



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF MISSOURI

ERIC SCHMITT

December 8, 2021

Dr. Brian Yearwood, Superintendent
Columbia School District
Columbia, MO 65203
byearwood@cpsk12.org

RE: Cease and Desist - Records Demand – Litigation Hold

Dear Dr. Brian Yearwood:

My office has received a complaint from a parent whose child is a student in your school district alleging that school officials are in active non-compliance with a judgment of a Missouri court regarding mandates determined to be unlawful and invalid under the Missouri Constitution and under state statute. For months, parents across the state have fought for the right to do what they believe is best for their own children. After carefully weighing the scientific evidence many have determined that the biggest risk to their child's health and future is in fact the failure to be provided with a learning environment free of distractions and impediments created by forced masking, condescending vaccine moralizing and disruptive quarantines. Yet even now, with a court order reinforcing their right to determine what is best for their own children, they are once again running headlong into a wall of bureaucratic intransigence. They are tired of this stonewalling and as their elected Attorney General, so am I.

I hereby demand that you immediately cease and desist enforcement of any and all mandates, written or verbal, imposing student masking requirements, forced or coerced vaccinations, quarantines or other "health orders" that in any way inhibit or prohibit a student from exercising their right to a free and open education as guaranteed by the Missouri Constitution.

I direct your attention to correspondence provided by my office on December 7, 2021 putting you on notice as to the court's order in *Robinson v. Missouri Dept. of Health and Senior Service*, 20AC-CC00515, Judgment (Cole County Cir. Ct. Nov. 22, 2021). A copy of this correspondence is also available on my website at: https://ago.mo.gov/docs/default-source/press-releases/2021-12-7-ltr-mpsde16b9660f337410bb0dd4768c520b2bd.pdf?sfvrsn=9ceb172e_2

Supreme Court Building
207 W. High Street
P.O. Box 899
Jefferson City, MO 65102
Phone: (573) 751-3321
Fax: (573) 751-0774
www.ago.mo.gov

Let me assure you that I take any refusal by school officials to abide by the court's order and comply with state law very seriously. I will engage the full resources of the Missouri Attorney General's office to ensure that no student will have his or her rights violated by unlawful and unconstitutional mandates. This letter also serves as notice that I am hereby opening an investigation into the actions of your school district as to the alleged failure to follow the law in this matter.

In addition, I request copies of the following public records pursuant to Chapter 610 of the Missouri Revised Statutes:

1. All emails sent or received by the superintendent (including his or her staff) or Board of Education members (including the board secretary) relating to the Attorney General's letter dated December 07, 2021, regarding unconstitutional health mandates.
2. All emails sent or received by the superintendent (including his or her staff) or Board of Education members (including the board secretary) relating to the Cole County Circuit Court's ruling in *Robinson v. Missouri Dept. of Health and Senior Services*, 20AC-CC00515).
3. All emails sent or received by the superintendent (including his or her assistant) or Board of Education Members (including the board secretary) relating to the district's COVID mitigation protocols beginning on November 22, 2021, through the date of this letter.

These requests seek documents that are in the public interest because they are likely to contribute to a better understanding of the operations or activities of the school district. In addition, this is not a request for commercial purposes. Furthermore, I request each of these records in an electronic format. For these reasons, pursuant to § 610.026.1(1), RSMo, the Missouri Attorney General's Office requests a waiver of any fees associated with processing this request for records. If that waiver is not granted, you must provide a written explanation detailing why the requested records are not in the public interest.

Finally, this letter also serves as notice that any and all records described above must be preserved for possible future litigation.

Very Truly Yours,



Eric S. Schmitt
Attorney General