harlem #122

Dr. Jeff Craig,
West Aurora #129

Dr. Kent Mutchler,
Geneva #304

Dr. Anna Alvarado,
Freeport #145

Dr. Corey Tafoya,
Harvard #50

John Asplund,
Galesburg #205

Dr. Keith Oates,
Marion #2

Dr. Ray Lechner,
DeKalb #428

Roy Webb,
Quincy #172

Dr. Lane Abrell,
Plainfield #202

Dr. Barry Reilly,
Bloomington #87

Dr. Tim Shimp,
Yorkville #115

Dr. Reginald Lawrence,
Rock Island #41

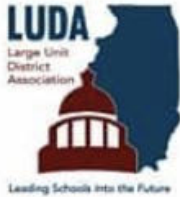
Dr. Scott Rowe,
Huntley #158

Dr. Rachel Savage,
Moline-Coal Valley #40

Dr. Adrian Talley,
Indian Prairie #204

Dr. Jason Pearson,
St. Charles #303

Large Unit District Association



Dr. John Burkey, Executive Director
515 W. Main Street, Barrington, IL 60010
ludaillinois.org

Dr. Todd Leden,
Kaneland #302

Dr. Jennifer Ivory-Tatum,
Urbana #116

Stephen Wilder,
Sycamore #427

Dr. Todd Stirn,
Burlington Central #301

Susan Harkin,
Algonquin #300

Kristie Baumgartner,
Alton #11

Dr. Scott Dearman,
Dunlap #323

Dr. Kristen Kendrick-Weikle,
McLean County #5

Dr. Michael Moan,
Woodstock #200

Large Unit District Association

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**CRYSTAL
LAKE**

Hinz, Kathy <khinz@d47.org>

Re: Masks

1 message

Tony [REDACTED] >
To: "Hinz, Kathy" <khinz@d47.org>

Wed, Jul 14, 2021 at 3:08 PM

Hi Kathy,
Face masks should not be a polarizing issue. It has been politicized, and maybe you have fallen into that... but the evidence is clear masks reduce transmission. Your reply is not satisfactory and I would appreciate a call,
Dr. Anthony Weston
8155419774

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 14, 2021, at 10:49 AM, Hinz, Kathy <khinz@d47.org> wrote:

Good morning,
Thank you for contacting me. I also understand that you called my office this morning and left a message. I appreciate your comments and knowledge from the medical perspective. Please know that I am and have been consulting with the health department on a weekly basis since the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020. We spend a lot of our time weekly discussing the current status of our communities and how the guidance is applied in the school setting. I am focusing on the whole student as I look at the guidance and determine layered preventative measures and mitigations. I understand that face masks are a polarizing issue and I work to not factor that into my decision-making process but to simply balance the guidance with support and growth of the whole child (academically, socially, and emotionally). Today is the first meeting with the health department since the CDC and IDPH guidance was released last week. I'm looking forward to discussing the guidance with them so that we can continue our planning for the 2021/22 school year. I appreciate you contacting me and sharing your thoughts and recommendation.

Kathy J Hinz, Ed. D.
Superintendent
(she/her/ella)



CORE Center
300 Commerce Dr.
Crystal Lake, IL 60014
815.788.5012
www.d47.org

"Empowering All Students: Learners Today – Leaders Tomorrow"

On Tue, Jul 13, 2021 at 6:58 PM Tony <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Hi Dr. Hinz,
This is Tony Weston, MD, a family physician here in Crystal Lake with 2 kids at North (rising 3rd grader and 1st grader).
I was discouraged today to read your letter undermining the importance of mask wearing for our unvaccinated children. Even though others are not following the science as your letter indicates, why does this mean the schools should ignore it?

I agree with you, as a physician to kids and families, it is time for our kids to be back in school. Classrooms realistically need to be full. While our kids had a great experience remote all year with Ms. Diederich and Ms. Grey, it is time to return.

While your email seems to indicate that you feel most are against mask wearing, I think you are mistaken. You are hearing loud voices, the people not wanting to follow science. Even if this crowd is the majority, it doesn't make it the right thing to do. Please, I ask you to listen to the science. (Yes, some kids with developmental issues need to drop the mask. The vast majority of kids are not deterred with masks.) While your letter has, I am afraid, already done harm in undermining the importance of mask wearing to mitigate spread, please change your tune on this. If you want all kids back in the classroom, you need to mandate masks and not have them optional. You will have significant problems and confusion arise from other viral illnesses (is it COVID, is it not?) this fall when the last thing we need is more confusion.

Happy to talk with you and give you further advice from a medical provider.

Sincerely,
Tony Weston, MD
Cell 8155419774

Sent from my iPhone

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**CRYSTAL
LAKE**

Hinz, Kathy <khinz@d47.org>

Re: One more thing

1 message

Hinz, Kathy <khinz@d47.org>

Thu, Jul 15, 2021 at 12:31 PM

To: Tony [REDACTED]

Good afternoon,
I appreciate both of your emails and I do value your medical perspective and feedback. I'm sorry that you found my response unacceptable. I hope to see you Monday evening.

Kathy J Hinz, Ed. D.
Superintendent
(she/her/ella)



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www.d47.org

“Empowering All Students: Learners Today – Leaders Tomorrow”

On Wed, Jul 14, 2021 at 3:27 PM Tony <tony.j.weston@gmail.com> wrote:

Dr. Hinz,

One more thing, I want to thank you for your work during an impossible time. I am afraid that you have received a lot of abuse from anti-maskers. I want you to know my message to you is in no way personal. I just need to be a voice for those parents of us who are educated, intelligent, realistic about where we still are in this pandemic. We are the silent minority/majority I am afraid. Please hear our voices, but know that my heart goes out to you in this difficult time for your profession. Please continue to hold your ground and follow the IDPH guidelines. Requirement of masks, reducing distancing requirements (if that is required), use of learning pods so all kids can be in school is what I hope you can advocate. No need to call me. I will do my best to come to next board meeting to help state my position.

Tony Weston

Sent from my iPhone

**CRYSTAL
LAKE****Hinz, Kathy <khinz@d47.org>**

City of McHenry district 15

1 message

Courtney Hand [REDACTED] >
To: khinz@d47.org

Thu, Jul 15, 2021 at 3:01 PM

Hello Dr. Hinz,

Thank you for all of your recent communication regarding the upcoming school year.

I read today that at their board meeting last night, McHenry's district 15 chose to make masks optional for their students and staff, regardless of vaccination status. I'm not sure if their insurance situation mirrors that of D47 and I don't know any other unique circumstances that led to this decision. I just sincerely hope that our board can come to the same decision on Monday.

<https://www.shawlocal.com/northwest-herald/news/local/2021/07/15/mchenry-elementary-school-district-15-makes-masks-optional-for-students-staff/>

Kind regards,

Courtney Hand

Sent from my iPhone



**CRYSTAL
LAKE**

Hinz, Kathy <khinz@d47.org>

Clarification

1 message

Suzie [REDACTED] >
To: khinz@d47.org

Thu, Jul 15, 2021 at 5:59 PM

Hello,

In an effort to be proactive in planning, I'm wondering if you could you please detail what options are available if the decision is made to allow masks to be optional at elementary. I have a student who stayed home last year because of past respiratory surgery. Thanks!

Suzie

Sent from my iPhone

**CRYSTAL
LAKE**

Hinz, Kathy <khinz@d47.org>

McHenry Elementary School District 15 makes masks optional for students, staff – Shaw Local

1 message

Michelle Catino [REDACTED]

Thu, Jul 15, 2021 at 6:21 PM

To: khinz@d47.org

Dr. Hinz,

Is this a possibility for our children? Please let this be the parents choice. These masks interfere with learning, especially since my daughter is attending Wehde preschool for speech therapy.

I can assure you, most parents feel this way.

<https://www.shawlocal.com/northwest-herald/news/local/2021/07/15/mchenry-elementary-school-district-15-makes-masks-optional-for-students-staff/>

**CRYSTAL
LAKE****Hinz, Kathy <khinz@d47.org>**

The parent of district 47 student

1 message

Anna Chudzynska [REDACTED] >
To: Kathy Hinz <khinz@d47.org>

Thu, Jul 15, 2021 at 10:23 PM

Hello,

I am Anna and I am writting in connection to masks in Indiane Praire Elementary School. I called yesterday to d47 district office. The lady was not even able to tell me if our kids are coming back to school this year or not. The only thing she was able to tell me was 'all of the information you can find online on the d47 webpage'.

So I decided to contact somebody who knows something at all. So my concerns are about if the school will be remote or in person this year and the most important thing if the masks will be optional in coming school year? If there will be voting about the masks, if yes, than when it gonna happen?

Thank you.

Regards,
Anna Chwalek

From: Kim Neilson [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 12, 2021 12:35 PM
To: Hinz, Kathy
Cc: Dean Neilson; dbarton@d47.org; jpowell@d47.org; tmahaffy@d47.org; cwadlington@d47.org; RFetzner@d47.org; BAlles@d47.org; RPFarrell@d47.org
Subject: Re: Board Meeting

Thank you Dr. Hinz-

I've reached out to hopefully the correct contacts for the health department as well, but feel free to forward my letter as you see fit

[McHenry County Letter](#)

I know your leadership continues to play a role in our county's advancement and I received very nice feedback from other superintendents following my contact with them. My girls ride horses and participate in horse shows in Marengo at Cross Winds Farm and apparently the horses there eat the hay from Superintendant Damisch - who knew lol.

I'm happy to see everyone coming together around this. Our children's lives depend on it. If you need any representation at your meeting with the county I know myself or I have a good friend and school psychologist colleague from D46 and know others who would attend to support you. Again thank you!

Sincerely,

Kim Neilson

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From: Hinz, Kathy <khinz@d47.org>
Sent: Monday, July 12, 2021 7:08 AM
To: Kim Neilson
Cc: Dean Neilson
Subject: Re: Board Meeting

Good morning,

I have blind copied the board of education on my email in order to keep them in the loop of communication while not violating the Open Meetings Act (OMA). Thank you for the phone conversation last week. I appreciate your willingness to draft a template and send it to the authorities on Friday. The guidance being released from the CDC on Friday and IDPH adopting it in its entirety later on Friday has provided us a great step forward in terms of planning for the 2021/22 school year. I was already in communication with the county health department over the weekend with my thoughts and questions given the guidance and look forward to my weekly meeting with them this week to get more clarification. I look forward to updating the staff and families shortly on more specifics about our opening. Again, thank you for your advocacy. I greatly appreciate it.

Kathy J Hinz, Ed. D.

Superintendent
(she/her/ella)



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“Empowering All Students: Learners Today – Leaders Tomorrow”

On Thu, Jul 8, 2021 at 6:36 PM Kim Neilson <kim-neilson@hotmail.com> wrote:
Please see corrected version with changed Roger Eddy and Amaal Tokars emails.

Thanks,

Kim

From: Kim Neilson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, July 8, 2021 7:07 PM
To: kahty hinz <khinz@d47.org>; dbarton@d47.org <dbarton@d47.org>; jpowell@d47.org <jpowell@d47.org>; tmahaffy@d47.org <tmahaffy@d47.org>; cwadlington@d47.org <cwadlington@d47.org>; RFetzner@d47.org <RFetzner@d47.org>; BAles@d47.org <BAles@d47.org>; RPFarrell@d47.org <RPFarrell@d47.org>
Cc: Dean Neilson <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: Board Meeting

Thank you Dr. Hinz for your phone call this morning and follow up. I appreciate speaking with you and hearing your perspective. Per our conversation I have attached a drafted template for anyone who sees fit to send out. I was not sure what from ISBE is sending threats so I have addressed what I thought might be all applicable parties to receive such a document. Let me know if you have any suggestions or recommendations for changes. I will share it with parents, community members and groups I am affiliated with for them to make appropriate changes and send off as well.

State Representative Adam Niemerg and State Senator Darren Bailey have been especially influential in addressing the Illinois Education System. I know Dr. Ezike was scheduled to meet this week with Mr. Niemerg, but was a no show. Senator Bailley has written into ISBE with no response. Attorney Thomas Devore offered a reminder video today that school district boards and superintendents continue to have the local control <https://www.facebook.com/thomas.devore.92/videos/1012824249254692/?d=n> I'm not sure if he's referring to the letter that District 47 was a part of; but hopefully helpful information to discuss with your attorneys none the less.

Best Regards,

Kim Neilson

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From: Kim Neilson [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 8, 2021 10:22 AM
To: kahty hinz; dbarton@d47.org; ipowell@d47.org; tmahaffy@d47.org; cwadlington@d47.org; RFetzner@d47.org; BAles@d47.org; RPFarrell@d47.org
Cc: Dean Neilson
Subject: Re: Board Meeting

Dear Dr. Hinz and School Board Members-

I'm just following up to Dr. Hinz reply that a letter was sent to ISBE and any response you might have received influencing your decisions for the coming school year.

I'm aware of many superintendents doing the same; but still no reply from ISBE. My children have participated in their respective sports with no masks or mitigation and no Covid issues. My youngest indoors in ballet intensives five hours a day right next to peers, much less 3 feet away. They have had no masks since March at The Chicago School of Ballet.

The local districts have control regarding masks and restrictions. Until such time as HB2789 might become law vesting this authority with ISBE, the local districts still have it. If there is something from an insurance company or legal firm I would like to see it because there would be no way for students to determine where they caught a flu, Covid, pink eye or whatever.

Currently on the district website it states children will receive disciplinary action or be isolated in some way if they refuse to wear masks:

on Instruction



Parent / Student Expectations

Face masks



- Per IDPH and ISBE guidelines, students are expected to wear a face mask (two layers recommended) at all times including when on the school bus.

Exceptions include:

- Eating/drinking
- Outside with at least six feet of social distancing
- Students who arrive at school without a face covering/mask will be provided a disposable mask.
- Students who refuse to wear a face covering/mask will be moved to a remote learning classroom or will be subject to disciplinary action/consequences consistent with the Student Code of Conduct and Board Policy 7:190 - Student Behavior. This does not apply to students who have an approved medical exemption or accommodation. See the D47 student handbook for more information.

Lunch / Recess

I do not want my children returning to school wearing masks. It's difficult for them to breathe; the bacteria on the masks; etc. You have all the power to make masks optional and I'm asking that we settle this so that so everyone can plan for the upcoming school year that we are weeks away from.

If you decide to require masks how will children that refuse to wear them be dealt with? My girls are good kids. They are rule followers and respectful students; but it does not make sense to continue masking our children and restricting their airways - on the bus, the playground, at lunch, in the classroom, or anywhere. Or making them wear shields or those plastic partitions on desks that fall off and distracting.

As a mother I cannot go back to asking my healthy children to wear masks or shield on their head, it's just wrong - morally, ethically, physically, emotionally, and educationally. I don't want them to be put in a position where they have to choose between breathing and following the rules out of fear for disciplinary action. They are concerned they will get put in "the blue padded room," by themselves.

Our children need time to process and manage their expectations for the school year. As a school social worker I anticipate many students who will have fears returning to school. Everyone needs time to process and prepare for what's to come; especially the kids. It's torture and trauma to keep them in limbo on this. If we need doctor notes or to help them mentally prepare to refuse wearing masks; children need time for that too and to prepare for those consequences in standing up for themselves.

Thank you for taking the time to listen and for your considerations in these difficult matters. I respect your decisions and the difficult position you all are in; that we all are in.

Sincerely,

Kim Neilson

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From: Kim Neilson [REDACTED] >
Sent: Wednesday, June 23, 2021 11:46 AM
To: kahty hinz; dbarton@d47.org; jpowell@d47.org; tmahaffy@d47.org; cwadlington@d47.org; RFetzner@d47.org; BAles@d47.org; RPFarrell@d47.org
Subject: Board Meeting

Dear Dr. Hinz and District 47 Board Members-

Thank you for this week's Board Meeting and opportunity for the community to share our thoughts and concerns with all of you.

I am attaching a letter from LUDA Illinois Large Districts in hopes we can be a part of this initiative of getting back to normal and addressing ISBE. I see Dr. Rowe from Huntley and Barrington D220 listed; but did not see us as D47 part of this; which concerns me. Is this just from a lack of awareness?

Some school districts are working with Attorney Tom DeVore who explains that legally the guidance from ISBE and IDPH are not laws and districts are not required to follow this. He also addresses school funding threats and insurance concerns in this video he shared: <https://www.facebook.com/109187787596728/posts/295790072269831/?d=n>

While I understand the Board and Administration is under considerable pressure and we truly appreciate all you are doing for our students; I just ask that we consider what is in our children's best interest.

The working and academic conditions of wearing masks and other restrictions have taken a considerable toll on the educational, social and emotional academic environment. Schools are not a happy place to be under this oppression.

Thank you for your commitment and dedication to student learning and leadership for our community.

Kind Regards,

Kim Neilson
School Social Worker
Parent of Nola and Marlo Neilson



June 21, 2021

Dear Dr. Ayala,

As LUDA superintendents, we lead school districts that collectively educate over half a million students in Illinois. The last 15 months have been extremely challenging for everyone, and we are invigorated as we see our society beginning to return to a semblance of normal as COVID spread rates continue to rapidly decline. Most of our districts have been able to offer a return to full in-person learning in the past few months under the current guidance. We have only been able to do so because many of our students continue to be remote. Thus, our schools have been implementing the current guidelines with an in-person attendance rate of approximately 70-80 percent.

We were encouraged in May to see your in-person learning resolution for the fall of 2021 as we want to have our students fully back in-person. Given this resolution, coupled with the move to Phase 5 statewide, we believed new guidance reflecting these changes would be quickly forthcoming. Unfortunately, to date, that has not happened. While new guidance was issued earlier this month, it did not reflect the reality of conditions needed to conduct full in-person learning or the provisions of the recent Illinois' Phase 5 designation.

While there are a number of concerns about current guidance related to implementation in the fall, we will focus on two primary points:

- Quarantining

The current guidelines, if not modified, will create significant issues in the fall. Our schools have had very few cases of documented COVID spread. There have been thousands of students quarantined this year and the in and out of in-person school has been very disruptive to our students' education. In most cases, when students were quarantined in the past year, our schools had remote learning options in place for them. With the return to full in-person learning next year, those remote options will not exist the same way. In many cases, quarantined students will be taught with homebound instruction, which does not equate to the time and quality they received from remote instruction. When considering the cost/benefit of both health and education, we do believe the current quarantining guidance is most appropriate for our students.

- Social Distancing

Under the 6-feet social distancing guidelines, it is impossible for most of our schools to operate at 100 percent capacity. Using 3-feet social distancing guidelines, full capacity is possible in most cases, but only with significant modifications. Those modifications include, but are not limited to, items such as different furniture (desks instead of tables), completely redesigned lunch procedures and new student bell schedules.

We request two action items from ISBE:

- We request that social distancing, quarantining, and masking guidelines in schools be consistent with health guidelines of Phase 5 as applied to other venues in Illinois. Through science we know that children are the least vulnerable population to COVID. Generally, we know that in normal circumstances, schools are the most controlled and supervised venue that kids attend. Schools should not have to operate under tighter restrictions than what has been deemed safe in other circumstances. If there are continued social distancing and quarantining guidelines in place, we ask that they be consistent among agencies and local health departments.
- We request that full guidance from ISBE for the fall be issued immediately. Unless there is a significant change in the spread of COVID over the next two months, there is nothing that will be known in two months that is not known today. If certain social distancing guidelines remain in place, and we have 100 percent of our students attending in person, our schools will have to make significant adjustments to the educational environment. The planning and expenditures to make those adjustments need to happen now. Conversely, we do not want to spend taxpayer dollars on mitigation purchases that will ultimately not be needed.

In summary, we understand and respect that the role of IDPH is to issue health guidance. While we have the utmost respect for IDPH, they do not have expertise in Pre-K-12 education or in the leadership of schools. We believe it is vital for ISBE to collaborate with IDPH, and other relevant state agencies, to create guidance that meets the safety needs of students and staff and also allows for the highest quality education of our students as they return to full in-person learning.

Sincerely,

Dr. John Burkey,
LUDA

Dr. Douglas Wood,
Ball-Chatham #5

Dr. Ehren Jarrett,
Rockford #205

Dr. Sharon Desmoulin-Kherat,
Peoria #150

Dan Bridges,
Naperville #203

Dr. Lisa Hichens,
Batavia #101

Dr. Donn Mendoza,
Round Lake #116

Dr. Brian Harris,
Barrington #220

Dr. Genevra Walters,
Kankakee #111

Jennifer Gill,
Springfield #186

Dr. Jeff Schuler,
Wheaton-Warrenville #200

Steve Ptacek,
Jacksonville #117

Dr. John Sparlin,
Oswego #308

Dr. Paul Fregeau,
Decatur #61

Dr. Kelley Gallt,
Lake Zurich #95

Leigh Lewis,
Triad #2

Dr. Alicia Geddis,
Danville #118

Rachel Kinder,
Valley View #365U

Dr. Susan Zola,
Champaign #4

Dr. Julie Morris,
Harlem #122

Dr. Jeff Craig,
West Aurora #129

Dr. Kent Mutchler,
Geneva #304

Dr. Anna Alvarado,
Freeport #145

Dr. Corey Tafoya,
Harvard #50

John Asplund,
Galesburg #205

Dr. Keith Oates,
Marion #2

Dr. Ray Lechner,
DeKalb #428

Roy Webb,
Quincy #172

Dr. Lane Abrell,
Plainfield #202

Dr. Barry Reilly,
Bloomington #87

Dr. Tim Shimp,
Yorkville #115

Dr. Reginald Lawrence,
Rock Island #41

Dr. Scott Rowe,
Huntley #158

Dr. Rachel Savage,
Moline-Coal Valley #40

Dr. Adrian Talley,
Indian Prairie #204

Dr. Jason Pearson,
St. Charles #303



Dr. John Burkey, Exe
515 W. Main Street, Barrin

Dr. Todd Leden,
Kaneland #302

Dr. Jennifer Ivory-Tatum,
Urbana #116

Stephen Wilder,
Sycamore #427

Dr. Todd Stirn,
Burlington Central #301

Susan Harkin,
Algonquin #300

Kristie Baumgartner,
Alton #11

Dr. Scott Dearman,
Dunlap #323

Dr. Kristen Kendrick-Weikle,
McLean County #5

Dr. Michael Moan,
Woodstock #200

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Wed, Jul 14, 1:53 AM (6 days ago)

Kevin Dennis [REDACTED] >

to Kevin, bcc: me

[IHSSCentral Facebook](#) [IHSSCentral Twitter](#)

This Email Has Been Sent To In 1,572 Illinois Board Members

I am Kevin Dennis Admin Of the Group Illinois High School Sports Central & Our Twitter page, member base total 21,331.

As you know many districts have made masks optional this fall and that is the purpose of this email. I am writing in concern from many parents across IL on moving school districts to optional masks this fall. Many have told us that the liability issues are the problem.

Well, I do not understand how it can be. How can a parent sue a school for a COVID case if you have no way to prove where they contracted it, especially now that everything is open? Also, if the liability is a problem then why have parents not sued schools when a child contracted it in the recent school year?

It has been nearly 16 months going through all this. How much more can these kids deal with masks? Many have said that if this masking happens in their school, they will move away or homeschool. When do the school boards decide to be normal?

Too many schools are more concerned about masks and guidelines than education. Do you think parents do not know more about their children's health than you all? Unless you were there on the day of the child's birth and all the way until now knowing every little problem these children have had, then you have no right regarding their health. No one knows their child better than a parent, not even a school.

School leaders need to work for the education of these kids and less on dealing with their health on a virus. I am sure parents know if it is safe or not for their children. Let the parents decide if masks are safe for the kids, not a school board.

Look around at all that is going on: fairs, public pools open, and games are being played. Did you know all through this, IL kids played out of state with not one Covid case, not one kid sick. I covered tourneys for the Reebok tournament series, UNITED HOOPS-Hammond IND, and no cases, no sick kids. Yet IL students were faced with false-positive testing and quarantines that created more kids, not sick missing schools, missing games, and education from the waste of time virtual learning. CPS only had 15 days of in-school learning.

How about all the memories these kids lost? Teams had to forfeit games during the season and a state tourney over it. When do you let parents make a decision??

Making them wear masks is unconstitutional, So many of the Bill of Rights are violated in forcing masks, especially when we are in phase 5 reopening. Also, there is no way ISBE can

withhold funding to schools because of IL School Code 5ILCS 5-5/2-3.25. There are no laws that are in place to stop school boards from making masks optional.

In ending here I am the youngest of 15 kids 7 were Marines one Air Force 3 in Nam together, One MIA & shot, We all went through the measles-mumps-chicken pox-small pox-Hong Kong flu-segregation, Through all that, not one school closed or Business. Yet this virus has a 98.9% survival rate. But many school-board think we still need masks? I ask any board this, How many in 2020-2021 school year how many cases did the mask prevent by the mask? God knows no one wore the same type.

Click Link Below is a list of districts I mentioned that are interested in going mask optional And more on our push.

✓ SCROLL DOWN TO HERE; ✓ Meaning schools still have control CDC continues to recommend masking and physical distancing as key prevention strategies.

✓✓✓ However, if school administrators decide to remove any of the prevention strategies for their school based on local conditions, they should remove them one at a time and monitor closely (with adequate testing through the school and/or community) for any increases in COVID-19 cases. Schools should communicate their strategies and any changes in plans to teachers, staff, and families, and directly to older students, using accessible materials and communication channels, in a language and at a literacy level that teachers, staff, students, and families understand.

[CDC GUIDELINES](#)

➡ In the link below is a list of districts & more info ↓↓↓↓

[Reasons for making a change for the optional mask for 2021 school year](#)

✓ [MAKE MASK OPTIONAL](#)

Thanks, we look forward to your reply

Thanks

Kevin Dennis 217 412 5529

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/illinoishighschoolsportscentral>

Illinois High School Sports Central Members · 14, 876

<https://www.springfieldsliders.com/>

<https://twitter.com/ihsscentral> Twitter **4,361** Following

2,247 Followers

<http://ihsscorecentral.com> Score Central App Scholarships

<https://howellpromotions.com/t-boy> (T-BOY)

www.<https://www.nsaproprospects.net>

www.<https://www.ncsasports.org> [nsaproprospects.net](https://www.ncsasports.org)

<https://www.mikebasscoaching.com/>

email: cillinoishighschoolsports@gmail.com

From: **Jen Arnold** [REDACTED] >
Date: Wed, Jul 14, 2021 at 10:47 AM
Subject: July 19th Board Meeting
To: <cfbourne@d47.org>

We are writing to voice our parental opinion regarding masks this fall for the 21-22 school year. We will have 2 children attending District 47 this year. One in 8th grade and one will start Kindergarten and attend school for his first time.

We are aware of the upcoming meeting on July 19th and will be out of state regarding family member issues.

We would still like to voice our opinions regarding masks this fall.

Please make masks optional for our kids. There are plenty of data to support our kids being low risk for the disease as well as transmitting it to others. There are also plenty of data to support long periods of mask use to be damaging to our kids in many ways.

We are confident that all will follow the science to date regarding masking our kids full days in schools.

Parents should be given the choice whether their children would benefit from wearing a mask daily in school.

We very much appreciate your hard work on this issue and all the work you've done this far.

Thank you,
Ronald & Jennifer Arnold

From: Chad Dodson <[REDACTED]>

Date: July 15, 2021 at 11:43:47 AM CDT

To: Robert Fetzner [REDACTED] >

Subject: District 47 mask mandate

Hi Robert,

Just wanted to touch base with you about the mask mandates for our children in District 47. I see some school districts in Illinois are making mask wearing optional. As a concerned parent I feel the children shouldn't have to wear the mask all day long. I have [REDACTED] who both attended [REDACTED] [REDACTED] School they are going into [REDACTED] grade and [REDACTED] grade this year. Myself I still have to wear the a mask as part of my employment it makes the day long and physically exhausting. My kids right know don't have any enthusiasm for school with return of wearing mask. Also I hear about testing students for Covid weekly is there any truth to that? I definitely would be against that for sure too. It's bad enough that we all ready have to that health screen every morning. It's all most in possible to go all school year with out a child having any those systems on the screener. Then child has just one they have to sit out 14 days still? Please at the next school board meeting please put a masking wearing up for a vote. The McHenry County Department of health doesn't run the school districts elected board members do and the people that voted for them. The McHenry County Department of health has to their expanded staff employed and one way is to stay in control of our schools. Time to rip the the band aid off .

Thanks for time Rob !

Chad Dodson