**Place on Your Personal Letterhead**

Dear **(Name of Assemblymember, Senator, Superintendent or Other)**:

I write to you as a concerned (**Parent / Taxpayer / Constituent / Music Educator / School Administrator**) from the (**Name of School District).** Education throughout our state and country is being significantly impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic. My concern is that I believe that the vital music curriculum in our district is being additionally and unnecessarily impacted by recommendations in New York State’s Reopening Plan.

Dr. David Brown, President of the New York State School Music Association, has written to the Governor, Commissioner, and State Health Department, asking that a committee be created to examine recommendations put forth last summer that there be twelve feet of separation between students playing wind instruments or singing. This is in comparison to the six feet requirements for all other curricular classes. Many music programs across the state have been eliminated or significantly curtailed due to the lack of space necessary to meet state recommendations.

Recently, Governor Cuomo lifted restrictions on organized extra-curricular sports, allowing them to resume practices with the goal of participating in games and contests. I am happy that students are being given the opportunity to return to activities they enjoy, but I must ask that students studying music, drama and dance, as curricular subjects, NOT BE forgotten!

The benefits of a comprehensive, sequential music education have been well-documented and named specifically among the Well-Rounded Courses delineated in the ESSA Law of 2015.

The [National Federation of State High School Associations](https://www.nfhs.org/articles/unprecedented-international-coalition-led-by-performing-arts-organizations-to-commission-covid-19-study/?fbclid=IwAR3XCbAWMYctfgPg_HU5gPApILCVeL5f1lEhX3X_7kICpZITbK9PrgeOGHc) commissioned a study on aerosol emissions in the performing arts. This research was conducted at the University of Colorado-Boulder and the University of Maryland. The study recommended six feet of distance between performing musicians with appropriate use of masks and other PPE. Research has led to similar findings in studies conducted at Clemson University, the University of Minnesota, Johns Hopkins University and Colorado State University. I believe that we should *follow the science* as it pertains to music classes.

In closing, I ask that you join me in my request to Governor Cuomo, Commissioner Rosa, Chancellor Young, and representatives from the New York State Health Department, to create a Task Force charged with studying the twelve-foot recommendation per the [request](https://www.nyssma.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Letter-to-Governor-in-regard-to-Atheltics-and-12-Feet-for-Music.pdf) of Dr. David Brown, the NYSSMA president.

Won’t you help to find a way to keep the music alive in the (**Name of School District**), and in the lives of all the children that find the performing arts to be a vital part of their education?

Thank you.