



February 5, 2022

Public Health Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 3000  
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Honorable Chairmen, Ranking Members, and Distinguished Members of the Public Health Committee:

We can all agree that the safety of our students is paramount. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, all of Connecticut's school districts, with the assistance of federal and state governmental agencies, have successfully navigated ongoing turbulence resulting from the evolving understanding of this new disease as well as frequently opposing opinions and approaches on how best to combat and minimize its impact.

Schools are a microcosm of our society and, as such, eagerly anticipate a return to a more normalized environment as this latest COVID-19 surge wanes. As anxious as we all are for this return to normal, CAPSS respectfully requests that our public health experts direct this return process that is both mandatory and uniform across the state for all of our school districts. Public health officials, rather than school superintendents, are best positioned to understand and anticipate the course of this disease and its potential impact on all of us. If these decisions are left solely to school boards and superintendents, not only will there be a patchwork of policies across the state, but such decisions are likely to be influenced by factors other than expert public health guidance. The safety of our students is paramount.

Sincerely,

Fran Rabinowitz, Executive Director