



BERLIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

238 KENSINGTON ROAD □ BERLIN, CONNECTICUT 06037-2648
OFFICE 860-828-6581 □ FAX 860-829-0832

BRIAN J. BENIGNI
SUPERINTENDENT
OF SCHOOLS

ERIN K. MCGURK, Ed.D.
ASSISTANT
SUPERINTENDENT

LINDA HOLIAN
DIRECTOR OF PUPIL
PERSONNEL SERVICES

ASHLEY L. DORSEY
DIRECTOR OF
FINANCE

JEFFREY P. CUGNO
DIRECTOR OF
OPERATIONS

DENISE M. PARSONS
DIRECTOR OF
HUMAN RESOURCES

February 18, 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Over the past weeks, the General Assembly convened and discussed House Bill 5047. The House and Senate passed the bill which extends the Governor's mask mandate from February 15 until February 28. The Department of Public Health or Commissioner of Education have the authority to reinstate the statewide mask mandate after February 28 in schools. However, they are unlikely to do so at this time.

I understand how divisive this issue has been in our community and others across the country. I think that all would agree that wearing masks indefinitely is not an option. At this time, barring any unexpected actions by the aforementioned agencies, effective February 28, there is no longer a mask mandate in Connecticut PreK-12 Schools. Local Boards of Education have the authority to reinstate the mandate through official action at a public meeting.

At the February 23rd Board of Education meeting an updated 2021-2022 reopening plan will be shared with the Board of Education that will consist of many of the changes that have taken place in the recent months and weeks regarding the mitigation strategies for students and staff. The Board will vote on approving the updated reopening plan that does not require students and staff to wear a mask in school. Additional guidance is expected from the Department of Public Health and the State Department of Education outlining additional mitigation strategies.

It is important to note that the Center for Disease Control (CDC) still recommends (but does not mandate) that masks be worn in public schools. Therefore, optional wearing of masks does not preclude any student or staff member from continuing to wear a mask in school.

Mask wearing on school buses is mandated by the Federal government and will continue to be required even if masks become optional during the school day and during after school activities.

Enjoy the long weekend

Sincerely,

Brian J. Benigni
Superintendent of Schools