

The Honorable JB Pritzker  
% Office of the Governor  
207 State House  
Springfield, IL 62706

November 5, 2020,

Dear Governor Pritzker,

First, we want to thank you for the work you are doing as Governor to mitigate the risks of COVID-19 while keeping our communities, families, and most importantly our students in a safer environment. The purpose of this letter is to share our experience and perspectives as educators and leaders tasked with the safety and wellbeing of our students, staff, families and communities. The educational experiences of our students are most successful and valuable while interacting in-person with teachers and coaches while participating in extracurricular and co-curricular activities in our schools. Well rounded and balanced experiences inside and outside of our classrooms help our children mature into young men and women. The pandemic has and continues to impact the social interactions of our students among their peers, adults, and various situations that help prepare them for what life will bring. Some of the negative effects that we are seeing as a result of these experiences being limited are depression, anxiety, lack of motivation, and loss of self. Despite the resilience of children, negative consequences are appearing and we fear this is the tip of the iceberg as these issues continue to rise.

The interactions and opportunities provided before, during, and after school hours throughout a variety of settings shape the lives of our students. Educators have worked relentlessly to reinvent how we educate our students and provide social interactions over the past six months. However, extracurricular experiences that include high stress situations, teamwork, dedication and focus towards a common goal cannot be replicated unless students are given the opportunity to play and participate. We urge you to consider three factors before delaying or canceling any future extra-curricular seasons at the high school or junior high/middle school level.

1. School districts have shown that when given the opportunity, we rise to the challenge and find the delicate balance between health and safety of our school communities while providing for continuity of learning. Districts this summer created a plan, adhered to State safety measures, implemented cleaning protocols and made decisions in the best interest of our students during the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. School districts are creative. We continue to find ways to connect with students, teach them, and provide opportunities for participation, and to hold special events. Schools have students learning in remote, blended and in-person environments. We have made special events such as graduations, parking lot proms, drive through celebrations, senior

recognitions and much more happen safely. Parents have become our partners in even deeper and more meaningful ways.

3. In most instances, positive cases found in schools come from outside of the school. We take the safety of our students seriously. When it comes to athletics, schools will provide a safer environment with procedures and accountability with more fidelity than a travel or club program every single time. Without the opportunities in our schools, students will play for unregulated clubs and travel teams while traveling out of state to do so.

We as superintendents are calling on you to allow our students to participate in extracurricular activities and interscholastic competition. While each scenario is different, schools have shown that we are adaptable, vigilant, and accountable while keeping the health, safety, and well-being of our students as the highest priority. It is time to allow superintendents, athletic directors and coaches the opportunity to partner with IDPH to provide interscholastic competition in a safe environment. Our students are our top priority and nobody will take better care of them than our schools and the educators who have dedicated their lives to them. Our students will benefit immensely from the unrepeatable experiences. The physical, mental and academic well-being of our students are depending on us. Our students are depending on you.

Below you will find the signatures of school district superintendents throughout the state in support of this request and the number of students each school district serves. Collectively, we represent over 200,000 students in grades K-12 throughout the state of Illinois.

<u>Superintendent</u>	<u>School District</u>	<u>Student Population</u>
<i>Tammy McCoolum</i>	Akin CCSD 91	91
<i>Steve Mayerhofer, Ed.D.</i>	Altamont District #10	650
<i>Kristie Baumgartner</i>	Alton CUSD #11	6,200
<i>Rob Wright</i>	Anna-Jonesboro CHSD #81	510
<i>Matt Nordstrom</i>	Annawan CUSD #226	300
<i>Damian D. Jones, Sr.</i>	Argenta-Oreana CUSD #1	928
<i>Bill Mulvaney</i>	Armstrong Township #225	150
<i>Shannon Cheek</i>	Arthur CUSD #305	1,100
<i>Phillip Hamil</i>	Aviston SD #21	385
<i>Tom Siegler</i>	Bartelso SD #57	177
<i>Philip Lark</i>	Beecher City CUSD #20	330
<i>Benjamin Johnson</i>	Benton Consolidated High School District #103	540
<i>Jill Griffin, Ed.D.</i>	Bethalto CUSD #8	2,500
<i>Scott Watson</i>	Bismarck-Henning CUSD #1	855
<i>Shane Gordon, Ed.D.</i>	Bluford CUSD #318	365
<i>Wes Olson Ed.D.</i>	Bond CUSD #2	1,750

<i>Travis Schmale</i>	Breese Elementary District #12	603
<i>Mike Shackelford</i>	Brownstown CUSD 201	372
<i>Jason R. Stabler</i>	Bureau Valley CUSD #340	998
<i>Tom Akers</i>	Cambridge CUSD #227	500
<i>Becky Schuchman, Ed.D.</i>	Carlinville CUSD #1	1,400
<i>Annie Gray</i>	Carlyle CUSD #1	1,000
<i>Brad Lee</i>	Carmi-White County CUSD #5	1,370
<i>Keith Liddell</i>	Carterville CUSD #5	2,146
<i>Jon Julius, PhD</i>	Casey-Westfield CUSD C-4	835
<i>DeAnn M Heck, Ed.D.</i>	Central A&M CUD #21	680
<i>Dustin Foutch, Ed.D.</i>	Central Community High School District #71	635
<i>Chuck Lane</i>	Centralia HS #200	865
<i>Brett Robinson</i>	Cerro Gordo CUSD #100	460
<i>Brian Pasero</i>	Chester CUSD #139	1,000
<i>Curt Nettles</i>	Clinton CUSD 15	1,800
<i>Edwin Shoemate</i>	Cobden CUSD #17	540
<i>Mark B. Skertich, Ed.D.</i>	Collinsville CUSD #10	6,300
<i>Geoff Schoonover</i>	Cornell CUSD 426	100
<i>Brandon Taylor, Ed.D.</i>	Coulterville CUSD #1	200
<i>Seth Schuler</i>	Cowden-Herrick CUSD #3A	350
<i>Derek Hutchins</i>	Crab Orchard CUSD #3	535
<i>Kimberly Shoemaker</i>	Cypress School District #64	120
<i>Dustin Nail</i>	Damiansville ESD #62	100
<i>Michele Jacobs</i>	Deer Creek-Mackinaw CUSD #701	1,006
<i>Andrew Brooks, Ed.D.</i>	Delavan CUSD #703	500
<i>Nathaniel Wilson</i>	DeSoto CCSD #86	185
<i>Cary Jackson</i>	Dieterich CUSD 30	565
<i>Toby Coates</i>	Donovan CUSD #3	245
<i>Matthew Hickam</i>	Du Quoin CUSD #300	1,400
<i>Kelly Carpenter, Ed.D.</i>	Dupo #196	1,000
<i>Richard Jancek, Ed.D.</i>	Dwight Township HS #230	230
<i>John Pearson, Ed.D.</i>	East Alton - Wood River CHSD #14	580
<i>Emily Warnecke</i>	East Alton SD #13	690
<i>Marjorie Greuter, Ed.D.</i>	East Peoria CHSD 309	1,012
<i>Alex Kashner</i>	Eastland CUSD #308	705
<i>Jim Acklin</i>	Edgar County CUSD #6	291
<i>David Cowger</i>	Edwards County CUSD #1	878
<i>Jason Henderson, Ed.D.</i>	Edwardsville CUSD #7	7,500
<i>Mark E. Doan</i>	Effingham Unit #40	2,350
<i>Brian Kurz</i>	El Paso Gridley CUSD #11	1,200
<i>Chad Wagner</i>	Elmwood CUSD #322	700
<i>Robert Bardwell</i>	Eureka CUSD 140	1,407
<i>Jill Fulkerson</i>	Fairfield Community High School #225	410

<i>E. Scott England, Ph.D.</i>	Fairfield PSD #112	700
<i>Dana Waggoner</i>	Farrington CCSD #99	60
<i>Wayne Stone</i>	Field CCSD #3	240
<i>Barb Thompson</i>	Fisher CUSD #1	592
<i>Jerry Farris</i>	Flanagan-Cornell CUSD #74	355
<i>Joel Hackney</i>	Flora CUSD #35	1,400
<i>Greg Frerking</i>	Freeburg CHSD#77	670
<i>Josh DeLong</i>	Gardner S. Wilmington HS#73 & Braceville #75	305
<i>Robin Becker</i>	Germantown Elementary SD #60	240
<i>Steve Webb, Ph.D.</i>	Goreville CUSD #1	650
<i>Kevin E. Bowman, Ed.D.</i>	Greenfield CUSD 10 & Northwestern CUSD 2	746
<i>Ryan Heavner</i>	Greenview CUSD #200	278
<i>Jeff Fetcho</i>	Hamilton County CUSD #10	1,200
<i>Dave Deets</i>	Harmony-Emge SD#175	786
<i>Michael Gauch</i>	Harrisburg Unit # 3	1,850
<i>Terry Ryker, Ph.D.</i>	Herrin CUSD #4	2,375
<i>Rich Decman, Ed.D.</i>	Herscher CUSD No. 2	1,750
<i>Lisa Taylor</i>	Heyworth CUSD #4	960
<i>Beth Horner, Ed.D.</i>	High Mount School District 116	385
<i>Mike Sutton</i>	Highland CUSD #5	2,900
<i>Robert Richardson</i>	Hoopeston Area CUSD #11	1,175
<i>Julie Kraemer</i>	Hutsonville CUSD #1	320
<i>Chad Allison, Ed.D.</i>	Illinois Valley Central District No. 321	2,225
<i>David Andriano</i>	Iroquois County CUSD #9	903
<i>Andrew D. Johnson</i>	Jasper County Unit #1	1,203
<i>Brad Tuttle</i>	Jersey CUSD #100	2,450
<i>Kathy Clark</i>	Johnston City CUSD #1	1,150
<i>Kevin Westall</i>	Jonesboro CCSD #43	360
<i>Doug Daugherty</i>	Lawrence County CUSD #20	1,200
<i>Patrick Keeney</i>	Lebanon CUSD #9	700
<i>Kelle Bunch, Ed.D.</i>	Liberty CUSD 2	650
<i>Tim Dotson</i>	Limestone Walters CCSD 316	195
<i>Dwight Stricklin</i>	Lincoln Community High School #404	805
<i>Gregg Fuerstenau, Ed.D.</i>	Litchfield CUSD #12	1,400
<i>Andrew Reinking, Ed.D.</i>	Madison CUSD #12	620
<i>Lindsey A. Hall, Ed.D.</i>	Mahomet-Seymour CUSD #3	3,200
<i>Mike Patterson</i>	Malden CCSD #84	76
<i>Lisa Harrod</i>	Manteno CUSD No. 5	1,800
<i>Jeff Strieker</i>	Marissa CUSD #40	512
<i>John Ahlemeyer, Ed.D.</i>	Maroa-Forsyth CUSD #2	1,200
<i>Kevin Ross</i>	Marshall CUSD C-2	1,350
<i>Craig Fiegel, Ph.D.</i>	Mascoutah District #19	4,143
<i>Jason Hayes</i>	Massac CUSD #1	2,078

<i>Tim Condron</i>	Mattoon CUSD #2	3,100
<i>Jonathan Green</i>	Meridian CUSD #101	476
<i>Andy Pygott</i>	Meridian CUSD #15	1,002
<i>Jeremy Gauwitz</i>	Midland CUSD #7	700
<i>Michele Lindenmeyer, Ph.D.</i>	Milford Area Public Schools	520
<i>Dave Hermann</i>	Miller Township CUSD #210	162
<i>Brad Landgraf, Ed.D.</i>	Millstadt CCSD #160	750
<i>Shannon Anderson</i>	Momence CUSD#1	980
<i>Vic Zimmerman, Ed.D.</i>	Monticello CUSD #25	1,600
<i>Jeff Hill</i>	Morton CUSD #709	3,150
<i>Travis Roundcount, Ph.D.</i>	Mt Zion CUSD #3	2,340
<i>Melanie Andrews</i>	Mt. Vernon Township High School #201	1,167
<i>Robert Koontz</i>	Mulberry Grove CUSD #1	353
<i>Brad Turner</i>	Nashville CHSD#99	416
<i>Bill Fritcher</i>	Neoga CUSD #3	511
<i>Jill Larson</i>	New Berlin CUSD #16	852
<i>Julie Harrelson, Ed.D.</i>	New Hope CCSD #6 & Grayville CUSD #1	443
<i>Scott E. Doerr, Ph.D.</i>	Nokomis CUSD #22	575
<i>Matthew J. Vollman</i>	Norris City-Omaha-Enfield CUSD #3	677
<i>Travis Wyatt</i>	North Clay CUSD #25	560
<i>Jay Goble, Ph.D.</i>	North Mac CUSD #34	1,200
<i>Michael Lubelfeld, Ed.D.</i>	North Shore School District 112	3,693
<i>Luke Schroeder</i>	North Wayne #200	359
<i>David Black</i>	Norwood ESD #63	420
<i>Charles Peterson</i>	Oakdale CCSD #1	60
<i>Larry Maynard</i>	Oakwood CUSD #76	950
<i>Jeff Patchett</i>	Oblong CUSD #4	550
<i>Mark Hettmansberger</i>	Odell CCSD #435	175
<i>Darcy Benway, Ed.D.</i>	O'Fallon Township High School District 203	2,550
<i>Jennifer Hamilton</i>	Ohio Community High School District #505	37
<i>Kent Stauder</i>	Okaw Valley CUSD #302	502
<i>Laura O'Donnell, Ed.D.</i>	Olympia CUSD #16	1,750
<i>Mark L. Miller</i>	Opdyke-Belle Rive CCSD #5	125
<i>Tom Mahoney, Ed.D.</i>	Oregon CUSD #220	1,450
<i>Jessica Sisil</i>	Palestine CUSD #3	326
<i>Jason Bauer</i>	Pana CUSD #8	1,215
<i>Danette Young</i>	Paris CUSD #4	636
<i>Jeremy Larson, Ed.D.</i>	Paris Union School District No. 95	1,351
<i>Scott Cameron</i>	Pawnee CUSD #11	540
<i>Cliff McClure</i>	Paxton Buckley Loda CUSD #10	1,280
<i>Mike Schiffman, Ed.D.</i>	Pearl City CUSD #200	430
<i>Danielle Owens, Ed.D.</i>	Pekin Community High School District 303	1,800
<i>Bill Link, Ed.D.</i>	Pekin Public Schools District #108	3,267

<i>Eric M. Heath Ed.D.</i>	Peoria Heights CUSD #325	760
<i>Keith Hagene</i>	Pinckneyville Community High School #101	450
<i>Scott Wagner</i>	Pinckneyville District #50	510
<i>Ron Edwards</i>	Pleasant Hill CUSD # 3	313
<i>Lisa Weaver</i>	Pleasant Hill District #69	195
<i>Ryan Fritch</i>	Pope County CUSD #1	550
<i>Matthew W Brue</i>	PORTA CUSD 202	1,050
<i>Rob Pipher</i>	Prairie du Rocher #134	130
<i>Jeff Isenhower</i>	Prarieview-Ogden CCSD #197	247
<i>Tim Smith</i>	Princeton Elementary SD #115	1,035
<i>Carl Carlson</i>	Putnam County CUSD #535	793
<i>Matt Gordon, Ed.D.</i>	Rankin School District #98	207
<i>Jonathan Tallman</i>	Red Bud CUSD #132	1,000
<i>Jakie Walker</i>	Red Hill CUSD #10	936
<i>Chris A. Simpson</i>	Richland County CUSD #1	2,430
<i>Brad Polanin, Ed.D.</i>	Riverton CUSD #14	1,400
<i>Daren Lowery</i>	Riverview CCSD #2	200
<i>Thomas Welsh</i>	Roanoke-Benson CUSD 60	500
<i>Dan W. Cox</i>	Rochester CUSD #3a	2,100
<i>Debra Kreutztrager</i>	Roxana CUSD #1	1,718
<i>Brad Detering, Ed.D.</i>	Salem Community High School #600	650
<i>Leslie Foppe</i>	Salem Elementary District No 111	911
<i>Phil Cox</i>	Salt Fork CUSD #512	850
<i>Rob Miller</i>	Sandoval CUSD #501	438
<i>Jim Carlson</i>	Seneca HSD #160	398
<i>Shane Schuricht</i>	Shelbyville CUSD #4	1,200
<i>Dale Sauer</i>	Shiloh Village School District #85	577
<i>Chris Clark</i>	South Fork CUSD #14	301
<i>Seth Mingus</i>	South Pekin Grade School District 137	192
<i>Kyle M. Hacke</i>	Southwestern CUSD #9	1,290
<i>Gabrielle Schwemmer, Ed.D.</i>	Sparta CUD #140	1,240
<i>Tammy Beckham</i>	Spring Garden CCSD #178	215
<i>Charles T. Stegall</i>	St. Anne CHSD 302 and St. Anne CCSD 256	550
<i>Julie Healy</i>	St. Elmo CUSD #202	421
<i>Brian Brooks</i>	St. Joseph-Ogden CHSD #305	460
<i>Erick Baer, Ed.D.</i>	St. Rose Elementary School District #14-15	204
<i>Cynthia Tolbert</i>	Staunton CUSD #6	1,300
<i>Kenny Schwengel</i>	Stewardson-Strasburg CUSD #5A	400
<i>Ted Walk</i>	Sullivan CUSD #300	1,151
<i>Brian Brink</i>	Tamaroa SD #5	87
<i>Chris Dougherty</i>	Taylorville CUSD#3	2,300
<i>Matthew Sturgeon</i>	Teutopolis CUSD #50	1,053
<i>Leigh Lewis</i>	Triad Community Unit School District #2	3,900

<i>Chad Colmone</i>	Tri-City CUSD #1	576
<i>Larry Lovel</i>	Trico Community Unit School District #176	778
<i>Gary Alexander</i>	Tuscola CUSD #301	955
<i>Jennifer Garrison, Ed.D.</i>	Vandalia CUSD #203	1,440
<i>Greg Frehner</i>	Vienna Public School District #55	353
<i>Chuck Bleyer, Ed.D.</i>	Wabash County CUSD #348	1,500
<i>Cheryl Warner</i>	Warrensburg-Latham CUSD #11	985
<i>Kyle W. Freeman, Ph.D.</i>	Washington CHSD #308	1,435
<i>Tip Reedy</i>	WCUSD315	1,516
<i>Shane Kazubowski</i>	Wethersfield CUSD#230	600
<i>Dave Fults</i>	Willow Grove #46	170
<i>Kevin Blankenship, Ed.D.</i>	Winchester CUSD 1 & Scott-Morgan CUSD 2	900
<i>Erik Van Hoveln</i>	Windsor CUSD #1	380
<i>Eric Helbig</i>	Woodlawn USD #209	500