



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

December 10, 2021

**CONTACT:** Jenna Schwartz, Co-Founder, 310.994.9764 (c); [PSTLAUSD@gmail.com](mailto:PSTLAUSD@gmail.com)  
Nicolle Fefferman, Co-Founder, 323.376.6513 (c)

### **Parents Supporting Teachers Responds to LAUSD's Consideration to Delay Vaccination Requirement**

Parents Supporting Teachers (PST), the largest parent advocacy group supporting Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) teachers and families is disappointed with the district's announcement to consider delaying the vaccine requirement for students ages 12 and older until the start of the new school year in the Fall of 2022. Previously, eligible students were required to be fully vaccinated in order to return to school after winter break on January 10<sup>th</sup>.

"LAUSD has been a nationwide leader on COVID safety from the beginning, making the courageous decision to follow the science and mandate vaccines. It is disheartening to now see the possibility of a partial retreat. This vaccine hesitancy was fueled by a disinformation campaign that started with our previous President and has been encouraged by anti-science rhetoric on social media. Further complicating matters is the Governor's lack of support to enforce the mandate at the state level, which has undermined the district's efforts," said PST co-founders Nicole Fefferman and Jenna Schwartz.

Never intended to replace in person learning, the district's online independent study program, City of Angels has not been successful, dealing with staffing shortages and lacking the capacity to support students with special needs.

"We are encouraging our science forward parents to reach out to LAUSD board members to voice their support of the mandate, although we assume with this announcement that the vote will be performative. The vaccine mandate is overwhelmingly supported, but like a Yelp review, it's only the negative that is being heard. While we do realize that student education comes first and City of Angels is not designed for the large influx of unvaccinated students that would have been enrolled for non-compliance, that should have been thought out prior to the mandate being announced."

"With the continuation of testing for all through January, we encourage families to stay in person, as our schools have still demonstrated that we have minimal school-based spread. We are also relieved that all unvaccinated students will continue to be tested weekly," furthered Fefferman and Schwartz.

Vaccines are critical and form a part of the best defense against COVID-19. We continue to urge everyone who is eligible to get vaccinated should continue to do so.

###

Visit [www.parentssupportingteachers.org](http://www.parentssupportingteachers.org) or follow-on social media to learn more and support our shared vision for equitable and inclusive LAUSD schools.