



# Illinois State Board of Education

100 W. Randolph St., Suite 14-300 • Chicago, Illinois 60601  
www.isbe.net

**Darren Reisberg**  
*Chair of the Board*

**Dr. Carmen I. Ayala**  
*State Superintendent of Education*

August 18, 2021

## **Sent Via Electronic Mail**

Brown County CUSD 1  
Lan Eberle, District Superintendent  
502 E. Main Street Mt. Sterling, IL 62353  
lan.eberle@bchornets.com

Dear Superintendent Lan Eberle,

Please be advised that staff from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) verified that Brown County CUSD 1 is not compliant with the universal masking requirements of Executive Order 2021-18. Therefore, effective the date of this letter, the recognition status of Brown County CUSD 1 and all of its schools is hereby lowered to "On Probation" for exhibiting "deficiencies that present a health hazard or a danger to students or staff." (23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.20(b)(2)(A).

We do not take this recognition action lightly. We understand that state masking requirements have changed over the course of the pandemic, in line with scientific evidence and public health data. We assure you that masking requirements will continue to change and be lessened as soon as it is possible to do so safely. As we have throughout the pandemic, we will notify you immediately when changes to public health requirements are made.

Someone from our agency will reach out to you to schedule a conference to discuss compliance issues with representatives of the State Board.

Within 60 days of this conference, Brown County CUSD 1 is required to submit a corrective plan to the Regional Superintendent of Schools and State Superintendent.

I will respond to the corrective plan within 15 days after receipt. If the plan is not approvable, I will so notify you. If no plan is submitted, or if no approvable plan is received within 60 days after our conference, the State Board of Education may act to change the status of the district, or of the affected school or schools, to "Nonrecognized."

Please closely inspect the entirety of [23 Ill Admin. Code 1.20](#), which outlines the steps necessary for the District and its schools to avoid the imposition of a status of "Nonrecognized."

We are committed to continuing to partner with you, your board, and your local health department to ensure the safest and healthiest learning environment for your students and staff to succeed. Reaching the end of this pandemic will take all of us working together.

Should you have questions regarding this correspondence, please contact Dr. Ernesto Matias, Education Officer [ematias@isbe.net](mailto:ematias@isbe.net).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carmen Ayala". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "C".

Dr. Carmen I. Ayala  
State Superintendent of Education

cc: The Honorable Jill Reis, [jreis@roe1.net](mailto:jreis@roe1.net)