

44TH DISTRICT  
STATE SENATOR  
**KATIE MUTH**

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**Senate of Pennsylvania**

August 19, 2021

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Dr. Emilie M. Lonardi  
Superintendent of Schools  
Downingtown Area School District

Dr. Alan Fegley  
Superintendent of Schools  
Phoenixville Area School District

Dr. Barbara A. Russell  
Superintendent of Schools  
Perkiomen Valley School District

Mr. Christopher Dormer  
Superintendent of Schools  
Norristown Area School District

Dr. David A. Zerbe  
Superintendent of Schools  
Methacton School District

Mr. Tomás Hanna  
Superintendent of Schools  
Coatesville Area School District

Dr. Will Stout  
Superintendent of Schools  
Owen J. Roberts School District

SENT VIA EMAIL

**RE: Mask Mandates for the 2021-2022 School Year**

Dear Dr. Lonardi, Dr. Fegley, Dr. Russell, Mr. Dormer, Dr. Zerbe, Mr. Hanna, and Dr. Stout:

I am writing to thank you for implementing a masking requirement as part of your health and safety plans for the upcoming school year. This shows you are willing to properly respond to the ongoing risks of the COVID-19 pandemic in the protection of your district's students, staff and wider communities. With so many unknown factors about new and upcoming variants of COVID and the potential short and long term risks to children, it is *always* better to do more, not less, to protect against transmission.

Along with requiring universal indoor masking, I would encourage each school district to take advantage of the Wolf administration's [vaccination clinic and testing initiatives](#). While these initiatives are optional, I would ask that you require participation, in particular in the free testing program, for your district. Both of these programs will help increase overall protection and the testing program specifically would provide regular data about the effectiveness of your ongoing mitigation efforts so that you can continue to make the best, informed decisions throughout the school year.

Thank you again for doing what is necessary to create a safe and healthy school environment that will enable our students to safely return to in-person learning. I genuinely appreciate your service and your efforts to do what is best for your respective school district communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katie Muth', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Senator Katie J. Muth, PA-D44

CC: **Dr. George F. Fiore**, Executive Director, Chester Cnty. Intermediate Unit  
**Dr. Jill M. Hackman**, Executive Director, Berks Cnty. Intermediate Unit  
**Dr. Regina C. Speaker**, Executive Director, Montgomery Cnty. Intermediate Unit  
**Jeanne E. Franklin**, Public Health Director, Chester Cnty. Dept. of Health  
**Janet Panning**, Interim Health Administrator, Montgomery Cnty. Dept. of Health  
**Noe Ortega**, Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Education  
**Alison Beam**, Acting Secretary of Health, Pennsylvania Department of Health  
Individual members of Boards of Supervisors for the above school districts