



Washington State Legislature

March 1, 2021

Via email

Ms. Janelle Miller
Lake Washington School District Alliance 4Kids

Dear Ms. Miller,

As you gather tonight with other Lake Washington School District parents to ask your school board to open your schools, please know that we, the undersigned state Senators, stand with you in solidarity. We know that Governor Inslee also has been pushing to get schools open, as have many leaders in the House of Representatives.

We know from the past year that being in classrooms is best for our children. The longer they are forced to receive most or all instruction remotely, the more they suffer academically, socially and emotionally. Like you, we also see adults and children spending time in other indoor settings, following accepted safety precautions, without apparent risk to their health. We see other schools in our state operating safely. We strongly believe your schools – and all Washington schools – can be opened safely NOW.

The lack of in-person instruction has become the leading equity issue of our time. Our state government has a constitutional duty to provide for the education of Washington children. They clearly are not receiving the quality instruction to which they're entitled.

The Legislature spent years pouring additional billions of dollars into education, and reforming K-12 funding to ensure that a child's educational opportunities would not depend on living in a certain ZIP code. That promise is being undermined. Kids are being needlessly left behind, and we fear it will permanently affect their lives.

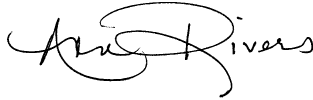
It has been one year since our state was put under a state of emergency, and almost that long since schools were closed due to COVID-19. Meanwhile, most states have recognized the importance of returning students to their classrooms. Unfortunately, because of the decisions by many of our larger school districts, Washington ranks 47th in the country in getting kids back in school. Our children deserve better.

We appreciate the stand you are taking for your children. Today we stand with you, and with them. We hope your school board will too.

Sincerely,



Senator John Braun
20th Legislative District
Senate Republican Leader



Senator Ann Rivers
18th Legislative District




Senator Shelly Short
7th Legislative District



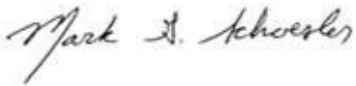
Senator Keith Wagoner
39th Legislative District



Senator Sharon Brown
8th Legislative District



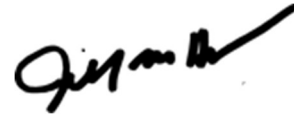
Senator Judy Warnick
13th Legislative District



Senator Mark Schoesler
9th Legislative District



Senator Ron Muzzall
10th Legislative District



Senator Jeff Holy
6th Legislative District



Senator Lynda Wilson
17th Legislative District



Senator Phil Fortunato
31st Legislative District




Senator Jeff Wilson
19th Legislative District



Senator Brad Hawkins
12th Legislative District



Senator Jim Honeyford
15th Legislative District



Senator Chris Gildon
25th Legislative District



Senator Perry Dozier
16th Legislative District




Senator Mark Mullet
5th Legislative District



Senator Mike Padden
4th Legislative District



Senator Curtis King
14th Legislative District



Senator Tim Sheldon
35th Legislative District