

February 24, 2022

# ASSOCIATION OF CLOVIS EDUCATORS

Est. 2021



Dear Clovis Colleagues:

For many of us, today was chaotic and stressful. We were shocked by the manner in which the school board changed their policies regarding student mask mandate enforcement without educator input. There was little time to prepare site leaders and staff on the implications of this decision and how to navigate state law versus district policy. Many educators walked onto campus today unsupported and without a clearly communicated plan district wide. In the Spring, we are normally able to focus our energy on the culmination of a year of learning through state assessments, spring performances and open houses. After an exhausting January, many educators were catching up from weeks of lost preps or having to take students from other classrooms and prepare independent study packets. Now just when we were feeling that we were turning a corner, the board hastily changed enforcement of masks in an emergency meeting that started during contract hours negating a voice at the table for educators. Instead of hearing from educators, giving us clear policies, and exploring solutions together, CUSD leadership made a unilateral decision. CUSD's current structure and leaders created chaos. Therefore, the ACE Executive Cabinet Committee sent the following email to Dr. O'Brien. If she responds, we will share the response.

*Dear Dr. O'Brien*

*ACE educators are deeply frustrated that the CUSD Executive Cabinet did not hear from educators prior to changing the student masking enforcement policy or the implementation of that change. Educators are a key stakeholder in Clovis Unified. We are both impacted by the policy and are responsible for carrying it out in the classroom. Not including educators' voice is resulting in inconsistent implementation and confusion.*

*Given the board's decision regarding student masking, it is ACE's position that CUSD should indemnify and defend school staff should they follow school district guidelines that are later found to not be in compliance with CDPH guidelines. We have heard that some building principals have made that assurance to their staff but the message is not consistent. Can you assure us that CUSD will do so?*

In the meantime, the ACE Organizing Committee remains committed to building an inclusive, independent union to empower teachers' voices to advocate for the schools our students deserve. Please feel free to reach out to an ACE leader at your site or you can always [reach us here](#).

Sincerely,

ACE Organizing Committee



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