



Free Ohio Now: Fighting the New Normal

<https://www.freeohionow.com>

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FREE OHIO NOW CALLS FOR OPENING OHIO SCHOOLS IN REGULAR SESSION 2020-2021

Cleveland, Ohio, June 8, 2020 – Free Ohio Now announces Rally Around Ohio on Saturday, June 13 to open Ohio schools in regular session for the 2020-2021 school year. All Rally Around Ohio events have been and will be peaceful assemblies of local citizens. For all rally details, go to <https://www.freeohionow.com>.

BAD POLICY

Free Ohio Now is concerned with what we consider to be bad policy. While initial caution regarding the Coronavirus may have been warranted, it is time to announce a return to normal classroom instruction for the fall school session and beyond. Governor DeWine and Director of Health Dr. Amy Acton must transition to realistic data and practical action concerning reopening Ohio schools for the 2020-2021 school year. [Facts](#) since the time of the outbreak have shown our youngest citizens are among the [least impacted](#) by the Coronavirus, while there is clear evidence of the perils of keeping these same [young people](#) out of structured classroom settings.

Tom Hach, Free Ohio Now Core Team Member stated, “Closing the schools ruined the senior year for the Class of 2020 and negatively [impacted](#) all other students. The Ohio Department of Education's (ODE) possible configurations for operating schools on alternating days or on half-day classroom schedules, commingling classroom attendance with distance learning, and requirements for students to wear masks all day are not sound academic policies. Staggering partial in-classroom schedules with distance learning cannot be effectively implemented by most districts, will not complement families with working parents, and will hurt single parents most.”

Additionally, the Center for Disease Control, US Department of Health and the Surgeon General [all](#) have stated wearing masks is not effective in preventing a virus which has already infected this many. Additionally, research has shown the wearing of face masks by [healthy](#) persons is ineffective for their protection and poses its own health risks. It is clear the ODE decision-makers must revisit and revise the proposed fall school opening options, including the face mask requirements which are unreasonable for all of our students, especially the youngest ones.

SEVERE BUDGET CUTS

As a result of the shutdown order, tax revenue has plummeted and Governor DeWine's solution was to make huge initial budget cuts with 87% of them coming from local schools, universities and healthcare. The Governor has promised [more state cuts](#) for next year, which, when coupled with the almost certain loss in property tax revenue, will create havoc for local school budgets for many years! Parents, students, school board members, administrators, and teachers want future cuts to come from the Columbus bureaucracy and not from local funds.

FIGHTING FOR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

While enabling Ohio's schools to open normally this fall is very important, Free Ohio Now was formed because of the **unconstitutional** state order that many Ohio businesses stay closed while the order was and, in some cases, still is in effect. This must not happen again. Promisingly, Lake County Common Pleas Judge Eugene Lucci has issued a preliminary [injunction](#) against the state order, and this is a first-step in returning Ohio to the rule of law. "Free Ohio Now will fight to restore the Bill of Rights for all people in a peaceful manner, but it is incumbent for all liberty-affirming people to join the fight within the rule of law; some by joining the lawsuit against the state order and others by exercising their freedom of speech at rallies or, at a minimum, by contacting their local and state leaders," Hach explained.

Free Ohio Now asks that all participants in the Rally Around Ohio gatherings use their personal discretion in adhering to recommended COVID-19 safety guidelines. This is especially important for those who may be at high-risk.

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