



## Florida School Boards Association

*The voice of education in Florida.*

**December 15, 2020**

**Office of Governor Ron DeSantis**

State of Florida  
The Capitol  
400 S. Monroe St.  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

cc: **Richard Corcoran**

Commissioner of Education  
Turlington Building, Ste 1514  
325 West Gaines Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Governor DeSantis,

As 2020 comes to an end, perhaps one of your most challenging actions will be implementing the state's plan to allocate Covid-19 vaccines. It is our understanding that the state will be utilizing strike teams via the National Guard and the Division of Emergency Management to distribute the initial doses to areas with a high concentration of long-term care facilities. Additionally, CVS and Walgreens, as part of the federal government's *Operation Warp Speed* will receive around 60,000 doses, also intended for long-term care facilities. The remaining 97,500 doses will go to five hospitals to vaccinate healthcare workers.

We understand that the development of a vaccine distribution plan is a daunting task based on the expected results that we anticipate from Floridian's receiving the vaccine. In your development of subsequent phases of vaccine distribution priority, we respectfully request that you consider including K-12 educators and school-related personnel. By providing access to vaccines for educators and school-related personnel, the state would be prioritizing continuity of high-quality instruction for students and families, and access to critical services such as mental health professionals, school breakfast and lunch programs, occupational therapy, and additional supports.

*Emergency Order No. 2020-EO-07* outlines processes for school districts to identify students struggling with remote learning modalities and recommend a return to school (with the approval of parents or legal guardians). This will likely result in increased enrollment to brick-and-mortar schools, and in turn, demand for additional instructional personnel. As activity, enrollment, and staffing all increase on campuses at the turn of the semester, prioritizing the receipt of the vaccine by school related personnel

*The mission of the Florida School Boards Association is to increase student achievement through the development of effective school board leadership and advocacy for public education.*

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will ensure the health and safety of campus personnel, guarantee students continue to receive rigorous instruction and support, and help to build community confidence in the vaccine.

We thank you for your time and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Andrea Messina'.

**Andrea Messina**

*Executive Director*

Florida School Boards Association

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