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California State Senate

SENATOR
DR. RICHARD PAN
SIXTH SENATE DISTRICT



CHAIR
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BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE
#3 ON HEALTH
& HUMAN SERVICES

September 9, 2021

Board Of Education
Los Angeles Unified School District
333 South Beaudry Avenue, 24th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Dear Board Members:

We applaud your action today to require the Covid-19 vaccine for all eligible students of the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), the largest public school system in California and the second largest public school district in the United States. This requirement will save lives.

The American Academy of Pediatrics has reported that after first declining in early summer, child cases of COVID-19 have increased exponentially, with over 750,000 cases added in just one week, between August 5 and September 2. Children are now accounting for more than [26 percent of reported cases](#). At the same time, children under 12 are not eligible to receive the vaccine and are counting on community immunity to keep them safe and healthy.

School officials across the state have worked around the clock to institute masking, testing and distancing measures to keep outbreaks from occurring in schools so that children can stay where they belong—in the classroom. Your decision today recognizes that the surest path to keeping children safe is maximizing the safe and effective vaccines that can defeat COVID-19.

In taking this step, grounded in science, LAUSD is leading the way and putting the health of children first. Tragically, we have seen the consequences of decisions made by policy makers that don't follow the science. Through a combination of increasing vaccine rates and science-driven safety measures, California has seen steady drops in its test positivity rate. At the same time, test positivity rates increase in states whose state and local governments fail to follow science-based guidance. In those states, child hospital admission rates are about [four times as high](#).

Through LAUSD's sheer size, this decision will have a sizable impact on vaccine rates and will go a long way in keeping children and the wider community safe. It is our hope that other school districts in the state follow LAUSD's lead and offer families the peace of mind that their children are safer in the classroom.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Dr. Richard Pan in black ink.

Dr. Richard Pan
Senator 6th District

Handwritten signature of Sen. Sydney K. Kamlagar in black ink.

Sen. Sydney K. Kamlagar
30th Senate District

Handwritten signature of Asm. Evan Low in blue ink.

Asm. Evan Low
28th Assembly District

Handwritten signature of Dr. Akilah Weber in black ink.

Dr. Akilah Weber
79th Assembly District

Handwritten signature of Sen. Scott Wiener in black ink.

Sen. Scott Wiener
11th Senate District

Handwritten signature of Asm. Buffy Wicks in black ink.

Asm. Buffy Wicks
15th Assembly District