

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 1-2022
(Protecting Fundamental Rights of all Parents to Make Health and Education
Decisions for their Children)

WHEREAS, government has a responsibility to protect the fundamental right of all parents to make health and educational decisions for their children; and

WHEREAS, a right to normal education is imperative to the growth and development of our children and adolescents; and

WHEREAS, masking children may lead to negative health and societal ramifications; and

WHEREAS, forcing children to wear masks could inhibit breathing, lead to the collection of dangerous impurities including bacteria, parasites, fungi, and other contaminants, and adversely affect communications in the classroom and student performance; and

WHEREAS, Nassau County government has rejected mask mandates ordered by the Governor of the State of New York and will not enforce such requirements; and

WHEREAS, Nassau County government has a Home Rule responsibility to prevent the state, its subdivisions, or any governmental institution, from infringing on the fundamental rights of a parent to direct the upbringing, education, health care, or mental health of a minor child without demonstrating that such action is reasonable and necessary to achieve a compelling state interest and that such action is narrowly tailored and is not otherwise served by less restrictive means; and

WHEREAS, given the historical data on COVID-19 and the ongoing debate over whether masks are more harmful than beneficial to children and to school environments in general, we should protect the freedoms and statutory rights of students and parents by resting with the parents the decision whether their children should wear masks in school; and

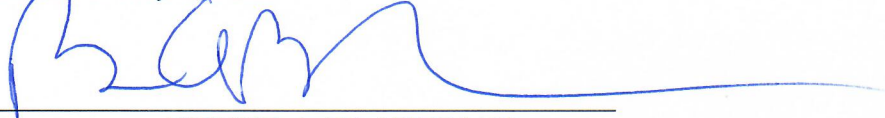
WHEREAS, we should equally and uniformly protect the freedoms and rights of students and parents across the state; and

WHEREAS, more than half of all states in the nation have no set policy on masking at educational institutions, leaving the decision up to local governments to decide when and how to enforce mask mandates;

WHEREAS, school board trustees are elected by members of the public to represent the best interest of their community and children when it comes to education.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bruce A. Blakeman, as County Executive of the County of Nassau, by virtue of the authority vested in me by authority vested in me by the Nassau County Charter and the Laws of the State of New York, and all other applicable laws, direct that Nassau County agencies cease enforcement of mask mandates and directives issued by the State of New York and that all Boards of Education in the County of Nassau vote in the month of January two-thousand and twenty-two to determine whether or not parents and children should be granted the constitutional right to reject mask mandates while in the classroom. This Executive Order is effective immediately.

Dated: January 6, 2022



BRUCE A. BLAKEMAN
COUNTY EXECUTIVE