



Dear CUSD Faculty Senate,

Over the past two weeks, hundreds of Clovis educators have reached out to us expressing concern about how best to ensure the start of in-person instruction is safe for students, educators and our Clovis community. Unfortunately, the rise of the Delta Variant, paired with CUSD's new mask exemption policy, creates great risk for many in our community—especially those too young to be vaccinated.

That is why we are asking you—the Faculty Senate, to join us—the Association of Clovis Educators, to call on CUSD administration to fix their mask exemption policy and make sure it follows important State and County guidelines. We have an important opportunity to support our students and protect our community. Join us.

Just this week over 500 of our Clovis colleagues completed an ACE survey about start of school safety. Over 87% of respondents indicated they are highly concerned about inaccurate and conflicting information being shared by CUSD with respect to Covid safety protocols. Many were worried the new mask exemption policy could endanger their students by hastening the spread of the highly transmissible Delta Variant—which has increasingly been impacting children.

Yesterday members of our ACE organizing committee met with CUSD Executive cabinet and legal counsel to express our colleagues' concerns. Today, ACE sent a follow up letter asking CUSD administration to follow the intent of Fresno County and [California Department of Public Health \(CDHP\) guidelines](#), and require students and staff to provide a physician's note to be exempt from masking and/or less restrictive alternatives and that CUSD should make physical distancing a clear requirement for those with no masks.

To protect student and community safety, and to minimize any disruptions to in-person learning, we believe a joint letter from ACE and Faculty Senate to CUSD that calls for the protection of our CUSD community and requests that the CUSD mask exemption policy be adjusted to reflect State and County guidelines would be a great example of putting students interests first.

Please let us know if you are willing to join us in this important effort.

Sincerely,

ACE Issue Action Team,

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