



P.O. Box 806 | Austin, Texas 78767-0806  
(512) 228-6862 | [www.FreedomForTexas.com](http://www.FreedomForTexas.com)

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August 17, 2021

To the Superintendents and Trustees of Texas Public Schools:

These past eighteen months have been trying for Texas teachers, parents and students. All have gone above and beyond the call of duty to ensure our youth continue to receive a quality education during these difficult times.

We trust our teachers and parents to make healthcare decisions that are in their—and their children's—best interests. We encourage Texans to consult with their healthcare provider to determine if a vaccine is right for them and to follow their provider's advice.

In furtherance of the principle of personal responsibility, the Governor issued Executive Order GA-38, which encourages individuals to wear masks in areas of high transmission, but prohibits school districts from mandating masks. We support the Governor's position.

We were disappointed to see many school districts defy this order and implement mask mandates, especially in light of recent orders of the Texas Supreme Court. Such defiance undermines the rule of law and will only result in significant waste of taxpayer resources in needless litigation fees and a decisive defeat in court.

**We therefore strongly caution any school administrator from taking adverse action against any teacher, other staff member, or student who chooses not to wear a mask.** We stand with Texas teachers and parents, trust them to make wise decisions, and support any legal action they take to ensure their individual liberty is respected.

Sincerely,

Rep. Mayes Middleton  
Chairman, Texas Freedom Caucus