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South Australian Association Of State School Organisations Inc.

Friday March 25, 2022

The Hon Peter Malinauskas
Premier
By email

Dear Premier,

Re: SA's Public Schools - Covid

I am writing to thank you for your decision to keep our public schools open.

While child and staff safety and welfare must be paramount in decision-making, if at all possible, schools must be kept open. As you stated, a state-wide closure would have far-reaching impacts on South Australian families.

There is also, of course, the negative impact on the education of our state's children. SA has been fortunate that our education department has managed to keep our schools open during much of the pandemic, with comparatively few school days lost.

Still, there are already many children who have missed out on weeks of school this year, due to the late start, coupled with isolation rules.

I note you mentioned drafting the SA public service as temporary chalkies, as a last-resort - please also consider that there are thousands of public school parents out there who would be willing to pitch in and help. I'm confident schools would be able to find enough suitable, vaccinated parents (with appropriate background clearances) to step in and help keep their child's school open; in support capacities.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gino Amato', is positioned below the text 'Yours sincerely,'.

Gino Amato
President

CC: The Hon Blair Boyer, Minister for Education
Rick Perse, Chief Executive Department of Education