



EDWARD P. RA
Assemblyman 19th District

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER
Ways and Means Committee

COMMITTEE
Rules

August 9th, 2021

The Board of Education of the Garden City Union Free School District:

Thank you for your recent letter outlining your requests regarding Covid-19 guidance for the upcoming school year. I agree with your desire toward maintaining local control in connection with the District's management of the Covid-19 pandemic.

During the 2020-21 school year, schools did an excellent job in keeping a clean and safe environment for our students. I have, and still maintain my support for all Covid-19 guidance to come from the local level. Each school district should make these decisions in the best interests of their students, teachers, and staff and in consultation with local health officials. Burdensome and confusing guidance coming from the Governor, State Education Department and Department of Health this past school year created undue hardship for schools and families. With the end of the Governor's emergency powers, I will not support any efforts to further empower the Governor or State Agencies to make decisions that are rightly left to our local school districts.

I appreciate all the work you do for our community and keeping our students' best interests as your top priority. I am always happy to work with you to ensure your needs are met and craft solutions to any problems that arise throughout the year. Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time and I thank you once again for writing to me.

Sincerely,

Assemblyman Ed Ra

AUG 13 2021