



**Proviso Area for Exceptional Children**

**SEJA #803**

1000 Van Buren Street  
Maywood, IL 60153-1989  
708.450.2100 Office  
708.450.1116 Fax

Michael James, Executive Director  
Vanessa Schmitt, Assistant Executive Director  
Sherry Whitaker, Business Manager, CSBO

**Cooperating Districts**

87 Berkeley  
88 Bellwood  
92 Broadview  
93 Hillside  
209 Proviso Township  
High Schools

2-27-22

Good morning parents/guardians,

I hope that you are enjoying your weekend.

As you have probably already heard, both Governor Pritzker and Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) have lifted the mask mandate and have now gone to the mask recommended.

PAEC will continue to require universal masking while we investigate what is in the best interest for our students and staff.

Schools are not like other indoor spaces. They require students and staff to be together in close quarters for many hours each day, raising the risk of viral transmission when masks are removed. PAEC programs have the most medically fragile students in the cooperative along with other concerns that make this decision one that deserve further investigation.

Furthermore, PAEC is not in a position to make a change like this overnight. We still need to work with our public health, you, our parents, and staff on the best way to preserve a safe in-person learning environment for all.

Have a wonderful Sunday.

Sincerely,

*Michael James, MAEL, MSW*  
Executive Director