

Dr. Jaha Howard, Cobb County Board of Education
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January 24, 2021

Governor Brian Kemp
206 Washington Street
Suite 203, State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Governor Kemp,

As fellow Georgia leaders, we acknowledge the hard truths of this pandemic and the hard work set before us. Our great state has suffered from almost 12,000 confirmed COVID-19 deaths. Just recently, two of our educators died on the same day, adding to the list of Georgia educators and staff who've lost their lives to this virus. Moreover, death and hospitalization data cannot sufficiently describe the mental and emotional trauma that our educators face on a daily basis.

While most sectors of our economy have strong voices to champion their perspectives, we stand as champions for the men and women who dedicate their lives to educating our students. COVID-19 has put a spotlight on the importance of our public schools, and we urgently call for the following actions to promote safer face-to-face instruction:

1. Prioritize, and optimize access to, vaccinations for all school staff.
2. Provide medical grade face masks (minimum Level 3 and KN95) for every staff member.
3. Collect and review anonymous COVID-related feedback from public education staff.

We thank you in advance for taking these steps to promote more safety and transparency in our schools. We anticipate a written response within the next 10 days.

In solidarity,

Eshe' Collins, Atlanta Board of Education
Jason Esteves, Atlanta Board of Education
Leslie Grant, Atlanta Board of Education
Erika Mitchell, Atlanta Board of Education
Jasmine Bowles, Clayton County Board of Education
Charisse Davis, Cobb County Board of Education
Dr. Jaha Howard, Cobb County Board of Education
Leroy Tre' Hutchins, Cobb County Board of Education
Dijon DaCosta, Dekalb County Board of Education
Allyson Gevertz, Dekalb County Board of Education
Syntel Brown, Griffin-Spalding Board of Education
Dr. Tarece Johnson, Gwinnett County Board of Education
Karen Watkins, Gwinnett County Board of Education