



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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KATHRYN BARGER
SUPERVISOR, FIFTH DISTRICT

February 12, 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom:

Thank you for your continued support of Los Angeles County's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Your office has provided critical resources, support, and guidance to ensure we can adequately serve our dire health, economic, and societal needs.

Next month will mark one year since the vast majority of our children were in the classroom. The impacts of this on our youth, both academically and mentally, is tremendous, and for many the toll will be insurmountable.

I am writing to ask for your consideration to allow for the immediate opening of all K-6 classrooms, and reconsider prohibiting counties in the purple tier from opening grades 7-12. The safety of reopening the classroom has been well-documented worldwide, and our children cannot wait another day to get back to school. While our youngest children have had the most difficulty accessing online education, the impact has been felt by children of all ages.

At the very minimum, I ask for your support to allow any school with an approved waiver the ability to reopen – regardless if they postponed their reopening plans in response to cautions from the Department of Public Health due to the winter surge. As you know, late last fall, schools in Los Angeles County had waivers approved to reopen elementary schools. Given the rising surge and short time left in the semester, many of these schools heeded public health guidance and decided to delay their reopening. Now, in following the much lower case-rates and CDC recommendations, these schools would like to open. However, the state guidance indicates that any school that has not yet opened may not reopen until case rates decrease. I ask you to reinstate these plans, allowing all schools who have completed the rigorous waiver process to open.

ANTELOPE VALLEY
42455 10th Street West, Suite 104
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EAST SAN GABRIEL VALLEY
615 East Foothill Boulevard, Suite A
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SAN GABRIEL VALLEY
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SANTA CLARITA VALLEY
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Thank you for your time and consideration of this request. I remain grateful for your commitment to our children and hope you will continue to respond quickly to the pressing needs of our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathryn Barger". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

KATHRYN BARGER
Supervisor, Fifth District