February 17, 2022

The Honorable Kathleen Hochul  
Governor of New York  
NYS Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul,

While the Board of Education for the Sayville Public School District understands the unpredictable nature of the COVID-19 virus, we require guidance that provides clear and reasonable plans for a return to a greater normalcy in our schools. It is imperative that the State provides districts with the criteria necessary to safely transition our schools to learning environments that are better able to deal with what now appears to be an endemic. Specifically, what metrics will need to be met in order to eliminate mandatory face coverings, contact tracing and social distancing? This information is urgently needed and we ask that you act decisively for the sake of our students, staff, and community.

The Sayville Public School District has worked diligently to protect the health of everyone who enters our schools. We are confident that our combined leadership supported with clear and reasonable guidelines from the Department of Health can provide the means necessary to return our schools to greater normalcy and begin to heal the divide that has formed in our community.

Thank you for your attention to this critical manner.

Sincerely,

John Verdone,  
President, Sayville Board of Education