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CONTACT

Jackson Peel
Communications Director
House Democratic Office
Jackson.Peel@myfloridahouse.gov
850-717-5297

House Democrats Respond to BoE Sanctions

Tallahassee, Fla. – Today, the [Florida Board of Education](#) voted to punish Florida school districts for standing against the Governor’s orders and enforce mask requirements for students.

"I stand by the school districts, parents, principals, and teachers who are making endless sacrifices at great distances to keep our students and the community safe as we continue to navigate the pandemic in the school year. We must continue to do all we can to support their leadership, heroic acts, and ongoing support to provide Florida students with a safe, high-quality education," said **Representative Ramon Alexander (D- Tallahassee)**.

"It’s a shame that politics has put Governor DeSantis’ Board of Education at odds with local schools trying to protect our kids. Local officials studied the science and chose to follow the recommendations of medical experts, and for that the state is threatening to withhold funding. The majority of Floridians support requiring children to wear masks to protect them from the deadly Delta Variant. This strong-arm tactic forces the districts to make a terrible choice: harm students by not protecting them, or harm students by having state funding withheld. It’s shameful, embarrassing, and wrong. Not to mention petty. It’s petty partisan antics that are jeopardizing our kids’ lives and their future," said **Representative Angie Nixon (D-Jacksonville)**.

Representative Yvonne Hinson (D- Gainesville) added, "Did today’s Board of Education members meeting today discuss why Florida’s Department of Education missed a deadline to apply for \$2.3 billion in federal aid? No, they wanted to play politics and attack school districts who had the audacity to protect children and stand against the Governor. I’m proud of the Alachua School Board for fighting to protect our kids. Because of safety measures like our mask requirements for students, Alachua’s positivity rate is down to 4.7%."

"I am disappointed in the State Board of Education's decision to sanction local school

districts. School board members are duly elected constitutional officers and must be allowed to make local decisions in the best interest of their students and staff. The health and safety of their students is their highest priority; masks reduce viral spread and data from the CDC supports this strategy,” said **Representative Robin Bartleman (D- Weston)**.

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