



News Release

LOUISIANA STATE SENATE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**STATE SENATOR FIELDS URGES GOVERNOR TO INCLUDE EDUCATORS
IN VACCINE ELIGIBILITY**

District 14 State Senator Cleo Fields, who chairs the Senate Education Committee, is urging Governor John Bel Edwards to include K-12 educators in the current phase of COVID-19 vaccination distribution.

Yesterday, the governor announced that Louisiana is receiving an increase in vaccine doses and that eligibility for the vaccines will be expanded to a lower age group as well as certain personnel, including law enforcement, first responders, and election workers. Fields believes that teachers should be part of this expansion.

In a letter penned to the governor, Fields writes, "I believe it is critical that our K-12 educators be prioritized in the current phase of distribution so that they may continue to focus on teaching and feel safe returning to the classroom."

Over half of American states have made some or all of teachers eligible to receive the vaccine. Fields said that it is imperative for Louisiana to follow suit.

"I feel Louisiana should immediately expand eligibility to our educators," adds Fields. "Their service and dedication to this great state cannot be overstated and we should ensure their service does not unduly put their health, or their families' health, in a precarious situation."

A copy of the letter to the governor is attached.

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SENATE
STATE OF LOUISIANA



Cleo Fields
State Senator

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Standing Committees
Education, Chairman
Commerce, Consumer Protection
and International Affairs
Judiciary A
Retirement

February 5, 2021

Governor John Bel Edwards
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 94004
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Dear Governor Edwards:

With COVID-19 as the leading cause of death in the United States, many citizens are anxiously awaiting vaccination. I was excited to hear the news that our state has received an increase in vaccine doses and that you have expanded the eligibility for access to the vaccines. However, it has come to my attention that K-12 educators are still not eligible for vaccination until the state enters Phase 1B, Tier 2.

Returning safely to in-person K-12 education has been deemed a top national priority by President Biden. I believe it is critical that our K-12 educators be prioritized in the current phase of distribution so that they may continue to focus on teaching and feel safe returning to the classroom.

As of February 5, 2021, over half of the states in America have made some or all teachers eligible to receive the vaccine. I feel Louisiana should **immediately** expand eligibility to our educators. Their service and dedication to this great state cannot be overstated and we should ensure their service does not unduly put their health, or their families' health, in a precarious situation. I urge you to make our K-12 educators a priority in the current phase of vaccine distribution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, enclosed in a blue oval. The signature appears to be "Cleo Fields".

Cleo Fields
State Senator