

Hello, Ms. Hornblas. I have received a copy of your email, although I note that I was not included in your initial email distribution list.

Policies of Vermont School Districts with regard to masking are not overseen by the State Board of Education, and they are therefore beyond the scope of our authority. As such, I am declining your request to include this as an agenda item at our February Board meeting. I will ask, however, that this email chain is included as a distribution in our agenda packet.

Kind regards,

Jennifer Deck Samuelson
Chair, Vermont State Board of Education

From: Amy Hornblas <amyhornblas@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2023 7:50 AM

To: Brown, Patrick <Patrick.Brown@partner.vermont.gov>; Gleason, Kimberly G <Kimberly.G.Gleason@vermont.gov>; Tammy.Kolbe@partner.vermont.gov <Tammy.Kolbe@partner.vermont.gov>; Jepson, Lyle <Lyle.Jepson@vermont.gov>; Lovett, Tom <Tom.Lovett@vermont.gov>; Lucci, Gabrielle <Gabrielle.Lucci@partner.vermont.gov>; O'Farrell, Jennifer <Jennifer.OFarrell@vermont.gov>; Oliver.Olsen@vermont.gov <Oliver.Olsen@vermont.gov>; Severtson, Amara <Amara.Severtson@vermont.gov>; French, Daniel <Daniel.French@vermont.gov>

Subject: Expert PPE Testimony

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear Vermont State Board of Education,

It appears that in regards to the decision to mask children in school, districts have assumed responsibilities they are not qualified for. Supervision of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) requires special training. Choosing the correct environmental interventions to protect vulnerable children from infectious disease also requires special expertise.

A next logical step, therefore, would be to invite experts in the fields of PPE and special population protection to advise and inform you, so that you can advise and inform the school districts in our State.

Megan Mansell is a former district education director over special populations integration, serving students who are profoundly disabled, immunocompromised, undocumented, autistic, and behaviorally challenged; she also has a background in hazardous environments PPE applications. She is experienced in writing and monitoring protocol implementation for immunocompromised public sector access under full ADA/OSHA/IDEA compliance.

Mrs. Mansell has offered her services to consult with the Board and Secretary, and has a team of fellow PPE and related field experts who are also willing to share their expertise with the schools of Vermont.

Please set aside time on your agenda at your next meeting, February 15th, to hear from Mrs. Mansell. She is available anytime in the afternoon.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Amy Hornblas

Title 16, Chapter 3:

1. (§ 164) State Board's general powers and duties include **advising** the General Assembly, the Governor, and the Secretary of Education on high-priority educational policies and **issues as they arise** and establish such **advisory commissions** as in the judgment of the Board will be of assistance to it in carrying out its duties.
2. (§ 2945) State Advisory Panel on Special Education **provides guidance** with respect to special education and related services for children with disabilities in the State.
3. (§ 2959) The State Board shall adopt rules governing special education program requirements and procedural requirements and establish the rules that govern how the Secretary shall offer **mediation** to parents, children with disabilities, and districts, supervisory unions, and agencies involved in special education disputes.