



*Board of Education*

February 22, 2022

Dear Governor Hochul, State Legislators, the New York State Department of Health, New York State Department of Education, and Westchester County Executive Latimer:

The Eastchester Union Free School District joins our neighbor, The Tuckahoe Union Free School District, and calls on New York State officials for informed, science-based adjustments to the masking requirements in schools.

We have observed that the mask mandate has negatively impacted some of our students' communication, learning, and social and emotional well-being. We advocate for changes that are measured, appropriate, and based on science.

Neighboring states New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Connecticut have announced ending statewide masking requirements for schools. In addition, most recently, the states of Massachusetts and Delaware have also ended the masking requirements. Our Eastchester community has a high vaccination rate, and we continue to support a family's decision to wear a mask if they choose.

Based on the availability of vaccinations, testing, and therapeutics, the New York State Department of Health should allow the current mask mandate in schools to expire as originally scheduled.

Sincerely,

Board of Education  
Eastchester Union Free School District