



THOMAS | GREENBRIER | IVY HILL | OLIVE | PATTON
SOUTH | DRYDEN | WESTGATE | WINDSOR

Wednesday, January 19, 2022

Dear District 25 Community,

As you may be aware, District 25 is one of many school district defendants in two different lawsuits regarding COVID-19 mitigations.

- The first lawsuit, *Austin v. Pritzker*, was brought by parents across the state against 145 school districts and the State regarding the mask mandate and the requirement that we exclude close contacts from school.
- The second lawsuit, *Allen v. Pritzker*, was brought by staff members across the state against 21 school districts and the State regarding the testing mandate for staff and the requirement that staff wear masks in schools.

Both lawsuits ask for class certification. In other words, they ask that the Court apply the outcome of the case to all students or staff in a school district rather than applying the outcome to solely the named plaintiffs.

Both lawsuits are being heard in court this week on motions for a **temporary restraining order** (TRO), which, if granted, could prohibit the ability of the defendants to enforce some mitigations and mandates. There are numerous possible outcomes on rulings for both of these cases. While we don't typically comment on pending litigation, we felt it was important to let our staff and parents know that there could be a decision soon that could immediately impact our current COVID mitigation strategies. Regardless of the outcome of the court cases, we want to emphasize that we remain committed to the health and safety of our students and staff.

We will continue to keep you informed of the outcome of the court cases once a ruling has been made and any adjustments that may be needed to our current mitigation plans.

Sincerely,

Lori D. Bein, Ed.D.
Superintendent

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