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February 9, 2021

Dear Governor Murphy,

As the members of the Camden County Superintendent's Roundtable, we are educational leaders who are responsible for tens of thousands of students and staff members in our schools and communities. We implore you to assist us in providing a safe environment that is conducive to learning by assigning educators to the highest priority level to receive the COVID vaccination.

Our students, their families, and our staff members have continued to weather the challenges of the pandemic – maintaining an academic program that has provided for a continuity of learning. Our educators want to give their students the best of learning experiences, they want to be in school full time with the students and they want to be in an environment that is as safe as possible. Direct and prioritized accessibility to vaccinations is an absolute requirement for us to move forward in expanding the learning experiences.

We support and applaud the efforts that have been made by the state and by Camden County to ensure that first responders, medical staff, the medically fragile and senior citizens received their vaccinations first. Our school staff must be made the next priority in order to further stabilize the educational experiences for our students and to provide a genuine opportunity for many of our families to return to a sense in normalcy. Many of the families in our communities continue to be negatively impacted by the fact that schools are not able to be opened for full time in-person instruction for all students. In order to work, many families rely on children being in school during the day. This is a true equity issue that disproportionately affects those who have the most need. Appropriately vaccinating our staff will be a dramatic step forward in expanding opportunities and addressing this equity issue for so many of our students.

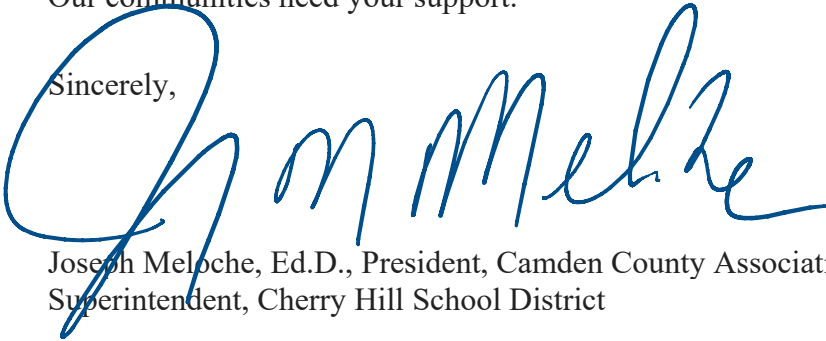
Dr. Paschal Nwako, the Camden County Health Officer/Public Health Coordinator, has been a dedicated and responsive partner to all of us during this journey during the pandemic. As an accessible and responsive leader, he has served Camden County in solidarity with our work. Allow Camden County to serve as a model to vaccinate educators by establishing a temporary vaccination site at one of our high schools.

We have demonstrated the ability to effectively pivot in transitioning our educational systems from full in person, to virtual, to hybrid combinations while distributing technology, materials, and meals. Allow us to work with Dr. Nwako to execute a plan that demonstrates the state's commitment to the safety of the educational community and the ability to more fully open schools.

Governor Murphy, please allow us to do this for the physical, mental, and fiscal health of our communities. Allowing us to provide the vaccinations to our staff will move the recovery forward in a dramatic fashion and directly and positively impact our students.

Our communities need your support.

Sincerely,



Joseph Meloche, Ed.D., President, Camden County Association of School Administrators
Superintendent, Cherry Hill School District

Representing the Superintendents and Educational Leaders of Camden County

Cherry Hill School District	Runnemede School District	Freedom Prep Charter
Merchantville District	Bellmawr School District	Haddon Heights School District
Camden School District	Mt. Ephraim School District	Black Horse Pike Regional
LEAP Academy Charter	Brooklawn School District	Mastery Schools
Voorhees School District	Audubon School District	Woodlynne Public Schools
Barrington School District	Somerdale School District	Sterling
ECO Charter Schools	Haddonfield School District	Berlin Township School District
Winslow Township Schools	Eastern Regional School District	Clementon School District
Lawnside Public Schools	Magnolia School District	Pine Hill School District
Lindenwold School District	Collingswood School District	Oaklyn School District
Camden County Educational Services Commission	Haddon Township School District	

C: Ms. Persichilli, Commissioner, NJ Department of Health
Dr. Nwako, Director
Dr. Pugh-Bassett, Executive County Superintendent
Camden County School Boards
Assemblyman Greenwald
Assemblywoman Lampitt
Senator Beach