

**For Immediate Release**

## Timothy Christian Schools Forced to Mask

The private school in Elmhurst will require masks this fall following severe backlash from Governor Pritzker and ISBE.

**August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021** – The Elmhurst School District 205 board decided in late July that they would make masks optional for the upcoming school year. A week later, Governor Pritzker issued his Executive Order declaring that all schools must require masks, regardless of vaccination status. Timothy Christian Superintendent Matt Davidson stated that they would remain mask-optional while investigating the legality of the Governor’s Order.

Yesterday State Superintendent of Education Dr. Carmen Ayala informed Superintendent Davidson that ISBE would revoke Timothy Christian Schools’ status as a recognized school. As a non-recognized school, they would be barred from participation in IHSA and IESA sanctioned sports. Timothy Christian Schools families would not be allowed to participate in the Invest in Kids Act tax scholarship program. Finally, seniors who graduate from Timothy Christian Schools would receive a diploma that is not recognized by ISBE – and would remain unrecognized, even if the school regained recognition in the future.

Today Superintendent Davidson announced that Timothy Christian Schools will require masks in the fall.

Representative Chris Miller (R-Oakland) released the following statement:

*These 18 months of tyranny need to come to an end. Chris Welch: call the legislature back in session so we can do our jobs and represent the people who elected us. The people of Illinois do not want a dictator. IDPH does not have the power to make health decisions for private schools – in case you forgot, Governor Pritzker, HB2789 failed after thousands of witness slips were filed in opposition. Why do you continue to ignore the will of the people who elected you? To everyone who opposed HB2789: why are you silent now? It is time to stand up to tyranny in all its forms.*

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