

Palm Beach County Democratic Party

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Resolution in support of vaccinating all Teachers/Face-to-Face Support Staff performing in- person duties, as Essential Workers, regardless of age, to protect the Health, Safety and Emotional Well-Being of our Students, Families, & Communities

Given that we face a crisis here in PBC and all of Florida with the rampant spread of COVID in our communities and a positivity rate well over 5%, we are placing our teachers who were deemed “essential workers” since August, 2020, in an extremely precarious situation, along with the health and safety of all school support staff, students and their families.

Additionally, since many of our teachers are over 60, but not yet 65 and, due to the way the vaccine has been rolled out in Florida, they are not eligible for the governor's so-called "priority distribution to seniors."

The current situation is not tenable and extremely risky to the health and safety of all involved in our schools.

One of the major factors promoting effective teaching and learning is the need to feel safe and secure. That cannot be attained as teachers are already required to go into schools for in-person instruction without COVID vaccine protection.



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Teachers and school support staff provide a variety of essential services for families in our communities beyond day-to-day curriculum development. Among the variety of diverse services schools offer are access to healthy meals, care for children while parents are working, safe transport to schools, tutorial services for students with greater needs, physical/speech therapy, character and ethical training in understanding and accepting others different than ourselves, and mental health/guidance counseling.

Furthermore, the very nature of education, as opposed to other essential work, places teachers and staff in close physical contact with dozens of children each day. It is incredibly challenging for teachers and support staff to perform their jobs effectively while maintaining proper social distancing. Dr. Vin Gupta, Dr. Sanjay Gupta, and Dr. Anthony Fauci, among our health care leaders, continually discuss the need to vaccinate teachers as a critical issue and reiterate that the health and safety of our students, teachers, and communities must remain a primary concern.

In conclusion, the Palm Beach County Democratic Party resolves that our local and state legislators, our commissioners, and school board members make every effort to assure teachers, administrators, aides, assistants, bus drivers, school food service workers and all student-facing employees be given COVID-19 vaccinations before they are asked to compromise themselves, their students and families as they enter their in-person duties.

***Passed by the Palm Beach County Democratic Executive
Committee February 4, 2021***