

February 15, 2022

Dear T/E Community,

The last two years have been full of uncertainty and stress for all of our families. During that time, the Board and administration have deeply appreciated the cooperation of our parents and students in navigating a course through the pandemic that has allowed us to keep COVID-19 cases low and to have sustainable in-person instruction.

We understand that there are strong feelings around masking in schools, and we have received many questions about when the District might move to a mask-optional policy. As you may be aware, there is conflicting guidance surrounding masks in school, and mask-optional policies enacted in some other PA districts have been challenged in court. In those districts, enactment of alternative masking policies is now being delayed as the cases make their way through the legal system.

Since January, the T/E administration and Board have been consulting with local health authorities to evaluate options for moving away from universal masking. We want our District plan to be consistent with local health guidance and to address concerns that have prompted court challenges in other Districts. Proposed revisions to the current plan will be posted on our website by the end of the week.

We thank you again for the extraordinary support you have provided to our students and staff during the pandemic and ask for your continued cooperation as we manage one more transition on our way back to normalcy. We are strongest when we work together, so we ask for the help of all of our community members as we move forward.

Sincerely,

Dr. Roberta Hotinski  
TESD Board President

Dr. Richard Gusick  
TESD Superintendent