



## Illinois General Assembly

Governor JB Pritzker  
207 State House  
Springfield, IL 62706

IDPH Director Dr. Ngoze Ezike  
525-535 West Jefferson Street  
Springfield, IL 62761

Dear Governor Pritzker and Dr. Ezike

As Illinois has made steady progress toward moving out of Phase 4 COVID-19 mitigations, thousands of students of all ages are back enjoying the previously prohibited extracurricular activities that they love.

The concerns that many of us had prior to the start of previously prohibited extracurricular activities were related to the possibility of uncontrolled outbreaks of COVID-19 due to close proximity of participants, coaches, athletes, officials, and spectators. After two full weeks in extracurricular activities, the suggested 'incubation' period for COVID-19 as per IDPH and CDC guidelines, we are encouraged by the results.

We have learned from conversations with school officials involved with the planning and execution of hosting extracurricular activities that there have in fact not been major viral outbreaks resulting from allowing previously prohibited extracurricular activities. We believe this is due to the unprecedented effort of local school officials and athletes to take the steps necessary to keep everyone safe.

We believe this same level of safety can be maintained and that outbreaks of COVID-19 can be avoided and mitigated. Therefore, we the undersigned request that grade school, junior high, and high school extracurricular events be allowed to host fans at 25% capacity of each individual gymnasium or school provided extracurricular space that hosts boys or girls school sanctioned contests.

We feel that allowing fans at a capacity of 25% can be accomplished following stated guidelines for mask-wearing and appropriate social distancing of 6 feet.

The restrictions for the distance that must be maintained in large and small gymnasiums are causing problems for participants, athletes, cheerleaders, fans, and school officials.

We further request that any distance requirements be lowered to the standard 6 feet for social distancing purposes. Following mask-wearing and social-distancing guidelines should be enough, according to IDPH and the CDC, to greatly limit the spread of COVID-19.

Seniors in high school have now had their final two years in school interrupted by the pandemic. Parents and siblings have missed out on memories too many to count, and too precious to ignore.

The Illinois High School Association, the Illinois Association of School Boards, the Illinois Association of School Administrators, Illinois Association of Athletic Directors, and Illinois Principals Association have signed this letter. We do not make this request frivolously.

We remain committed to honoring the requests of our constituents and believe wholeheartedly that a 25% crowd capacity and 6-foot social distance limits can be achieved safely. By taking this action immediately, you can help families make memories that would otherwise be lost and ease public pressure on school districts and local officials.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to any member, association, or school official that has signed below. We look forward to your prompt reply.

Sincerely,

Dave Severin  
State Representative – 117th District

Nicholas K. Smith  
State Representative – 34<sup>th</sup> District

Thomas Bertrand, Executive Director  
Illinois Association of School Boards

Jaime M. Andrade, Jr.  
State Representative – 40<sup>th</sup> District

Brent Clark, Executive Director  
Illinois Association of School  
Administrators

Amy Grant  
State Representative – 42<sup>nd</sup> District

Dr. Jason E. Leahy, Executive Director  
Illinois Principals Association

Seth Lewis  
State Representative – 45<sup>th</sup> District

Mike Morris, Executive Director  
Illinois Athletic Directors Association

Chris Bos  
State Representative – 51<sup>st</sup> District

Craig Anderson, Executive Director  
Illinois High School Association

Martin McLaughlin  
State Representative – 52<sup>nd</sup> District

Chapin Rose  
State Senator – 51<sup>st</sup> District

Thomas A. Morrison  
State Representative – 54<sup>th</sup> District

Terri Bryant  
State Senator – 58<sup>th</sup> District

Martin J. Moylan  
State Representative – 55<sup>th</sup> District

Bradley Stephens  
State Representative – 20<sup>th</sup> District

Tom Weber  
State Representative – 64<sup>th</sup> District

Maurice A. West, II  
State Representative – 67<sup>th</sup> District

Steven Reick  
State Representative – 63<sup>rd</sup> District

Tony McCombie  
State Representative – 71<sup>st</sup> District

Ryan Spain  
State Representative – 73<sup>rd</sup> District

Daniel Swanson  
State Representative – 74<sup>th</sup> District

Jackie Haas  
State Representative – 79<sup>th</sup> District

Anthony DeLuca  
State Representative – 80<sup>th</sup> District

Lawrence Walsh, Jr.  
State Representative – 86<sup>th</sup> District

Tim Butler  
State Representative – 87<sup>th</sup> District

Andrew S. Chesney  
State Representative – 89<sup>th</sup> District

Norine Hammond  
State Representative – 93<sup>rd</sup> District

Randy E. Frese  
State Representative – 94<sup>th</sup> District

Mike Murphy  
State Representative – 99<sup>th</sup> District

Dan Caulkins  
State Representative – 101<sup>st</sup> District

Brad Halbrook  
State Representative – 102<sup>nd</sup> District

Mike Marron  
State Representative – 104<sup>th</sup> District

Dan Brady  
State Representative – 105<sup>th</sup> District

Thomas M. Bennett  
State Representative – 106<sup>th</sup> District

Charlie Meier  
State Representative – 108<sup>th</sup> District

Chris Miller  
State Representative – 110<sup>th</sup> District

Amy Elik  
State Representative – 111<sup>th</sup> District

Paul Jacobs  
State Representative – 115<sup>th</sup> District

David Friess  
State Representative – 116<sup>th</sup> District

Patrick Windhorst  
State Representative – 118<sup>th</sup> District