



Illinois State Board of Education

100 W. Randolph St., Suite 14-300 • Chicago, Illinois 60601
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Darren Reisberg
Chair of the Board

Dr. Carmen I. Ayala
State Superintendent of Education

October 28, 2020

Dear Colleagues:

The Illinois High School Association recently announced its intention to move forward with the regularly scheduled basketball season, in contradiction to public health guidance. As COVID-19 cases rise across the State, the importance of following public health guidance has only increased.

We recognize the value of sports in students' lives and share your hope that students can return safely to play this school year. However, at this moment, we urge you to prioritize health and safety, and to returning the 1.8 million students currently learning remotely to the classroom.

The parents and families of Illinois have trusted us as leaders not only with the education of their children but with their health and safety while in our care. Public health experts have determined that basketball poses a high risk of COVID-19 transmission and is not currently safe to play.

Defying the state's public health guidance opens schools up to liability and other ramifications that may negatively impact school communities.

Our Illinois schools and communities are safer when we work together in support of public health standards. We are relying on superintendents and school leaders to make responsible choices to protect health and safety and to focus on bringing all of our students back to the classroom.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carmen I. Ayala". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Carmen I. Ayala
State Superintendent of Education
Illinois State Board of Education