

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my **strong opinion that the mask mandate should be lifted in Greenwich Public Schools**. I have three young children—my oldest two are 3 and 5 and attend Christ Church Nursery School in Greenwich. CCNS typically follows GPS guidance and it is my hope that you will set a good example and choose to make masks a choice for children and teachers, not a mandate.

I am concerned about my **children's emotional well-being**. Masks are making our children fearful and worried—having to wear a mask for 5 hours a day serves as a constant reminder of COVID and my children often ask me when "the virus" will be gone. I don't want my children to live in fear and I'm worried about the long-term, unknown emotional impact of masks.

I am also concerned that **mask use in schools is very unsanitary for young children**. When I pick my 3 year old up from school, his mask is completely saturated in saliva. It cannot be healthy for him to wear a wet mask over his mouth while he is trying to learn and engage with his teachers and peers.

Lastly, **masked teachers have a negative impact on the development of young children**. Children cannot see the joy on their teacher's face when they have accomplished something, and they can't see their teacher's mouth move when learning how to pronounce new words, just to name a few.

I hope you consider lifting the mask mandate in Greenwich Public Schools and making masks optional for all students and teachers.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Colleen Sokolik