



## The Senate of The State of Texas

January 19, 2021

**Senator José Menéndez**

District 26

Commissioner Mike Morath  
Texas Education Agency  
William B. Travis Building, Congress Ave  
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Commissioner Morath:

Thank you for your advocacy as we continue to battle the COVID-19 pandemic. Currently, we are experiencing another surge of this virus. It is essential that we work together to curb the spread. As we face some of the highest number of cases, we urge you to allow school districts the flexibility to allow school personnel and students to stay home during this recent surge. We recently asked the Governor, Lieutenant Governor and House Speaker to prioritize giving school personnel a vaccine.

School personnel, especially our teachers work tirelessly every day to ensure students of all ages have the best educational curriculum across Texas. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the work of teachers has become even more vital to our State. However, school personnel and students are placed at risk every time they are required to attend in-person classes. Moreover, the risk of infection and transmission becomes higher when school personnel and students are confined in closed spaces together. Despite this, these professionals continue their dedication to provide the best education for students.

These frontline workers and their work are critical for the development of children. Along these same lines, the health and safety of school personnel and students is vital in ensuring the wellbeing of themselves and their families. This is why we have encouraged the prioritization for them to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

I urge you to move quickly on this request given the impact of the pandemic. In the midst of this surge, this action will ensure the safety our school personnel and students. Please feel free to call me if you have any questions or concerns about this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "José Menéndez".

José Menéndez  
State Senator, District 26

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