

DOVER UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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January 25, 2023

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

Dear Governor Hochul,

The Dover Union Free School District continues to be committed to ensuring that we provide our students and staff with a safe school environment. We are thrilled to report that our schools have been able to operate continuously without interruption for COVID-related reasons throughout the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years and our students have been enjoying all co-curricular and extra-curricular events this year.

We are aware that the CDC has recommended that the COVID-19 vaccine be added to the schedule of vaccines for individuals 18 years old and younger, and that there is or may be proposed legislation seeking to mandate the COVID-19 vaccine for all children attending public schools in New York State.

We support a parent's right to make medical decisions for their children regarding COVID-19. A mandated COVID vaccine will cause interruptions in students' learning that would have significant long-term repercussions to their education. Moreover, such a mandate would once again divide our community and divert the attention and focus of our administrators, teachers and staff away from student learning.

Accordingly, we respectfully request that you allow parents and guardians to make the decision to vaccinate their children against COVID-19 in consultation with their medical professionals.

Respectfully,

The Dover UFSD Board of Education