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OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

February 14, 2022

The Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of New York State
NYS State Capital Building, Albany, NY 12224

Dr. Mary T. Bassett, Commissioner New York State Department of Health
Corner Tower, Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12237

Dear Governor Hochul and Commissioner Bassett,

Recently you received a letter from the New York Council of School Superintendents stating,

"The critical issue with mandatory masking in schools at this moment is the urgent need for school leaders and parents to know the plan moving forward with concrete assurances from the state . . . the State should provide clear guidance on universal school mask requirements and when and how those will evolve. The best way to do this is to provide reasonable, understandable, and achievable metrics based on recommendations from medical professionals for when masking rules will eventually be changed. Absent this clarity, families might assume that current rules and regulations will continue in perpetuity."

We strongly agree with the need for reasonable, understandable, and achievable metrics that can be easily and clearly communicated to our families. The continued late-night announcements on weekdays and weekends and lack of clarity on this matter have caused unnecessary exhaustion, confusion, frustration, and discourse within our school community which is interfering with the District's ability to maintain focus on teaching and learning and to manage the daily operations of the District.

Thank you for your time and consideration regarding the need for a clear path moving forward.

Sincerely,

Laura Mitchell
MCSD Superintendent of Schools

Perry Hartswick
MCSD Board President