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State Representative Yvonne Hinson Issues Statement Supporting Alachua County School Board's Leadership

GAINESVILLE, Fla. - Representative Yvonne Hinson (D-Gainesville) issued the following statement in response to Alachua County School Board's decision to defend school-aged children from the increasing threat of COVID-19 and the other strains.

“Florida continues to break another record of having the highest number of COVID-19 cases in a single week, resulting in over 260,000 new cases and a hospitalization rate of three times the national average. Alachua County alone has over 2,000 new cases with close to 400 individuals requiring inpatient care. These increasing numbers are alarming, and our children's safety should be priority number one. We must protect our children during these treacherous times. As of now, children under 12 still cannot receive the vaccine; wearing a mask is their only defense.

“As a former educator, I used all my power to protect our students and the community. Alachua County School Board is doing the same through its mask mandate. The two-week mask mandate is essential in protecting our students. All staff and parents should feel comfortable knowing that their children and students are safe by implementing a mask requirement. Our children should be concerned about learning math and science—not whether they will contract COVID-19. I am proud and relieved that the community is responding both locally and nationally.”

School Board members, along with the Superintendent, have made guest appearances on CNN, Joy Reid, ABC, CBS, etc. <https://www.cnn.com/videos/politics/2021/08/09/desantis-fl-gov-tx-mask-mandates-santiago-ebof-vpx.cnn>.

“I am honored the Alachua County School Board is displaying the intestinal fortitude and keeping our students and staff safe regardless of what other school boards decided.”

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