

100 Horizon Center Blvd HAMILTON, NJ 08691
info@njcharters.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 7, 2022
Contact: brunortedeschi@gmail.com

NJ Public Charter Schools Association Supports Extending Mask Mandate in Our Public Schools

The health and safety of our educators, students and families is our number one priority. We call on the Legislature and the Governor to extend the mask mandate in our public schools as an effective, preventive measure to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Since the pandemic began, public charter schools have led the way, providing in-person instruction to families and pivoting to engaging virtual instruction when necessary for our 59,000 students. We know that nothing can replace in-person learning and we support layered prevention strategies, including face masks, to keep everyone safe and our kids learning in school buildings.

"A vast majority of our schools are located in urban districts and we must do everything we can to support our most vulnerable communities who have been disproportionately impacted by COVID. We cannot address the dramatic academic, social-emotional, and mental health challenges of our students if they are not in school" **said Harry Lee, President and CEO of the New Jersey Public Charter Schools Association.**

###

About New Jersey Public Charter Schools Association

The New Jersey Public Charter Schools Association (NJPCSA) is the non-profit membership association that represents the state's charter school community and, by extension, charter school students and their parents. There are currently 87 charter schools in New Jersey serving 60,000 students. We are committed to advancing quality public education for New Jersey's children through the cultivation of excellent public charter schools. The Association seeks to influence legislative and policy environments, leverage collective advocacy, and provide resources to support our members in developing and operating high quality, public charter schools.