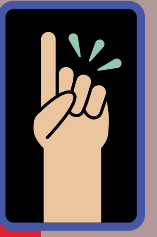




## Palmyra-Macedon CSD funding & NY State mask requirements



Is funding that Pal-Mac receives tied exclusively to following the State's school mask mandate?



None of Pal-Mac's funding sources were received specifically in exchange for requiring masks.

Is there a funding source that Pal-Mac could give back to (or decline to accept from) the State or federal government which would result in not being required to follow the State's school mask mandate?



Even if Pal-Mac returned State or Federal funding, the district would still be expected to follow the State's school mask mandate. Any rejection of State or Federal funding would then result in additional burden to the taxpayers and/or reduction in programs.



Could Pal-Mac lose funding if it did not follow the state's masking mandate?



In order to claim funds from New York State, school districts must make assurances to the New York State Education Department that they will follow State rules and requirements.

Has funding been threatened to be taken away?



Governor Kathy Hochul said that "there are consequences and fines and cessations of funding" for "those who choose to defy" the State's school mask mandate.

**Palmyra-Macedon CSD funding & NY State mask requirements  
February 2022**

*Summary and Introduction: This information is provided in response to questions and concerns that have been raised about any relationship between the State's school mask mandate and Pal-Mac school funding. Note that funding considerations are real, but are not a primary reason for the mask requirement. The district values full-time in-person learning, and masks are required for full-time in-person learning to happen at this time. There is no funding source that Pal-Mac could decline in order to alleviate the district from being required to follow the State's school mask mandate. On the other hand, the Governor has warned that school districts that do not follow the State's school mask mandate could face "consequences and fines and cessations of funding."*

**Is any funding that Pal-Mac receives tied exclusively to following the State's school mask mandate?** No, none of Pal-Mac's funding sources were received specifically in exchange for requiring masks.

**Is there any funding source that Pal-Mac could give back to (or decline to accept from) the State or federal government which would result in not being required to follow the State's school mask mandate?** No. Even if Pal-Mac returned State or Federal funding, the district would still be expected to follow the State's school mask mandate. Any rejection of State or Federal funding would then result in additional burden to the taxpayers and/or reduction in programs.

**Are there any funding sources that would be at risk of being taken away if Pal-Mac did not follow the State's school mask mandate?** Yes, potentially. In order to claim funds from New York State, school districts must make assurances to the New York State Education Department that they will follow State rules and requirements. The New York State Education Department also administers and distributes federal funds to school districts. In order to claim federal funds, school districts must make assurances to the New York State Education Department that they will follow State and federal rules and requirements.

The largest funding source which could potentially be at risk is New York State School Aid, including Foundation Aid (a general operating aid). Pal-Mac's New York State School Aid will total \$21.5 million this school year, which represents about half of the General Fund revenue budget. Additionally, federal funding could potentially be withheld by New York State. Federal funding includes \$4.6 million in Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) and American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds scheduled to be distributed over the next three school years.

**Has anyone actually threatened to take funding away from schools in New York State if they don't follow the State's school ask mandate?** Yes. **At a January 7, 2022 Briefing**, Governor Kathy Hochul said that "there are consequences and fines and cessations of funding" for "those who choose to defy" the State's school mask mandate. The Governor's comments were in response to a question from the press regarding the Nassau County Executive advising schools that they didn't need to follow the State's school mask mandate.

**The Governor's January 7th comments are below.**

*"Those who underestimate me do so at their own peril, including the County Executive of Nassau County. I have the law of the State of New York behind me. And I'll always exercise my authority and obligation to protect the health of the people of this state. That is what allowed us to follow Public Health Law number 206, granting the authority for us to require masking in schools. That law stands. That law supersedes anything a jurisdiction such as a county, which is a creature of the State - municipalities are creatures of the State. They have to follow State law. In addition, the schools are also regulated by another entity, known as State Education Department, who came out very strongly and said that they want this mandate to stand, that Counties are required to enforce the mask instructions. And they also have an additional point of leverage, in that they fund all the school districts. Therefore, I feel very confident that our requirements will stand. I know that the school board association across the state stands with us, teachers stand with us, parents stand with us, and those who choose to defy that will understand that there are consequences and fines and cessations of funding which I don't think the school districts will want to deal with in the first place. "*