



February 18, 2022

The Honorable Kathy Hochul  
Governor of New York State  
NYS State Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

Dr. Mary Bassett  
New York State Health Commissioner  
Corning Tower – Empire State Plaza  
Albany, NY 12237

Dr. Betty Rosa  
Commissioner of Education  
New York State Education Building  
Albany, NY 12234

Dear Governor Hochul, Commissioner Bassett and Commissioner Rosa:

The past two years have presented pandemic related challenges and impacts on our state, our local communities, and in our school districts. As School District Leaders, we appreciate the support and leadership provided by New York State, the New York State Department of Health, and the New York State Education Department. Support from these offices have included testing resources and reopening guidance to help Districts achieve their top priority: keeping our students and staff members safe and our schools open during the pandemic. We can all agree that the pandemic has taken its toll on school districts and the communities they serve. School leaders have assisted our communities in understanding and adhering to state and local COVID mitigation measures in order to keep our students in school.

The efforts of all of your offices to listen to superintendents is greatly appreciated. As infection rates drop across the State, we are encouraged by the recent actions taken to lift mitigation efforts in our communities. Our school communities need to know that there is a plan in place for safely lifting these mandates for schools as well. Furthermore, a well-articulated exit plan will enable Districts to thoughtfully plan and maintain focus on the instructional and social-emotional needs of our students. Such a plan can become the unified, statewide message that is needed for school districts and the communities they serve.

We remain committed to keeping our students and schools safe, healthy, and open. We ask for your continued leadership and guidance through the creation of a concrete exit plan we can share with our communities as we continue our way out of the pandemic.

Sincerely,

Mr. Shawn Bissetta, Canastota Central School District  
Mr. William Dowsland, Hamilton Central School  
Mr. Jason A. Mitchell, Madison Central School  
Mr. Gregory Molloy, Morrisville-Eaton Central School  
Mr. Matthew Carpenter, Oneida City School District  
Mrs. Martha K. Group, Vernon-Verona-Sherrill Central School District  
Mr. Corey Graves, Stockbridge Valley Central School

Cc: Madison County and Oneida County Health Departments