

Subject: Re: Virginia Freedom of Information Act Request (VA-GOV-22-0507)
Date: Thursday, June 9, 2022 at 3:08:11 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: FOIA Office, Governor's
To: AO Records
Attachments: AO Records VA-GOV-22-0507 responsive documents 6.9.22.pdf

EXTERNAL SENDER

In further response to your FOIA request of May 24, 2022, attached please find responsive documents.

Additional records are being entirely withheld pursuant to Section 2.2-3705.7 as working papers and correspondence of the Office of the Governor. The approximate volume of the documents being withheld is twelve pages.

Denise Burch

On Tue, May 31, 2022 at 1:37 PM FOIA Office, Governor's <foia@governor.virginia.gov> wrote:

Thank you for your FOIA request of May 24, 2022, at 10:19 am.

Based upon our ongoing inquiries, we find it necessary to invoke the seven day provision of Section 2.2-3704B4.

Denise Burch

On Tue, May 24, 2022 at 10:19 AM AO Records <records@americanoversight.org> wrote:

Dear FOIA Officer:

Please find attached a request for records under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act.

Sincerely,

--

Marwah Adhoob, on behalf of Karl Frisch

Pronouns: she/her

Paralegal

American Oversight

records@americanoversight.org

www.americanoversight.org | @weareoversight

Opinion: Glenn Youngkin: Virginia's parents can decide what's best for their children



Read the full op-ed in The Washington Post here or below.

In November's election, Virginians came together to declare that too many local leaders were failing a generation of schoolchildren. Students deprived of a quality education, teachers who are underpaid and overworked, and parents deserving a voice in their children's schooling fueled a movement to end the government's one-size-fits-all approach.

The will of Virginians was clear: Parents should have a say in education. Virginia's laws reinforce parents' fundamental rights to make decisions with regards to their child's upbringing and care. As governor, it is my duty to protect the health and welfare of Virginians. My predecessor issued executive orders at the beginning of the pandemic to accomplish what he viewed as his responsibility. Almost two years later, it is time to adjust our approach to the coronavirus emergency, while considering vaccinations, natural immunity, and the adverse mental and physical health effects on children. A path through the end of this pandemic is possible while also respecting individual freedom and choice. We can keep kids in school, provide a parental opt out to mask mandates, and protect lives and livelihoods.

On Day 1 of my administration, I signed an executive order that delivered on a promise I made to parents, empowering them to make decisions regarding their children. While some are seeking to sow division between masking factions, I want to be clear: My executive order ensures that parents can opt out their kids from a school's mask mandate. It bans neither the wearing of masks nor the issuing of mask mandates. Parents can now choose whether wearing a mask at school is right for their child. There is no one better to determine what is best for children, especially after two years of a pandemic, than their parents. And only they should be able to decide whether wearing a mask in school is the right choice for their children.

Virginians know that the practice of silencing parents, the era of divisive partisan politics and the time for statewide mandates are over. The long-term effects of the coronavirus on our youngest generation cannot be ignored. While some children have endured the pandemic adequately, that is not the case for all children. Too many fell behind because classrooms

were locked down for too long. Students have been under tremendous stress, and symptoms of anxiety and depression have doubled.

For the sake of our future generations, we need to recognize the potentially damaging impacts of mask-wearing on some children. Experts suggest masks can hide visual cues, hinder emotion recognition and reduce students' abilities to hear teachers clearly. Studies also indicate that masks worn in public settings, school or day care might impact a range of early developmental and processing skills.

If November's election made one thing clear, it's that too many bureaucrats and politicians had stopped listening to parents. Those parents shared with me the concern that the cold halls of government are disconnected from the reality they face every day. Allowing parents to decide whether their children wear masks reflects that reality.

Virginia's parents have had enough with the government dictating how they should raise their children. On the campaign trail, I listened to parents and, as governor, I will continue to listen. School boards throughout the Commonwealth should do the same. To parents, I say: We respect you. And we will continue to work to empower you in the education and well-being of your children.

Glenn Youngkin, a Republican, is governor of Virginia.

 **Constituent Services Support for All Virginians.pdf**
364K



Lynch, Jesse <jesse.lynch@governor.virginia.gov>

Governor Youngkin Announces Updated Guidelines for Parents, Educators, and PreK-12 Schools

1 message

Press, Governor Youngkin <press@governor.virginia.gov>
Reply-To: press@governor.virginia.gov
To: jesse.lynch@governor.virginia.gov

Fri, Jan 21, 2022 at 4:22 PM



Commonwealth of Virginia *Office of Governor Glenn Youngkin*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE · January 21, 2022

CONTACTS:

Office of the Governor
Macaulay.Porter@governor.virginia.gov

Governor Youngkin Announces Updated Guidelines for Parents, Educators, and PreK-12 Schools

RICHMOND, VA—Governor Glenn Youngkin today announced updated guidelines for parents, educators, and schools per Executive Order 2, which creates a parental opt-out from mask mandates at both public and private schools in the Commonwealth. The guidelines were developed by the Virginia Department of Health and the Department of Education.

“I have said all along that we are going to stand up for parents. Executive Order 2 is not about pro-masks versus anti-mask, it’s about empowering parents. I am confident that the Virginia Supreme Court will rule in the favor of parents, reaffirming the parental rights clearly laid out in the Virginia code § 1-240.1. In the meantime, I urge all parents to listen to their principal, and trust the legal

process. If you have any questions or concerns please contact us at helpeducation@governor.virginia.gov," said Governor Glenn Youngkin.

Click [here](#) to read a full copy of guidelines from Virginia Department of Health and Department of Education.

Click [here](#) for the constituent services page.

The updated guidance is redesigned around Governor Youngkin's key principles of parental rights, keeping kids in the classroom five days a week, and keeping kids safe and healthy. The update guidelines:

- Emphasizes alternative mitigation measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19 including vaccination, distancing, and outbreak awareness.
- Provides a clear decision tree for parents to review when trying to determine how to keep and return children to the classroom.
- Strongly encourages test-to-stay and other strategies to keep and return kids to the classroom as quickly as possible
- Gives schools practicable flexibility on contact tracing, distancing, and other strategies.

###

Office of the Governor, Commonwealth of Virginia | P.O. Box 1475, Richmond, VA 23218

Unsubscribe jesse.lynch@governor.virginia.gov

Constant Contact Data Notice

Sent by press@governor.virginia.gov