



Richmond-Burton CHSD 157
Nippersink SD 2

Office of the Superintendent

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July 8, 2021

To District 157 and District 2 Families,

I hope this communication finds you well and enjoying all the activities and events that come with summertime. As you know, last year was a very challenging year for students, families and schools, but what a difference a year can make. The vaccines now available, for students and adults 12 and older, have significantly slowed the spread of COVID-19 and allowed us to return to a much more normal life.

We are also very excited to be starting the 2021-22 school year on time and with full attendance. Both District 157 and District 2 continue to receive questions regarding the type of mitigations that may be in place in our schools upon our return from summer break. The number one question we receive is whether students and staff will be required to wear a face mask while at school.

District 157 and District 2 also want an answer to that question in an expedited and timely manner as we prepare for the opening of a new school year. Therefore, we continue to ask the State to include schools in discussions regarding any potential state-mandated mitigations that would affect our students and staff.

It is the belief of both Districts' Boards of Education and the Administration that all decisions regarding the wearing of face masks and other potential mitigations should be made at the local level not at the State level. We regularly communicate this message, along with many other school districts, to the ISBE (Illinois State Board of Education), the IDPH (Illinois Department of Public Health), and the Governor's office.

Currently, it is the ISBE, IDPH, and/or the Governor's office that has authority to mandate these types of mitigations in IL schools. However, we believe that school districts are more equipped to analyze the local COVID-19 data provided to us by our county health departments, and determine when and what type of mitigations may be warranted.

As an example of our ongoing advocacy, I have created a link below with a letter from myself and the other McHenry County Superintendents to IL State Superintendent, Dr. Ayala, the IDPH, and Governor Pritzker. It remains our commitment to fully open schools safely and with a common-sense approach regarding which mitigations are truly needed. If you have any questions please feel free to contact my office.

[Letter to State Superintendent](#)

Sincerely,

Tom Lind

Dr. Tom Lind
Superintendent of Schools