



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **DSEA President responds to Governor’s push for hybrid instruction Focuses on prioritization of health and safety**

“I wish I could give a simple response to the Governor’s latest statement; however, nothing during this pandemic can be easily answered.

The short response is that the decision to stay remote or go hybrid remains a local decision. The options provided by the Governor’s office are just recommendations. School boards and superintendents know their district’s capabilities and make the final decisions concerning their handling of operational, health, and safety concerns and whether they can continue or begin hybrid instruction.

The long response is that while we appreciate the Governor’s additional information and guidance, community spread does impact our schools. Before the holidays, the Governor strongly recommended schools return to remote instruction due to operational concerns. Additionally, our local education association leaders met with the Secretary of Education, her staff, and their district administration to address concerns around operational or safety issues within their district. Unfortunately, we don’t know if those concerns have been fully addressed, but we do know that the numbers continue to rise across our state. Our educators continue to follow the guidance released by DOE to “prioritize the health and safety of students and staff while maintaining the goal of providing a high-quality, equitable education for all Delaware learners.” We believe this can be done while remaining cautious during the reopening of schools.

We keep hearing “in person learning is best.” But, with infection rates increasing we have seen how the rate of teachers needing to quarantine and the lack of substitutes is affecting in person learning. We do not believe that environment better serves our students than a consistent remote instruction would. We are asking School Boards and Superintendents to take a hard look at the spread in their communities, carefully consider future operational challenges, and work closely and collaboratively with their local unions before determining if bringing students back into school buildings is the best choice for their district. If there is doubt, we ask that schools remain in the remote setting for the safety of staff and students.”

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