



Resolution

8. RESOLUTION TO REAFFIRM THE IRREPLACEABLE ROLE OF IN-PERSON LEARNING FOR K-12 EDUCATION IN OHIO

As Ohio and our nation continue to battle Covid-19, we honor the memory of our fellow Ohioans whose lives have been claimed by this once-in-a-century pandemic. We grieve with those who have lost loved ones, family, and friends, and we empathize with those whose lives and livelihoods have been upended. To underscore the irreplaceable role of in-person learning and to support Governor DeWine's goal of providing by March 1st, 2021 a fully in-person learning option for children of all families who desire it, the State Board of Education ("Board") hereby **ADOPTS** the following:

Early in the pandemic, little was known about the infectiousness, lethality, and modes of transmission of the virus, and little was known about its impact on children;

More is now known showing the low risk of children experiencing serious complications from the disease;

Vaccines are now available and are being administered to teachers and school personnel who choose to be vaccinated;

Children, the demographic least at risk, have had their educational experiences disrupted, negatively impacting their academic and social growth and development;

Parents and families have been challenged trying to maintain their employment responsibilities while supervising their children's education and safety at home, which for many has brought agonizing decisions and created emotional and economic hardship;

Ever-changing schedules, constant uncertainty, social isolation, and the loss of major life events have contributed to rising rates of depression and suicidal ideation among our youth;

Prolonged absences from in-person learning have exacerbated inequities as many underprivileged students rely most heavily on the social and support services schools provide;

Although the education community has worked diligently to deliver continuity of the educational experience and has become more adept at online and virtual learning, evidence suggests that student performance and retention are below previously achieved levels;

Innovations in virtual learning have opened doors of possibility for many students and revealed new ways of supplementing in-person learning, but there seems to be consensus that for most students in-person learning is instrumental for maximizing their growth and development;

Many parents, including some that have testified before the State Board of Education, have expressed desperation to provide a learning environment best suited for their children;

The authority to make these decisions ultimately rests with local school boards, who are best equipped to listen and respond to parents' unique needs and concerns.



Resolution

Item 8 continued

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board calls on local school boards, working in collaboration with their local superintendent and health department, to provide where feasible a fully in-person, non-hybrid learning option for children of all families who desire it. The Board also urges local school boards to implement solutions to protect teachers and staff who are at high-risk and to provide for those families who continue to desire a remote learning option for their children during this time.

I certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the action taken by the State Board of Education at its meeting on February 9, 2021.

Columbus, Ohio
February 10, 2021

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Paolo A. DeMaria".

Paolo DeMaria
Superintendent of Public Instruction